

Giving to non-UK universities by the Wellcome Trust

May 2020

Key findings

The Wellcome Trust, the UK's biggest foundation and one of the world's largest charitable endowments, has disbursed £295m to 172 non-UK universities in 55 countries over the past 10 years.

- The Wellcome Trust gives ostensibly to UK-based science but five percent of all its giving in the past ten years (£6.23bn) has gone to international universities.
- Our analysis of its giving from 2009-18 shows that African institutions are the largest beneficiaries of its international university giving.
- Between 2009-18 African universities received 37% (£108.3m) of giving. European institutions are second place receiving 24% of giving (£71.6m) while Australasian universities are the third place receiving 15% (£42.9m).
- South Africa is a significant beneficiary of Wellcome Trust giving. Institutions in South Africa received 20% of all non-UK university giving (£58.8m). Australian institutions are the second biggest national group receiving 14% (£42.4m) while Irish universities followed with £41.1m.
- Monash University in Australia is the biggest beneficiary, receiving 11.5% of non-UK higher education giving. Between 2014-18, it received £33.8m.
- The top three university beneficiaries are Monash University (£33.8m), University of Cape Town (£24.9m), and the University of KwaZulu-Natal (£23.9m).
- The largest individual donation to a non-UK university was an award of £13.6m to Monash University to fund its World Mosquito programme in 2018.
- University College Dublin has received the highest number of Wellcome Trust grants in the past decade - 78 awards amounting to £7.7m.
- Drexel University is the biggest US beneficiary receiving £9.4m for a study focused on social and health inequalities in Latin America. This donation made in 2017 is the third biggest single donation to a non-UK university.

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



Giving to non-UK universities by the Wellcome Trust

Key facts

With its £26.8bn endowment, the Wellcome Trust is one of the biggest foundations in the world, supporting bio- and social science research. The table below sets out the top five countries that benefit from its funding.



#	Beneficiary country	Total (2009-18)	Recip.	Biggest beneficiary
1	South Africa	£58.8m	8	University of Cape Town
2	Australia	£42.4m	8	Monash University
3	Eire	£41.1m	9	Trinity College, Dublin
4	United States	£37.2m	34	Drexel University
5	Singapore	£18.7m	2	Institute for Tropical Diseases

Top 10 individual awards made by the Wellcome Trust (2009-18)

University	Country	Sum
Monash	Australia	£13.6m
KwaZulu-Natal	South Africa	£13.5m
Drexel	US	£9.4m
Inst. Tropical Diseases	Singapore	£8.7m
Monash	Australia	£8.5m
KEMRI	Kenya	£8.0m
Trinity College	Eire	£7.7m
Monash	Australia	£7.6m
Inst. Tropical Diseases	Singapore	£7.3m
Bamako	Mali	£5.5m

Supporting African research

With 37% of its international university giving (£108.3m) going to Africa, the Wellcome Trust appears to attach considerable significance to supporting African science and research.

At the University of Cape Town, the biggest African recipient, the Wellcome Trust helped establish and has since funded the University's Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Africa. The Trust made its second biggest individual donation to the University of KwaZulu-Natal in 2012 when it gifted £13.5m for its Centre for Health and Population Studies.

The top five African recipients between 2009-18 are:

- University of Cape Town - £24.9m
- University of KwaZulu-Natal - £23.9m
- Kenya Medical Research Institute - £11.8m
- Makerere University - £10.0m
- University of the Witwatersrand - £9.1m

About our research

The purpose of this research was to identify giving to non-UK universities by the Wellcome Trust. Data over the past ten years used to compile this study is available from the Wellcome Trust. For more information, contact: office@capepartnership.com

