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Sussex Scholarships

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Contents

Celebrating Sussex scholarships	3
Professor Clare Mackie Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning)	
First-Generation Scholars scheme	4
Student voice: Rhiannon Armitage	
Sussex Excellence Scholarships	6
Student voice: Rebecca Preston	
Sussex Graduate Scholarships	8
Student voice: Ahren Janiyan	
Chancellor's Masters Scholarships	10
Student voice: Jacob Dunstan	
Chancellor's International Scholarships	12
Student voice: Tetsuya Yamada	
Sussex Country Scholarships	14
Student voice: Osama Ashraf	
Chancellor's International Research Scholarships	16
Student voice: Matthew Beetar	
Funding for doctoral students at Sussex	18
Student voice: Laura Gill	
Philanthropic scholarships	20
Student voice: Melisa Lazenby and Sian Beavan	





Celebrating Sussex scholarships

The University of Sussex has always believed in challenging conventions, pioneering new ideas, and shaping the future.

This was as true at our foundation in 1961 as it is today, as we deliver one of the most generous scholarship programmes of any UK university.

In 2011, the higher education White Paper: *Students at the Heart of the System*, emphasised that disadvantaged young people are seven times less likely to attend the best universities than those from a more advantaged background. Rightly, the White Paper challenged universities to do more to improve social mobility.

The University of Sussex responded to this challenge by introducing the sector-leading First-Generation Scholars scheme.

This scheme is aimed at students who are the first in their family to go to university, and those from low-income families. Our focus is personal development and social mobility.

Since its introduction, First Generation Scholars have accounted for more than half of all our students from the UK and EU. Our first cohort graduated in summer 2015. 85 per cent have achieved a first or 2:1 – compared to 80 per cent of all our students from the UK or EU.

* 2013/14 HESA data

85 per cent of our Black and Minority Ethnic First-Generation Scholars from the UK or EU also graduated with a first or 2:1 (compared to 57 per cent* across the UK). This is impact at its finest and bodes well for graduate prospects.

It is not just our First-Generation Scholars who have benefited from Sussex scholarships. Since 2012/13 we have rewarded academic achievement prior to entry, such as our Sussex Excellence Scholarships. And, for postgraduates, we have introduced a range of scholarships that attract the most talented. For 2015/16 this includes 100 Chancellor's Masters Scholarships and an unlimited number of Sussex Graduate Scholarships of up to £10,000.

We also offer the Chancellor's International Scholarships and the Sussex Country Scholarships for high achieving international students. For research students we have 100 PhD studentships, fully funded each year across all subject areas.

In the 2014/15 academic year we have invested more than £13 million in scholarships for our students, with increased investment planned for the future.



Professor Clare Mackie

Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning)

First-Generation Scholars scheme

Our First-Generation Scholars scheme aims to ensure that talented students from the UK and EU from all backgrounds can benefit from a Sussex education, as part of our Widening Participation initiative.

The scheme provides financial support if your household income is less than £42,620 per year. It also offers non-financial benefits to all students who are the first in their family to go to university, as well as for those who qualify for the financial element. This support includes:

- help before you come to university, by offering study skills online and via summer residential schools
- workshops and 1:1 study skills once at Sussex
- personal development coaching
- our Active US sports buddy scheme, which teams up First-Generation Scholars with International students
- funded internships between Years 2 and 3 and additional careers support after graduation.

The financial element of the scheme provides a £1,000 cash award and a £2,000 rent reduction in your first year, if you live in University managed accommodation, or a £1,000 cash award and a £2,000 fee waiver if you live in private accommodation. In subsequent years you will receive a £1,000 cash award if you remain eligible. In 2014 we gave 1,042 rent or fee waivers and 2,678 cash awards. In addition, in 2014/15 18 Care Leavers received a £3,000 cash scholarship for each year of study at Sussex.

