



UNIVERSITY
OF HULL

SUPPORTER NEWSLETTER 2022

THANK YOU
FOR MAKING
A DIFFERENCE





A MESSAGE OF THANKS FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Professor Dave Petley
Vice-Chancellor

Welcome to the Supporter Newsletter, best wishes for the festive season and thank you!

It is a great honour and privilege to write this introduction to the Supporter Newsletter in my first term as the new Vice-Chancellor at the University of Hull. As I get to know staff, students and alumni, I have been struck by the strength and importance of our wider community, and the lasting connection with Hull that our alumni takes with them wherever they go in the world. As we've been saying to prospective students, when you become part of Hull, it becomes part of you.

The support that we receive from our donors, volunteers, Honorary Graduates and our wider community of alumni and friends is the perfect encapsulation of the importance of this idea. Your continued participation in the life of the University makes it possible for our staff and students to achieve great things, giving us all a university of which we can be proud.

As a University we are motivated by society's challenges and inspired by the power of our global community. We are shaping a fairer, brighter and carbon neutral future. Our mission is to advance education, scholarship, knowledge and understanding through teaching and research, for the benefit of individuals and society at large. A common thread running through the stories of your support in this newsletter is how integral your contributions are to our ability to deliver on that mission.

You're helping us to raise aspirations amongst students from deprived areas in the Humber region, giving them a stepping stone into higher education. Your support enables us to make effective interventions when students encounter financial difficulties, suffer from mental health issues or when they are, through a lack of the sort of family connections that students from more advantaged backgrounds might take for granted, unable to make industry contacts that would make a difference to their careers. And, when we have students who are excelling, your support is helping them to keep going and further their work.

Additionally, your support is enabling us to advance our research. Through our Action to Combat Modern Slavery you're helping us to equip professionals across the country with the skills they need to fight criminal gangs and support vulnerable victims. You're supporting our partnership in Ukraine where the pursuit of an education has been disrupted by war. And you're helping us to bring forward research that will make a material difference to people's health and wellbeing.

You have my deepest thanks for your continued participation in the life of the University of Hull. Having been here for a short time only, I have already experienced the truth behind the idea that Hull becomes part of you, and I'm convinced that this works through the connections we form with the people in our community. In the coming months and years I hope to have the opportunity to meet you and find out more about the story of your connection to the University of Hull, and also thank you in person for your support. For now, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the very best for 2023.

Professor Dave Petley
Vice-Chancellor

A PARTNERSHIP FOR THE LONG TERM

Update on Hull's twinning project with Mariupol State University.



Our alumni and other supporters have generously donated over £7,000 to our appeal 'With Mariupol in the Heart', and the University has match funded 100% of your donations. The aim of the appeal was to help facilitate Mariupol State University's (MSU) move to Kyiv following the near total destruction of their campus and the wider city of Mariupol in Ukraine. On 8th September 2022, Hull University signed a formal twinning agreement with MSU and since then our relationship has had a number of positive developments, despite their exile from their campus and city. MSU is currently teaching its students online, and continuing work to reconnect with missing students and staff, and those who work or study from other nearby countries.

Our University's Director of Global Engagement, Hilary Layton, travelled to Vienna in October for detailed discussions with MSU's International Vice-President, who has been based there since fleeing Ukraine. The most urgent need identified was for MSU to repair and equip the building in Kyiv which has been loaned to them.

In addition to the fund which will help facilitate this, Hull's IT department have collected 200 PCs, laptops and AV items, which are now being expertly packed for a complex freight journey to Kyiv. The University of Hull is also part of a national agreement to allow access to our Library resources, including academic journals, to researchers at MSU.

Meanwhile, staff have mapped the teaching and research synergies that the two universities share, and this will help in bringing together academics in different disciplines to discuss collaboration. We are also devising 'virtual mobility' projects for students. These are online projects which they can work on together. Eventually, we hope to allow students to travel and have study abroad and summer school opportunities.

ACTiOn TO COMBAT SLAVERY: JUSTICE HUB UPDATE

We have made great progress in the first year of our ACTiOn to Combat Modern Slavery Justice Hub. Launched in October 2021, its mission is to use knowledge exchange, education and research to raise awareness of, and compliance with, the Modern Slavery Act 2015, ensuring it is better understood and enforced by those who have a statutory, legal or moral duty under its provisions.

