The Effect of Giving
YOUR SUPPORT IN 2020–2021
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From the Vice-Chancellor

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all those who have supported the University and our work in 2020–2021. Whether you have given your time or money, the support of our global community of alumni and friends is vital in helping us achieve our goals, particularly given the unique challenges of the pandemic.

Last autumn we launched our new five-year strategy, *Transforming Education...Creating Futures*. The strategy demonstrates the many ways in which we will collaborate with our Member Institutions to develop academic programmes, networks and partnerships that further our federation’s goals across London, the UK and internationally. It brings into focus our academic vision for the digital age to transform lives and society, to increase the number of students around the world who benefit from our distance learning courses, and to further strengthen our academic leadership, especially in arts and humanities.

Over the past year, we have progressed the exciting redevelopment of the Warburg Institute. In addition to the £9.5m commitment from the University, we have raised nearly £5m in philanthropic donations, thanks in large part to the generosity of a landmark £3m donation from the Hermann Reemtsma Stiftung, a Hamburg-based charitable foundation. Our thanks go to all those who have supported this project, from the Warburg Charitable Trust to our alumni and Friends of the Warburg.

The consequences of the pandemic have continued to be felt over the last year and have had a significant impact on many members of our international student body. I am heartened by the response to our calls for support and would like to extend my thanks to all those who have contributed to the Student Support Appeal so that our students have the opportunity to complete their education.

We were also pleased to launch the University’s Refugee Law Clinic, which brings together expertise from across the University and its Member Institutions to provide access to legal support for some of the most vulnerable members of society. This vital project is an example of what can be achieved through leveraging the power of the University of London federation. It was, in part, made possible thanks to generous philanthropic gifts from our founding partners, Clifford Chance LLP and Macfarlanes LLP, as well as support from a number of charitable foundations.

Finally, I am saddened to share news that Professor Peter Kopelman, former Interim Vice-Chancellor and President of Development, passed away in July this year. We send our condolences to Peter’s family and friends.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of *The Effect of Giving* and finding out how your support has made a difference. Thank you again to each and every one of you; your support has a profound effect, supporting our mission to enable social good and transform lives through education.

Professor Wendy Thomson CBE
Vice-Chancellor
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

The University raises £182,000 to fund final volume of landmark study into the history of arbitration

Generous alumni and members of the arbitral community have made significant donations over the last year to allow for the completion of Professor Derek Roebuck’s 20-year landmark study into the history of arbitration.

Professor Roebuck, who was Senior Associate Research Fellow at the University’s Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (IALS) and Johnny Veeder QC, a long-standing supporter of Professor Roebuck’s work and an influential figure in the field of arbitration, both sadly passed away in 2020, and this work will be completed in their memory. In addition, IALS will rename their conference room in memory of Derek and Johnny. The Veeder-Roebuck Conference Room will also feature a donor plaque to recognise the most significant contributions to this important piece of work.

Dr Francis Boorman, who since 2013 had collaborated with Derek in researching and writing the last three books of the series, was appointed to complete this last volume, entitled Access to Justice: Arbitration and Mediation in 19th Century England. The project officially started on 19 April 2021 and is expected to take two and a half years to complete.

The University extends its sincerest thanks to all those who have contributed to the project, allowing this final book to be written.

For more information on the project, please email: development@london.ac.uk

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For more information on the project, please email: development@london.ac.uk

The University community supports the next generation of alumni through the Student Support Appeal

In July 2021, the University of London launched its second Student Support Appeal, which was created to provide financial support for our global community of students.

Financial hardship continues to be a significant barrier to accessing and completing higher education. The funds raised through the Student Support Appeal provide a much-needed solution to the financial concerns many of our current students are facing, by providing support including hardship grants and fee bursaries.

These vital funds will support students at the University’s School of Advanced Study (SAS) in London and at the University of London Institute in Paris (ULIP), as well as those studying with the University around the world through distance and flexible learning.

