



# GIVING

with impact



CHANGING LIVES  
CONNECTING FUTURES



# GIVING with impact

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# Changing lives, connecting futures

At Staffordshire University we have always been immensely proud of our work to raise aspirations, improve life opportunities and widen participation in higher education.

**This sits in tandem with our objectives of fuelling economic development**, conducting important research and creating highly qualified, skilled, confident and empowered Staffordshire graduates ready to take up demanding employment positions throughout the world.

Our highly connected alumni community and strong education and business partnerships are key to this commitment. Students from low income backgrounds see finance, particularly travel and living costs, as a huge barrier to higher education. Thanks to the generous and valued support of our donors, many of these students are now able to access

financial support through our Horizon Fund.

However, development funds are not just targeted to those experiencing hardship. Equally important is the funding of opportunity awards for students from all backgrounds to extend their learning, seize new opportunities and achieve their ambitions.

The Horizon Fund was launched in 2013, bringing together those who want to undertake charitable giving on any scale, with those students who are most in need of financial assistance. As a result, more than 400 students have so far received bursaries, scholarships or

opportunity awards ranging in value from £20 to £2,000.

On behalf of our students and everyone at the University, we'd like to extend our gratitude to our valued donors, and to everyone who has contributed in any way to the opportunities these donations have created.

This publication presents some of this important work and demonstrates the impacts it has on students and wider society.

## Challenges facing our students:

**27.9%**  
DEPRIVATION

27.9% of our students are from the bottom two deciles of the deprivation category\*

**56%**

TRAVEL COSTS

56% of our full-time students commute to the University

**45%**

LOW PARTICIPATION

45% of students are drawn from areas with the lowest participation in education – many are the first in their family to reach university

**45%** CHILDCARE

45% of students are classified as mature on entry and may require childcare support

**15%**  
DISABILITY

15% of students have a declared disability

**3rd lowest**  
SOCIAL MOBILITY

Stoke-on-Trent is 3rd lowest in the country for social mobility

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\*Department for Communities and Local Government, (2015), English Indices of Deprivation.

# Changing careers

## thanks to the Bertarelli Foundation

Kirsty and Ernesto Bertarelli have had a positive impact on the lives of many of our students through the substantial value of bursaries they fund from their Foundation. The Foundation gives students from non-traditional entry routes the best chance of transforming their futures.



**What's more, the fund also ensures a vital supply of new graduates** into the NHS, teaching, education and the private sector – many of whom are bringing important life and work experience, communication and other transferable skills as they enter the workforce after changing their life path.

Exclusive to Staffordshire University, the Bertarelli Foundation bursaries aim to boost retention and progression of students who live within a 30-mile radius of the University's campuses and have either completed our Step Up to HE course, or have successfully completed an Access to HE course at a local college. Here are just a few of the students who have benefited from this financial support whilst striving to further their career alongside raising their families.

**"I can't thank everyone involved with the bursary enough, it has really helped a lot." Mica Kamal**

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### Mohammed

**Age 27, is studying the BA (Hons) in Criminology and Terrorism and wants to become a trained intelligence officer carrying out anti-terrorism work.**

"I used to work for my dad's restaurant company, but it went into liquidation when I was 21 and I hadn't really trained for a career doing anything else other than working in hospitality. I was working in dead-end jobs in factories, without much chance of progression.

"There are lots of religious influences on young lads in my community and this affects how they perceive society. I want to show it is possible to be Muslim and be proud to be British.

The bursary helps takes the pressure off me as a mature student, with caring responsibilities for my mum and bills to pay. I hope to cut down on my working hours because I had two jobs as well as my full-time studies before the bursary came through."

### Francesca

**Mum-of-two Francesca wants to become a SENCO in a primary school. She completed the University's 'Step up to HE' course before enrolling on the BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies.**

"This bursary means everything. It's like a weight has been lifted off my shoulders. It helps with childcare costs so I can do extra days on placement, and it helps me attend extra-curricular activities and conferences that I wouldn't otherwise be able to.

I'm really determined. I've spent my life looking after everyone else. Now it's my turn to build a career. I want to make sure I don't go back into minimum wage, dead end jobs.

