

**THE WOLFSON FOUNDATION**  
**1955-2015**

SIXTY YEARS OF PHILANTHROPY

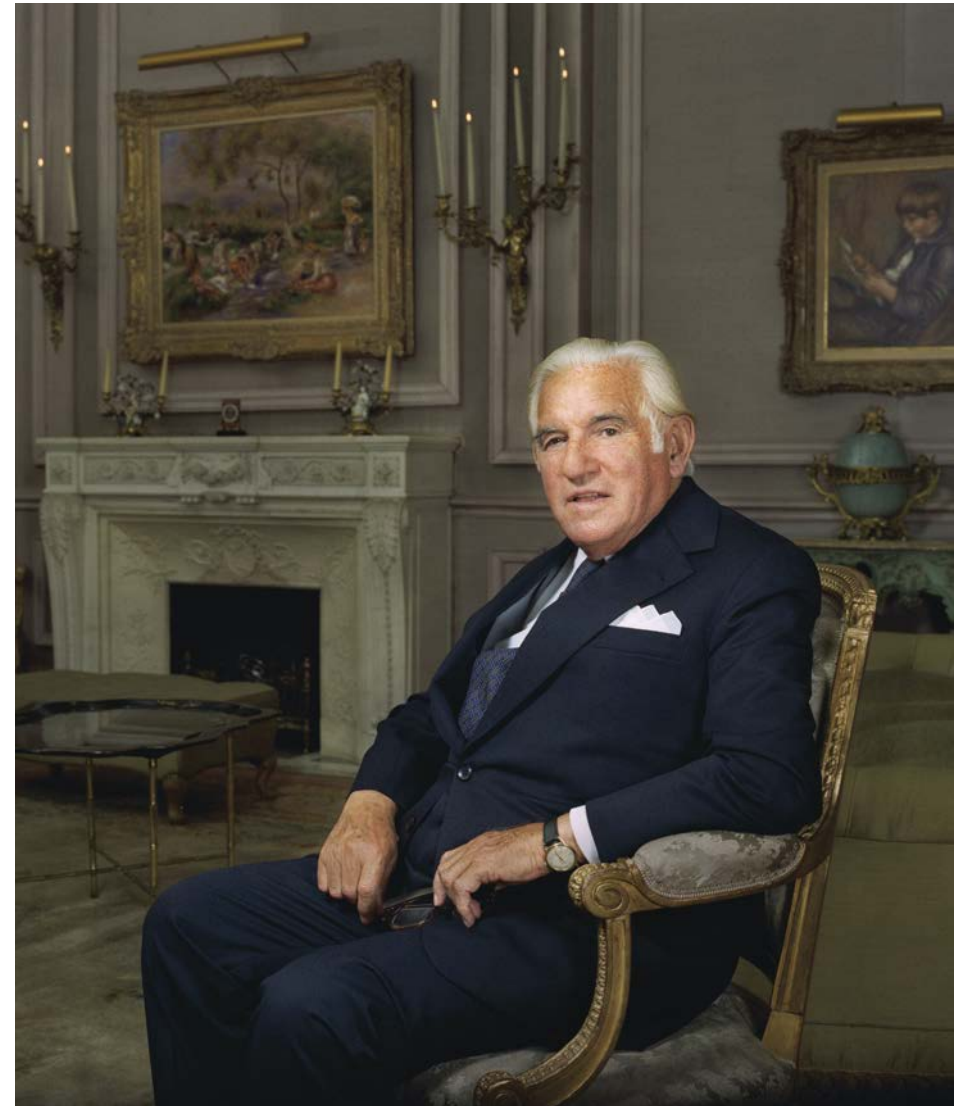


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Sir Isaac Wolfson (1897-1991), Founder (1955), Chairman (from 1963 to 1972) and then President (from 1975) of the Wolfson Foundation; "He brought to the work of the Foundation the same acumen and experience in investing in projects, people and institutions, to which he owed his success in business" (Alan Bullock).

## FOREWORD

The Wolfson Foundation was the brainchild of my father and grandfather and it is wonderful to see the extent to which their vision has been realised through the many outstanding projects, large and small, that we have been able to help.

It is a great privilege to be the third generation of the family to chair the Board of Trustees and, like my father and grandfather, I am indebted to my fellow Trustees, past and present, to the members of our expert panels and to the many talented individuals and imaginative organisations with whom we have worked over the past sixty years.

I would also like to pay particular tribute to our Chief Executive, Paul Ramsbottom, and his exceptional team, whose tireless work is responsible for any success we have enjoyed. Thank you all for your dedication, your loyalty and your tremendous expertise.

The excitement we all feel about the work of the Foundation is, I hope, as great today as it was for the first Trustees in the 1950s – an excitement that is being passed down to the next generation, the great-grandchildren of Isaac and Edith Wolfson, many of whom are already involved in their lasting legacy.

**Janet Wolfson de Botton**  
Chairman

London, May 2015

## INTRODUCTION

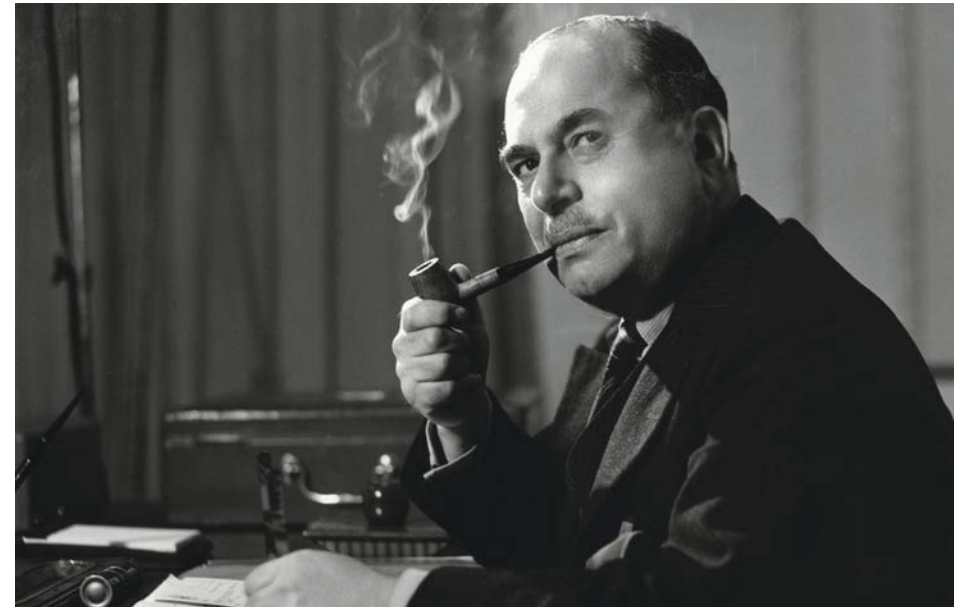
In 1956 – the year following the establishment of the Wolfson Foundation – a report by the Nuffield Foundation noted that “foundations are still to the general public mysterious and remote organisations.”

Some sixty years on, this remains true. The intention of this essay is not to provide a comprehensive history. A detailed analysis of the personalities, policies and passions couched beneath lengthy lists of grants awaits another writer and another time. But, on an anniversary occasion, it is intended to shed a little light on the Wolfson Foundation’s activities over six decades and – in some small way – to make at least one philanthropic organisation slightly less ‘mysterious and remote.’

The essay is an updated and revised version of that which was written for the 50th anniversary. I am very grateful to those who have kindly provided advice, including Sir David Cannadine, Dr Beth Breeze, Charles Keidan and colleagues past and present, especially Elizabeth Crawford and Obi Thompson Sargoni.

**Paul Ramsbottom**  
Chief Executive

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**Harry Nathan, Lord Nathan of Churt (1889-1963)**, solicitor and public servant. The first Chairman of the Foundation, serving from its creation until just before his death in October 1963. He was a former Liberal (and then Labour) MP and sat as a Labour peer in the House of Lords. A distinguished solicitor, he was also President of the Royal Geographical Society, Chairman of the Royal Society of Arts and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the British Empire Cancer Campaign. "A man of loyalty, warm-hearted humanity, and creative imagination" (Arthur Goodhart).

### Sixty Years of Philanthropy

The two decades following the Second World War were both an innovative and a golden era for British philanthropic endeavour. Set in this broader context and climate, the Wolfson Foundation was one among a cluster of trusts and grant giving bodies that were established during the 1950s and 1960s: organisations that would have a profound impact on British society, such as the Tudor Trust (set up in the same year as Wolfson, 1955), the Garfield Weston Foundation (1958), the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation (1961), the Robertson Trust (1961), the Clore (Duffield) Foundation (1964) and various Sainsbury Trusts (through the 1960s). As western economies prospered as never before, this was a remarkable period of significant wealth generation, and it was also a time when both government and affluent

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individuals were beginning to engage with the challenges and the opportunities of rebuilding British society after the traumas and tribulations of war. The public expression of this improving impulse was the Welfare State, which was funded by high levels of individual taxation. At the same time, the tax incentives that were put in place to encourage sustained philanthropy provided an unprecedented incentive for the establishment of charitable bodies devoted to that end. Coincidentally, then, the creation of these foundations, which were vehicles of private generosity, occurred at exactly the same time as the rapid expansion of government spending.

In contrast to those which exist in the United States, such as Rockefeller, Carnegie, Ford and Mellon, the story and the work of the larger British foundations which came into being at that time is relatively little known and understood, yet it sheds an interesting and significant light on the cultural history and social development of modern Britain. The history of the Wolfson Foundation, from the 1950s to the present day, has both an intrinsic importance and is also a component of that larger narrative of post-war British philanthropic endeavour.

A letter from Lord Nathan (the first Chairman of the Foundation) to Isaac Wolfson in July 1955 described the signing of the Foundation's Trust Deed. "As we sat around your sitting-room in Portland Place and you, your wife, Leonard and I signed the document – not, as might have been expected at a table with some show of formality, but passing the document from hand to hand, resting it on our knees as we signed – I could not help thinking that we were participating in a notable and significant occasion." Despite the lack of formality the Foundation had, in Nathan's words, been "finely conceived and long meditated." It was the public, legal expression of a family's existing philanthropy.

Isaac Wolfson was born in September 1897 in the Gorbals area of Glasgow – the son of a Jewish cabinet-maker who had emigrated from the Russian Pale of Settlement (Bialystok) to Scotland. In 1926 he married Edith Specterman. In the same year he joined a mail-order company, Universal Stores. By 1932 the company, renamed Great Universal Stores (GUS), was offering shares to the public. In the following year he was appointed Managing Director and became the largest shareholder.

Isaac Wolfson became Chairman of GUS in 1946 and, at the time the Foundation was formed in the summer of 1955, there were nearly 80 companies in the group, which included clothing and furniture manufacturers, retail chains and

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Sir Isaac Wolfson opening the Charles Hastings Medical Centre in Worcester  
(November 1969)

mail order businesses. In 1962 he was created baronet, as Sir Isaac Wolfson of St Marylebone. Sir Isaac, his wife, and their son, Leonard, were the charity's Founder Trustees. Up until the mid 1990s, when the Foundation diversified its assets, the investments were largely comprised of GUS shares.

Lord Nathan, a solicitor and former Labour MP, was asked to be the first Chairman of the Isaac Wolfson Foundation and, as well as helping to draw up the Trust Deed, he steered the Foundation through its first years until shortly before his death in 1963. "I feel lucky", he said, "in being one of the original Trustees of what will fast become one of the four or five great national trusts."

The years 1955 to 1958 were largely engaged in preliminary work: creating an administration, making contacts with other charitable foundations and – crucially – creating a Board of Trustees "of wide experience and enjoying public confidence." The three founding family members (who had sole power of appointing new trustees and effective power of veto over grant-making policy) were joined by eminent academics, drawn from a variety of spheres. This balance of a minority of family members and majority of academic experts has been maintained across the years. Indeed it was formalised in 2014 within new governance documents for the Wolfson Foundation which underpinned the transition of the Foundation from being a charitable trust to becoming a charitable company.





Leonard Wolfson (later Lord Wolfson of Marylebone) visiting the University of Birmingham's Department of Physics in 1972 – the year he became Chairman of the Foundation.

Following Lord Nathan's death there have been just three chairmen drawn from three successive generations of the Wolfson family: Isaac Wolfson from 1962 to 1972, Leonard Wolfson from 1972 until 2010 and, in recent years, Janet Wolfson de Botton.

Lord Bullock, one of the early Trustees, commented that Sir Isaac Wolfson "brought to the work of the Foundation the same acumen and experience in investing in projects, people and institutions, to which he owed his success in business." In 1972 Sir Isaac passed the Chairmanship of the Foundation to his son. And so it was Leonard Wolfson (from 1985, Lord Wolfson of Marylebone) who became, across the following four decades, the dominant figure in the charity's development. As if to reflect this, the Isaac Wolfson Foundation (which had, in any case, long been known as the Wolfson Foundation) formally changed its name to the Wolfson Foundation.

Martin Paisner, writing for the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, has noted that "without in any way diminishing Isaac Wolfson's financial and conceptual contribution to the Foundation, it is fair to say that Leonard Wolfson was its creative genius. Isaac Wolfson's creativity was reflected in his business empire of which Leonard Wolfson became the steward and the Foundation the major beneficiary. It was within the framework of the Foundation that (Leonard) Wolfson was best able to fulfil himself and indeed give full rein to his intellectual ambitions."

