

Magnus Magnusson Awards 2024



Helping Glasgow Caledonian students realise their dreams

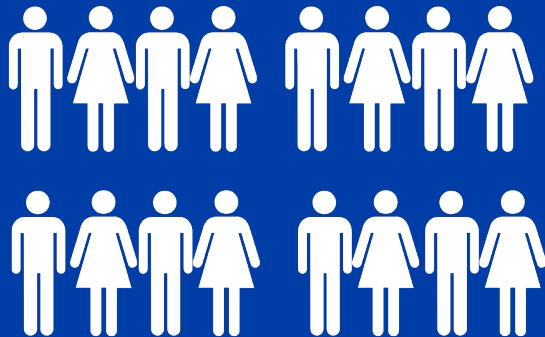
 Green Gown
Awards 2023

WINNER

of the 2023 UK & Ireland Green Gown Awards



38 countries



150 Students

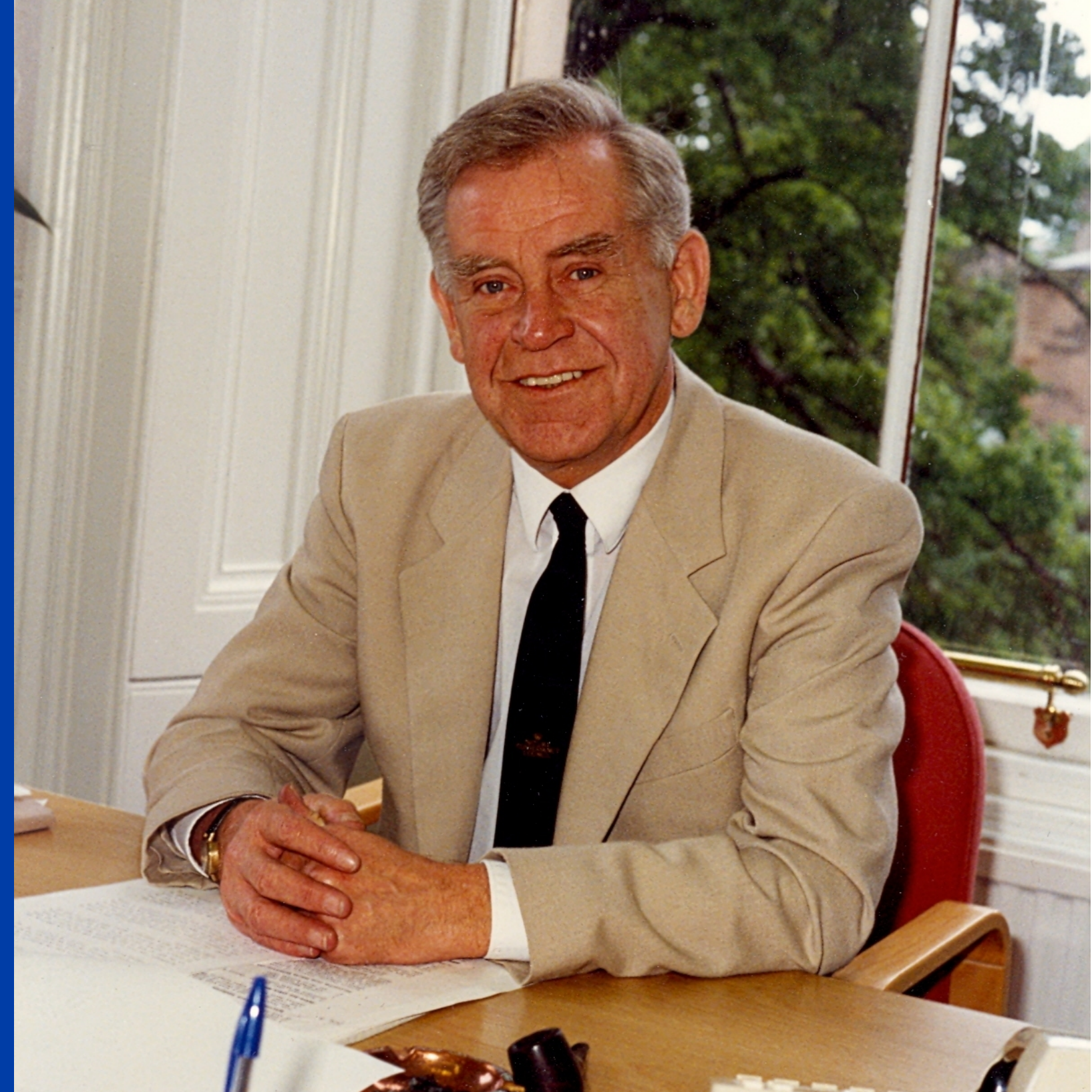


£600,000

Since its inception in 2007, the Magnusson Awards have empowered students at Glasgow Caledonian University to pursue their dreams, while simultaneously making a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals worldwide and within their local communities.