However, my biggest motivation comes from my experience with one of my own children, who has Special Education Needs (SEN). I want to provide the support that we never received. I want to act on parents' concerns and take it seriously. I'll be on this course for three years, then the PGCE, then a year in a primary school. But I will get there!"

### Mica

**Age 25 from Wolverhampton, is studying Psychology and Counselling at the University's Stoke-on-Trent Campus. She had always wanted to work as a counsellor but had been working in other jobs as a care assistant and, more recently, a teaching assistant.**

She says: "I have a son who is almost four, and I decided that now is the time to push on and go for the career I want. The bursary has enabled me to stop working and just focus on the course, as well as obviously raising my son. It also helps me with travel costs – it costs me £200 each month just to travel to lectures from my home in Wolverhampton. The bursary has been such a relief. It's removed some of the stress from juggling finances, study and parenting. It makes me feel 'Yes, I can do this!' I honestly can't thank everyone involved with the bursary enough, it has really helped a lot."

### Angela

**Age 33, was a stay-at-home mum to two young children, when her husband suffered a back injury which meant he had to cut down his hours at work. She decided to retrain so that she can become the main wage earner and take the pressure off her husband. She is studying the BSc (Hons) in Social Work.**

"The bursary will help me with childcare and all my travel costs. It's taken some of the pressure off me and helped me to focus on my studies. It's really important to me to do well, because the chances are that I will become the family's sole earner, due to my husband's injury. The money is helping me with the fuel costs for travelling to campus and work placements, and with childcare for my children who are aged three and six."

### Ryan

**Age 39, is studying Psychology and Counselling, after completing a Foundation Year in Psychology.**

He says: "The bursary will really help with day-to-day costs of studying – books, meals and unexpected bills that need paying. Simple peace of mind that I can afford to eat properly and fuel myself when I'm studying or afford to grab a sandwich if I'm staying late in the library."

Ryan enjoys being a mature student on campus and finds it easier than he thought. He says: "There are a lot more people here who are my age, than I expected. I have realised that the life experiences that have brought me here can help others to learn, too."





# Making a difference

## with the Denise Coates Foundation

Denise Coates CBE is a highly successful businesswoman from the local area, who was awarded her CBE for services to the community and business. In 2012 Denise was made an honorary Doctor of Staffordshire University in recognition of her entrepreneurial vision and the impact of her work on the city of Stoke-on-Trent.



### Inspired by a desire to help those that were less fortunate than others,

Denise was the driving force behind the creation of the Denise Coates Foundation in 2012. Since its inception the Denise Coates Foundation has committed to providing c£42m of grants to good causes across the UK and overseas.

The Foundation has contributed £725,000 to Staffordshire University's Horizon Fund, which has been used to support a bursary programme for high achieving students from low income families. Since the start of the programme over 350 students have received bursaries. Thanks to the most recent generous donation, further funding to support at least 100 more students has been committed to the University for this current academic year.

### Alisha

Studying BA (Hons) in Early Childhood Studies

"The bursary will really help me with the costs of uniform and travel for my voluntary work placements. It also takes some of the financial pressure off me and helps me feel supported."

I have four younger brothers at home and I was spending money from my student loans by giving it to the family as my contribution. This bursary gives me money that is to be spent on helping me with my studies and my costs. Money on the Unicard can only be spent here on campus, on books, sandwiches, printing materials or a coffee. These are all things I couldn't afford before."



### Francesca

Studying BA (Hons) in Psychology and Criminology

"In my first year, the bursary helped me to buy books and stationery supplies for lectures. I'm now in my final year and I'm finding the bursary invaluable to help me buy books on the topics I am covering for my dissertation. As it's quite a specialist area, there aren't

many books in the library, so I need to buy new ones. I hope to go on to a career in the police force or the criminal justice system and I'm just really grateful for the support I've had through the bursary. It really does help a lot."

**"The bursary will help me with printing my work out while I'm on campus – when you're printing out and checking your design work, these costs can add up a lot."**

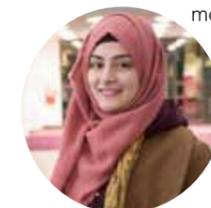
**Chauncey, Studying BA (Hons) in Graphic Design**



### Qanita

Studying a BA (Hons) in Psychology

"Recently my mum lost her job due to arthritis. She can't work, and she's not eligible for benefits, so things are tough for the family. The bursary helps me to pay rent and buy books. I'm looking forward to having the Unicard with some money to spend on campus."