Lieutenant-General Sir Harold Redman KCB CBE was appointed in 1958 as first 'Director and Secretary' following his retirement as Governor and Commander in Chief of Gibraltar. The early Directors (variously, across the years, Director and Secretary, Executive Secretary and, currently, Chief Executive) were retired military men. Major General Rea Leakey, for example, served the Foundation between 1968 and 1980. He had won an MC for his actions during the North Africa campaign during the Second World War and later fought for the Arab Legion. Field Marshal Lord Carver described him as a man "always thirsting for action and spoiling for a fight." In later years, the Directors tended to be drawn from somewhat less colourful backgrounds, in particular the senior civil service or research councils – perhaps reflecting the increasingly professional nature of the administration.

The last five years of this period have, in many ways, been among the most eventful in the whole of the Foundation's history. Lord Wolfson died in 2010 and was succeeded by his daughter, Dame Janet Wolfson de Botton. The Foundation

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reconstituted the Investment Committee and established a Nominations Committee to advise on governance and new appointments. With restructured investments managed on a total return basis – and increasingly globalised – the overall asset value of the Foundation in 2013 passed £800 million for the first time.

Grantmaking priorities both must and do evolve and adapt to changing circumstances, but many of the Foundation's underlying principles can be traced back to its early years. Over the decades a continued emphasis has been the support and promotion of excellence, with the large majority of funding dedicated to capital infrastructure. While the Trust Deed was defined in broad terms, by 1960 the key areas for funding laid down by Trustees were: medical research and education (including medical, surgical and nursing services not provided by the NHS), scientific and technological education, and education/youth activities. Six decades later the key funding themes, at least in broad terms, owe much to this heritage: science and medicine, health and disability, and education. The fourth current funding theme – arts and humanities – is to a considerable extent a later addition.

The key grant-making themes and philosophy remain recognisable across six decades, although there has latterly been a greater emphasis on policy and research work, partnership building (including working with and lobbying of government) and direct engagement with recipients. In John D. Rockefeller's words, "The best philanthropy is constantly in search of the finalities – a search for a cause, an attempt to cure evils at their source." But rigorous grant-making has remained consistently central to all of the Foundation's activities – and indeed any authority to work on wider activities, such as lobbying of government, is partly premised on the integrity of decision making and the quality of ongoing relationships with applicants.

Four particular considerations have influenced the Foundation's grant-making policy across six decades. First, it has always sought to support excellence (both existing and potential) usually by the provision of essential and enabling infrastructure. This has been based on the advice provided by expert panels and increasingly sophisticated expert review of applications. Secondly, it has continually sought to identify and nurture important areas that are under-funded. Thirdly, applicants have been encouraged to use Wolfson funds as a catalyst: as a way of leveraging additional support. Fourthly, and from the outset, the Foundation has sought collaboration with other expert bodies and it has established fruitful partnerships with the country's leading learned societies (notably the Royal Society and British Academy), other grant-making bodies, such as the Wellcome Trust, government

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An example of one of the early Trustees: **David Fyfe, 1st Earl of Kilmuir (1900-1967)**. Conservative MP; Secretary General; Deputy Chief Prosecutor at the Nuremberg Trials; Home Secretary; Lord Chancellor. He joined the Foundation's Board in the immediate aftermath of leaving Harold Macmillan's Cabinet in the 'Night of the Long Knives' (July 1962) and served until his death five years later.

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departments and charities ranging from the National Playing Fields Association to Hospice UK. Across all of the Foundation's grant programmes the philosophy has been to give carefully, thoughtfully and discerningly: whether in forging relationships with partner funders, commissioning policy research or collaborating with government.

The way in which decisions have been made has, however, varied across time and between different programme areas. An emphasis on excellence can only be based on rigorous evaluation. In the early years, this was driven almost exclusively by Board members – often using their network of friends and contacts. In the first decade of the Foundation's history the largest grant was given to create a new building for the Royal College of Physicians on the edge of Regent's Park (£450,000, 1959). As a case study it illustrates a complex web of meetings and conversations that often led to major awards. The President of the College, Robert Platt (knighted during that summer and later Lord Platt), held a "small luncheon party" on 8 April 1959, to which he invited Lord Nathan, Isaac Wolfson and Lord Evans. Horace Evans, one time physician to George VI and a Wolfson Trustee, had helped to broker the meeting. Across the spring the College provided some modest paperwork and were gently interrogated, particularly by Leonard Wolfson – who "needed convincing: what the College is; what it does; in what ways the present accommodation falls short." On 10 June 1959, Leonard Wolfson visited the College to talk – among other issues – about the cost (a subject on which the Registrar "spoke with some diffidence.") On 12 June, the Board met and agreed the award, to be paid over seven years – an award that the College's President described in the BMJ as "a historic gift which my College and British medicine are unlikely to forget". The Trustees also agreed that Leonard Wolfson and Horace Evans should join the building committee.

The key change in putting decision-making onto a more formal footing occurred from 1987 when a system of expert panels was introduced, providing advice on policy and grant-making across all areas of the Foundation's activities – and supported by an increasingly sophisticated independent peer review system. By contrast, in 2015 a major research infrastructure application underwent an initial financial appraisal, was sent to six or seven external reviewers (both in the UK and internationally), and was considered by an expert Science & Medicine Panel before the final recommendation was agreed by the full Board.

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An example of a grant recipient turned Trustee: **Sir John Cockcroft OM (1897-1967)**, physicist and engineer. First Master of Churchill College, Cambridge; Director, Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell; Nobel Prize for Physics (1951). He was a major recipient of funding before becoming a Trustee.



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Across much of its history, the Wolfson Foundation – like many other such organisations – had an ambiguous attitude toward publicity. Trustees did not seek attention for the Foundation itself, but they were willing to allow the name to be associated with high profile named projects such as the Wolfson Colleges at Oxford and Cambridge. This reticence was demonstrated in the case of the grant in 1959 to the Royal College of Physicians when Lord Nathan noted that “naturally the Trustees would like to feel that in some mutually acceptable manner the name ‘Wolfson’ should be associated with the new headquarters, but it seems to me that it would be appreciated the more if this suggestion were to emanate from you.” More recently the Foundation has been willing to make public statements, although still preferring to draw attention to recipients and issues of importance rather than the Foundation itself. Perhaps reflecting a slightly higher profile a number of awards have been received in recent years, including the Prince of Wales Medal for Arts Philanthropy (2010) and the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy (2013).

One of the hallmarks of Wolfson funding – and the reason why multiple expert panels are necessary – is the range of areas and activities to which it makes grants and provides support. It is therefore worth considering further the evolution of each of the key areas of the Foundation’s activities.



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Dame Janet Wolfson de Botton, Chairman,  
receiving the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy, Edinburgh, 2013.

## HIGHER EDUCATION

### Higher education

The early years of the Foundation’s history coincided with a growth in higher education and a debate about its future role – notably through the publication of the Robbins Report in 1963. In terms of provisions for students, many of the larger early grants were for two particular groups: women and overseas students. Grants for halls of residences in 1958 and 1959 in the Universities of London and Glasgow were made “with the needs of Commonwealth students particularly in mind.” The former (still an inter-collegiate hall in Cartwright Gardens) remains, named as Commonwealth Hall. The latter (built on the Garscube Estate) became known as the Wolfson Hall of Residence. Although the vast majority of the Foundation’s funding has been in the UK, in the early years, investments were also made in the Commonwealth. A grant for a Women’s Hall of Residence at University College,



© University of Glasgow

The Wolfson Hall of Residence at the University of Glasgow was established with funding in 1959 (£300,000).  
In 1998 additional funding of £500,000 helped pay for the refurbishment of the building.

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Dar es Salaam – part of the University of East Africa – in 1963 brought these two early interests of the Trustees (Commonwealth and female students) together.

The focus on women's education was particularly evident during the first decade of the Foundation's history through funding for women's colleges in Oxford and Cambridge. The Principal of St Anne's College in Oxford, Lady Ogilvie, acknowledged a grant as "a most encouraging sign of the recognition of the importance of the higher education of women." As well as encouraging larger numbers of women to enter higher education, these awards also reflected the fact that women's colleges generally did not enjoy large endowments.

Other early educational grants tended to focus on new initiatives: a University Centre at Cambridge (1963) and two new Oxbridge Colleges, Churchill at Cambridge (1959-65) and St Catherine's at Oxford (1959-61). Both Churchill and St Catherine's were fortunate to have outstanding figures as their first Masters: John Cockcroft (Nobel Prize winner for Physics in 1951) and Alan Bullock (eminent historian). Both became Wolfson Trustees.

During the 1970s a joint programme was set up with the University Grants Committee which benefited more than thirty universities and colleges by providing funds for student accommodation.

The most significant grants in this field were for the creation of the Wolfson Colleges at Oxford and Cambridge. In 1966 an initial pledge was made to (what was then) Iffley College in Oxford – a new college focussing on graduate studies and scientific research – following an approach from the first President, Sir Isaiah Berlin. Berlin's published letters indicate that he was aware of significant divisions within the Trustee Board of the Wolfson Foundation (and particularly strong opposition from Solly Zuckerman). But, with an endowment being provided from the American Ford Foundation, the Foundation's grant was invested in the buildings and the College was renamed Wolfson College. A Trustees' report of 1975 described the formal opening of the buildings in November 1974 by Oxford's Chancellor, Harold Macmillan, as "perhaps the most important landmark in the history of the Foundation." University College, Cambridge – which had been founded in 1965 as a graduate college for both men and women (the first of its type in Cambridge) – received an award in the early 1970s. In recognition of this the College in 1972 changed its name to Wolfson College. Although there is no ongoing formal relationship with the Colleges, there has been significant investment in the capital

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infrastructure subsequently – including, for example, a new auditorium at Wolfson College, Oxford (funded in 2010).

Indeed the provision of high quality auditorium or lecture theatres has been a wider theme, including – out of myriad examples – at Kings College London (1971), the University of Reading (1980) and as part of the refurbished North Block of Senate House for SOAS (2014).

While much of the Foundation's funding has had a practical bent, it has never taken a narrowly utilitarian view of education. In the words of Trustee Sir Eric Ash, education is "essential to create wealth but also an activity that can serve to elevate the human spirit." A recent example of this came in response to Lord Browne's



Sir Isaac Wolfson shaking hands with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at the opening of Wolfson College, Oxford in November 1974. Also pictured are Lady (Edith) Wolfson in purple, Sir Isaiah Berlin, founder and first President of the College, and Lady (Aline) Berlin. Isaiah Berlin notes of the opening in his letters that "Macmillan [former Prime Minister and Chancellor of the University of Oxford] made one of his best speeches – wildly amusing and appropriate apart from forgetting Sir Isaac Wolfson's name for three minutes."



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report, *Securing a Sustainable Future for Higher Education* (2010). The Foundation was concerned about the impact of increasing levels of undergraduate debt on the number of the most able students continuing to postgraduate research, particularly in the humanities. More generally, there was a concern about reduced funding for the humanities in British universities. In response the Foundation has so far committed over £8.5 million for postgraduate scholarships in the humanities at nine carefully selected universities. "By investing in them", wrote Dame Hermione Lee (Wolfson Trustee and President, Wolfson College, Oxford), "the Wolfson Foundation will help a range of exceptional students across the UK, and will, it hopes, draw attention to the threats to these vital aspects of our academic life, our culture and our society."

### Schools

The Foundation's concern for education extends beyond universities. In the first three decades awards were made to a small number of schools with a particular connection to the Foundation, for example the Solomon Wolfson Primary School in London (named after Isaac Wolfson's father), Reali School in Haifa and the King's School in Worcester, alma mater of Leonard Wolfson. A modest award was made in 1964 toward Waterford School in Swaziland (now Waterford Kamhlaba United World College), founded by Englishman Michael Stern as a direct response to apartheid and whose alumni include Nelson Mandela's children and grandchildren. The Trustees' interest in linking business and education is seen in an award in 1966 for a study at Marlborough College investigating the feasibility of teaching business studies to sixth formers. Subsequently, a five year pilot project was funded with the participation of both an independent school (Marlborough College) and a state school (Lawrence Weston School, Bristol). By 2014 nearly 30,000 students in England and Wales were taking an A level in Business Studies each year.

From 1977 grants to schools were put on a more formal basis with the establishment of a schools programme. Between 1977 and 1993 nearly £3 million was provided for bursaries at independent schools for children from lower income families, following what Trustee Sir John Plumb described as "the destruction of grammar schools." From the 1980s awards have also been made for science and technology facilities, particularly the provision of IT equipment at independent and maintained schools (with an increased emphasis on the latter). By far the largest

The Wolfson Institute for Biomedical Research,  
UCL, housed in the Cruciform Building.





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award was made in 1988 to establish the John Cabot City Technology College in Bristol. While Trustees were, in this case, supporting an innovative concept, the underlying principle of support for science and technology remained. In total, £28 million has been awarded to over 800 different schools.

In more recent years, the emphasis has returned to schools and charities doing outstanding work with pupils from deprived backgrounds. This has expanded beyond bursaries to include, for example, using Ofsted and Estyn datasets to identify and fund excellent state schools in areas of deprivation. The Foundation has established partnership programmes with organisations working in the broad field of social mobility in education, including the Sutton Trust and Teach First. These programmes indicate something of a trend. While capital infrastructure support remains central to the Foundation's grant-making, by 2015 about 15% of annual funding was allocated to support talented individuals – ranging from schoolchildren to palliative care staff.



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Students making careful measurements in the refurbished science laboratories at **Greenhead Sixth Form College**, Huddersfield, which received £100,000 in 2012. Some 800 schools and sixth form colleges have received funding from the Foundation.

## SCHOOLS



**John Cabot Academy** was established as a City Technology College with the help of a Wolfson grant in 1988 and has since been funded in 1996, 2003 and 2005.

