

STUDENT SUPPORT

Manmohan Singh Bursary Fund



A report to Bharti Airtel Limited
August 2013

The University wishes to express its continued gratitude to Bharti Airtel Limited for your generous gift to the Manmohan Singh Bursary Fund. Combined with additional funding from The Eranda Foundation and Cambridge Assessment, these generous gifts have established a significant bursary programme for outstanding students from India.

Named in honour of India's Prime Minister, who holds both an undergraduate degree in Economics and an Honorary Doctorate from the University, the bursaries recognise Cambridge's long-standing engagement with India. They are an integral part of the University's strategy to build lasting connections in India, and will enable generations of future leaders from the country to flourish in its vibrant international community of scholars.

The bursaries are awarded to school leavers from India with exceptional academic ability. They make it possible for students to accept a place to study at Cambridge and alleviate financial pressure on themselves and their families. Cambridge undergraduate education offers an ideal environment to enable these students to reach their full potential. As you will see from the students' reports, the Cambridge environment has allowed the Manmohan Singh Bursary recipients to truly excel, both in their studies and in their extra-curricular pursuits.

This report contains information about the application process in 2012, statements from Manmohan Singh Bursary recipients and a financial statement.

Cover image:

At the Cambridge Commonwealth Trust's annual Scholar's Reception in February 2013, students had the opportunity to meet with scholars and dignitaries from around the world. Here, HRH Prince Charles speaks to Manmohan Singh Bursary recipient Rishabh Bhargava and other students about the evolution of city names in India from Independence to the present day.

Note: The information, statements and photographs provided in this report are given in order to update Bharti Airtel Limited. Any further use must be authorised by the University of Cambridge.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Manmohan Singh Bursaries are awarded to outstanding school leavers from India who are not able to otherwise fund their studies at the University of Cambridge. Each Bursary provides full funding, covering fees and means-tested maintenance for undergraduate study in any subject except Medicine and Veterinary Medicine.

The Bursaries are highly competitive, and the University has been delighted at the number and quality of the applicants. From all of the students who submitted scholarship applications, three received a Manmohan Singh Bursary in 2012:

The offers were made based on the students' previous academic performance, their performance at interview, their potential and a statement they submitted with their application explaining why they would be a deserving recipient of the Bursary.

Progress of the Manmohan Singh Bursary recipients

Since the start of the scholarship programme in 2010, nine students have received a Bursary.

2012

Mr Devang Agrawal, Queens' College, BA, Engineering
Mr Gaurav Kumar, Selwyn College, BA, Engineering
Mr Mayukh Ketan Mukhopadhyay, King's College, BA, Economics

2011

Miss Payoshaa Shah, Newnham College, BA Politics, Psychology & Sociology (deferred until 2012)
Mr Rishabh Bhargava, Girton College, BA, Engineering
Mr Neil Satra, Pembroke College, BA, Computer Science

2010

Mr Rudrajit Banerjee, Christ's College, BA, Natural Sciences
Mr Neal Duggal, St John's College, BA, Economics
Mr Abhimanyu Singh, Girton College, BA, Engineering

At the end of each academic year, the students' supervisors report on their academic progress. Last year, both the 2010 and 2011 cohorts progressed very well, some to exceptional standards, and all were recommended for continued support.

Each student has provided a personal statement to express their gratitude for the support they have received and to highlight their achievements and experience during their time at the University of Cambridge.

Mr Devang Agrawal



Queens' College (2012)
BA, Engineering
Previously studied at Florets International School, Kanpur

"My time at the University of Cambridge until now has been like living a dream and it has all been made possible by the generosity of the Manmohan Singh Bursary. I have been able to visit and study at places here about which I couldn't have even dreamt of going. Sometimes when traveling around the city I am amazed at what my life has now come to be. The University has completely changed my outlook of the world.