Alumni from 38 countries supported the Appeal, ensuring that those who are most in need of financial support will be able to join them as members of our global alumni community.

“I am proud to be an alumna of the prestigious University of London and glad to contribute to this great cause and enable other students to complete their studies”

Stella Alibateese
2021 Student Support Appeal donor

Thank you to all those who supported the Appeal.
London Anatomy Office benefits from in-memoriam fundraising

Every year, approximately 350 individuals generously donate their bodies to the London Anatomy Office (LAO) upon their passing. The London Anatomy Office, part of the University of London, provides a central service for coordinating the donation of bodies to the London and South East medical and dental schools.

The University has been humbled by requests to set up in memory donation pages from the families of two individuals who were unable to donate their bodies as a result of the pandemic. These fundraising efforts commemorated the lives of those individuals, and, we hope in some small way, recognised their wishes to support the work of the London Anatomy Office.

Furthermore, in acknowledgement of the generous and valuable gift of the donation of a body for anatomical examination and medical training, each year the LAO organises a service of thanksgiving at St George’s Cathedral, Southwark. This year’s event was held virtually, commemorating donors from the last two years, as the 2020 service was sadly postponed due to the pandemic. Monetary donations were received online to support the Office’s work, in lieu of collections taken at a physical service.

We thank all those who so generously supported the work of the London Anatomy Office this year.

For more information about the work of the London Anatomy Office, please visit their website: kcl.ac.uk/research/london-anatomy-office

Celebrating 100 years of the Institute of Historical Research

On 8 July 2021, we marked the beginning of the centenary year for the Institute of Historical Research (IHR), part of the University’s School of Advanced Study. For a century, the IHR has been thinking back and looking forward and, today, it is the UK’s national centre for history, dedicated to supporting historians of all kinds.

The centenary celebrations see the Institute promote the value and power of historical thinking, celebrate diverse histories from our previous century, and look ahead to history’s future in the coming century.

In July, the Institute launched ‘Our Century’, a 12-month festival of activities celebrating history in its many forms, right across the UK. Organised by partners across the country, the events bring together universities, museums, archives, artists, musicians and volunteers to engage local and national communities with the discipline and practice of history.

Events will run across the IHR centenary year until July 2022. For more information, please visit: history.ac.uk/our-century
Daniel Albright Scholarship at the Institute of English Studies

Scholarships play an important role in ensuring that the University can continue to attract the best and brightest students, as well as promoting inclusivity and diversity among our student body and supporting the University of London’s access mission.

As part of a recent telephone appeal, the University reached out to alumni of the Institute of English Studies (IES) to reconnect with them and let them know more about how they can support IES students through the Sambrook Appeal. Following the campaign, IES was particularly honoured to receive a gift from Dr Marta Rivera Monclova, an alumna of the T.S. Eliot Summer School, to set up a scholarship in memory of her late partner, Professor Daniel Albright — a renowned scholar and author. We spoke to Marta about her connection to the IES and her motivation to give.

Thank you so much for your generous donation to establish the Daniel Albright Scholarship at the IES in memory of your late partner, Professor Daniel Albright. How did the gift come about?

Since Dan died, I had been looking for some way to honour his memory and interests. When IES called me one evening, it seemed like fate.

Dan taught a course at the T.S. Eliot Summer School, and I accompanied him that year and attended the Summer School. He didn’t do the majority of his work on Eliot, but he had a particular affinity for him, and rarely missed a chance to talk about Eliot.

What inspired you to support student scholarships in particular?

Dan was very alert to the ways that he had been fortunate in life – his parents were in the middle class at a time in US history when that allowed them to send him to a good private school, when the public schools in his neighbourhood were not great.

When he was accepted at Rice University, the institution was tuition-free, whereas now an undergraduate year there runs near to $50,000 with all expenses considered. If he were 18
today, it would be very unlikely that he could have afforded the education that he had. Giving someone who might not otherwise be able to get a degree that opportunity felt right. In the US, tuitions are so astronomical that the only practical way I could manage this was to support a scholarship abroad.

