Teesside Transformation Fund

2024/25



Impact Report

2024/25



Welcome from the Vice-Chancellor

Teesside University: Transforming Lives and Economies

At Teesside University, we are committed to transforming lives and economies. Our work is made possible not only through our commitment to excellence in education and research, but also through the extraordinary generosity of our donors.

To each and every one of you who has contributed to scholarships, prizes, and other vital initiatives, thank you. You are changing lives and opening doors for students who might not otherwise have the opportunity to pursue higher education. You are recognising talent, rewarding ambition, and helping to shape the leaders, innovators, and changemakers of tomorrow.

Philanthropy has the power to transform. We see it every day in the stories of our students, stories of resilience, aspiration, and achievement. Your contributions help us to nurture potential, foster inclusion, and create opportunities that extend far beyond the university's boundaries.

Teesside University's mission is clear, to provide an outstanding student and learning experience, underpinned by research, enterprise, and engagement with our community. Our values of inclusion, opportunity, and regional development are not just words; they are the foundation of everything we do. And they are brought to life through the support of people like you.

We invite you to continue this journey with us. Your support, whether through giving, partnership, or advocacy, helps us create opportunities, empower students, and drive lasting change. Thank you for being part of it.

Professor Paul Croney OBE

Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive Teesside University

A guide to our Impact Report



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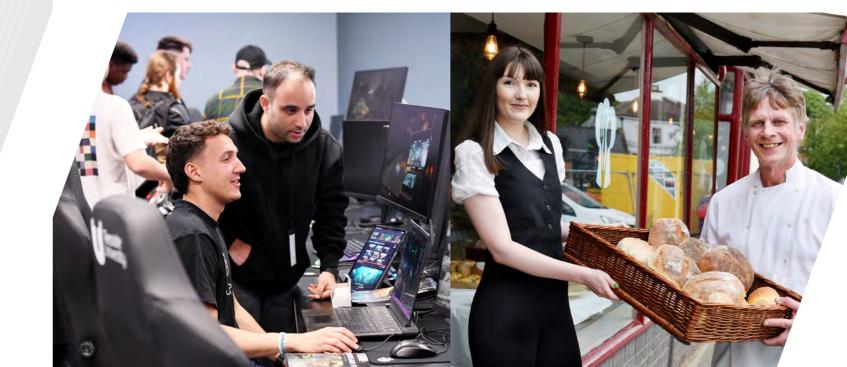
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Empowering Futures

Scholarships continue to be of real strategic importance to Teesside, both in terms of attracting and retaining students, and in terms of breaking down barriers to higher education. Enabling more students from disadvantaged and underrepresented demographics to study and thrive here is a key part of our institutional mission.



KELLAS (CORPORATE)

"The benefits of scholarship programmes for a business are wide-ranging, particularly when it comes to corporate social responsibility, however it goes much further than that. Scholarships are hugely important for the students as they can remove financial barriers to learning. For the wider energy industry, Kellas' clean energy scholarships are helping the students gain the critical knowledge and skills needed to deliver the transition to net zero."

Alan Murray, Chief Operating Officer, Kellas Midstream



BENEFICIARY VISIT

"We have been working in partnership with the University for several years and it's always a pleasure to host students at our CATS gas facility, where they can see first-hand the vital role our infrastructure plays in UK energy security. We enjoy hearing about their studies and career aspirations, and recognise the real value of scholarships in nurturing emerging talent."

Stefan Kent, Asset Support Manager, Kellas Midstream



PROFESSOR LENI OGLESBY

We need scholarships as encouragement, for many students they have overcome many hurdles to get to university. I received help and had a very supportive family, I wanted to pay that back. If you can do your bit to give them a little encouragement, particularly if they are going to stay in the region and help development in the North East and develop the power house of the North, then I am very happy. I don't invest in buildings; I don't sponsor abstract causes, but I do believe in investing in people. In an era where people talk about stocks and shares and return on your investment, the return I have seen in the investment I have given over the last 15 years, to Teesside, has been incalculable.