The Magnusson Fund was established by Glasgow Caledonian University in memory of our esteemed late Chancellor, Magnus Magnusson KBE —television presenter, journalist, writer, historian, proud Icelander and “lad o’pairts”. With the help of generous contributions from our donors, students at the University are annually invited to compete for Magnusson Awards of up to £5,000 to fuel their dreams and aspirations. Under the guidance of Magnusson Fund Honorary President, Dr.Sally Magnusson MBE FRSE, a panel of donors assess project proposals, spanning from international volunteerism to local community initiatives or entrepreneurial ventures. What distinguishes these Awards is the celebration of creativity—no idea is out of bounds! We look forward to extending this opportunity to even more talented students in the years ahead, helping them to realise their dreams for the Common Good.

Dr.Sally Magnusson MBE FRSE, a distinguished journalist and broadcaster and an honorary graduate of Glasgow Caledonian University, has been instrumental in steering the Magnusson Awards from the beginning. Collaborating closely with the University, she played a pivotal role in establishing the Awards in honour of her late father. Each year, she leads the Awards selection panel, ensuring that her father's fervour for learning and seizing life's opportunities is reflected in the chosen recipients. With the Awards offering a potentially transformative experience for students and facing considerable demand, the process of selecting recipients is both rigorous and gratifying.





Professor Steve Decent

Principal and Vice-Chancellor
Glasgow Caledonian University

It is with great pleasure I welcome you all to Glasgow Caledonian tonight for the 2024 Magnusson Awards. The Awards are a highlight in the University calendar and I am proud to hear of so many students who have had the enthusiasm and drive to deliver ambitious and life-changing projects over the years, all made possible by the donors who give so generously to the Magnusson Fund.

The Magnusson Awards were rightfully recognised as a leading initiative at the UK and Ireland Green Gown Awards in November last year, when the University was announced as the winner of the Benefitting Society Award. This prestigious honour emphasises the University's dedication to civic engagement and empowering its students to make a positive change in society. As Principal of Glasgow Caledonian, I am keen to encourage talent, ambition and social responsibility as shown by all those who applied for an Award.

This event, which we are delighted to host for the winners, their families and guests, recognises the positive and long-lasting impact that our students have on our communities, and also celebrates our role as a civic university, delivering on our Common Good mission.

Tonight, we congratulate our 2024 winners and take inspiration from students who embody the University's mission, for the Common Good. We wish them every success with their endeavours.

Thank you to our donors whose wonderful generosity makes all of this possible, and Dr Sally Magnusson whose continued commitment and contribution to the Magnusson Awards is truly appreciated by the Glasgow Caledonian community.



Dr Sally Magnusson MBE FRSE
Honorary President
Magnus Magnusson Fellowship

"It is always a true joy for me to be part of the annual Magnus Magnusson Awards at Glasgow Caledonian University. I know that my father really valued his role as Chancellor of the University and genuinely believed in developing the full potential and talent of each student. Today he would be amazed at the achievements made possible by these Awards!

It is a challenge every year, as part of the Magnusson judging panel, to select our winners from the shortlist of inspirational applications. The level of thought, attention to detail, enthusiasm and determination shown by our students is always very impressive, and there is an incredible breadth of subject matter. Seeing a project come to life through the granting of a Magnusson Award, as well as the positive impact on a community and also on the winner, is an extremely uplifting and powerful aspect of this initiative.

Since the Awards began in 2007, it is astonishing to know that 150 Glasgow Caledonian students have been able to chase their dreams and fulfil their ambitions for the Common Good, at home and abroad. The University's continued support of the Magnusson Awards is hugely important, and I'm glad that its significance has been recognised at the UK and Ireland Green Gown Awards in the Benefitting Society category. Thank you to the Magnusson Fund donors who give so generously to help these students pursue their goals and ambitions.

There are some exceptional and innovative plans among the 2024 winners, and I am certain that they will put their Awards to good use in accomplishing their aims. I wish them luck in delivering their projects and look forward to hearing about their endeavours in the coming months."



2024 Magnusson Award Winners





Serign Sanneh

2024 Mike Smith Magnusson Award winner

Serign will use his Award to create a music business podcast in English, Mandinka and Wolof languages, and deliver workshops for creative artists in The Gambia and across Africa.

