

Dear Mr Carty

Re: Philanthropic funding

You have generously been providing Northumbria University with two philanthropic funding payments of £10,000 annually since September 2012, although one of those funds began a year earlier to provide research funding for Victoria Gibson in carrying out her 3 year doctoral studies

I would also seek to take this opportunity to express gratitude to you for these generous gifts, along with the gratitude of the 3 students who have benefited so greatly, namely Victoria Gibson (whom you met earlier this year during your visit to Newcastle), Megan McCabe and Emma Stevens.

Victoria has been studying for her doctorate since September 2012 under my academic supervision and has completed two extremely successful years of that 3 year programme. Her work and personal abilities gained through this research study period, often due to the resources that your funding provides, has allowed her to excel and present at 3 high value, esteemed international academic conferences, prepare and publish peer reviewed academic research articles in two international academic journals and disseminate her knowledge through undergraduate teaching programmes. She was due to complete her studies by September of this year but as you know I fell ill for some months in 2013. During the period from October 2013 to June this year Victoria was able to secure a formal lecturing position at Northumbria University and cover my teaching commitments whilst I was recovering. In order to do this she deferred her final year and will now complete her doctoral studies in July 2015. It is to her great credit that she was able to secure this position and deliver a number of Higher Education taught modules to final year undergraduate students, who I would add have passed on to me very positive comments and feedback.

Megan completed a year of study and academic research between September 2012 and September 2013, made possible through your second tranche of gift funding. During that time she secured nationally recognised post graduate credits through study at the university and successfully concluded a supervised research project that led to her presenting the findings at an international academic conference. Her research findings have also been accepted for publication by an international peer reviewed academic journal. By the conclusion of that year she had secured for herself a permanent graduate position with a North East charitable trust and also continues to provide volunteer assistance for a further charity which delivers support and assistance to victims of serious crime.

Emma followed Megan's footsteps in September 2013 with your gift funding providing the valuable opportunity of gaining post graduate credits and significant experience by conducting a supervised academic research project. Her year with us is yet to formally end but I do know she was successful in her studies and I am confident that her research work will provide publishable material for peer reviewed journals. Similar to Megan she has been able to attend and present research findings at an international conference, a valuable experience and learning journey which would not have been possible without your funding gifts. As you know all research activities undertaken by these students is in the arena of preventing crime through the design of the built environment.

It remains only for me to express my gratitude for your funding gifts which allow me to provide the recipients with opportunities which would otherwise be difficult to provide but are valuable in terms of both knowledge attainment, personal development and as a life experience.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Derek Johnson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Derek Johnson
Senior Lecturer
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Northumbria University