MANCHESTER 1824
The University of Manchester

200 YEARS
OF PHILANTHROPY
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

Making a difference
SINCE 1824

200 YEARS



Welcome

Philanthropy is the golden thread woven through the fabric of our great institution. From the creation of the Manchester Mechanics' Institute in 1824 to the University's current position as a beacon of knowledge and enlightenment, our history is shaped by acts of philanthropy. Each gift has played a pivotal role in nurturing the intellectual vitality and fostering the spirit of innovation that defines our community.

The stories of our founding benefactors show that their commitment to education and discovery remains an inspiring influence on our campus and beyond. From scholarship endowments that have opened the doors of opportunity through to ground-breaking research that has pushed the boundaries of knowledge. The impact of philanthropy reverberates throughout every corridor and around every corner of our institution.

Beyond the sepia-tinged photographs and commemorative plaques lies a deeper ethos: a shared belief in the transformative power of education to uplift individuals and communities alike. This ethos continues today. Together, we are committed to upholding the values of knowledge, wisdom and humanity that define The University of Manchester.

As we reflect on the history of philanthropy at our University, let us also look to the future with optimism and determination. I hope this brochure serves as a source of inspiration and gratitude, reminding us of the profound impact that generosity can have on the world around us.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our University's mission.

Simon Collins
Chair, Global Leadership Board



Manchester Mechanics' Institute, 1885

The first philanthropists

The University of Manchester's story began 200 years ago, with a meeting of three men: William Fairbairn, Richard Roberts and Thomas Hopkins. Together, they discussed the notion of founding an institute to provide an education for working people. Their vision was "to teach young men the application of science to manufacturing and art".

They each agreed to contribute £10 to the cause, and to encourage others to follow their example. In doing so, they became both our founders and our very first philanthropists.

Following this initial gathering, a public meeting was held at the Bridgewater Arms public house. Funds were pledged for the purchase of land on Cooper Street, costing £7,000. This became the first home of the Manchester Mechanics' Institute, which would later become UMIST.

Since then, we've merged and changed through a variety of institutions – including Owens College, The Victoria University and UMIST – until eventually becoming the modern university we know today.



Degree day, c.1950

Laying the foundations

Another pivotal moment in the University's early history was John Owens' legacy gift in 1846. A Manchester industrialist and cotton merchant, John Owens left just under £100,000 to set up what became known as Owens College.

Owens created this institution with one particularly progressive stipulation: admission to the college was regardless of the applicant's birthplace, rank or condition in society.

This laid the foundations for the proud tradition of educational equality we still hold today – when one in four of our undergraduate students come from low-income households. Gifts to our access programmes, scholarships and other financial support mechanisms are critical in ensuring a Manchester education remains open to all.



