



Philanthropy Impact Report 2026



University of Essex

Thank you for making a difference.

This impact report highlights just a few of the many powerful stories that show how your support is helping students at Essex thrive.

Because of people like you, Essex remains a place where ambition grows, potential is unlocked, and students from every background have the chance to succeed.

Thank you for making all this possible.

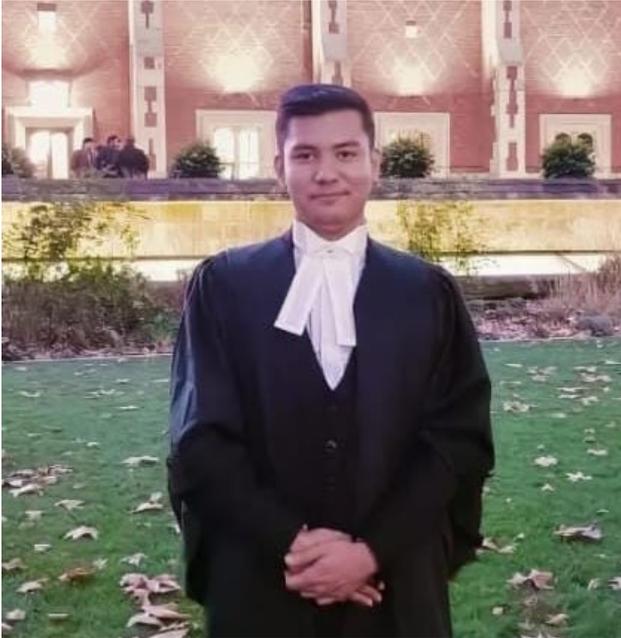
Here's the impact you've made

Over **£600,000** raised in 2025 to support scholarships and bursaries, hardship grants and student-led projects.

Nearly **1,000 donors** have backed our community, making Essex more accessible and more ambitious.

More than **560 hours** volunteered by alumni – sharing their expertise through mentoring, guest talks, and alumni profiles that have prepared and inspired students for their futures.

HOW EAYAN'S TURNING AMBITION INTO IMPACT



When we first connected with Essex Futures scholarship recipient Eayan Subramaniam, he told us how he dreamed of becoming a lawyer who champions under-represented groups.

He thrived at Essex, and three years after graduating with an LLB Law, he has been called to the Bar and works as a Practice Manager and Deputy Head of Commercial and Residential Property, where he also volunteers as a certified mediator supporting vulnerable clients.

Thanks to donors like you, Eayan had both the financial support and the encouragement he needed to reach his goals, and he's just getting started.

SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT: NGA WUN NG



“I’m now in my second year of my BSc Occupational Therapy degree, and life is busy! The Hong Kong Student Fund Scholarship is still making a big difference.

“It’s helped a lot with transport and accommodation for my placements, which means I can focus on learning and gaining experience.

“I’m juggling classes with clinical placements and starting to think about the area I want to specialise in. Right now, working with elderly patients is something I really enjoy because I feel like we learn from each other.”

Students like Nga Wun are thriving at Essex because of your choice to support our scholarship programmes.

ANNUAL ALUMNI PRIZE TO DRIVE IMPACT IN SOUTH EAST ASIA

Alumnus Charles Malcolm Brown has set up a new £500 annual prize in the Department of Government to support student projects improving lives in disadvantaged South East Asian communities.

“I want to encourage Essex students to think boldly and act decisively. Real change happens when knowledge meets compassion.”

Inspired by his own journey from factory worker to mature student to NGO founder, Charles wants future Essex students to pair knowledge with compassion.



Like Charles, your support can help spark global change by empowering students to tackle real world challenges.

PRO BONO ALUMNI IN ACTION



Offering time and expertise can change lives. Alumna Lucy Birch (LLB Law, 2011) supports the Essex Law Clinic pro bono, offering free legal advice to local people who need it most.

Her involvement also gives current Law students involved in the scheme hands-on experience and valuable mentoring as they prepare for their own careers.

She said: "It sounds cheesy, but it is an honour to be supporting the next

generation of lawyers. I know how it feels to be in their shoes and the challenges they face. If I can help in some way, that's really rewarding for me. I am passionate about access to the profession and social mobility."

SLEEPOVER OPENS DOORS TO HIGHER EDUCATION



A generous **£10,000 social value donation** from Verian Group UK is helping bring back our flagship Summer Sleepover, giving Year 10 pupils the chance to experience university life first-hand.

Over three days, students stay on campus, learn from academic tasters and build confidence for their next steps. Last year alone, our wider Outreach Programme **engaged nearly 17,000 students** through **more than 320 activities**.

Thank you for helping young people see that higher education is within their reach.

[Find out more about the impact of their donation.](#)

A GROWING PARTNERSHIP



Swiss Laundry, part of Swiss Campings, is helping shape the future of hospitality by sponsoring prizes for students from Edge Hotel School, the UK's first hotel school of its kind.

What began as a business-to-business relationship with Wivenhoe House Hotel, has grown into a meaningful partnership built on shared values and a commitment to investing in future leaders.

The four awards were presented to the prize-winners during Graduation in July last year, recognising excellence, innovation and practical skill. Congratulations to Fernando Odio, Ruby White, Astha Aziz (pictured) and Laura Kebell.

Now out in the graduate world, they're building their careers on the strong foundation they developed at Essex and the confidence their awards have given them.

[**Read more.**](#)

A DECADE OF EMPOWERING IDEAS



CLICK
The crowdfunding site for Essex

Over the past ten years, more than **500 student-led projects** have crowdfunded over **£500,000** through Click, our crowdfunding platform. Nearly half was raised from supporters of our Student Experience Fund and has provided match funding to student projects, helping to bring creative, academic and community ideas to life.

From early projects by the Astronomy Society to purchase a campus telescope, to the recent pantomime staged by the Theatre Arts Society, these initiatives enrich students' university life and build confidence for their future.

Your gifts are helping students turn bold ideas into reality.

WHO YOUR SUPPORT REACHES

4 in 10 Essex students are
from households under £25k.

1 in 3 are the first in their
family to attend university.

Over half identify as
Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic.

*UK students, 2024-25 data

We hope this edition of our Philanthropy Impact Report has inspired you. These stories are only a glimpse of the difference you're making, but each one reflects the passion, ambition and determination that define the Essex Spirit.

Thank you for being a vital part of our story and our community. [Continue your support for Essex with a donation.](#)