



University
of
St Andrews

The St Andrews Wardlaw Scholarships



The following are short statements from a number of current Wardlaw Scholars. These students have given permission for their words of thanks to be published in order to demonstrate the difference the support provided by alumni, friends, charitable trusts and other organisations is making to their studies.

Jennifer Burza - 1st Year, MA (Hons) Social Anthropology, from Kirkcaldy

Thrilled is one word that describes the feeling of being able to study Social Anthropology, Psychology and Film Studies here in St Andrews. The beautiful town offers a variety of opportunities, ranging from the extensive library to the range of societies, a few of which I have joined. The transition from leaving home to settling into life here in St Andrews is proving a challenge, but one I aim to enjoy. As I come from a single parent home, financial support from my mum was unavailable. The support of the Wardlaw Scholarship will help me to pay for my accommodation and it will allow me to focus on my studies without added financial pressure. I am very grateful to the many people who have kindly supported my scholarship.

Stephen Grant - 1st Year, MChem (Hons) Chemistry, from Isle-Ewe

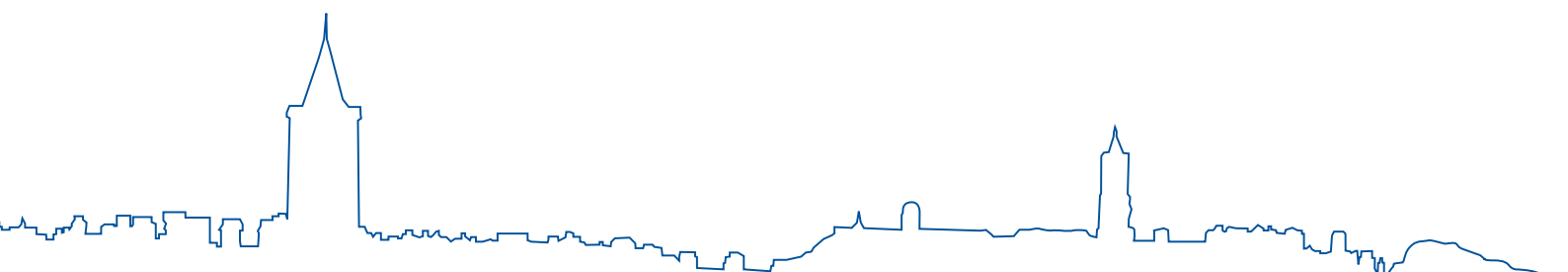
I come from a small island called Isle-Ewe in the north west of Scotland where we have to produce our own electricity with a windmill and a diesel generator as well as pump our own water from a well. My parents are crofters, farming cattle and scallops. From the age of four I went to Bualnaluib Primary School in a nearby village on the mainland, the crossing is only one mile but at times it can be very rough. In primary school a local scientist named Dr Dodd introduced us to certain aspects of science and this started my interest in Chemistry. After my Standard Grades I realised I should aim for a Chemistry degree, which was an exciting prospect as no one from the Island had ever taken a University degree before. I was extremely impressed by the University of St Andrews after visiting it, thinking "this is the place for me" and so was overjoyed when I obtained the grades required. I started to save up money in order to pay to go to St Andrews and it was always going to be a struggle to afford it. With this Wardlaw Scholarship I will no longer have to worry so much about finances and will be able to concentrate on my studies, for which I am thankful.

Shana Khanom – 1st Year, MA (Hons) History, from Stornoway

I am taking modules in Philosophy, Scottish History and Social Anthropology. I chose to come to St Andrews because it is located in a small town and I thought it had a broad range of academic and social opportunities. Whilst living in Stornoway, I took a long distance course at Lewis Castle College, through Aberdeen University, in Political Studies and Philosophy, which I thoroughly enjoyed and this encouraged my interest in pursuing a university degree. The Wardlaw Scholarship will be a considerable help to me financially as I do not have parental contributions towards my studies. I am very appreciative of the help I will be getting from the Wardlaw Scholarship fund supported by kind donors.

