

**Media coverage of the of the Eliahou Dangoor
scholarships**

December 2009



Media Coverage of the Eliahou Dangoor Scholarship December 2009

Contents

National Press:

1. 07 Dec 2009: "Iraqi exile gives £3m for education of poor as debt of gratitude" *The Times*
2. 07 Dec 2009: "Top universities to offer new scholarships after donation" *Press Association*
3. 07 Dec 2009: "Top universities to offer new scholarships after donation" *Independent*
4. 07 Dec 2009: "Top universities to offer new scholarships" *Evening Standard*
5. 07 Dec 2009: "Property tycoon donates £3m to help poor university students" *Guardian*
6. 08 Dec 2009: "£4million scholarship scheme for budding scientists" *Guardian*
7. 07 Dec 2009: "Property tycoon donates £3m to help poor university students" *UTV (Northern Ireland)*
8. 08 Dec 2009: "Refugee pays UK student bursaries" *BBC News online*
9. 10 Dec 2009: "New Scholarships for Cardiff University" *Western Mail*

Online and local coverage:

10. 08 Dec 2009: "Russell Group and 1994 Group universities launch £4 million scholarships scheme" *Bioscience technology*
11. 08 Dec 2009: "Refugee pays UK student bursaries" *Edplace.co.uk*
12. 08 Dec 2009: "Exiled tycoon gives £3m to students" *Sideways News*
13. 08 Dec 2009: "UK universities receive bursary boost" *SFS Group Ltd*
14. 09 Dec 2009: "Dangoor Scholarships at Russell Group universities" *YouTube*
15. 08 Dec 2009: "Speech given at the Royal Society about Dangoor scholarships" *Mario Creatura blog*
16. 08 Dec 2009: "Iraqi exile gives £3m for UK university scholarships" *'Point of no return' blog*
17. 07 Dec 2009: "Queen Mary alumnus invests millions in the future of UK science and engineering" *Queen Mary University of London*
18. 08 Dec 2009: "Russell Group and 1994 Group universities launch £4 million scholarships scheme" *University of Leeds*
19. 08 Dec 2009: "Scholarship scheme rewards talent" *University of Leicester*
20. 08 Dec 2009: "Boost for STEM students at University of Nottingham" *University of Nottingham*
21. 08 Dec 2009: "Lancaster shares in a £4 million scholarship scheme" *University of Lancaster*
22. 08 Dec 2009: "Goldsmiths to take part in Eliahou Dangoor Scholarship scheme" *Goldsmiths, University of London*
23. 08 Dec 2009: "New scholarship fund for undergraduates" *Cardiff University*
24. 10 Dec 2009: "Eliahou Dangoor Scholarships" *University of Warwick*

Iraqi exile gives £3m for education of poor as debt of gratitude

Nicola Woolcock
07 December 2009

When he fled Iraq and arrived in Britain as a refugee in the 1960s, Naim Dangoor had to abandon his lucrative business empire and comfortable lifestyle in Baghdad and start again from scratch.

Now aged 95, and the wealthy head of a successful property investment company, Dr Dangoor is giving something back by donating £3 million in scholarships, so bright teenagers from poor families can go to university.

It is a debt of gratitude to the country where he was educated in 1930s, and returned to raise his family. Dr Dangoor was forced to leave Iraq because of anti-Semitic persecution after the revolution, and was awarded an OBE in 2006 because of his services to the Jewish community in London, to which he belongs.

His donation is worth £4 million with matched funding from the Government. This will pay for bursaries of £1,000, for 4,000 students from deprived backgrounds who are the first in their families to study at university.

It will be announced tomorrow by the Russell Group and 1994 Group, who together make up almost 40 leading universities including Oxford and Cambridge, and will give out the scholarships.

They have come under pressure from ministers in recent years to take on more students from under-privileged areas and become less exclusive.

Dr Dangoor, who married a former Miss Baghdad and went on to have four sons, has named the scholarships after his father Eliahou Dangoor.

It is not the first time he has made such a donation; when he gave £1 million to universities in 2005, he said: "I promised myself that, if I was ever able to help a British university student, I would, to assist the native people of the country that welcomed me. But I never dreamt I would be able to make such a big contribution." Now he has trebled that amount.

Dr Dangoor's son David, who was 10 when the family left Iraq, has organised the latest donation on his father's behalf. He told *The Times*: "When my father was 17 he came to the UK for three years to study engineering at the University of London — at a time when you had to spend five days coming here by road and boat from what was then Palestine.

