YEARS OF EMPOWERING LEARNERS
Supporting the 1821 Appeal

Lord Vallance of Tummel, Chair of the 1821 Appeal Board

“University education shapes lives. It broadens horizons, raises aspirations and enriches our futures – it can be truly transformational. As we move beyond the current pandemic, it is more important than ever.

Education has certainly shaped and enriched my own career and life and I have always tried to pay that back in one form or another. That is why I am so passionate about ensuring everyone has these same opportunities.

Our 1821 Appeal matters to me as we intend to achieve exactly that aim. As an Honorary Graduate of Heriot-Watt, I am especially proud to champion a cause so close to my heart at my honorary alma mater.

The 1821 Appeal supports our University’s vision to enable talented students worldwide to access a Heriot-Watt education, whatever their background or circumstances. To realise this vision in our 200th year, we aim to raise £4 million to provide a programme of new opportunities for under-represented students from our communities in Scotland, Dubai, Malaysia, and beyond, enabling talented individuals to pursue their academic ambitions and achieve their goals.

Join me in supporting the 1821 Appeal. Together we will deliver the life-changing power of a Heriot-Watt education for many individuals and shape history for another 200 years.”

THE 1821 APPEAL SUPPORTS THE UNIVERSITY’S VISION TO ENABLE TALENTED STUDENTS WORLDWIDE TO ACCESS A HERIOT-WATT EDUCATION, WHATEVER THEIR BACKGROUND OR CIRCUMSTANCES.

200 years of transformational impact

Professor Richard A. Williams, Principal and Vice-Chancellor

“At Heriot-Watt University we have been pioneering in improving access to education for 200 years. Our ethos, ‘to benefit and shape society by providing educational opportunities for students to develop their talents’, underpinned the foundation of our institution in 1821 and remains a guiding principle for the University today.

Our vision has always been to bring together the best minds, from all backgrounds, to learn, share and collaborate, in order to change the world for the better. Actively working to ensure equality and inclusion is crucial to this vision and underpins our strategy to grow flourishing communities at all of our campuses.

Too many people with immense academic potential continue to face barriers to accessing a life-changing education. Supporting these students is vital, particularly at this time, when the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has been felt hardest by those from more vulnerable backgrounds.

The 1821 Appeal reframes our future, facilitating the expansion of targeted scholarships, and essential advocacy and support for under-represented students. I am excited to be part of this future. I hope you will join me in supporting the 1821 Appeal and be part of it too.”

Our vision for access and inclusion

Professor Gillian Thomson, Associate Principal (Access and Inclusion)

“”The 1821 Appeal is a cornerstone of our new global access and inclusion strategy. This strategy is driving our approach to widening participation in the broadest ways possible. Our aspiration is to be a place where a student’s ethnicity, gender, disability or social background present no barriers to them realising their goals. Instead, we want Heriot-Watt to be a place where everyone is empowered to thrive.

Our strategy commits us to creating the pathways and providing the support that helps every student to succeed. And the 1821 Appeal will play an important part in this journey.

We are committed to monitoring the impact of our access and inclusion initiatives and will be establishing, as part of the Appeal, a doctoral scholarship to study the effects of these initiatives over the coming years.

The 1821 Appeal is absolutely vital for achieving our vision. Your support will deliver life-changing impact for so many under-represented and disadvantaged students that we work with every day, and for many more in the future.”

University of the Year 2020

Heriot-Watt University

The University of the Year 2020

Awarded by the Times Higher Education Supplement

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Building better advocacy and support

We want to attract more BME students to Heriot-Watt and improve the experience BME students have while they study with us. Our Black Voices project, led by our Edinburgh Students’ Union, seeks to increase advocacy and build a better understanding of the challenges facing BME students, whilst an innovative new programme of BME scholarships seeks to provide essential financial support.

This will include the Denis Goldberg Scholarship Programme which will increase opportunities for Southern African students from disadvantaged backgrounds to undertake life-changing study at postgraduate level and develop a crucial talent pool vitally needed by the region.

Our ambitions for impact

We aim to empower these students by building confidence through advocacy, helping them to see both inside and outside of the classroom through a range of workshops, panel discussions and other events and initiatives. My hope is that the Black Voices project will lead to Heriot-Watt being recognised as really caring about the wellbeing of its BME students, encouraging many more BME students to study here and achieve success.

