Donor impact
Report 2019
Your support allows exceptional people to flourish

Like you, we believe that lifelong success is fostered through great education – inspiring students to think differently, ask the difficult questions, be a positive disruptive influence, and fulfil every ounce of their potential.

In 2019, donors directed their support to:

Transforming teaching and learning
- Lectureships, infrastructure and chairs create and contribute to innovative learning environments
- $8.61m+ received in 2019

Empowering student success
- Scholarships and prizes to support access to education, residential or travel costs
- $1.01m+ received in 2019

Driving discovery and impact
- Research support helps us nurture cross-disciplinary teams who are working towards solving the great challenges facing humanity
- $912,000+ received in 2019

$10.53m+ funds received
448 gifts received
220 donors

The Donor Roll
Thank you to our alumni and friends who made a gift to the Faculty of Engineering, Architecture and Information Technology in 2019 and who continue to support the University as well as our students and researchers.
To view the 2019 Donor Roll, please visit eait.uq.edu.au/donor-roll
As the unprecedented circumstances resulting from COVID-19 continues to have a significant impact around the world, it’s important to acknowledge how grateful we are to have such a dedicated community of alumni, industry partners and friends who continue to support us.

On behalf of the Faculty of Engineering, Architecture and Information Technology (EAIT), we thank you for your incredible generosity over the past year. Your giving has allowed us to continue to create meaningful opportunities that will make a significant difference to teaching and learning, empowering student success and driving discovery and impact.

As we approach the end of UQ’s first major philanthropic campaign, we see significant evidence of its impact all around us.

One of the highlights of such impact, includes commencing construction of the new Andrew N. Liveris Building. Made possible thanks to the extraordinary generosity of Mr Andrew N. Liveris and his wife Mrs Paula Liveris, the new building will bring the School of Chemical Engineering back into one location and will support researchers and students to address sustainability challenges facing our world. The new building will also house the new Andrew N. Liveris Academy for Innovation and Leadership which was launched in 2019 and the first cohort of scholars appointed to the academy. The academy will attract, support and develop the next generation of effective and inspiring leaders with a mindset geared towards creating a sustainable future.

Support for initiatives that focus on transforming teaching and learning through lectureships, infrastructure and academic positions contribute to world-class learning environments for our students and researchers. One meaningful example of this, is the incredible support from EM Solutions and EOS to establish a new Chair Position in Microwave and Photonic Engineering and Applied Electromagnetics in the School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering. This position will harness the power of research and teaching excellence and will shape the future of Microwave, Photonic Engineering and Advanced Electromagnetics.

Scholarships to help provide our gifted, underrepresented and financially disadvantaged students with life changing opportunities continue to grow. One example of the opportunities scholarships can lead to is the Nancy and Warwick Olsen PhD Scholarship recipient Rhys Pirie, who was the first Australian to win Young Innovator of the Year at the world’s premier conference for research and innovation, Falling Walls in Berlin. Rhys won the international competition with his presentation about a process that could turn waste glass into every day products, an award he may not have achieved had it not been for the philanthropic support he received through a scholarship from the Olsens.

It is heartening to see the growth in support for endowed funds at UQ. The investments provide a reliable and growing source of income in perpetuity that enables our researchers to continue to make discoveries and dreams a reality for students.

In 2019 UQ launched a new initiative to support students in need, the Create Change Scholarship Match. Under this initiative, gifts over $50,000 are matched dollar-for-dollar when a donation is directed to a need-based endowed scholarship. It has been pleasing to see a number of our generous donors step forward in support of this initiative, taking the opportunity to double the impact through establishing scholarships that will serve as a lasting legacy for future generations.

Now, more than ever, your financial support has a significant impact on the opportunities we can make available to our students, researchers and society as a whole. Philanthropy makes all of this possible and by donating to EAIT you’re setting an example which continues to build a culture that will inspire generosity in the UQ community for generations to come.

We are extremely grateful that you have chosen to invest in the future of UQ through your generous financial support. We hope you enjoy reading about the impact of your generosity.
Now, more than ever, philanthropic gifts to UQ are having a significant impact on our students, researchers and society.

