

A study of non-UK universities' UK charitable trusts 2014-18

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Key findings

This study represents the first survey into the scope and scale of UK charitable trusts set up by non-UK university efforts to tap into UK philanthropy.

- The number of charitable foundations and trusts established by non-UK universities in the UK has risen rapidly in the last two decades.
- There are 79 such university trusts with the primary purpose of raising funds to support the university in its home country.
- Out of the seventy-nine university trusts covered in this report, 52 (66 percent) were established since 2000.
- There are at least another 13 which have been set up by non-UK universities, but which support educational activities in the UK.
- There is no consistency in the way universities use such charitable trusts.
- Some universities use their trust as the primary vehicle in collecting revenues raised from UK philanthropy. Others use it simply to advance fundraising from the alumni.
- The top three largest charitable trusts by revenues relate to Israeli institutions.
- All of Israel's tertiary institutions have a dedicated UK charitable trust.
- The oldest charitable trust is Israeli. The Weizmann Institute Foundation was established on 8 June 1950. Six out of the eight oldest university trusts are Israeli.
- Non-UK university-related charitable trusts raised over £262m (\$338m) between 2014-18.
- £56.6m (\$73m) in philanthropic donations was raised by 79 university charitable trusts in 2018. This marked a 27 percent decline in giving compared to the year before (£72.1m / \$90.3m).
- Nearly £33.2m (\$42.8m) was raised by 7 Israeli universities via dedicated UK charitable trusts in 2018 compared to £28.8m (\$37.1m) in 2017, a 15 percent rise in net donations.

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

The use of UK charitable trusts for fundraising by non-UK universities is dominated by Israeli institutions. The table below sets out income of the five largest charitable trusts relating to non-UK universities (2014-2018):

University	Country	Est.	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
Hebrew University of Jerusalem	Israel	2007	£6.9m	£5.7m	£6.6m	£7.5m	£9.2m	£35.8m
Tel Aviv University	Israel	1969	£0.9m	£1.1m	£8.5m	£9.0m	£11.8m	£31.3m
Weizmann Institute	Israel	1950	£6.0m	£2.8m	£9.0m	£6.9m	£5.2m	£30.0m
University of Pennsylvania	US	2002	£2.9m	£4.0m	£3.6m	£13.5m	£1.8m	£25.8m
Princeton	US	2008	£1.7m	£0.5m	£7.5m	£2.4m	£1.7m	£13.8m

Top 10 university charitable trusts income in 2018

University	Country	Income
Tel Aviv University	Israel	£11.8m
Hebrew University of Jerusalem	Israel	£9.2m
Weizmann Institute	Israel	£5.2m
University of Haifa	Israel	£4.5m
University of Chicago	US	£4.3m
Stanford	US	£2.3m
University of Pennsylvania	US	£1.8m
Princeton	US	£1.7m
University of California	US	£1.3m
University of Cape Town	South Africa	£1.2m

Case study: Weizman Institute Foundation

Establishing a charitable trust in the UK by an overseas university is not new. In 1950, the Weizmann Institute, an Israeli public research university founded in 1934, created a UK-based foundation. At the outset, the Foundation reported a donation of £100,000 (£3m in today's value) by British businessman Isaac Wolfson in 1950. Given currency controls at the time, the Foundation may have been established initially to handle this donation. Today the Foundation is administered by both a professional staff, led by an executive director, as well as its board of trustees. The Foundation is very active, organising regular events, reports and other activities, to promote the Institute in the UK and among prospective donors. Between 2014-18 the Foundation raised £30.0m.

About our research

The purpose of this research was to identify those non-UK universities which have established UK charitable trusts for fundraising purposes to support a university outside the UK. Information sourced to compile this study of 79 university charities is available at the Charity Commission. Financial data reported does not reflect all outbound UK giving to non-UK universities. For more information, please contact: office@capepartnership.com