Initial work focussed on developing our online e-learning CPD modules on key provisions of the Act. We have now been able to write, develop and produce three high quality e-learning modules that when completed will award the learner with a 1-hour CPD certification.

Face-to-face knowledge exchange and interactive training will also be a staple of the project. In our first year of operation, I am proud to say we have trained over 1,000 people. As I write, it is the eve of our showcase event 'Long term support for survivors of modern slavery' which is to be held at the Aura Innovation Centre, University of Hull. This event will see 120 professionals and academics come together to discuss how we can use the law to better work together and offer quality support to victims and survivors of modern slavery in the UK.

It is your support that has made this work possible, and which continues to enable us to make a difference, thank you.

Andrew Smith
Manager of the Justice Hub and Coordinator of the Humber Modern Slavery Partnership
a.smith9@hull.ac.uk



IntoUniversity – Hull East

The University of Hull has joined forces with York University and educational charity **IntoUniversity** to create exceptional opportunities for disadvantaged young people in Hull. This collaboration is based upon a shared concern for children growing up in poverty and a belief in the power of education to transform young people's lives.

Thanks to the generous support of our alumni, together with additional funding from local charitable trusts, foundations and businesses, we're delighted to confirm that the **IntoUniversity** East Hull, based at The Freedom Centre on Preston Road, will officially open in Spring 2023. The Centre is already a thriving community hub, located close to many priority schools and is easily accessible for students after school. It is already up and running and has welcomed its first students.

This will be the 35th centre in the UK and the first in the Humber region. It brings a groundbreaking approach to supporting young people from some of the most deprived wards in the UK, to raise and achieve their aspirations through higher education. The centre will offer free Academic Support Sessions, FOCUS Programmes, Mentoring and Student Enrichment to 1,000 school children each year.

More information about **IntoUniversity's** innovative approach to working with primary and secondary school students, and their families can be found using the QR code below.




For more information, please scan the QR code.



Providing local learning centres across the country where young people are inspired to achieve

THEIR IMPACT

 **40,000** students were supported by **IntoUniversity** in 2020/21

 **66%** 2021 school leavers progressed to Higher Education, compared to 28% of students from similar backgrounds nationally.

 **69%** of Academic Support Students reported improved grades

Hull graduate Mel Innes has been appointed as the Centre Leader. Mel brings her extensive experience as a KS4 and KS4 Maths teacher working in the area to the role. Mel will be managing three Education Workers, who will focus on primary and secondary students and mentoring respectively.

“ I am looking forward to the centre becoming an integral part of the Hull East community. The Freedom Centre already caters for very young children, adults and the elderly and I am excited that **IntoUniversity** will bring young people in that missing bracket into the centre. I am passionate about supporting the local community because Hull is my home and I have seen over the last 15 years of teaching in the area, that a number of students need to be shown that they are good enough, and given the tools to get the best out of their studies. The fact that **IntoUniversity** delivers programmes from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 5 is pretty unique. Working with students from such a young age is key because sometimes these students are unable to see a future beyond secondary school.



THE ROS HOLLIS LEGACY

Thanks to a very generous legacy from a graduate who passed away in December 2021, the University has established The Rosalind Hollis Chair in Education for Social Justice. The holder of the new post will lead on funding bids and projects with the aim of researching the role of schooling in promoting widening participation in Higher Education, including for first generation students in under-represented communities in East Yorkshire and the North East of England.



Ros Hollis studied Mathematics at the University of Hull, graduating in 1952; then trained as a teacher. Later on, as a tutor at Darlington College of Education, she was able to build on her keen interest in children's educational development and, working in collaboration with a colleague, went on to publish over a dozen educational resources for children. Her 'Maths-packs' were an early attempt to help children understand mathematical concepts and techniques through tailored and accessible materials that were fun and interactive. These pioneering resources proved to be very popular and effective and continue to be available online today.

Ros had an abiding interest in the lives of children and their educational development. Throughout her working life and after retirement, she was a volunteer tutor for the children of friends, family and community members. Ros did not specify how her legacy should be used, however we felt that it should be recognised in a way that would continue her life-long commitment to education, hence the establishment of a Chair in her name.

If you would be interested in leaving a legacy, please contact our Development and Legacy Manager, Crystal Ness: c.ness@hull.ac.uk

E-MENTORING

For a number of years, our Student Futures team (Careers Service) have run a successful online career mentoring programme.