Marcus Wallum - 1st Year, MPhys (Hons) Astrophysics, from Selkirkshire

I have just entered my first year at St Andrews and can truly say that it was the right choice. You soon forget that you worried about the small town being quiet when you meet the thriving, diverse, and above all, friendly student population. I attended Ettrick Primary School and then Selkirk High School. It was here that I picked up and developed my interest in Physics and Astronomy, which I am now continuing at degree level. The level of teaching and resources available in Physics at St Andrews is astounding and I feel very privileged to be part of it. As a final note, I thank everyone who has contributed to my Wardlaw Scholarship. This has given me a once in a lifetime opportunity. Without this support, studying here would have been so much more difficult, if not impossible.



Alastair Cooper – 2nd Year, BSc Mathematics & Computer Science, from Dumfries & Galloway

Having had an enjoyable and productive first year at St Andrews, I decided to switch my course from a 4-year MMath Maths to a joint BSc degree in Mathematics and Computer Science. I feel that this option will give me a broader base on which to build my later career, as well as giving me more time to pursue valuable extra-curricular activities that will provide me with something distinctive to present to prospective employers. This semester I am taking courses in Foundations of Computation and Algebra & Analysis, which are so far proving very fulfilling. Outside of my academic commitments I remain on the committee of the University's Liberal Democrat society and have become an active member of the Celtic Society, which provides lessons in ceildh dancing and Scottish country dance. I am now a member of the hall committee and, in addition to this, the New Hall ResNet Computer Representative. This means I am responsible for providing support to users in hall if they have a problem with their computers – and liaising with IT Services. I hope that this will provide valuable work experience for when I seek opportunities next summer. I would not have been able to take part in such a range of extra-curricular activities if it were not for the Wardlaw Scholarship that I am receiving. This financial assistance has allowed me to focus on my studies and my interests without the pressure of having to find a part-time job. Thank you to all the generous donors who have made my scholarship possible.

Catriona Corbett – 2nd Year, MA (Hons) Psychology, from South Queensferry

I cannot believe I am in second year already! Over the summer I took the opportunity to work, and also to have some fun. Amongst other things, I spent several weeks doing administrative work for Edinburgh University (proudly wearing a St Andrews top), visited a few friends from university up and down the country, and camped in Somerset at Soul Survivor – a charismatic Christian youth conference. This term I am continuing to study Psychology and Maths, and becoming more absorbed in the work than ever – although the workload is far heavier than last year. Thank you once again for your support through the Wardlaw Scholarship – this is making such an important difference to my studies.

Claire Meaney – 2nd Year, MA (Hons) Psychology, from Edinburgh

Second year already and what a difference a year makes! The nervousness I remember feeling last year on my way to St Andrews was replaced this year by great excitement and a feeling of returning home. As good grades are necessary to get into Honours I think it is going to be a very busy year. As well as continuing with Psychology I am also taking further modules in Ancient History and beginning studies in Russian literature this semester. This year I have been elected to the Sub-Aqua committee and I am in charge of organising the club's annual diving trip to Egypt. My preparation began over the summer and now that the plans are coming together I am getting very excited. As well as being a member of the Christian Union, and various other university societies, I am also keen to keep up with my swimming this year. With our flat being so close to the pool, I have no excuse not to take full advantage of it. All in all, this is already shaping up to be another fantastic year and one I can make the most of, knowing I have the support of the Wardlaw Scholarship – made possible by so many generous alumni and friends.

Lauren O'Rourke – 2nd Year, MA (Hons) English, from Lanarkshire

I am continuing my studies at St Andrews into second year thanks to the continued support of the Wardlaw Scholarship, as it will again allow me to pay for my accommodation without having to resort to a loan. I am still studying English, which is the subject I plan to study to Honours level. This semester's module is 'Medieval and Renaissance Literature' and involves the study of Chaucer, Milton and Donne as well as an Old English poem, *The Dream of the Rood*. While this course may be challenging, due to the fact that it is unlike anything else I have studied, I hope that it will give me a greater understanding of the history of English literature and the language itself.

For more information about the Wardlaw Scholarship programme or other alumni and fundraising projects, please contact the Development Office or visit www.st-andrews.ac.uk/develop