A legacy of learning and research
“I believe in living a life that matters. Every act of integrity, compassion or sacrifice can enrich, empower, or encourage others to emulate your example. Living a life that matters doesn’t happen by accident; it’s not a matter of circumstance but of choice.”

Harry Desai

Harry’s bequest to Cambridge will enable students who could not otherwise afford to study here to undertake postgraduate degrees.
The impact of a legacy gift

For more than 800 years, legacies have been fundamental to Cambridge.

Our Colleges, laboratories, libraries and museums are founded on the generosity of visionary benefactors who have seen that a bequest to Cambridge is a gift to the future of learning, research and knowledge.

A legacy gift to Cambridge may support brilliant students by endowing scholarships or bursaries, fund academic or research posts, enable new buildings or the improvement of facilities, or ensure that students benefit from the full student experience by participating in the range of enriching extracurricular activities on offer.

Through a gift in your will, you can support the University of Cambridge in myriad ways. You can direct your gift towards any aspect of Cambridge life, including departments, museums, libraries, sport, music and student support programmes. Or an unrestricted gift allows us to direct funds wherever they are most needed. Whichever you choose, it will help to shape the lives of our students and contribute to our ability to have a profound impact on the world.

Your plans

We would be very pleased to talk to you about your wishes. Although we are unable to offer financial or legal advice (you should obtain your own independent advice as required), we would be delighted to discuss your intentions, the direction of your gift and the potential impact it could have on Cambridge.

Of course, your decision is personal and may change in the future, but should you tell us about your intentions, we will be able to thank you and keep you informed about the University and our contribution to society. All information will be treated as confidential. Should you wish to give an indication of your current plans, you can find a contact form on the inside back cover of this brochure.
Thanks to a legacy gift, the Fitzwilliam Museum was able to save for the nation a monumental white marble bust of Queen Victoria as an ageing monarch, sculpted by Sir Alfred Gilbert.

This little-known masterpiece is a pivotal work in the development of British sculpture at the end of the 19th century. The bust was entirely carved by Gilbert, the most talented and idiosyncratic sculptor of Victorian Britain. It is the only surviving marble by him in the UK.

The Fitzwilliam devoted the Hartley-Johnson Bequest to this acquisition of international significance, along with gifts from individual benefactors and a grant from the National Heritage Memorial Fund. This legacy gift was made by long-time Cambridge resident and museum supporter, Harry Johnson, after the death of his partner, William Hartley.

Sir Alfred Gilbert RA (1854–1934) is the most famous, talented and significant sculptor of the Victorian era, and leader of the New Sculpture movement (1880–1900) which focused on domestic sculpture of a spiritual and symbolist nature, and architectural decoration. Gilbert’s best-known work is ‘Eros’, the dynamically posed figure that crowns the Shaftesbury Memorial at Piccadilly Circus (1886–93).
How to leave your legacy

There are a number of ways to leave a legacy to the University:

A **residuary** bequest leaves all or part of the remainder of your estate, after other legacies and charges have been met.

A **pecuniary** bequest leaves a specified sum of money. If you already have a will, a pecuniary bequest can be added by means of a codicil. This form of gift is very simple to arrange and can be index-linked to prevent its value being eroded by inflation.

A **reversionary** bequest leaves your assets to a named beneficiary for their lifetime: for example, your spouse or other dependant. On their death, the whole or a specified proportion will revert to the University.

A **specific or non-monetary** bequest allows you to leave a gift in kind, such as valuables and works of art or collections, to the University, either on terms that they be retained or that they may be sold and the proceeds devoted to other University purposes.

You can find out more about each of these ways to give by contacting our legacies team, whose details can be found on the back cover, or by talking to your solicitor.

A bequest to the University of Cambridge is free of tax for all UK taxpayers. Tax advantages vary depending on your country of residence, so please get in touch with us or a qualified solicitor to discuss further.
Suggested wording

Should you wish to leave a legacy to a particular College, it is best to contact that College’s development office to discuss your plans. Full contact details are available here: https://www.philanthropy.cam.ac.uk/contact-us/college-contacts

Although we are unable to offer financial or legal advice, we would be very pleased to talk to you about your intentions, if you wish to leave a legacy to the University.

The legal name of the University which should be used in any will or codicil is “The Chancellor, Masters and Scholars of the University of Cambridge”.

An example of wording used should you wish to leave a legacy to Cambridge is in the paragraph below, but please seek your own independent legal advice on any drafting or concerns you may have:

“I give to the Chancellor, Masters and Scholars of the University of Cambridge the residue of my estate / % of residue of my estate / the sum of £ (amount) free of tax and it is my wish (without creating a binding obligation) that the gift be used to benefit the Department of X, in particular to support Y. I declare that the receipt of a financial officer of the University shall be a full and sufficient discharge.”

When you add a wish or restrict your legacy, please consider adding the following wording to help the University to allocate your gift:

“If these areas are fully funded or if they are no longer an area in which the University is actively involved, I wish that my gift is to be used in an area in need of funding and which most closely equates to the said research or department.”
Making a pledge

The details of your will are naturally a private matter and we understand you may prefer to keep your intentions to yourself. If you wish, you can use this form to let us know if you currently intend to leave a legacy to the University of Cambridge.

☐ At present, I intend to leave a legacy to the University of Cambridge

   I would like my legacy to support:

☐ A faculty or department ____________________________

☐ A museum or library ____________________________

☐ Another area ____________________________

While it would be helpful to have an indication of the value of your bequest, please do not feel obliged to give this information if you would prefer not to.

The approximate value in current terms is £ ________________

☐ I would like to discuss further how I might leave a gift. Please contact me as follows:

Name ________________________________________________
Address ________________________________________________
________________________________________ Postcode __________________
Email ________________________________________________
Telephone ________________________________________________
Signature ____________________________ Date _______________________

Returning the form, using the contact details overleaf, does not commit you or us in any way. It simply gives us an indication of your current plans and allows us to respond appropriately. Your reply will be treated with complete confidentiality.
For more information please contact:

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