The Old Quad, 1972

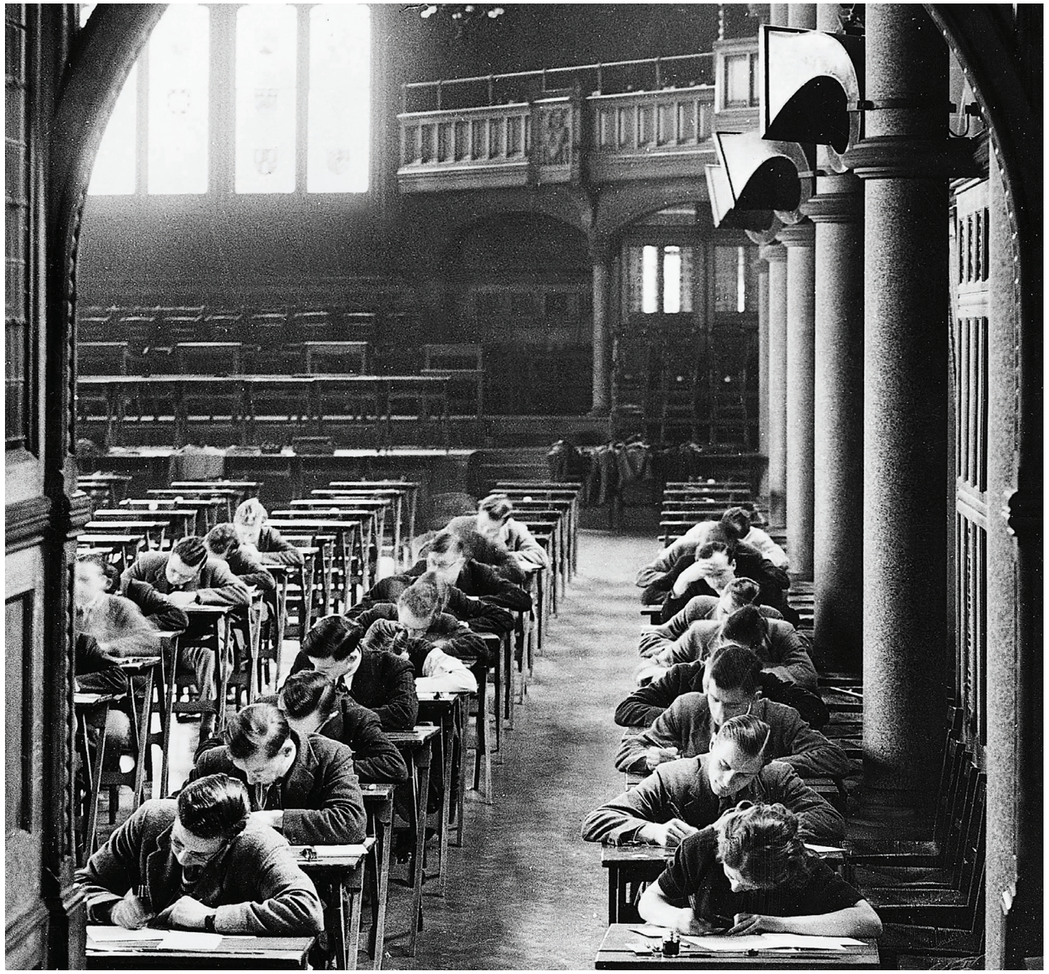
The campus we know today

Through the support of another great philanthropist – Charles Beyer – Owens College moved to Oxford Road. The site which was set up in the late 1800s still stands today, and is probably the most iconic area of campus – the old quadrangle.

The quad was made up of four main buildings. One took the name of John Owens, one took the name of Charles Beyer, and the other two were given the names of two more great philanthropists from that era – Sir Joseph Whitworth and Richard Copley Christie.

Born in Germany to humble beginnings as the son of a weaver, Beyer won a scholarship to attend university before coming to Manchester to work as a locomotive engineer. He subsequently founded the pioneering firm Beyer, Peacock and Company.

As well as bequeathing funds towards construction at the University, he contributed to scholarships and professorships, including the Beyer Chair in Applied Mathematics.



Exams in the Whitworth Hall, 1939

Engineering the future

Sir Joseph Whitworth is perhaps one of the most recognisable names at the University as his name is not only given to the spectacular Whitworth Hall, but also to the University's art gallery, The Whitworth.

During his life, he was one of the great Victorian engineers, and a founding father of modern production engineering. On his death, he left his wealth to three trustees – including Richard Christie – to support causes close to him, especially education.

The trustees used this money to set up a system of engineering scholarships, purchase new land for the University, and develop Whitworth Park and the attached art gallery.

Today, we continue that fine tradition with a range of initiatives that encourage people from all backgrounds to engage with science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). Like the Great Science Share, funded by donors, which supports the teaching of STEM subjects in schools across Greater Manchester.