Professor Leni Oglesby OBE FRSA FLSW FSES







Scholarship Anniversaries

This year, we celebrated significant milestones for several of our scholarship donors, marking ten years of unwavering support to the university. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to both Dr. Ken Home and Sir Keith Skeoch for their ongoing commitment and advocacy in dismantling financial barriers, thereby empowering our students to realize their full potential.



DR KEN HOME SCHOLARSHIP10 YEARS SCHOLARSHIP ANNIVERSARY

Dr Ken Home is an honorary graduate of Teesside University – he was awarded a Doctorate in Business Administration in 2013. He attended Victoria Road School and, while an apprentice draftsman with Dorman Long, he studied at Constantine College, which later became Teesside University. He is founder of K Home International Ltd – a multidiscipline engineering design service, celebrating 40 years of successfully delivering engineering projects throughout the world.



SIR KEITH SKEOCH POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

10 YEARS SCHOLARSHIP ANNIVERSARY

Sir Keith Skeoch, Non-Executive Chairman or QBE European Operations. Sir Keith is a financial services industry leader with over 40 years' experience across the private and public sectors. After 20 years as Chief economist at James Capel, he joined Standard Life Investments as Chief Investment Officer in 1999, and served on the board of Standard Life Plc, initially as CEO of Standard Life investments plc and then as CEO of Standard Life plc and Standard Life Aberdeen. Keith is also an honorary of Teesside and was awarded a Doctorate in Business Administration in 2011.

If you are interested in supporting scholarships and to find out more visit:





Beneficiaries from 2024/25



I got my politics degree here which I really enjoyed, I found the teaching staff were outstanding and I wasn't ready to leave. I don't honestly think I would have been able to afford to do the master's. On the financial side it will help me progress with my studies."

Stewart Grainger, Sir Keith Skeoch







"After receiving the scholarship I felt genuinely amazed, it just means more support, to be secure financially and also for me to pursue my goals."

Mohammed Uqbal, Franc Roddam



"I have two children so I can use this scholarship for funding whilst doing my masters, which has helped me immensely. Without the scholarship I wouldn't have been able to take part. The donors are important and the more donors we have the more people can get on to a degree to help them change their life."

Anisah Tariq, OfS





To receive the scholarship means a lot to me, the fact is was from George Friend who is an idol of mine and someone I look up to is a big thing, it's more than the money, it's the principle of it. With my studies it will help with the basics like travel and help me to pursue a masters at Teesside and I also want to keep on with my football career and play semi professional football"

James O'Brien, George Friend







Prize Anniversaries

This year marked significant milestones for some of our prize donors, celebrating many years of continuous support to the university. We thank them for their continued advocacy to break down financial barriers and empower our students to fulfil their potential at university and beyond.



THE CECIL M YUILL FOUNDATION

30 YEARS OF GIVING

The registered charity was set up to support future generations of building and civil engineering students and has generously awarded over 120 cash prizes totalling more than £150,000 since 1994. The Foundation also donate to sponsor a Chair of Construction post which is currently Professor Nashwan Dawood, with the aim of constantly improving the construction industry.

"The Yuill Foundation has provided support to disseminate and present research activities in the area of carbon footprint calculation and reduction in building and housing sectors. Digital technologies and Building Information Modelling have been developed to identify processes for reducing carbon footprint and energy optimisation in built environment."

Professor Dawood, Research Director for the Net Zero Industry Innovation



THE ENDEAVOUR PARTNERSHIP

20 YEARS OF GIVING

The Toby Tilly Memorial Prize, named in honour of a late founding partner, is awarded for excellence in company law.

Watch our video on The Endeavour Partnership to find out more



IAN PENNOCK

20 YEARS OF GIVING

Barrister and alumnus Ian has been giving back to Teesside since 2005. His prizes are awarded for excellence in Law.

HEATHER GRIFFITHS 10 YEARS OF GIVING

Named in honour of her late husband and honorary graduate, the Dr Richard Griffiths Award for Outstanding Student Performance recognised 10 students with £1000 for their potential and dedication to the performing arts.



