



Your Impact **2023**



*Support allowed me not only to stay at university
but to deliver the work I knew I was capable of.*

Dear Supporters, Friends and Alumni,

It is with gratitude that I write to thank you for your contribution to help individuals and projects across the university. Inside this report you will hear from students and gain insight into the projects which you and others have kindly supported.

The past year has proved challenging for many, including Edinburgh Napier students, and the cost of living crisis is a remaining concern. It is reported that 37% of students in Scotland have considered dropping out for financial reasons, an increase from our last Impact Report.

Inclusivity is a core value held high by our Edinburgh Napier community and your support has helped widen access to education for students who would otherwise struggle financially to consider pursuing a degree. For students with limited means, financial support offers critical help, allowing them to continue their studies and gain the opportunity to achieve their potential.

Last year 209 donors like you chose to support Edinburgh Napier students in need, including five new named scholarships. Thank you.

Over the following pages, discover the transformative power of your support. Many research projects and scholarships are only made possible because of donations generously made by you, fellow alumni and friends. Because of you, individuals are able to flourish, expand their horizons and achieve more. I hope you find inspiration in their stories.

Thank you for your unwavering support and generosity,



Andrea Nolan
Principal & Vice Chancellor



Thank you!

This year you helped support **167** Edinburgh Napier students with

100
Scholarships

32
Grants

35
Prizes



From Scholar to Prize-winner

RANIA

Rania is a student from Uganda who graduated in July 2023 with a first-class degree and won the Scottish Timber Association Prize for Best Graduate dissertation on timber. Two years earlier, she had received critical financial support through a much-needed scholarship award which helped her to sustain her studies. She currently works as a research assistant at Edinburgh Napier. Rania's story is a testimony; **financial support and academic excellence go hand-in-hand.**



"I received the scholarship during the 2020/21 academic year, in the middle of lockdown. At the time, I didn't have a laptop to study at home, which really impacted my university work. I used my scholarship to buy a laptop and support my ever-rising living costs.

Before receiving the scholarship, I had to travel to the university every week to borrow a laptop, which added travel costs to all the expenses I was struggling to cover. It helped me so much, I use it for everything now.

Receiving financial support helped me out of a very difficult situation. I know many people who had to drop out for financial reasons. It allowed me not only to stay at university but to deliver the work I knew I was capable of. The prize is an amazing recognition of this."



Expanding horizons



BORBALA

Borbala went abroad last year as part of her degree at Edinburgh Napier University.

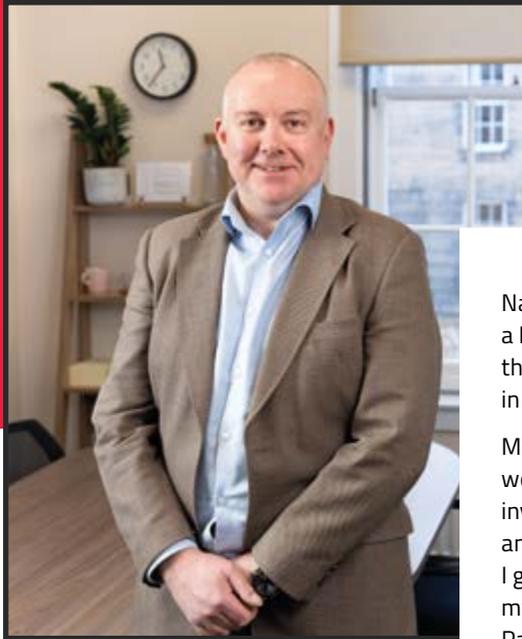
Borbala had the opportunity to study at L'École de Design Nantes Atlantique in France. The support she received allowed her to spend her semester abroad without having to work, focusing her time and energy on discovering new techniques such as ceramics, get insights on contemporary topics like circular economy and CO2 emissions and learn a new software.

Studying abroad is an opportunity to broaden your understanding of your

area of study; approaching creative projects differently, realising that different schools and countries have different ways of teaching and learning. Combining the Napier way and the Nantes way now shapes her approach to her studies and design: **"Sometimes I start a new project with a set approach and then out of nowhere I have this thought that we did this differently in France, maybe I should try something more similar to that instead of 'pushing for the usual'.**

But most of all, she misses fresh pastries every day!

Jeremy Chittleburgh: why I give back



JEREMY CHITTLEBURGH & JUDI

"I am forever grateful for what Edinburgh Napier provided to me and how that allowed me to forge a successful career. For me, it's been a journey of being lucky enough to go to Napier, and then lucky enough to build on what I gained from that experience to get onto the ladder of becoming an accountant, which has been my career ever since – although, I actually planned to be a biochemist! I didn't quite do well enough in my school results to follow that plan, but

Napier – still a college at that time – offered a BSc Science with Industrial Studies, and through it I was able to continue my interest in science.

Many people think accountancy is just working with figures but it's not: I'm involved in extensive client management and working with people. I believe that what I gained at Napier allowed me to progress my career quite quickly: I was made a Partner at quite a young age of 30. For me, that's the driving factor for supporting a scholarship, and that the University has kept its ethos of offering practical education and preparing graduates for the world of work. That was important to me 30 plus years ago and I'm glad it continues. Now, I'm in a fortunate position where I can support others to benefit from that ethos and to realise their potential through it."