Your gift will enable a postgraduate student to fulfil their ambitions of studying at the IES, free from financial constraints by covering, not only the cost of fees, but also supporting them with research-related expenses. What impact do you hope your gift will have?

In my experience, hardship can produce good scholarship, but more often the stress of financial insecurity interferes with people’s ability to do their best work. Even going through a program on a basic scholarship, a student can be placed at a disadvantage if they cannot travel to conferences or purchase the volume of books they need.

I hope that the student who receives this will be able to find the ease, not only to work, but to dream. In one author’s biography, he wrote: “I daydream about literature, music, and art, and talk about my dreams with classes, and write my dreams in books.” Hardship can produce good work – it is my hope that this scholarship will produce fruitful dreaming.

We are incredibly grateful to Dr Rivera Monclova for her generous support, which will have a lasting impact, enabling a deserving student to pursue their dreams of postgraduate education.

To find out more about how you can support students in their pursuit of education, contact: development@london.ac.uk or visit: london.ac.uk/support
“It is with the deepest gratitude that I wish to express to all of you my sincerest thanks for gracing me with this funding. As I indicated in my applications, I do not come from a family of means. Consequently, my time studying has depended on receiving support. The cost of living in London is so high that had I not have received the funding, I cannot imagine how I would have afforded the rent here. The vote of confidence I felt on the day that I opened the email informing me that I had received the award was, and remains, a source of motivation. Over this most difficult year, I have spent time reflecting on how fortunate I am to be here as well as the ways in which my time here has been intellectually and personally transformative. Had I not have received your support, I would not have taken the financial risk to come here, and had I not come here, I would not have gone through with my PhD applications. On that note, in February I received two offers of admission for doctoral programs. I chose Stanford. I therefore wish to express, once more, my deepest thanks for helping me get over here to London. I would not have nearly as much to look forward to if I had not spent the last year immersed in such a wonderful, supportive scholarly community.”

Nathan Deschamps
MRes Cultural, Intellectual and Visual History student.
Recipient of scholarship funding from the American Friends of the Warburg Institute and the Convocation Trust.

The Convocation Trust was linked with The University of London Convocation, the association of graduates established by Charter in 1858, which ran until 2003. Although Convocation closed in 2003, the funds held by Convocation were invested by the Convocation Trust and continue to support our community.

These grants would not be possible without the generosity of those who have so kindly donated to the Convocation Trust over the years.
The Vice-Chancellor’s Circle

The Vice-Chancellor’s Circle is an exclusive community of philanthropists who make gifts of £1,000 or more to the University.

Donations to the Vice-Chancellor’s Circle make an enormous impact on the University, its students and the wider community. They enable us to engage the public in humanities research as well as provide scholarships to students who otherwise would be unable to access higher education, and help us create world-class facilities for our students and academics.

The University is delighted to recognise these donors for the generous gifts they made during 2020–2021. To view our online donor board, please visit our website: london.ac.uk/vice-chancellors-circle/donors

The ongoing support of our community of alumni and friends makes a substantial difference to our work. Thank you to all those who have supported the University in the past year.

To find out more about the Vice-Chancellor’s Circle, visit: london.ac.uk/vice-chancellors-circle
The University relaunched its Alumni Ambassador programme in autumn 2020 and, in June, we opened applications for 2021–2022. Along with the 96 alumni who were already volunteering as Ambassadors, we had an astounding response to our call for more volunteers: over 110 alumni sent in applications, more than doubling our total number of Ambassadors.

**Alumni Ambassador programme**

As our international presence and global footprint grow, we find ourselves working with alumni from all corners of the world. We’re especially pleased with the growing number of alumni who are willing to help from Central and South America, as this is an area that was previously underrepresented in our Alumni Ambassador programme. We are delighted to see the programme become increasingly global in its reach and are grateful for the good work and support of all our Alumni Ambassadors around the world.