Isobelle Metcalfe, 2024 winner of The Cecil M Yuill Foundation Prize for achievement by a female student in any field of engineering.



Creating dynamic opportunities to enhance the student experience

As students take up their place at Teesside, donations are creating more opportunities for our student community to access opportunities and initiatives that they may otherwise struggle to experience. Whether through sport, clubs & societies or perhaps international travel, our new fund is helping to create an unforgettable Teesside experience.

This fund is making international experiences accessible to more students, building on the opportunities of our Summer Abroad programmes, funded by the Turing Scheme.



I recently completed a Summer Abroad Programme that revolved around the creative industries and storytelling, partnered by Prague City University.

I learned about the history of Prague and the Czech Republic. We discovered brutalist architecture, like the Kotva and the New Building of the National Museum. There is a rich history of Prague that showcases the country going through times of unfair times of dictatorship, such as World War II and the Cold War.

I felt extremely nervous as I have never been away from home before. Being away for a month made me very homesick but overall, it was a great experience for me as I was able to be independent and resourceful. It was an amazing experience that I would recommend to any



"I recently had the privilege of spending a month in France, La Roche-sur-Yon. This international adventure was a transformative journey that broadened my perspectives, challenged my assumptions, and fostered personal growth.

One of the most significant takeaways from my experience was the connection I made with the people from diverse backgrounds. I formed lasting friendships and professional networks that have expanded my global community. This experience has inspired me to continue exploring, learning, and growing as a global citizen."

Emmanuel Kweku Junior Apreku, MA International Relations



Bursaries boosting the doctoral student journey

Travel Bursaries are helping our doctoral students to travel to conferences and events so they can make the most out of their time studying for their PhD.



"Moving to the UK to pursue my PhD in Computer Science has been an exciting but challenging journey, and this bursary has been such a big help. It's made settling into a new country a lot easier by easing some of the financial pressures that come with starting a new chapter in life. Knowing I have this extra support has allowed me to focus fully on my studies instead of worrying about balancing costs, which means a lot as an international student. I truly believe scholarships like this should be more common—they can make such a difference for students who are far from home, navigating new environments and working hard towards their goals. Support like this not only helps with immediate needs but also gives a sense of reassurance and encouragement to keep going."

Md Golam Muttaquee Talukder



"I am truly honoured to receive the prestigious School of Computing, Engineering & Digital Technologies Teesside University Doctoral Travel Bursary. This generous support enables me to attend conferences and events where I can share my research in Smart Cities, Artificial Intelligence, and the use of digital technologies in design and construction. These opportunities deepen my academic insights, foster valuable collaborations, and shape the future of my work. I am profoundly grateful for this recognition, which inspires me to strive for excellence and make a meaningful impact through my research."

Donatus Okonta



"Receiving the doctoral bursary has made a significant difference in the academic and professional path that I am on. I intend to use the funding to attend the ECCE Europe 2025 conference and the CPE25 conference which are two major international events in the area of electrical and energy engineering. These platforms will offer the chance to meet the latest research in the field, establish contact with prominent experts and present parts of my PhD work on advanced fault detection in electrical machines. Moreover, I plan to submit my research to top journals such as IET Electric Power Applications and many others to ensure widespread exposure of my work. These experiences will contribute greatly to deepening my understanding of the current developments and the establishment of useful connections that will be useful in my future career in academia and industry."

Danya Al-Hindawi





VOLUNTEERING



Thanks to the unwavering generosity of our supporters who give back their time and resources, we continue to ignite potential across our university community, empowering individuals with the skills, knowledge, and opportunities to shape a brighter future.

Each year hundreds of graduates volunteer their time and expertise to support Teesside University and inspire the next generation of Teesside alumni. Our volunteers enhance the student experience, contribute to University governance and provide valuable strategic insights ensuring Teesside remains at all times relevant to today's professional world.





JUST OVER **70%** OF OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE BASED IN THE UK, WITH THE REST OF OUR VOLUNTEERS BEING OVERSEAS.



AROUND **29**% OF OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE BASED GLOBALLY IN COUNTRIES SUCH AS ZAMBIA, HONG KONG, FRANCE, GREECE AND THE USA.