The Christie Library, 1950s

Paving the way for learning and discovery

Richard Copley Christie was one of the earliest academics at Owens College, becoming a professor aged just 23. He was instrumental in the expansion of Owens College, and, as well as being one of Whitworth's trustees, he was also a prolific philanthropist in his own right.

Perhaps his largest contribution to the University was in funding and setting up the Christie Library, designed by architect Alfred Waterhouse. As well as funding its construction, Christie also donated 75,000 volumes from his own collection. Christie also set up what became the Christie cancer hospital in Withington.

Earlier this year, we were thrilled to open the new Paterson Cancer Research Building in partnership with the Christie NHS Foundation Trust and Cancer Research UK. The building will house multidisciplinary teams of world-leading scientists, researchers and clinicians. Together they will fight cancer from all angles, from prevention and novel treatments to living with and beyond the disease. By bringing experts together in a unique environment, the Paterson Building will become home to one of the top cancer centres in the world.



Statue of Enriqueta Rylands in the John Rylands Research Institute and Library

A literary gem

One figure who transformed the University away from the Oxford Road corridor was Enriqueta Rylands. A deeply committed Manchester philanthropist at the turn of the century, Rylands became the first woman ever to be admitted to the Freedom of the City.

Following the death of her husband, John Rylands, Enriqueta decided to honour his memory by setting up a library in his name. Initially the library – which opened to the public in 1900 – was not part of the University, but it was acquired in 1972 and now forms part of the third largest academic library in the UK.

Today, the Library is not just a gem in the University's campus, but also one of the city's most popular tourist attractions. It is home to the John Rylands Research Institute, which is dedicated to using the University's world-leading special collections for research and teaching.

Other philanthropists have built on Enriqueta's legacy with donations to the Library which have helped to preserve ancient Persian manuscripts, enable many of the collections to be documented and researched, and most recently created the British Pop Archive, a national collection dedicated to the preservation and research of popular culture.



University laboratory, 1940s

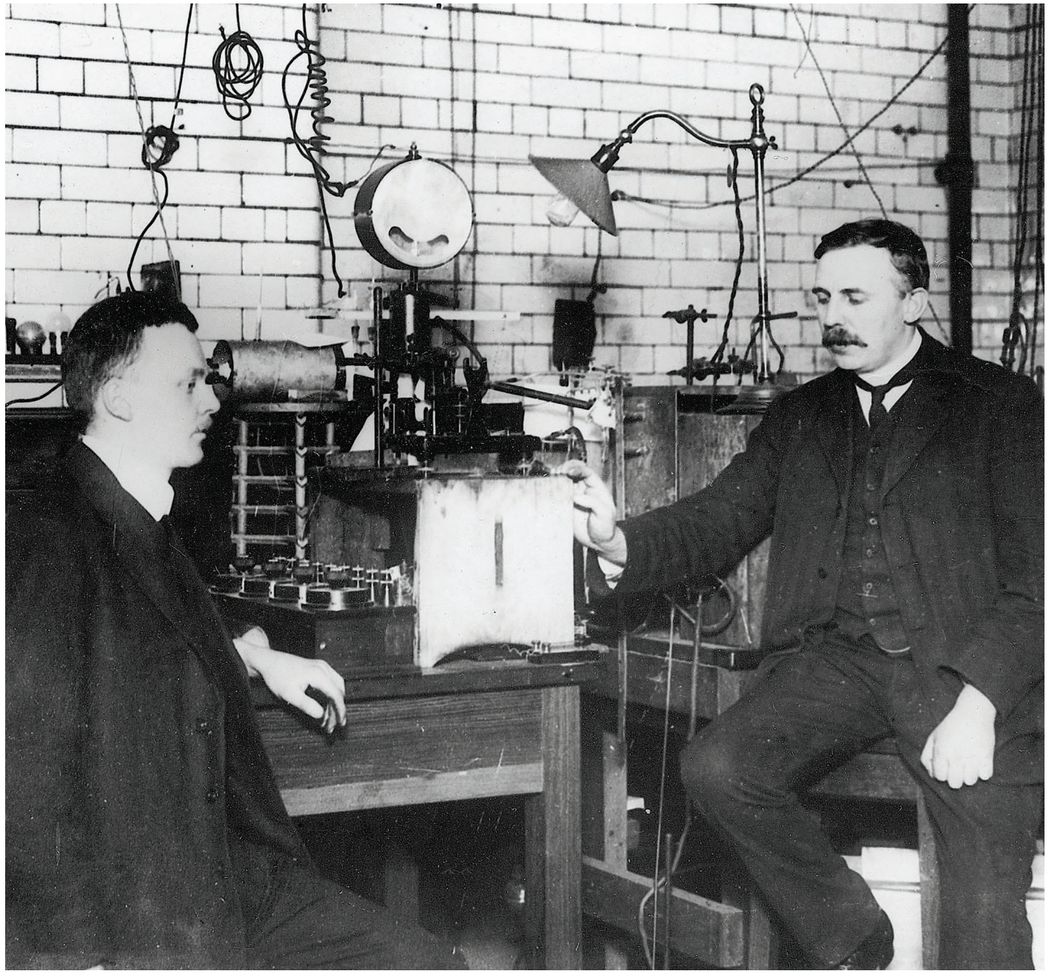
The beginning of a global physics powerhouse