"I am elated to be one of this year's Magnusson Award recipients. It is truly humbling to be recognised. Winning this Award has validated many of the ideas in my head, and it will enable me to use my music business skills to help creatives in Africa to protect and monetise their creations. The impact of the workshops and educational materials I intend to produce will be felt long after the project has finished. This amazing opportunity will be a springboard to realising my career aspirations."



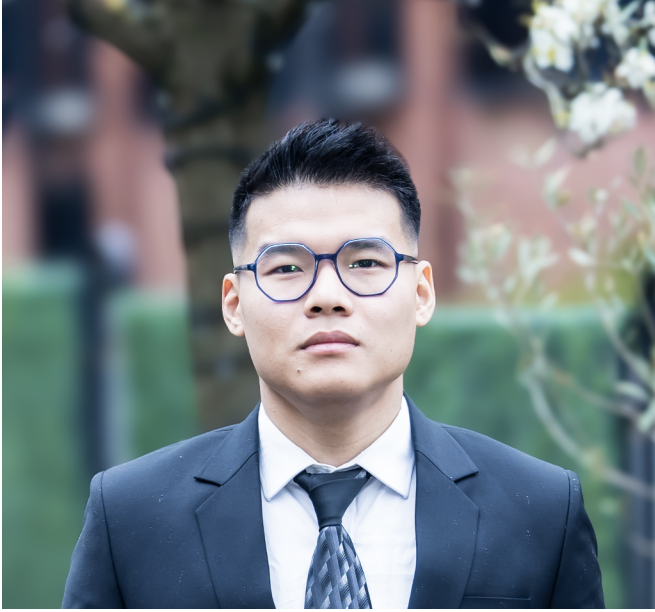
Emily Whyte

2024 Sir Alex Ferguson Magnusson Award winner

Emily will use her Award to create a film/ theatre production in Scotland, taking research from 'page to stage' so audiences can learn from the stories of and issues affecting care experienced young people.

"I am incredibly grateful to have received the Award. With the funding I will be filming and disseminating a staged reading of a play script that I have co-written with research participants who are care experienced. It is a dream come true to be able to use my passion for theatre and research to 'bring to life' voices that are seldom heard, and work towards changes that can be made in the care system. The film will become an inter-professional teaching resource that can be used across several practices that include social care, health and education."

"I



Nima Norbu Sherpa

2024 Dorothy & George Irving Magnusson Award winner

Nima's Award will enable him to participate in a course at Oxford University which focuses on unlocking the early detection of breast cancer, with a view to disseminating information for the greater good.

"I am deeply honoured to receive the Dorothy & George Irving Award. This esteemed accolade not only affirms my dedication to research but also allows me to enhance my expertise. I will have the opportunity to enrol in a three-day course organised by the Department of Psychiatry at Oxford University, which will be an enlightening endeavour, permitting me to explore sophisticated research techniques and make a more substantial contribution to my discipline of Psychology and Radiography. I am profoundly thankful for this chance to broaden my perspectives and follow my zeal for learning."



Charunika Arambegdara

2024 Nicol Family Magnusson Award winner

Charunika will deliver an educational project over three months at primary school in Sri Lanka via reading and arithmetic after-school workshops. She will also deliver educational materials to children whose education has suffered as a result of deprivation and disruption due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"I am honoured to have been selected as the winner of this year's Nicol Family Magnusson Award. This Award is a confidence boost for me. It will help close the learning and attainment gaps for primary school pupils in Sri Lanka who have suffered due to the pandemic and its aftermath, and socio-economic deprivation. It will provide me with invaluable resources to create a grassroots impact for young children whose quality of education will improve, and for my community which is currently in economic crisis."



James McLeavy

2024 Sir Alex Ferguson Magnusson Award winner

James will use his Award to travel to Vietnam and use his skills as a volunteer at a learning centre in Ho Chi Minh City. He will work with children with disabilities, providing them with educational and health materials to help deliver an enhanced learning experience.

"I want to express my deepest gratitude to the Panel of the Magnusson Fund for selecting me for this generous Award for my project supporting children with disabilities in Vietnam. With your support I can provide inclusive teaching and purchase essential supplies for their health and education. Together we can contribute meaningfully to this community, empowering these children to achieve their full potential."

