



ROYAL
HOLLOWAY
UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON

TOGETHER FOR WHAT MATTERS

Introducing our For What Matters Fund



TOGETHER FOR WHAT MATTERS

at Royal Holloway

As I reflect on this year, I wanted to say a huge 'thank you' to all of you across our Royal Holloway community for your support, warm encouragement, and all we have been able to achieve so far.

I'm enormously proud of the myriad of ways in which this community continues to support and celebrate one other –and keeps working together, for what matters.

As you will know, for many students, higher education is the start of an amazing journey, but it's not always easy. That is why I'm really proud to spotlight the 'For What Matters Fund'.

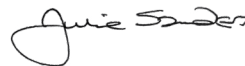
The For What Matters Fund is our most agile and impactful source of student support. It allows us to respond quickly to students' most urgent needs, whether that is financial hardship, access to equipment, or emergency aid. It means we can help the students who need us most to stay on track and continue to pursue their dreams.

I am sure that you're often reminded of an experience at Royal Holloway that shaped you. An exceptional lecture or a research conference, a friend you made that you cannot imagine

life without, or maybe the sense of achievement you felt on your graduation day.

We know how much these moments matter; how much they mean over a lifetime. It's why we want to step in and support students when we know something is getting in the way –and why we hope you will too, by embracing our For What Matters Fund, and supporting us in whatever way you feel able.

Warmest regards,



Professor Julie Sanders

Vice-Chancellor and Principal



FOR WHAT MATTERS

Student Support

Social and financial hardship is growing; it is a time where global crisis and economic uncertainty mean we must come together and work even harder to ensure we can prioritise our students and take care of what matters.

The For What Matters Fund enables the University to direct your support to where it will have the greatest impact on our students. The fund provides:

For What Matters:

1

Sanctuary (Scholarships, Hardship, Global Crisis)

Last year, Royal Holloway became the first university in England to offer campus-based displaced people scholarships via the Duolingo Access Programme. As a university of social purpose, we remain committed to building and maintaining a culture of welcome, offering a place of safety and solidarity and empowerment for people seeking sanctuary. Through your support of the For What Matters Fund we are able to react quickly to requests for support from students impacted by global crisis and give students access to education who wouldn't have otherwise been able to study.

For What Matters:

2

Discovery (Research, Innovation)

Our university is more than a place of learning. It's where talents are uncovered and lifelong friendships are made. This fund supports a range of student experiences and initiatives, such as placements and the participation and development of clubs and societies, that help build students' skills and confidence. Your support enables pathways for our students so we can help them achieve their goals and career aspirations. Opportunities have been made possible for undergraduate students to have paid placements and work as research assistants with relatively early career members of staff across the University.

For What Matters:

3

Place (Campus, Sustainable Facilities)

The beauty and diversity of Royal Holloway's campus is at the heart of our students' experience and is something they will forever remember. We are working towards becoming one of London's most sustainable universities, by empowering our community through research, education and partnerships to mitigate climate and biodiversity crises and by reducing our environmental footprint. By supporting the For What Matters Fund you will help us reach this goal and ensure that future generations of students can thrive whilst the campus is safeguarded for years to come.

YOUR SUPPORT COULD HELP STUDENTS LIKE SAMIULHAQ

For students like Samiulhaq, a refugee student from Afghanistan living with disabilities, there are many barriers to education, including financial hardship, limited accessible learning resources and support services that would usually put higher education out of reach. Donations to the For What Matters Fund helps unlock access to education, by providing students from all backgrounds access to the support and educational opportunities needed to start or continue their studies. Donations to this fund could help more students like Samiulhaq create a path to a brighter future.

“I was struggling with multiple disabilities and financial constraints, but deep-down in my soul I was very enthusiastic to study and get a higher degree; where it helps to build my personality, mindset, and indeed educational level. All of them result in a brighter future and career. But I had financial problems which made it impossible to dare to start university. I applied for support at a time crucial to my studies and I was awarded a bursary. I have continued my degree with peace of mind and I am still doing my best towards completion of my degree.”

– Samiulhaq



OR THOSE IMPACTED BY GLOBAL CRISIS



“I came to the UK to complete my PhD with partial funding, relying on financial support from my family in Iran to cover the remainder of my tuition fees and living costs. However, following the escalation of conflict in the region, my family’s circumstances changed dramatically. Due to the ongoing geopolitical situation, the Iranian economy deteriorated significantly. The local currency sharply devalued, and strict international banking restrictions made it extremely difficult to transfer money abroad. As a result, I suddenly found myself unable to access the funds I depended on.”

–Iranian PhD student

We have seen a significant rise in the number of students impacted by global crisis and therefore those needing support. Even modest financial assistance to the For What Matters Fund has transformative impact, as this allows us to provide immediate stability to those affected by global crisis, allowing students to continue their education.

For these students, support is not just about easing financial pressure, it is about making it possible to remain at university and pursue their academic ambitions despite barriers beyond their control.

Through the For What Matters Fund we were able to help stabilise the situation by contributing towards accommodation and essential living costs for this student, allowing them to remain enrolled and continue their research without interruption, whilst also protecting academic progress.

ROYAL HOLLOWAY IS BUILT ON SHARED VALUES THAT SHAPE EVERY STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Our values are at the heart of Royal Holloway and emulate what we hope all our students experience and act upon during their studies. They provide a clear sense of who we are and what we stand for as a community. The For What Matters Fund plays an integral part in ensuring our students feel confident to act upon these values and gives students the support they need to continue to utilise them.

We are extremely proud of these values and hope they challenge you, as well as us, to make a positive difference in the world.