This will make a big difference to me. Before I had the bursary, I'd go home with an empty stomach because I couldn't afford to eat while I'm on campus."



### Nazar

Studying a BSc (Hons) in Mechanical Engineering

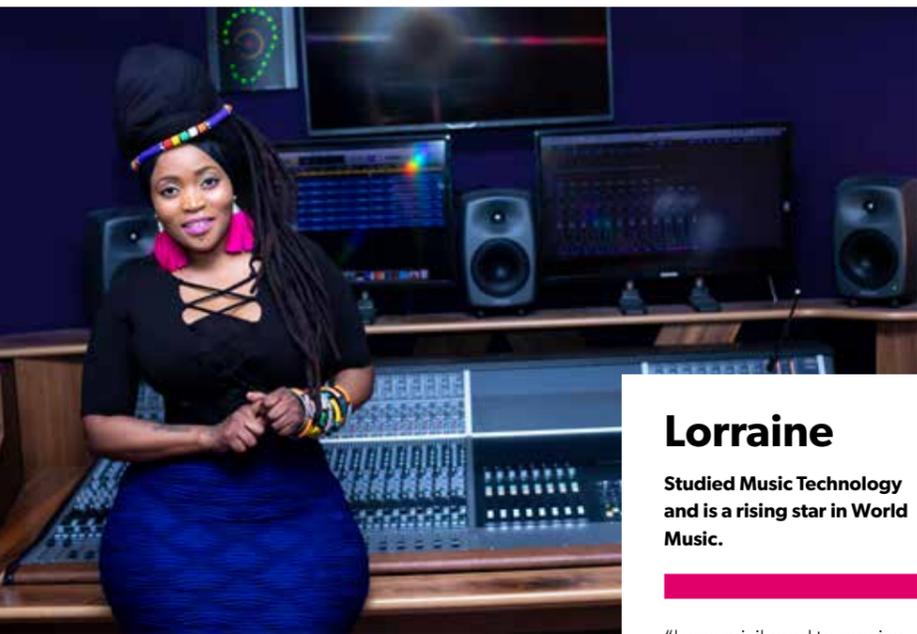
"The bursary will help me with lots of things – ranging from everyday costs of living away from home on my own, like rent, food and clothes, to making sure I have the resources I need on my course. For example, I do a lot of research on my course and need to buy equipment for some of the projects we carry out."

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# Creating opportunities investing in our students

Since 2015 the Clarke Family Trust has donated £81,000 to the Horizon Fund to support Opportunity Awards.



## Lorraine

Studied Music Technology and is a rising star in World Music.

"I was privileged to receive an Opportunity Award from the University's Horizon Fund to help towards my travel expenses. This enabled me to travel to Nigeria to showcase at one of Africa's biggest music festivals. Appearing at that showcase opened a lot of doors for me as an artist, and I was invited back to the same festival in 2018 – this time as a paid artist. Thanks to this increased visibility, I have gone on to perform at several high-profile events, including performing for The Duke and Duchess of Sussex, Prince Harry and his wife Meghan in July 2018."

**Opportunity Awards provide career and life-enhancing experiences for students.** This can range from a suit or a train fare for a student to attend an interview, or the flight costs for an overseas placement or volunteering opportunity. The fund has helped students to attend events, conferences, training or undertake other activities which help to apply their learning.

The Clarke Family Trust's trustee, Simon Clarke DL, is an Honorary Doctor of Staffordshire University and a highly influential figure in the region. He is Executive Chairman of Dunstall Holdings whose subsidiaries are dealerships for John Deere/JCB and Material Handling Solutions.

In addition to this, he is a Non-Executive Director of St Modwen Properties plc, trustee for the Racing Welfare Trust and Chairman of Racing Homes. He has also served as the High Sheriff of Staffordshire and Deputy Lieutenant of Staffordshire.