Professor Vicki Chen
Executive Dean, Engineering, Architecture and Information Technology
Advancement Team

Cormac Murphy
Director of Advancement

Grant Ferguson
Deputy Director, Development

Jo Cherriman
Associate Director, Development

Kyle Williams
Deputy Director, Engagement and Philanthropy (Acting)

Jodie Chellew
Advancement Coordinator

Heidi Hynd
Stewardship Officer

To find out about upcoming events, please visit eait.uq.edu.au/alumni-events
Keep in touch with the Faculty Advancement team
+ 61 7 3365 4302
alumni@eait.uq.edu.au
eait.uq.edu.au/community

UQ Engineering and Technology, UQ Architecture

UQ Engineering and Computing, UQ Architecture

@UQEngTech, @UQArchitecture
Create Change Scholarship Match

Double your impact – for generations to come

Together, we aim to increase our endowment by $30 million to transform the lives of aspiring students who need a helping hand. For many talented students, the cost of attending university prevents them from pursuing higher education. The University of Queensland is committed to making higher education affordable for everyone, by providing greater support to students experiencing financial hardship, year after year, generation after generation.

UQ will double your gift. To inspire others to step forward, UQ is investing $15 million to match donations over $50,000, dollar for dollar when directed towards the creation of an endowed scholarship. If desired, you may direct your gift to a need-based scholarship, program or area of study. Establishing a scholarship gives you the opportunity to leave a legacy for future generations. You may even choose to honour your family, a friend or a relative by naming a scholarship.
From little things big things grow

EOS Chair in Microwave and Photonic Engineering and Applied Electromagnetics
The EM Solutions Engineering Scholarship

At The University of Queensland, we are clear about our vision to provide knowledge leadership for a better world, and we’re lucky that our supporters are on the same page.

Among these generous allies are two industry partners with deep ties to UQ, EM Solutions and Electro Optic Systems (EOS).

The organisations have stepped up to support UQ in advancing the fields of microwave and photonic engineering and electromagnetics, through philanthropic gifts totalling $800,000. $750,000 of these gifts, along with matched funding from the UQ School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering, will fund a professorial Chair in Microwave and Photonic Engineering and Applied Electromagnetics. The EOS Chair position will attract the best talent to the University, building a centre of expertise and extending the reaches of the field to make an even greater positive global contribution.

EOS CEO and UQ graduate Dr Ben Greene (Bachelor of Engineering, ’73) said he expected to see the partnership benefit both industry partners, as well as UQ.

“Being proactive in supporting research and development that will evolve the applications of microwave and optics engineering in space and broadband satellite communications will keep Australian industry at the leading edge,” said Dr Greene.

“At 35 years of industry experience, we want to help foster the development of new generations of radio frequency engineers and microwave engineers,” said Dr Greene.

EM Solutions CEO Dr Rowan Gilmore (Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical), ’76) said being able to contribute $50,000 to support scholarships for students in the field he has enjoyed so much success in was the company’s way of “paying it forward” to those less fortunate.

“We strongly believed that because we were privileged enough in our time to attend UQ, it is incumbent upon us to share the benefits we have reaped with others,” said Dr Gilmore.

“Being able to leverage the organisation’s support through the UQ Create Change scholarship matching initiative was also attractive, as it instantly doubled the impact.”

“Our first collaborative research project with UQ was seeded by UQ with a small grant to fund a researcher to spend time at EM Solutions,” said Dr Greene.

“That first small initiative has now grown into something much more extensive that will fund and employ an entire research team.

“Philanthropic advancements can be self-sustaining when they rely on a ‘virtuous circle’ whereby one activity seeds the next, and the next grows bigger, and of course the circle grows when all collaborators benefit.”

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Both EOS and EM Solutions are Australian companies founded by UQ graduates decades ago. EOS is now an ASX-listed technology company operating in the space, communications, and defence markets, with photonics engineering at its core with its extensive use of optical tracking systems and lasers.

Brisbane-based EM Solutions, recently acquired by EOS as anchor for its new Communication Systems Division, has extensive capability in the area of applied electromagnetics (such as antennas), broadband microwave engineering, and satellite communication terminals and systems.

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Family legacies at the heart of giving and receiving

Brian McGrath Bursary in Civil Engineering

Aayush Sharma’s father was speechless with joy the day his son – in line to be a third-generation fire engineer – was named Most Outstanding Student in Fire Safety Engineering at The University of Queensland.