"He went back to Baghdad afterwards to help build bridges, some of which were destroyed in 2003 [after the invasion]. While here, he felt he had a special boost to his education and that, if he was able to, one day he'd like repay the debt.

"My father went into business in Iraq and was quite successful. He built a furniture factory and a match factory. He had a property development company and the Coca-Cola franchise.

"In the early 1950s, after the creation of Israel, most of the Jews left Iraq — whereas in 1917 the population of Baghdad had been 40 per cent Jewish.

"Those who had businesses tried to stay behind, and my father was one of those. But things became difficult after the revolution in 1958 when the king was killed and the Baath Party came to power.

“He brought his family to the UK in the 1960s and we were very lucky to be accepted. I had my primary education in Baghdad and my secondary education in Britain.

“He had to start more or less from scratch as he was not allowed to take money out of Iraq. My father chose his liberty over his assets, and gave it all up. He was almost 50 when he came to the UK. Over the years he built up a property development business and was ultimately successful.” Dr Dangoor came to Britain at the same time as other Iraqi Jews, including the families of the Saatchi brothers and Alan Yentob, his son said.

He sponsored an academy school two years ago in an area where many children speak English as a second language. He has also given money to Birkbeck University, which caters mostly for older, part-time students.

The bursaries created by Dr Dangoor will be available only to students taking science, technology, engineering and maths courses — subjects earmarked by the Government as needing a vital boost to graduate numbers.

Students will be identified by universities when they apply. The scholarships are intended to reassure students about the cost of embarking on a degree, particularly if no one in their family has ever been to university.

Professor Paul Wellings, chair of the 1994 Group, said: “Dr Naim Dangoor’s generous donation will support talented students at leading universities in the UK. These scholarships are a tremendous addition to the range of bursaries our universities offer to help ensure that students are encouraged to apply to leading universities.”

Last week a report by the Office of Fair Access criticised universities after finding that many students and their families did not know about bursaries, and did not realise universities had to give at least £300 to anyone on a full maintenance grant.

Dr Wendy Piatt, director general of the the Russell Group, said its members were “working hard to ensure that information about bursaries — including this magnificent scheme — is being constantly updated and improved.” Dr Piatt added: “Schemes like the Eliahou Dangoor scholarship will mean that, in the long run, that the UK can continue to be home to more than its fair share of the world’s top scientist, engineers and entrepreneurs.”

Top universities to offer new scholarships after donation

Press Association
07 December 2009

The UK's top universities are to offer new scholarships to students taking science and maths-based degrees, thanks to a £3 million donation from an Iraqi exile.

Up to 4,000 students, many from poorer backgrounds, are set to benefit, each receiving a scholarship worth £1,000.

Dr Naim Dangoor, a multi-millionaire property developer has donated the funding as a way to thank the UK for giving him refuge after he left Iraq in the 1960s.

With matched funding provided by the Government, funding for the scheme will total £4 million.

The scholarships will be administered by the Russell Group and the 1994 Group, who together represent around 40 of the nation's leading universities, including Oxford and Cambridge.

Dr Dangoor, who is now 95, has named the bursaries the Eliahou Dangoor Scholarships in honour of his father.

Professor Paul Wellings, chair of the 1994 Group said: "These scholarships are a tremendous addition to the range of bursaries our universities offer to help ensure that students fulfil their potential and are encouraged to apply to leading universities."

Dr Wendy Piatt, Director General of the Russell Group, said: "We hope more people will be prompted to consider studying science and maths-based subjects at the UK's leading universities."

"Although there has been a welcome increase in science and maths students in recent years, we have been deeply concerned by the long term decline in students taking these subjects at A-level and beyond."

"Schemes like the Eliahou Dangoor scholarship build on this upturn in popularity which, in the long run, will mean that the UK can continue to be home to more than its fair share of the world's top scientists, engineers and entrepreneurs."

Dr Dangoor, a Jewish Iraqi, came to London to study engineering 75 years ago. He later returned to Iraq where he built up a successful business, but came back to the UK after facing persecution.

The UK's leading universities have faced increasing pressure in recent years to widen participation and recruit more students from poorer backgrounds.

Last week a report by the Office for Fair Access (OFFA) warned that many students are unaware of the bursaries on offer for higher education.