For full eligibility criteria and application procedures, visit www.sussex.ac.uk/studentlifecentre/firstgenerationscholars

“I’ve grown up in Brighton; I love the city, the beach and couldn’t imagine myself living anywhere else. I’ve been visiting Sussex since Year 7 as part of the Aim Higher scheme so Sussex was the obvious option for me.

The opportunities here are fantastic. My degree is in Psychology with a Legal Studies pathway, which has allowed me to combine two subjects I’m fascinated by. I’ve been able to work as a research assistant with a world-renowned tutor, who I’m also working with in my third year, and this summer I’m going to China as part of the Sussex China Internship Scheme. I’m so excited! The scheme pays for everything from flights, accommodation to spending money. I’ll be working for ‘Studio-Output’, a branding company, before funding my own travel across China. It’s a pretty amazing scheme. I couldn’t believe it when I was accepted.

The First-Generation Scholarship has made such a difference to me. The extra funding has helped with my food bills, rent in halls and travelling, so I haven’t had to struggle. I love being at Sussex.”

Rhiannon Armitage
First-Generation Scholar



Sussex Excellence Scholarships

Our Sussex Excellence Scholarships recognise and reward undergraduate students who have achieved excellent academic results before coming to Sussex. In 2014 we awarded 181 Sussex Excellence Scholarships.

If you accept the University of Sussex as your firm choice through UCAS, and you achieve at least AAA at A level; Distinction, Distinction, Distinction at BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma; or 36 points overall in the International Baccalaureate Diploma you are automatically awarded the scholarship.

The scholarship is worth £3,000 in Year 1 of your undergraduate degree, and is given as a £1,000 cash award and £2,000 rent reduction if you live in University-managed accommodation, or £1,000 cash award and £2,000 fee waiver if you live in private accommodation.

For a full list of eligibility criteria and application procedure, visit www.sussex.ac.uk/study/money/scholarships



“I’m in the first year of my BSc in Biomedical Sciences. The course is a mix of theory and practicals, and the range of topics is really good. I love the fact that I’m taught by top researchers, whose work has a real relevance to my studies.

Receiving the Sussex Excellence Scholarship has really helped me. The rent reduction has enabled me to live on campus, which has been great for meeting new people. Campus is lovely, being so close to the South Downs is great and there’s a real sense of friendliness here. The extra funding has given me more comfort and security.

I’m still uncertain about what I want to do when I finish. I’m keeping my options open, but at the moment I’m just really enjoying my course.”

Rebecca Preston
Sussex Excellence Scholarship

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Sussex Graduate Scholarships

We offer an unlimited number of enhanced Sussex Graduate Scholarships to high achieving Sussex students, including all First-Generation Scholars accepted for postgraduate study, and other students achieving a first-class degree.

The scholarships are worth £10,000 to Sussex students admitted to full-time Masters degree courses in September 2015. They are jointly funded by the government and the University, and confirm Sussex's position as one of the UK's leading universities for postgraduate study. The enhanced scholarships are available for admission in 2015 to students who have paid tuition fees of £9,000.

For those students who entered Sussex prior to 2012/13, we will continue to offer our standard Sussex Graduate Scholarship of £3,000 to all Sussex students (UK, EU or international) starting a full-time Masters course from 2016 onwards, who achieve a first-class honours degree in the previous academic year.

Sussex students who have achieved an upper second-class honours degree in the previous academic year are eligible for a £2,000 scholarship.

For a full list of eligibility criteria and application procedure, visit www.sussex.ac.uk/study/money/scholarships

“I'm really proud to be a recipient of the Sussex Graduate Scholarship. It makes studying at postgraduate level a lot easier, and it's one of the main reasons I decided to stay on at Sussex and do my Masters.

I'm really enjoying the course. I'm studying for an MSc in Technology and Innovation Management in SPRU. I love the learning environment, and there's a good community spirit, everybody's really supportive. I really appreciate studying with people from different backgrounds and experiences. I find it helps me with my work.

I also like living near the beach. Brighton is a safe environment. I love the culture and being so close to London is great. Having easy access to the facilities in London is really useful for my studies.”