Growing up in a fire station in New Delhi, India, Aayush (pictured above right with his father and brother) said the sirens had always intrigued him as a kid, and watching his father and grandfather thrive in India’s bustling fire community, meant he always knew where he belonged.

Now a graduate with a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) and Master of Engineering (Civil and Fire Safety), Aayush is working with Brisbane-based Fire Check Consultants, following in the footsteps of his family role models.

Another multi-generational engineering lineage, the McGrath family also run a long line of accomplished engineers.

Brian McGrath (Bachelor of Engineering (Civil), ’58) studied engineering, as did both his sons, while his wife, Heather McGrath (pictured together bottom right), a UQ science graduate (Bachelor of Science, ’69) is the granddaughter of R.W.H. Hawken, UQ’s founding professor of engineering.

Professor Hawken was on the 1921 committee to determine a new site for The University of Queensland. Settling on St Lucia, the group went on to grow UQ into the world-leading academic institution we know today, with Hawken’s name later becoming synonymous with the UQ engineering precinct as its home base: Hawken Engineering, Building 50.

Recognising the strong commitment to family and civil engineering, the McGrath family offered Aayush the Brian McGrath Bursary in 2019. This $1000 bursary comes from a philanthropic gift made by the Estate of Brian McGrath in 2017 to support a civil engineering student completing their undergraduate thesis.

“Aayush tackled a complex research topic, looking at the thermal properties of concrete during fire, and is using the bursary to attend SiF2020 – the 11th International Conference on Structures in Fire, which was postponed to November this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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“I am very grateful to have received the bursary, and to anyone who is considering making a philanthropic gift, you should know the funds can help students turn their dreams into a reality,” said Aayush.

“Receiving this bursary not only provided me with means to help me build my academic knowledge in civil engineering, but it also gave me the encouragement to forge ahead, helping me to achieve great results and enter the workforce with confidence.”

“The positive impacts of your generous donation really can be astronomical.”
I think the most valuable thing I gained from my exchange was the ability to quickly adapt to new scenarios and situations I was placed in.

A semester abroad is a life-changing experience for anyone with the courage and means to take on the adventure.

Spending time immersed in another culture, maybe another language, but always out of your comfort zone was near and dear to Gus Wiles, the man who represented the heart of UQ’s chemical engineering school for more than four decades.

The value of an overseas experience was all too obvious to him, as he encouraged his students to take a risk and broaden their engineering knowledge and skills abroad, often with the support of his own hard-earned dollars.

When Gus passed away in 2014, his UQ colleagues and friends of the University banded together to raise funds to
support the scholarships Gus had created so students could continue to travel abroad with financial support. Together they started the R.J. ‘Gus’ Wiles Scholarship Endowment Fund, and through the generous gifts from more than 370 donors, the fund exceeded its goal and is now valued at over $600,000, which will provide two $5,000 scholarships to chemical engineering students every semester in perpetuity.

Kailin Graham is one of the 18 recipients of the Gus Wiles Scholarship since 2010. He travelled to Canada to complete a semester at McGill University in Montreal in 2018, studying reactions engineering, catchment hydrology and chemical engineering statistics.

“My biggest challenge was adapting to the different university structure, like not having access to online lecture slides and different ways of doing assessment, and balancing uni work with other activities,” Kailin said.

“I think the most valuable thing I gained from my exchange was the ability to quickly adapt to new scenarios and situations I was placed in.

“Not only was learning to live out of home in a new city a big cultural change for me, but I didn’t realise how used to the UQ academic system I was until I started my classes at McGill.

“Having to leave my study comfort zone definitely improved my problem-solving skills and my ability to learn on the fly.”

Kailin also made a close-knit group of friends from Canada and other countries, and together they travelled and made the most of their new home in French-speaking Quebec.

“As cheesy as it sounds, I got so close to so many people in such a short time, and that’s what I’ve taken with me the most – friendship,” he said.

The weekend roadtrips to Toronto and Ottawa, a Thanksgiving spent amidst the autumn colours and skiing through fresh powder are what day dreams really are made of, and Kailin is grateful for the opportunities the Gus Wiles Scholarship gave him.

“Without the Gus Wiles Scholarship, I wouldn’t have had this incredible experience. I’m forever grateful for the generosity of all the endowment fund donors, as well as to Gus himself.”
The Liveris Academy will attract, support and develop many of the planet’s smartest young people and finest minds in engineering and science, enabling them to reach their full potential while addressing major challenges facing society today.