Sir Arthur Schuster was born in Frankfurt, Germany in 1851, the son of a cotton merchant and banker. In 1869, his father moved to Manchester where the family textile business was based. Arthur, who had been to school in Frankfurt, joined his parents in 1870.

From his childhood, Schuster had been interested in science and after working for a year for the family firm in Manchester, he persuaded his father to let him study mathematics and physics at Owens College, the forerunner of The University of Manchester. Schuster later used his family's wealth to buy material and equipment and to endow readerships in mathematical physics at Manchester.

In 1881, he was appointed to the Beyer Chair of Applied Mathematics at the new Victoria University in Manchester and then professor of physics in 1888. This appointment gave him the opportunity to establish a new laboratory, the fourth largest in the world, which he paid for in large part. The laboratory quickly became a serious rival to the Cavendish at the University of Cambridge and provided the foundation for the Nobel winning work of Ernest Rutherford, who first split the atom.

Schuster was also an early supporter of the suffragette movement and advocated for the enrolment of women in universities. His philanthropy was not restricted to Manchester: he even part-funded Scott's ill-fated Terra Nova expedition to the South Pole.



Ernest Rutherford and Hans Geiger in their lab at The University of Manchester, 1908

The multiplier effect: how one donation led to five Nobel laureates

At The University of Manchester, we owe our very existence to gifts in wills. And one remarkable gift in particular paved the way for five Nobel laureates and some extraordinary scientific discoveries. Edward Langworthy's name is not given to any building, library or museum. Instead, his legacy is embodied in a single Professorial Chair in Experimental Physics, which has become one of the most remarkable stories in the University's history.

Born in 1797, Langworthy was a successful businessman and Liberal politician. Initially from London, he moved to Salford in 1840 at the height of the industrial revolution. Capitalising on Manchester's booming cotton industry, he set up a cotton mill, Langworthy Brothers and Company. By 1848, he was elected mayor, a position he held until 1850.

On his death in 1874, Langworthy, by this time a wealthy man, left a generous £10,000 bequest in his will to Owens College. His vision for his legacy was crystal clear: "It being my wish that students may be instructed in the method of experiment and research and that science may be advanced by original investigation."

This £10,000 endowment, worth around £850,000 in today's money, was used to establish the Langworthy Professorship in Experimental Physics. Within a single generation the professorship had borne its first Nobel laureate, with Ernest Rutherford winning the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1908.

