



# Thank you for helping our students dream bigger and achieve more

## 2024 Scholarships Impact Report

Thank you for supporting students at UNSW Sydney to learn and grow – the impact of which will be felt for their lifetimes.

Donor-funded scholarships are about more than financial support – they give students the confidence, motivation and freedom to focus on what truly matters. They inspire students to believe in themselves and their potential to create meaningful change.

But the impact doesn't stop there. Your support fuels a ripple effect, nurturing a diverse generation of future leaders. Together, we are proving that education is the key to overcoming inequality and building a brighter, more inclusive world.

## Scholarships empower students and drive positive change in several ways



**Financial relief:** By easing the cost of tuition, housing and other expenses, scholarships make it easier for students to attend university.



**Access to education:** Funding opens doors for students from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds.



**Encouragement and motivation:** Scholarships boost confidence and inspire students to achieve their goals.



**Broader choices:** Financial support enables students to select programs that best align with their aspirations.



**Networking opportunities:** Many scholarships offer access to events, mentors and alumni networks, boosting chances of future success.



**Increased focus:** With reduced financial stress, students can concentrate on their studies and personal growth opportunities.



**Long-term benefits:** Scholarships increase job prospects and earning potential, creating a positive cycle of opportunity for future generations.



“Just over a year ago I was living in a country town dreaming of studying in a big city – now that dream is a reality. This scholarship has given me a huge boost in my new life.”

**Kinny, Chong Kin Nam**  
Scholarship recipient

# Your impact at a glance

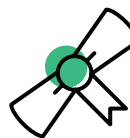
## Philanthropy in 2024



**\$10.8 million**  
raised to fund  
scholarships



**535**  
students supported to  
study at UNSW



**18**  
new scholarships  
established

## Why your support is so important

Scholarships not only foster excellence and leadership but also ensure that higher education is accessible to all, creating lasting benefits for society as a whole.

In Australia, young people from the lowest 25% socioeconomic bracket:

- Are up to twice as likely to be unemployed and not in training or education programs
- Are 11% less likely to complete Year 12
- Represent only 17% of the Australian undergraduate population

At UNSW, we're committed to achieving a Gateway equity target of 25% by 2027, meaning that one in four new domestic undergraduate students will come from low-socioeconomic backgrounds or communities underrepresented in higher education. This will help create a student body that reflects Australia's diversity, enriching the learning environment and driving innovation and economic advancement for all.

Your continued support ensures that students from all walks of life can pursue their ambitions, creating new opportunities for generations to come.



Thanks to your support, I've been able to pursue my goals and make a difference in the world. As part of my Engineering degree, I helped develop a program that assists in cancer diagnosis and treatment.

Having the scholarship also meant I had time to volunteer for UNSW's wellness and mental health program, working to destigmatise mental health and making students' days a little better.

I hope to transform the lives of others in the same way you have transformed mine.

**Sunny**, Bernard William Gould Memorial Scholarship recipient

# Lachlan

**Studying medicine is not just a dream for Lachlan, it's a duty to his community – made possible by a scholarship.**

I'm a proud Yuin man and descendant of a Stolen Child. I come from a hardworking family and am only the third of my immediate Indigenous family to study at a tertiary level. I worked really hard in high school and was thrilled to achieve the marks to be accepted into a Bachelor of Medical Studies/Doctor of Medicine degree at UNSW.

Growing up as a young Aboriginal person, I witnessed the devastating effects of poor health on my community, especially within my own family. This drove me to pursue medicine – because I have a deep responsibility to care for my people, both young and old. It's not just a choice; I feel it's my duty to make a difference in my community's health and future.

Transitioning from high school to university was challenging, especially because of the financial burden.

Receiving the scholarship has had a massive impact on my studies, allowing me to study with less stress about costs. I'm also better able to support my family, which, in essence, is supporting myself.

The scholarship is a constant source of motivation, too – knowing that someone else believes in me and my potential to make a meaningful impact on the world. I try to challenge myself academically while also making use of all the opportunities and resources available at UNSW.

Additionally, the scholarship provides a platform for me to be a leader within my family and community. I want to show other young Aboriginal people the importance of education and inspire them to help others and improve the world.

Your support has enabled me to begin a life centred around service and helping others – a long-held dream of mine. For that, I am truly grateful.

**Mr & Mrs Ngiam Tong Yuen Family  
Scholarship recipient**



Photo courtesy of Waverley College

**“The scholarship is a source of motivation – knowing that someone else believes in me and my potential to make a meaningful impact on the world.”**





## Stacey

**A scholarship helped Stacey make the leap from mechanical engineering to Paralympic science. Now she's empowering people around the world.**

In 2012, I was working as a mechanical engineer but finding it hard to feel passionate about engines, pumps and air conditioning units. Wanting to combine my interests in science and sport, I pursued a PhD project at UNSW focusing on the carbon fibre blades used by Paralympians. At the time, no mathematical models existed to explain their behaviour, so I developed both high-fidelity models to be used by research institutes and low-fidelity ones that are more accessible to people worldwide.

I'm so grateful to have received a scholarship to complete my PhD. It meant I could reduce my part-time work hours and only work in areas that contributed to my research — for example, as a casual academic and a fitness instructor.

It was a huge gamble to abandon my career as a mechanical engineer and go back to university, but I'm confident the gamble paid off. I now work as a patent examiner of medical devices. I love the fact that a patent is about providing commercial monopoly to an inventor in return for sharing knowledge with the rest of society.

I'm proud that the work I'm now doing has long-term impact on the betterment of humanity.

**Dr Tony Collings Memorial PhD Scholarship recipient**



"Our donors are more than supporters – they are changemakers. Their belief in the power of education is opening doors and creating life-changing opportunities that will last for generations."

**Lindsay Robinson**  
Chief Advancement Officer  
UNSW Sydney

#### **Acknowledgement of Country**

UNSW respectfully acknowledges the Bidjigal, Biripai, Dharug, Gadigal, Gumbaynggirr, Ngunnawal and Wiradjuri peoples, on whose unceded lands we are privileged to learn, teach and work. We honour the Elders of these Nations, as well as broader Nations that we walk together with, past and present, and acknowledge their ongoing connection to culture, community and Country.

“Thank you for believing that we can do it, even though we might not be from a privileged background. Thank you for having faith that we can get through.

**Karie**

I really admire and am inspired by people who invest not just in education but also in people's potential. That's something I hope to bring forward in my life, in my career.

**Emily**

My parents are very proud of me receiving the scholarship. Because they didn't finish high school, they've always wanted me to get the education they didn't get.

**Anita**

**For more information, please contact:**

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