

**London South Bank  
University**

**Creating & Transforming  
Opportunity & Lives**



# London South Bank University

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## 120 years on

**It is over 120 years since we first opened our doors as the Borough Polytechnic Institute in 1892.**

Formed out of charitable donations and support across society, our mission was: “the promotion of industrial skill, general knowledge, health and well-being of young men and women belonging to the poorer classes”. Whilst the language has changed, our mission remains much the same: “to create professional opportunity for all who can benefit” regardless of their background. London South Bank University excels at “adding value” to our students – building their skills and their social capital; identifying and nurturing students who have talent but have not yet achieved their academic potential. With our help they follow thousands of other LSBU alumni into highly successful careers. With your help more can follow them.



**Professor Martin Earwicker FEng**  
Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive



Supporting  
our students

## how you can help

**Our mission is to enable talented young people to choose higher education and to help them graduate to successful professional careers. Please help us to help them by making a gift to support:**

- Inspirational programmes to encourage talented young people to take part in Higher Education
- Scholarships and bursaries to enable them to thrive
- Advisers to help them balance their studies and their challenging lives
- Practical assistance in securing high quality professional employment

Whether you are able to fund a full programme, assist an individual student or make a monthly contribution to our Annual Fund, please read on to learn more about what a difference £1000 can make in the lives of these talented young people.



## Educational opportunity for all who can benefit

**In 1892 social conditions in south London were harsh and most people lived under the threat of poverty.**

From across society, from the poorest of the area to the Prince of Wales, thousands came together to create the Borough Polytechnic Institute and improve the lives of local people. Improving social mobility has been at the heart of our mission ever since. We do this by providing educational opportunity for all who can benefit. This is not the same as offering a university place to anyone who wants it – taking students who do not have the potential to succeed is unfair on them, on other students and on the University. Rather, we carefully identify talent that has been missed or neglected and nurture it for the benefit of our students, their families, their communities, and for business and society as a whole. Those attending university are more likely to participate in civil society by voting, volunteering and engaging in their local communities in these and other positive ways. A university education makes a real difference to students and to society. Their success is our success.

“ A few years ago I was working as a hod carrier on a building site; and now I’m studying for my Law degree at LSBU. I really thought the building trade was my only option because I’d not heard of anyone from my background having a career in law. I was doing building work on an academic’s house and we ended up chatting. I signed up on the LSBU Access to Law course at Bexley College, which meant that I automatically had a conditional offer from LSBU for the Bachelor of Law. This not only simplified the journey into university, but the course really helped me to hit the ground running when I started my degree. I’m doing well on my law degree and I now have the confidence to know that I will succeed in my legal studies and that one day will achieve my dream of becoming a barrister. It’s made such a difference to my life that I’ve even been back to Bexley College to give motivational presentations to current pupils. I want them to know if they work hard, they can achieve whatever they set their minds to.”

*Harun*

## Levelling the playing field

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**For 120 years we have been committed to our south London communities and today over 40% of LSBU students come from the local boroughs of Southwark, Lambeth and Lewisham.**

These boroughs have some of the highest levels of socio-economic disadvantage in the UK; over half of our full-time UK students have had maintenance grants and 25% have been entitled to free schools meals – the highest proportion of all UK universities. Our students often arrive with non-traditional qualifications, many as late-starting or “second chance” students with children or other responsibilities to balance with their studies. Unlike “traditional” students, for most at LSBU, university takes place in short breaks from the practicalities of daily life. Our task is to provide the extra support they need to balance those practicalities and the additional pressures that university brings. In this way we hope to do something to “level the playing field”.

## Opportunities for the poorest children are the lowest in 60 years

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**Rates of social mobility in the UK have declined since the 1950s and children born to poor families are less likely now than at any time in the last 60 years to break free of their social background.**

The expansion of higher education has primarily benefited those from higher socio-economic groups and the relationship between family income and children’s educational attainment has grown stronger. School pupils who receive free school meals are half as likely as others to go to university. Meanwhile, a degree has become more crucial than ever to an individual’s ability to climb the ladder of social mobility. In 2009, the Million+ group of universities reported that only 8% of their students came from professional families, but that three years after graduating more than double had found professional jobs

## Widening success

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**Our aim is not simply widening participation in higher education but widening success.**

Over the last 20 years, we have developed our skills in selecting those students best able to succeed, and in doing all we can to ensure they do. Our students come from the widest range of backgrounds. What connects them is their talent and determination. It is central to our mission that they leave LSBU with the skills they need for the best chance of professional employment. By doing this we meet the needs of both students and society. As a result:

- LSBU is the top modern university in the UK for graduate starting salaries (Sunday Times University Guide 2013)
- LSBU is the top modern university in London for graduate-level jobs (Sunday Times University Guide 2013)

This is remarkable considering the starting point of many of our students. So how do we help them to reach such heights? We provide flexible courses and routes of entry; we understand what our students need and deliver it; we work closely with employers to create relevant courses which provide effective routes into good jobs. We run unique programmes in dozens of local schools to increase aspiration and encourage progression into higher education. An independent report confirms the impact – participants in “summer schools” are over twice as likely to apply and be accepted into higher education than those with similar backgrounds who do not participate. Through programmes like these, LSBU makes a real difference in its local communities just as it has done for 120 years. What we do works.