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"Investment in the future of Staffordshire University is always on-going, as we place students at the heart of everything we do, giving them the best possible start to their careers in a wide range of exciting industries. We are always willing to meet with potential major donors to consider a partnership to help us achieve our goals."

Simon Clarke DL, Chair of the University's Development Board and trustee of the Clarke Family Trust.

# Secret donor continues to surprise

A retired teacher has made a huge difference to new teachers joining the profession over the last 6 years.

She prefers to remain anonymous, and has now donated more than £12,000 to 32 PGCE students, to help them with costs towards their studies and teaching materials to be used on their teaching placements.

Some of this year's recipients told us what their £375 bursary means to them:

## Catherine

Age 26

"I'd always wanted to have a creative career and always considered teaching. I was very creative at school and had both positive and negative experiences of my teachers. I want to work as a secondary school teacher and really encourage and inspire those pupils who are talented in creative subjects. I'd like to ensure they keep their confidence even if they're not as good at English or maths and encourage out-of-the-box thinking.

"The extra money from the bursary will help me with travel costs and materials for lessons. The arts don't get much funding in a lot of schools, so I'd like to look at media the school doesn't use and buy something to help creative learning while I'm on my placement."

## Sophie

Age 24

"This will help me buy more interactive aids for my lessons. These things can be kept and used year after year in future lessons, so it's incredibly helpful to have the extra funds now. The money will also help me with fuel costs for travelling to my teaching placement."

## Sophie

Age 29

"Money is tight. I'm a single parent to a little boy, so anything that helps me with the cost of studying or working as a trainee teacher is a big help.

This bursary will help me with the ongoing efforts to strike the balance between delivering high impact lessons, versus the limitations of my own personal finances. It will enable me to buy more materials for lessons, and it helps with the cost of printing at home or creating resources for children with lower abilities. It can also help with travel costs. My next placement is 1 to 1.5 hours away from home."

**"It's great that this bursary comes from someone who has followed the same path and knows how hard it can be. It's recognition of our efforts by someone who has been there themselves."**



**Dr Ruth Thompson  
(1953 – 2016)**



**Nikki Fahy, winner of the Dr Ruth Thompson design competition is presented with her award by Ruth's husband, Sir David Bean**

In recognition of Ruth's kindness, a new social learning space has also been created within the Science centre, with bespoke furniture and specially commissioned artwork. These pieces represent her passion and interests whilst improving the technology and the environment within the centre.

This social learning space has been dedicated to commemorating Dr Ruth Thompson, who is greatly missed by all who knew her. The new space was unveiled by her husband, Court of Appeal judge Sir David Bean, at an event to celebrate her life's work and legacy.

**Please contact the Head of Development and Alumni Relations, Deborah Sanderson for a confidential discussion so she can learn more about the kind of legacy you would like to gift and how you would wish it to be used, tel. 07766 520395.**

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# Legacy giving

## celebrating a life with scholarships

Dr Ruth Thompson gave an exemplary and remarkable contribution to higher education as a governor of Staffordshire University and throughout her 30-year career with the civil service.

**Ruth gave her wisdom, experience and time freely, acting as a mentor and inspiration to many.** With courage and determination, she made a difference, transforming lives of students by shaping and funding scholarships and bursaries, leaving a legacy for future generations.

In an incredible act of kindness, Ruth left a substantial legacy gift in her will, following her sad death due to cancer in 2016.

After consulting closely with Ruth's husband, Sir David Bean, a number of scholarships have been created to reflect Ruth's interests and passions:

- Travel
- Inclusion and access
- Quality of teaching

Ruth's legacy gift will see a number of investments in students studying to be teachers.

### Scholarships

#### Dr Ruth Thompson Global Teaching Scholarship

**AIM:** To encourage social mobility, the advancement of learning and to invest in research into global education systems and practice.

Funding to partially cover costs of international travel and conference fees for postgraduate students, providing an opportunity to attend a world class education conference, based overseas, to expand their knowledge of education systems and practice and to bring back innovative ideas to share with fellow students.

#### Dr Ruth Thompson Scholarship for the Teachers of Tomorrow

**AIM:** To encourage more people to take up teaching, based on the need to invest in a continuous supply of high-quality teachers. These scholarships have been created because government funding is not available for all PGCE students and will target people living in the Staffordshire area to attract teachers to stay and work locally.