Barriers to realising potential

Talented Black and Ethnic Minority (BME) students face barriers to fulfilling their academic capabilities at Heriot-Watt University and across higher education institutions in the UK more generally. This means BME students are less likely to achieve higher degree classifications when studying with us. Heriot-Watt is committed to taking action to change this. We urgently need to provide increased support to remove these barriers so BME students at all our Scottish campuses are empowered to fully realise their potential.

EMILY LUCY KING, STUDENT UNION PRESIDENT, BLACK VOICES PROJECT LEADER:

"The Black Voices project will really make a difference – it is urgent and important we make it happen. We launched a pilot in Edinburgh last year, recruiting two student BME Advocates who work with both the Union and the University to provide a platform for our BME students to raise and discuss the issues that matter to them.

I jumped at the chance to become a BME Student Advocate as it presented an opportunity to enact real change. It is so important to amplify BME voices and to build a more inclusive space for us all in higher education."

Alycia Jane Smith, PhD student (Marine Biology)

"I am so passionate about this. I feel that no group of people should be at an inherent disadvantage due to the colour of their skin. Equity of support and opportunities is really important and that is what the Black Voices project aims to provide for students here."

Monique Narh, BSc (Hons) Fashion Technology

SIR GEOFF PALMER, CHANCELLOR, HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY:

"The Black Voices project demonstrates the University’s commitment to addressing underrepresentation of students from BME backgrounds. A Heriot-Watt education changed my life and provided me with a range of opportunities I might otherwise not have accessed, yet this was not without its challenges. As Chancellor, I believe it is crucial that we support BME students, like I was, to overcome the barriers they face and help them fully realise their potential while studying with us."

Fundraising target:

£575,000

A £20,000 donation will support four BME advocates and a range of advocacy initiatives each year.

A £12,000 donation will support one postgraduate student from Southern Africa through a Denis Goldberg scholarship.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

With your support, we can encourage many more BME students to study at Heriot-Watt and achieve the success they deserve.
Increasing women’s participation in STEM

As a University renowned for our contribution to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), we are dedicated to ensuring everyone can flourish in these sectors. Right now, that means ensuring that our courses are more gender-balanced, with a minimum of 25% women on all our degree programmes. We are not there yet, but through the Mary Burton Project, we will support a greater number of female students from across Scotland to take-up STEM courses, and progress into rewarding careers and leadership roles in these critical industries.

Enabling female students to flourish

PROFESSOR GILLIAN THOMSON, ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL (ACCESS AND INCLUSION)/DIRECTOR OF LEARNING AND TEACHING IN THE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES

“There is a pressing need to remove barriers to participation for women in STEM. In honour of Mary Burton – who was a trailblazing educational and social reformer and an advocate of access to education – this new project will empower female students to realise their ambitions and deepen the STEM talent pool. Its multi-stranded approach will boost recruitment of female students to the University, and provide support for students during their studies, including a new programme of financial awards and tailored career development opportunities and mentoring. As an engineering lecturer and Chartered Scientist myself, as well as an Associate Principal for Access and Inclusion, I am confident this exciting project will encourage more female students to take-up STEM subjects with us and support their progression into roles where they will have wide-ranging impact.”

Our ambitions for impact

The Mary Burton Project will deliver lifelong impact for women in STEM, transforming our student body on many courses, improving degree classifications, and providing the springboard for rewarding careers in STEM. Through this project we will improve equality and provide a pipeline of female STEM graduates in Scotland, ready to shape society through the contribution they will make in their chosen fields.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

With your support, we can improve gender diversity in science, engineering, technology and maths

Fundraising target: £800,000

- A £340,000 donation will launch a schools’ outreach programme for girls in STEM
- A £120,000 donation will fund a careers’ support programme for women in STEM
DEAF & BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE PROJECT: ADVANCING INCLUSION FOR OUR STUDENTS

Providing opportunities for Deaf and British Sign Language (BSL) students

As a centre of expertise in British Sign Language, we are particularly committed to ensuring Deaf and BSL students have the same opportunities and experience with us as anyone else. Yet Scottish Government figures show deaf students are significantly under-represented in higher education, with 24.7% going onto university compared with 41.3% of students with no additional support needs. We want to make a positive difference for more deaf students, enabling them to realise their academic aspirations and pursue their career goals.

Closing the gap for Deaf and British Sign Language students

We plan to launch a pioneering programme of scholarships for deaf undergraduate, masters, and PhD students at Heriot-Watt. We also want to add a tailored extension to our highly successful Brightest Watts Summer School for talented young people in Scotland who are less likely to pursue higher education. Through these initiatives we can encourage deaf school pupils to consider studying at university and provide financial assistance to support deaf students to study with us at all levels.

