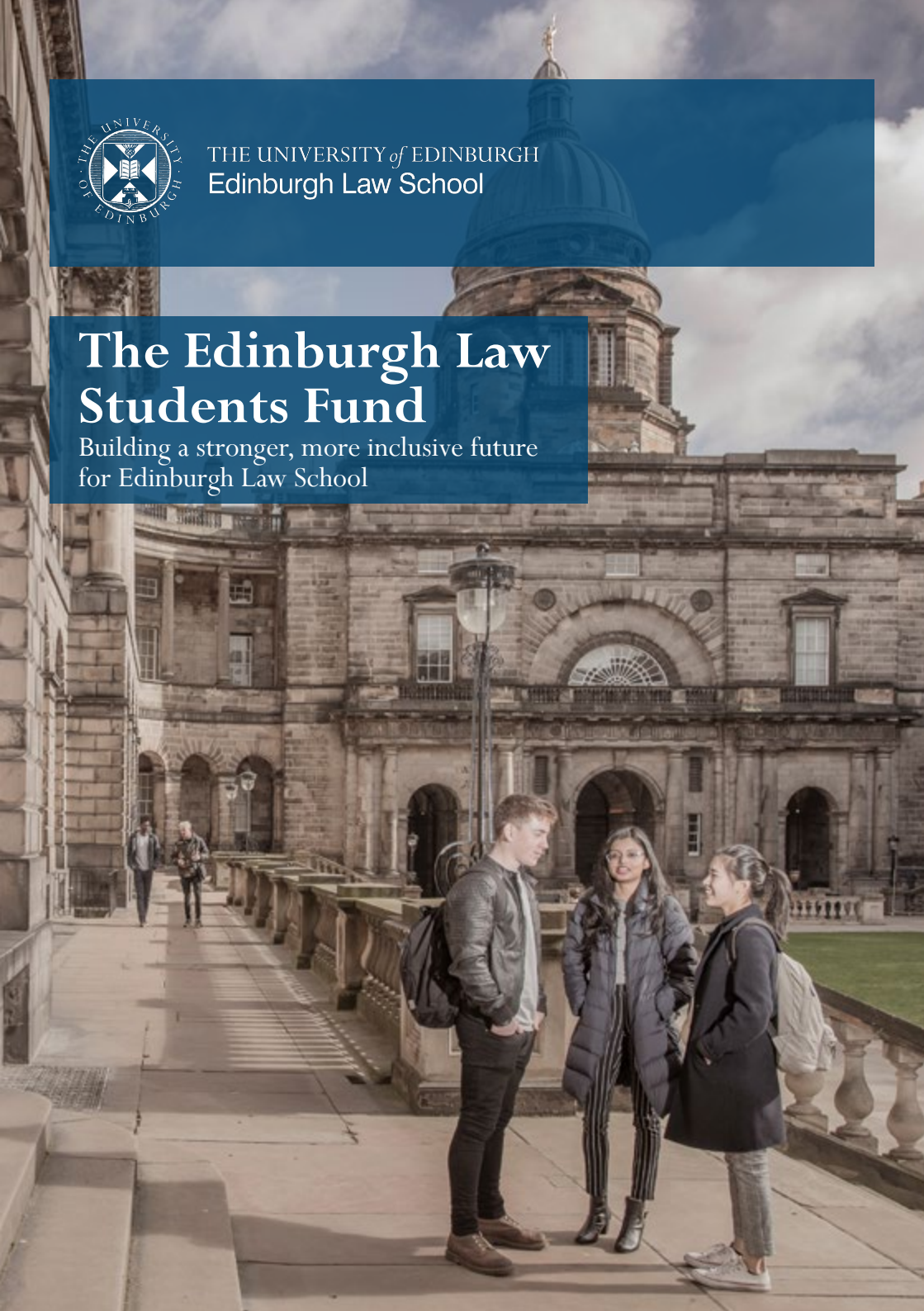




THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH
Edinburgh Law School

The Edinburgh Law Students Fund

Building a stronger, more inclusive future
for Edinburgh Law School





The Edinburgh Law Students Fund

At Edinburgh Law School, we believe in unlocking potential. Talent, ambition, and hard work - not financial constraints - should determine opportunity. With your help, we can make this vision a reality.

