

# How you're shaping the future

Thank you for supporting King's

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## Thank you

#### Dear alumni, members of our King's community and friends,



As my first year at King's draws to a close, I would like to say a big thank you for all your support. It has been an eventful year at King's College London, filled with many celebrations, astonishing achievements and some surprises. Thanks to your remarkable resilience, passion and commitment, we can continue to support our students, drive forward our research and serve our local and global communities.

One of the highlights of my role as Principal is hearing about the many ways that our former students are making the world a better place. This summer, I had the privilege of

attending our Distinguished Alumni Awards, where I met some extraordinary King's alumni, including the mastermind developer behind the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and the current president of the Law Society, who is the first person of colour to hold this position in its 200-year history. After a challenging couple of years, it was wonderful to be able to get together in person and celebrate examples of our inspirational alumni who are going forth to make a real and lasting difference in the world.

Our alumni, students and staff come from every community from every corner of the world. As a diverse institution based in the heart of London, we are in an ideal position to challenge inequality and find inventive solutions to global issues. From innovations in healthcare to our scholarship programmes and world-leading research, I'm extremely proud of everything we have achieved.

Over the past few years, our dedicated researchers have been working hard to tackle pressing global challenges. This includes a landmark six-year study into depression, epilepsy and multiple sclerosis that explores how smartphones and wearable technology can transform how we diagnose and manage these illnesses.

We're also helping our students to develop the skills they need to contribute to society and, in doing so, find their passion, purpose and direction in life. Programmes like K+, the Civic Leadership Academy and the Sanctuary Hub provide vital financial and academic support to talented young people who may not be able to access the same opportunities as some of their peers. You can read more about these innovative programmes and how they've helped exceptional students like Alex, Liam, Prina and Mariana.

I am extremely thankful to everyone who has helped to make these projects possible. With your ongoing support and feedback, I believe we can continue developing more of these initiatives, generating knowledge with purpose, and shaping future leaders and innovators.

With my best wishes,

#### Professor Shitij Kapur

President & Principal, King's College London

## THE ACADEMIC YEAR IN REVIEW 2021-22



**Theresa May & Julia Gillard** in conversation for International Women's Day, hosted by King's Global Institute for Women's Leadership in March 2022.



**King's Maths School** named Best State Sixth Form College of the Decade by the Sunday Times Schools Guide.



**Extended Medical Degree Programme (EMDP)** celebrated its 20th anniversary. With over 600 doctors graduating through the programme, we are proud that the EMDP is recognised today as the UK's flagship initiative for widening access to the medical professions.



**The Lau China Institute** celebrated its 10th anniversary. The Institute closed its inaugural China Week programme with an event celebrating the decade.



**For King's Global Day of Giving**, alumni raised an incredible £60,000 this year in just 48 hours! This digital fundraising campaign raises muchneeded support not only for scholarships and bursaries for the next generation of bright students, but also for innovative research that could change the world.



King's acted rapidly to help students and staff displaced by Ukraine, forming a partnership with Citizens UK that will help to bring Ukrainians to Britain as part of the Homes for Ukraine scheme. Our Sanctuary Programme is also providing support to enable refugee students to continue their studies.



#### **Two staff and 10 alumni** were honoured in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2022. Among the recipients were two alumni knighted for their service to the medical field, both nationally and internationally.



**War Studies at 60**. The Department of War Studies celebrated its 60th anniversary this year. Since the department's establishment in 1962, it has grown from a handful of PhD students and one MA programme to a large and vibrant community of 1,500 students.



#### **King's Business School**

celebrated its 5th year as a King's faculty. The School is now one of the largest providers of undergraduate management teaching in London. Over 1,000 students are registered on master's degrees, and there is a growing number of research students.



#### **King's India Institute** celebrated its 10th anniversary. The Institute has seen more than 200 students graduate from its master's and PhD programmes. It has also attracted over £2.6 million in research grants and fellowships.



The Department of Engineering celebrated its first year back at King's. The centre of King's engineering is at the heart of the Strand Campus, where the refurbished historic Quad building will house stateof-the-art facilities.



**King's continued to move up** the Research Excellence Framework rankings. We were rated 6th in the country for research power in 2021.

## **Students at King's**

We believe that every student should have the opportunity to receive a first-class education. Unfortunately, too many miss out because they do not have the financial means or the support networks around them to attend university.

Thanks to your amazing generosity and that of so many in our alumni community, we have been able to even the playing field for hundreds of students this year. We've done this by providing vital financial support through scholarships and bursaries for those facing financial hardship, by giving teenagers from disadvantaged backgrounds the confidence and skillset to apply to a world-leading university such as King's, and by shaping the future for ambitious students through valuable work experience opportunities that can be so vital to their development and future careers. Hear from Alex, Mariana, Prina and Liam about what your generosity has meant to them.

