DONOR IMPACT REPORT
Making a Difference in 2022
A warm welcome to the Heriot-Watt Donor Impact Report 2022. This is a celebration of the impact of your philanthropy on the aspirations and achievements of our students and on the communities we serve. We have plenty to update you on since our last report in 2019, including our 1821 Appeal and Bicentennial Celebrations that so many of you took the time to join and support.

But first, I would like to introduce myself as the new Head of Development. I have grown up on a council estate in Newham, East London, and was one of the first generation of my family to benefit from a university education. It will not surprise you that I am hugely impressed by the emphasis that Heriot-Watt places on creating educational opportunities for talented people across the world, whatever their circumstances in life. The opportunity to support an Appeal that encourages girls and young women to embark on careers in STEM subjects, supports students in those countries who would not otherwise have had the opportunity to study at Heriot-Watt.

Last year’s 1821 Appeal paid tribute to that ethos by raising £4.6m for eight projects designed to promote inclusion and create opportunities for a wider range of students. For instance, our Black Voices Project is bringing more Black and Minority Ethnic students to Heriot-Watt through 40 scholarships, while our Denis Goldberg Scholarship is helping talented graduate employees in southern Africa undertake an online part-time MSc without having to leave their home country.

As a global university, we are also delighted that Project Dubai and Project Malaysia are both providing full scholarships to students in those countries who would not otherwise have had the opportunity to study at Heriot-Watt.

Meanwhile, our Deaf and British Sign Language (BSL) Project is creating a pioneering programme of scholarships for students across Scotland, while Career Ready is bringing mentoring and internship opportunities to school students from some of Scotland’s most disadvantaged areas.

Finally, the Mary Burton Project is helping more women from across Scotland to take up science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) courses, while our Maths Gym is providing valuable support to Heriot-Watt students around the world.

A big thank you to everyone who has supported these initiatives, all of which will have a hugely positive impact for many years to come.
Theophile Iradukunda is a young mechanical engineering graduate working in Rwanda. “In three years, I’ve developed expertise in creating and implementing customised renewable energy solutions for residential and commercial customers,” he says. “Despite this, I still need extra knowledge and experience if I am to achieve my dream of making renewable energy more affordable and dependable for every person who needs it.”

Theophile is exactly the kind of talented and ambitious young professional who can shape a positive future for Rwanda and Africa. The 11th child in his family, he is hungy to learn more and that’s one of the many reasons why we awarded him a Denis Goldberg Scholarship, inspired by the South African social campaigner of the same name.

The first 10 scholarships were all awarded to graduates working in Rwanda’s renewable energy sector, with their participation funded partly by donations to the 1821 Appeal (see P5) and partly through financial support from their employers. Further scholarships have since been awarded to 15 students in Rwanda and Ghana. In addition, access to MScs in Real Estate and Construction Project Management have also opened. And since January, the scholarships have been available in Zambia too.

The courses, run by our School of Energy, Geoscience, Infrastructure and Society in conjunction with the Edinburgh-based charity Challenges Worldwide, combine distance learning and mentoring with support from local co-ordinators.

Theophile can already see the impact that the scholarship is having on him. “The experience has been great so far,” he says. “It has more than met my expectations and I feel really well supported. I know that the MSc will empower me to become a driving force for change, and give me the tools, networks and belief to go on and make a real impact.”

“The scholarship has offered me an incredible opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills that I need,” he says. “When I got the scholarship I was really excited – as was my company.”

Your donations to the 1821 Appeal are supporting a powerful initiative to give talented African students the chance to study an MSc in their home country – bringing lasting benefits to their careers, employers and communities.

Your generosity in supporting the 1821 Appeal Black Voices Project has provided 40 scholarships for Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) students, created a team of BME Advocates to support them throughout their Heriot-Watt experience and created safe spaces for discussion and networking.

The parents of Heriot-Watt Accountancy and Finance student Shanzay Akhtar moved from Pakistan to the UK with very little, but they were inspired by the hope of creating a good life for their family.

“My parents didn’t have the privilege of being able to attain higher education, so it was always a big dream of theirs, as well as mine, that I attend a university,” says Shanzay. “When I received my unconditional offer from Heriot-Watt, I knew instantly I wanted to attend but felt helpless, knowing my parents wouldn’t be able to financially support any accommodation or commuting costs. I applied for the scholarship having little hope and ended up getting a job as a waitress. The day I received the scholarship was very uplifting. It’s not just the funding that has helped me. The scholarship felt like a reset of my perspective on life and a realisation that there is hope.”