**Legacy gifts can be large or small, providing new opportunities and inspiration to students in your memory.**

**Ruth's husband, Sir David Bean has worked with Staffordshire University to shape the scholarships created through her legacy gift**



# Graduates who give

Ryan Lloyd, Darren Birt and Stephen Gould are all Staffordshire graduates who have chosen to give back to the University and its students, inspiring graduates through their achievements and creating valuable opportunities through mentoring, work placements and contributions to the Horizon Fund.



## Stephen Gould

Stephen Gould graduated from Staffordshire University with a First-Class Honours Degree in Sociology, before entering the human resources profession on a graduate placement. He went on to senior executive positions in operations, training and personnel development, before being appointed Managing Director of Everards Brewery in 2005.

Stephen is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (FCIPD) and has held Board positions at Nottingham Business School and the British Beer and Pub Association.

For many years, Stephen has donated his time to the success of future graduates by being a member of the University's Development Board, which oversees our fundraising strategy and activities.

More recently, to coincide with the 30th anniversary of his graduation, Stephen started to make monthly donations to help fund bursaries and opportunity awards through the Horizon Fund. He says:

"It has been an absolute joy to contribute time and financial support to the University's fundraising and the Horizon Fund. It is a practical way to ensure that students from all walks of life have opportunities through education and experiences. Through my work on the Development Board I see the true impact that these can have to individual students and to society in general. My degree at Staffordshire University was my passport to my 30-year career and all the opportunities I have had in life and work come back to that point. Now, to have the opportunity to contribute something back is most fulfilling."



## Darren Birt

Darren Birt graduated from Staffordshire University in 2003 with a B Eng (Hons) in Internet Technology. In 2007 he co-founded First Hosted Ltd, now known as FHL.

Darren is a long-time supporter of Staffordshire University, working closely with staff to offer students opportunities through work experience, 12-month work placements, sponsorships and funding for Horizon Fund bursaries and scholarships. Darren has been a guest speaker at events such as DigiTech and careers events and has been a GradEx Judge on many occasions.

The first cohort of placement students started at FHL in June 2011 and the scheme is now in its ninth year of successful operation, with 69 placement students having been employed by the company.

### At a glance: FHL and Staffordshire University partnering for growth

- FHL is a successful business employing 104 staff. Of these, 68% are associated with Staffordshire University, either as graduates, placement students or temps
- Half of the first Staffordshire graduate placement student intake in 2011 are still working at FHL.
- 4 out of 5 of the senior management team are Staffordshire graduates.
- In 2018, the company recruited its first Degree Apprentice in operations/departmental management.



## Inspired Film and Video

Inspired Film and Video's founding members met while studying at Staffordshire University and started the business through the Fellowship Enterprise Scheme in 2006. They have maintained strong links with the University, including volunteering time to mentor students and judge our annual GradEx event. 80 per cent of their employees are graduates.

The company has created its own 'Filmmaker Fund' which offers grants of up to £500 to the University's film students to help with costs towards creating their final year film project.

The grants are made available through the Horizon Fund and are now in their second year, with £1,000 in bursaries allocated to date.

Ryan Lloyd, Creative Director at Inspired Film and Video explains:

"Most of our staff, including our founding directors, are graduates of Staffordshire University and we want to give back and benefit future filmmakers. We worked closely with the Development and Alumni Relations

team and the School of Computing and Digital Technologies at the University to organise the competition to win the bursaries. As well as providing the funding, we also met with the students to talk through their ideas and offer advice and assistance to help them reach their goals.

Supporting young talent in the local area is extremely important to us, and we often deliver talks as guest speakers to film students, as well as judging entries at the University's annual GradEx event.

We have this fantastic resource of talented film producers literally on our doorstep. It's important to show talented students and graduates that there is a vibrant media scene in Stoke-on-Trent and a wealth of opportunities for them to stay and work in the area after graduation.

For us, it means we're plugged in to a fantastic pipeline of skilled new talent for our business, and an established way of working with the University that enables us to spot new talent. Equally as important, it allows graduate film makers who are most in need, to fulfil their vision and make a significant difference to what they can achieve."