The programme connects University of Hull students to mentors across a range of job roles and industry sectors, for valuable career insight and tips for success. Our alumni have played a key role in supporting the programme as mentors to our students with some fantastic outcomes. The programme has benefited our students by expanding their knowledge within career areas of interest to them, increasing confidence, and preparing them for the challenges of securing employment as graduates.

“ My mentor held nothing back in dipping through his wealth of experience to provide me with valuable information on how to improve on my career prospects. His candid advice about my CV helped in securing attention from potential employers and he was genuinely interested in my progress.

“ I had no idea about what I wanted to do after university. My mentor has given me confidence and guidance in order to find out what interests me and talk to the people who can help me achieve that. It has been very helpful to connect with someone who is outside in the 'real world' within industry.



We would like to express our thanks for all of our alumni who have volunteered as a career mentor in support of the programme. If you are interested in offering your support as a mentor please complete our online mentor registration form or contact Matt Beecroft: m.beecroft2@hull.ac.uk, for further information.

TALENTED ATHLETE PROGRAMME – TAP

The University is incredibly proud to share with you our Talented Athlete Programme's students' successes. The TAP programme is 100% funded through donations from our alumni and friends. This programme has enabled us to attract up-and-coming talent to study at Hull from a variety of different sports covering, Rugby, Ice-hockey, Shooting, and Pentathlon, to name but a few.

Our Talented Athletes receive a marvellous support package so that they can pursue their studies as they strive for sporting excellence. They receive a stipend to assist their sporting achievements, alongside strength and conditioning advice, sports psychology and physiotherapy. Also, as we are partnered with Team GB, these lucky recipients are now the only students in the UK to receive expert mentorship from current Team GB athletes!

From this year's intake, we would like to introduce you to some of our wonderful TAP students. In their own words, here's what the opportunity meant to them.

“ This past year I've been training towards a few major championships such as the European Club Championships after competing at my first European Championships in Italy last October.

Next year I hope to be selected again and eventually progress on to World Games and World Championships. The TAP programme this year will massively support me both physically and financially. The cost of kit, transport, gym memberships and entry fees are particularly high. Not worrying about these aspects means I can fully focus on my training and hopefully achieve my goals whilst also managing a university degree!

Emily Wilkinson
Year 3, Chemistry
Canoe-Polo



“ I got into my running when I was 10, my auntie suggested doing the local parkrun, within 3 runs I had gotten the age category record so realised I might have some talent for running! However, over the years I've realised my talent lies more in shorter distances and am currently focusing on the 400m.

This year I was close to qualifying for the 400m final in English Schools and England Under 20 Championships, only a few tenths of a second off both. I would have liked to run a time in the 48 seconds but will have to wait until next year for that, or maybe even better hopefully! My highest achievement to date is probably my 400m pb of 49.32 which ranks me in the top 30 in the UK for under 20 year olds.

One day I hope to represent GB, whether that be at under 20 or under 23 level at the European Championships, or when I am older.

The Talented Athlete Programme will benefit me by giving me high standard strength and conditioning which I have never had before to help me run faster, as well as other benefits such as psychological support, nutritional support, physio and a Team GB mentor.

Adam Fox
Year 1, Physics
Athletics



“ I got into climbing when my mum suggested that I join the local climbing centre for kids' lessons when I was 10.

My highest achievement has been coming first in the UK para climbing series in my category which is RP3. I am currently on the GB Para climbing team and wish to compete internationally. The fund will support my some of my specialised training costs for this year.

Sophie Boyd
Year 2, Marine Biology
Para-climber



TALENTED ATHLETE PROGRAMME – TAP



“ I was always competitive from a young age and loved the feeling of success and how running made me feel. The big stepping stone was when I won the schools Humberside Cross Country Championships in year 6 and knew this was something which I wanted to pursue further.

This has been my best year so far. I ran personal bests in both my 400m and 800m with a pb of 2:06.36 for 800m which led to multiple positives such as winning the Northern and National Championships in the 800m. My biggest achievement to date is being invited to race at the British Championships, at Sportscity.

I would love to get both an England and GB vest and also to become BUCS champion both indoors and outdoors. The perfect end goal for me would be to run in the Olympic Games and represent my country.

The TAP Programme brings many benefits to me as an athlete. The team provides different aspects to sport and collectively works together in order to provide the best support. The programme also provides top facilities where I am able to train and benefit from expertise provided by a variety of highly qualified colleagues.

