

University philanthropy: Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

September 2020

Key findings

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation is another example of a great US philanthropic fund geared towards supporting the arts and humanities. Established 50 years ago, the Foundation formed from the merger of two existing foundations.

By the end of 2019, the Foundation's endowment was approximately \$6.5 billion, with annual grant-making approximately \$316 million. Mellon is a significant funder of universities in the US and internationally. According to our research of its university funding over the past 10 years:

- Mellon has given \$1bn to 279 universities in 21 countries between 2010-19;
- 93% (\$905m) of funding went to 231 US universities.
- The second biggest country beneficiary was the UK. 14 British universities received \$28m in Mellon funding.
- Canada was the third biggest country recipient with seven institutions receiving collectively \$14m.
- The fourth biggest country beneficiary was South Africa. Five South African universities received \$8m over the past 10 years.
- Columbia University is the single biggest recipient of Mellon funding.
- The top three recipient institutions are Columbia University (\$33.4m), New York University (\$30.9m) and the University of Michigan (\$27.4m).
- The top three non-US recipient institutions are the University of Oxford (\$12.2m), Cambridge University (\$8.6m) and the University of Toronto (\$6.7m).
- 4.3% (\$41.8m) went to European universities, making Europe the second biggest regional recipient of giving after North America. 29 universities in 11 European countries benefited from Mellon funding.

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 at trends in philanthropy and giving to universities.