## **Student Hardship Fund**



Enabling every bright student the opportunity to achieve their full potential

The past few years have been incredibly tough for everyone due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and just as things have started to turn around, we've been hit by the worst cost-of-living crisis since the early 1980s.

The impact is being felt across society, but, as is so often the case, it's those from disadvantaged backgrounds who are disproportionately affected. There are many students who are already struggling financially due to personal circumstances and/or the impact of COVID-19, but this number is increasing with the cost-of-living crisis as students find themselves squeezed even further, with some facing the very real dilemma of how to continue funding their studies.

The need to support students facing financial hardship has never been greater. Thanks to the continuing generosity of our alumni community, King's is able to provide vital financial support through scholarships, bursaries and the Hardship Fund.



#### Supporting students facing financial hardship



'Without any financial support from the Hardship Fund, I wouldn't have been able to afford accommodation in London or the transport costs to reach my placement every week. I'm beyond grateful that the generous donations provided to me in the last couple of years have allowed me to continue to pursue my goal of becoming a doctor. Thank you to all the kind alumni who have allowed me to keep following my dream. There are no words that could describe how thankful I truly am.' *Alex, medical student* 



#### 'I've loved every moment of my education

**at King's.** The level of tuition and access to materials is the best I've ever experienced. To those alumni who have donated to the Hardship Fund, please take heart that your support is helping ordinary people access learning that enables them to quantum leap in their personal and professional lives – for the betterment of themselves and all those they support.'

Student recipient of King's Hardship Fund

#### 'When I found out that I was successful in my application, I was over the moon! I didn't need to worry about money in my master's year anymore... Now I am able to enjoy my programme and learn everything I came here for. It was very special. I felt supported and valued by King's as an international student. To all the people who have donated to the Hardship Fund, THANK YOU! You are helping students all over the world to pursue their dreams at King's.'

Mariana, MSc Human Resource Management & Organisational Analysis



## Kingsmakers & Kingsmaker Guild

#### Focus on: Our Kingsmakers

Every September, a new cohort of students start their journey at King's, many of whom will require support to ensure they can live up to their full potential at university. Unfortunately, with the long-term impact of COVID-19 and now the cost-of-living crisis, the number of students requiring this support is rising. Student support funding is a vital resource for so many students and can be the difference between having, or not having, the opportunity to study for a degree. To be able to provide this support year on year, we rely on regular funding; it's thanks to a special group of donors called the Kingsmakers that this is possible. By receiving a regular gift – whether that is every month, every guarter or every year - our teams at King's are able to plan ahead and recruit for programmes like the Civic Leadership Academy or K+ and provide funding for scholarships and bursaries. Thank you to all our Kingsmakers for the crucial part you continue to play in making these programmes possible!

If you are interested in finding out more about the Kingsmakers or the Kingsmaker Guild, and how to join, please contact Ruthy Stevenson by emailing **giving@kcl.ac.uk** 

#### There has never been a tougher time for students.

The burden of fees, cost of living in London, academic pressure on top of the pandemic and online lectures has created all sorts of problems... As a scientist, I feel it's also essential that funds are available for vital research that might not be possible otherwise. This help can fund scholarships, create new student facilities or courses, and much more.' *Sue Searle, King's alumna and donor* 

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#### Focus on: The Kingsmaker Guild

The Kingsmaker Guild is a membership group for our most dedicated alumni who are able to make more substantial commitments to student support every year. Together, they form the backbone of many of the programmes that make studying at King's accessible to the brightest students from all backgrounds. In the last two years alone, they have touched the lives of hundreds of students and provided them with extra development opportunities. Thank you to each and every one of you for your ongoing commitment and generosity.



#### Shaping the future for students like Prina

#### 'Hi! My name is Prina and I am in Year 12. I am currently doing my A-Levels in French, Geography and Politics. They are all super interesting and fun!

As part of an extracurricular activity, I recently was offered a place on K+. This is an 18-month programme that is run by King's College London, which enables A-Level students to learn all about the university and helps them with university applications, personal statements and more! There are a few perks too. For example, if you successfully complete this programme, you get a £1,000 bursary if you apply for King's College London.

I highly recommend K+ to anyone who is interested in doing it in the future. I joined the History & Politics stream and I have learned many valuable skills – from being supported through the UCAS application process to the different techniques of notetaking. The standard of lectures that we can attend is extremely high. I particularly enjoyed the lectures on neoliberalism and on the philosophy of time.