Jodie Martin
Year 1, Policing
Athletics

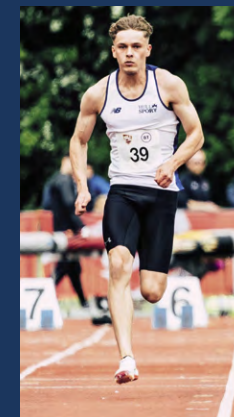
“ This has been a challenging year as I had the most injuries I've ever had in a season which had a negative effect on my training, despite this I also had my most successful year in 2022...

- British Universities (BUCS) 100m champion
- British U23 100m silver medallist
- North of England 60m champion & record
- North of England 100m champion
- Selected to run for England in the 100m at the Loughborough International

My end goal is to be able to call myself the fastest man in the world by winning the Olympics 100m and World Championships 100m.

The Talented Athlete funding has greatly benefitted me by allowing me to get all the necessary and up to date equipment such as the newest sprint spikes, foam rollers, starting blocks and even paying for my petrol to get to and from training. It has allowed me to fully focus on my sport without worrying about money.

David Morgan-Harrison
Year 3, Physics
Athletics



And finally we introduced you to Alex Lowthorpe in 2017 who was a member of the U21 men's British Canoe Polo team. We have been in touch with Alex to see how he is getting on after graduation.

“ After graduating from the University of Hull, I began working for Catapult Sports, a renowned sports technology company that aims to develop and enhance the performance of athletes and teams at all levels of competition. The Talented Athlete Programme provided networking opportunities and exposure to a high level sporting environment, all of which were helpful in obtaining the respective position.



From a personal standpoint, the TAP assisted in fostering and developing important traits that facilitated the transition from academic life to professional life. I hope the Talented Athlete Programme can keep growing and encourage people as they pursue athletic success and get ready for life after university. Outside of employment, I continue to represent and compete at an international and national level.

Alex Lowthorpe
BSc Applied Sport Science for Performance – 2019
Canoe Polo

ATTITUDE MAGAZINE FOUNDATION LAUNCH NEW LGBTQ+ SCHOLARSHIP AT HULL

The University of Hull has teamed up with the UK's best-selling gay magazine to launch a new LGBTQ+ scholarship for students.

The Attitude Magazine Foundation Scholarship will support six students from the LGBTQ+ community with £1,000 each to support the cost of their studies at Hull.

Attitude Magazine Foundation is part of Attitude Magazine, the UK's best-selling gay magazine.

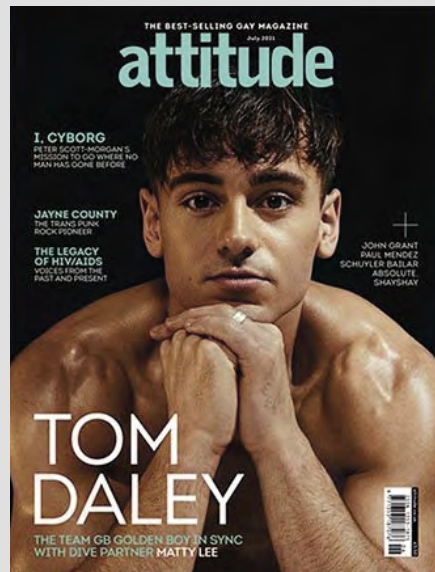
Darren Styles, Chairman and Founder of Attitude Magazine Foundation, said: 'The Trustees and I are delighted to support the University of Hull LGBTQ+ Scholarships in 2022'.

'The Attitude Magazine Foundation is about supporting our vibrant community by helping members have the opportunity to do amazing things and lead happy and fulfilled lives. At home, at work, and at play'.

'Providing funding for the scholarships certainly ticks all these boxes and more'.

This initiative builds on the University's commitment to widening participation at Higher Education level, and follows the recent success of the Jeremy Round Scholarship.

Hayley Elahee, LGBTQ+ student representative at the University of Hull, said: 'Members of the LGBTQ+ community can face a variety of barriers when accessing Higher Education'.



“ We are therefore incredibly proud to be partnering with Attitude Magazine Foundation to launch a new scholarship which helps to remove those barriers – providing opportunities for people from all backgrounds to pursue their dreams and careers.



Last year, the University of Hull became the first Higher Education institution in the country to offer an LGBTQ+ scholarship at undergraduate level – The Jeremy Round Scholarship. An initiative which won 'Best widening participation initiative' at the 2022 HESIT Awards.