It was through your generosity in supporting Black Voices that Shanzay was able to realise the dream she shared with her parents. The project increases the number of BME students joining us at Heriot-Watt through 40 scholarships. And by appointing four BME advocates to facilitate safe spaces for discussion and networking, we strive to ensure that all our students, regardless of ethnicity, can enjoy a positive experience.

One of our first BME Advocates was Marine Biology PhD student Alycia. “I jumped at the chance to join as an advocate back in November 2020,” Alycia says. “As a woman of colour who has been in education for nearly 20 years now, it represented the first opportunity I’d seen to enact real change.”

Alycia and her colleagues conducted an extensive BME student survey earlier this year to guide the sort of events that will be held in the current academic year and improve inclusivity in aspects of university life such as catering, accessibility, and social life. “We’re really looking forward to seeing the impact that efforts like these can have,” Alycia adds. “Thank you from all of us. Your funding has recognised the hard work it takes to address something like this and the importance of the issue.”

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“EMBRACING BLACK VOICES”

Black Voices also has the whole-hearted backing of our Chancellor Sir Geoff Palmer. “A Heriot-Watt education changed my life and provided me with a range of opportunities I might otherwise not have accessed,” says Sir Geoff. “Yet this was not without its challenges, and I believe it is crucial that we support BME students to overcome the barriers they face and help them fully realise their potential while studying with us.”

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Shanzay Akhtar
Alumni dinners in Houston and New York marked a memorable year of celebrating our relationship with Heriot-Watt alumni in the USA.

Over the past year, we’ve very much enjoyed seeing more of our alumni in North America. There is such an abundance of talent and goodwill across the Atlantic, and we celebrated our relationships in the USA in April 2022 with dinners in Houston and New York City, where so many of our USA friends are based.

It was wonderful to meet up with many of you on our visit, hear what you’ve been up to and share news about exciting developments at Heriot-Watt. The new National Robotarium and plans to expand our work in Net Zero were popular topics of conversation. There was also a lot of interest in our 1821 Appeal (see P3), which is extending access to a Heriot-Watt education to students from a diverse range of backgrounds and circumstances.

One of the guests at the Houston event was Uwem Ukpong, Heriot-Watt alumnus and VP of Global Services at Amazon Web Services. Uwem attended with his wife Eno, Global HRBP Director at Wood Mackenzie, and they were both particularly interested when our Principal, Professor Richard A. Williams, discussed the influence of Sir Geoff Palmer and his role as Chancellor at Heriot-Watt.

“I found his story fascinating,” says Uwem. “The barriers he overcame and how Heriot-Watt opened doors for him was very interesting. It stimulated a conversation that led me, and my wife Eno, to support the Black Voices Project within the 1821 Appeal. I was drawn to this project because it will not only mitigate difficulties faced by BME students but help to provide the professional diversity that will benefit business and industry.”

The Houston event was co-hosted by the Principal, Professor Richard A. Williams, together with Professor Dame Heather McGregor, Provost of Heriot-Watt University Dubai, and Robin Watson, Heriot-Watt alumnus and Chief Executive of Wood plc. Robin’s involvement was particularly appreciated given the high numbers of Houston alumni working in the energy industry. The event also featured a talk from Heriot-Watt alumnus, donor and former President of Exxon, Bryan Milton.

Professor Dame McGregor co-hosted our New York event, together with our Global Chief Financial Officer Andrew Jefferson, and Helen Sayles, Heriot-Watt alumna and Chair of the National Trust for Scotland Foundation USA. “I chose to support the 1821 Appeal, and serve on the Appeal’s Advisory Board, because I deeply believe in supporting access to education,” says Helen. “I was fortunate to do well at school and progress to university, which opened up significant new possibilities. Without that opportunity, I would not have enjoyed the career that I have.”

“We’re very grateful to all alumni that attended the events and supported the 1821 Appeal,” says Andrew Mackinnon, Senior Development Executive, Heriot-Watt. “Our alumni in the USA generously contributed $560,000 to the Appeal which will directly impact the lives of so many of our students. One of the most important outcomes for us was being able to explain some of the extraordinary work that Heriot-Watt students and academics are doing to make the world a better place.”

The Development and Alumni team looks forward to consistent engagement with the USA in the years ahead, with more events and visits planned for 2023 and beyond. We are currently working to expand our American Friends of Heriot-Watt Board by identifying new alumni members in the USA who can work with us as advocates, connectors and provide advice in terms of engagement and fundraising in the USA. We look forward to reporting back again next year.