**"We're plugged in to a fantastic pipeline of skilled new talent for our business, and have an established way of working with the University that enables us to spot new talent."**

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# Horizon Fund

**At Staffordshire University, we strongly believe in investing in our students.** We encourage them to develop high aspirations and the best possible employability skills to propel their career forwards.

Our Horizon Fund enables us to offer Opportunity Awards which empower students to seize the day and strive to do more than they ever thought possible. This fund provides life-changing awards to enhance the student experience and create opportunities above and beyond their study programme. Here are some examples of this fund in action!



## Channel Islands

Film, TV and Radio studies students Chris and Kalvin visited Guernsey and Jersey as part of their radio documentary assignment based on the Nazi occupation of the Channel Islands during World War II.

## Madrid

Keith is currently studying a PhD in Forensic Archaeology mass graves investigation. He is working on a thesis that looks at forensic archaeological approaches in searching and identifying clandestine burials in Zimbabwe. He travelled to a conference in Madrid to present a paper on Zimbabwe democides to more than 3,000 academics.

**He says: "The presentation will help enhance understanding of one of the most forgotten genocides that claimed over 20,000 lives in 1980's Zimbabwe. It will assist in highlighting the level of research being undertaken at Staffordshire University and the associated expertise."**

**They say: "Because of the funding we were able to produce a fine piece of broadcast journalism. Any worries about travel and accommodation costs were put out of our minds and we were able to concentrate fully on our work and creativity."**



## Calgary

As a BSc student, Szilvia received funding to enable her to attend the Congress of the International Society of Biomechanics in Calgary, Canada. She is now studying a PhD in Biomechanics and is co-author of a footwear study carried out at Staffordshire University, which will be presented at the conference by her Professor, Dr Robert Needham.

**She says: "It gave me the opportunity to meet researchers and build my network in the biomechanics research sector. To be able to attend this seminar and to be around all these amazing people meant everything to me."**



## Colorado

Daniel is a student on the BSc (Hons) in Sports Strength and Conditioning programme at Staffordshire University. He recently completed a 7-week internship working as an assistant strength and conditioning coach in the US. His opportunity award contributed towards his travel and accommodation costs, while he worked full-time with the men's and women's basketball teams and the women's volleyball team at the University of Colorado.

**He says: "It was a really good experience, giving me an amazing opportunity to implement all the science-based and classroom learning I have undertaken, by working extensively with athletes. I've gained a huge amount of work experience – roughly 50 hours per week, as well as making contacts and securing a good reference."**

## Nepal

**Nursing students Millie and Bethany travelled to Nepal to volunteer in children's wards and the emergency department at Pokhara Hospital. The trip enhanced their clinical skills and provided a unique cultural experience whilst making a positive difference to the community in Nepal.**

## Atlanta

BSc Forensic Investigation student, Dani Chew, travelled to Atlanta, Georgia. During her trip, she shadowed doctors who are conducting post-mortems, conducted two weeks' work experience in a medical examination bureau, and attended the Annual Conference in Forensic and Paediatric Pathology.

**She says: "The aim of the trip was for me to get more experience in the field of pathology and medicine as well as put into practice elements of the learning from my degree. It has inspired me to push for the career I have dreamed of and pursue forensic pathology by going to medical school."**



## Moscow

Acting and Theatre Arts graduates Abigail and Hannah undertook a 2-week acting course at The International Demidov Summer School in Moscow.

**Abigail says: "The fund has helped me develop my acting skills, enabling me to afford this experience and making it less stressful – I am very grateful."**



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# Health horizons

## the next generation of NHS workers

Bursaries from Horizon Fund donors are helping mature students take their valuable life and communications skills into the NHS.



**Did you know that many of the students who receive bursaries** are the nurses, paramedics, midwives, psychologists, pathologists and health professionals of the future?

Students studying towards a career in the NHS are often required to travel up to 1.5 hours per day to carry out unfunded work placements, including those working 12-hour night shifts as paramedics or hospital staff.

Here we take a closer look at how bursaries are helping these students, many of whom are retraining and bringing valuable, transferable life and work skills and experience to benefit our public services.