DR ROBERT ADAM, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AND HEAD OF THE BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE TEAM:

“As a centre of research expertise and teaching in Deaf Studies and British Sign Language, Heriot-Watt has already made a significant contribution to better understanding in these areas. Now, we plan to empower many more deaf students to study with us by increasing access through a programme of scholarships. These will align with our ongoing initiatives to increase access to interpreters, advice and guidance, which will boost inclusivity and help deaf students to succeed.

“I grew up without sign language access to education, community services, or the media, so I am aware of how deaf lives have been enhanced through its provision. British Sign Language has now been recognised as one of the languages of Scotland, and the Scottish Government wants to make Scotland the best place in the world for British Sign Language users to live, work and visit. Our new programme of support for deaf signing students will play an important role in that vision.”

“At university I often felt excluded. It was frustrating not to be able to talk to other students easily and I found that having an interpreter present could inhibit interaction. The environment at Heriot-Watt is different. I think the work of the deaf researchers here has had a real impact. I have access to an in-staff interpreter team and my supervisors are knowledgeable about deafness, both of which make it easier to participate and have really helped my development. I am so glad I have joined Heriot-Watt’s growing team of academics researching in the field of Deaf Studies. The professional networks that I have developed through the University’s strong profile means I now have global connections.”

Mette Lindsay, Heriot-Watt PhD student and scholarship recipient

HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

With your support, we can empower more deaf students to study and research with us

Fundraising target:

£350,000

A £50,000 donation will fund two PhD scholarships for one year
A £30,000 donation will launch a summer school for deaf students for three years
PROJECT MALAYSIA: INCREASING ACCESS FOR LOW INCOME STUDENTS IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Addressing educational inequality in Malaysia

For students from Malaysia’s lowest income households, the socio-economic realities they face can put higher education out of reach. Young people from these backgrounds are often discouraged from continuing their education in order to provide much-needed support for their families. This has been further exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic, which has hit lower income families harder than most. As an international University providing high quality education in Malaysia, we believe we have a duty to provide access to the immense power our education has to transform their lives.

Increasing access to life-changing higher education

MUSHTAK AL-ALABI, PROVOST AND CEO, HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

“Many students from low income families in Malaysia are not able to participate in continuous learning and development for a multitude of reasons caused by their family’s financial position.”

Through a ground-breaking new programme of scholarships, we aim to support more young Malaysians from underserved segments of our community to study with us, increasing equal opportunities for these students to discover their purpose in life, and to mobilise that purpose into positive impact on the world.

“Raised by a single parent, I came to a crossroads in my life after secondary school. We hit a crisis when my mother’s hair salon was destroyed by fire, threatening our family income. So, I started to work after school, but I had set my sights on studying Actuarial Science. I knew Heriot-Watt Malaysia offered the best programme but studying at the University felt like just a dream. But I applied for and was successful in gaining a hardship scholarship. It was my life saver – I am certain things would be a very different today if not for the opportunity it provided. I worked hard at my studies, supported by an amazing team at the University, and I graduated with first class honours in 2020. I now work with one of the leading insurance companies in Asia.”

Oscar Kah Jie Tan, Hardship scholarship recipient Malaysia

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

With your support, we can change the lives of low income students in Malaysia

Fundraising target:

£725,000 / MYR 4.2m

A £90,000 / MYR 526,000 donation will fund the first cohort of 20 students for the first year of the scholarship programme

A £17,650 / MYR 97,125 donation will fund the cost of living for one student for their degree

Our ambitions for impact

Our vision for this project is significant. With your support, we will pilot the project with 20 scholarships per year for two years. Our hope is to continue this for ten years in total, changing the lives of 200 young people from low income backgrounds. For most, the scholarship will facilitate the first ever opportunity for a young person from these families to access higher education. We anticipate that the impact will be generational, transforming the prospects of not only the students who participate but that of their families as well.
PROJECT DUBAI: INCREASING ACCESS FOR LOW INCOME STUDENTS IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Providing equitable access to higher education in Dubai

For talented students from low income families in Dubai, the benefits of a prestigious education from a Dubai-based international university are out of reach. Low income students are generally unable to afford to study in Dubai, frequently having no choice but to relocate overseas to access more affordable higher education opportunities. Given the current global uncertainties and Covid-19 related challenges, we face an urgent need to support these students and widen access to Heriot-Watt Dubai, so they can access leading international education where they live.