JUST OVER 40% OF OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE FROM THE LOCAL NORTH EAST AREA WHICH HIGHLIGHTS THE HIGH LEVEL OF LOCAL GRADUATES STAYING IN THE AREA AND CONTINUING TO SUPPORT TU.



AROUND **50%** OF OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE IN THE NORTH OF THE UK, WITH **14%** IN THE SOUTH OF THE UK, AND A FURTHER **7%** IN BOTH WALES AND SCOTLAND.



JUST OVER **150**ENGAGED VOLUNTEERS



ACROSS 18
COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE



14K STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

Alumni Volunteer Awards

The Alumni Volunteer Awards are a way for Teesside to recognise, thank and celebrate the many graduates who volunteer their time and expertise, and who do so much to support to Teesside.



Long-service Volunteer Awards

Recognising a graduate who has made an outstanding contribution over an extended period of time.



DEAN BENSON

Hon DSc 2025 BSC (HONS) COMPUTER SCIENCE, 1997 2024 WINNER

Having graduated from Teesside University in 1997 and an active ambassador for many years, Dean's contribution is as varied as it has been sustained. Whether as an advocate through marketing materials, champion of the institution within the tech sector, generously providing strategic guidance as a University Governor or facilitating employability opportunities through his company Visualsoft; Dean remains a close supporter, always interested in 'what's next...'.



JO TOSH MA EDUCATION, 2013 2024 WINNER

Jo Tosh is a passionate advocate for raising awareness of Parkinson's and Young Onset Parkinson's through her authentic experiences and unique perspective as a person living with the disease. Since diagnosis and over the last year or so, Jo has repeatedly engaged with the student body giving talks and insights to cohorts across the School of Health and Life Sciences, providing real time opportunities for medical professionals of the future to be exposed to Parkinsonism.

In addition to coming on to campus, Jo's advocacy for the cause has included inspiring the Teesside community through initiatives such as being involved in TedX, (Warrington) as well as working with Parkinson's UK to share her deep brain stimulation surgery journey.



Volunteering is a fantastic way to give back to your university. Find out how you can get involved and make a difference.

Are you a Teesside Graduate? Register your interest to volunteer

2025 winners



RISING STAR ALUMNI VOLUNTEER AWARD SAM BLACKLOCK,

BA (HONS) JOURNALISM (SPORT), 2019. 2025 WINNER

Despite having a hectic work schedule, Sam has always provided access to Teesside students, providing placement opportunities for students to get real life insight into the world of work. He has also come back to campus to share inspiring career talks and an insight into his career progression, as well as supporting the annual Journalism Awards.



LONG-SERVICE VOLUNTEER AWARDBOB MAKIN,

BA (HONS) COMPUTER ANIMATION, 2007. 2025 WINNER

Bob has provided graduate employability opportunities, valuable coaching and mentoring time and supported the curriculum development, he has also given his time back by being a keynote speaker and supporting Teesside with bids and tenders.



ALUMNI VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD HELEN LUMSDON,

MA DIGITAL MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS, 2024. 2025 WINNER

Helen has dedicated the last year to reigniting the TUXtra radio station, from being dormant to now broadcasting 24/7. Helen has built up the station, including a team of volunteers to help with the daily runnings, and continuing to mentor individuals linked to it, this in turn has provided current students with opportunities to gain confidence and experience in the studio which they can link to their studies and beyond.





The Fuel Programme

The Fuel Programme is a transformative seven-week intensive business-building course designed to bridge the critical gaps in support for students and graduates of Teesside University who often lack the necessary guidance to launch their business startups. Fuel is a vital accelerator, propelling participants towards personal and professional growth.





TURNOVER FOR 2023/24 OF ALL FUEL BUSINESSES TO DATE **£1,808,000**



GRADUATE JOBS SINCE PROGRAMME STARTUP (2015) = **79**



71% OF TEESSIDE LAUNCHPAD'S BUSINESSES HAVE SUSTAINED 3 YEARS WHICH IS 30% HIGHER THAN THE AVERAGE UNIVERSITY START UP SUSTAINABILITY RATE

The Fuel Programme is more than just a business course; it can be a life changing programme for our graduates. Often our Alumni say that they make friends for life whilst being on the programme.

