TRANSFORMATIVE SCHOLARSHIPS

In celebration of 20 Transformative Years

THE PROFESSOR DAVID YATES MASTER’S SCHOLARSHIPS
“I have had the great pleasure of knowing and teaching some exceptional students during my time at Robinson, who have gone on to make important contributions to society.

Expanding the number of graduate students is a core priority for both the College and the University. I’m a firm believer that academic excellence should be available to everyone and that we all have a responsibility to ensure that there are no barriers preventing tomorrow’s leaders from accessing a first-class education today.

As someone who benefitted from a scholarship myself when I was a student in pre-historical times, I would like to leave Robinson confident that the College can support those who wish to further their studies with us.”

PROFESSOR DAVID YATES, Warden of Robinson College
Making world-changing discoveries. Taking risks. Pursuing the answers to big unanswered questions. This is what Cambridge is known for, and why graduate students are so important to Robinson.

Research has arguably never been more important, as the world continues to tackle the global pandemic. Researchers at UK universities have led the world in developing a vaccine upon which all our lives depend.

From exploring how mathematical modelling can help us understand how infectious diseases spread within and across species, to creating strategies to ensure that those hospital patients receiving cancer treatments are safeguarded from the virus, Robinson researchers are part of the global team of experts working to rid the world of COVID-19.
Graduate students will stand on the shoulders of these giants, and are a vital source of fresh thinking, new approaches and bold ideas. They ensure that research is never complacent, and are fundamental in attracting senior academics to Cambridge.

But graduate study is expensive. Funding is a key barrier to continuing education, particularly for underrepresented groups. Many students who are offered a place at Cambridge for graduate study are simply not able to take it up. Removing some of the obstacles so that Robinson can attract and support outstanding graduate students will be crucial as the College enters the next phase of its development.
This is a cause close to the heart of our Warden, Professor David Yates. He feels as strongly today about making a Cambridge education accessible to all as he did in 2001, when he first joined us as Warden.

Professor Yates will be stepping down in September. During his 20-year tenure, hundreds of graduate and undergraduate students have benefitted from his lifetime of research and practice in law. He has published in the field of commercial and contract law and served as Chief Operating Officer at Baker McKenzie. This unique combination of an academic and corporate career has benefitted the College immensely, and under Professor Yates’s guidance Robinson has grown into the confident, established and much-loved institution we know today.

To mark the end of two decades of Wardenship and to build a legacy that will help attract future graduate students to Robinson, additional funding must be available to support scholars.

The creation of the Professor David Yates Master’s Scholarships will meet an urgent need to help our students and will be a fitting tribute to Professor Yates and his time at the College.
We invite you to join us in raising much-needed financial support for those students who otherwise could not hope to study at Master’s level at Robinson.

All gifts up to £6,000 made before 31 August 2021 will be matched, £1 for £1, thanks to a very generous donation from Sir David and Adrian Li (Law, 1992).

If you are a new donor to Robinson, or have not given since July 2018, your donation to this appeal will also qualify for matching by the Harding Challenge Fund. This means your gift will go even further.

“David has been a family friend for 20 years and it’s been our pleasure to see Robinson grow in strength under his leadership. We were proud to support Robinson’s academic excellence through the foundation of the Sir David Williams Professorship in Public Law in 2016, and are delighted to build on that investment by offering a challenge fund of £100,000 for Master’s Scholarships that will expand Robinson’s flourishing graduate student community and build its reputation for research.”

SIR DAVID AND ADRIAN LI (LAW, 1992)
COSTS AND TIMESCALES

Some students face a considerable funding gap: Master’s course fees alone range from around £12,159 to £33,738, while maximum government borrowing for Master’s study currently stands at £11,222.

An endowed fund of £200,000 would provide one means-tested scholarship of £6,000 per year, which would qualify for matching by the Cambridge Trusts, establishing a Master’s scholarship of £12,000 for a Robinson student. This could make the difference between a student reaching their full potential through continued study and research, or leaving education altogether. With sufficient funding, this scholarship could be awarded as early as September 2022.

Every gift will make a difference. A four-year gift of £100 per month (plus gift aid), with the match-funding, would support one Master’s student for a year.

Four donors making a pledge of £25 per month (with gift aid) for four years could also jointly fund one Master’s student for a year.

All donors are invited to pass on their best wishes to the Warden in a specially commissioned book, which will be presented to Professor Yates. Copies of this volume will be available in the College Library, the Robinson Archive and online for donors to view.

To make your gift, please complete the enclosed form. In order to include your name and message in the commemoration book, please return the donation form with your donation by 30 September 2021, to allow time for collation and printing.

Thank you for considering supporting Master’s research at Robinson.
“Doing an LLM at Robinson was an incredibly rewarding experience and one that I will cherish forever. It would be very disconcerting to know that some students, who would otherwise get to experience the same, are prevented simply by not having access to funding. I will commit (and I hope alumni around the globe unite to commit) to helping fund the Professor David Yates Master’s Scholarships, especially in these very difficult circumstances, to remove as many barriers to education as possible.” **MICHAEL PANAYI (LAW, 2012)**

Charlotte is a graduate student at Robinson, researching the Smart Inhaler and how its introduction could impact healthcare practice and doctor-patient relations. Charlotte has benefited from College funding matched by the Cambridge Trust.

“In receiving this award, I have access to the best pastoral and academic support from both the Cambridge Trust and Robinson College and I am honoured to be a part of both. I am incredibly thankful to the Cambridge Trust and Robinson College for the assistance they have provided me with in pursuing my career ambitions and I would strongly recommend Robinson College to any prospective students.” **CHARLOTTE SALF (2020, HEALTH, MEDICINE & SOCIETY)**

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