Innovative	Relentlessly curious and ambitious
Daring	Challenging ourselves and others to make a positive difference in the world
Open	Working collaboratively with integrity, honesty and transparency
Respectful	An inclusive community built on kindness, trust and understanding

The For What Matters fund reminds students they belong, even in their toughest moments and help them act on our values.



“It has been a reminder that I am not alone in this journey.”

LIVING OUR VALUES

INNOVATIVE

DARING

OPEN

RESPECTFUL

TOGETHER WE SHAPE FUTURES



Royal Holloway was founded on access to education.

From Elizabeth Jesser Reid to Thomas and Jane Holloway, the mission has always been very clear, expand opportunity and change lives through education.

Today, that mission continues, but the reality has shifted with rising living costs and tuition fees, student debt exceeding £40,000 and a staggering 42% of commuting students from the most deprived areas. This means that more students than ever face barriers to staying in higher education.

Our vision for all our students, regardless of their background, is to have equity of opportunity to access and to succeed in higher education. As well as to address the

challenges of modern times to ensure we are meeting the needs of our current and future students.

We know that this will take time, **but there is something you can do right now. By signing up to a gift to the 'For What Matters Fund' you can improve the outcomes for all students.** A regular gift at any level, creates a real change, one student at a time. Every contribution matters. What you give directly supports students who need it most.



“It has helped stabilise my situation and given me hope.”

GIVE THE GIFT OF OPPORTUNITY



£30

a month

Could go towards one of our research grants that provide life-changing financial support to our students' research and create pathways for students to move through into research careers that are meaningful and purposeful.



£20

a month

Could help students facing global crises such as warfare, natural disasters and other circumstances beyond their control. This could provide students with immediate and essential assistance such as contributions to housing, transportation, utilities, and other basic living expenses.



£10

a month

Could help us provide vital support to students facing financial difficulty by contributing to their urgent needs through one of our student support grants. These grants relieve stress and give students access to the support they need to find a way forward.



£5

a month

Could support the hearts and minds of our students by helping to fund additional well-being and creative resources to inspire innovation and help them to unwind around campus.

YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

With your support we can be there for the students that need us most. A gift today, no matter the size, can make a life changing difference and keep our students in higher education by supporting them through their studies.

Together, with the support of the Royal Holloway community, we can support more students than ever.

“Your support comes at a crucial time and has alleviated much of the stress and hardship I have been facing. With these funds, I am now able to address my immediate financial challenges, including the money for my laptop, managing my educational expenses, and taking care of my healthcare needs.”

-MSc Overseas Computer Science

“I am so so so happy to hear this news!!! Thank you so much for fighting in my corner. I really appreciate your help a lot. This money will really give me a huge boost while I wait to work in July! I’m honestly so thankful.”

-BA Politics International Relations
Home student

“Thanks again for your help, it means the absolute world to me - I cannot stress how much it means.”

-MA History Home student

HELP TOMORROW'S GRADUATES TODAY

If you would like to register your interest to find out more, please email philanthropy@rhul.ac.uk.

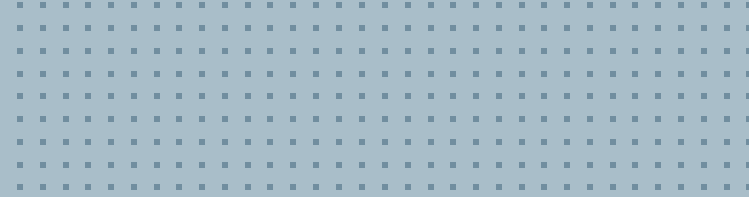
Your support really matters and means together we can give even more students the education they deserve. Even a small donation could help contribute to some of the many student initiatives supported by the For What Matters Fund.

- The Students' Union
- Competition teams
- Placement grants
- Food bursaries
- Tech bursaries
- Travel bursaries
- Facilities
- Small research grants

*all gifts are unrestricted and will be used where the need is greatest



TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



I believe education is one of the most powerful gifts we can give. It opens doors, builds lifelong relationships and creates opportunities to make lasting change.

The For What Matters Fund exists because of you. Our global alumni community who remembers what it meant to study here, where this journey led you, the opportunities it afforded you, the challenges and the moments that shaped your future.

Today's students face many of those same experiences, but with added financial pressure. For some, the difference between continuing their studies and stepping away comes down to timely support.

This is where you can make a real difference.

Your gift, no matter the size, has a direct and immediate impact. What stands out most is not only the financial support, but the message behind it. When you give, you show current students that they are part of this Royal Holloway global community that stands with them.

You remind them that someone believes in their future. This shared connection between students, alumni and supporters

is what makes Royal Holloway so strong. It is built on a long and rich history of widening access to education and supporting those with the potential, determination and the ability to make a difference.

If you are able to, I invite you to join us by making a regular gift to the For What Matters Fund. Together, we can support students through the moments that matter the most.

Thank you for being such an integral part of our community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Janice', written in a fluid, cursive style.

Janice Rodrigues-Mendes

Head of Philanthropy





To make a donation to the For What Matters Fund.

royalholloway.ac.uk/forwhatmattersfund



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Royal Holloway and Bedford New College is an exempt charity in England and Wales and has full charitable status, tax exempt number XN69536.

To make your gift or for more information about the role you could play in the future of Royal Holloway, please turn to your donation form or contact the Philanthropy Team on philanthropy@rhul.ac.uk.

If you do not currently receive emails from us and would like to stay in touch, please update your details today by filling in this form royalholloway.ac.uk/update