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Alison Kershaw- PA
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Property tycoon donates £3m to help poor university students

Iraqi Naim Dangoor says money is his way of repaying the gratitude he felt to UK for giving him an education in the 1930s

Jessica Shepherd
07 December 2009

A 95-year-old property tycoon who fled to Britain to escape anti-Semitic persecution in Iraq has donated £3m to help poor students through university.

Naim Dangoor's gift is the largest single sum ever given to aid poor students applying to university in the UK's history.

The government will add £1m, which means that 4,000 students will each receive £1,000.

Dangoor said the money was his way of repaying the gratitude he felt to Britain for giving him an education in the 1930s.

The money will go to students doing science, maths, engineering and technology degrees – subjects the government wants to become more popular among university applicants.

They will be offered by almost 40 of the UK's most competitive universities, including Oxford and Cambridge.

Dangoor returned to Iraq after his engineering degree at the University of London, but came back to Britain in the 1960s to raise his family.

He married a former Miss Baghdad and has named the scholarships after his father, Eliahou Dangoor.

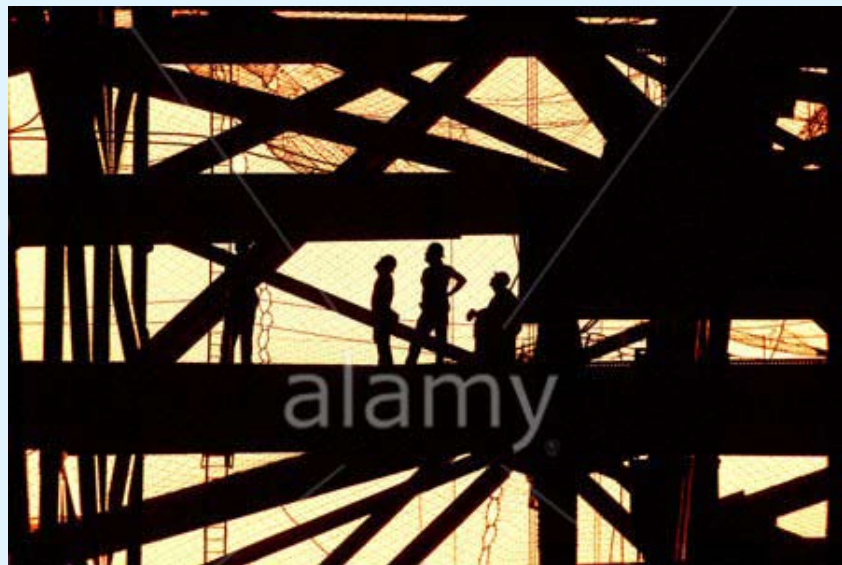
In 2005, when he gave £1m to universities, he said: "I promised myself that, if I was ever able to help a British university student, I would, to assist the native people of the country that welcomed me. But I never dreamed I would be able to make such a big contribution."

Sir Martin Harris, director of the government's university access watchdog Offa, said: "It is heartening to see help for students on such a generous scale from a private donor. Our research has shown that awards of this kind have the potential to encourage students to apply for leading universities."

A study published last week found that a quarter of university students from low-income families were unaware of the roughly £200m on offer each year to help them pay their way through their degree courses.

£4m scholarship scheme for budding scientists

By returning a gesture of goodwill, the Eliahou Dangoor Scholarships will provide welcome financial assistance to thousands of aspiring undergraduates keen to study science, technology, engineering or maths, and help them realise their ambitions



Naim Dangoor has felt a debt of gratitude to Britain for more than 70 years. An Iraqi Jew, now aged 95, he spent a happy period studying engineering at Queen Mary College, London in the 1930s. Then, three decades later, he fled to the UK to escape antisemitic persecution when the Ba'ath party, later headed by Saddam Hussein, came to power.

After the warm welcome he received both times, he vowed that if he was ever able to help a British university student he would. But he never expected to be in a position to help so much.

Thanks to a highly successful career in the property sector, he was able five years ago, to donate £1 million to offer scholarships worth £1,000 each for 1,000 of the UK's most talented first-year students.

Now, on his behalf, his son, David, has donated a further £3 million, again for first-year students, but this time aimed at encouraging young people to study STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and maths). Between 30 and 40 of these £1,000 scholarships will be available each

'Without the scholarship I would have been a lot less focused on my work'

year for the next three years from 38 participating universities – members of the 1994 Group and the Russell Group, which together represent the leading research-intensive universities.

With matched funding from the government, the scheme, named the Eliahou Dangoor Scholarships after Naim's father, will be worth £4 million and help thousands of students.

