

# University philanthropy: William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

November 2020

## Key findings

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, commonly known as the Hewlett Foundation, is a private foundation, established by the Hewlett-Packard co-founder William Hewlett and his wife in 1966.

With assets of approximately \$11 billion at the 31 December 2019, Hewlett is one of the wealthiest grant makers in the United States. In 2019, the foundation awarded \$454,458,000 in grants.

The Foundation has grant-making programmes in education, the environment, global development and population, the performing arts, and philanthropy. Universities internationally are longstanding beneficiaries of Hewlett Foundation funding.

According to our ten year analysis of Hewlett Foundation funding from 2010-19:

- The Hewlett Foundation has awarded 606 grants amounting to \$214.1m in funding to 65 universities in 18 countries in the past decade. The median average grant award is \$250,000.
- 35 out of the 65 university recipients are US institutions, which received around \$133.8m (62% of all Hewlett Foundation university funding).
- North America is the biggest regional recipient. 41 universities in the US and Canada received \$147.3m.
- African universities are the second biggest regional recipients. Eight universities in five countries – Burkina Faso, Ghana, Senegal, South Africa and Uganda – received \$42.5m over the past decade.
- The biggest grant award the Hewlett Foundation has made in the past decade is \$2m.
- Seven \$2m awards were made to five universities, four in the US (Berkeley, John Hopkins, MIT and Yale); and one to the Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar in Senegal.
- The funding went to programmes that focused on education, rule of law, good governance and family planning.

## About UniversityPhilanthropy.com

*UniversityPhilanthropy.com is the dedicated research arm of The Cape Partnership, a London-based public affairs and policy advisory firm. Our research looks at trends in philanthropy and giving to universities.*

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## Key facts

The pattern of Hewlett giving has remained broadly stable over the past decade, with the breakdown in giving to US and non-universities remaining stable.

US institutions have tended to receive around 60 percent of giving. In 2019 the proportion of US funding declined 50 percent and the majority of university recipients were non-US institutions. It remains to be seen if this pattern will continue in future years.

## Top 10 non-US recipients of giving by the Hewlett Foundation:

University	Country	2010-19
Université Cheikh Anta Diop	Senegal	\$10.9m
Ontario College of Art & Design	Canada	\$10.0m
Open University	UK	\$9.2m
Cape Town	S. Africa	\$8.8m
Witwatersrand	S. Africa	\$7.5m
Rhodes	S. Africa	\$4.8m
Tsinghua	China	\$4.4m
Ghana	Ghana	\$4.0m
Johannesburg	S. Africa	\$2.9m
Oxford	UK	\$2.6m

## Top five university beneficiaries of Hewlett funding 2010-19:

University	Total	Main funding areas
M.I.T.	\$22.4m	Governance-related programmes
Berkeley	\$13.7m	Social science programmes
Stanford	\$11.2m	Hoover Institute nuclear initiative
Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar	\$10.9m	Quality of education and learning in Senegal research
Ontario College of Art & Design	\$10.0m	Online and remote learning initiatives

## Open learning, democratising knowledge

Long before the advent of Covid-19, the Hewlett Foundation has been a champion of open education, promoting innovative learning and building capacity for online and remote teaching. Since 2002, the Foundation has funded open education and sought to see the use of it gain traction. This is reflected in funding that it has allocated to some of the pioneers of open education and remote learning, including the UK's Open University. The Open University is the seventh biggest beneficiary of Hewlett philanthropy between 2010-19 receiving \$9.2m. The Foundation has also funded the University of the People in the US and the Open University in the Netherlands.

In April 2020, the Hewlett Foundation launched its strategy for *Open Education Resource* grant-making the aim of which is to continue its work in "democratising knowledge and empowering learners around the world". As higher education embraces new models of learning in the wake of Covid-19, the Hewlett Foundation can with considerable justification make the case that it leads the pack when it comes to supporting and enabling open and distance learning in higher education.

### About our research

The purpose of this research was to identify giving by the *William and Flora Hewlett Foundation* between 2010-19. Our gratitude to the International Aid Transparency Initiative which provided the funding data. For more information, contact: [office@capepartnership.com](mailto:office@capepartnership.com)