The Alumni Ambassador programme is a way for our alumni to stay connected to the University and to be an invaluable resource for prospective students, or those currently studying for a University of London degree. The kind of help an Alumni Ambassador can provide runs the gamut from advice and tips on work and study balance, to career and CV guidance. We have a fantastic group of alumni from different fields and industries, each of whom is more than happy to help. Our current volunteers prove to be very helpful to our students who are looking at potential career paths after earning their degrees.

**Current students and Alumni Ambassadors**

Prospective and current students can find Alumni Ambassadors’ professional biographies on our website, with a link to their email address or LinkedIn profile. Students are then free to read the biographies and decide whether to contact the Ambassador. We encourage our alumni and our students to establish a working connection that works best for both parties.

Along with being an important resource for our students, we also look to our Alumni Ambassadors, as experts in their fields, to participate in various projects and events. The University of London has the most dynamic and accomplished leaders in various industries, including the arts and humanities, technology, science and medicine, journalism and the media, and academia. When looking to host panel discussions for our various student-facing events, some of the first people we turn to are our Alumni Ambassadors. Ambassadors not only provide a great insight having studied at the University, but they also deliver world-class perspectives and points of view on various topics.
Working with our Alumni Ambassadors

This past summer, for example, The Careers Group, University of London, as part of its Alumni Voice series hosted a virtual event focusing on International Development and Humanitarian Aid. We were proud to have three Alumni Ambassadors speak: Abdiweli Osman Mohamed, Education Specialist at UNICEF; Zara Qaiser, Youth Economic Empowerment Officer at the United Nations Development Programme; and Dr Adi Walker, Director of POD, International Consulting. Not only was this event a great way for students to benefit from the knowledge and experience of our expert panel of Alumni Ambassadors, but our Ambassadors themselves also benefited from the opportunity to network and converse with their peers.

In November 2021, The Careers Group, University of London, hosted another instalment in the Alumni Voice series, focusing on technology, which also featured Alumni Ambassadors as speakers.

We are so proud of the Alumni Ambassador programme and we couldn’t be more grateful for the hard work and dedication of our committed alumni. Through our Ambassadors, we can provide our students with the kind of advice and guidance that can only come from those who have studied at the University of London.

“I enjoyed sharing my experiences with students and learning from my fellow panellists Abdiweli and Adi. Happy to be giving back to the University of London community.”

Zara Qaiser
Youth Economic Empowerment Officer at the United Nations Development Programme
Panellist at the The Careers Group, University of London, Alumni Voice series virtual event.

To learn more about the Alumni Ambassadors scheme and other volunteering opportunities, visit: [london.ac.uk/alumni/volunteering](http://london.ac.uk/alumni/volunteering)
THE WARBURG RENAISSANCE

The Warburg Institute: The future of cultural memory

The Warburg Institute, part of the University of London’s School of Advanced Study, is set to benefit from a landmark gift of £3million from the Hermann Reemtsma Stiftung, a German charitable foundation based in Hamburg.

Restoring the original vision

This generous donation is the largest philanthropic gift received in the University’s history and plays a significant role in the realisation of the upcoming renovation of the Warburg, known as the Warburg Renaissance.

The Warburg Renaissance will transform the Warburg Institute by restoring its original vision and making it ready for future generations. This major capital redevelopment will enhance the Institute’s academic resources, teaching facilities and public offerings, and create new facilities for special collections, exhibitions, and events.

Hermann-Hinrich Reemtsma

The Hermann Reemtsma Stiftung had previously agreed a lead gift of £1million to the Warburg Renaissance project in 2018. Subsequently, the University was delighted to host representatives from the foundation on a visit to the Warburg in summer 2019, including Mr Hermann-Hinrich Reemtsma, who founded the Hermann Reemtsma Stiftung. This visit highlighted the real enthusiasm that Mr Reemtsma had for the project, but sadly it was the last trip he took before his passing in 2020.