### Medical education

Throughout the Foundation's history a particular focus has been medical education, including funding for the various learned societies supporting the medical profession. The new buildings for the Royal College of Physicians, opened by the Queen in 1964, contained a Wolfson Lecture Theatre to commemorate the largest award in the College's history. It was the start of a long association with the College, with subsequent grants for the Research Unit in 1988 and 1993; for research fellowships in 1982; and for the Jerwood Medical Education Centre in Peto Place in 1999. Three Presidents of the Royal College of Physicians – Sir Charles Dodd, Sir Raymond Hoffenberg and Lord Turnberg – have served as Wolfson Trustees.

Since 1999 the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) has also administered, on behalf of the Foundation, the intercalated awards programme, which assists outstanding students who are likely to pursue a clinical research career. The



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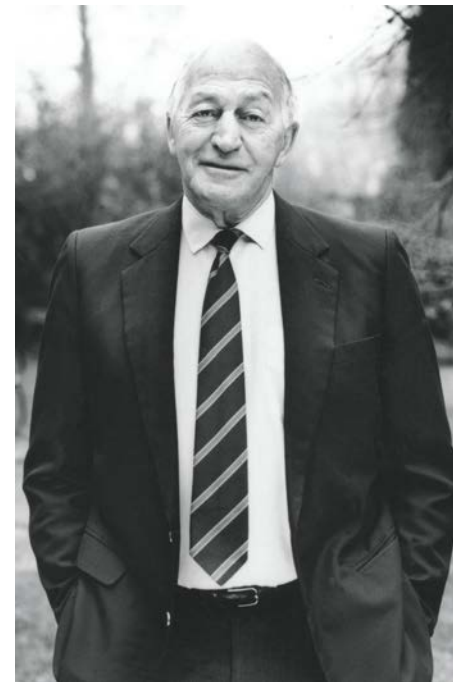
Wolfson College, Cambridge, received initial endowment funding in the early 1970s. In subsequent years, there have been a number of grants for the College's buildings.

programme, which has been running since the late 1980s, has made numerous awards for students taking a one year academic degree course intercalated ('inserted') part way through the medical course.

The RCP is not the only learned society in the medical field to receive funding. For example, when the Royal College of Psychiatrists was founded in 1971, the Foundation helped with the refurbishment of premises in Belgrave Square and also provided funding in 2013 when the College moved to their current location in Prescot Street. Out of the £45 million total allocation made by 1980, £2.4 million had gone to learned societies. While a significantly lower proportion has been allocated to learned societies in the latter half of the period, a particular feature has been support for training surgeons. Grants in 1993 helped to set up a Surgical Skills Centre at the Royal College of Surgeons of England (RCSE) and similar units, teaching minimally invasive techniques, in Scotland and Leeds. A decade later similar awards were made for a Wolfson Surgical Skills Centre at the RCSE (2006, as part of the

Eagle Project) and towards a Surgical Skills Centre at the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (2002).

As well as support for learned societies, other early grants in the medical education field included facilities for nurses and for postgraduates. A number of medical education centres were set up around the UK with help from the Foundation. The largest grants



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Sir Raymond ('Bill') Hoffenberg (1923-2007), physician and Trustee of the Wolfson Foundation. Emigrated to the UK in 1968, (having been banned from Cape Town Medical School by the apartheid government); Professor of Medicine, University of Birmingham; President, Royal College of Physicians; President, Wolfson College, Oxford. He was particularly influential as the Foundation increased its spending on biomedical research in the 1980s, with a targeted focus on preventive medicine during the late 1980s.





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**Dorothy Hodgkin (1910-1994)**, photographed in 1969. Dorothy Hodgkin was the first Wolfson Research Professor (of the Royal Society), holding that position between 1960 and 1977 during which time she was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry (1964) for her work unravelling the structure of biological compounds. She was succeeded by Alan Fersht (who held the position between 1977 and 1989) and Alec Jefferys (between 1991 and 2013).

have, however, supported building costs at new (or refurbished) medical schools: for example in 1971 for a wing of the rebuilt Middlesex Hospital Medical School and in the early 2000s for the new Medical School building in Glasgow, a Medical Research Institute at Warwick University's new Medical School, a lecture theatre in the Birmingham Medical School and, more recently, the University of Dundee's School of Medicine.

## Research

From the 1980s research rather than education became the single largest area of Wolfson expenditure. While medical research has been a particular focus, it has been by no means the only one. Indeed, increasingly, the Foundation has been keen to emphasise its funding of the highest quality research across academic endeavour – and not solely in the biomedical arena. An early grant helped establish the Institute of Criminology at Cambridge. It followed an approach in January 1959 from the Conservative Home Secretary, RA ('Rab') Butler, who – lamenting “the gravity of the problem of crime today” – outlined “a project to which I attach the greatest importance.” The grant was announced by Lord Nathan in a House of Lords debate later the same year, and Dr Leon Radzinowicz became the first Wolfson Professor of Criminology. This grant epitomised much of the early research that the Foundation funded: research with clear, practical objectives.

The fledgling field of criminology also highlights the role that philanthropy can sometimes play in encouraging innovative or novel areas. The Foundation endowed a number of such Chairs during its first two decades. An approach by Keith Joseph (Conservative Secretary of State for Social Services) led to a Chair being established in 1973 in what was then a new academic area – General Practice – at St Thomas' Hospital Medical School with Professor Morrell as the first holder. An Isaac Wolfson Chair of Metallurgy was set up at Oxford in 1957. The first holder was Professor Hume-Rothery whose work had helped to gain university recognition for the subject in the first place. In a speech at the University of Oxford in 2003, Lord Wolfson described him as “a remarkably creative department head with a severe hearing disability ... a great inspiration to all who knew him.”

In order to mark the tercentenary of the Royal Society in 1961, the Foundation created a separate endowment for a research professor. The first Wolfson Chair (until 1977) was Dorothy Hodgkin who while holding that post won the Nobel Prize for

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Chemistry in 1964. More recently the holder has been another eminent researcher, Sir Alec Jefferys, Professor of Genetics at the University of Leicester and pioneer of genetic fingerprinting. This grant was the beginning of a significant partnership between the Foundation and the Royal Society. Although awards have been made towards the Royal Society's premises in Carlton House Terrace and the creation of a centre at Chichely Hall, the major investment has been in joint programmes. In the early 1990s – soon after the end of the Cold War – a small programme brought outstanding Eastern European postdoctoral scientists to work in British universities: an example of modest investment having a significant impact, particularly on the



An award of £500,000 was made for the Wolfson Research Centre, Institute for Ageing and Health, University of Newcastle (1994).

## RESEARCH

lives of the individual award holders. The Foundation also funded postdoctoral scientists through the provision of three fellowships – aptly named after Dorothy Hodgkin – and a Chair in Materials Science was supported in the early 1990s. At the end of the period, there were two ongoing programmes: one tackling the recruitment and retention of internationally-ranked scientists in the UK, the other investing in refurbishing laboratory space. Since 2000, the Foundation has allocated £2 million each year for merit awards for university academics – a sum matched by government and administered by the Royal Society. These Wolfson Merit Awards are intended to prevent the ‘brain drain’ of British scientists, as well as attracting leading scientists from abroad.

The large majority of the Foundation's research funding, however, has been for infrastructure costs. When Imperial College approached the Foundation in the late 1950s seeking support for new laboratories for biochemistry and chemical microbiology, the ensuing award was instrumental in bringing back from Rome the Nobel Laureate Professor Ernst Chain (a precursor to the Wolfson Merit Awards). Biochemistry at Imperial has received further grants for laboratory refurbishment, notably for research in a broadly similar area, to create the Wolfson Centre for Genetic Therapies.

Imperial College is but one of more than 60 universities to have benefited from infrastructure support, including extensive investment at all of the major research universities. To take just one (far from atypical) example: the University of Manchester – and its predecessors – has been granted 124 separate awards from the 1960s. This includes support for the Wolfson Molecular Imaging Centre (2000) and the Manchester Cancer Research Centre (2011), both on the Christie Hospital site.

The Foundation's commitment to the highest quality research has frequently been expressed through funding the refurbishment of laboratory space: the basic requirement for much scientific endeavour. In addition to individual awards, a specially designated programme was run in 1989, 1991-95 and 1997, funding universities to convert laboratories for new uses/contemporary science across a wide range of research areas. Since 1998 the programme (with an annual allocation ranging from £1.5 to £2.5 million) has been administered through the Royal Society, with more tightly focussed themes including bioinformatics, reduction in carbon emissions and infectious diseases.

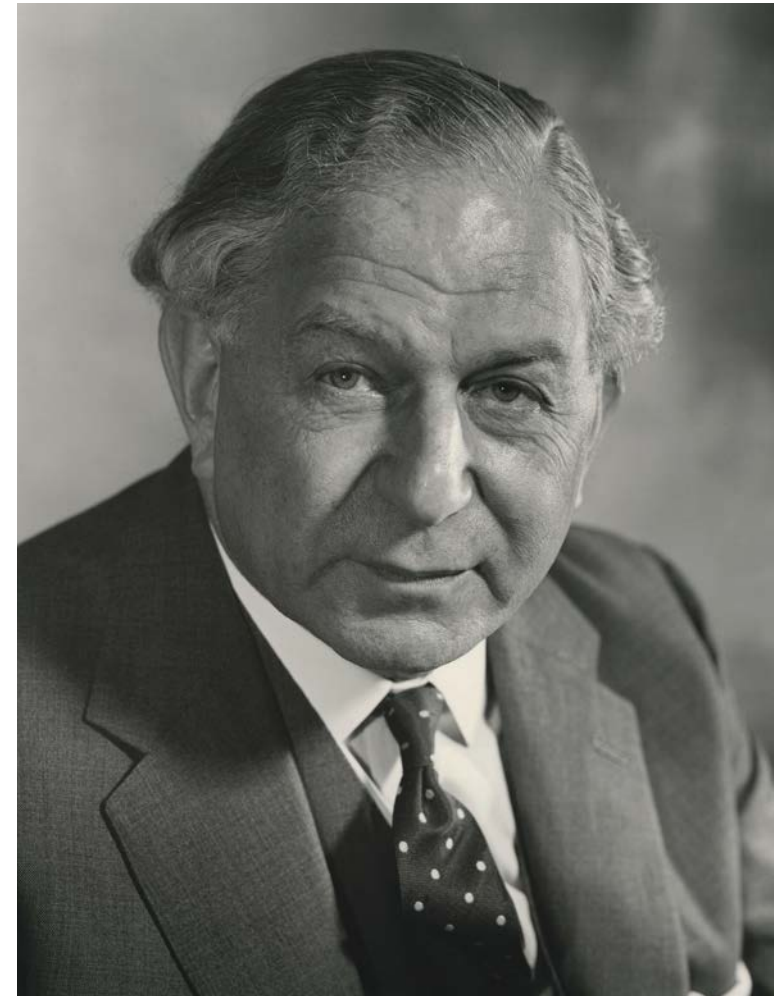




Research at the University of Sheffield's Department of Biomedical Science, recipients of £3 million in 1998.

## Research in science and technology

The longest running of the Foundation's research programmes was set up in the late 1960s and ran through until 1988. By the end of its first decade, the Trustees deemed the Foundation to be "well established and able to widen its horizons." As an expression of this, they decided in 1967 that two thirds of the funds available for higher education over the following five years should go to a Technology Projects Scheme: a programme to engage industry and universities in joint development with a highly practical focus. A report on the programme produced in 1984 by Dr Leonard Rotherham (former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bath and his own career one that straddled industry and academia) stated the basic, initial aim: "the gap between universities and industry had to be bridged, and bridged quickly."



© National Portrait Gallery

**Solly Zuckerman, Lord Zuckerman of Burnham Thorpe OM (1904-1993)**, scientist and public servant. Professor of Anatomy, University of Birmingham; Scientific Adviser, Combined Operations HQ (World War II); Government Chief Scientific Advisor; President, Zoological Society of London. He was a long-serving Trustee (from 1964 to 1987), which he juggled with a host of other executive and non-executive roles across science and education. The Foundation's Technology Projects Scheme was to a considerable extent his initiative: a programme from the 1960s to engage industry and universities in joint development with a highly practical focus. He stepped down from the Foundation's Board in 1987.

## THE WOLFSON FOUNDATION 1955-2015

By 1984 (when £17 million had been allocated) the success of the scheme could be measured, it was claimed, by the fact that “the University Grants Committee and the Science Research Council, as well as other bodies, had also started to tackle the problem of the university/industry gap by direct measures.” The programme – which was, to an extent, the brainchild of Wolfson Trustee and government Chief Scientific Adviser, Lord Zuckerman – had always been at least partially a reaction to the decline of British manufacturing. By the time of acute recession in the early 1980s Wolfson funds were, for a short time, used to support trained scientists and engineers who had lost their jobs because of industrial cutbacks in research and development.

Trustees acknowledged that the nature of the investment meant that it was high risk, and indeed included a number of signal failures. But by 1985 they could also reflect that the programme had been “abundantly successful in its aim of narrowing the traditional gap between academics and industry.” Some examples are particularly striking. A grant for electronics at the University of Edinburgh (1968) helped lead to a spin off company, Wolfson Microelectronics, which was floated on the stock market in October 2003. When the Foundation made an award of £2 million for a Centre for Informatics and Life Sciences in the University of Edinburgh’s Informatics Forum (2004), the company provided partnership funding of £1 million for doctoral research fellowships in informatics and microelectronics. In April 2014 the company was sold to Cirrus Logic for £291 million.

