



Your Impact

2024-25

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MEDICINE



A very warm thank you to our community of supporters

I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the successes and highlights from the past year, and express our gratitude to the community of supporters who have made our achievements possible. We are proud to share some of the impact your support has made in this short update. Over the last academic year, over 550 LSHTM alumni, staff, friends, trusts, foundations and companies came together to donate an incredible £11 million to support LSHTM's mission to improve global health and equity worldwide.



You are part of a generous community that is helping to make extraordinary things happen, creating transformative opportunities for students and staff and enabling world-leading research. The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine is now ranked number three globally for public health and remains number one in the UK.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who chose to support us through giving and volunteering this year. Your generosity continues to make a remarkable impact on our community and beyond.

Whether you supported research into tropical diseases, scholarships for students from underrepresented groups, financial assistance for students or gave up your time to be a mentor, your impact is real, far-reaching, and much appreciated. Thank you.

Lee Rodwell
Director of Development & Alumni Relations



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Scholarship impact: transforming lives



Above: Neema receiving news of her scholarship award

At the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, we believe that finance should not be a barrier to learning. Scholarship support helps alleviate the financial burden of study for students and allows them to focus on fulfilling their potential and achieving their goals at LSHTM. For many students, scholarships are the only way for them to pursue further education.

The LSHTM Scholarship Fund supports students from low- and middle-income countries. Scholarships are not only transformational for individual careers - they also enable health professionals to access world-class education, and in turn, strengthen healthcare systems in their home countries. Our fantastic LSHTM scholars often tell us that a scholarship not only changes their life but also has a ripple effect on the lives of their family, colleagues, and wider community.

Last year, we supported Tanzanian scholar Neema Kailembo, MSc Health Data Science, through the LSHTM Scholarship Fund. Motivated by the loss of her father to a heart attack and the health care needs in her community, Neema was determined to improve cardiovascular outcomes in underserved communities.

After four years of rejections and financial hardship, receiving funding from LSHTM was a turning point. "This was my fifth attempt. Without this scholarship, I might have left research entirely," Neema explained.

"When I received the news, I was overjoyed. I remember my mother being the first to call - she was so happy she cried. Raising us as a single mother was not easy, and knowing I had received funding to pursue my dream made her proud and relieved.

When LSHTM awarded me the scholarship, it wasn't just an acceptance letter, it was a breakthrough."

Now leading two cohort studies in Tanzania, Neema is investigating the link between severe malaria and cardiovascular complications, and the impact of time-to-care metrics on patient survival. Her research aims to influence national health guidelines and improve clinical outcomes.

"Many in my home country, including people in my own research group, are still trying to access the same kind of opportunity. You've shown us that it's possible."

Neema is now considering a PhD, something she never considered a possibility before.

"Thank you for restoring my hope and opening doors I thought were closed.

Your support changed my future, and I'm committed to using it to transform others' lives."

Breaking barriers, building futures

The Next Generation Scholarships break down barriers to postgraduate education. These scholarships are for students from historically underrepresented backgrounds, such as caregivers or those who are the first in their family to access higher education, to pursue postgraduate study and feel a sense of belonging.

In addition to financial challenges such as the high cost of living in London, students from low-income backgrounds face less visible barriers.

Matt Harvey (MSc Medical Microbiology 2024), a Next Generation scholar, explains: "At school, my peers came from similar backgrounds, but at university, I was suddenly surrounded by people from much more privileged environments. I knew I was there on merit, but I struggled to fit in.

The atmosphere at LSHTM is very different to what I experienced as an undergraduate. Perhaps because of its small size and postgraduate-only student body, there is much better integration of students and staff, and it feels like a community of people with shared interests.

The barriers I've faced have given me a strong sense of perspective; in many societies, access to even basic education is limited, so I'm very fortunate to have been a postgraduate student at LSHTM."

Being awarded a scholarship allowed Matt to fully focus on his studies and make the most of his year at LSHTM.