Andrew N. Liveris AO
Founding Donor, Liveris Academy
Sustainable future in the hands of bright minds

Andrew N. Liveris Academy for Innovation and Leadership

2020 marks the beginning of an exciting new era at The University of Queensland, as the first cohorts of Liveris Academy Scholars take their place as future leaders in sustainability.

A $13.5 million donation in 2017 from UQ alumnus Andrew Liveris AO and his wife Paula Liveris led to the formal establishment of the Andrew N. Liveris Academy for Innovation and Leadership last year.

This funding supports high-achieving undergraduate engineering students who have already demonstrated leadership potential, a clear passion for sustainability and the potential to solve pressing problems through large-scale innovation.

The scholarships nurture their talent, passion and courage, and allow them to develop into outstanding engineering scholars and thought-leaders in the field of global sustainability.

UQ will be awarding up to five new scholarships each year as the Academy expands its impact through a vibrant and growing community of Liveris Scholars and Academy Alumni.

The scholarship recipients will be supported by a program of events, activities and mentoring and will be housed in the $157 million Andrew N. Liveris Building, which is due for completion in 2021.

The first 10 Liveris Academy Scholars were formally welcomed in February 2020 by Andrew and Paula Liveris, as well as the UQ Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Peter Høj AC, and the Academy’s inaugural Director and sustainable energy expert, Professor Peta Ashworth OAM.

“Our Liveris Scholars will benefit from a unique student experience including leadership training, targeted professional practice placements, as well as mentoring from global leaders representing industry, entrepreneurship and policy/humanitarian fields,” said Professor Ashworth, pictured below with Liveris Academy Scholars.

2019 cohort
James Orman, Flynn Pearman, Victoria Barnes, Javan McGuckin, and Lilly Van Gilst.

2020 cohort
Simeon Gover, Thomas Heath, Megan Jones, Esandi Kalugalage, and Amber Spurway.

For more information about the Andrew N. Liveris Academy, please visit liveris-academy.uq.edu.au
Women in Action Fund

Diversity

The Women in Action Fund supports female engineering, design and technology students to engage in community and industry-based experiences through study tours, student exchange, and short-term professional and personal development experiences. With the support of your kind donation, we aim to mobilise, nurture and empower our best and brightest young females who aspire to careers in these fields, and create positive diversity change beyond the university environment.

eait.uq.edu.au/women-action-fund

Alumni Advantage Scholarship for Computing

Information and communication technology

Join us to attract, nurture and support students looking to pursue leading careers in the IT and computing fields. By supporting this scholarship, you will directly assist the most outstanding students to grow their knowledge, support them through their study and advance their career path into the computing industry. The scholarships are awarded to students based on their passion to study computing at UQ, along with their academic success in their year 12 results.

giving.uq.edu.au/funds/alumni-advantage-scholarship-computing

Innovations in Water - Research Start-Up Fund

Advanced Water Management Centre

The Innovations in Water Fund was established to enable UQ alumni, industry partners and friends who are passionate about making a difference to our ‘water future’ to philanthropically support the next generation of emerging talent. Funds raised will be used to support outstanding postgraduate and early-career researchers to translate their innovative ideas into applied research projects under the guidance of leading academic and professional experts.

awmc.uq.edu.au/innovations-water-research-startup-fund

The Ted White AM Opportunity Fund

Chemical Engineering

In honour of our friend, colleague and valued teacher, Emeritus Professor Ted White AM, and the lasting impact he has had at UQ, the School of Chemical Engineering’s Priority Fund will continue Ted’s legacy by providing opportunities for chemical engineering students for many years to come. Your contribution to this fund will support disadvantaged and underrepresented students, as well as provide opportunities for students to attend study tours, industry placements, conferences and improvements to plant and equipment to ensure our students have access to world class facilities.

giving.uq.edu.au/funds/ted-white-am-opportunity-fund
UQ attracts hundreds of applications each year for scholarships and prizes that support the brightest and most deserving students from across Australia and around the globe. Our priority giving funds allow the collective gifts from alumni, industry and friends of UQ to join together to make the greatest impact in the life of our students and early career researchers.

For more information on how you can support UQ’s undergraduate students and early career researchers, please visit eait.uq.edu.au/giving. Thank you for supporting UQ.