I cannot wait for the K+ Spotlight Summer School, as I will have a chance to interact with all my friends that I have made on this programme, and I will have an opportunity to explore the subject of history and politics more in depth through an academic assignment. I have really enjoyed being a part of K+!' *Prina, Year 12 student on the K+ programme, History & Politics stream* 

Thank you to all our donors who have contributed towards student support this year. All gifts help us to continue programmes such as K+, opening the doors for many bright students who otherwise may not have the confidence or opportunity to apply to a worldleading university.

## **Civil Leadership Academy**



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#### Building the change-makers of tomorrow

King's is committed to making the world a better place, and a crucial way we can achieve this is by recognising talent and removing barriers to realising its potential. It is through the incredible diversity of our student population that we can go out into the world in service of its communities.

The Civic Leadership Academy (CLA) helps to make this a reality by providing vital work experience to students who may otherwise miss out on unpaid opportunities.

Over the last year, second-year students enrolled in the CLA have been working with charities such as Opening Doors and the Migration Museum to address some of London's most complex needs while accessing work experience and mentorship they may not otherwise have had, boosting their self-confidence, leadership and networking skills.

Thanks to your support, the CLA is able to help students to build on their skills, create real change in their communities and make the most of their university experience.



## **Research at King's**

As the home of world-leading research, King's is proud to share the positive impact it has on the world's greatest challenges while striving to benefit society.

Our research spans a wide range of fields, from working to save and improve lives to looking for ways to enhance the economy. We advance discussion and debate, influence policy and shape the cultural landscape. These projects would not be possible without additional funding from generous alumni and donors like you. You can read about some of the inspiring research projects from the last year in the following highlights.



#### Paving the way for future research

In the last year, gifts from our generous alumni and supporter community have helped King's to reimagine the new Department of Engineering building spaces.

Thanks to your support, we're creating brand-new research areas, including Maker Spaces, where students and researchers can learn, develop and test new technologies. And, with 100 per cent of King's engineering research reported to be 'world-leading' or 'internationally excellent' in the latest Research Excellence Framework results, we are ideally placed to find novel solutions.

Philanthropy has also provided vital cutting-edge equipment for the new Centre for Engineering a Sustainable Future. Sustainability is the golden thread running through King's engineering research, and we're excited about how these research activities will make people's lives greener, easier and safer – for example, by scaling food protein technology to help feed the world. Your support is accelerating the research programmes that could transform the most pressing sustainability challenges facing global communities.



Artist's impression of how a maker space may look.



KING'S IS RATED IN THE COUNTRY For research power in the 2021 Ref Rankings.

## King's expertise on the war in Ukraine shared around the world

Since the war in Ukraine broke out, researchers and academics from King's have been using their expertise to inform discussion and debate around the war and its far-reaching consequences.

Our experts have seen their work reach audiences far and wide – from Europe to the US and Australia.

The Ukraine Explained series contains pieces covering a wide range of topics, with everything from what the EU and international community could be doing, to how the war is being perceived in Russia, the use of social media in the war, and the potential risk from biological or chemical weapons.



#### Driving the response to COVID-19 through the COVID-19 Symptom Study app

Throughout the pandemic, King's has been at the forefront of COVID-19 research. The ZOE COVID Symptom Study app was launched right at the beginning of the outbreak. With over four million users, the app became the world's largest ongoing study into the virus.

The study has helped shape health policy, flagging key symptoms of the virus – such as loss of taste and smell – and highlighting how early symptoms may differ among age groups. The app also helped to predict local hotspots, such as Leicester in the second wave.

While COVID-19 is not as prominent as it was, the app continues to analyse data in an ever-increasing vaccinated population, with a focus on long COVID. King's has also collaborated with other institutions to identify the key symptoms of long COVID, focusing on future research. This will help accelerate the development of evidencebased treatments for this major healthcare challenge.



'I'm incredibly proud of everything that the teams at ZOE and King's College London have achieved. Thanks to the 4.7 million app users, we've published 50 scientific papers, often uncovering key findings around symptoms and vaccines before anyone else. We're committed to using what we learnt from COVID to tackle global health issues.' *Tim Spector, ZOE Scientific Co-Founder and Professor of Genetic Epidemiology, King's College London* 

## Shaping the next generation of mobile networks with '6G Futures'

Last summer, King's combined its expertise on 5G and future networks to establish '6G Futures', a leading centre for 6G research, education and innovation, in collaboration with the University of Bristol.

The centre is home to globally recognised experts from the two universities, whose pioneering work brought 5G into the mainstream. Through the partnership, we hope to put the UK and King's at the forefront of mobile networks, research and innovation, helping to improve community connectivity and address digital poverty.



#### **Reversing US policy on torture evidence**

Research led by students at our King's Legal Clinic has helped bring about an important reinstatement of the principles of international law in relation to evidence obtained through torture.

The United States Department of Justice (DoJ) filed a new submission in the case of Guantanamo detainee Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, mirroring the argument made in an amicus ('friend of the court') submission from The Dickson Poon School of Law.