First-year British Politics and Legislative Studies student, Theo Biddle, who was one of the recipients said: 'These scholarships are very important to make sure that regardless of the disadvantages people face in early life because of either our financial situations or just trying to live as our authentic selves, we have a chance to improve society and representation of marginalised communities across all parts of society'.

If you would like to donate towards supporting this pioneering initiative, please contact Jonathan Greenwood: jonathan.greenwood@hull.ac.uk



Or visit alumni.hull.ac.uk/donation-form-lgbtq

TRUSTS & FOUNDATIONS

The University is very proud of our trust and foundation partnerships, working with local and national organisations to benefit our students, supporting world-leading academic research, and helping us to support the wider community.

Many philanthropic charities have left their mark here at Hull through scholarships, fellowships, capital infrastructure, and by enhancing research capacity.

The Ernest Hecht Charitable Foundation

Established in 2003, the Ernest Hecht Charitable Foundation supports an array of charitable organisations, by promoting the advancement of the arts and education, helping the disadvantaged, and providing assistance for people struggling with poor physical and mental health.

The Foundation is a significant supporter of the University, providing funding for 10 generous scholarships in the field of economics.

Every scholarship will support each student over the life-time of their undergraduate degree (over 3-years). The awards are available for students from ethnically diverse communities, those from low-income households and those with a disability.

To recognise the Foundation's generosity and to celebrate the achievements of esteemed Hull graduate, Ernest Hecht OBE, the University has chosen to name the 'Creativity Room' within the Business School as the 'Ernest Hecht OBE Board Room'. This is to mark his contribution to the University and to serve as a physical presence to be admired by students and staff alike.

The University is extremely proud of its connection to Ernest Hecht OBE (pictured above), who was a well-regarded British publisher, producer and generous philanthropist. In 1951, he founded Souvenir Press Ltd, which remains one of the few remaining independently owned major publishing houses in the UK. The Ernest Hecht Charitable Foundation was established in 2003, as another mark of his unwavering generosity.



“ The scholarship really meant a lot to me because I've been able to do and access things that wouldn't have been available to me before. I was able to pay for my first rent payment on my student house as they asked for rent before my student loans came in, so this really came in useful! I've also been able to join the badminton club which I couldn't afford before as the initial costs were too high. I've also bought resources to help with my learning like books and online tutoring to further assist me.

Kyra - scholarship recipient

Help for Health

Help for Health was established in 2002 to improve the health and well-being of people living within the boundaries of East Riding of Yorkshire, Kingston upon Hull and both North and North East Lincolnshire, following the merger of The Health Scheme and Birmingham Hospital Saturday Fund (BHSF).

Over the past 20 years, the Trust have been a significant funder of Hull and the Region, with grants from a few hundred to over one million pounds!

Help for Health have been a loyal and very generous supporter of the University, most recently through funding 3 full-time MSc scholarships in Health Research here at Hull:

1. *Microplastics: Exploring the Role of Microplastics in Lung Disease* - Dr Laura Sadofsky
2. *Development of bespoke microfluidic technology to identify thyroid tumour biomarkers* - Dr Vicky Green
3. *Kinetic profile of immunoparalysis in bacteraemia sepsis patients* - Dr Stefano Caserta

This generous award will cover the student stipends, home tuition fees and a contribution towards project costs, for projects led by members of the Hull York Medical School (HYMS) Centre of Biomedicine.

The University is very grateful for the support which Help for Health have given our institution, and our local community over the years, and we very much look forward to continuing this vital partnership in the future.



The J F Brignall Charitable Trust

Established by the late, highly respected, local business entrepreneur and Honorary Graduate of the University of Hull, Dr Jack Brignall, the J F Brignall Charitable Trust aims to: advance the knowledge and treatment of cancer and other major illness, support medical research and the provision of medical care, protect vulnerable children, and promote other good causes.

The J F Brignall Charitable Trust have very generously supported the University over many years. Most recently, this support has been through sponsorship of a PhD student in the HYMS Centre of Biomedicine.

The chosen PhD scholarship recipient will specifically study the *Detection of novel biomarkers for identifying thyroid tumours using novel microfluidic technology*, working with Professor J Greenman and Dr V Green.

The project provides a unique opportunity for a student to gain expertise in the use of microfluidic devices from an academic and commercial perspective, making them highly employable in both academia or industry. Furthermore, the objectives of the project are very relevant to patients. The identification of a panel of biomarkers will allow better treatment management, hopefully reducing over-treatment with associated side-effects and advanced disease monitoring.