Fuel transforms dreams into reality for Teesside University Graduates driving forward individual success and contributing to broader economic and social progress of the Tees Valley Economy.



"We are huge advocates of the Fuel Programme and wouldn't be on the trajectory we are on right now without the dedicated Launchpad team who have been amazing mentors.

This has truly been an incredible experience; it has opened door after door for us and pushed Sunday Girl to new heights"

Sunday Girl Magazine



"Through the Fuel Programme, one-to-one mentoring sessions with Launchpad staff and being surrounded by entrepreneurs, I have developed a much deeper understanding of business and how to run one. Without Launchpad I wouldn't be where I am today"

Tribe Vision Ltd

What sets Fuel apart is the community it creates.

Participants of the programme emerge as empowered, resilient and well connected individuals ready to make their





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At the heart of the community

At Teesside University we are committed to the economic, social, and cultural success of the communities we serve. We want to transform lives and economies and work closely with partners across the Tees Valley and further afield to achieve this.



Be the change is our workplace giving scheme, designed to support a wide range of local charities and community groups who are doing fantastic work in our region.

By contributing just a small amount each month, the pennies from salaries, we support local charities and community groups, with the opportunity to have our say on where the funds are used.

Through contributions, we provide grants of up to £500, four times per year, to selected organisations to offer additional support to our community.



RED BALLOONS

Kylie Terry said: 'Red Balloons supports people with their mental health. All our volunteers have lived experience, which we use to offer peer support and a safe space where people can talk and encourage them to use physical activity to improve their mental and physical wellbeing. This donation will go towards recruiting, training, and supporting volunteers, so we can support more people with their mental health.'



CREATIVE MINDS

Creative Minds is based in Hartlepool and offers affordable lessons in guitar, bass, drums, vocals, sound engineering, stage setup, and creative writing. Creative Minds has used its donation on a PAT testing machine and will use the remainder of the donation to put towards soundproofing a second band practice room. Peter Kirkham said: 'We are so grateful! Thank you yery much.'



SALTBURN SOLIDARITY FOODBANK

Lynn said: 'We really welcome this donation. We offer food and toiletries, along with use of a washing machine free of charge, for those in need.'



BOOSBECK VILLAGE HALL

Karen said: 'This donation has made a massive difference, from helping us provide a breakfast club in the school holidays, to extending community activities during the winter. I have often heard that our hall is a lifeline to those who attend. The heart of the village. Knowing how much people need this to continue is the driving force for us all.'



THE BUNGALOW PARTNERSHIP

Marie Blythe, Director, The Bungalow
Partnership: 'It's a truly humbling experience
to be nominated and recognised for the
work that we do. We'd like to thank Teesside
University for their focus on social responsibility
and commitment to improve the lives of our
local community.'



FOOTPRINTS IN THE COMMUNITY

Ruth said: 'Donations help us in our work to provide support to those most in need. Our aim is to help reduce poverty and isolation and improve health and wellbeing across the local community through a wide range of projects.'



CAUSE FOUNDATION

Pat said: 'It is great to see Cause's amazing work continue. I am so happy the money will help families in need during this difficult time. We are delighted to receive the donation from Teesside University. We help families all year round. Parents and carers can request a holiday hunger bag during the school breaks which provide them with food for the family'.



Community Hub

A gateway for voluntary and community organisations to access Teesside University's skills, services and expertise.

The Community Hub continues to deliver a series of events throughout the year aimed at supporting voluntary and community sector organisations. All events feature opportunities to network with peers, university researchers and Teesside University staff involved in community support activities.



EVENTS

Attend workshops, networking sessions and conferences tailored to your needs.



RESEARCH

Partner with us on impactful projects that benefit your community.



FUNDING

Discover grant opportunities for your initiatives.



SKILLS & TRAINING

Access training programmes for staff and volunteers.



