Introduction

Last year we fundraised for our Langwith Development Award which financially assisted current students to partake in internships and volunteering in the UK and abroad. We collaborated with YuFund to host a sponsored 5K ‘Sun Run’ and with your generous donations we managed to raise over £1,600!
Following a selection process, we used the money raised to award eight students grants ranging up to £300 to assist in the development of their personal, professional and academic skills. Here are some of our winners:

**Hafsa Ur-Rehman**

Hafsa volunteered in Nepal for 10 weeks as a part of the International Citizen Service (ICS), working with a partnering organisation called Restless Development:

“We were sent to Tikabhairab (our placement) to first start with our action research. This was to invite key stakeholders to a meeting to discuss the improvements that can be made within the community...I delivered 32 sessions and reached over 3 thousand community members...I pushed myself out of my own comfort zone and gained confidence by socially networking, planning, budgeting and delivering projects (independently and with a team). I had to learn to be more resilient...The most special thing for me is the memories I made, the scenic views and the friendships gained.”
Amy was selected by the Chemistry department to participate in a University Immersion Program which took place at the University of Sichuan (Chengdu, China) for two weeks:

“This program was to develop my research and development skills by conducting an organic research project on OLED’s (Organic Light Emitting Diodes). It was a supervised project, which included a presentation and use of laboratory facilities with supervision from PhD students. Another part of the exchange was that I attended lectures on Supramolecular chemistry, a subtopic of physical chemistry...Throughout my time in China, I also explored the area with some other students to learn about the history and culture of Sichuan. The program was amazing...I am grateful to have achieved the award, as the skills I have learnt, have made me a much more independent person and also made me learn a lot more about myself as a chemist and as a young woman too!”
Nathan De La Haye

Nathan took part in a 2 week placement at one of the UK’s leading intellectual property firms, Carpmaels & Ransford:

“Work experience is notoriously difficult to obtain in the IP sector. As I am aspiring to become a patent attorney, having this exposure to the profession on my CV will make me stand out against the majority of candidates in this competitive field. Moreover, I was lucky enough to thoroughly enjoy my experience at Carpmaels & Ransford, reaffirming to myself that this is the right career for me...The internship provided me with a much greater insight into the overall profession and allowed me to try out the various tasks involved...The situation forced me to be adaptable as well as working on personal skills to make friends and also a good impression to current employees of the firm. By carrying out the day-to-day tasks of a patent attorney I could try my hand at all the skills required to be successful in this role. I was able to work on my time-management skills, written communication skills, group work skills, and my ability to work to tight deadlines.”
Grace Pickford

Grace volunteered for 5 weeks with a women's empowerment charity, Banteay Srei, located in Cambodia.

“I worked in the Head Office based in Phnom Penh where I edited reports regarding the NGO’s partnerships with peace organisations and other women’s charities, as well as helping to translate key documents. I wrote case studies documenting Cambodian women’s experiences and the life changing impact Banteay Srei had...I also got the opportunity to help produce a curriculum for educating communities on gender based violence and planning for the process of implementing these workshops across Cambodian provinces...My time in Cambodia was an eye-opening and rewarding experience that has allowed me to explore such a beautiful part of the world that is so different from my own. To be immersed in the Cambodian culture, living and working there, and to be welcomed in such a warm and loving way to learn about their history and traditions was a privilege and I am forever grateful for the kindness shown. I was able to develop both my personal and professional skills and my ability to adapt to a variety of challenging situations and tasks.”
Izzy Trickey

Izzy spent two weeks volunteering in Sri Lanka, helping with teaching basic English and supporting the learning of local children.

“My friend and I had arranged to stay with a Reverend in the area named Jude who kindly took us into his home and allowed us to stay with him. During our stay Jude immersed us in the culture of their village and as well as introducing us to multiple pre school teachers and students, we accompanied him on home visits and were warmly welcomed into the homes of many locals where we were offered copious amounts of tea! On Saturdays and Tuesday evenings we would play with and teach the children of the local community centre which Jude had set up and we did everything from dancing with them, to singing English songs and even learning a little bit of Tamil. I can safely say that it was the best thing I have ever done with my summer. Meeting all those happy cheerful people and hearing their humbling stories made for an experience I can never forget and I sorely miss them all.”
Mariya Gilani

Mariya took part in a week long, Fashion Marketing Intensive Short Course at the London College of Fashion.

“This course was an incredible experience that helped me develop so many amazing skills. From analysing the fashion market and marketing luxury products to differentiating, position and innovation in the fashion industry, I learned so much. The course was more than just a learning opportunity it also was an outstanding way to network with other ambitious and career-driven women hoping to break into the fashion industry. My lecturer was extremely knowledgeable and taught the class in a way that engaged us from the start. Her passion for fashion was a clear and strong motivator for all of us to pursue our dreams. She had us completing mystery shopper surveys all over London and creating presentations on brand architecture for some of the world’s biggest businesses. I hope to use this experience with fashion marketing to secure work experience and a job in the sector one day.”
Emma Mack

Emma took part in a 4 month volunteer teaching programme in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

“I thoroughly enjoyed teaching English, maths and science and it enabled me to gain teaching experience, problem solving skills, using quick thinking and initiative in order to keep the students engaged; which was especially needed as I was teaching 2-6 year olds. The school that I was teaching in gave me the freedom to design my own lesson plans which allowed me to do fun activities, especially in science as I taught many practical science experiment lessons. The Langwith Development Award helped me financially in order to do this project and enabled me to gain countless skills. I am very thankful I received the award and would encourage others to complete projects such as teaching English due to all that you can gain which would be applicable to any workplace.”
Yasmin Johnson

Yasmin used her funding to travel to China for two months and receive Mandarin tuition.

“I have always been fascinated by China’s culture and history. Receiving the Award meant that I was able to benefit from language lessons whilst in Beijing. It gave me much needed financial relief to be able to fully benefit from my experiences whilst in China, and also to be able to visit Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Xi’an, and Shanghai. I have come back from my time in China confident in my intermediate ability in oral Mandarin. I not only now have the basic knowledge of grammar, tenses and vocabulary but also am now able to hold conversations with native speakers. In China I was able to witness how cultural heritage from thousands of years ago is intertwined with 21st century technology driven cities. What was particularly interesting was comparing and contrasting the everyday lives of locals to that of my own in England.”
The Next Steps

This year has presented many challenges for our students and our College community. However, in the coming months, with new students coming to call Langwith home while studying at York, the College shall continue to offer a wide range of support and assistance to all our new and existing members.

The successful fundraising of the past year has demonstrated how your support can have an indelible, beneficial effect on a student’s time at Langwith, letting them develop their skills by supporting communities across the world and leaving a legacy all of us can be proud of.

With this in mind, we aim to resume fundraising for disadvantaged and deserving Langwith students by pairing up with the York Futures Scholarships programme.