Jeremy is Chair of Edinburgh Napier University Development Trust and through the governance of the Trustees, ensure that all funds donated by you help students who need and deserve assistance the most.



Judi Bergen is a recipient of an Edinburgh Napier ENCourage scholarship which are supported by friends and alumni of the University, such as donor Jeremy Chittleburgh.

"Receiving a scholarship has meant a lot to me, both in terms of the financial help and the encouragement to succeed academically. It has helped bridge the gap between rising costs and expenses and student loan income and allowed me to work less during term time, which in turn means I can focus more on my studies."

Judi then went on to win Edinburgh Napier's Edinburgh Festival Fringe Award, which is awarded annually to the student in Year Two of the Festival and Event Management programmes judged to have produced the best overall performance over the session.

"I'm now in my 4th year. My studies have built my team leading, budgeting and scheduling skills, and I've particularly enjoyed learning about policy and its effect on events. I have a growing passion for the welfare of events staff and leading my own business would utilise both my work history and my management degree to its fullest. So, after graduating, one possibility is to start my own event crew/staffing company."

Riady Lecture Theatre



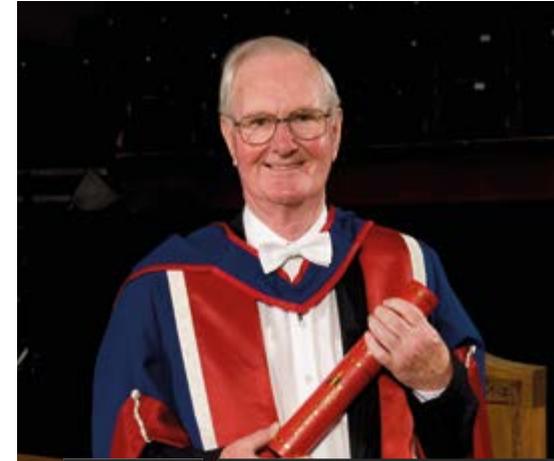
SUPPORTING EDUCATION HI-SPEC LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Last year, the university welcomed a transformative gift from Dr. Stephen Riady, a longstanding supporter and honorary alumnus. His generous contribution is set to revolutionise the university's 400-seat Business School lecture theatre, making it Scotland's most technologically advanced. Beyond benefiting local students, this upgrade will connect international learners to an immersive and innovative educational experience. The refurbishment of the Dr. Stephen Riady Lecture Theatre is the first phase in a broader development plan for the Craiglockhart campus.

"I supported the expansion of The Business School at Craiglockhart campus back in 2004, and today, I am delighted to support the planned refurbishment of the lecture theatre so that students and faculty can benefit from an immersive and state-of-the-art learning facility for years to come."

We look forward to delivering continued excellence in education with the support of Dr Riady and other dedicated donors who enhance the study environment for students, researchers and teaching staff.

Dr Roger Miller



Dr. Roger Miller, a dedicated volunteer and donor, played a pivotal role in the development and success of Edinburgh Napier University, serving as a member of the University Court and as a trustee of the Development Trust. Throughout his life he supported campus estate development, research, archive collections, and student experience.

Notable projects he was involved in include ***the Roger and Jean Miller Research Fellowship*** and ***Nursing Scholarships***, to aid undergraduate nursing and midwifery students, particularly those facing financial challenges or returning to study later in life. Given the number of hours each nursing student is on hospital placement during their training, this means they have little time to take on paid work to supplement their income whilst they are studying.

Edinburgh Napier University hosts one of the largest nursing schools in Scotland, forming part of the School of Health & Social Care based at our Sighthill Campus. The school is globally recognised for its high-quality nursing graduates.



Roger and Jean support 12 nursing scholarships each year and below are excerpts from a couple of the letters of thanks from the students who received the awards.



This award will not only allow me to continue my studies due to being on placement and having to work greatly reduced hours, but it has also alleviated the pressure and stress that comes with making the decision on whether I could continue the course that I love and worked hard for due to financial reasons.

I have been offered a Band 5 position within a CMHT post on the condition that I complete and pass my degree. Passing was never going to be an issue, however completing the course was looking like it was going to be.

This award has literally changed the path of my life as without it I would have had to leave my studies and decline my Band 5 offer."

Victoria



This award will help with my daily struggles as a single parent, by helping lift the financial pressure of nursery fees and the cost-of-living crisis everyone is sadly experiencing at the moment.

This will help me throughout the rest of the year of studying and will help me achieve my goal of becoming an adult nurse.

I appreciate your confidence in me and your willingness to contribute and help me with my future and goals."

Laura

Regular support is key to ensure more students like Rania, Judi and Borbala can graduate. To become a regular donor, visit our website using this QR code or head to www.napier.ac.uk/about-us/support-the-university.

With your help, we can ensure that those who want to study can go on to make a difference.

If you wish to discuss other ways you can support Edinburgh Napier students, such as leaving a gift in your will, you can contact the development team at development@napier.ac.uk or call **0131 455 2666**.





Thank you. Supporting education is the gift that keeps on giving. You made all the difference to their and other students' futures. Thanks to you, they now have the opportunity to go forward in their own lives and make a difference."

Through Edinburgh Napier Development Trust, Charity Reg No. SC030225, you can support students and their research so they can achieve even more for the benefit of society and the environment we live in.