I am making the most of my time at Cambridge by trying to explore all that the University and city have to offer, while also doing as well as I can academically. I have had the incredible experiences of meeting world-renowned scientists, speakers, Nobel laureates and even HRH Prince Charles. I have also been constantly motivated by my Director of Studies during my time at Cambridge; he has helped me academically and also in managing my time better, thus increasing my work efficiency. His mentorship has been life changing for me as now I feel much more confident academically.

I have participated in a lot of extra-curricular activities in Cambridge and have joined various student societies. I have also become the president of the Cambridge University Environmental Consulting Society and this has made me much more confident about interacting with people, working in teams and efficiently running a small organisation. I am planning to do an internship over the summer and if everything goes well I will have a start-up running by then as well.

I am really thankful for the generous support I have received, and hope that this support will continue to be available in the future so that students who couldn't have otherwise come to Cambridge can avail themselves of the opportunities that this magnificent place has to offer."

Mr Gaurav Kumar



Selwyn College (2012)

BA, Engineering

Previously studied at DPS International School, New Delhi

"As the academic year draws to an end, reflecting on the events of the last seven months reminds me of how lucky I have been to be studying here at Cambridge. I have had an amazing experience. When I first came here, I was struck by the number of opportunities there are, in addition to your studies, and I wondered if I could ever balance all of them. Now though, having rowed through the winter and played cricket this summer, I know it is possible to strike a balance between activities and academics. My fellow students at Selwyn College have been quite supportive and have made my experience wonderful. Selwyn is a great place to be because of the friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

A Cambridge term entails short, intense two-month bursts of teaching followed by a substantial break each term. I study Engineering and the course at Cambridge is completely general in the first two years. I have had quite an interesting experience building things from mini-bridges to radios and even designing a bike lock (to solve the extensive problem of bike theft in Cambridge).

I realise how fortunate I am to have received the Manmohan Singh Bursary. The opportunity to study at Cambridge means a lot to me as it is something I had always dreamt of. I am determined to make the most of this wonderful opportunity. I would like to thank you once again for your generosity."

Mr Mayukh Ketan Mukhopadhyay

King's College (2012)

BA, Economics

Previously studied at Calcutta International School, Kolkata

"First and foremost, I would like to thank Bharti Airtel Limited for its generosity in funding the Manmohan Singh Bursary Fund. Without the financial support, I would have never been able to study at Cambridge.

I was born and brought up in Kolkata, a large metropolitan city in India. I completed my A-levels at Calcutta International School, where I have studied since 1998. My school's multicultural environment provided me with ample opportunities to learn about other cultures, which led to my deciding to study at a university that could boast of similar if not greater diversity.

At Cambridge, I am studying for a degree in Economics, and so far my experiences have been phenomenal. My college, King's College, is simply beautiful, and the professors and my classmates are all very warm and helpful. Coupled with the amazing lectures, tutorials and library facilities, the next three years promise to be beyond my wildest dreams.

Once again, I'd like to express my gratitude and try my very best to live up to the expectations that come with this scholarship."

Miss Payoshaa Shah



Newnham College (2012)

BA, Politics, Psychology and Sociology

Previously studied at Utpal Shanghvi School, Mumbai

"Coming to Cambridge was no short of a dream come true and the Manmohan Singh Bursary has given me the opportunity to pursue a degree at one of the most academically and intellectually satisfying environments there is. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Bharti Airtel Limited for their generous funding which makes it possible for students like me to study at the University of Cambridge.

Pursuing a broad course such as PPS (Politics, Psychology and Sociology), balancing work, and moving to a new country and climate was exciting and intimidating at the same time. Work pressures in Cambridge are high; my ability to organise my life and my quality of work improved as the year progressed.

I have had the opportunity to organise a university wide "Mental Health Week" and two other girls and I are leading the Cambridge Mental Wealth Group, which aims at de-stigmatising mental health issues among university students. Organising speaker events for the week with academics from Cambridge and University College London has made me realise how rich an academic environment Cambridge is.

