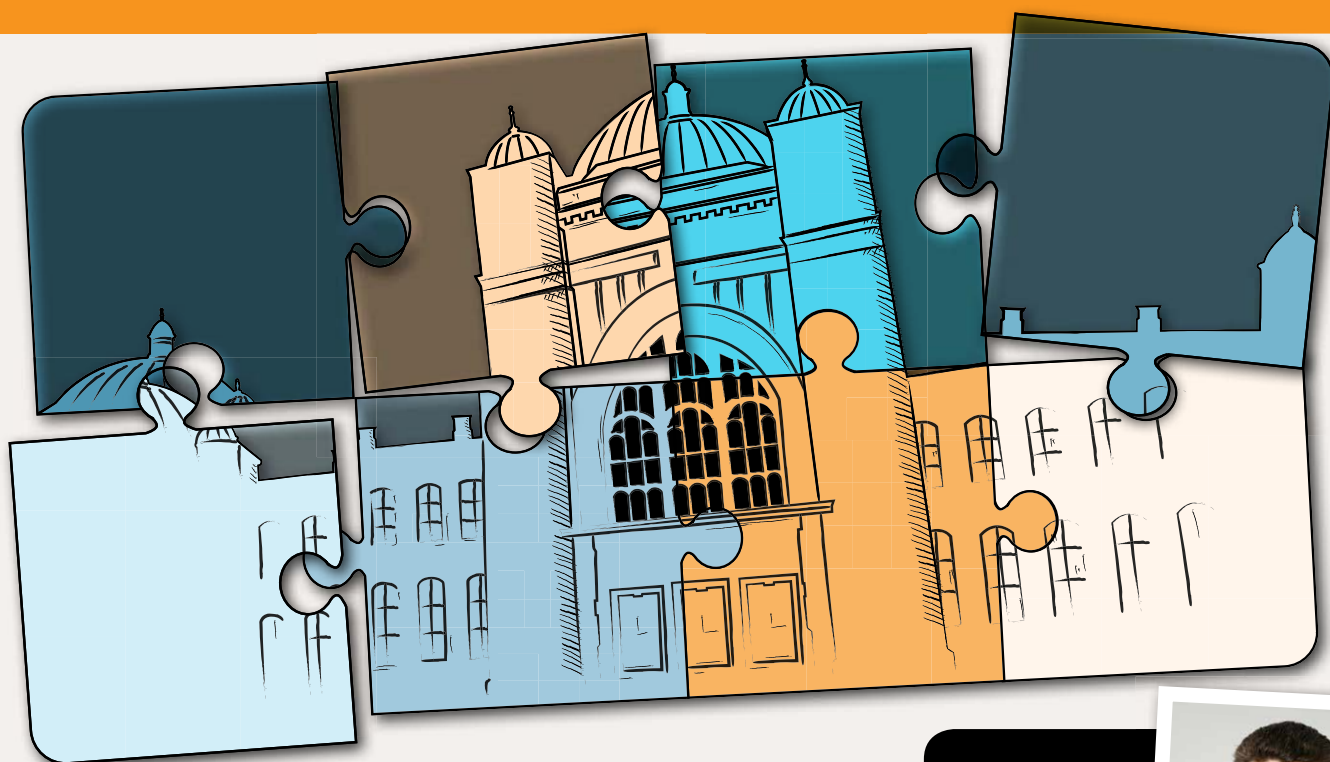


Celebrating the Impact: University of Birmingham and Santander Universities

The University of Birmingham has been working in partnership with Santander Universities since 2011. Santander Universities supports a range of opportunities to enable staff and students to widen their horizons, from providing postgraduate scholarships and support for graduate internships, to travel grants for students and staff.



Welcome

'We are proud to partner with Santander Universities whose support has contributed towards enabling some of the very best UK and international students to study and excel at the University of Birmingham. From postgraduate scholarships and travel grants to graduate internships and entrepreneurship awards, Santander Universities provides a number of invaluable opportunities to enrich learning and research amongst students and staff at the University of Birmingham.

'The commitment of Santander Universities to Higher Education, and in particular the University of Birmingham, has contributed towards: enhancing undergraduate employability; enabling research and study abroad; and increasing access to postgraduate study, an opportunity which for some may otherwise have been inaccessible due to financial constraints.

'For many students this support has opened up new opportunities enabling them to succeed not only during their time at the University, but also in their future careers. On behalf of the University, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to Santander Universities. Your support will undoubtedly continue to make an impact for many years to come.'