Alongside the ongoing ‘technology’ programme, the Foundation made grants for new buildings for outstanding science and technology departments in universities, including Bioengineering at Strathclyde in 1968 and Engineering at Southampton in 1975 – the latter following on from a successful grant under the technology programme. Numerous awards continued to be made long after the programme had finished, such as for Organic Chemistry at Imperial (1992), Engineering at Loughborough (1998) and Materials Science and Metallurgy at Cambridge (2009).

The focus of the science and technology programme varied across the years, but in 1988 the basic aims of the programme were applied specifically to the medical field. A total of £1.5 million was allocated for medical research and development with the “potential for creating wealth.” Projects funded included the development of a robot work-station for people with severe disabilities and printed-circuit techniques for early detection of tooth degeneration.

## MEDICAL RESEARCH

### Medical research

This change of focus marked the beginnings of an increased emphasis on funding biomedical research. There had, of course, already been significant grants in this field – for instance a ten year equipment grant to the British Empire Cancer Campaign (now Cancer Research UK) in 1956 following discussions with the Duke of Edinburgh, or grants toward the housing of the Galton Laboratory, UCL (1961) and the Beatson Institute, Glasgow (1973). A major investment in tropical medicine took place at the start of the 1980s, with grants to the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (1981).

The income available to Trustees grew in the 1980s as the stock market boomed. Indeed in 1986 the Trustees could note with satisfaction that 44% of all grants in value had been made between 1981 and 1985. And much of the increased income (a total of £108 million between 1988 and 2004) was allocated to biomedical



© University of Cambridge

In 1992 the Wolfson Foundation pledged funding to establish the **Wolfson Brain Imaging Centre, Cambridge** through a £3.7 million award (in partnership with the Wolfson Family Charitable Trust). The Centre, based at Addenbrooke’s Hospital, is dedicated to imaging the functioning of the injured human brain.

## THE WOLFSON FOUNDATION 1955-2015

research. A particular area of concern in the late 1980s was preventive medicine. "Recognising the importance of improving our national performance in this area ... the Foundation embarked on a major funding initiative" (Sir Raymond Hoffenberg, Trustee). A total of £4 million was allocated to 26 recipients, the largest grant being to create the Wolfson Institute of Preventive Medicine at St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical School, headed by Sir Nick Wald.

Following on from this, during the 1990s and early 2000s the Foundation made some of the largest grants in its history to a significant number of major medical



© John Moore

Left to right: Hon Mrs Laura Wolfson Townsley, Hon Dame Janet Wolfson de Botton, Hon Mrs Deborah Wolfson Davis and Hon Mrs Elizabeth Wolfson Peltz. The four granddaughters of Isaac Wolfson in front of a bust of their father, Lord Wolfson of Marylebone (1927-2010). The bust was created for the **Leonard Wolfson Experimental Neurology Centre** at UCL – a Centre established through an exceptional grant of **£20 million** as a legacy to Lord Wolfson.

## MEDICAL RESEARCH

initiatives covering many of the key contemporary research areas, ranging from the Wolfson Brain Imaging Centre at Cambridge (1992) to a new Medical Cell Biology Institute at Edinburgh (2001). Of particular note was an award of £10 million in 1996 in partnership with sister charity, the Wolfson Family Charitable Trust, to help create the Wolfson Institute of Biomedical Research at UCL. Headed by Salvador Moncada, the Institute aimed to work at the interface between fundamental biological research and its application both to the discovery of new medicines and to clinical practice.

The years 2005-15 saw ever greater expenditure in this area, totalling £130 million. Many of the country's major biomedical initiatives (such as the Francis Crick Institute) were awarded funding. A particular focus was the challenge posed by neurodegenerative diseases within an ageing society. Significant awards helped to create a Centre for Prevention of Stroke and Dementia at the University of Oxford (2012) and the Wohl Clinical Neuroscience Institute at KCL's Denmark Hill (2006).

The largest award of this period, however (and by some distance, also the largest in the Foundation's history), was made in 2011 to UCL to create the Leonard Wolfson Experimental Neurology Centre at the National Hospital for Neurology & Neuroscience. The grant of £20 million was announced in the year following Lord Wolfson's death. It was designed as a legacy grant based on an open call for proposals to elicit the highest quality, most innovative research. To help make the decision the Foundation was able to gather in London an international panel of eminent experts, chaired by Professor Joseph Martin (former Dean of the Harvard Medical School).

Continuing the long-standing tradition of partnership funding, the Foundation committed funds alongside the Wellcome Trust to a dedicated biomedical infrastructure programme in 2010 and – with other key medical funders including Wellcome – for a clinical research infrastructure (announced in 2006). "Overall," wrote Trustee Sir David Weatherall in 2005, "our diverse and broadly based programme of support for the biomedical research field on the part of the Foundation and its partners is based on the belief that it is vital to strike a balance between research in the basic sciences, the bedside and the community."





An example of a grant under the special needs programme: £8,200 for minibuses for children with disabilities through the **Variety Club** (1977).

### Health and disability

The pressing needs of research and education did not mean that smaller 'grassroots' projects were overlooked. Throughout its history, the Foundation has made awards for people with disabilities, often through small charities doing excellent work in a specific local community. For example in 1957 it provided funding for a new wing for blind students (the Wolfson Wing) at Worcester College. The College (now RNIB New College Worcester) received the first of a number of grants to the Royal National Institute for the Blind, including to the Sunshine House School in Middlesex (1991 and 2002). In the first two decades, much of the funding was for Jewish and military causes. Military charities supported included what was then the Army Benevolent Fund, the Welfare Fund for the Brigade of Gurkhas ("Trustees were most appreciative of the great fighting qualities of the Gurkha soldier") and the Star and Garter Home. Jewish organisations included the Jewish



Some of the Foundation's largest awards in the area of palliative care have been toward facilities for children and young people.

Welfare Board, Jews' Temporary Shelter and Jewish Ex-Servicemen. Some of the larger Jewish charities – such as Norwood and Nightingale House – have received several grants for capital needs across the years.

Much of the early allocation of funds was an instinctive reaction to need: for example, after Lady (Edith) Wolfson visited Tanganyika in 1963 a contribution was made towards establishing a Baby Clinic in Dar es Salaam. The range and scale of grant-making in the area of health and disability has, however, gradually increased. In total, over £44 million has been awarded to some 1300 projects in this general area, of which £22 million has been in the last decade (2005-2015). There has been increased emphasis on underfunded areas, not least mental health and learning disabilities and recent major awards include Sense's new Day Centre in Birmingham and a new building for the Lady Zia Wernher School in Luton. This is a programme area where in recent years there has been a concerted effort to fund across the

## THE WOLFSON FOUNDATION 1955-2015

whole country and particularly in more deprived or isolated areas. A recent example is the funding of Tagasa Uibhist who work with elderly or vulnerable people on Uist in the Outer Hebrides.

Trustees have always been willing to consider funding for new areas under a somewhat wider heading of health needs. For example in 1987 the Foundation funded a programme to look at innovative projects to improve the quality of patients' meals in hospitals, and in 2013 made a contribution to the Defence and National Rehabilitation Centre at Stanford Hall: a significant new initiative to provide outstanding rehabilitation, particularly to the military.

### Palliative care

Another new area the Foundation funded from the 1960s was palliative care. Following an approach from Dame Cicely Saunders in 1969, Trustees made an award to St Christopher's Hospice in south London for accommodation for teachers and student nurses. This was the beginning of a long association between the Foundation and the hospice movement, helping to fund both the capital infrastructure underpinning the expansion of the movement as well as (to a lesser extent) research and teaching encouraging high quality palliative care. By 2015 the Foundation had made awards to over 130 hospices, mainly for new buildings, extensions or equipment. Additionally, a programme – administered through Hospice UK – offered Wolfson bursaries for medical staff working in palliative care (£2.1 million between 2002-15). Other grants helped to promote research and teaching in this area, including support for the establishment of the Cicely Saunders Institute of Palliative Care at King's College London (2004). The Foundation made some of its largest grants for hospices for the expanding number of children's facilities from the 1980s. In recent years, children's hospices have seen an increase in the number of adolescents and young adults suffering from life-limiting illness, often muscular/motor diseases that, before recent medical advances, would have resulted in an earlier death. The Foundation has funded a number of initiatives to provide facilities for this age group.

## MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

### Arts and humanities

Although most funding has been directed towards the programmes in health, technology and science, the Foundation showed an increasingly strong commitment from the 1970s to the arts and humanities. To a considerable extent this reflected the influence of Leonard Wolfson, appointed as Chairman in 1972.

### Museums and galleries

During the early years of the Foundation's history, a number of these awards were linked into its medical interests: for example, the restoration of the operating theatre of Old St Thomas' Hospital in Southwark (1960) and the funding of the Hunterian Museum at the Royal College of Surgeons (1961) – part of an extensive rebuilding programme made necessary by the bombing of the old College building in 1942. The early grants often helped to boost the collections of the major London museums, including the partial purchase of the Sennacherib sculpture for the British Museum (1960) and a jade wine cup commissioned and owned by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan for the Victoria and Albert Museum (1962). The most notable grant in this category was toward the purchase of Goya's 'Wellington' for the National Gallery (1961), co-operating with the government to prevent its export to the United States. The proposed sale had become something of a political issue and *The Daily Telegraph* felt that the Wolfson grant "may well come to be regarded as a turning point for patronage in Britain." The unfortunate footnote to this story is that the portrait was hung in the vestibule of the National Gallery on 3 August 1961 – and stolen on 21 August 1961. It led to an uncomfortable correspondence between the Gallery and the Foundation. The painting was returned undamaged in May 1965 but not before it had been cleverly referenced in a cameo appearance on the wall of the villain's house in the James Bond film 'Dr No' (1962). Another important part of a nation's heritage (in this case, Israel) was funded by the Foundation in 1967. One of the Dead Sea Scrolls (the 'Temple Scroll') came to light after the Six-Day War and – following an approach by archaeologist Professor Yadin, whose seminal research at Masada had already been backed by the Foundation – its purchase was agreed. It now resides in Jerusalem's Israel Museum.

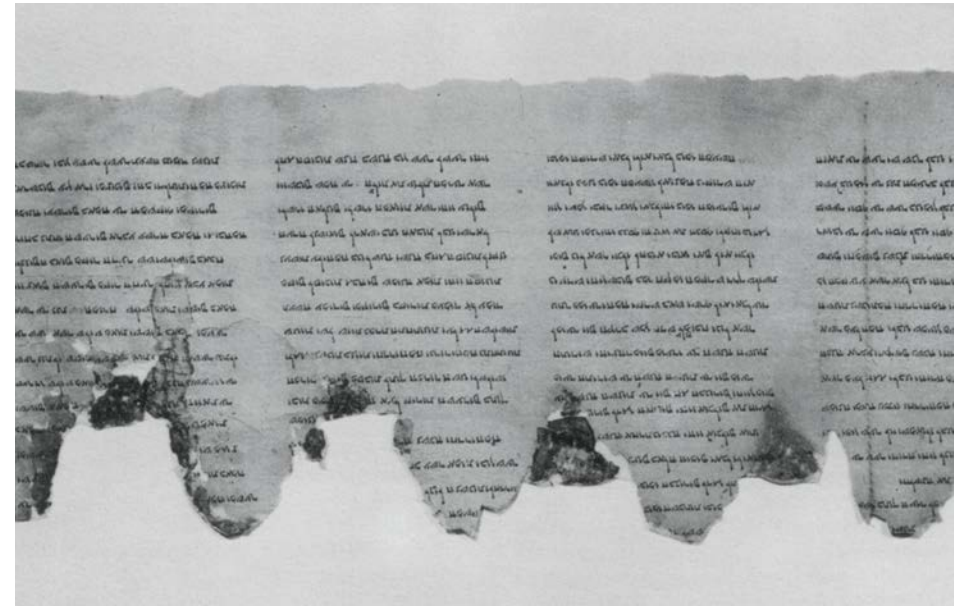
More recently the Foundation's interest in helping British museums and galleries to acquire works of art has been demonstrated through a partnership with the Art





© The National Gallery, London

Francisco Goya, *The Duke of Wellington* 1812-1814



The Temple Scroll: now displayed at the Israel Museum, Jerusalem

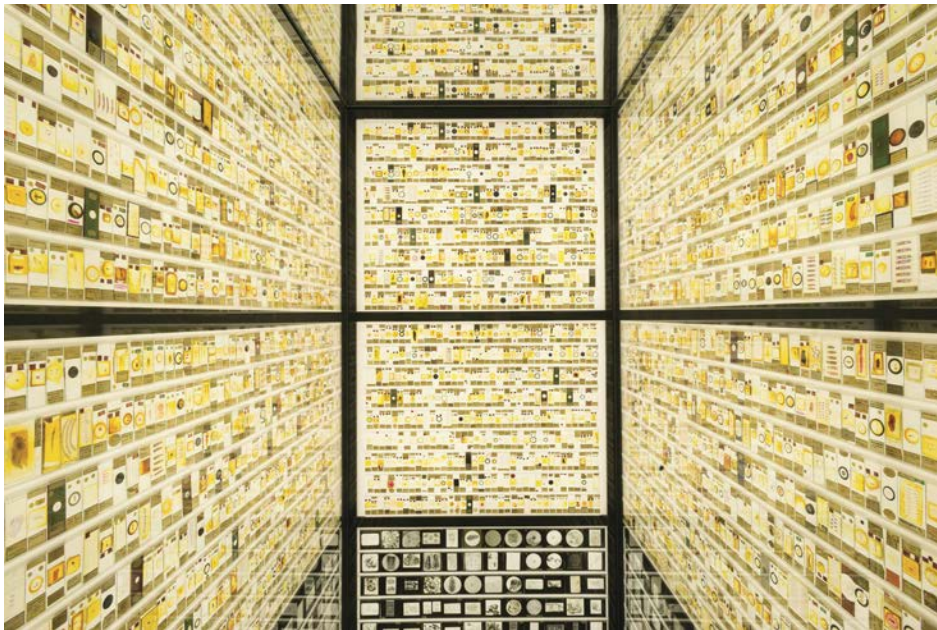
Fund, to which £7 million was allocated between 1977 and 2015. The list of art supported ranges from Caravaggio to Constable and from da Vinci to van Dyck. When the National Gallery of Scotland bought the Boticelli *Virgin Adoring the Sleeping Christ Child* attendances tripled, and the Ashmolean Museum described its purchase of Titian's *Portrait of Giacoma Doria* as "one of the most important acquisitions in its history." Both were acquired with the help of modest Wolfson investment.

