

Giving to non-UK universities by the UK's richest 150 individuals

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Key findings

The scale of giving by the UK's richest residents to non-UK universities points to the increasing internationalisation of university philanthropy.

- Funding by the UK's 150 richest individuals – as identified by the *Sunday Times 2019 Rich List* – shows that £751m has been given to non-UK universities over the past five years (2014-18).
- 21 percent of the Top 150 *Sunday Times Rich List* have made 197 donations to 86 non-UK universities in 22 countries over the past five years.
- 59 percent of giving in this study went to universities in the US.
- Giving to non-UK universities has increased dramatically over the past five years.
- In 2014, the UK's 150 richest individuals gave £42m to 22 non-UK universities. In 2018 they gave nearly £292m to 43 non-UK universities.
- The biggest individual donor to non-UK universities in the past five years is the Ukrainian-born billionaire Sir Len Blatvanik who has given £235m.
- Norwegian Trond Mohn has given £160m in the past five years to a number of Norwegian universities, while Anglo Hong-Kong billionaire Samuel Tak-Lee has given nearly £120m to universities.
- Harvard University is the biggest beneficiary (£202m) of giving to a non-UK university, and the recipient of the single biggest donation in this survey.
- Columbia University in New York is the most popular university for giving among the UK's richest. Five individuals have donated over £12m in the past five years.
- The Anglo-Zimbabwean billionaire Alan Parker has given to the widest number of non-UK universities. His foundation has given £23m to 35 universities over the past 5 years, 22 of which are in the US.

About UniversityPhilanthropy.com

UniversityPhilanthropy.com is the dedicated research arm of The Cape Partnership, the London-based public affairs and policy advisory firm. Our research looks exclusively at trends in UK philanthropy and giving to non-UK universities. Contact: office@capepartnership.com

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Key facts

Sir Len Blavatnik's philanthropy to non-UK universities dominates this survey of giving by the UK's richest. The table below sets out giving by the five most generous benefactors to non-UK universities (2014-2018)



Individual	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
Sir Len Blavatnik	£16.5m	£0	£9.1m	£1.0m	£209m	£235.6m
Trond Mohn and Marit Mohn	£9.1m	£47.4m	£31.6m	£40.7m	£32.2m	£161.0m
Samuel Tak Lee	£0	£118m	£0.6m	£0.6m	£0	£119.2m
Sir Michael Moritz	£0	£0	£41m	£0	£0	£41.0m
Jonas and Mathias Kamprad	£0.2m	£6.5m	£7.0m	£7.6m	£9.7m	£31.1m

Top 10 recipients of giving by the UK's 150 richest individuals over the past 5 years

University	Country	2014-18 funding
Harvard	US	£201.6m
Bergen	Norway	£128.3m
M.I.T.	US	£118.0m
Tel Aviv	Israel	£55.0m
Chicago	US	£41.0m
Tromsø	Norway	£27.1m
Trinity College	Eire	£26.5m
Yale	US	£20.8m
Columbia	US	£12.1m
John Hopkins	US	£10.1m

Case study: Sir Len Blavatnik

Sir Len Blavatnik is ranked as the UK's fourth richest individual according to the *Sunday Times 2019 Rich List*. He is also a well known benefactor of universities. In 2010, he donated £75m to Oxford University and in 2013 he gifted \$50m to Harvard University. According to our study, he is the UK's most generous benefactor of non-UK universities between 2014-18. Seven non-UK universities received £235m. This amounts to 31% of all giving to non-UK universities by the UK's 150 richest. The beneficiaries are:

- Harvard University, US
- Tel Aviv University, Israel
- Yale University, US
- Stanford University, US
- Columbia University, US
- University of Pennsylvania, US
- University of Southern California, US

About our research

The purpose of this research was to identify giving to non-UK universities by the UK's wealthiest individuals. Our study drew on the *Sunday Times 2019 Rich List* as a basis for the research. We identified reported giving to universities either by individuals directly or by means of a charitable trust which channels their philanthropy. The giving captured in this study is a conservative figure. Many but not all individuals in this survey disclose giving. For more information, contact: office@capepartnership.com

