



Mike Davies Scholars Fund 2025

The University is the recipient of a generous donation to support six first year students studying 'maker' subjects in the following disciplines:

- BA (Hons) Artist Designer Maker: Glass & Ceramic
- BA (Hons) Fine Art
- BA (Hons) Photography, Video & Digital Imaging
- BA (Hons) Animation and Games Art
- BA (Hons) Fashion Design & Promotion
- BA (Hons) Graphic Design

This exciting programme funded by Benefactor and long-term University friend [Mike Davies CBE](#), will provide financial and mentoring support to six selected students throughout the duration of their course of study.

As a '**Mike Davies Scholar**,' you will receive tailored one to one guidance which will help you to get the best out of your time here at Sunderland. This package of support will catapult your employability and help to prepare you for your chosen working environment building on your career aspirations.

This is a unique opportunity, and each successful candidate will receive up to £2000* in financial support annually in addition to regular one to one mentoring opportunity with Mike Davies for the duration of their course of study.

*Funding will support a tangible output e.g., materials or a learning outcome from a conference/placement opportunity in addition to relevant travel costs supporting one face to face mentoring meeting per annum. Payments are made in February of each academic year.

Application Process

Students from the above cohort of subject areas are welcome to apply (including integrated foundation year) and the application deadline is Friday 17th October 2025.

Applicants must complete an [application form](#) detailing why they would like to be mentored as a Mike Davies scholar and submit evidence of their creative outputs.

This award programme will nurture good conceptual thinking, initiative, creative development and translate creative ideas into tangible outputs. Students are expected to have researched Mike's achievements and consider how his funding and guidance can support them in their development and future career goals.

Please include any visual examples/links of your 'maker' experiences and any detail/achievements pre-University. This should be in the form of MS PowerPoint (no more than 5 slides).

Successful candidates will be expected to produce an annual illustrated impact report on their project and engage fully with PR/marketing opportunities. The University reserves the right to withdraw scholars from the programme if they are not fully engaging with the programme/mentoring.

Applications will be assessed by the awarding committee and selection will be based upon the following criteria:

- Clarity of proposal and benefit to the student.
- Evidence of passion and enthusiasm for your chosen subject/career area
- Ability to work independently and prove yourself open to new ideas
- The extent to which the award will significantly advance and challenge the student's skills throughout their course of study.
- Demonstration of potential to make innovative new works or other materials (based upon examples submitted).

Awarded applicants will engage with briefing activity and must be prepared to travel to London annually in support of mentoring/guidance.

For further information or for an informal discussion please contact:

Professor Kevin Petrie, Head of School of Art and Design kevin.petrie@sunderland.ac.uk

Applicants are expected to contact the Development Office team for advice on their proposal and guidance on completion. An informal meeting can be arranged by contact us on development.office@sunderland.ac.uk