Recognising your support

We recognise the support of Firth Circle members through:

- A limited edition Silver Arrows lapel pin
- Priority invitations to prestigious events and networking opportunities
- Recognition on the Donor Honour Board, in our donor magazine 'Your Gift' and online
- Regular updates about the work you are helping to support

We celebrate the cumulative generosity of those who have given to Sheffield in the following ways:

- The Vice-Chancellor’s List for donations totalling £25,000+
- The Chancellor’s List for donations totalling £100,000+
- The Roll of Benefactors for donations totalling £500,000+

If you would like to find out more about the Firth Circle and the impact your support could make, please contact:
Richard Hardcastle
Email: R.Hardcastle@sheffield.ac.uk
Tel: 0114 285 7052

The Firth Circle – leading the way

The University of Sheffield is delighted to celebrate your generosity through the Firth Circle, which recognises all donors who make a gift of £1,200 or more within a single year.

Who was Mark Firth?

Mark Firth was a pioneering Sheffield steel maker, lord mayor and philanthropist with a passionate belief in the power of education to improve the lives of working people. In 1879 he endowed Firth College to teach the arts and sciences in the city, one of three institutions which amalgamated in 1905 to form The University of Sheffield.

Since those early days, Mark Firth’s foresight and generosity of spirit have been shared by our alumni, staff and friends. Thanks in large part to your continuing donations, The University of Sheffield is ranked in the Top 100 universities in the world. The support of people like you enables us to build on that hard won reputation for excellence and make a bigger impact on society.
The impact of your gift

Scholarships

The University of Sheffield believes passionately that higher education should be available to the brightest students, regardless of their background or financial circumstances.

Over the past decade, donors have supported over 1,000 scholarships for students from disadvantaged backgrounds, who would otherwise have struggled to continue their studies through to graduation. For talented individuals like these, the additional support provided by our generous donors is vital.

“I don’t know where to start in describing the huge impact the scholarship has made on my life, and not just my university experience. Without it, university would have been filled with stress and financial worry, not knowing how I would cope until the next loan instalment came through. It gave me a breathing space to enjoy my course. Without the scholarship, I wouldn’t have been able to dream of carrying on my studies and completing my Masters at Sheffield.”

Shelby Bates, scholarship recipient

“It gives me a great feeling to know I’m helping to provide assistance to bright, committed, hard-working young people to making the most of their opportunities and to hopefully go on to rewarding careers.”

Roderick Hinchliffe, scholarship donor

World-leading research

Research at Sheffield has a global reputation. It influences policy, changes lives and helps us to understand the world so we can make it a better place. Over £1.6 million was donated to The University of Sheffield last year to help fund research. This support helps the university in tackling the big issues confronting our world today such as climate change, sustainability of food and energy, an ageing population, globalisation and the growing health and wealth divide.

Every single penny donated towards our research programmes has real impact. With your help we can accelerate the progress of our research by equipping academics with the tools and technologies they need, training the next generation of outstanding researchers and supporting collaborative and innovative projects that can transform lives for the better.

“One of our pioneering research centres is SITraN, the Sheffield Institute for Translational Neuroscience. SITraN is spearheading world-leading research into debilitating neurodegenerative conditions such as Motor Neuron Disease, Parkinson’s disease, Alzheimer’s disease and Spinal Muscular Dystrophy. Opened in 2010, it was the first facility of its type in Europe and was founded through philanthropic support. Firth Circle donors continue to play an important role in supporting its work, which requires ongoing investment in order to stay at the forefront of global research. SITraN is a remarkable example of what your generosity can achieve.”

Enhancing teaching and the student experience

Amongst its many accolades, The University of Sheffield was recently voted the UK’s Number One for Student Satisfaction in Times Higher Education. Firth Circle donations help to elevate our teaching and learning and set new standards of student experience.

• The School of Politics was awarded £1,970 towards the WaterMade project. This enabled a group of students to visit women’s cooperatives in Uganda to help improve their businesses. The group carried out research into the critical factors for success when operating cooperatives.

• The Department of Computer Science received a grant of £2,000 to run a course for students suffering from common mental health difficulties. The grant enabled it to train as facilitators, offering support to many other students, with ongoing project management from professional practitioners.