We invite you to join us in shaping the future of legal education by supporting our new Edinburgh Law Students Fund. This initiative aims to remove financial barriers for current and prospective students, enabling them to thrive academically and personally. Your generosity and support will help establish scholarships, expand our hardship fund, and enhance the extra-curricular experiences that add true value to student life.

Recent global and local challenges, including rising living costs and economic uncertainty, make it increasingly difficult for many students to afford the education they deserve. The need for new avenues of support has never been greater. With your support, we can ensure financial obstacles do not stop talented students from accessing the life-changing education and opportunities Edinburgh Law School offers.

“Every student who comes to Edinburgh Law School is investing in their own future. We do everything that we can to make sure they benefit from a world-class educational experience, and with your help, we can offer them additional opportunities and new kinds of support, which are accessible to all students.”

Professor Jo Shaw
Head of Edinburgh
Law School



Empowering the next generation of global leaders

For many, higher education is a life-changing opportunity. Yet financial pressures often place it out of reach. In 2023, over 30 percent of students declined a place at the University of Edinburgh due to financial circumstances, with 63 percent citing additional economic pressures. Of those who chose not to attend university at all, 45 percent said it was simply unaffordable.

Through the Edinburgh Law Students Fund, we are committed to creating new scholarships across all levels of study to remove financial barriers and ensure that the brightest minds have the chance to excel.

These scholarships will empower students to not only join our academic community but thrive within it, gaining the skills, networks, and experiences needed to lead in an increasingly interconnected world.

Your support will open doors for the next generation of legal professionals and scholars, fostering a diverse, inclusive environment where excellence knows no boundaries. By investing in scholarships at Edinburgh Law School, you are investing in lives, futures, and the global leaders of tomorrow.

“A scholarship provides more than financial aid. It empowers students, boosts their confidence, sets higher standards, and demonstrates a law school’s commitment to creating new opportunities for students, regardless of their background.”

Julia Brechtelsbauer,
LLM, 2022





Donor stories: Michael Barron

Michael Barron (LLB, 1975) grew up in Glasgow as the son of a primary school teacher and an electrician who went on to become a telecommunications engineer. Michael himself made it to university against the odds from a school with a low percentage of pupils going on to higher education – those who did, stayed close to home.

When Michael decided that he wanted to study law in Edinburgh, he was met with confusion by his teachers who could not understand why he did not choose Glasgow University, but remained steadfast in his decision. “It seems to me that the natural seat of all things legal in Scotland is Edinburgh,” Michael adds. So, he arrived at Edinburgh Law School and, with the help of a grant and working through the holidays to make money, he graduated in 1975.

After that, he worked as a lawyer in general practice in Edinburgh, moving to London and into corporate law in 1987. “I did really well and I wouldn’t have gotten there if it hadn’t been for a legal

education,” he says. As he cemented himself in the legal profession, the amount of state assistance for students was reducing, so Michael decided to do something to help students who would not otherwise be able to go to university. Since 2005, that’s exactly what he’s done.

Michael has been funding the Barron Bursary for 19 years. His bursary focuses on supporting first-generation university students by giving them an opportunity to study law. He visits the University at least once a year and tries to meet up with the students he has supported, just to see how they are doing.

Michael finds giving students an opportunity that would otherwise have been out of reach a rewarding experience. He emphasises: “If you’ve got the financial means to help someone, it does make you feel good.

Michael retired from the legal profession in 2015, but is ensuring that future generations can access education with a reduced financial burden.

Enriching the student experience

At Edinburgh Law School, we know that education extends beyond the classroom. Extracurricular activities – from student societies and mooting competitions to international exchange programmes and participating in our legal clinics – offer invaluable opportunities for personal growth, skills development, and lifelong connections.

Your support of the Edinburgh Law Students Fund will enhance these opportunities, ensuring all students can access the experiences that will shape their futures, regardless of their financial background. Together, we can provide an environment where every student thrives – academically, socially, and professionally.

