Creating Opportunity
Supporting Students at Trinity
Investing in the Future

Trinity’s most important investment is in its students. The vibrancy of the College’s intellectual life has always depended on the quality of these students, and the College’s prestige rests on the outstanding contributions, in science, law, business, the arts, technology and more, which they go on to make.

To maintain the strength of the student body, and to ensure that Trinity is open to all who can benefit from studying here, we need to offer financial support to those who need it. The College has over 1,000 students in residence each year, over 700 undergraduates and the remainder graduates. We are seeking the support of alumni in helping us increase the funding we can offer to them.

For many undergraduates, government loans simply do not cover the cost of being a student. Graduate students may also find that their funds do not fully meet their needs – and some who are good enough to be offered a place to study in Cambridge cannot take up that place because they lack sufficient resources. The College needs to ensure that all who are most able to benefit from studying here can do so – and that their time in Cambridge is not beset by financial worries.

Trinity has a long history of fostering a talented body of undergraduates, and nurturing the very best researchers in the world. To continue this tradition, we have to be able to support more across the board.

“My mission as Master is to help Trinity’s scholarship to thrive. Our students are central to this, whether embarking on their first degree or postgraduate study. Now more than ever, we need to ensure the most gifted apply to Trinity and help them so that they reach their full potential for their own and society’s benefit. Please help our students by giving to the College, so that whatever their starting point they can succeed.”

Dame Sally Davies, Master
Undergraduate Bursaries
At present, every year over 150 Trinity undergraduates from low income households receive a non-repayable bursary of up to £3,500 under the Cambridge Bursary Scheme. This bursary is an important part of our support for undergraduates but we are striving to do more.

Our aim is to provide more generous upfront bursaries to ensure that students can make the most of the opportunities available to them at Cambridge. In 2018 the College devised and piloted an enhanced top-up bursary scheme (PTUBS) working alongside 12 other Colleges. This meant that more students received more support and it helped to reduce the stressful and distracting financial pressures many were facing.

This year we are expanding the pilot scheme at Trinity. We are immensely grateful to the many alumni who have already supported it, but there is more to be done.

Graduate Studentships
The College already provides studentships, but the number needed is growing as funding from other sources declines. Studentships funded by alumni are making a valuable contribution to meeting this need.

Such studentships are especially important in attracting graduate students who may have incurred substantial debt as undergraduates. Without the promise of fully-funded awards at the College, many are deterred from undertaking research degrees at Trinity.

“I heard about my top-up bursary in my first term and I was struck by the incredible generosity of the individual donors. I was also really thankful to have this extra financial provision. In a high stakes environment like Cambridge, the last thing students want to be worrying about is finance, so I felt that added burden taken off my back. I could concentrate on my studies with the knowledge that I had enough in the bank, not only to tide myself over through university, but also to enjoy my time as a student.”

Matthew Sargent, Classics (2018)
How You Can Help

Your support is vital to innovations such as the top-up bursaries, and in providing graduate studentships. 14.5% of you already make a donation to the College and your gifts to date have benefited many students, but more is needed to help them meet current financial challenges.

Any gift, no matter the size, can have a transformational effect for a Trinity student.

- £50 could help a student buy the text books they need
- £300 could help a student to buy a laptop to write their notes and assignments
- £1,000 could fund a top-up bursary for a Trinity undergraduate
- £3,500 could fund a Cambridge Bursary at Trinity for one year
- Five alumni giving £5,000 per year could fund the fees and maintenance of a graduate student

Many alumni tell us of their gratitude for the College’s support when they were students and how it has motivated them to give back. We hope that you are inspired to make a gift that can make a difference today. You can make a donation by returning one of our gift forms, visiting our website or contacting us using the details overleaf.

“I am so grateful to Trinity for financing my graduate studies at Cambridge. As an international student (from Kabul, Afghanistan) I have relied on this funding throughout my studies. I am so fortunate to have lived in Trinity for the past three years. I’ve been so lucky to have found my intellectual space and the wonderful friendships I am going to treasure for the rest of my life. This would not have been possible without the College’s support. Thank you.”

Parwana Fayyaz, PhD in Persian Studies (2016)

“When I came up to Trinity government grants supplemented by a College senior scholarship covered my tuition and living expenses. It is important that Cambridge is open to everyone irrespective of means, and they are able to make full use of their time there without financial constraints. The bursary scheme therefore deserves support from all who are able to help.”

Robin O'Neill, English (1952)
“My time as an undergraduate at Trinity on the Abraham-Broad Exchange greatly influenced my development both academically and in terms of interests and relationships around the world. I was happy to support, in a small way, a community that had given me so much, and I am thrilled to return for a PhD.”

Brett Gutstein, PhD in Computer Science (2015)