



## THE FUTURES FUND: CHANCELLOR'S SCHOLARSHIP

The University is the recipient of a generous donation from alumna and current Chancellor, Leanne Cahill.

Leanne Cahill, CEO of retail company ICON and Sunderland graduate, was appointed as the University's Chancellor in November 2023. Born and raised in Sunderland, Leanne began her career on the shopfloor as a Marks & Spencer management trainee before specialising in finance. She has since held a wide range of roles at Legal & General, Walgreens Boots Alliance and Travelex.

Leanne joined Bravissimo in October 2017 as Finance Director. She was promoted to Managing Director in September 2018, becoming Chief Executive Officer in December 2020. In 2023, she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Business Administration from the University of Sunderland. In 2025 Leanne joined as Chief Executive Officer of retail company ICON. Leanne is passionate about retail and the career opportunities it can bring for a wide range of students.

Funded over five years, this program will award up to six scholarships over the full term.

Retail is an exciting, varied and expanding sector with a wide range of career opportunities in Sunderland and beyond. The scholarship will provide an incredible opportunity for one student per year providing a fully comprehensive package of financial assistance, industry internships and shadowing, professional training and mentoring aiming to support your education and career development.

Working closely with the University's Centre for Graduate Prospects, the scholarship will develop students' career skills earlier and give local companies increased access to the very best brand-new talent.

The scholarship includes a cash bursary, a paid work placement, a work-shadowing experience, a dedicated mentor in your chosen field as well as an additional opportunity pot of up to £500 (to be used for additional training, or opportunity).

### Criteria:

The Chancellor's scholarship provides additional support for students looking to explore a career in retail.

The fast-moving retail sector in the UK is critical to the European economy. And the scale of our largest retailers means they offer genuine prospects for career progression, right up to the most senior levels.

The industry needs graduate managers in operations management, retail buying, merchandising, marketing, human resource management and the supply chain, as well as more generic functions, such as finance, accounting or information systems. The Scholarship could be the taster you need to kick start your career in retail.

There is one award available annually with a total value of £8,000 as below:

- £5,000 cash bursary
- Paid summer internship (maximum value £2,000)
- Work shadowing expenses (up to £500)
- Additional opportunity pot (up to £500)
- A dedicated mentor

Applications are welcome from students currently studying at UG Level 2\* with the exception some courses (listed below):

- BSc (Hons) Adult Nursing Practice
- BSc (Hons) Children's and Young People's Nursing Practise
- BSc (Hons) Health and Social Care FT
- BSc (Hons) Health and Social Care PT
- BSc (Hons) Health, Wellbeing and Care in Society FT
- BSc (Hons) Health, Wellbeing and Care in Society PT
- BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science: Audiology FT
- BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science: Audiology PT
- BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science (Blood Science)
- BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science: Cardiac Physiology FT
- BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science: Cardiac Physiology PT
- BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science (Cellular Science)
- BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science (Genetic Science)
- BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science (Infection Science)
- BSc (Hons) Learning Disability Nursing Practice
- BSc (Hons) Medicinal Chemistry FT
- BSc (Hons) Medicinal Chemistry (with Sandwich Year)
- Bachelor of Medicine / Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB)
- BSc (Hons) Mental Health Nursing Practice
- BSc (Hons) Midwifery Practice
- BSc (Hons) Nursing (Top-Up)
- BA (Hons) Social Work
- BSc (Hons) Adult Nursing Practice (Blended) PT
- BSc (Hons) Adult Nursing Practice (Blended) FT
- BSc (Hons) Occupational Therapy
- BSc (Hons) Occupational Therapy (Accelerated)
- BSc (Hons) Paramedic Science and Out of Hospital C
- BSc (Hons) Physiological Sciences
- BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy

\* Full time/Part time Home/EU/OS students studying at Sunderland or London Campus. This programme does not support PhD study.

- The application should clearly set out how the scholarship will support your studies and career aspirations.
- A supporting academic reference is required to support the merit of each applicant.

Applications are considered at Committee Level once per year in May. Priority will be given to applications which cover the programme criteria and demonstrate clarity of proposal and benefit to the student. Awards are limited and submitted applications are not guaranteed to be funded.

**Applications for the Scholarship will close on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026. Shortlisted interviews will take place TBC.**

Completed applications to be submitted via Fund Manager as part of the e:vision system and must include a signed academic reference.

Successful candidates will be expected to provide and impact report and participate in promotional activity and stewardship events as a condition of the award.