“The Edinburgh Law School Career Development Scholarship is not just a monetary provision; it’s an investment in my future as a legal professional.”

Apoorv Agarwal
LLM, 2023





Supporting students in times of need

The path to academic success is rarely without challenges. Rising costs, unforeseen circumstances, or personal hardships - such as bereavement, illness, and increased childcare and housing costs - can derail even the most determined students. Without timely financial support, many are forced to pause or abandon their studies altogether.

Whilst we offer professional and emotional guidance, financial resources are limited. The Edinburgh Law Students Fund will provide emergency financial assistance to students facing unexpected challenges. With your support, we can offer a vital safety net, ensuring no student's dreams are disrupted by circumstances beyond their control.

“Financial support is a key element to enable talented people to pursue their professional and academic careers. I am sure that anyone that has received financial support from a donor must be extremely grateful for the kind support.”

Santiago Martinez
LLM, 2019

What a monthly gift could do over a year for a student experiencing hardship:

£5 month

Could help buy a student's statute books.

£10 month

Could cover emergency childcare costs to enable a student to attend lectures.

£20 month

Could support a student to attend an interview, internship, or competition.

£40 month

Could pay for a term-time bus pass for a student with commuting requirements.

£100 month

Could help with living expenses for a student studying abroad.



Donor stories: Laura Clement

Laura Clement (Law and French, 2003) grew up in Glasgow, studied in Edinburgh, and then moved to London, where she qualified as a commercial property lawyer. Currently, she is in-house counsel for a FTSE 250 company in the food and catering sector.

Laura graduated from Edinburgh Law School with an LLB in Law and French in 2003. “I started giving to the University pretty soon after I left” says Laura. For her, it felt like the logical next step – “it’s the same sort of thing as giving to charity,” she said, “and I think once you give, because it’s only a very small amount every month, unless you have a big lifestyle change, I think it’s the sort of thing that you just keep doing.

Laura has been a monthly donor for 16 years. Monthly donations like Laura’s play a crucial role in helping students access opportunities that would not have otherwise been available to them, and Laura recognises that. “I don’t think we are ever going to get a diverse legal

profession unless there is some help, so we have to make sure that we are enabling people from all backgrounds to have that chance.

Laura also appreciates being able to see the impact that her donations have. Sometimes, you’ve got no oversight of where your money goes or what happens to it. But, with the University, you get that correspondence and you see where your money is going and who it’s helping,” she says.

Creating opportunities that diversify the legal profession is something Laura is very passionate about, and she urges other alumni to support this as well. “You’re not going to miss it, it’s like giving the price of a couple of coffees on a monthly basis,” she says, but the result can be impactful. “We can help keep Edinburgh diverse, which is what we all enjoyed, and we can help others experience what we experienced,” she concludes.



Support Edinburgh Law School

Your generosity can change lives. By donating to the Edinburgh Law Students Fund, you can support scholarships, provide emergency aid, and enrich the student experience. Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference.

You can set up a regular gift or make a one-off donation in a number of ways:

Online

Visit www.law.ed.ac.uk/community/support-edinburgh-law-school or scan the QR code below to establish a regular gift or make a one-off donation.

By post

Use the enclosed form to donate by cash, cheque, or card. You can also set up a Direct Debit.

By phone

Call us at +44 (0)131 650 2240 to make your donation.

Gift Aid

If you're a UK taxpayer, adding Gift Aid increases the value of your donation by 25 percent at no extra cost to you. For every £1 you donate, we could receive £1.25. Simply complete the Gift Aid section of the donation form or online.

Every contribution plays a vital role in building a stronger, more inclusive future for Edinburgh Law School. However, our ambition is limitless, and with your support, we can drive truly transformative change. If you are considering a major gift or legacy, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss how we can create a meaningful and enduring impact together.

Email us at law.alumni@ed.ac.uk





The University of Edinburgh is a charity registered in Scotland, no: SC005336.

The University of Edinburgh Development Trust is a charity registered in Scotland, no: SC004307.