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OPENING DOORS TO LESS-PRIVILEGED MALAYSIAN STUDENTS

Malaysia’s Leaders with Impact Scholarships, funded by the 1821 Appeal and two supportive local partners, is providing students from less privileged backgrounds with life-changing educational opportunities.

Tan Ying Shien’s father sadly passed away six years ago, leaving his mother as the sole breadwinner. It’s been a tough few years for a close family. And the hopes of Tan and his sister to move into higher education must have seemed out of reach at times. However, they are both pursuing their ambitions and, through the 1821 Appeal, Tan is now studying a Foundation in Business course leading to Data Sciences at Heriot-Watt University. Tan was awarded a Leaders with Impact Scholarship, funded by the 1821 Appeal’s Project Malaysia Foundation in Business course leading to Data Sciences at Heriot-Watt University.

Tan was awarded a Leaders with Impact Scholarship, funded by the 1821 Appeal’s Project Malaysia Appeal and FWD Takaful, a business partner that provides forms of payment to 1821 Appeal’s Project Malaysia’s Leaders with Impact. One of Tan’s academic achievements is that he obtained his GCSEs with A* to C grades and was awarded a Leaders with Impact Scholarship funded by the 1821 Appeal. Tan’s unique and varied experience has helped him achieve his academic goals. Tan’s passion for learning and exploring new things enabled him to relieve his mother’s burden. My education is the most fortunate thing that has happened in my life. I will push myself to achieve excellent academic results and make all of you proud.”

“Thank you so much to everyone who has supported Project Malaysia through the 1821 Appeal. We have several other hugely enthusiastic testimonials from the first intake of scholars – your donations are making a profoundly positive life-long impact on deserving students, their families and their communities. It is our hope that this scholarship will enable deserving students from the B40 community to have a life-changing UK education that will make a difference in their lives and future.”

Another of the new scholars is Hashveen Kaur. “Coming from a B40, single-mom family, I realised pretty early on that getting a good education would help to pave the way towards a better future,” she says. “Being awarded this scholarship not only bestowed upon me the opportunity to further my education in the field I am passionate about, it also helped me to relieve my mother’s burden. My experience so far has been excellent. I intend to fully commit myself in learning and exploring new things in and out of my field of study.”

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Professor Mushtak Al-Atabi

“The 1821 Appeal, which aims to enable deserving students to access a Heriot-Watt education to achieve their dreams no matter their circumstances, is in line with our vision,” says Darweerz Dzulaffi, Chief Executive of Yayasan Turks. “We look forward to forging a new generation of leaders who will shape a better future for themselves, their community, and the country through this initiative.”

Thank you so much to everyone who has supported Project Malaysia through the 1821 Appeal. We have several other hugely enthusiastic testimonials from the first intake of scholars – your donations are making a profoundly positive life-long impact on deserving students, their families and their communities.

The Appeal has several strands but, in particular, our callers shared information on our Black Voices, Dual and British Sign language (BSL), Denis Goldberg, Mary Burton and Maths Gym projects (see P3 for more information). And the overall telethon also raised valuable funds for our pioneering Net Zero Community Hub, which will inspire change by showcasing Net Zero innovations and developing outreach work with schools.

24 July to 21 August 2022, it was a three-week fundraiser, attracting substantial support from alumni. I wish Hitansh-Dilip all the best in his career. I’m sure he’ll go far!”

“The success of the 200th anniversary campaign is an excellent example, attracting substantial support from alumni.”

Dr David Stewart Book
A passionate and enthusiastic geoscientist, Bruce Blanché inspired many who knew him.

““It was his passion for forging new alliances and bringing together key operators that was the hallmark of his achievements,” writes his family. “A patient, generous and kind tutor, Bruce was delighted to mentor any trainee from around the globe to access a Heriot-Watt education irrespective of their background, ethnicity, or financial need.”

“Adrian was a much loved and respected academic,” writes Emeritus Professor Patrick Corbett. “He was a pioneer in the field of carbon dioxide storage, and a modest man whose academic career should be an inspiration for anyone hoping to reach the summit of their chosen profession from humble beginnings. The fund was Adrian’s initiative and he strongly supported it whilst he was alive. Many of us were grateful for Adrian’s support, which has been reflected by the great success of the fund.”

A gift in your will is a powerful way to give to coming generations,” says Ruth O’Hara, Campaign Director at Heriot-Watt. “Making education available for young people, or protecting our planet through renewable energy research, or remembering someone you love – a legacy gift to Heriot-Watt is a wonderful way to ensure that what is important to you during your lifetime is carried forward into the future.”