As with its scientific funding, the highest proportion of the Foundation's support for museums and galleries has been for capital infrastructure costs – particularly for refurbishment. Apart from the award to the Hunterian Museum, the first major award for this purpose was in 1977 for the British Museum to house the Townley Collection of classical inscriptions and sculpture. During the 1990s the Trustees decided to set up a formal programme in partnership with government. Across the five-year life of this joint fund, 282 awards were made to more than 200 museums

## THE WOLFSON FOUNDATION 1955-2015

ranging from the British Museum to smaller regional museums. One of the aims of Wolfson funding has always been to act as a catalyst, encouraging additional donations from other sources. For every £1 contributed by Wolfson/government, a further £7 was raised, totalling more than £140 million.

The programme was used as a model for a further gallery refurbishment programme, again with government – now the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) – to which £19.5 million has been allocated between 2002 and 2015. This programme has attracted interest as a model of private-public philanthropy showing, in the words of DCMS Minister, Ed Vaizey, “that the public sector and a private philanthropic charity can work together to deliver tangible benefits for the public.”



© Damian Griffiths

**The Grant Museum of Zoology** (housed at UCL) used a DCMS/Wolfson grant to build a ‘Micrarium’. This fascinating room exhibits some of the museum’s collection of microscopic animals. The collection serves as a reminder that an estimated 95% of animal species are smaller than the size of a thumb.

## MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES



© Ferens Art Gallery

Pietro Lorenzetti, *Christ between Saints Paul and Peter*



© National Gallery

Giovanni Paolo Panini, *The Lottery in Piazza di Montecitorio, Rome*

Two examples of works purchased through the Wolfson Foundation and Art Fund partnership. Top: Pietro Lorenzetti, *Christ between Saints Paul and Peter*, circa 1320, towards which £75,000 was granted for its purchase by the Ferens Art Gallery, Hull, 2013. Bottom: Giovanni Paolo Panini, *The Lottery in Piazza di Montecitorio, Rome*, 1747, towards which £50,000 was granted for its purchase by the National Gallery, 2006.



## THE WOLFSON FOUNDATION 1955-2015

The Foundation has continued further investment in museums and galleries alongside joint programmes with government. Major grants included a new gallery in the Tate Modern extension (2012), for the National Museum of Scotland (2006, 2010 and 2012), the restoration of the King's Library at the British Museum (1999), the Hanoverian galleries within the British Galleries project at the V&A (1998) and a new Holocaust Exhibition at the Imperial War Museum (1995). Although the largest grants have been for the national museums and galleries, the Foundation has taken a growing interest in regional centres of excellence, including for instance funding for the Wolfson Gallery at the Hepworth Wakefield (2010). This exemplifies a wider trend: a commitment to ensuring that funding reaches all parts of the UK. In the words of Trustee Sir David Cannadine, "as befits a founding family whose British origins were far from London, the Wolfson Foundation has always felt a strong obligation, not only to fund projects of national and international importance within the orbit of the M25, but to do the same across the rest of the United Kingdom, where we support many smaller projects which have a strong local interest and articulation."

### History

Funding for other aspects of the arts was increased from the 1970s with much of it focussed on history. The Wolfson History Prizes (originally the Wolfson Literary Awards) were established in 1972 with the aim of "promoting and encouraging standards of excellence in the writing of history for the general public." The idea was very much Leonard Wolfson's initiative, and grew out of the suggestion for a more ambitious award scheme, broadly along the lines of the Nobel Prizes but in the fields of History, Environmental Studies, Literature, Management, Music, Philosophy, Social Studies and Social Relations.

Following conversations with Trustees and other advisors (including Isaiah Berlin and George Weidenfeld) it was decided only to proceed with a history award. Prizes have been given annually for two or three exceptional works published during the year, with an occasional *oeuvre* prize (a general award for an individual's distinguished contribution to the writing of history). By 2005 Anthony Howard could describe it in *The Times* as "the most distinguished piece of recognition that any serious writer can capture ... On pedigree grounds alone, it leaves all other literary prizes looking remarkably transient."

An award for the Tudor Gallery at the National Portrait Gallery was made in 1997.





## THE WOLFSON FOUNDATION 1955-2015

In 2012 the Foundation celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Wolfson History Prize with a dinner at the National Gallery, attended by a large proportion of the surviving winners. One of the first recipients – Sir Keith Thomas – has served since the 1970s as a member and then Chairman of the History Prize Judges' Panel. For the anniversary he wrote a detailed history of the Prize, describing it as “a public statement of the importance of historical writing for the cultural life of any civilized society.”

The Foundation has also worked in partnership with the British Academy to assist British researchers in the humanities. Awards for 'Wolfson Fellowships' (1975)



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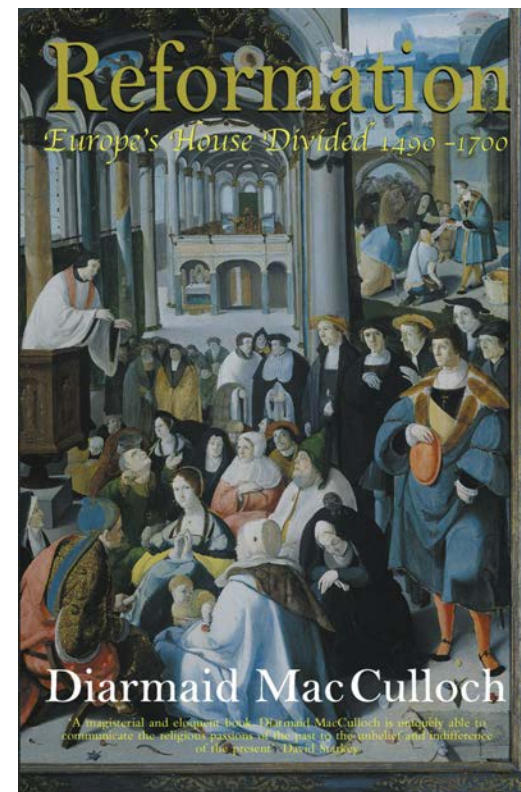
Previous winners of the Wolfson History Prize gather on the steps of the National Gallery on the 40th anniversary of the Prize (2012).

## HISTORY

followed on from an earlier programme set up in 1973 to help fund research scholarships for academics aged 28-40 in the fields of classics and history. In 1975 the Trustees also agreed a joint programme with the Academy over four years to strengthen the interchange of ideas between British and continental scholars – the focus of research being history and “the understanding of the modern world.”

Two other programmes with the British Academy focussed on high quality historical research: readerships in history (1984) and two British Academy/Wolfson Research Chairs (1991). The research professorships were first held by the historian Professor (Sir) Rees Davies at Aberystwyth and the art historian Professor Martin

Kemp at St Andrew's. Since 2008, the Foundation has worked with the British Academy to fund research professorships across the full range of the humanities and social sciences – but still including historians such as Professor Roy Foster (Oxford) and Professor Robert Frost (Aberdeen).



© Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam

Diarmaid MacCulloch's *Reformation* was one of the Wolfson History Prize winners in 2003.

The cover shows details from *The Reading of the Lord's Prayer* (c. 1535).





Grants were made to the John Rylands Library, Manchester, in 1962, 1990, 1996 and 2003.

## LIBRARIES

### Libraries

As well as historians and the heritage displayed by museums and galleries, the Trustees invested in programmes supporting libraries – not only repositories for historic material, but also (in a similar fashion to laboratories) a basic academic building block. In a report of 1985 Trustees could note that “a special area of concern has been libraries, both large and small.” By that stage grants had been made both to university libraries (such as the Bodleian, Oxford and the Lionel Robbins, LSE) and libraries at other institutions (e.g. the Chapter Library at Canterbury Cathedral and the Wiener Library, dedicated to cataloguing anti-semitism). In 2011, when the Wiener Library moved to a new building it was significantly helped by funding from the Foundation.

During the mid-1980s the Foundation embarked on a joint programme with the British Library with the ambitious aim of safeguarding the country’s archives (£1.75 million over 7 years). Since 2007 the Foundation has worked with the National Archives and a consortium of funders, led by the Pilgrim Trust, to provide funding for the cataloguing of archives. A small programme in the 1990s working through the Consortium of University Research Libraries (CURL) helped to provide the first wave of IT in university libraries, through the creation of Wolfson Technology Resource Centres. Building on this example, the programme was extended and, between 2006 and 2008, £10 million was committed for university libraries in partnership with Research Libraries UK (CURL’s successor). This was a timely investment and funded 36 projects at 20 universities. It came at a moment when research libraries were re-evaluating the ways in which they used their space, not least in the light of the challenges and opportunities offered by the digital revolution.

In the 1990s funding was extended to public libraries – again particularly the provision of IT facilities – working in partnership with DCMS (with an allocation of £5 million over 5 years). The Foundation renewed its interest in public libraries in the 2010s, sparked partly by widespread concerns about the future of the public library. As well as investment in flagship projects, notably the new Library of Birmingham (2011), the Foundation launched a pilot programme during 2014 in Birmingham and Manchester helping branch libraries in deprived areas to support literacy among children and young people.



### Historic buildings

Until 1965 the Trustees considered support for the preservation of historic buildings “rather outside their line of activity.” Among a relatively small number of grants in the first half of this period were awards for Canterbury Cathedral (1975) and the Oxford Synagogue (1976). Funding Britain’s ecclesiastical heritage increased with significant grants towards repair to the historic fabric of most of Britain’s cathedrals. Since 2000 this area of funding has expanded, including a programme of numerous small grants for listed church buildings (with over 1,000 churches supported) administered by what is now the Church Buildings Council, and for the decade from 2004 to war memorials through a joint programme with English Heritage and the War Memorials Trust.

A targeted programme of conservation work with the National Trust at their properties around the UK from 2007 totalled £4.75 million and included such glories as Knole (Kent), Godolphin (Cornwall) and Mount Stewart (Northern Ireland). But the area of largest investment was for the conservation of cathedrals. The Foundation funded in partnership with English Heritage between 2007 and 2009 and with the Cathedrals Fabric Commission, alongside the Pilgrim Trust, between 2010 and 2013. It was gratifying that, as the Foundation’s funding ended, the Chancellor announced in his 2014 Budget a ‘First World War Centenary Cathedral Repair Fund’ of £20 million. The Fund was based on the model that had been established through the Wolfson programme, with Wolfson representation on the newly created expert committee.

### Historic landscapes

As well as the historic built environment, Trustees have also funded projects involving historic landscapes. In 1968 an award to the Jerusalem Foundation helped to create the Wolfson Garden, nestling between the Old City and Mount Zion in the historic Ben Hinnom Valley. In 2002 Trustees agreed a funding programme with English Heritage to fund historic gardens, for example Chiswick Park and Gardens.

Building on this, an award in 2011 helped to establish a new visitor centre within English Heritage’s most famous historic landscape: Stonehenge. A much earlier partnership (totalling £150,000) in the 1950s and 1960s with the National Playing Fields Association also invested in making communities more attractive through the



© Mealeys, Liverpool

An award of £350,000 was made to St George's Hall, Liverpool in 2004.

## THE WOLFSON FOUNDATION 1955-2015

provision of facilities for young people. Awards included sports areas in three new towns: Harlow, Crawley and Cumbernauld, and the Wolfson Stadium in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. The latter served as one of the training venues when South Africa hosted the 2010 World Cup.

### Performing arts

From the time of an award to assist the Old Vic's relocation to Webber Street (1959) Trustees have provided support for the performing arts, focussing mostly on performance venues. Small grants to theatres have included a joint renovation programme with government in the early 1990s and a rather more substantial contribution to the redevelopment of the National Theatre (2009). Grants for dance and ballet have tended to focus on education, with awards to the Royal Ballet School including funds for a theatre/studio (1988) and, more recently, a classroom in its new school at Covent Garden (2000). When Rambert Dance Company opened a new dance school on the Southbank in 2014 the Foundation was one of the major contributors.

Most of the funding in this area has, however, been allocated for music. The Foundation has given grants for individual orchestras (for example to the London Symphony Orchestra in 1979 for five double basses) but its largest awards have been for renovation work at concert venues such as the Royal Opera House (1979), the Royal Albert Hall (2001), Usher Hall, Edinburgh (2003) and the Royal Festival Hall (2007). At the same time, funds have been increasingly allocated through music conservatoires. Major capital projects have been supported, such as a new Opera School at the Royal College of Music in 1971 and refurbishment work at Trinity College's new home in Greenwich in 2001. From the 1980s annual programmes have been administered through the conservatoires: a singing prize (up until 1994), scholarships for students at the junior conservatoires and an instrument fund for gifted undergraduates. Latterly this Wolfson funding for conservatoire students has been supplemented by a bursary programme with the National Youth Orchestra (£480,000, 2010-15). In total the Foundation has spent around £10 million on music projects, of which £5 million has been allocated through Britain's conservatoires.