Following the death of Mr Reemtsma, the foundation decided to make a further £2million donation to the Warburg Renaissance in his memory. This gift, coupled with the initial donation made by the foundation, as well as vital contributions from other charitable organisations and the Institute’s alumni and friends, will have a transformative effect on the Institute, securing its future and helping grow its programmes and facilitate outreach work.

The University is enormously grateful to the Hermann Reemtsma Stiftung and will honour the generous contribution made to the Warburg Institute by naming one of the key spaces within the refurbished building in memory of Mr Hermann-Hinrich Reemtsma.
It is with great sadness that we report the death of Professor Peter Kopelman, who was the University’s interim Vice-Chancellor between June 2018 and June 2019. Peter was also a great supporter and champion of the work of the Development Office, acting as President of Development from January 2020 until July 2021.

Professor Kopelman’s association with the University of London began when he studied medicine at St George’s, University of London as an undergraduate and, in a long and distinguished career, he became its Principal (2008–2015).

Prior to his appointment at St George’s, he was Vice-Principal of Queen Mary University of London.

He was an outstanding supporter of the University for many years, participating in Collegiate Council and chairing numerous committees and reviews. He was a University Trustee from 2011 to 2013 and received an honorary Doctor of Science degree from the University of London in 2016. Most recently, he had been advising the University on the development of distance learning programmes to support health professionals, as well as supporting the work of the Development Office in his role as President of Development.

Professor Kopelman had a long-standing interest in diabetes care and initiated a district-wide scheme for integrated care in east London. He was active in health policy, medical education and research. Professor Kopelman has been chair or deputy chair of several national university committees and was a member of numerous NHS national policy and workforce committees.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Wendy Thomson CBE said:

“With Peter’s passing the University has lost a long-time supporter and friend. He was held in great affection by staff who came to know him during his time as interim Vice-Chancellor. He ably stepped into this role when Adrian Smith was called to the leadership of the Turing Institute. Peter welcomed me when I arrived in 2019, when I benefitted from his rich knowledge of the University’s history. He has been instrumental in supporting the Development Office, and sharing his health networks to explore the potential for distance education in these fields. Peter will be greatly missed and warmly remembered. Our sympathies are with his family and many friends.”

Professor Kopelman’s family have asked for any donations to be made to Anthony Nolan, a charity that makes lifesaving connections between people with blood cancer and those who are ready to donate their stem cells.

To make a donation or leave a tribute for Professor Kopelman, please visit: peter-kopelman.muchloved.com
The Effect of Giving 2020 – 2021

The University has had the privilege of receiving many gifts generously bequeathed in Wills. This type of support has a lasting impact and is a meaningful way for many of our alumni and friends to leave their mark, and support the University for generations to come. We hear from Dr Kristen Lippincott, who has remembered the Warburg Institute in her Will, and we find out more about what inspired her support.

**GIFTS IN WILLS**

A lasting legacy

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Dr Lippincott, thank you so much for remembering the Warburg Institute in your Will. What is your connection to the Institute?

I first came to the Warburg Institute in the autumn of 1979 on the ‘invitation’ of Prof Sir E.H. Gombrich, who had been teaching a seminar at the University of Chicago the previous spring. He felt that the Warburg would be the right place for a young art historian with a wider interest in cultural history. He was right, and I stayed under the aegis of a series of pre-doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships for the next 10 years.
When I moved into working in museums, the Warburg Institute continued to provide valuable research facilities for several of our projects, including the millennial exhibition, The Story of Time, which was hosted by the National Maritime Museum in 1999–2000.

After leaving the heritage sector, I returned to the Warburg Institute to work on a series of collaborative projects, which have benefited greatly from the skills and generosity of a number of former doctoral candidates and current members of staff.

**What prompted you to consider leaving a gift in your Will and what inspired you to support the Warburg in particular?**

During my years at the Warburg, I received very generous support through a number of in-house fellowships, including the Saxl Fellowship and the Frances Yates Fellowship. It enabled me to continue to work in the Library and with the Photographic Collection at a crucial point in my nascent career. I feel that I owe the Institute a debt – not only for having believed in my potential, but also for ensuring that I did not fall through the cracks through lack of funding.