Ahren Janiyan
Sussex Graduate Scholarship

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Chancellor's Masters Scholarships

We are proud to offer 100 Chancellor's Masters Scholarships to attract the most talented students to study at Sussex. In 2015 the scholarship is enhanced due to matched funding being available from the Funding Council.

All students starting a full-time Sussex Masters course in 2015, who graduate with a first-class degree from any UK higher education institution in 2015 and who have paid undergraduate tuition fees of £9,000 or more in each of the last three years of undergraduate study are eligible for a £10,000 scholarship. The scholarship is open to home, EU and international students.

In subsequent years the award will return to the standard rate of £3,000. In 2014 we awarded 96 Chancellor's Masters Scholarships.

For full eligibility criteria and application procedures, visit www.sussex.ac.uk/study/money/scholarships



“I'm studying for an MSc in Physics. I've always known that I wanted to study physics, and at an open day last year I met a member of the Sussex faculty who talked to me about the MSc at Sussex and gave me some information about the Chancellor's Masters Scholarship. It was the scholarship that made me apply to Sussex. It has made postgraduate study much more affordable.

The course is really interesting and ticks all the boxes for me. The feedback from tutors is very good and the freedom you get in your module choice is really helpful. I'm also enjoying the research at the moment and am going on to do a PhD when I've finished. Without that extra funding I would have struggled to take my Masters.”

Jacob Dunstan
Chancellor's Masters Scholarship



Chancellor's International Scholarships

We offer approximately 25 Chancellor's International Scholarships a year to talented international students applying for postgraduate taught degrees at Sussex. In 2014 we awarded 27 scholarships.

The scholarships are worth 50 per cent of the international student tuition fees for postgraduate study and are awarded on the basis of academic performance and potential.

To find out if you are eligible for the Chancellor's International Scholarship, and how to apply, visit www.sussex.ac.uk/study/money/scholarships



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“I've nearly finished my MA in International Education and Development. I've really enjoyed my year here. I live in Lewes, which is so beautiful.

The MA is really famous in Japan, and it was the reputation of the course and the departmental research that drew me here. I wouldn't have had access to such well-known professors at home. I've wanted to study at Sussex for a long time.

The scholarship has been really helpful. Because of the course I was determined to come to Sussex, but without the funding I would have had to defer for a year to work. After the MA I would like to do an internship in the UK in international education, or in developing countries. Eventually I want to come back to Sussex to do doctoral study. The professors here are so friendly and supportive.”

Tetsuya Yamada
Chancellor's International
Scholarship

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Sussex Country Scholarships

Sussex is proud to offer the Sussex Country Scholarships to attract the most talented students from India, Nigeria and Pakistan to study at Sussex. In 2014 we offered 96 Country Scholarships.

The scholarships are worth £3,000 each and are awarded as a fee reduction. To be eligible for the scholarship you must be a self-financing student from one of the countries mentioned above, and have accepted an offer from Sussex for a full-time Masters course.

To find out if you're eligible and how to apply, visit www.sussex.ac.uk/study/money/scholarships



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“My MSc is in Engineering and Business Management. I came to study at Sussex from Pakistan because the engineering department has a really good reputation. I like the fact that it's full of different cultures, races and religions. It's good to study among people with different viewpoints.

Before coming here the only thing I knew about Sussex was that it was in Brighton and had a beach! I love Brighton, it's so vibrant and not too overcrowded. I also love the calm, green Sussex campus.

The Sussex Country Scholarship made the decision to do postgraduate study at Sussex an easy one. It means that I can be more independent and don't have to rely on my family for support. It's really good not to have to worry about how I will pay and can concentrate on my studies. Getting a scholarship has given me a real sense of pride.”

Osama Ashraf
Sussex Country Scholarship

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Chancellor's International Research Scholarships

We offer 10 new Chancellor's International Research Scholarships a year, to doctoral students of any nationality, and one new Sussex joint China Scholarship Council scholarship.