Professor Sir David Eastwood
Vice-Chancellor

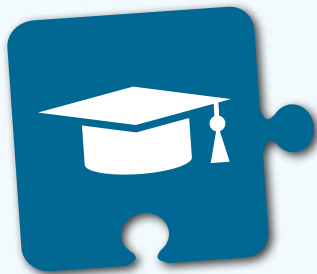


'The partnership that we have with the University of Birmingham is very dear to us. Every year we are extremely proud of our contribution to the progress of the University by supporting its students, researchers and entrepreneurs. The impact of this support benefits ultimately the local community of which this University is a vital part. This year we will continue to work with Birmingham, looking at new ways of collaboration to ensure that the funding reaches as many people as possible.'

Simon Bray, Managing Director
Santander Universities UK

 **Santander**
UNIVERSITIES





Enabling postgraduate study

Santander Universities supports eight outstanding postgraduate students from Latin America and the USA each year. The scholarship contributes £5,000 towards the cost of tuition fees, enabling international students to access postgraduate study at the University of Birmingham.

'In 2014, I received some of the best news of my life – I had been selected to receive a postgraduate scholarship from Santander towards the cost of my tuition fees at the University of Birmingham. Without this opportunity, it is unlikely that I would have been able to achieve one of my greatest ambitions: to study a postgraduate programme at a top university in the United Kingdom. This scholarship made a huge difference to me.'

'After I finish my MA, I plan to gain hands-on work experience in the UK, before I eventually return to Mexico. I aspire to make a difference to the community, for example by working in a federal court.'

Victor Manuel Ramirez Islas (MA Translation Studies, final year)



'As an international student, receiving this scholarship has made a world of difference in supporting me to obtain a Master's degree. Due to the scholarship I did not need to take out student loan, which would have left me in debt.'

'After I complete my MSc, I plan to return to the USA and partake in a sports medicine residency programme. This year long experience will allow me to utilise the skills which I have learnt and apply them in a clinical setting.'

Evelyn Heffner (MSc Sport and Exercise Sciences, final year)

'I have been extremely fortunate to have received a postgraduate scholarship from Santander. Receiving it has made it possible for me to study at the University of Birmingham on a unique course. The course combines, in my view, two of the most interesting areas of medicine: psychiatry and neurology. I have been learning about disorders such as epilepsy, Huntington's disease, and dementia to name but a few. In particular, I've been learning how to approach these disorders clinically.'

'The scholarship that I have received from Santander has lessened the financial burden of completing the course and

has allowed me to focus on my studies, without needing to work part-time. I have no doubt that this has enabled me to improve my academic performance whilst at Birmingham. After completing the course, I intend to pursue a career as a doctor in the field of neurology, putting what I have learned during my MSc into practice. I am truly grateful to Santander for providing me with the opportunity to have this incredible experience.'

Michael Soward (MSc Clinical Neuropsychiatry, final year)



Expanding horizons

Each year Santander Universities funds over 20 Mobility Awards to University of Birmingham students to enable them to study abroad and gain academic and cultural knowledge in other countries.

'I am extremely grateful to have received a grant from Santander to study abroad in South America. It has been a once in a lifetime opportunity to challenge myself and to discover new cultures and lifestyles. Having the opportunity to study abroad has enabled me to push the limits of my comfort zone and learn more about a continent of which I previously knew little.'

'I have spent the last six months studying Portuguese at the University of São Paulo

in Brazil. São Paulo was unlike anywhere I have ever been before; it was such a huge metropolis! Even the University was ten times larger than the University of Birmingham. I am now studying Spanish at the University of Montevideo in Uruguay. I have only just arrived, however I already love the city and I am very excited for the term ahead.'

'The grant has enabled me to live and study in Latin America, improve the fluency of my languages, to gain invaluable skills for

living in a foreign country, as well as to build long lasting friendships. When I graduate I aim to work for a humanitarian organization, such as the United Nations or a non-governmental organisation, where I am able to put my language skills into practice.'

Sellene Clark (BA Modern Languages, final year)



Investing in research

Santander also supports staff with Mobility Awards to enable them to undertake research abroad.



'This grant contributed to a research project on the effect of accounting reforms on political accountability in Brazil, in relationship with the University of São Paulo. The Santander grant allowed us to run a small workshop in São Paulo where we were able to engage with local officials as well as academic staff. This was important in building relationships in Brazil between practitioners and researchers and central, state and local government officials.'

'This led on to applications for further grants and the potential to develop a larger grant

proposal for the Economic and Social Research Council on the politics of technical reforms in Brazil and the incorporation of municipalities into a standardised way of accounting. This has profound effects on power at the local level, both in terms of democratic accountability and transparency, but also in terms of politics between the local and the central governments.'