### Abby

**The mum-of-one from Stone is studying Adult Nursing at Staffordshire University.**

She says: "My experience working in end of life care drew me towards this career path. When my grandfather became ill with cancer, the care he received was an example of how it shouldn't be done, and I could see how it could have been improved.

I studied on an Access to HE in Health course before progressing to the Nursing degree. The bursary is helping me in lots of ways. It helps with the cost of books, goes towards the cost of childcare for work placements and I also have the Unicard which allows for spending on food and printing on campus. This means I can buy a sandwich without having to choose between that and buying nappies or clothes for my daughter."



### Csilla

**Age 39, is mum to two sons, aged eight and sixteen.**

Csilla currently works as a bank care assistant at the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford. She is studying the BSc (Hons) Operating Department Practitioner in order to advance her career in the NHS so that she can move into a role organising equipment and supplies in the operating theatre. This requires her to have excellent knowledge of the surgeries in order to supply surgeons with the correct equipment almost before the surgeon has asked for it.

"The bursary will help me in so many ways! The most important thing for me is that it will help me pay for driving lessons, get my licence and hopefully afford a small car, fuel and insurance. I'm currently travelling to Stafford campus from Telford every day by bus and that can be a challenge, especially when I have two children to get home to."

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### Ricky

**Age 32, is a single parent, training to be a paramedic. Ricky was inspired to retrain as a paramedic following his experience with ambulance staff who regularly treated his young son.**

He explains: "I have two children who are seven and two. When our eldest was little, we had to have the ambulance out to him a lot before his condition was diagnosed. He suffered from lots of infections, he would struggle to breathe and had high blood pressure. It was very scary to be in that situation, and I'll always remember that sense of relief that I felt when the paramedics got there – that's what I want to give to other people now.

I'm working 12-hour shifts including night shifts. Before I had this bursary I was having to choose whether to see my kids or get a second job. It's so important to me to spend time with my kids and this bursary means that I can. It's helped enormously and I really want to say, 'thank you' for this opportunity."

# Thank you

## letters from our students

I am truly grateful to have been chosen amongst many other well deserving students and hope to utilise the bursary to the fullest effect. As a single mother it has been very difficult, financially, to take part in a university course. The bursary will truly assist me financially with travel costs for me and my son, purchasing books affordably, and allowing me to also purchase equipment such as a laptop and printer, which I currently can't afford. I am honoured to receive this bursary.

**Anonymous**

*Any financial help within my second-year studying is greatly appreciated. It will help me purchase additional books needed to further my knowledge and help cover potential travel expenses for extra learning within my course. Being able to have this opportunity to apply for the Denise Coates Foundation bursary is truly astonishing. Thank you.*

**Brooke**

I would like to try and express just how much your donation means to me on so many levels.

I will be very honest... this course has been hard work; I wanted to throw everything I had at it and I have come so far in many ways. I absolutely love reading so I will buy some quality children's literature that I will share with my class and will sign it from you as a reminder of your random act of kindness, that one day I will be able to pass that kindness on myself.

**Janis**

The Denise Coates bursary will help me out tremendously with my studies with buying academic materials such as books and cables needed, as well as helping me to focus on the heavy workload I will be enduring this year, which includes my final year project. It will also help towards a suit for job interviews for when I need to start looking for my future job as this is the final year. I am very thankful for the support of the Foundation.

**Thomas**

*Thank you so much for the kind, additional bursary. I can't express how much this means to me.*

*With the money you have so kindly donated; I plan on creating an environment and classroom that both stimulates and inspires the children that I will teach in September. I plan to buy items for displays and stationary that is so scarce in schools, I wish to use it in this way so that I can re-use items for future years and in this it will inspire me to create those little wow moments of helping others as you have done for me.*

*Thank you again for such a kind and amazing gift. I honestly cannot believe just how kind you have been, this will be a moment I will treasure forever and will take forward, and I assure you that I will return this moment to someone else in my future to keep this wonderful moment going.*

**Sophie**

*My dream was and is to become a teacher of Art and Design – a field that has brought me so much joy. The PGCE is in many ways a very testing qualification but it is SOOOOO rewarding. The start of this year has been extremely tough for me financially. Almost to the point I thought I may have to leave the course so I could work full time. This contribution for now will help to ease that strain and for that I couldn't even summarise the words to tell you just how much that means to me. I'm forever grateful.*