The thyroid research group at Hull is a multi-disciplinary team who have worked extensively over the past 12 years on developing microfluidic devices for personalised medicine applications in a range of solid tumours. The team have successfully supervised 3 postgraduate students to completion in the last 2 years, have published extensively and received funding from multiple sources.

Over 3 years, the Trust will create opportunities and help to strengthen the specialist thyroid research group at Hull.



THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S CIRCLE (VCC)

The Vice-Chancellor's Circle (VCC) is an esteemed group of alumni who support the University of Hull through major gifts, while offering expert guidance and advice from their broad range of professional experiences. The primary focus of the group is on supporting our talented students, to overcome social, cultural and economic barriers to their academic and professional success.

In July the VCC members met with outgoing Vice-Chancellor, Professor Susan Lea, for the last time in her capacity as head of the group. The meeting took place at The Institute of Engineering and Technology building in Savoy Place, London. Members heard presentations from the circle manager Crystal Ness and alumnus Charles Ashie regarding the group's next important projects and strategic direction.

Expanding on the work of our successful LGBTQ+ scholarship, the next two projects of focus will be a 'Women in Business Scholarship', and an undergraduate 'Black Law Scholarship'. These further promote inclusivity here at the University of Hull and have been drawn up in consultation with VCC members for the benefit of our current students.

We are hoping to launch these scholarships, which will include financial support as well as industry mentorship, in time for our 2023 intake of students. New Vice-Chancellor Professor Dave Petley is looking forward to hosting his first meeting with the circle and continuing the important work conducted by this much valued group of donors, alumni and friends, very soon.

If you would be interested in joining this prestigious group, please contact our Development Manager, Crystal Ness: c.ness@hull.ac.uk



CHANGING FACE OF PHYSICS AND BREAKING BARRIERS

For the past six years the University of Hull has been working tirelessly to close the gender gap when it comes to studying physics, thanks to an inspirational campaign to attract more female students. Our students and staff have worked with schools in the region and nationally to reach those who might not otherwise have considered a physical sciences career path.

The national percentage of women studying physics is just 22% at degree level and even less in areas of high deprivation such as the Humber region. Ten years ago just 12% of physics students at Hull were female, five years ago this rose to 25%, and currently 45% of our first year physics students are female. This is due to the commitment of the Department, its students and our alumni who have generously supported this campaign.

Here are just a couple of examples of how supporting the Women in STEM programme has transformed the lives of our students, and made a lasting impact:

- Shanen Butler has taken on a leadership role in running the Mobile Planetarium around the country and has reached more than 1,000 students alone in the more than 40 shows she has done.
- Sophie Owen's support of the Changing Face of Physics resulted in her winning the Physics Inspiration Prize, the most important prize awarded annually. Her experiences in schools, alongside Professor Brad Gibson, transformed her career aspirations into wanting to pursue teaching. Sophie has started her teacher training programme, supported with an Institute of Physics Prize in recognition for all she did throughout the Changing Face of Physics campaign.

Thanks to your donations, we are changing aspirations and opening doors to women who hadn't considered careers in STEM as an option before. Without the support of our alumni and friends, we would not have been able to reach as many schools and students and offer the volunteering opportunities that current students have been able to experience. The provision of inspiring peer role models drawn from similar backgrounds has really provided the impetus for these young women to enter physics, astronomy and mathematics.



DR ISALINE RENARD

Former doctoral student, Dr Isaline Renard was the recipient of an Allam PhD Scholarship in 2016, which enabled her to complete her PhD at Hull. She recently rejoined the University as a Postdoctoral Researcher in the new Hull Molecular Imaging Centre development.



The provision of the scholarship allowed the University of Hull to not only recruit an internationally leading PhD student, but also to ultimately retain her expertise and knowledge in the institution. This demonstrates the significant impact that the investment is having on the research capability and scientific skill base in Hull.

A research environment underpinned by philanthropy has allowed us to do this - creating an excellent pipeline for future success.

We caught up with Isaline recently to discuss her career journey, her routes into and back to Hull and how philanthropy has helped her along the way:

I understand that you came to Hull from the University of Burgundy in 2016. What were the determining factors that made you choose Hull?

My university (Burgundy) had an existing collaborative relationship with Professor Steve Archibald's group at Hull. I was aware of the investment and high quality facilities in Hull and the interdisciplinary nature of the project that was on offer was very appealing as it covered translational radiopharmaceutical development from chemistry through to the potential for clinical application.

