

First Generation

A year of impact
2022/23

*"Thank you for all you have done to give
students like me amazing opportunities."*

Daniel, BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science, 1st Year





"I think just knowing that the scholarship is here to support me in my studies not just financially but on a personal level is really valuable and I appreciate it so much."

Monica, BA (Hons) Graphic Design, 1st Year



"It means a lot to have the support of the scholarship in aiding my future and I am very grateful to have been given the opportunity."

Dhanish, BSc (Hons) Cyber Security, 1st Year

Thank you

Your support makes the First Generation Scholarship Programme possible

Without your donation we would not have been able to welcome 164 students from across the North West to start their journey at Manchester Metropolitan University this year. Thank you.

The First Generation Programme is life changing for the students it supports. We work with many scholars years before they even step onto campus. This year, after broadening the reach of the Programme further, we have worked with more colleges and schools across the North West than ever before in order to encourage talented young people from underrepresented backgrounds to consider university. Many of these young people are from less privileged areas where funding isn't the only barrier to education. They may be the first in their family looking to go to university, they could be a young carer or they simply do not believe that higher education is a viable option for them.

By offering a complete student journey of support, the First Generation Scholarship Programme makes university possible and, once at Manchester Met, we're with them every step of the way.

It is thanks to your generosity that we're able to work so closely with the First Generation Scholars. As well as receiving their scholarship funding, students have access to tailored pastoral support, mentors, and skills development sessions. They are also introduced to other scholars which many say is one of the most important aspects of the Programme.

Thank you once again for supporting the First Generation Scholarship Programme and for joining us in our campaign to transform 1,000 lives.

In our scholars' words

Dear Donors

My name is Caley. I am a first year, First Generation Scholarship student at Manchester Metropolitan University studying Human Biosciences. My scholarship was funded by your donations. So, on behalf of all of my fellow First Generation Scholars, I wanted to write and thank you.

When I was invited to compose this letter, I looked in the dictionary to find out the exact meaning of the word 'philanthropy' – it is "the desire to promote the welfare of others, expressed especially by the generous donation of money to good causes" – I'd like to tell you my story of how philanthropy and your goodwill has changed my life.

It starts with being brought up in a working-class family. At 16, I had to go out, get a job and pay rent to provide a much-needed income for my family. A-levels were never on the cards for me. But two years ago, aged 33 and with a daughter, I started my journey. It took a global pandemic to give me the courage to make the first move in changing my career. I made the brave step of emptying my savings and started studying home A-levels alongside a Medical Science Diploma.

The next step was to choose a university, so I attended a Manchester Met Open Day. It was during the Open Day that I met with the First Generation Scholarship Ambassadors. They tried to tell me I was a scholarship candidate, but I would not believe them. Opportunities like this do not happen to people like me. I went home that day and put Manchester Met as my first choice on the UCAS form. My partner encouraged me to apply for the Scholarship too, even though I thought it would waste everyone's time. I thought I'd be lucky to secure a place at university, let alone a scholarship! Two weeks later, I received an email saying I had been chosen for a First Generation Scholarship. Me, a mature student from a council estate. It blew me away.

The Scholarship Programme undoubtedly enriches the lives of students. My scholarship has given me the tools I need to develop transferable skills and has equipped me with the knowledge to achieve first class marks. My experience has also influenced my own family. My 13 year old daughter has already chosen her subject options to reflect her long term plan of going to university. A few years ago, that was never an option for her. You have helped create a domino effect, changing the dynamic of my family for generations.

I want to express my immense gratitude and appreciation. I would not be where I am today without your generosity. Your support is vital to students like me who need these life changing opportunities to succeed in gaining not just a degree, but the skills that enable us to reach our full potential – you have given me this through my scholarship at Manchester Met.

In the simplest expression there is, from all of the First Generation Scholars – a very heartfelt thank you.

Caley

BSc (Hons) Human Biosciences
1st Year

Hear Caley's journey **here** 





Graduating Scholars of 2023

This year 115 First Generation Scholars from 24 different departments will be graduating, taking their place in the magnificent Bridgewater Hall, ready to celebrate all of their achievements and hard work. For many, the idea of a graduation ceremony was unthinkable before joining the award-winning Scholarship Programme, but thanks to the generous support of donors, alumni and friends, these scholars proudly join our community of 340,000 alumni in 170 countries, looking forward to embarking on their chosen careers or going onto postgraduate study. The success of First Generation is only possible thanks to your generous support and involvement.

“I just want to thank everyone who contributed to First Generation. This programme has positively impacted my life by helping me establish a professional network, refining my soft skills and indirectly landing me two graduate job offers!”

Zohaib, BSc (Hons) Accounting and Finance, 2023

“Being the first and only person in my family to attend university, I genuinely wouldn’t have made it without the support of the Programme”

Leah, BSc (Hons) Forensic Psychology, 2023



“The First Generation Programme gave me the confidence and preparation I needed to attend university. It has also prepared me for my future by giving me the opportunity to attend workshops and events. Currently, I have completed my undergraduate course and in the following week, I will be starting my internship at the University as part of the Admissions team. I hope to finish this internship and potentially get a full time job while studying for my Masters. Thank you very much for all the support!”

Yaroslav (Yarik), BA (Hons) Business Management, 2023

“I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to the donors who support the First Generation Programme. The financial support has allowed me to access resources to facilitate my studies, and the relationships I have developed with staff and fellow scholars has given me a valuable supportive network at university. Your generosity has been a huge support to my educational endeavours and has fuelled my ambitions. I am excited to say that I have a graduate scheme lined up with a Big 4 accountancy practice next and feel more prepared for this next step.”

Sumayyah, BSc (Hon) Accounting and Finance with Placement, 2023

The First Generation journey so far...

591

First Generation Scholarships awarded since 2018.

70%

We're proud to champion equality, diversity and inclusion – 70% of all First Generation Scholars identify as being from a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic background and a further 15% identify as having a disability.



PROGRESSION SUCCESS

Expanding our reach – this year we're proud to have worked with more schools and colleges across the North West than ever before.

“Universities change lives. They create the active citizens of the future. But too often they remain out of reach for many young people. First Generation tackles the full range of challenges that young people from the North West, from families with no history of higher education, may face.”

Professor Malcolm Press CBE,
Vice-Chancellor

Development and Alumni Relations
Manchester Metropolitan University
3rd Floor
6 Great Marlborough Street
Manchester
M1 5AL
+44 (0)161 247 2158
giving@mmu.ac.uk

Manchester Metropolitan University has exempt charitable status. HMRC No. EW37493

1ST
GENERATION
CAMPAIGN