"I graduated as one of the top students on my course, achieving a distinction grade and winning two awards. I wouldn't have been able to achieve this without the support of the Next Generation Scholarship, which allowed me to focus on my studies without any financial concerns."

A year on from completing his MSc, Matt is working as a scientist at the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency. He is a member of the Pandemic Influenza team, which undertakes research and development work to support influenza pandemic preparedness.

Donations to scholarship programmes really do make a difference – "without financial support, I might have given up my place at LSHTM," says Matt.

"Financial support removes barriers for people like me and ensures higher education isn't reserved for those who can afford it."



Above: Matthew Harvey



Keeping every student on the path to success

The LSHTM Student Financial Support Fund provides vital support to students facing unexpected financial hardship. As a result, we're able to provide small, one-off grants, to help students stay focused on their studies when unforeseen circumstances arise.

One recipient, a part-time PhD student balancing work, study, and family life, received support when his wife became ill and couldn't work. The fund helped cover rent and childcare, allowing him to continue his research. Another student needed a new laptop after theirs broke and could not be repaired due to being purchased outside the UK. The Financial Support Fund is a lifeline that ensures students can continue their education without interruption.

Ian Carter, Head of Student Support Services at LSHTM explains: "We're seeing more students struggle to afford essentials like food and transport, and many now rely on part-time jobs to get by. But during assessment periods, they need to focus on their studies, so we have helped during times when they haven't been able to work. Even a modest grant can make a big difference."

Your support is enabling LSHTM students to complete their courses without the burden of financial stress.

Running with purpose



Above: LSHTM Community Fundraiser Sirine at the London Landmarks Half Marathon 2025

At LSHTM we are proud to have a dedicated group of community fundraisers, who took part in fundraising challenge events like the London Landmarks Half Marathon, the London to Brighton Cycle Ride and their own events such as the South Coast Ultramarathon Challenge last year. We're pleased to share the experiences of Sirine Dehmani, MSc Health Policy Planning and Finance.

"When I signed up for the London Landmarks Half Marathon raising funds sounded like a chore at first, but it became an amazing experience! I did the simplest thing: I messaged all 55 of my classmates. It was a wonderful way to get to know each person in my cohort - and for them to get to know me, too.

Soon, I became known not just in my programme but across the school as 'the person who runs half-marathons for LSHTM scholarships', months later, people I'd never met were still saying, "Oh, you're the runner!" For me, running a half marathon isn't spectacular, but this one mattered. I'm happy to say I smashed my fundraising goal and, together, Team LSHTM raised over £6,000! A huge thank you to every single donor who supports the School!"

"I knew that every pound would count towards a life-changing opportunity for a student who otherwise wouldn't be able to study here."

The power of conversation

Our annual telephone campaigns are an invaluable way to connect with alumni, raising vital funds for scholarships and they also give current students the opportunity to have powerful career conversations with alumni. Earlier this year, alumni generously shared insights from careers as varied as HIV pharmacy and public health policy to parasitology and sexual and reproductive health. These inspiring conversations offered mentorship, collaboration opportunities, and a powerful reminder of our community's commitment to shaping future public health leaders.

After speaking to a student caller in February, Jacob Boreel (MSc Control of Infectious Diseases 2001), and LSHTM donor, shared: "It was a pleasure to have a good chat with our young and bright colleague, Daniel. I had such a great time at the LSHTM, in fact it was the best decision of my life to take an MSc there. It's a splendid idea to organise these initiatives and I am happy to make a contribution."



Above: LSHTM Telephone Campaign Team 2025

"LSHTM's alumni network is filled with people with rich experiences in public health, who are more than willing to share their stories and advice."

2025 student caller Nanami Yamaguchi, MSc Public Health

Telephone fundraiser and alum Ellie Delight (MSc Control of Infectious Diseases 2023), said "A massive thank you to those who have donated; it's really great to know that so many alumni feel strongly about the campaign and supporting students to come to LSHTM."