You were the recipient of an Allam PhD Scholarship between 2016 and 2019 (covering fees and maintenance). Was this instrumental in enabling you to undertake, and then complete, your studies at Hull?

When I applied to undertake my doctoral research, I was keen to come to Hull but did not have the funding in place to do so. The scholarship gave me the opportunity for funded study in Hull with a competitive level of support for my laboratory work. It wouldn't have been possible to come to Hull and complete my PhD in translational research without it.

How did you find the academic environment at Hull? Was it supportive and collaborative?

Yes, I was based in one department but worked across disciplines in Chemistry, Biomedical Science and consulting with clinical staff. There is large research group in Positron Emission Tomography at Hull with expertise in radiochemistry, preclinical imaging and image analysis. This made for an excellent research environment where I was fully supported to reach my potential.

Your research led to the development of new PET imaging agents for cancer detection and therapy responses which, I understand, are candidates to go forward to clinical trial. Have any of these passed into clinical use?

Not yet. We're in the process of bringing them into clinical use and the trials will take place in the near future. It's very exciting. The forthcoming trials will test novel theranostic probes that target chemokine receptors. The use of the PET imaging agents will allow us to determine which patients are likely to respond best to the associated therapeutic agent.

You went on to Yale to carry out postdoctoral research and then rejoined Hull on an ESPRC-funded Healthcare Technologies Programme. Did you feel drawn back to Hull, and are you enjoying being back in this environment?

I am very much so. It all goes back to what I mentioned earlier - that ability to be a part of all aspects of the research project and drive the innovation towards clinical application. In the US I was hired for a very specific purpose and, although I was able to learn that area thoroughly, the narrow focus tended to hinder my professional development and ability to undertake collaborative research. This contrasted heavily with my experience at Hull, and when the opportunity arose I was keen to return here. With the investment in and development of the world leading facilities in Hull, this is a great place to be right now for students and academics working in the field of molecular imaging.

Based on your own experience as a scholarship recipient at Hull who has gone on to become part of the scientific skill base that we have at Hull, do you have any words of encouragement to existing scholarship donors or donors considering giving to support scholarships?

Please continue to donate or consider this area for your future giving. My background is in France where philanthropic funding for scholarships can be very difficult to come by; by contrast the UK has much more advanced philanthropic programmes to support postgraduate students. These offer excellent opportunities for the development of the students but also for donors to see the impact of their funding through adoption of the research advances. I hope that others will be able to benefit from opportunities similar to the Allam Scholarship that boosted my career progression.

THE STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME (SAP)

Dealing with the important subject of mental health, primary prevention and early intervention are key to building strength and resilience in a challenging learning environment. The University of Hull has an ever growing and diverse student population, each enjoying a unique experience of university life: from degree apprenticeships to professional courses, homeworking with online study or on campus delivery and campus located accommodation.

Since the recent pandemic, universities have seen rising demand for mental health and wellbeing support. It is key to ensure the right support is delivered at the right time in response to this.

The Student Assistance Programme (SAP), generously funded by our alumni and friends, has allowed the University of Hull to respond to this changing landscape, enabling us to implement a wraparound support model that is available for every student, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year - wherever they are in the world.

This package of support includes an all-inclusive app which users can personalise to their preferences and interests, offering industry-leading features and resources, from videos and articles on topics from anxiety to wellness; mini health checks; breathing exercises; podcasts and Spotify playlists.

Trained counsellors are available day and night to provide in the moment support whenever a student needs it, via phone, video call or live chat. Language services are available for students whose first language is not English as well as signing for students who are deaf or hard of hearing and BSL users, this service is both inclusive and accessible.

SAP has been well used by our student population over the past year and has been accessed by a broad demographic range of ages, ethnicities and gender identifications, usage of the helpline and app has increased month on month with 47% of contacts taking place outside of the core university business hours of 9 to 5 every weekday.

Many thanks are given to those Alumni and friends who have helped to fund this important initiative through their generous donations, it has made an enormous and positive difference to the lives of our student community.



Additional support through psychotherapy

Your generous support was match-funded through a considerable gift of 540 hours of additional therapy for students by local private healthcare provider Valued Minds to provide invaluable psychotherapy support. This has meant that we have been able to greatly increase the number of hours of free support available to students. Donations from alumni have meant that we were able to explore a community partnership with an industry partner to remove barriers and bring additional wellbeing services to our students. This has already benefitted many students this year and will continue to do so in the year ahead.