SPECIALIST ADVICE & CONSULTATION

For your organisation through law and business clinics, and refer clients to our health & wellbeing clinics.



VOLUNTEERING

Receive support to recruit and manage volunteers effectively.



PLACEMENTS, INTERNSHIPS & RECRUITMENT

Host placement students who bring fresh perspectives and skills to your organisation.



PROMOTE YOUR CAUSE

Share your news, successes and events with our wider community.







Legacies empowering the next generation

Over 22 alumni expressed new interest in leaving a gift in their will this year, joining our growing community of legators. Future gifts of financial support for students creates a profound and enduring legacy for generations to come at Teesside.

Since finishing university I have joined McLaren Formula 1 Team as a graduate, where I have had the opportunity to work on some of the most advanced machines in the world and with the very latest engineering technology."

BEng (Hons) Mechanical Engineering, 2023

HOW THE LEGACY OF THE MAJORIE HEARNSHAW SCHOLARSHIPS HAS MADE A LASTING DIFFERENCE

James Douglas Hearnshaw was a member of our alumni community who believed passionately in the power of education. After a successful career in the Canadian shipbuilding industry, Douglas sadly passed away in 2011. In his will he made provision for a £120,000 scholarship programme to be instituted and dedicated to his beloved wife, Marjorie.

For 10 years The Marjorie Hearnshaw Scholarships provided over 36 students with financial support to help with their adjustment to university life and study.

"The financial support the Marjorie Hearnshaw scholarship provided me with during my studies was of huge benefit, as it allowed me to fully focus my time on the course and really get the most out of my degree. Being selected for the scholarship was also a massive confidence boost, and motivated me to push myself even further.



Find out more about leaving a gift in your Will to Teesside. By letting us know your intentions in your lifetime we can ensure your wishes are upheld. You can fill out our Legacy ntentions form and we will get in ouch to discuss your plans



"I applied for the scholarship because it came as an opportunity and I was an eager fresh face coming into university. I just wrote the story of the education and school of my era as we didn't get the opportunities that are available today. Financially the money was going to help me through that first year as everyone knows it can be hard to make ends meet.'

Dawn Graham, Accounting and Finance



Your support can make great things happen

We continue to benefit from the generosity of our supporters who give their time, money and expertise to our causes. As a result, we continue to empower our university community with the skills, knowledge and opportunities to succeed.

You are welcome to join our altruistic community and make a positive change by volunteering or perhaps donating to a cause that resonates most with you.

Each year hundreds of graduates volunteer their time and expertise to support Teesside University and inspire the next generation of Teesside alumni. Our volunteers enhance the student experience, contribute to university governance, and provide valuable strategic insights ensuring Teesside remains at all times relevant to today's professional world.



Volunteering is a fantastic way to give back to your university. Find out how you can get involved and make a difference.

Get in touch to chat about potential opportunities:



Make a difference, make a donation

By joining our donor community, you can contribute towards making students thrive at Teesside.

You may be interested in helping more students seize opportunities to realise their potential and enhance their employability through our Enrichment Opportunities Fund, empowering students through access to a range of extracurricular pursuits in sport and societies, travel, volunteering, and work experience.

Or perhaps you wish to relieve the financial burdens for students most in the need to complete their studies by helping with everyday course costs like textbooks and equipment or helping with living costs and travel expenses.

Any amount you can spare will contribute to making a meaningful difference to our students throughout their university journey.



could help a student purchase a textbook for their course.



could cover travel costs for a student to attend their placement.



could help a student attend a national conference.

You can make a one off or regular





Make a donation

If you have the means to make a larger gift you may be interested in establishing a new scholarship.

Scholarships can break down financial barriers and level the playing field for academically able students from low-income backgrounds and under-represented groups. By receiving financial support during their studies to help with living expenses and course costs, students can realise their full potential and remain on track to achieve a qualification and accomplish their career ambitions.

If you want to find out more about funding a new scholarship, please get in touch so we can arrange a chat.

We would love to hear about a particular cause you're passionate about and can advise on aligning your ideas to our areas in most need.

giving@tees.ac.uk 01642 384486