## PERFORMING ARTS



© Damian Griffiths

The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama's new concert hall in Cardiff received funding in 2009.



Awards have been made, through music conservatoires, to provide scholarships for able young musicians and instruments for talented undergraduates.





## CONCLUSIONS

### Conclusions

This short essay cannot do justice to the full range of the Foundation's activities across sixty years. Nor can it provide a proper analysis of the personalities and policies that lie behind the lists of grants. With an increasing annual allocation (even allowing for inflation), the large majority of grants have been made in the last quarter century but, to a considerable extent, activities continue to be framed by the guiding principles laid down from the beginning of the Foundation's history. During the first 25 years, £45 million was allocated. By 1990 the annual allocation had risen to £12 million annually and to over £30 million from 2000. The cumulative statistics are almost overwhelming with more than £1.685 billion (in real terms) funding some 10,000 projects of striking range and variety. By 2015, around 400 grants were being made annually through over 30 discrete programmes grouped around the four funding themes.

In 1965, Trustees noted that a "marginal effect ... is all that charitable foundations can hope to make." Yet the Wolfson Foundation has been active and influential at the very centre of British culture, science and higher education for sixty years. Its funding programmes have made a profound impact on many projects and institutions. It may be difficult to draw conclusions from such wide-ranging activities but the comment that Lord Dainton, a Wolfson Trustee, made in the 1980s surely remains true. "The 'money at the margins' often has an influence in enabling good ideas to bear fruit which is far greater than its sheer monetary value would suggest."



## THE WOLFSON FOUNDATION 1955-2015



© Harris Museum & Art Gallery



© Harris Museum & Art Gallery

A combined DCMS/Wolfson grant in 2006 enabled the Harris Museum & Art Gallery in Preston to display their extraordinary Mrs French Scent Bottle Collection of 2,748 bottles.

## LIST OF MAJOR GRANTS AWARDED SINCE 1955

### GRANTS OVER £100,000 MADE BETWEEN 1955 AND 1970

Organisation Name Project Title	Year of Meeting	Grant Amount
British Empire Cancer Research Campaign Equipment and apparatus for cancer research	1956	£150,000
University of London Hall of residence	1958	£250,000
Westminster Hospital School of Nursing Wolfson School of Nursing	1958	£250,000
Imperial College London New biochemistry laboratory and equipment	1959	£350,000
Institute of Criminology Establishment of the Institute (including endowing the Chair)	1959	£150,000
Institute of Psychiatry New Institute building at Maudsley Hospital, including the Lecture Theatre	1959	£184,000
National Playing Fields Association Joint programme	1959	£125,000
Royal College of Physicians New building at Regent's Park	1959	£450,000
Royal Society Wolfson Research Professorship (first held by Dorothy Hodgkin)	1959	£210,000
St Catherine's College, Oxford Building and furnishing of the library	1959	£100,000
University of Glasgow Wolfson Hall (student accommodation)	1959	£300,000
New Hall, Cambridge Dining hall block	1960	£100,000
Royal Postgraduate Medical School Wolfson Institute	1960	£150,000
St Anne's College, Oxford Wolfson Building (student accommodation)	1960	£100,000
St Hilda's College, Oxford Residential block to house undergraduates	1960	£100,000
National Art Gallery Purchase of Goya's <i>Wellington</i>	1961	£100,000
Royal College of Surgeons of England Furnishing and equipping of the Hunterian Museum at the College	1961	£250,000
St Edmund Hall, Oxford Dining hall	1961	£120,000

## THE WOLFSON FOUNDATION 1955-2015

Organisation Name Project Title	Year of Meeting	Grant Amount
University College London Research in the Department of Genetics	1961	£200,000
Hebrew University of Jerusalem Endowment of Chairs in Public Administration and Finance	1963	£100,000
Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford Two halls of residence	1963	£100,000
Society of Friends of Jewish Refugees Relief of poverty of Jewish refugees in Israel	1963	£350,000
University of Cambridge Cambridge University Centre (new university centre at Cambridge to provide a single focus for the university, distinct from the Colleges)	1963	£330,000
Weizmann Institute of Science Cancer research at the Weizmann Institute	1963	£320,000
Somerville College, Oxford Hall of residence	1964	£100,000
Zoological Society of London Extension of the main administrative block of the Zoo (World Wildlife Centre)	1964	£100,000
Churchill College, Cambridge Wolfson Court (hall of residence)	1965	£300,000
Hebrew University of Jerusalem Purchase of equipment for Departments of Biology and Chemistry	1965	£100,000
King Edward VII's Hospital New extension	1965	£100,000
Newnham College, Cambridge Hall of residence	1965	£100,000
St Hugh's College, Oxford Hall of residence	1965	£100,000
University of Cambridge Establishment of the Institute of Astronomy	1965	£139,966
Wolfson College, Oxford Endowment of Wolfson College, Oxford	1966	£2,600,330
Society of Friends of Jewish Refugees Relief of poverty and distress of Jewish refugees in Israel (response to emergency appeal)	1967	£250,000
University of Birmingham Wolfson Research Laboratories (for pilot research in the automation of laboratory medicine)	1967	£140,000
Girton College, Cambridge New residential wing	1968	£150,000

## LIST OF MAJOR GRANTS AWARDED SINCE 1955



The Hunterian Museum  
at the Royal College of Surgeons, London.



A grant of £30,000 in 2003 was made towards  
a building to house important mosaics at  
Brading Roman Villa on the Isle of Wight.

Jerusalem Foundation Construction of park outside Jerusalem city wall	1968	£140,000
Lister Institute Construction of a Department of Immunology	1968	£300,000
Stoke Mandeville Hospital Wolfson Hall for disabled sports	1968	£100,000
University of Edinburgh Establishment and operation of micro-electronics liaison unit	1968	£130,700
University of Nottingham Research in Department of Metallurgy (on surfaces between solids, liquids and gases)	1968	£255,000
University of Strathclyde Construction of the Department of Bio-Engineering	1968	£275,000
University of Surrey Centre for research and development in bio-analytical instrumentation	1968	£132,000
University of Wales, Cardiff Centre for Magnetics Technology	1968	£132,000



## THE WOLFSON FOUNDATION 1955-2015

Organisation Name Project Title	Year of Meeting	Grant Amount
Weizmann Institute of Science Extension to the Isaac Wolfson Institute of Experimental Biology	1968	£100,000
Charing Cross Hospital Lecture hall	1969	£100,000
Guy's Hospital, Medical & Dental Schools Study bedrooms for students	1969	£250,000
Hebrew University of Jerusalem Wolfson Education Centre on Mount Scopus	1969	£420,000
Kiriat Wolfson Project (through the Jewish Philanthropic Association) Housing centre in Acre for refugees	1969	£1,160,000
University of Birmingham Research in Department of Minerals Engineering (into recovery of non-ferrous metals from secondary sources)	1970	£128,200
University of Cambridge Wolfson Industrial Unit in Department of Engineering	1970	£110,000
University of Dundee Institute of Occupational Medicine	1970	£253,000
University of Newcastle upon Tyne Establishment of Research and Development Group (for production and characterisation of metallic and non-metallic materials)	1970	£155,850

A number of grants have been made  
to the SS Great Britain, Bristol.





## THE WOLFSON FOUNDATION 1955-2015

### GRANTS OVER £250,000 MADE BETWEEN 1971 AND 1985

Organisation Name Project Title	Year of Meeting	Grant Amount
Middlesex Hospital Medical School New building	1971	£300,000
Tel Aviv University New buildings at the School of Engineering	1971	£750,000
Wolfson College, Cambridge Wolfson College endowment (towards the cost of buildings in the new college)	1971	£2,400,000
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology Wolfson Faculty of Chemical Engineering	1972	£250,000
University of Newcastle upon Tyne Laboratory in Department of Clinical Pharmacology	1972	£270,000
Beatson Institute for Cancer Research New building	1973	£410,000
Jewish Welfare Board Redevelopment of elderly care home at Wolfson House, N4	1973	£250,000
Jewish Philanthropic Association for Israel Relief of refugees (towards cost of settling immigrants from Soviet Union and Middle East in Israel)	1973	£650,000
University of Hull Construction of building to house the Gerontology Unit	1973	£250,000
University of Southampton Building to house the Wolfson Industrial Units in Engineering	1975	£250,000
Hebrew University of Jerusalem Wolfson Foundation Endowment Fund for Scientific Research	1976	£500,000
Tel Aviv University Wolfson Chair in Theoretical Physics	1976	£250,000
Institute of Ophthalmology Rebuilding of Moorfields Eye Hospital	1979	£250,000
Edith Wolfson Medical Centre, Holon Equipment for the hospital	1980	£250,000
Liverpool University Institute for Pain Research	1980	£250,000
University of Oxford Construction of a building to study the application of physics to biology	1980	£750,000
Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine Research into tropical medicine	1981	£1,500,000

## LIST OF MAJOR GRANTS AWARDED SINCE 1955



© National Trust

Grants exceeding **£5 million** were made to the **National Trust** between 1982 and 2015.  
Conservation work at **Ightham Mote**, Kent, was funded by an award in 2002.

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine Research into tropical medicine	1981	£1,500,000
University of Sheffield Redevelopment of unit for research on plant based products	1981	£360,000
Weizmann Institute of Science Additional floors on the Wolfson Building	1981	£500,000
Wolfson Industrial Fellowships (in Association with the Royal Academy of Engineering) Award for scientists/engineers	1981	£1,308,108
Royal College of Physicians Research Fellowships	1982	£250,000
Royal Postgraduate Medical School To support a unit in the Department of Clinical Pharmacology	1982	£500,000
Royal Society of Medicine Reconstruction of the library	1982	£250,000
University of East Anglia New premises for the Climatic Research Unit	1982	£275,000
University of Leicester New building for the Biotechnology Centre	1982	£570,000

## THE WOLFSON FOUNDATION 1955-2015

Organisation Name Project Title	Year of Meeting	Grant Amount
Cardiothoracic Institute Lecture hall	1983	£350,000
Cranfield University Development of biotechnology laboratory	1983	£300,000
University of Warwick Construction of biotechnology laboratory	1983	£300,000
Courtauld Institute of Art Restoration of Fine Rooms at Somerset House	1984	£450,000
Imperial War Museum Redevelopment of the Second World War exhibition area	1984	£350,000
Royal College of Surgeons of England To fund lecturer and technician for research work in NMR Unit	1984	£250,000
University of Bath New building for Centre for Medical Studies (now part of the Royal United Hospital, Bath)	1984	£250,000
University of East Anglia To establish a chair in environmental risk assessment	1984	£250,000
University of Oxford Institute for Molecular Medicine	1984	£1,000,000
University of Southampton New Electronics Building	1984	£500,000
British Library Assistance to libraries (grant to support collections of national importance)	1985	£800,000
Guy's Hospital Research into alternative methods of treatment of ischaemic heart disease	1985	£360,000
University of Leeds Research into the fabrication of high grade ceramics	1985	£295,000
University of Oxford Wolfson Laboratory in Metallurgy Department	1985	£250,000
University of Leeds Research into the fabrication of high grade ceramics	1985	£295,000
University of Oxford Wolfson Laboratory in Metallurgy Department	1985	£250,000
Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital Wolfson Foundation Wing in new building	1986	£1,000,000
Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine Equipment for research in tropical medicine	1986	£500,000
Tate Gallery, Liverpool Construction of Tate Gallery in Liverpool	1986	£500,000

## LIST OF MAJOR GRANTS AWARDED SINCE 1955

### GRANTS OVER £500,000 MADE BETWEEN 1986 AND 2004

Organisation Name Project Title	Year of Meeting	Grant Amount
University College London New building for Advanced Centre for Biochemical Engineering	1986	£500,000
University of Surrey New cytotechnology laboratory in Department of Microbiology	1986	£600,000
John Cabot CTC John Cabot City Technology College, Bristol	1988	£1,120,000
University of Oxford Psychiatry and Clinical Medicine lectureships	1988	£987,583
British Library Support for specialised libraries	1989	£600,000
Royal Marsden Hospital New children's cancer unit	1989	£500,000
St Bartholomew's & the Royal London School of Medicine Wolfson Institute of Preventive Medicine	1989	£1,000,000
Weizmann Institute of Science Equipment for the Centre for Semiconductor Research	1989	£565,099
University of Cambridge Biochemistry Building	1990	£1,500,000
Wolfson College, Oxford New student accommodation	1990	£500,000
British Academy Two British Academy Wolfson Professorships	1991	£529,479
Royal Society Chair in Materials Science	1991	£500,000
Imperial College London Wolfson Centre for Organic Chemistry	1992	£2,568,000
University of Cambridge Wolfson Brain Imaging Centre	1992	£3,007,200
University of Edinburgh Molecular Medicine Centre	1992	£1,200,000
University of Edinburgh New Building for Cell and Molecular Biology	1992	£1,920,000
University of Nottingham New laboratories in Institute of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation	1992	£562,500
University of Oxford Centre for Information Engineering	1992	£1,588,800

## THE WOLFSON FOUNDATION 1955-2015



© University of Edinburgh

Captured here in the late afternoon sunlight, the **University of Edinburgh's Michael Swann Building** is the home of the **Wellcome Trust Centre for Cell Biology**. The Centre, established with the aid of a **£1.92 million** grant in 1992, investigates chemical reactions that take place within cells. The Wellcome Trust have been regular funding partners of the Foundation, sometimes through joint funding programmes.