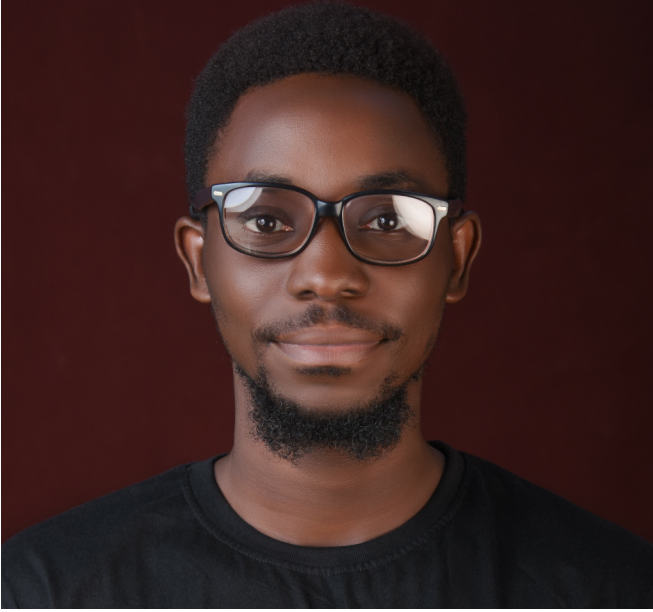


Desmond Areghan

2024 Santander Universities Magnusson Award winner

Desmond will train community health workers to identify early signs of common eye diseases, and set up eye units in two health care centres in a disadvantaged community in Nigeria.

"This Award is very relevant because it will make history by bringing hope to people regarding their eyesight. This Award means fulfilment, as I am aware that fulfilment in life does not come from an abundance of material possessions but from how difference you can make to better the lives of others. It has been said that 'next to life is sight'. This Award will pattern my life in the direction that I want it to go - showing kindness, shining the light for everyone to see!"



Mayokun Iyaomolere

2024 GCU Magnusson Award winner

Mayokun will develop and deepen the work of 'Plogging Nigeria' (plogging: picking up litter whilst jogging) via a network of universities in Nigeria, and organise plogging events in Glasgow, to promote a culture of responsible waste management and physical fitness.

"Waking up to the email about winning this Award gave me chills colder than the Glasgow weather! Thank you, I am deeply grateful for it. The Magnusson Award will send me about two years further into my plans for leading further expansion of plogging in Nigeria. I am really excited by the impact I will make with young people, for the environment. I am also particularly looking forward to a part of my project that involves hosting a plog in Glasgow. Beyond me, this is a win for the planet. Thanks to the Magnusson Fund, the donors and GCU, the world is about to get cleaner!"



Robbie McGregor, TJ Scott and team

2024 GCU Magnusson Award winner

The Award will help Robbie, TJ and their team of GCU students design, build and race a formula style race car in the annual Formula Student Competition, which represents one of the most established, educational, engineering competitions in Europe.

Robbie: "I am incredibly happy and grateful on behalf of the entire team to receive a Magnusson Award this year. GCU Racing being awarded this will certainly help our journey to Formula Student where we can put GCU on the map compared to the rest of the UK and further beyond, all whilst helping to develop students."

TJ: "Receiving this Award is a fantastic outcome for all of us at the Formula Student team. This Award will allow us to produce a better, more technically advanced car and help us as a team achieve the life changing opportunities that come with Formula Student, where students from all departments can present themselves to employers at the highest level of engineering, electronics and international business institutes."



In conversation with past winners

We are delighted to welcome three of our past winners to the Magnusson Awards this evening, Erica, Andrew and Rachel, who will all share some thoughts on the positive impact their Awards have had on them and the lives of others.



Erica Charles

Magnusson Award winner 2023

Erica received her Magnusson Award in 2023, which enabled her to travel to Kenya to use her teaching and project management skills as a volunteer with the charity One to One, which has developed a residential facility and schools for vulnerable children in a local community.

“Working with the team at One by One International, was both inspiring and challenging. The simple act of spending time with children who have experienced some of the toughest circumstances, and seeing their appreciation and joy, was so rewarding. Giving my time to such an impactful cause, has been one of the most humbling experiences of my life.”





Andrew Wilson

Magnusson Award winner 2015

Andrew's Magnusson Award helped him to travel to Geneva to embark on a six month unpaid internship with the United Nations Environmental Programme, which is responsible for addressing environmental problems at both global and regional levels, bringing issues to the attention of governments and the international community.

Upon completing his internship Andrew said, "Without a doubt, my time in Geneva was life-changing. The Magnusson Award provided me with an opportunity to expand my learning and even more exciting than this was the fact that I was given the opportunity to contribute to the work output of a globally recognised organisation of which I've always dreamed of working for. It has reaffirmed my drive to become a key player in the fight against climate change."

Rachel Mair

Magnusson Award winner 2023

Rachel, an aspiring football coach, was able to undertake the pathway to and pass her UEFA B Licence with her Magnusson Award. She is now an Academy Coach at Glasgow City Football Club.

