

Student Support



Thanks to your support, we can ensure that the best and brightest students are able to study here, and that the Birmingham graduate is highly employable and prepared for work and life after their studies. By supporting the *Circles of influence* campaign, you are helping to offer life-changing opportunities and experiences to talented students from a wide variety of social and cultural backgrounds. Our student support covers each stage of the student journey - from application, to study, to employability.

“ Sir Dominic Cadbury, Chancellor and donor "Knowing that your support has a direct impact on the lives of individual students is tremendously rewarding. That is why I continue to support the A2B programme, as well as the new Gateway Internships"

Together we have...

Thanks to your generosity, we have established the Access to Birmingham (A2B) scheme as one of the leading widening participation schemes in the U.K. Together we have changed the lives of hundreds of students, who have directly, profoundly, and immediately benefited from the generosity of our donors. Right now, there are recent Birmingham graduates starting rewarding careers after succeeding in their studies. Without your help, many would never have had this opportunity.

Together we are...

We are seeking your support for: the **Academic Enrichment Programme** (</alumni/giving/AEP.aspx>), which works with year 12 students throughout the region and encourages educational progress to university; the **Access to Birmingham** (</alumni/giving/A2B.aspx>) scheme, a sector-leading widening participation scheme that provides financial support to talented but disadvantaged young people; Birmingham Internships, which encourage and enable students to develop their employability skills by undertaking exciting and worthwhile work experiences; and **Cultural Internships**, (</alumni/giving/circlesofinfluence/culturalinternships.aspx>) which will develop the cultural leaders of tomorrow and tackle the skills shortage in the cultural sector.

Together we will...

Our student support schemes will, with your help, ensure that Birmingham continues to be recognised for the opportunities it offers to its students, regardless of their economic or social backgrounds. With your support we will ensure that the Birmingham graduate of the future is a high-achieving, world-aware, experienced, motivated, distinguished, highly-skilled and employable individual.

To provide a life-changing opportunity, **give today** (</alumni/giving/givenow.aspx>).

Read more about our proud history of supporting disadvantaged students...

Birmingham was founded on the belief that university education should be available to those who could benefit most. Supporting disadvantaged but talented young people from Birmingham and the Midlands to attend university has guided our principles and activities for over a century. When Josiah Mason – industrialist and philanthropist – established Mason Science College (the nucleus of our later University) in 1875, he did so intent upon providing education on “*terms which render it easily available by persons of all classes*”. When the University was granted a Royal Charter in 1900 it was established “*to educate the sons of the working class*”. By 1910, 20 grants were available specifically for “poor” Birmingham students, albeit awarded on the basis of academic calibre and merit, a principle that continues today through our **Access to Birmingham Scholarship** (</alumni/giving/A2B.aspx>).

By the start of the 1930s, more than half of the University's student body were from maintained schools, compared with less than a quarter at Oxford and Cambridge, as Birmingham was at the vanguard of social inclusion in higher education. The Vice-Chancellor, Sir Charles Grant Robertson, noted that the vast majority of Birmingham's students were from working families, and that “*many of them only complete their course by continuous self-sacrifice both on their part and that of their parents*.” The support of scholarships was of utmost importance. By 1937, Grant Robertson could state that “*with our entrance scholarship, I doubt whether there is really a boy or girl in the Midlands, qualified to benefit from a university education, who is excluded by poverty from getting it*”. A Charles Grant Robertson Scholarship still exists in our Department of English.

Today, we continue our efforts to reduce the financial obstacles which might defeat many would-be students. We were one of the first universities to set up a fair access scheme for local students and, with three other local university colleges, we recently launched **a pioneering Birmingham and Solihull Aimhigher partnership** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2011/10/26-Oct11Aimhigher.aspx>) to motivate and inspire a new generation of young people from the West Midlands to experience higher education.

We continue to encourage and enable young people from the city and region of Birmingham to make the most of their potential, regardless of their social or economic background. We do this through University investment in outreach and widening participation, and thanks to the generous support of our **scholarships** (</alumni/giving/A2B.aspx>) and **internships** (</alumni/giving/circlesofinfluence/internships.aspx>) by our alumni and friends. The generosity of our donors is changing the lives of hundreds of talented young people and their families. Help us do more by **giving today** (</alumni/giving/givenow.aspx>).