Rutherford's career as a researcher was the perfect embodiment of Langworthy's commitment to supporting new discovery. In 1919, he transformed nitrogen into oxygen, the first successful transformation of one element into another, and in 1932, he was successful in splitting the atom for the first time. A true pioneer, Rutherford fundamentally changed the way we viewed the world.



Nobel laureates Andre Geim and Kostya Novosolov

The Langworthy Professorship

Four decades after Rutherford's Nobel Prize, the Langworthy Professorship had produced another two laureates. In 1915, William Lawrence Bragg became the youngest ever Nobel laureate at 25, winning the Nobel Prize for Physics alongside his father for 'services in the analysis of crystal structure by means of X-ray'.

Patrick Maynard Stuart Blackett became the third holder of the Langworthy Professorship to win a Nobel Prize. His work looking at the tracks of atomic nuclear disintegration earned him the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1948.

The next two winners both came in 2010, when Andre Geim and Konstantin Novoselov won the Nobel Prize for Physics for their ground-breaking discovery of graphene. Geim was the Langworthy Chair at the time of the Nobel Prize, with Novoselov taking over in 2013.

The work of Geim and Novoselov and the discovery of graphene is the perfect testament to Langworthy's original vision of supporting experimental physics and advancing human knowledge when he left his gift to Manchester. Graphene is making a difference in a whole range of areas – from saving lives through portable water filtration to protecting our planet with low-carbon alternatives to everyday materials like concrete.

The University of Manchester has produced 25 Nobel Prize winners over its rich and illustrious history. With five so far holding the position of Langworthy Professor in Experimental Physics, who knows what the next holders of the Langworthy Professorship will achieve? One thing is clear, five Nobel Prizes resulting from one gift is quite an investment.

A regrettable past and a brighter future

Our founding benefactors paved the way for The University of Manchester we know today – and created the iconic campus buildings that have been marvelled at for generations. But as we reflect on our past, we recognise and confront the reality of the Victorian cotton industry, where these early philanthropists built their wealth. The cotton that earned Manchester the nickname 'Cottonopolis' had its roots in the brutal institution of slavery.

While we cannot change the past, we are committed to reducing the inequalities of today. On campus our equality action plans are creating a more equal and inclusive University of Manchester community, where everyone can reach their potential regardless of their sex, gender identity, ethnicity, disability, age, religion or belief. This progress is helped enormously by our donors.

We are grateful to the many donors who give to our scholarship packages, including those targeted to students from low-income households or those with Black African and Caribbean heritage, as well as our Access and Success Fund. Together, these gifts are helping to address deeply embedded social inequalities and ensure all our students have the opportunity to thrive, by:

Increasing access to higher education *by inspiring young people from underrepresented backgrounds to consider university, and supporting them through events, workshops and other targeted programmes.*

Helping students arrive and thrive *through scholarships and bursary packages, hardship funding, financial advice, and help with the cost of taking part in university life. Financial support ensures all students can make the most of their time at university.*

Supporting student success *by providing mentoring, application guidance and interview support for students from underrepresented backgrounds. This targeted support helps to prepare them to enter the world of work with confidence.*

Research and innovation

200 years on from our first philanthropists' visionary ideas, The University of Manchester is shaping a better world. This is the only UK University to place social responsibility as a core strategic goal. We don't just talk about we're good at – we ask what we are good for.

Gifts from our donors play a significant role in accelerating research and innovation. Philanthropy provides the margin of excellence that enables us to dream big, translate novel ideas into bold new solutions, and bring more of the world's greatest minds on to our teams.