The submission drew on research into international human rights law carried out by students from King's Legal Clinic. In its submission, the DoJ accepted (for the first time in this case) the inadmissibility of statements obtained while Mr al-Nashiri was in CIA custody.



**'It's incredible that since the amicus submission was filed,** the US Government has reconsidered its position and concluded that the prohibition on admission of statements obtained through torture applies to all stages of a military commission case.' *Sue Willman, Assistant Director and Supervising Solicitor at King's Legal Clinic* 

## King's communities around the world

#### Giving back can take many shapes and forms.

You could choose to support a project further afield, such as the work that King's Global Health Partnerships is doing in partner countries such as Sierra Leone. Or you could support the King's Sanctuary Programme and help create positive opportunities for young people whose education has been disrupted by forced displacement. However you choose to give, as a donor you ensure that King's continues to represent a university promoting excellence, with service to society at its core.

### **King's Sanctuary Programme**



#### Helping refugee students continue their education

You may have seen our Students of Sanctuary Appeal earlier this year, launched to help support students from all around the globe, forcibly displaced due to conflict, to realise their educational potential.

In May 2022, the United Nations reported that there are now more than 100 million people forcibly displaced across the world. Forced displacement particularly impacts on young people, who face many challenges in accessing and continuing their education.

Here at King's, our vision is to make the world a better place. We believe everyone should have the opportunity to receive a first-class education. This is why, seven years ago, we started the Sanctuary Programme, with the aim of creating positive opportunities for refugee students.

The programme encompasses a wide range of initiatives to help address educational inequality and promote social mobility and social justice – including scholarships, access to digital learning, and refugee sponsorship. Through our work, we have been able to support students from many countries, including Myanmar, Syria, Afghanistan, Iran, Ukraine and the UK.

(Top) Some of our students celebrating their graduation.

We are proud to be at the forefront of providing vital support to those displaced by conflict and, in 2020, we were honoured to be named as the first 'Refugees Welcome' university by Citizens UK.

Through the Sanctuary Programme, we are continuing to support students displaced by conflict. We've teamed up with Citizens UK to develop a new University Sponsorship Model, helping other UK universities to implement Homes for Ukraine – the scheme supporting Ukrainian refugees and academics fleeing the war in Ukraine by finding them welcoming homes here in London.

With wars happening all around the globe, the need to support forcibly displaced students has never been greater. With the help of many of you, who generously donated to the Students of Sanctuary Appeal, we can assist even more students whose education has been disrupted by conflict. Thank you so much for your incredible support.

## **King's Global Health Partners**



#### Freetown explosion: Caring for burn survivors in Sierra Leone

## King's is a long-term partner to the Government of Sierra Leone, with a small clinical team based at Connaught Hospital since 2013.

The partnership draws on the skills and expertise of the UK's National Health Service (in particular, a network of clinicians from across King's Health Partners' three NHS Foundation Trusts).

We experienced the benefits of this partnership first hand during the aftermath of an explosion in Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone. On the night of 5 November 2021, the collision of a fuel tanker resulted in a major explosion. People rushed to collect fuel from the leaking vehicle, which then exploded, with more than 100 people dying and many more being injured and requiring urgent treatment.

Some of those who survived were critically unwell with severe, life-changing burns, requiring immediate specialist care and longer-term support. There were also several people with less severe burns, treated in outpatient facilities but still requiring care from nurses and therapists. Effective aftercare, rehabilitation and therapy are essential in helping a burns patient to recover. At the time, none of the hospitals in Freetown had a specialist burns unit,





leaving patients vulnerable to the risk of disfigurement, disability and even death.

King's Global Health Partners supported frontline staff at these hospitals, sending a team of burns specialists from the UK to support their colleagues at hospitals in Freetown. This team provided training and handson mentoring while also developing a bank of training resources to help improve the burns management system in Sierra Leone going forward.

As well as the support from the team on the ground, the project received generous philanthropic support, with the funds raised helping to train nurses, therapists and nutritionists at Connaught Hospital in the treatment and rehabilitation of burns patients. These funds have also helped provide a three- to six-month supply of burns consumables (dressings, IV fluids) and supplies to prevent infection (detergent, soap). Thank you to all who have supported King's Health Partners in the last year – you are helping to ensure projects like these can continue to drive life-changing impact for people all over the world.

(Top) Staff at the Connaught Hospital, the burns team in Sierra Leone, and (right) the Connaught Hospital in Freetown, Sierra Leone.



## Thank you



If you would like to make a donation today, please turn to the donation form enclosed or go to **donate.kcl.ac.uk/p/thankyou-22** 



Forever King's Your global alumni community King's Alumni Office | forever@kcl.ac.uk | alumni.kcl.ac.uk