This summer, I will be volunteering with a professor in the University's Department of Psychology. In the long term, I hope to get a good grade in psychology and specialise in psychology after graduation. I feel lucky to be a recipient of the scholarship and I will work hard to make the most of this opportunity."

Mr Rishabh Bhargava



Girton College (2011)
BA, Engineering
Previously studied at Seth Anandram Jaipuria School, Kanpur

"I didn't think it was possible, but my second year experience has been even better than the first year. I have had a fantastic academic year, continued and started a number of other activities, forged some great friendships and decided upon a definite future path.

I finished my first year of Engineering with a Class I, and achieved 3rd rank in the year overall. The second year, though being harder and more work-intensive in general, has helped me decide what branch of engineering to specialise in. I hope to achieve a Class I this year as well.

I continued my position as Sponsorship Officer on the Cambridge University India Society this year. I also became the Girton Table Tennis captain, which resulted in increased responsibility on me in addition to playing cricket and rowing for 2 terms for Girton. Also, I found in myself a talent for acting when I auditioned for and got the main role in a drama in a cultural show called 'Mastana' attended by approximately 850 people in Cambridge.

Finally, I was chosen as one of nineteen students selected to go to MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) from my year for an exchange program. As a result, I will be spending my 3rd year in the United States. MIT is a world leader in technology, and I believe I will return to Cambridge for my fourth year a much more knowledgeable person with an even clearer idea of my long term goals.

I cannot be thankful enough to Bharti Airtel Limited for their generous donation which has made this Bursary and all that has come with it possible. Looking back over the past two years, I realise that had I not come to Cambridge, I would have been a much different person. The opportunity to be at Cambridge has indeed been life-changing."

Mr Neil Satra



Pembroke College (2011)
BA, Computer Science
Previously studied at Dhirubhai Ambani International School, Mumbai

"The past one and a half years have been such a great learning experience, and not just inside the classroom. While maintaining a healthy 2.1 academic standard, I also balanced a number of extra-curricular activities, making it onto the College basketball team, being elected Computer Science Representative for the second year in a row, successfully completing my term as Internationals' Officer at Pembroke College, and even learning Salsa!

I also enjoyed the company of great minds, whether it be Eric Schmidt and Richard Dawkins, or my incredibly diverse set of peers. Also, by virtue of being a recipient of the Manmohan Singh Bursary, I have been invited to events where I have met many great scholars from places I dream of visiting, such as Brazil and Iran, as well as dignitaries like HRH The Prince of Wales and Lord Sainsbury. Just amongst my two best friends and neighbours, one has rowed in the prestigious Boat Race and set a world record for waterskiing across the channel, while the other cycled across Europe. Indeed, it has been a humbling experience.

This personal growth has also been accompanied by professional growth, as I took every chance to network and work with various firms that partner with Cambridge. Last term I worked on developing an online exchange for musical artists in partnership with Last.fm. The web application, powered by code I have written, will soon be open-sourced and hosted on Last.fm to be sent out to their 51 million+ users. I also worked with a start-up born in Cambridge that went on to win global awards and was invited by Google to San Francisco for further collaboration. For this summer I received offers to work with great companies like Microsoft, Palantir, Barclays and Morgan Stanley.

My attempts to contribute back in whatever little way possible have included organising events for other international and exchange students to help integrate them into university life and networking with friends and colleagues to organise technical talks from the likes of Facebook for fellow 'CompScis'.

In short, I have had experiences, met people and learnt things that I never would have imagined possible without the wonderful opportunity provided by the Manmohan Singh Bursary."

Mr Rudrajit Banerjee



Christ's College (2010)

BA, Natural Sciences

Previously studied at Cambridge School, Kolkata

"I am now completing my third year at the University of Cambridge and have taken the Part 2 Experimental and Theoretical Physics course. This course has by far been the most interesting in my three years here, with numerous interesting topics, especially in Theoretical Physics.

After this year I hope to continue at Cambridge for a Master's degree and ultimately look to gain a PhD. I am very grateful to Bharti Airtel Limited for this scholarship, and I feel that it allows good students access to one of the best universities in the world, irrespective of their backgrounds."

