

PwC Flying Start Bursary Programme

December 2023



Flying Start Bursary Programme

The rising cost of living disproportionately affects students in Higher Education, and with government support for students remaining at the same level as previous years, I see more and more students having to find paid jobs, often during teaching time, in addition to working weekends and university holidays. Many students are exhausted and struggle to balance full-time studying alongside a job.

The PwC Flying Start Bursary helps to alleviate this strain, allowing students to focus more on academics. They have sufficient time to prepare efficiently and effectively for their exams without having to worry about working long hours to pay their bills.

Beyond studies, the Bursary fosters a sense of belonging to the university community by allowing students to fully immerse themselves in all aspects of university life, for example by joining societies and sports teams. Without your support, Higher Education would not be a viable option for these students.

Helen Currie

Degree Programme Director, PwC Flying Start Programme



The Flying Start Bursary Programme, made possible through the generous support of PwC, brings together and demonstrates the power of collaboration between industry and education. This initiative has already made a profound impact on the lives of numerous students pursuing the Flying Start Accounting undergraduate degree programme.

Your contribution of £10,000 per student exemplifies your commitment to fostering academic excellence and inclusivity, investing in a brighter future for students, and ensuring that no potential goes untapped due to financial constraints.

We would like to extend our gratitude to PwC for your support with this programme. In the next pages we are going to showcase the tangible achievements and opportunities made possible through the Flying Start Bursary Programme, illustrating the real-world implications to our students.

Stage 1 Scholars

The Flying Start Bursary Programme is currently making a significant impact on a total of 18 students pursuing the BSc Business, Accounting and Finance degree programme. Eleven of these are in the first year of their degree programme:

- Theo Smith
- Amber Harper
- Adam Oxer
- Alice Woollard
- Amber Harper
- Karolina Kawecka
- Kelly Huang
- Luke Spowart
- Marcela Thirlaway
- Samuel Kerkhof
- Charlie Dissanayaka

Stage 1 BSc Business, Accounting and Finance students on their first day of teaching





Luke Spowart



Hi, my name is Luke, and I'm from a small village in Hertfordshire called Puckeridge. I chose Newcastle University because, during the open day and offer holder days I attended, I was impressed by the campus scenery, the modern

accommodations, and the lecturers who seemed very personable, which I deemed to be important for my learning experience. I also have family in Newcastle so I knew if I faced any problems, I'd have a family support system nearby who could help me, and I support Newcastle United so being around more Newcastle fans is an added bonus!

I chose the Flying Start Degree for a few reasons. Firstly, because I knew that the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales exemptions offered would be upheld after I graduate, as PwC supervise the course; secondly, I enjoy taking on challenging tasks, so the opportunity to test my ability to pass the entrance exams to the course appealed to me. Thirdly, after researching PwC, and speaking to people who know the industry I discovered that it is an extremely prestigious organisation, with forward-thinking values, especially 'reimagine the possible' which made me believe PwC will be able to keep its place in our rapidly changing world.

I hope to use the training and qualifications gained on my degree, along with the network I can build with people in the Newcastle Business School to make partner one day, or branch out into the world of finance, and have a long successful career, so I can support myself and a family in the future.

I plan to use the Flying Start Bursary to help me with day-to-day costs such as food, as I am an avid cook, so the extra money will give me more freedom to buy ingredients to make meals. I will also use it to help fund my books for lectures, and a calculator.

Since joining Newcastle University, I have tried really hard to put myself out there so I can make the most out of my university experience. This has included attending taster sessions for societies such as 'social tennis' and pool and snooker, and also trials for different university teams such as basketball and football, for which I have joined a seven-a-side team with a few boys on my course.

Lastly, I'd like to say a huge thank you for donating towards the Flying Start Bursary, as it makes an enormous difference for me and many other students.

Amber Harper



A little bit about myself, I'm Amber, Ambs for short which I much prefer. I'm from a small ex-mining town called Barnsley about 20-30 minutes from the centre of Sheffield. I've been working towards getting onto the PwC Flying Start Degree course for a few years, as I discovered it through my dad's friend. I came to Newcastle since I knew this was the original Flying Start Degree university, so I wanted to go to the one which likely had the best knowledge surrounding the course.

My aims from this degree course have always been to get the degree then work my way up to becoming Partner at PwC, and within that journey working abroad to show versatility. I plan on going to the London office on placements if all goes well and trying to work as much as my mental state will allow me to so I can earn the most I can. The funding will mean I can live a bit more comfortably without having to get a part-time job as I'm on the autistic spectrum and have social anxiety so my mental health can't really handle the overwhelm of moving to university and navigating the work as well as worrying about working. It will most likely be put towards me trying to socialise more.

The funding will mean I can live a bit more comfortably without having to get a part-time job

I also enjoy baking and crocheting so the funding might also be put towards buying resources for those activities. Drag is something that also interests me. I think it's great so I would love to go see a drag show at some point too, and I have also joined Newcastle University's Drag society to try and pursue this interest more outside of just watching RuPaul's Drag Race.

Kelly Huang



Hi, my name is Kelly and I come from Doncaster. I decided to join Newcastle University due to the special course it offers called Business, Accounting and Finance. This degree would allow me to fast track into becoming an accountant as 12 out of 15 of my exams are completed during my time here.

Newcastle is a Russell Group university which gives it the reputation that it's quality of learning is up to a high standard. It is also a vibrant city with a great night life to meet new people. In this degree, I hope to achieve high grades to allow me to achieve a 1st or 2:1 degree, and therefore help me secure a job with top accountancy firms such as PwC. **The bursary will allow me to purchase a new iPad which allows me to be more efficient in taking notes and improve my day-to-day life, ranging from lifestyle to diet.**

In my free time, I like to pursue my passion in sports such as basketball and rounders. As a result, I have decided to join the Women's Social Sport Society. I also like to play the piano as it helps my mental health.

Thank you very much for your support.

Stage 2 Scholars

The remaining seven students are continuing in their second year of the course:

- Robert McLean
- Callum Elwick
- Henry Yu
- Jasper Williams
- Liam Kipling
- Nafisa Khanom
- Olivia Oxman

Liam Kipling



My name is Liam Kipling and I am a second year Business, Accounting and Finance student at Newcastle University. I am writing this to say thank you for providing me with the Flying Start Bursary. I also wanted to write this note to update you on university life and how the course has been going. At the end of last year, I achieved an average of 83% and I wouldn't have been able to work towards this without having access to the bursary due to my home situation.

I have really enjoyed learning all the new content on the course and making many like-minded friends with such a tight-knit cohort. Although there have been some challenges along the way with getting used to university, it has been a very rewarding experience. **The funding that you have provided has really helped me in many ways, such as helping with everyday living costs and purchasing vital resources for the course.** I am determined to make a success of the opportunity that you have given me, and I can't thank you enough for the bursary.



Stage 2 BSc Business, Accounting and Finance students at a charity football tournament



Thank you

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