EXPANDING ACCESS TO LIFE-CHANGING OPPORTUNITIES

“Education enables change. We want to make the life-changing impact of a Heriot-Watt degree available to more UAE students from lower income backgrounds. Through a new scholarship programme, we aim to introduce targeted scholarships for students from lower income families who would otherwise struggle to access university education in Dubai. Each scholarship will be a vital enabler of a brighter future. They will empower each recipient to achieve so much more through the benefits of a high-quality education at Heriot-Watt University Dubai. I believe every scholarship will be truly life changing.”

Professor Ammar Kaka, Provost and CEO, Heriot-Watt University Dubai

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

With your support, we can change the lives of low income students in Dubai

Fundraising target: £670,000 / AED 3.477m

A £168,000 / AED 870,700 donation will launch the first year of our scholarship programme

A donation of £23,000 / AED 117,000 will fund one student for their whole degree

“The scholarship I received made a huge difference to me. I was not sure I could continue my education but the scholarship kept my dream alive – I am so grateful. It meant a lot that the University recognised the financial difficulties my parents faced and the scholarship took a huge load from their shoulders. I am so glad to be studying at Heriot-Watt University Dubai – it means a lot to be part of its wide community and the opportunity to study International Business Management will really help my future prospects.”

Manasseh Baby John, Hardship scholarship recipient Dubai

Our ambitions for impact

Project Dubai is the first of its kind. It will make a positive difference for low income students with incredible potential. Investing in tomorrow’s talent, three top achieving students each year from four of the lowest-income community schools across Dubai will receive a scholarship to study at Heriot-Watt University Dubai. Most will be the first in their communities to study at one of Dubai’s international universities. This project will deliver impact that will span families and communities for many years to come.
THE MATHS GYM PROJECT: BOOSTING CONFIDENCE TO ENSURE EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS

The growing demand for strong numeracy skills

The demand for strong numeracy skills is growing in nearly every profession. As the world of work shifts to data-driven decision-making, business leaders are demanding better maths skills and need graduates with the ability to interpret data and apply quantitative skills. This is particularly important for those students from backgrounds where they are less likely to have a strong mathematical foundation before joining Heriot-Watt. That is why we have piloted our ‘Maths Gym’ – a flexible, free mathematics support centre outside of students’ standard courses, designed to increase the mathematical confidence and skills of any student who needs it. This support encourages our students to take full advantage of the diverse opportunities of the data revolution. Boosting mathematical confidence in this way is an urgent priority to help all our students to succeed.

Making a difference through personal support

DR EMMA COUTTS, DIRECTOR OF THE MATHS GYM

“We have created our Maths Gym to be an open, safe, inclusive space, capable of enabling any student whatever subject they may be studying. Through it we provide bespoke solutions that make a real difference, ensuring every student can develop the particular maths skills they need to succeed.

Through my interactions with students in the Maths Gym, I witness how our support helps students to progress, particularly those who have accessed our courses through non-traditional and widening access routes who may find the transition to university-level maths more demanding. I see our impact going beyond just boosting ‘technical’ maths ability – maths skills encompass critical, logical and detail-oriented thinking, and that is super useful for problem-solving in general.

We are building confidence for success and that can be life-changing for our graduates.

The demand for our service since piloting in 2020 has been significant. Now we are ready to significantly invest in the expertise and resources that underpin the effectiveness of the Maths Gym to deliver even more support.”

I came straight from sixth year to studying Actuarial and Financial Mathematics and found it quite hard. The Maths Gym became my saving grace! The one-to-ones were really helpful and I now feel much more confident.”

Rose Easton, Actuarial and Financial Mathematics student

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

With your support, we can boost the next generation’s maths skills and confidence around the world

Fundraising target

£120,000

A £30,000 donation will support the Maths Gym’s development for one year, providing more hours of student support and tailored learning materials for students worldwide.

Our ambitions for impact

We want to match the impact of the Maths Gym to Heriot-Watt’s growing range of programmes and its extensive global footprint. Our ambition is to build its current capacity into a uniquely wide-reaching and responsive support service – across time zones and for every student who needs it. This will give all our students mathematical skills and confidence that will transform their career.
Expanding paid internship opportunities

Career Ready is a sector-leading nationwide educational and social mobility charity with unique expertise in raising the aspirations of underrepresented young people. That is why we are working together to deliver transformational impact by offering 200 paid internships for 16-18 year olds across Scotland, in areas where these opportunities are in short supply. We are encouraging our supporters to match this target by offering a further 200 paid internships, along with mentors, in their organisations.