The scholarships are usually offered for one year in the first instance, and are renewable annually for a maximum of three and a half years for full-time doctoral students. The award covers international fees and provides a stipend, which will match that provided for UK doctoral students by the UK Research Council, currently in the region of £14,000 a year. We awarded 22 scholarships in 2014/15.

For a full list of eligibility criteria and application procedure, visit www.sussex.ac.uk/doctoralschool/funding



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“I first came to Sussex from South Africa to do my Masters. Afterwards I went back home to look for funding for doctoral study. I really wanted to return to Sussex, so when I found out about the Chancellor's International Research Scholarship I applied straight away.

The subject of my research is xenophobia and homophobia in South Africa and how we can use the media to combat them. Sussex is the only place that offers a focus on gender and media equally. It really is the best place to do interdisciplinary research.

Without the scholarship I wouldn't have been able to study here. The funding is very generous and being able to return to Sussex has been a dream. The School of Media, Film and Music really encourages students to become agents for social change, and that was what I was looking for.

The research community here is really passionate. A lot of people say that research is lonely, but I haven't found that. I've had fantastic support from everyone.”

Matthew Beetar
Chancellor's International
Research Scholarship

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Funding for doctoral students at Sussex

We offer around 100 PhD studentships each year to outstanding research students across all subject areas at Sussex.

63 studentships were awarded in 2014/15 by UK research councils including the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), providing studentships through the Sussex ESRC Doctoral Training Centre; the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), offering studentships through the Consortium of Humanities and the Arts South East England (CHASE); the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC); the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC); the Medical Research Council and Science and Technology Facilities Council.

Our Doctoral School can help with information and support when applying for funding for your PhD. Funding schemes exist for UK, EU and non-EU doctoral students.

For a full list of funding opportunities available through our Doctoral School, visit www.sussex.ac.uk/doctoralschool/funding



“I’m studying the influence of John Milton on 19th century culture for my PhD. I’ve almost finished my second year and it’s going really well. I did my BA and MA at Sussex and the main reason for staying was the strength of support from the English department. The course convenor for my MA is now my supervisor. It was her suggestion that I consider applying for funding for my research.

Essentially AHRC funding is like a salary. I have almost £14,000 a year, which offers immense security. Sussex also offers lots of extra support, such as payment for conferences and research trips. The University is really generous in that respect. Next winter I’m taking a placement in Los Angeles for three months, which is really exciting. It’s those extra opportunities that are the cherries on the proverbial cake.

If it wasn’t for the funding I wouldn’t be doing research, and that’s true of the majority of my PhD cohort. Our work depends on the generosity of the scholarships, and the research community would really suffer without it.”

Laura Gill

Arts and Humanities Research Council/CHASE funded scholar



Philanthropic scholarships

Many of the scholarships that Sussex offers each year are made possible thanks to the generous philanthropic support of our alumni, partner organisations and friends of the University.

Sussex alumni and friends are an important part of the Sussex community. They are keen to ensure that current and future Sussex students can have the same education experience that they received while studying here. Supporting scholarships at Sussex enables our donors to give something back to the University and offer some of the brightest minds the opportunity to study with us and change their future.

The scholarships cover a wide range of disciplines and are open to UK, non-EU and international students at undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD level. Each scholarship is designed to reward merit, giving talented students the opportunity to excel at Sussex, regardless of their background.

Here's what some of our philanthropic scholarship recipients said about receiving their award:

Melisa Lazenby, a recipient of the Peter Carpenter Climate Change Scholarship said: *"Africa is my home, and getting the opportunity to improve climate projections is an honour that I am so grateful for."*

Sian Beaven, recipient of the Draper Scholarship in Law, said: *"This scholarship has not only made a financial difference to my time at Sussex, but has also helped my self-belief in my academic capabilities. For that reason it is doubly special."*

If you are interested in finding out how you can support scholarships at Sussex, please contact Dr Marina Pedreira-Vilarino, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, at m.pedreira-vilarino@sussex.ac.uk



Melisa Lazenby



Sian Beaven

Fulton



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