## Making a difference

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**Newspaper university league tables are based primarily on the “input” rather than “output” of universities’ activities; for example, on the previous educational achievement of the school pupils they accept and the money they spend, rather than on the graduates they produce and the return on investment their degrees offer.**

LSBU’s policy for recruiting students is based on educational potential rather than on previous attainment and this adversely affects our newspaper league table positions. However, we are highly ranked for the added value we provide to our students. We are ranked twelfth amongst all UK universities for graduate salaries and we offer award winning teaching at one of the lowest average fee levels in England; and in 2012 we again received the highest possible rating for the quality of our education from the independent Quality Assurance Agency. What we do makes a difference.

## Balancing access and success

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**The recent changes to higher education meant that LSBU lost over 90% of its teaching funding.**

Somehow we must now reconcile our mission to make higher education financially accessible to all with providing the additional support many of our students need. Pupils from poorer families often do not achieve as highly at school as their more advantaged counterparts; and many of our students, though talented, arrive without all of the academic skills they will need. Without our support these students would not attain the degrees they need for their careers, and secure the social mobility they seek. Our challenge is that to enable access we must set fees low; but in order to ensure success we must provide services and support beyond that provided by universities with more privileged students.

## Creating opportunity and transforming lives

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**LSBU is the most popular university in the UK for businesses seeking to improve their performance through government-sponsored Knowledge Transfer Partnerships.**

We are one of the leading universities in London for adult nursing in London and home to an international awarding-winning Confucius Institute, funded by the Chinese equivalent of the British Council. We are ranked in the top 20 of all UK universities for engineering research.

For many universities, success is defined by research grants, new facilities or Nobel prizes for their academic staff. At LSBU our research creates value not only for our commercial and research partners, but for our students. LSBU has some 25000 students; our objective is to enable all of them – from whatever their background – to build successful professional careers. At LSBU, success is defined by the success of our students.

**Our aim above all is social mobility; our tool is creating professional opportunity for all who can benefit. In this, we seek your support; not for the aggrandisement of this institution but for our students.**

**We believe that what we do at LSBU is special and important; if you agree, then we hope you will help our students by making a gift. Through scholarships, bursaries or other direct support we ask you to transform their lives.**

“ As a young Bangladeshi woman from London’s East End my background never encouraged education. Instead it was more usual to marry at a young age. At school I fell into a crowd where education was the last thing on our minds. I just gave up. But luckily the staff didn’t give up on me and I was encouraged to apply for a course at LSBU because Tower Hamlets College had a partnership with them. My lecturer suggested LSBU because he felt they were an ethnically diverse university that was doing exceptionally well. I felt I ought to at least give it a try. He’d been so supportive and more importantly I wanted to prove to the women in the ethnic community that this is possible. I got accepted and now, three years on, I am an LLB Law graduate. At LSBU I got immense support from my lecturers. I admire their genuine passion for helping people like me who needed that push. I am so grateful for the partnership between THC and LSBU. It’s helped me to the position I am in today as an Executive Officer for the Department for Work and Pensions - and delighted to be earning well over £20K; especially as I’m still only 22. I’m also planning to complete my Legal Practice Course when I have saved enough to pay for it.

**Tahmina**



## Learning to Learn in schools

Learning to Learn targets schools with low rates of progression to higher education and equips talented school pupils with the study skills required to succeed at degree level. Pupils learn the skills they will need at university through workshops and seminars led by LSBU academic staff with extensive experience of helping pre-university students.

Learning to Learn helped me to obtain a great understanding of what higher education would be like and helped me to create a positive attitude towards continuing my studies. I never considered myself at university before I took part; it helped me realise that continuing my studies would further my knowledge to pursue my dreams and career. I met some amazing teachers and supporting staff, who have helped me to achieve so much more than I could imagine.”  
*Sonia*

**£1000**

will provide 5 local school pupils with the opportunity to experience ‘Learning to Learn’.

**£5000**

will enable us to run a programme with a local school.

## Higher Education in the classroom



This pioneering programme teaches degree level units in schools. It addresses the deficits in aspiration and in information, advice and guidance that exist in many poorer communities. We give talented pupils a taste of studying at university and encourage them to realise their potential in higher education.

“The tutors who ran HE in the Classroom were enthusiastic and very approachable. I felt the topics that we covered were all interesting and this helped me widen my knowledge and pushed me to work at a higher level. The work has really benefitted me; it’s made me more confident in my ability. It made me become more positive that I am able to do this course at university. If it wasn’t for HE in the Classroom at my college I believe that I would not have come to LSBU or even gone to university at all.”  
*Sakina*

**£1000**

will provide 3 local school pupils with the opportunity to experience “Higher Education in the Classroom”.