We're so grateful to everyone who took the time to speak to one of our students this year to offer advice, mentorship and to donate.



Would you like to receive a call from one of our student callers?

Ensure we have a correct telephone number for you by emailing: phonecampaign@lshtm.ac.uk.

Honouring Helena: legacy gift empowers malaria researchers

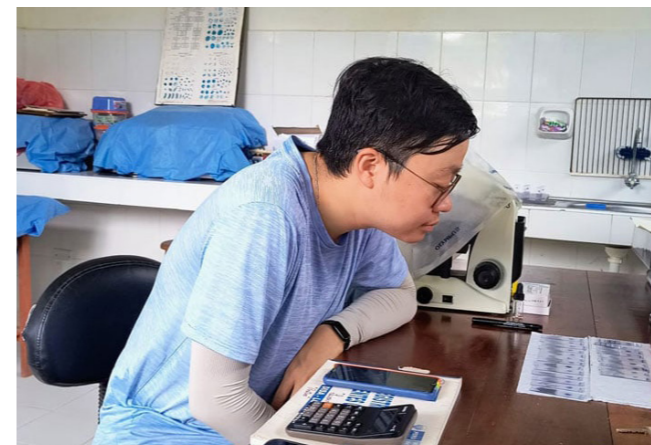


Above: Helena Vrbová at work in Mandang, Papua New Guinea. Credit: Professor Gerta Vrbová

Legacy gifts provide vital, long-term support for students and researchers, and help us to make a lasting impact.

Dr Helena Vrbová, a young doctor and LSHTM student was just 29 when she tragically passed away while researching malaria in Papua New Guinea, over 40 years ago. Helena was determined to make a difference in the world, especially through addressing diseases of poverty. Her colleagues in Papua New Guinea remember her not only for her intellect and meticulous approach to research, but also for her physical resilience, openness and warmth, and ability to connect with people from all walks of life - an ideal combination for a field epidemiologist.

To remember Helena's life and work, her mother, Professor Greta Vrbová, established the Helena Vrbová Scholarship, an annual award supporting students with a passion for malaria research, enabling them to pursue international projects without financial constraints.



Above: Winston Lam in a Field clinic in San José de Lupuna, rural Loreto. Credit: Winston Lam

Helena's legacy continues to inspire the next generation of malaria researchers committed to making a difference. In 2024, The Helena Vrbová Scholarship was awarded to Winston Lam (MSc Control of Infectious Diseases 2024), who conducted fieldwork in Peru, investigating factors influencing Plasmodium vivax transmission in riverine communities. His research explored mosquito behaviour, climate impacts, and community health practices with the aim of contributing to more adaptive malaria elimination strategies.

Reflecting on the experience, Winston said: "I am so grateful to have received the Helena Vrbová Scholarship for my research into malaria's epidemiology, as it has truly allowed me to explore a question close to Dr Vrbová's esteemed legacy - how research can work to serve the needs of underheard communities in global health."

In addition to establishing the Helena Vrbová Scholarship, Professor Greta Vrbová, a Developmental Neuroscience academic at

"These experiences reaffirmed my belief that impactful infectious disease research must begin with empathy and grounded, bottom-up engagement - a lesson I have been privileged to learn, and one this scholarship has inspired me to uphold."

Winston Lam, 2024 Helena Vrbová Scholar

University College London, strove to inspire and support young scientists throughout her life. We are deeply grateful to Greta for also choosing to remember LSHTM in her own generous legacy gift, which is a wonderful reflection of her values.



After ensuring your loved ones are taken care of, remembering LSHTM in your will is an extraordinary way to support the causes you value most.

If you would like to discuss how you can make a lasting impact through a legacy gift, please contact us on +44(0)207 299 4772 or email: development@lshtm.ac.uk



Thank you

Contact us on:

+44(0)207 299 4772
development@lshtm.ac.uk

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www.lshtm.ac.uk/supportus/give-online

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