Royal College of Surgeons of England Surgical Therapy Unit	1993	£800,000
Scottish Office Home & Health Department Surgical Therapy Unit (MATTUS) (partly administered through Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh)	1993	£600,000
United Leeds Teaching Hospitals Minimally Invasive Therapy Training Unit	1993	£600,000
University College London Wolfson Centre for Physics and Industry	1993	£1,999,460
University of Glasgow Wolfson Cardiovascular Medicine Building	1993	£1,500,000
Hebrew University of Jerusalem Equipment for Centre for Structural Biology	1994	£625,000
National Gallery Redevelopment of the North Galleries	1994	£1,000,000
Northwick Park/ St Mark's Hospital Wolfson Unit (for colorectal cancer)	1994	£700,000

## LIST OF MAJOR GRANTS AWARDED SINCE 1955



© IWM

Most of the national museums have received significant funding. The **Imperial War Museum**, for example, has received 21 individual grants, including a major award to help establish the **Holocaust Exhibition** in 1995.

Technion – Israel Institute of Technology Wolfson Centre for Applied Science Research	1994	£625,000
Tel Aviv University Wolfson Applied Materials Research Centre	1994	£625,000
University of Newcastle upon Tyne Institute for Ageing & Health	1994	£500,000
Weizmann Institute of Science Wolfson Centre for Functional Brain Imaging	1994	£625,000
Imperial War Museum Holocaust Memorial Museum	1995	£1,000,000
Bristol Royal Hospital for Sick Children Institute of Child Health	1996	£1,000,000
National Maritime Museum Gallery of Trade and Empire	1996	£700,000
University College London Wolfson Institute for Biomedical Research	1996	£8,000,000



## THE WOLFSON FOUNDATION 1955-2015

Organisation Name Project Title	Year of Meeting	Grant Amount
University College London Medical School Interventional scanner for National Medical Laser Centre	1996	£796,500
DCMS/ Wolfson Public Library Programme Wolfson Public Libraries Challenge Fund 1997-1998 (Phase I)	1997	£920,447
DCMS/ Wolfson Public Library Programme Wolfson Public Libraries Challenge Fund 1998-1999 (Phase II)	1997	£942,252
DCMS/ Wolfson Public Library Programme Wolfson Public Libraries Challenge Fund 1999-2000 (Phase III)	1997	£920,656
Imperial College London Wolfson Centre for Genetic Therapies	1997	£3,000,000
National Portrait Gallery Tudor gallery	1997	£500,000
University of Cambridge Centre for Mathematical Sciences	1997	£1,000,000
King's College, London University Wolfson Centre for Age-Related Diseases at Guy's	1998	£6,000,000
Loughborough University New building for Integrated Engineering Faculty Project	1998	£2,500,000
Natural History Museum Wolfson Wellcome Biomedical Laboratories	1998	£1,000,000
Royal Society Royal Society/Wolfson laboratory refurbishment programme, 1998-2001	1998	£10,000,000
Science Museum Wellcome Wolfson building	1998	£2,250,000
Tate Gallery to house paintings by Constable and others (Tate Britain)	1998	£1,000,000
University of Glasgow Wolfson Hall of Residence refurbishment	1998	£500,000
University of Sheffield Laboratory space for molecular life sciences	1998	£3,000,000
Victoria and Albert Museum Three Hanoverian galleries	1998	£2,000,000
British Museum Restoration of the King's Library	1999	£3,000,000
Imperial College London Wolfson and Weston Research Centre for Family Health (at the Hammersmith Hospital)	1999	£3,000,000
National Museums Liverpool 17th Century Galleries at the Walker Art Gallery	1999	£500,000

## LIST OF MAJOR GRANTS AWARDED SINCE 1955

Organisation Name Project Title	Year of Meeting	Grant Amount
Royal Academy of Arts Restoration of the Saloon in Burlington House	1999	£500,000
Royal College of Physicians New Education Building in Peto Place	1999	£500,000
University College London Hospitals Creation of Cellular Therapy Unit	1999	£1,000,000
University of Durham Wolfson Research Institute for Medicine, Health and the Environment (on Stockton/ Queen's campus)	1999	£4,000,000
Hebrew University of Jerusalem Three teaching and three research laboratories in new School of Engineering and Computer Science	2000	£1,300,000
Institute of Child Health Wolfson Centre for Gene Therapy of Childhood Disease	2000	£1,500,000
London School of Economics Refurbishment of Lionel Robbins building	2000	£500,000
Royal Society Merit awards for university academics (2001-2005)	2000	£10,000,000
University of Glasgow Medical School building	2000	£3,475,000
University of Manchester Wolfson Molecular Imaging Centre	2000	£4,000,000
University of Oxford Floor for Chemical and Molecular Biology in new Chemistry Research Laboratory	2000	£3,500,000
University of Warwick Medical Research Institute	2000	£2,500,000
Weizmann Institute of Science Renovation and extension of Wolfson buildings	2000	£1,300,000
DCMS/ Wolfson Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund (Rounds 1 and 2)	2001	£2,000,000
Imperial College London Refurbishment of Department of Biochemistry Wolfson Laboratories	2001	£1,000,000
Institute of Cancer Research, London Paediatric Oncology area in Cancer Genomics Centre (Brookes Lawley building)	2001	£1,000,000
Kelvingrove Refurbishment Appeal Refurbishment of French 19th Century gallery	2001	£500,000
Royal Free and University College Medical School Equipment for new Department of Medicine building	2001	£1,500,000

## THE WOLFSON FOUNDATION 1955-2015

Organisation Name Project Title	Year of Meeting	Grant Amount
Royal Society Royal Society/Wolfson laboratory refurbishment programme, 2002-2004	2001	£7,500,000
University of Cambridge Cambridge Diabetes Centre	2001	£2,500,000
University of Cambridge Clean Room and equipment in the Nanoscience Centre	2001	£1,000,000
University of Edinburgh Inflammatory Cell Biology Laboratories in new research institute	2001	£4,000,000
University of Oxford Equipment in Oxford Centre for Gene Function	2001	£1,750,000
University of Sussex Genome Damage and Stability Centre	2001	£750,000
DCMS/ Wolfson Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund (Rounds 3, 4 and 5)	2002	£6,000,000
English Heritage Gardens and War Memorials	2002	£3,000,000
Imperial College London Creation of Surgical Technology Laboratory	2002	£740,503
London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine Centres for Prevention of Bacterial Diseases and Building Effective Public Health Interventions	2002	£1,250,000
National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery MRI scanner for Dementia Research Centre	2002	£600,000
Queen's University Belfast Science Study Area in new library	2002	£750,000
Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh Surgical Skills Centre in new Surgeons' Hall	2002	£1,220,000
Royal Society Merit awards for university academics (2006 & 2007)	2002	£4,000,000
University College London Wolfson Centre for Medical Physics and Bio-medical Engineering	2002	£1,250,000
University of Bristol Ultraclean facility and Implant Research Extension in Avon Musculoskeletal Biotechnology Institute	2002	£500,000
University of Cambridge Lecture Theatre in Department of Chemistry	2002	£500,000
University of Dundee Human Interface Research Laboratory (in Queen Mother Research Centre)	2002	£500,000

## LIST OF MAJOR GRANTS AWARDED SINCE 1955



© Chris Christodoulou

An award of **£375,000** for the refurbishment of dressing rooms at the **Royal Albert Hall** was made in 2001.

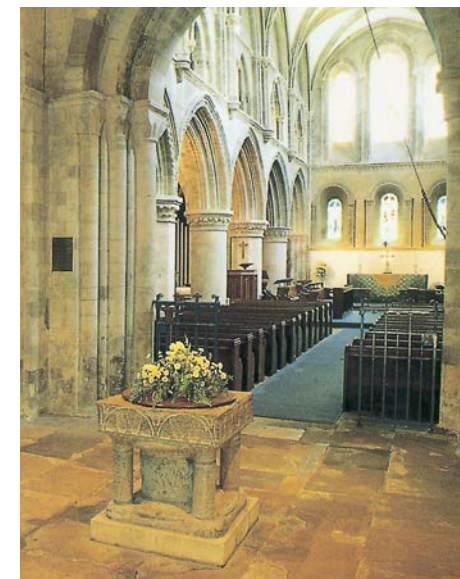
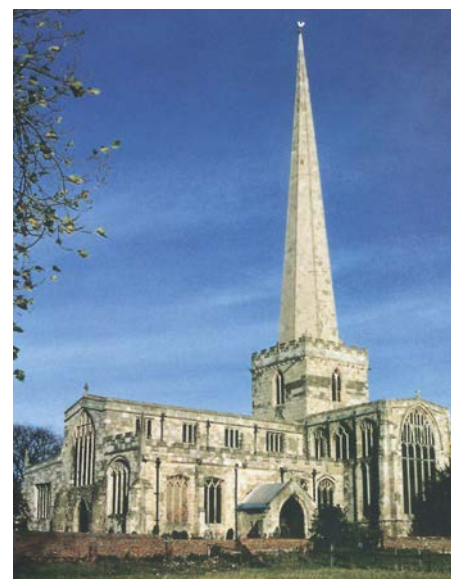


**Acorns Childrens Hospice** were awarded **£100,000** in 2002 toward an Adolescent Unit in their new hospice in Worcester.

## THE WOLFSON FOUNDATION 1955-2015

Organisation Name Project Title	Year of Meeting	Grant Amount
University of Leeds Equipment in new building for Division of Microbiology	2002	£500,000
University of Manchester Fitting out Centre for Rational Design of Molecular Diagnostics	2002	£600,000
University of Leeds Equipment in new building for Division of Microbiology	2002	£500,000
University of Manchester Fitting out Centre for Rational Design of Molecular Diagnostics	2002	£600,000
University of Newcastle upon Tyne Equipment in Clinical Research Facility	2002	£600,000
University of Oxford Floor in new Information Engineering building	2002	£1,500,000
University of Southampton Centre for the Developmental Origins of Health and Disease	2002	£500,000
Birkbeck College Centre for Brain Development and Function	2003	£800,000
British Library Construction of Centre for Conservation	2003	£600,000
Fund and Friends of Addenbrooke's Breast Cancer Clinical/ Translational Research Centre at the Cambridge Breast Unit	2003	£500,000
National Society for Epilepsy MRI scanner	2003	£500,000
Oxford Children's Hospital Campaign Research and education elements within Oncology Ward	2003	£500,000
Royal Botanic Gardens Kew Extension to Jodrell Laboratory for research into plant and fungal resources	2003	£1,250,000
Royal Society Royal Society/Wolfson laboratory refurbishment programme, 2005-2008	2003	£10,000,000
UMIST Floor in Manchester Interdisciplinary Biocentre	2003	£2,000,000
University College London Equipment in laboratory for Cellular Imaging in Hearing Research	2003	£1,000,000
University of Birmingham Lecture theatre in Medical School	2003	£1,500,000
University of Bristol Centre for Life Course and Genetic Epidemiology	2003	£500,000
University of Cambridge Imaging Unit in Stem Cell Biology Unit	2003	£1,500,000

## LIST OF MAJOR GRANTS AWARDED SINCE 1955



Two examples of awards made for the repair of historic church buildings through the partnership with the Church Buildings Council. Left: **Collegiate Church of St Mary**, Hemingbrough, North Yorkshire received **£3,000** in 2003. Right: **St Mary de Havra**, New Shoreham, Sussex received **£4,000** in 2004.

University of Newcastle upon Tyne New laboratories for musculoskeletal research	2003	£500,000
University of Oxford Bioinformatics floors in Structural Bioinformatics Unit	2003	£1,500,000
University of Surrey Centre for Translational Research	2003	£500,000
University of Wales, Bangor Wolfson Institute for Clinical and Cognitive Neuroscience	2003	£1,250,000
University of York MEG facility in Human Neuroscience Centre	2003	£1,200,000
Beatson Institute for Cancer Research Construction of new Institute building	2004	£2,000,000
Imperial College London Floor in Centre for Brain and Musculoskeletal Repair (Charing Cross campus)	2004	£2,000,000
King's College, London University Cicely Saunders Institute of Palliative Care	2004	£1,000,000



## THE WOLFSON FOUNDATION 1955-2015

Organisation Name Project Title	Year of Meeting	Grant Amount
National Art Collections Fund Purchasing of works of art	2004	£600,000
National Museums of Scotland Science and technology centre at the Royal Museum	2004	£600,000
Peninsula Medical School Teaching facilities in Peninsula Postgraduate Health Institute	2004	£700,000
St George's Hospital Medical School Renovation of Medical School (seminar room and associated areas)	2004	£500,000
University College London Clinical Neuroscience Centre	2004	£1,000,000
University of Aberdeen Clinical epidemiology, clinical research and trials, osteoporosis and bone unit areas in the Institute of Applied Health Sciences	2004	£750,000
University of Bristol Centre for Nanoscience and Quantum Information	2004	£500,000
University of Cambridge Renovation of Chemistry teaching laboratories	2004	£1,000,000
University of Dundee Computational Chemistry, High-Throughput Screening and Medicinal Chemistry area in Centre for Interdisciplinary Research	2004	£2,000,000
University of Edinburgh Centre for Informatics and Life Sciences in Informatics Forum	2004	£2,000,000
University of Nottingham Centre for Regenerative Medicine	2004	£500,000
University of Oxford Epidemiology laboratories in Richard Doll building	2004	£2,500,000
University of Sheffield Biorepository and equipment for research into bone and prostate disease	2004	£1,000,000
Hebrew University of Jerusalem Equipment for Cellomics Station	2005	£750,000
Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine Centre for Tropical and Infectious Diseases	2005	£2,000,000
London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine Main lecture theatre in newly developed South Courtyard	2005	£1,000,000