'The relationships we have developed with a small group of enthusiastic and very capable academics in Brazil have resulted in several

visits between the two countries and the development of further research avenues and thus the grant has contributed to the development of these long-term research relationships. In short, the mobility grant has allowed us to continue building long-term relationships that have already led to more than one research grant application, a joint paper and potentially a bigger research collaboration in social sciences.'

Professor Paul Jackson, Professor of African Politics

Formula student team

Each year the University of Birmingham's Formula Student Team, UBRacing, design, manufacture and race a single seated race car in a national competition held at Silverstone. This competition encourages the student teams to apply what they have learnt in lectures to reach the forefront of innovation. Santander has generously been supporting the team with a testing budget for many years now.



'This support has proved to be invaluable, allowing us to validate the design process through track testing. Every time the car runs, we are able to gain valuable insight into the car's set up and log data in order to optimise the performance of the vehicle in all conditions. The drivers are also able to practice on a similar track layout to the Silverstone one, giving us the opportunity to gain a feel for driving the car.'

'With the support of Santander we have been able to push the boundaries of the design envelope even further, thus aiming to improve performance and efficiency.'

'At last year's competition, UBRacing came 19th out of 97 teams competing, and ranked 6th UK team. The team closed the event with an endurance finish (breaking a four year dry spell). This is our best result yet, a result we would have not been able

to achieve without the continuing support of Santander.'

'This year we are working hard to keep the momentum going. For this season, plans include downsizing the wheels to reduce resistance to acceleration and current design work also includes a composite chassis and a customised v-twin engine.'

Fran Cardilli, Deputy Team Principal



If you want to learn more about the team, please visit www.ubracing.co.uk.



Santander on campus

Reesha Gokani is the University Relationship Branch Manager based here on campus. We caught up with Reesha to find out more about her role.

'I recently joined the University of Birmingham branch in March 2015, but I have been within the company for five years. I began my career with Santander as a Customer Service Adviser, and then moved into working as a Personal banker. Within 18 months of doing this I became a University Relationship Branch Manager in September 2013, managing the University of Northampton Branch, before moving to the University of Warwick and now Birmingham.

'What I love about my job is the range of relationships it enables me to build within the University community, not only with students, but also with staff and the local community that live and work around campus. No single day is the same in the life of a University Relationship Branch Manager.

'The support that Santander Universities provides enables students and research staff to broaden their horizons and develop their skills working and studying abroad. I am really proud of the support which Santander Universities provides for students and academic staff, it makes my role really rewarding.'

Reesha Gokani, University Relationship Branch Manager



Enhancing employability



Santander Universities provides financial support for students looking to undertake professional work experience after graduating. Paige Jepson (BA English and Creative Writing, 2014) secured an internship with Alexander Daniels.

'Having completed my degree in English and Creative Writing I was fortunate to receive support from Santander to complete an internship. My internship was in marketing and social media with Alexander Daniels, a professional recruitment group specialising in accountancy and finance, engineering and healthcare.

'During my internship I was responsible for creating tailored marketing content to attract new clients. I led on the management of the social media channels, as well as managing the company website. I also supported the production and proofing of external communications and in addition, I managed the sponsorship of a Porsche Carrera Cup racing team. Through this experience I gained skills in online media marketing, digital media and PR.

'Upon completing my internship I was thrilled to be offered a permanent position as Marketing and Social Media Executive at Alexander Daniels. After gaining much experience in this role, I have now moved on to work as a Customer Service Coordinator in a multinational corporation.

'I am extremely grateful to Santander for supporting me to complete a graduate internship and would recommend the programme to anyone looking to progress in their career straight out of University.'

Paige Jepson (BA English and Creative Writing, 2014)



'Santander's support has been a great enabler for the University, enhancing our work in graduate employability. Through Santander match funding, an influential programme has been created and developed over the last three years for 75 graduates to gain valuable work experience in SMEs. Over a 12-week period, our graduates have been in at the deep end of the business, working with autonomy, creativity and drive to achieve results. It has been wonderful to hear of their achievements and see the confidence and self-belief that this has given them.

'We are delighted that at least three of those graduates were offered permanent positions at the end of their internship, and more

than 55% secured jobs soon after. The impact on the businesses involved has also highlighted the need to develop an additional programme to enable students to contribute towards the development of social enterprises in the local area. This new scheme will launch in June 2015 to support 26 local social enterprises. The programme will encourage students to consider working in social enterprises or to set up their own social ventures, and provide them with the opportunity to develop crucial enterprising behaviours and increase their business know-how.'

Susan Welland, Assistant Director, Work Experience



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