By raising confidence and aspiration during their last two years at school, such access empowers young people to raise and realise their ambitions and boost social mobility, providing a platform for their talents to flourish in higher education, employment, and beyond.

ANNE WEXELSTEIN, DIRECTOR FOR SCOTLAND, CAREER READY

“This unique partnership with Heriot-Watt will deliver transformational impact for young people from diverse backgrounds across Scotland, encouraging many to enter higher education and pursue academic aspirations. Securing paid internships with small and medium-sized enterprises and the third sector is a significant challenge. Growing this network of employer supporters is crucial to our impact.

Career Ready works to improve outcomes for young people so their success is not limited by their socio-economic circumstances. We are the only schools programme where every young person has a high quality immersion in the world of work through their own mentor and a four-week paid internship, which together have a genuine impact. The life chances of far too many young people are still determined by background, not ability. The skills, confidence and experiences gained allows every participant to take a positive next step – be that an apprenticeship, attending college or university, or getting a job.”

“My internship was at Heriot-Watt’s Edinburgh Business School. I didn’t know what to expect – I thought I might not fit in or be able to contribute but I really enjoyed the experience. It was great being trusted and by the end I felt like a proper team member who was valued. Afterwards, I considered a graduate apprenticeship but decided I was not ready for it. I also considered a degree in marketing, however, my interest in accountancy and finance prevailed and now I am studying that at Heriot-Watt! The University was my first choice and it feels like I have made the best decision.”

Cameron Hunter, Career Ready student

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

With your support, we can provide life-changing opportunities to 400 young people across Scotland

Fundraising target

£250,000

A £12,500 donation will provide ten students with paid internships, raising their aspirations and providing real world work experience
GET INVOLVED

We look forward to celebrating with you throughout our bicentennial year.

JOIN OUR CELEBRATION
Our calendar of events and communications at www.hw.ac.uk/1821appeal will keep you up to date with how to get involved.

HOW TO GIVE
You can empower future learners with a gift that best suits your needs, including:
- A single or regular donation
- A bequest in your Will
- Participating in our Challenge 1821 events later in the year

If you are a UK taxpayer, you can make your donation go even further with Gift Aid. Alternatively, you may be able to make your donation tax efficiently through Payroll Giving.

To find out more or to discuss alternative methods of support, please visit www.hw.ac.uk/1821appeal or contact giving@hw.ac.uk to speak to a member of our team.

RECOGNISING YOUR SUPPORT
Our Giving Circles celebrate the generosity of our donors and offer access to key benefits including exclusive event invitations and opportunities to meet the students and researchers benefitting from your gift.

Our Giving Circles are:
- Sir Walter Scott Circle: for access and inclusion gifts of £1,000-£24,999
- Principal and Vice-Chancellor’s Circle: for philanthropic gifts of £25,000-£99,999
- Chancellor’s Circle: for philanthropic gifts of £100,000+

PARTNERSHIPS
Heriot-Watt has a proud tradition of partnering with corporations, trusts and foundations worldwide to transform lives on campus and beyond. There are a variety of options for this including benefits such as:
- Naming opportunities
- Joint publicity plan for our partnership
- Networking opportunities with our students, graduates and academics
- Alignment with UN Sustainable Development Goals 4, 6, 8, and 10
- Volunteering roles for employees

To find out more about partnering with us, contact giving@hw.ac.uk

SUPPORT FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE
USA:
We welcome tax-efficient donations through our 501(c)3 The American Friends of Heriot-Watt (EIN: 52-2114158)

Canada:
As a Prescribed Institution under Section 5305 of the Canadian Income Tax Regulations, Heriot-Watt allows for tax-efficient support from Canada

Malaysia:
We welcome direct contributions towards scholarships for our Heriot-Watt University Malaysia students but are currently unable to accept any other contributions to Heriot-Watt University Malaysia or offer tax efficient giving

UAE:
Please contact giving@hw.ac.uk for the most up to date information on how to make a donation from UAE

OUR PLEDGE TO OUR DONORS
Your support is important to us. We will always go the extra mile to chat through the best way for you to give, and to ensure your gift can have the impact you want it to. We will always keep you up to date on how your donation is being used, respect your wishes on how we communicate with you and keep your information secure in line with our privacy policy and GDPR. We are registered with the Scottish charity regulator under SC000278 and align ourselves with CASE and Institute of Fundraising guidance.