Another example is the greatly missed Professor Adrian Todd, who sadly passed away in June 2022. The Adrian Todd Golden Key Fund enables Institute of Geogeny engineering students to attend conferences abroad.

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Heriot-Watt will be forever grateful to our legacy donors whose names live on in celebration of the work that meant so much to them.

Dr Stefan Kay, OBE, BSc, CEng, FIMechE, FRSA, HonDUniv
24/07/1944-22/02/2021

Memoriam

Legacy gift to Heriot-Watt University of £11,900

The release of the REF 2021 results in May 2022 assessed 86.8% of our overall research and 88.6% of research outputs as ‘world-leading’ or ‘internationally excellent’. We are also top in Scotland for world-leading Physics research, which also saw 97% of its research classed as world-leading and internationally excellent. In addition, our three joint submissions with the University of Edinburgh – in Mathematical Sciences, Engineering, and Architecture, Built Environment and Planning – were awarded a top-four ranking in the UK based on the quality and breadth of the combined research.

Upskilling Scotland
Through funding from the Scottish Funding Council, we have made significant strides in delivering education based on demand from businesses on a course-by-course basis. In 2021/22, Heriot-Watt provided learning to more than 500 individuals.

Go Global
Following the easing of pandemic lockdown measures, we’ve renewed our Go Global offering, which offers all students at Heriot-Watt the opportunity to study at any of our five campuses.

Approximately 350 students moved between campuses in 2022 – a return to pre-pandemic levels.

Our Graduate Apprenticeship scheme, where students complete their course to the same timetable as traditional degrees but with the majority of activity and assessment based on tasks carried out in the workplace, continues to flourish. 85 of our apprenticeship students graduated in 2021/22 (more than double last year), with just over a third of them achieving first-class degrees.

Graduate Apprenticeships

The establishment of the Heriot-Watt Global College is a powerful engine for global growth, inclusion and access. There is so much potential here given our strong track record in providing foundation and other pathways into and throughout higher education globally.

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Emerging from the pandemic crisis, Heriot-Watt took bold, positive steps in 2022. Here’s a review of some of the key developments at the University over that period, including our Global Research Institutes and other initiatives for making a positive impact on the world while broadening access to educational opportunities.

The people of Heriot-Watt have always shared a culture of wanting to make the world a better place. That philanthropic commitment was a repeated theme of our bicentennial reflections, and is exemplified by your generous donations and the heartfelt warming stories within this report.

The University will continue to embrace this approach across all its departments. We will address critical global issues through our interdisciplinary approach and close collaboration with industry and businesses. We will strive to transform and close collaboration with industry and business. We will address critical global issues through our interdisciplinary approach and foster collaboration and innovation.

And we will continue to build on the achievement in the wider world.

Global Research Institutes (GRIs) were established in 2016, in partnership with the British Geological Survey, to transform and close collaboration with industry and business. We will address critical global issues through our interdisciplinary approach and foster collaboration and innovation.

The focus on this expertise will promote effective and sustainable progress towards meeting the Net Zero targets of the international community and delivering the energy and economic transition required to achieve those targets.

“Across our campuses and schools, we have developed expertise central to assisting society in solving the big Net Zero challenges.”


**How we pushed forward in 2022**

Lyell Centre
Since the Lyell Centre was launched in 2016, combining the strengths of both Heriot-Watt University and the British Geological Survey, it has focused on becoming an internationally recognised centre of excellence, delivering innovative and impactful advances in earth and marine science that make a difference to societies across the world. Over the past year, our research has explored how tropical rainforest headwater rivers are influencing global carbon and nutrient cycles; the effects of plastic pollution in the coastal zone of Vietnam; sustainable development of the blue economy; how gas migration from decommissioned energy wells is impacting the surrounding soil and atmosphere; the archaeological significance of newly-discovered animal figures from government, industry, research and the robotics and artificial intelligence (AI) community; and the role of dead jellyfish in marine biochemical cycles.

Net Zero
We’re committed to developing our expertise and resources to support a Net Zero future and this is emphasised by our advanced plans for ambitious research in this area. Our Net Zero GRI will step up the capacity for researchers across Heriot-Watt to address the need for fundamental changes in how we drive the transition to a Net Zero economy and a decarbonised future. Across our campuses and schools, we have developed expertise central to assisting society in solving the big Net Zero challenges, from decarbonisation to smart energy systems. This expertise has resulted in external funding for a wide range of projects led by academic teams from across the University.