**£5000**

will enable us to run a programme with a local school.

## Summer schools

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Summer Schools like those run by LSBU have been shown to work. We target schools where pupils have low rates of progression to higher education with the aim of making up the deficits in aspiration and information, advice and guidance. Pupils learn and practice study skills with experienced academic staff.

“The Summer School allowed me to see university through my own eyes rather than those of another and I suppose prepared me for a more academic environment. I would most definitely recommend LSBU to prospective students as the staff are very informative and supportive continuously throughout your studies and future career path. The lecturers are very approachable and willing to go an extra mile to ensure that you comprehend.”

*Nicole*

**£1000**

will provide 4 local school pupils with the opportunity to experience an LSBU Summer School.

**£25000**

will enable us to run a full programme with a group of local schools.

## Practical support for students

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The age and background of many of our students means they often face highly complex lives in addition to their studies. This might include challenges arising from inadequate housing, health problems, child care needs, employment issues or the struggle of managing on a low income. Difficulties of these kinds can make it impossible for students to continue with university study. However, through relatively low-level interventions, trained advisors can help students to access a wide range of support, both internally and externally, and so enable them to progress with their education. We provide the extra assistance needed by many of our students by offering a full range of non-academic support to help overcome the many problems that can hinder academic success.

Priya was struggling to keep up with her course work and went to see a Student Advisor. The Advisor learned that Priya was living with her partner and three children in a small two-bedroom council flat; there were problems with the building and health professionals had raised concerns about the youngest child. The family needed a healthier environment. The children needed a separate room from their parents and space to play. Priya needed somewhere to study. The Advisor helped Priya contact councillors and the local MP, as well as securing supporting evidence from the health professionals. The result was a move to accommodation that better reflected the needs of her family and a working environment in which Priya could successfully pursue her studies.

**£1000**

will provide 5 students with a personal package of non-academic support



## Practical experience for students

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Connecting students and employers is at the heart of our approach to higher education. Professional bodies accredit two thirds of our courses, ensuring we teach our students the knowledge and skills employers want. Work placements provide a practical connection between study and work which benefits all involved. For employers, placements provide talented students who can take on projects and add value in other ways. For students, placements provide a competitive edge when applying for jobs and often lead to permanent employment. For more privileged students, family or other connections often secure prestigious and highly advantageous placement opportunities; often their choice is not limited by the need to support themselves or their families during that time. Most LSBU students need help to secure suitable work placement opportunities. Our aim is to ensure that they all have this opportunity.



**£1000**

will enable 10 LSBU students to secure a work placement or mentor



I went to the Employability and Careers Service for help with writing my CV and personal statement and for a mock interview. They also arranged for me to take a numerical and verbal reasoning test that is used by leading graduate recruiters, so I would be better prepared for assessment centres. As a result of their help I was able to secure internships with Standard Bank and with Ghana International Bank. I had lacked confidence about my ability to get an internship, but my Advisor made me believe in myself. Having received further support, I gained an internship in the Global Data team at Bloomberg and am now employed there as an Earnings Estimate Analyst. )))

*Angelina*

## Direct support for undergraduate students

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Undergraduate students are entitled to loans to cover their tuition fees and living expenses. The loans for living expenses amount to £7675 pa for students studying in London. For the poorest, a non-repayable maintenance grant of £3250 is also available but for many students with family and other responsibilities, this is not enough to enable them to study without the simultaneous pressures of almost full-time employment. We are seeking to provide non-repayable bursaries to ensure these students are able to commit sufficient time to their studies and achieve their full potential.

**£1500**

will provide a three year bursary of £500pa for an undergraduate student

## Direct support for postgraduate students

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Particularly in the professions and science and engineering industries, a first degree is not always enough to build a career. Some businesses need employees with the additional depth of knowledge that comes from highly focused postgraduate study.

Undergraduates have the opportunity to take loans to fund their studies but no similar option exists for postgraduate students. For those with substantial personal obligations and undergraduate debt, the further commitment of postgraduate fees is often impossible. Without support, many of our brightest and best students simply cannot afford to continue their studies and this effectively bars them from some careers.

**£4000**

will provide a scholarship for a postgraduate student



When I left college, I didn't feel ready for university. I ended up doing a bit of work with one of the local surveyors which motivated me to apply to university and get on the path of qualification myself. The Vice Chancellor's scholarship has made a huge difference to me. I've been living with my parents and it was getting to the state where I really felt I couldn't ask then for any more support. The award has taken that pressure away and really enabled me to focus on my studies. It is a very intensive course and I think I would have struggled to combine it with part time work.

**Elliott**



you & LSBU

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**For more information about how you  
can help create opportunities and  
transform lives please contact**

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