There are many ways to repay that debt through being an active member of the Warburg community, but I think financial support will always be an essential factor in the Institute’s continued survival and growth.

**What do you hope your support will allow the Warburg to achieve?**

I would hope for two outcomes. First, that the Library and the Collections remain sufficiently well-funded to be able to continue to provide an invaluable and unparalleled resource for scholars. Second, I hope that there would always be a reservoir of allocated funds specifically for young scholars – especially to help them through the difficult years between gaining their doctorates and establishing themselves in their chosen professions.

As an off-shoot of both of these, the Warburg Institute is not just the building, or the collections, or the staff – it is an important nexus for a community of scholars who tend to work on interdisciplinary topics. For the Institute to thrive, it needs to have the means to attract younger scholars and to find ways to help them benefit from what it can offer so that they can, in turn, become a resource for the next generation.

It is a complicated remit but, again, adequate financial resources can always help smooth the way.

**What advice would you give to anyone else who is considering this type of giving?**

Do it. If you are reading these pages, then the University or one of its institutes has been important to you at some point in your life. I support the Warburg because it cannot continue to do what it does without financial support. If there is one aspect of the University’s wide-ranging services from which you have benefitted – teaching, research, intellectual stimulus, networking opportunities – target your gift so that these facilities can be safe-guarded for future generations. If not, a legacy gift to the general fund will find its way to where it will be most useful.

Leaving a gift in your Will is a meaningful way to leave a lasting impact which will benefit generations to come. To find out more about remembering the University in your Will, please visit: [london.ac.uk/legacy-giving](http://london.ac.uk/legacy-giving)
The University is delighted to speak with our alumni and friends through our telephone appeals. These calls have allowed us to maintain a dialogue with our community, particularly whilst travel restrictions are in place and we cannot meet face to face. The appeals are also an opportunity to raise vital funds in support of the University’s strategic priorities.

Elizabeth Rose, a recent graduate of UCL and one of our team of student callers, reflects on her experience fundraising for the University over the telephone.

What motivated you to apply for the role of Student Caller?
I knew that I ought to get a job during my finals in order to better structure my time and, when I saw the position, I thought it seemed simply perfect! The prospect of combining fundraising with the opportunity to hear about the paths that other people have taken after university was a very exciting one. Particularly because, in spite of the pandemic, I have had the most amazing time studying in London, and raising money for scholarships and bursaries plays a material part in ensuring that as many others as possible get the chance to experience those same opportunities!

What did you find most enjoyable about the role?
The conversations that I was able to enjoy with the alumni and friends of the University of London! I absolutely loved hearing people reminisce about their own experience studying in London and remotely, and being able to compare and find commonalities with my own time at UCL. It was also inspirational hearing the incredible, and often unexpected, trajectories that alumni have taken in their careers and the passion that they held for their respective subjects and ongoing projects. During the appeal, I also became aware of the
MA in Understanding and Securing Human Rights at the School of Advanced Study which I now hope to do at some stage in the future, after dozens of alumni recommended it as the catalyst for their careers in the human rights field!

What were the biggest challenges you faced whilst working on the appeal?
Potentially speaking for nearly three hours in a row – it certainly made me wonder at, and respect even more, all the professors who have made teaching and engaging a class seem so easy over the last year of remote learning! Initially, I was also quite daunted by the very act of asking for donations over the telephone, but the importance of the cause, and practice, eventually dispelled this challenge.

Has your experience working on the telephone appeal given you any new skills or helped with your professional development?
Absolutely! So many I can think of, and probably lots that happened subconsciously. The calling itself certainly increased my self-confidence in talking on the telephone. Additionally, the introductory training on the University of London that I received, emphasising the history and ethos of the institution and the aims of its constituent parts, succeeded in capturing my interest to the extent that by the first week of the appeal I knew that I wanted to study with and work for the University in the future.