"The Magnusson Award enabled me to further progress in my football coaching career, as well as opening doors and opportunities within the Scottish Women's Football environment. Due to attaining my UEFA B Licence, I was able to coach at Heart of Midlothian Football Club, an elite performance football academy, who drive for success in both player and coach development. I have also been able to create a footballing network, which has given me numerous opportunities and learning experiences. As a young female coach, I still have a lot to learn in the football environment, and the Magnusson Award has pushed me one step forward in reaching my dreams."



The Glasgow Caledonian University Foundation

Glasgow Caledonian University Foundation is dedicated to raising funds to help transform lives through education. To date the Foundation has raised almost £11.5 million, benefitting thousands of students across various educational pathways. The primary focus of our funding is on widening access initiatives, striving to make educational opportunities available to all, regardless of background. Our Founding Donor, Sir Alex Ferguson CBE, was motivated to establish a scholarship and awards fund, to ensure that talented students could access a variety of opportunities regardless of personal circumstances. To date, Sir Alex has generously donated over £1 million to this cause.

Over £2 million has been raised to support the University's outreach activities, including our award-winning Caledonian Club where we seek to raise aspirations, build key life skills and increase articulation into higher education. Additionally, our Common Good Campaign, launched amid

the pandemic, rallied support to help students facing the greatest challenges. This encompassed financial and well-being assistance, and avenues for employability through our award-winning MINT (Mentoring, Internships, Networking and Talks) programme.

As the University for the Common Good, we draw constant inspiration from the passion, determination, and societal aspirations of our students. Equally inspiring are our donors, whose generous contributions propel our mission forward, fostering a culture of success among our students.



Sir Alex Ferguson CBE, Founding Donor and GCU honorary graduate

"As founding donor of the GCU Foundation, I've had the chance to meet so many inspiring students here at Glasgow Caledonian, some from very challenging backgrounds. It's been incredibly rewarding for me to see that my support has helped them to reach their full potential and achieve their goals in life. As I have always said - if you provide opportunities to young people you will be amazed at what they can achieve."

Glasgow Caledonian offers a variety of awards that provide life-changing opportunities and experiences – from support with accessing education to recognising specific achievements, from helping develop business ideas to funding international study experiences, our awards help students to realise their potential and fulfil their ambitions.

David, Sir Alex Ferguson Scholarship beneficiary

“The Scholarship has allowed me to take time to focus on myself, my studies and my own life. Other than giving a sense of appreciation, the award has imbued me with a feeling like someone cares about my education. I will never forget the feeling that I've received from Sir Alex's investment in me and the support that the scholarship team has given me throughout my time at the University.”



Emily, Travel Award recipient

“I was able to undertake an international placement in Tanzania, working in a hospital and school, to understand how malnutrition affects the population there. My experience on placement has promoted my use of creative thinking and I am now inspired to pursue a dietetic career in paediatrics. My knowledge of nutrition has increased multifold and I have more of an understanding of how governments affect nutrition as a social issue. I have had a great experience learning and living in a different culture and I am excited to relay what I have learned to my classmates and implement this into my studies.”



Celebrating 17 years of the Magnusson Fund

Each year we are deeply inspired by the ingenuity and aspirations of our exceptional students. Witnessing their skills and confidence flourish as they spearhead projects that impact communities locally, and around the globe, is truly rewarding. None of these transformative experiences would be achievable without the unwavering commitment and generosity of our remarkable donors. Your support provides the necessary financial backing for these projects, and also motivates our Award winners to strive for excellence and effect real change. Thank you!

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Professor George and Dorothy Irving

"We had the great pleasure of knowing Magnus Magnusson when he was Chancellor of the University. He was truly inspirational, innovative and committed to the Common Good. The founding of the Magnusson Awards is a very fitting tribute to him. We have supported the Awards from the beginning and have attended every Awards ceremony since. We have always been impressed by the enthusiasm of the Award winners and the wide range of initiatives undertaken. To this year's equally impressive Award recipients - congratulations. We know you will benefit greatly from experiences gained which will enhance your future careers and improve the lives of many. You have much to contribute. Follow your dreams."



"The Nicol family takes immense pride in supporting the Magnusson Awards, recognising the profound impact they have on students' lives. The Awards provide the means to turn dreams - be they of creative endeavours or humanitarian missions - into tangible realities and it is wonderful to witness these students leaving an indelible mark on the world around them with an experience that they will remember forever."

David Nicol, on behalf of the Nicol family.

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The University and the Magnusson family would like to warmly thank the following individuals, companies and trusts for their generosity in supporting the Magnus Magnusson Fund.

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