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**Industrial Decarbonisation**
After winning a £20m award in 2020, Heriot-Watt has taken on the responsibility of leading the UK’s Industrial Decarbonisation Research and Innovation Centre (IDRIC). IDRIC is the focal point for the green transformation of the UK’s industrial heartlands. Funded by UK Research and Innovation and based virtually at Heriot-Watt, the centre is tasked with developing decarbonisation solutions at pace and scale in the places where it matters most. By May 2022, we had already overseen the launch of 43 research projects, with more than 100 researchers working on IDRIC projects from across the UK.

Queen’s Anniversary Prize
As you know, we are leaders in many areas such as photonics and quantum sciences, marine and geosciences, deprivation and social sciences, robotics and medical technologies, logistics management, energy systems, and smart construction. Indeed, in November 2021, we were awarded the highest honour in UK education, the Queen’s Anniversary Prize, for our world-leading research in the advancement of photonics technology. It’s the fourth time the Prize has been awarded to the University.

**Global Research Institutes**
Our commitment to tackling major global challenges is also exemplified by the Global Research Institutes (GRIs) we have successfully established across AI, earth and marine science, Net Zero, decarbonisation, health and care engineering, and medical device manufacturing. Last year saw major advances across all these fields.

National Robotarium
28 September 2022 was a big milestone for Heriot-Watt with the official opening of the National Robotarium, in partnership with the University of Edinburgh. Located on the Edinburgh campus, the National Robotarium is the largest and most advanced applied research facility for robotics and artificial intelligence (AI) in the UK. Home to world-leading experts in robotics, data and AI, the facility is leveraging existing research and industry expertise to address the global demand for disruptive innovation in robotics and autonomous systems. The opening event gathered leading figures from government, industry, research and the robotics community for networking, talks and a tour of the multi-million-pound, purpose-built site. The facilities cover three distinct areas: Robotics and Autonomous Systems, Human and Robot Interaction and Precision Laser Applications.

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**Regional Development**
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Health and Care Engineering
Heriot-Watt researchers have already delivered 103 projects in health and care engineering supported by 46 different funders and 150 partners for a total value of £24m (with industrial partners providing £4.7m of contributions). And fulfilling our strategy of building on areas of existing expertise, we are committed to building levels of exceptional knowledge exchange in health and care engineering for the benefit of society worldwide. Through this GRI, we aim to accelerate research that will transform patients’ lives, across the NHS and globally. This Hub of Research Excellence will provide a home for researchers influencing and working in partnership with governments, research councils and charity groups, as well as providing CPD courses and educational programmes for prospective students.

Medical Device Manufacturing
The past year has seen the growth and development of our Medical Device Manufacturing Centre (MDMC), launched in 2020 and inaugurated in 2022, to address prototyping and manufacturing challenges in the development of smarter and more cost-effective medical devices. The MDMC brings together engineers, scientists, clinicians and business development experts from four Scottish universities – Heriot-Watt, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Robert Gordon. One of the products already developed through the MDMC (in partnership with Abergower Digital Ltd and the Scottish Manufacturing Advisory Service) won an Interface Knowledge Exchange Award in March 2022 for Best COVID-19 Collaborative Response.

A message from
PROFESSOR RICHARD A. WILLIAMS
Principal and Vice Chancellor

It’s my great pleasure to complete this report by offering my heartfelt thanks to all of you who are supporting our philanthropic activities. As a multinational university with a pioneering heritage in innovation and technology, we strive to make the world a better place. And your generous donations are driving an extraordinary range of ideas and initiatives that are enhancing the life of thousands, perhaps millions, of people across the globe. This report has picked out many of these, particularly in terms of our mission to extend educational opportunities to all, whatever their background or circumstances. In addition, I’d like to pick out two major projects which, while based in Edinburgh, will bring significant worldwide benefits, for generations to come.

The National Robotarium, which officially opened in September 2022, underlines our influence as a global leader in robotic and artificial intelligence research. Established in partnership with the University of Edinburgh, and supported by both the Scottish Government and the UK Government, it’s also the embodiment of successful collaboration. You will be hearing much about the work and innovations of the Robotarium in the years to come, and thank you so much to everyone who has supported its progress to date.

Secondly, our new Net Zero Community Hub will highlight the leading role we’re taking in global sustainability initiatives. At a time when tackling climate change couldn’t be more important to the future of the planet, the Hub will advance understanding, innovation and best practice. And as well as providing a physical space for the pursuit of this vital work, it will also be a virtual entity providing outreach activities across the world.

There is so much going on in the world – and so much we want to do to make it a safer, healthier and more prosperous place for generations to come. Your generous support in this is hugely appreciated by so many. Thank you.
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