“ Psychotherapy is the use of Psychological methods, particularly when based on regular personal interaction, to help a person change behaviour, increase happiness and overcome problems.

Period Poverty

Since the pandemic, period poverty has become even more of an issue with almost a third of people who need sanitary wear being unable to afford or access it. We believe that no student should miss out on their education because of their period, nor should they feel ashamed or embarrassed. Your generous donation has enabled us to work with the Hull University Student Union over the last year to normalise periods and remove the barrier to period poverty by providing period packs in key locations on campus.



A REVIEW OF EVENTS AND MASTERCLASSES – 2022

It's been an exciting year for us in the alumni team, as we've been able to return to in-person events and bring back our 'Inspired in Hull' series of lectures and our Annual Alumni Reception. In the coming twelve months, we'll be bringing back our in-person Professional Network events and providing you with more opportunities to make professional connections with your fellow alumni, and we'll be giving you the chance to hear from some exceptional members of our community.

The highlight of our year was undoubtedly our 'Raising Hull' Alumni Reception and Dinner at the Institute of Engineering and Technology in London this summer. Over 80 alumni and guests joined us for an inspiring evening that combined award-winning musical talent, with an exceptional meal and unrivalled views.

The main focus of the evening was a discussion around modern forms of slavery, servitude and exploitation. This was an interactive session which set the stage for a fascinating discussion and an awareness-raising session for all participants, which both reflected the work of the Wilberforce Institute and Hull's strategic commitment at an institutional level to promoting social justice. 'ACTion' is a programme which was established and funded almost exclusively by a group of passionate and generous alumni. An eclectic set followed from music student Imogen Hart who played a range of her own material, mixed with popular songs associated with Hull, including her own interpretations of songs from 'The Beautiful South' and 'Everything But the Girl'.



Our Inspired in Hull lectures are an ever-popular series that give staff, students, alumni and friends of the University of Hull the chance to hear inspiring stories from alumni who are making a difference. As part of Disability History Month last year, we welcomed back Jonty Warneken who talked about how life changing injuries haven't stopped him from pushing the boundaries of what is possible, testing his limits and continuing to achieve.

Andy Harries, the CEO of award-winning 'Left Bank Pictures' (producer of Golden Globe Winning *The Crown*), returned to where it all started to discuss his career at the cutting edge of contemporary film and television. Finally, we were delighted to hear from historian, television presenter and author Tracy Borman, who has been a student and a lecturer at the University of Hull and continues her relationship with us as an Honorary Graduate in recognition of her achievements.



This year, we also continued our series of online events that were started as a response to lockdown. We had Alumni Masterclasses on how horror cinema works and *Sherlock Holmes*, whilst we were also delighted to be joined by members of the Entrepreneur Network who gave online workshops on creativity and managing anxiety.

These events have been a chance to connect with alumni across the world who haven't been able to make in-person events and we'll be looking to continue with a blend of online and in-person events into the future.

Please do let us know what you'd like to see from us by emailing alumni@hull.ac.uk.

2023 Events*

January

Tuesday 31 January

Beat the January Blues Quiz

Hull Alumni Vs London Alumni Vs Sheffield Alumni - the University will host teams in venues in these three cities as well as online, as our alumni go head to head!

February

Neil Grant Masterclass

Producer, Director, Writer, Alumnus.

Returning to campus to share the stories behind the biggest stories of our time

Alumni Association AGM

March

Wednesday 8 March

International Women's Day

Inspired in Hull Lecture on campus.

Speaker TBC

Thursday 30 March

Combined Business Network and Creative Industries Network event

Leeds

April

Inspired in Hull (Sport)

Lecture on Campus. Speaker TBC

May

'Hull University Challenge'

Borough of Westminster, London (and streamed)

June

Social and Networking event

London

July

Thursday 27 July

Annual Alumni Reception Event and Awards Ceremony

On campus (Canham Turner)

October

Annual Supporter Thank You Event

On campus

* Dates to be confirmed unless otherwise stated.



Scan QR code to see upcoming Alumni events.



Our Networking community - [Hullalumniconnects.me](https://hullalumniconnects.me)

Our Alumni Blog - hullalumni.me

Update your details - alumni@hull.ac.uk



twitter.com/hullalumni



facebook.com/hullalumni



instagram.com/hullalumni



<https://linkedin.com/groups/63362>