## LIST OF MAJOR GRANTS AWARDED SINCE 1955

### GRANTS OVER £750,000 MADE SINCE 2005

Organisation Name Project Title	Year of Meeting	Grant Amount
Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital Research Laboratory in Centre for Inherited Neuromuscular Disease	2005	£750,000
Tel Aviv University Equipment to study molecular basis of neurological disorders and cancer	2005	£750,000
University College London Patient Suite in Cancer Clinical Research Centre at University College Hospital	2005	£1,000,000
University of Cambridge Centre for the Physics of Medicine	2005	£2,500,000
University of Manchester Core facility for Institute of Health Sciences	2005	£1,500,000
University of Oxford Institute of Chromosome Biology	2005	£3,000,000
University of Surrey Wolfson Nanobeam Tower	2005	£800,000
Weizmann Institute of Science Equipment for study of tumour cell diversity	2005	£800,000
Durham University Biophysical Sciences Institute	2006	£1,500,000
Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust Wolfson Cardiothoracic Centre for Children	2006	£3,000,000
Imperial College London Major refurbishment of Wolfson Education Centre, Hammersmith	2006	£2,000,000
Institute of Cancer Research 3T MRI to probe tumour biology	2006	£1,453,246
King's College London Clinical Research Facility at King's College Hospital	2006	£1,500,000
King's College London Neurodegeneration area in Maurice Wohl Clinical Neuroscience Institute	2006	£4,000,000
London School of Economics Lecture theatre in new Academic Building	2006	£1,000,000
Loughborough University Laboratories for health, exercise and biosciences research	2006	£1,500,000
National Museums Scotland Grand Gallery in redevelopment of Royal Museum	2006	£750,000
Newcastle University Clinical Ageing Research Unit	2006	£1,500,000
Queen's University Belfast Clinical Research Facility for research into cancer, nutrition & metabolism, and vision science	2006	£750,000

## THE WOLFSON FOUNDATION 1955-2015

Organisation Name Project Title	Year of Meeting	Grant Amount
Royal College of Surgeons of England Wolfson Surgical workshop in surgical education and training centre	2006	£1,500,000
Royal Hospital Chelsea Six rooms in Infirmary	2006	£750,000
UCL School of Pharmacy Molecular Pharmacology Building	2006	£1,000,000
University College London Equipment for UCL Cancer Institute	2006	£2,000,000
University College London Equipment for UCL Cancer Institute	2006	£2,000,000
University of Aberdeen Wolfson Clinical Skills Area in the Suttie Centre for Teaching and Learning in Healthcare	2006	£1,250,000
University of Birmingham Equipment for Clinical Research Facility for research on cancer	2006	£1,500,000
University of Bristol Wolfson Bioimaging Facility	2006	£1,000,000
University of Oxford Wolfson Vaccine Delivery Technology Centre	2006	£2,000,000
University of Strathclyde Institute of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences	2006	£1,750,000
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew New wing in the Herbarium and Library complex	2007	£750,000
Royal Society of Chemistry Refurbishment of library and galleries in Burlington House	2007	£1,000,000
University of Bristol MRI scanner in Clinical Research and Imaging Centre	2007	£1,450,560
University of Dundee Refurbishment of the Medical Sciences Institute	2007	£2,000,000
University of Edinburgh New facilities for Centre for Immunity, Infection and Evolution	2007	£1,000,000
University of Glasgow Centre for Cognitive Neuro-Imaging	2007	£750,000
University of Liverpool Wolfson Centre for Personalised Medicines	2007	£2,000,000
University of Oxford Wolfson Centre for Mathematical Biology in the relocated Mathematical Institute	2007	£2,000,000
University of Warwick Clinical Trials Unit	2007	£1,000,000

## LIST OF MAJOR GRANTS AWARDED SINCE 1955



© Sampson Lloyd

Grants were made for repair work at St Paul's Cathedral in 1971, 1994, 2001 and 2008.

Victoria and Albert Museum Wolfson Gallery in Medieval and Renaissance Galleries	2007	£1,750,000
Young Epilepsy Wolfson Centre for Epilepsy Research in new Neville Childhood Epilepsy Centre	2007	£2,000,000
Birkbeck, University of London Research and teaching laboratories for biological sciences	2008	£1,300,000
Hebrew University of Jerusalem Equipment for microRNA research	2008	£750,000
London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine Health Policy Unit within refurbished Tavistock Place building	2008	£1,700,000
Newcastle University Institute of Health and Society	2008	£750,000
Royal Free and University College Medical School (UCL Campus) Renovation and restructuring of research facilities at the Royal Free Campus	2008	£2,000,000
Royal Society Merit awards for university academics	2008	£6,000,000



## THE WOLFSON FOUNDATION 1955-2015

Organisation Name Project Title	Year of Meeting	Grant Amount
Tate Renovation of Gallery F in Millbank Gallery (Tate Britain)	2008	£1,000,000
Tel Aviv University Equipment for microRNA research	2008	£750,000
University of Cambridge Equipping and fitting-out of university research area in new MRC Laboratory for Molecular Biology	2008	£2,250,000
University of Glasgow Wolfson Wohl Cancer Research Centre	2008	£1,750,000
University of Oxford New MRI scanner	2008	£750,000
University of St Andrews Biophotonics Laboratory in new School of Medicine and Interdisciplinary Medical Research Centre	2008	£2,000,000
University of York Laboratories in new Centre for Immunology and Infection	2008	£1,000,000
Weizmann Institute of Science Equipment for microRNA research	2008	£750,000
British Museum World Centre for Conservation and Exhibitions in redeveloped north-west corner of Museum	2009	£2,000,000
Cardiff University Fit-out of Centre for Neuropsychiatric Genetics and Genomics	2009	£1,750,000
Royal Society Royal Society/Wolfson laboratory refurbishment programme, 2010	2009	£2,000,000
University of Cambridge New building for Department of Materials Science and Metallurgy	2009	£2,250,000
Imperial College London Robotic Assisted Microsurgery Laboratory	2010	£3,000,000
Queen's University Belfast Research Centre for Vision Science	2010	£3,000,000
Royal College of Radiologists Wolfson Lecture Theatre in Education Centre at new headquarters in Lincoln's Inn Fields	2010	£1,000,000
Royal Marsden Hospital Laboratories in Centre for Molecular Pathology in Sutton	2010	£1,500,000
Royal Society Conversion of coach house to create meeting rooms at Chicheley Hall, Buckinghamshire	2010	£1,500,000
Royal Society of Chemistry Reach and Teach programme (three years)	2010	£894,480
University College London Hospitals 3T MRI for research facility within new Cancer Centre	2010	£1,250,000

## LIST OF MAJOR GRANTS AWARDED SINCE 1955



© Damian Griffiths

Scientific research at the University of York's Centre for Immunology and Infection, toward which £1 million was pledged in 2008.

University of Cambridge Refurbishment work to create Cambridge Advanced Imaging Centre	2010	£999,128
University of Edinburgh Institute of Genetics and Molecular Medicine	2010	£2,500,000
University of Exeter Medical School Centre for translational research	2010	£2,500,000
University of Nottingham Wolfson Prototyping Hall in new Energy Technologies Building	2010	£1,000,000
University of Oxford Earth Sciences building	2010	£1,250,000
University of Warwick Centre for Mechanochemical Cell Biology	2010	£1,000,000
Wolfson College, Oxford Lecture theatre (Leonard Wolfson Auditorium)	2010	£1,600,000
English Heritage Treasure Chamber in new visitor centre for Stonehenge	2011	£810,000

## THE WOLFSON FOUNDATION 1955-2015



© National Museum of Scotland

Visitors to the **National Museum of Scotland** in Edinburgh enjoy **The Wolfson Galleries of the Natural World**. The major refurbishment of the Museum's Victorian building received **£1.25 million** from the Foundation in two separate grants (2006 and 2010).



© Kirsten Holst

The interior of the **Leonard Wolfson Experimental Neurology Centre** at UCL established through an exceptional grant of **£20 million** in 2011.

## LIST OF MAJOR GRANTS AWARDED SINCE 1955

Organisation Name Project Title	Year of Meeting	Grant Amount
Epilepsy Society Epilepsy research centre	2011	£1,000,000
Help the Hospices Wolfson bursaries for training for hospice/palliative care medical staff	2011	£750,000
Imperial War Museum First World War galleries in redeveloped museum	2011	£750,000
National Theatre Exhibition space in redeveloped National Theatre complex	2011	£1,000,000
Open University OpenScience Laboratory	2011	£1,000,000
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew Restoration of two octagons in the Temperate House	2011	£1,000,000
Royal Society Royal Society/Wolfson laboratory refurbishment programme, 2011	2011	£1,500,000
University College London Leonard Wolfson Experimental Neurology Centre at National Hospital for Neurology and Neuroscience	2011	£20,000,000
University of Cambridge First floor of new Centre for Experimental Astrophysics	2011	£1,000,000
University of Dundee Lecture theatre in new education facility for the School of Medicine	2011	£888,000
University of Manchester Wolfson Laboratory in cancer research building	2011	£2,000,000
University of Oxford Imaging facility within the Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine	2011	£1,500,000
University of York Integrated Global Atmospheric Chemistry Laboratory	2011	£1,250,000
Cancer Research UK High-throughput screening area in the Francis Crick Institute	2012	£3,000,000
Institute of Cancer Research New Centre for Cancer Imaging	2012	£2,000,000
Tate Gallery in Tate Modern extension	2012	£5,000,000
University of Glasgow Imaging facility in Clinical Research Facility at the new South Glasgow Hospital	2012	£800,000
University of Oxford Centre for the Prevention of Stroke and Dementia	2012	£4,000,000
Weizmann Institute of Science Israel National Center for Personalized Medicine	2012	£2,000,000



## THE WOLFSON FOUNDATION 1955-2015

Organisation Name Project Title	Year of Meeting	Grant Amount
Birkbeck, University of London New facility for autism research	2013	£800,000
Durham University Centre for Fundamental Research in Physics	2013	£1,500,000
Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine Centre for Maternal and Child Health	2013	£1,500,000
Royal Academy of Arts Redevelopment of 6 Burlington Gardens	2013	£1,000,000
Royal Society Royal Society/Wolfson Laboratory Refurbishment Programme, 2013	2013	£1,250,000
University of Cambridge Laboratories for high specification imaging in Department of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology	2013	£2,000,000
University of Nottingham Laboratory within GSK Laboratory for Sustainable Chemistry	2013	£750,000
University of Strathclyde Mass spectrometer in new Technology and Innovation Centre	2013	£750,000
Wolfson College, Cambridge Refurbishment of student accommodation	2013	£1,250,000
Wolfson College, Oxford New library within redevelopment	2013	£1,250,000
Cardiff University 3T MRI Microstructure Suite in Brain Research Imaging Centre (CUBRIC2)	2014	£1,000,000
Prince's Trust New centre for Glasgow	2014	£1,000,000
Royal Society Royal Society/Wolfson Laboratory Refurbishment programme, 2014-15	2014	£3,000,000
University College London Institute of Immunity and Transplantation at the Royal Free Hospital	2014	£1,000,000
University of Bristol Building work to expand the Wolfson Bioimaging Facility	2014	£1,000,000
University of Exeter Living Systems Institute	2014	£2,000,000
University of Liverpool Clinical laboratories in Institute of Child Health Research at Alder Hey Children's Hospital	2014	£1,000,000
University of Oxford Centre for Energy Storage	2014	£1,000,000
Weizmann Institute of Science Israel National Center for Personalized Medicine	2014	£1,500,000
Westminster Abbey Restoration of Triforium to create Queen's Diamond Jubilee Galleries	2014	£1,000,000

## LIST OF MAJOR GRANTS AWARDED SINCE 1955



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The Wolfson Gallery at the Hepworth Wakefield in West Yorkshire. The Hepworth opened in 2011 and is dedicated to showcasing work by sculptor **Barbara Hepworth** alongside other contemporary British artists.



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The new **Library of Birmingham** building, shortlisted for the **Stirling Prize** (2014), received funding of **£500,000** in 2011. In 2014 the Foundation announced a pilot initiative with library services in Birmingham and Manchester looking at the role of public libraries in assisting childhood literacy in areas of deprivation.

## THE WOLFSON FOUNDATION 1955-2015



© Autism Initiatives

Between 2005 and 2014 a total of £22 million was pledged to 516 projects in the broad area of disability. MeCycle is one example: a cycle themed social enterprise café in Ainsdale, Merseyside, providing training and work experience for adults with autism spectrum condition. A grant to Autism Initiatives UK helped fund the café's creation in 2013. Projects to improve employment prospects for people with disabilities have become an increasing area of interest for the Foundation.

## SUMMARY OF GRANTS AWARDED SINCE 1955

Programme themes	Total £ millions	Number of projects
Science & Medicine	£444	2807
Health & Disability (for hospices and special needs)	£69	1667
Education (including higher education buildings, schools and science/medical education)	£144	1777
Arts and Humanities	£146	3567
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£803</b>	<b>9818</b>

Total value of grants expressed in 2015 values (based on RPI) is £1.685 billion

Year	Total £ millions	Number of projects
1955-1964	£9	193
1965-1974	£22	392
1975-1984	£43	841
1985-1994	£108	2109
1995-2004	£260	2469
2005-2014	£361	3814
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£803</b>	<b>9818</b>



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