

University philanthropy: Carnegie Corporation of New York

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Key findings

The Carnegie Corporation of New York is a 109 year-old institution with a fine history of supporting higher education both in the United States and internationally.

Established by the American industrialist Andrew Carnegie, the Corporation today funds programmes that support democracy, international security, education and, especially, higher education in Africa.

From 2010-19, the Corporation awarded 3,150 grants totaling \$1.32 billion, making it a significant philanthropic donor.

According to our analysis of its university giving between 2010-19:

- Carnegie has given around 21 percent of its funding to higher education institutions around the world.
- \$274m has been disbursed to 137 universities in 15 countries between 2010-19.
- There has been an overall rise in giving to universities, and to the number of different institutions over the past decade.
- In 2010, 27 universities shared \$19.6m in Carnegie funding; by 2019 45 universities shared \$29.3m in grants.
- However, funding to non-US universities has been in long term decline over the last ten years while the overall rise in university funding is almost exclusively to the benefit of US institutions.
- In 2010, 63 percent of Carnegie funding (\$12.3m) was awarded to non-US universities, notably African institutions. By 2019, just 28 percent (\$8.2m) of Carnegie funding was directed to 13 non-US universities.
- African universities are the principal casualties. In 2010, \$12.3m was awarded to African universities; by 2019 they received \$3.5m.

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

Andrew Carnegie envisioned his foundation would “promote the advancement and diffusion of knowledge and understanding.” While his primary aim was to benefit the people of the United States, he later determined to use a portion of the funds for the British overseas Commonwealth, hence the Foundation's Africa focus.



Top 10 beneficiaries of the Carnegie Corporation of New York (2010-19)

University	Country	Sum
Harvard	US	\$14.5m
Columbia	UK	\$14.3m
George Washington	US	\$12.2m
Ghana	UK	\$11.8m
King's College	UK	\$10.8m
Middlebury Coll.	US	\$10.2
Cape Town	S. Africa	\$9.9m
Witwatersrand	S. Africa	\$8.6m
Makerere	Uganda	\$8.6m
Georgetown	US	\$7.2m

Top five countries for Carnegie Corporation of New York giving:

Country	Total (2010-19)	No. of univs
United States	\$196.3m	101
South Africa	\$28.4m	8
United Kingdom	\$20.6m	10
Ghana	\$11.8m	1
Uganda	\$8.6m	1

Building Africa's university capacity

Like the Robert Bosch Stiftung and the Volkswagen Foundation, Carnegie's support in Africa is largely geared towards building institutional capacity and fostering Africa's higher education sector through:

- Early career programmes for African scholars
- African diaspora linkages
- Higher education policy environments .

The Corporation's *Next Generation of Academics in Africa* programme has targeted a number of quality institutions such as the universities of Cape Town, Ghana, Makerere, Pretoria and Witwatersrand with a view to building resources, international networks and fostering great retention while stemming Africa's academic brain drain. A key objective of the initiative is to help improve Africa's research output.

About our research

The purpose of this research was to identify university giving by the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Data over the past ten years used to compile this study has been drawn from the Foundation's website. For more information, contact: office@capepartnership.com