Gifts to support research and innovation, including donations to our Manchester Breakthrough Fund and Ideas with Impact Partners' Programme are helping to:

Enable good health for all. *Greater Manchester's unique health and social care ecosystem means we can rapidly drive innovation and translate breakthroughs into real-world solutions – which can be scaled-up and replicated across the globe. With the support of our global community, we are creating the equitable, sustainable healthcare systems of the future.*

Champion equity and justice. *Working hand-in-hand with communities, government and industry, we're driving forward new ideas that promote sustainable development and social justice – and amplifying the impact of our research to shape policy across the globe.*

Build a more sustainable future. *Manchester's vibrant research community brings together natural and social scientists, engineers and economists to tackle urgent environmental challenges. And our links with industry and government partners mean that we can roll-out brilliant new solutions quickly and affordably.*

1910



Manchester Museum is located on Oxford Road and recently underwent a £15 million redevelopment project – which includes new donor-funded galleries, the South Asia Gallery and Lee Kai Hung Chinese Culture Gallery.

Today



1960



The original Students' Union for the University existed on the site of the current Alan Gilbert Building and was constructed in 1895 to house the Men's Union and the Women's Union. In 1957, the two Unions merged and a replacement building was opened on Oxford Road. The present home of the Students' Union was designed by John Somerville Beaumont.

Today



1972



'The Old Quad', which sits at the centre of the University campus on Oxford Road, was completed in 1902 and designed by Alfred Waterhouse. This internal courtyard is surrounded by the Whitworth Hall, the John Owens Building, The Christie and Beyer Buildings.

Today



Donations today

Donations have clearly played a huge role in the history of The University of Manchester. What's covered in these pages barely scratches the surface of the impact that philanthropy has had on our community.

And even today, donations still have a massive impact on our environment – both physical and intellectual. This is perhaps most obvious in donors helping to fund our large scale campus developments such as The Alliance Manchester Business School, the First Light Pavilion at Jodrell Bank Observatory or the transformation of Manchester Museum and its dynamic new galleries: the South Asia Gallery and Lee Kai Hung Chinese Culture Gallery.

With support from a global community of donors, alumni and friends, The University of Manchester continues to shape a better world: from supporting students to delivering research that promotes equity and justice, accelerates a sustainable future, and enables good health for all.

Our global community

At Manchester we're proud to have the largest alumni community of any campus-based university in the UK, with more than 550,000 graduates in more than 190 countries around the world. Two of our most generous communities can be found in North America and Hong Kong. These are represented by two dedicated foundations:

North American Foundation for The University of Manchester (NAFUM)

Alumni based in the US help fund scholarships and research at The University of Manchester. Donations are made to the North American Foundation for The University of Manchester (NAFUM), an independent foundation that has supported the University's work since 1998. Thanks to NAFUM and its generous supporters, students from the US, Greater Manchester and developing countries have all been able to gain a Manchester education. What's more, alumni and donors based in the US have helped us make huge strides in solving global challenges such as cancer, Crohn's disease, poverty and inequality.

Hong Kong Foundation for The University of Manchester (HKFUM)

The Hong Kong Foundation (HKFUM) is an independent not for profit corporation made up of a volunteer board of successful and notable Hong Kong based alumni. The board generously dedicate their time, experience and funding to helping the University raise funds for various scholarship programmes that benefit many students across campus and for vital research programmes that seek answers to some of the biggest issues that face our global community.



Students of the Global Development Institute, 1958

Thank you

As we close this chapter in our philanthropic history, I am filled with profound gratitude for the incredible generosity and unwavering support of our donors. Your commitment to The University of Manchester has made an indelible mark on our community, empowering us to continue our mission of excellence in education, research, and social responsibility.

Through your philanthropy, we have been able to achieve remarkable milestones, from providing life-changing scholarships to fostering ground-breaking research that addresses some of the world's most pressing challenges. Your contributions have transformed the lives of our students and faculty and have strengthened the fabric of our institution, setting us up to thrive in our next century.

As we look ahead, we are inspired by the possibilities that lie before us. With your continued partnership, we are confident that we can build upon our successes and make a meaningful difference in the communities we serve.

On behalf of everyone at The University of Manchester, thank you for your support.

Colette Fagan

Professor Colette Fagan, FAcSS
Vice-President for Research and the President's executive academic lead for Campaign

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