**Yours Sincerely,  
Autumn**

**“I would like to say how grateful I am to be awarded the Kirsty and Ernesto Bertarelli Foundation bursary. The bursary will go a long way in helping me to achieve my qualifications and career as a paramedic.”**

I'd like to say a huge thank you for the generous amount of money you have given me to help towards my studies. I plan to buy a printer because it will enable me to print my lesson materials at home. I have been having to go into the school on placement at 6.30am/6.45am to print materials and this has meant that my girls have had to sleep at their grandparents all week so I can get to the placement early. I hardly see my girls during the week and it is very hard. Your bursary means I can prepare my lessons at home now, which also means I can have my girls with me at home every day. So thank you, you are really making a difference. I can't thank you enough.

**Jody**

Illustration by Jillian Gornall, Staffordshire University, BA (Hons) Surface Pattern Design graduate

My time so far at Staffordshire University has been an amazing experience. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Bertarelli Foundation for the bursary, as it has helped in many ways. I have been able to purchase more and better books, more resources and it also helped with our groups trip to The Houses of Parliament. Thank you very, very, much.

**Karen**

*I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the generous amount you have granted to myself and other PGCE students. I plan on spending a portion of the grant on some materials for my next placement, as I'd like to build a car powered by wind with the pupils. In addition to this, I can also rest assured that I have enough petrol to get to my placement.*

*I cannot wait to start my profession and bring warmth and a love of learning into the classroom. It is people like you who prove that there is still kindness out there and I will ensure I instil this in my teaching.*

**Thank you, Zara**

# Everyday heroes

From staff fundraisers, to graduates who give monthly – we celebrate how smaller donations have a collective big impact, thanks to our ‘Horizon Fund Heroes.’

In 2019 the University held its first ever ‘Annual Staff Giving Day’ to encourage our 1423 staff to give something back in support of the Horizon Fund.

Everyone got involved, including University staff and some brilliant members of our Alumni community who heard about the campaign and thought it was a great idea to ‘pay it forward’ in support of future Staffordshire graduates.

Teams pulled together and did the University proud and we exceeded our £1k fundraising target! More than £1,300 was raised as a result of the day, with funds continuing to come in at the time of writing.

Here are some of the ways that funds were raised:

- ✦ Donations of loose change
- ✦ Grand prize raffle
- ✦ Plant sale
- ✦ Foreign change collection
- ✦ Small change collection
- ✦ Campus walk
- ✦ Basketball shooting competition
- ✦ Regular monthly donations through salary deduction
- ✦ Online donations and standing orders

Visit [staffs.ac.uk/giving](https://staffs.ac.uk/giving) for information on becoming a donor, sponsor or other supporter

The best part of all of this, is that more and more people are realising that even just a small donation can go a long way:

**£1**  
If a team of 30 people each donated £1, they could buy materials for a PGCE student to create outstanding learning resources to help gain top marks on their course, making them more employable

**£2**  
A team of 25 all donating £2 could buy a student a smart suit for an interview – helping them secure a dream job

**£10** could print a student’s final year project poster – or support them with materials for their final exhibition

**£150** will pay for a return ticket to London to attend an interview for a once in a lifetime job opportunity – all your gold, silver and copper coins add up to make this dream a reality.

## Could you become a #HorizonFundHero?

If you’re interested in creating more opportunities for Staffordshire graduates, there are many ways you can offer support – from giving your time, to offering scholarships and placements, to offering sponsorships or one off donations, depending on what feels right for you.

Please see page 22 for more information, or contact our Development and Alumni Relations Team on [developmentoffice@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:developmentoffice@staffs.ac.uk)



Technical Services showing their Horizon Fund spirit



Staff from Executive and Sport, along with members of our Basketball Society



Sweets sale



Employer Partnerships Spinning Bike Challenge



Just one of many cake & bake sales





**Development and Alumni Relations, Staffordshire University,  
Flaxman Building, College Road, ST4 2DE**

**01782 294942**

**[developmentoffice@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:developmentoffice@staffs.ac.uk)**

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