Mr Neal Duggal



St John's College (2010)

BA, Economics

Previously studied at Mallya Aditi International School, Bangalore

"I am in the midst of the hurricane that consumes most students in their final year – sending off a well-thought out dissertation and studying for the exams. It is a challenge and I am reminded of the support I have received to be where I am today. The Manmohan Singh Bursary has allowed me to experience the phenomenal methodology of teaching at Cambridge, both rigorous and yet extremely supportive, providing an ambience that has made me a confident global citizen. The past three years in Cambridge have been absolutely amazing, learning from and interacting with the finest of faculty and peers.

Three years of Economics have transformed abstract ideas of demand and supply, markets and money into a thorough understanding of the subject. This has enabled us to better understand the functioning of the global economy. For my final year dissertation, for example, I analysed the instability of financial markets in developing countries from a historical perspective to better understand the fragility we face today. Equally important, however, are the skills the course has helped develop over the years, from organisation and time management to the ability to think. Cambridge, I believe, has prepared me to face the rigours of 'the real world' with confidence.

At this point I am considering the different avenues open to me after I complete my degree at Cambridge, whether it is further education or work experience. I have been exposed to the finest in education and hope to use this in furthering the development of countries like India."

Mr Abhimanyu Singh



Girton College (2010)

BA, Engineering

Previously studied at Delhi Public School International, New Delhi

"The last few years in Cambridge have truly brought the most wonderful times in my life. To get a chance to study the subject that I'm really passionate about in a diverse, multicultural environment surrounded by all of the grand buildings has been an unforgettable experience. It has offered me a chance to explore my interests and to interact with and learn from people with diverse academic and cultural backgrounds.

The third year of my engineering course has been enjoyable. I chose the majority of my modules in information and computer engineering while also combining my interests in engineering for the life sciences. I have now finished my third year exams and am looking forward to starting 3rd year projects soon. I have really benefitted from the varied project work in my Engineering course, which has given me some great ideas and experience.

I have attained a 2.1 grade in both the first and second years of my course and I'm expecting a 2.1 or better grade again this year.

I believe it's good to be healthy and my 40 minutes of everyday cycling coupled with occasional football have made me enjoy Cambridge healthily as well. Also, I intend to play some college cricket for the upcoming cricket season - the weather's slowly become perfect for that.

This year I have been elected as the President of the Cambridge University Engineering Society (CUES) where my role involves managing and motivating the committee members to ensure CUES keeps offering greater value to the society's members.

Finally, I am very grateful to Bharti Airtel Limited for giving me this opportunity to be inspired by Cambridge. The scholarship means a lot to me as it has enabled me to do all of above and much more."

APPENDIX I

A financial statement for the year 2011-2012

Department = AA
Source of Funds = KFHO
MANMOHAN SINGH BURSARY FUND

FINANCIAL YEAR 2011/2012

	PERMANENT CAPITAL £	SPENDABLE CAPITAL £
INCOME		
DONATIONS	-	-
DISTRIBUTION FROM ENDOWMENT FUND UNITS	-	23,672.76
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT INTEREST	-	24.13
	-	23,696.89
EXPENDITURE	-	23,740.00
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE GAINS & LOSSES	-	(43.11)
TRANSFER BETWEEN PERMANENT & SPENDABLE CAPITAL	-	-
UNREALISED GAINS/(LOSSES) ON ENDOWMENT FUND UNITS	971.82	-
NET MOVEMENT IN YEAR	971.82	(43.11)
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD (at 01 August 2011)	557,054.78	58.18
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD (at 31 July 2012)	558,026.60	15.07
TOTAL FUNDS MADE UP AS FOLLOWS		
15,938 ENDOWMENT FUND UNITS @ £35.01 PER UNIT	558,006.40	-
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	-	-
CURRENT ACCOUNT	20.20	15.07
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD (at 31 July 2012)	558,026.60	15.07

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