Now that the appeal has concluded, what are your plans for the future?
Once the appeal ended, and after I finished my finals, I applied for a job with the University and I now work in the Development Office as a Data Officer! I also hope to take part in the next telephone appeal that the University runs. My provisional plans for the future are to gain a few years’ experience in the ‘behind the scenes’ side of fundraising, whilst also volunteering with refugee charities in London, before applying for the MA in Understanding and Securing Human Rights at the School of Advanced Study. Hopefully, after this, I can pursue a career in supporting human rights and at present I hope to specialise in refugee law.

The University would like to thank all those who spoke with the team as part of one of our recent telephone appeals, and we particularly thank those who generously supported the University with a donation.
2020–2021

The year in review

The Development Office is proud to report on a number of key successes from the 2020–2021 financial year. All of this has been made possible thanks to the generosity of our donors, alumni and friends.

We are grateful for your continued support, particularly during what has been an extraordinary year for the University, as well as for our global community.

The University raised over £2.7m in philanthropic gifts from generous alumni and friends, as well as trusts and foundations, despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

There were 66 friends of the University from the legal community who pledged their support to the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies Arbitration Project with donations totalling more than £182,000.

807 donors made a gift to the University, an increase of more than 54% on the number who gave last year.

The Student Support Appeal raised in excess of £26,000 allowing University of London students to continue with their studies despite financial hardship.

More than 350 alumni and friends of the University generously volunteered their time and expertise to the University and our students.

This included 210 alumni who joined the newly relaunched Alumni Ambassador programme providing insight and guidance to current and prospective University of London students.

Thank you

We give our sincere thanks to all those who have given to the University in 2020–2021. Your contributions make a very real impact to the University and our students.
I would like to start by extending my thanks and gratitude to all those who have so generously supported the University in 2020–2021. Despite another challenging year for so many around the world, we have a great deal to be thankful for and numerous achievements to celebrate.

Hermann Reemtsma Stiftung

We were thrilled and honoured to receive a further donation of £2 million in February this year from the Hermann Reemtsma Stiftung, a Hamburg-based charitable foundation. When combined with their 2018 commitment of £1 million, this represents the largest donation received in the University’s history. This transformative gift will support the major capital redevelopment of the Warburg Institute and truly lead to the "Warburg Renaissance". I would like to thank the leadership of Professor Bill Sherman (Director of the Warburg) and Chris Rossbach (Chair of the Warburg Charitable Trust), as well as the many donors who collectively have given nearly £5 million to transform the Institute, enabling its original vision and making it ready for future generations.

Alumni Ambassador programme

I am also genuinely moved by the interest and support our newly- relaunched Alumni Ambassador programme has received. More than 90 of you have been generously giving your time to support current University of London students, as well as providing guidance to those who are considering undertaking one of our courses via distance and flexible learning. To hear that a further 114 have become Alumni Ambassadors is just wonderful. The insight and advice you can offer as alumni is unparalleled and so valuable to our students. Thank you for everything you do.

Alumni and friends

It has been a challenging year for so many of us, so it says a lot that record numbers of alumni and friends made a gift to the University last year. Thank you to each and every one of the 807 donors to the University last year – a massive 54 per cent increase on 2019–2020! The growth we continue to see year-on-year is heartening, as it enables us to support more students, research and University priorities. Only four years ago, when we published our first edition of *The Effect of Giving*, we reported on the impact of donations from 60 donors. I hope that those of you who have become donors will continue your support in the years to come, and I would love to hear from you about how we can improve our work and the information we share with you. However you choose to support us, I want to tell you that your involvement really does have an impact and that we are all very grateful. I look forward to finding out more about your involvement in the coming year, to hear from many of you around the world and just maybe to once again see some of you at our events. Thank you.
If you would like more information, or wish to discuss how you could support the University of London, please visit our website london.ac.uk/support or contact us using the details below.

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