James Lightfoot, 22, who benefited from the previous scheme during his four-year biochemistry degree at the University of Bath, used it to fund flights to America for placements to carry out research into cancer. Without it, he says, he would have had to go further into debt – he already owed more

than £16,000 on graduation – or would have had to forfeit the chance to do a placement abroad and gain the life experience of living in a new country.

For Luke Keenan, 22, another beneficiary of the earlier scholarship scheme, it lifted some of the financial worries of his first year. His mother has health problems and his father is a full-time carer so neither was able to support him. "Without the scholarship, I would have been a lot more worried and less focused on my work," he says.

Both men have since gone on to do PhDs – Lightfoot in aerospace engineering at Bristol, Keenan in chemistry at Bath – and are passionate advocates of the value of studying science at university. For Lightfoot it offered the thrill of observing other people's research and designing experiments, as well as the opportunity to "make a name for yourself by finding out something important and special that no-one else has done before – to change the world".

Dangoor is himself testament to the value of a science degree – and the variety of career paths it offers. After graduating, he returned to Iraq to join the army and then set up a business empire. He spent the 1950s running the Coca-Cola franchise there with a Muslim business partner, but had to give it up on the orders of the Ba'ath party. As a refugee in the UK he started a business in property development, becoming a multimillionaire.

His new donation comes amid increasing concern about the low proportion of young people in the UK taking maths and sciences at A-level and progressing to degrees in related subjects. Between 1997 and 2008, A-level entries fell by 18% in maths, 11% in physics and 6% in chemistry, despite total entries for all subjects increasing by 12%.

Wendy Piatt, director general of the Russell Group, said: "We are still deeply concerned about the fall in the proportion of young people taking maths and sciences at A-level and progressing to degrees in STEM subjects. Although this year admissions offices are reporting a welcome increase in applications for science and engineering – these green shoots need nurturing."

Piatt says Russell Group universities were also concerned that some students were put off applying to them because of a lack of confidence or misunderstanding about the costs and financial support available. "The Eliahou Dangoor Scholarships will be a great new weapon in our armoury in the battle to ensure that students fulfil their potential and take the courses that are best for them," she explains.

Paul Marshall, executive director of the 1994 Group, says it is crucial that no student with the ability to go to university was unable to because of lack of funding.

He adds: "Through the generosity of Dr Naim Dangoor, the Eliahou Dangoor Scholarships will support a large number of talented students to study science, technology, maths, engineering and science education in a research-rich environment."

On a voyage of discovery

There was nothing strategic about my choice of first degree: just about the only qualifying criterion for choosing astrophysics was that I was fascinated by it. 'What on Earth's he going to do with that?' asked the neighbours, a question my parents answered with a shrug and a smile; a challenge I should thank them for never having put to me.

I didn't have a well-formed idea of what university was all about. Only the hope that it would be the start of a voyage of exploration whose final destination might be as wonderful as it was unknown. It didn't disappoint. The course was filled with exotic objects and ideas of a beauty indescribable in any spoken language; it was at the edge of the envelope, the bluest of all blue-sky thinking. And all of this they slotted neatly alongside the

real education; the one gleaned from our extracurricular lives. I have a lot to thank the department of physics and astronomy at University College London for. I'm not sure I was a natural student. Indeed they dragged me often kicking, sometimes screaming, through the three years, leaving me equipped at the end with a decent degree in science and an understanding that from there anything was possible.

Of my friends who studied science many went on to lucrative city jobs, others embarked upon successful media careers, some continued in their exploration of space, and a few collided particles at Cern. None of us, as far as I'm aware, was left wanting, either intellectually or financially. I went back to university to study medicine, something that had seemed remote as a possibility while I was at school. Later I'd

get a chance to work with Nasa. We all carried into our new lives approaches to problem solving and systems of thought that continue as assets today.

Anything that encourages people to pursue science as a field of study is to be welcomed. The Dangoor scholarships will, I hope, help prospective students make that most difficult leap of faith: to know that the pursuit of a fascination and a degree in science constitute a passport to a world without walls.

Kevin Fong is a doctor specialising in anaesthesia and intensive care medicine, an honorary senior lecturer in physiology at UCL, an occasional broadcaster and columnist, he works for the Science, Technology and Facilities Council's Futures Programme.



ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR A £1,000 AWARD?

The Eliahou Dangoor scholarships, worth £1,000 each, are aimed at first-year undergraduate students studying for degrees in approved maths, science and engineering subjects.

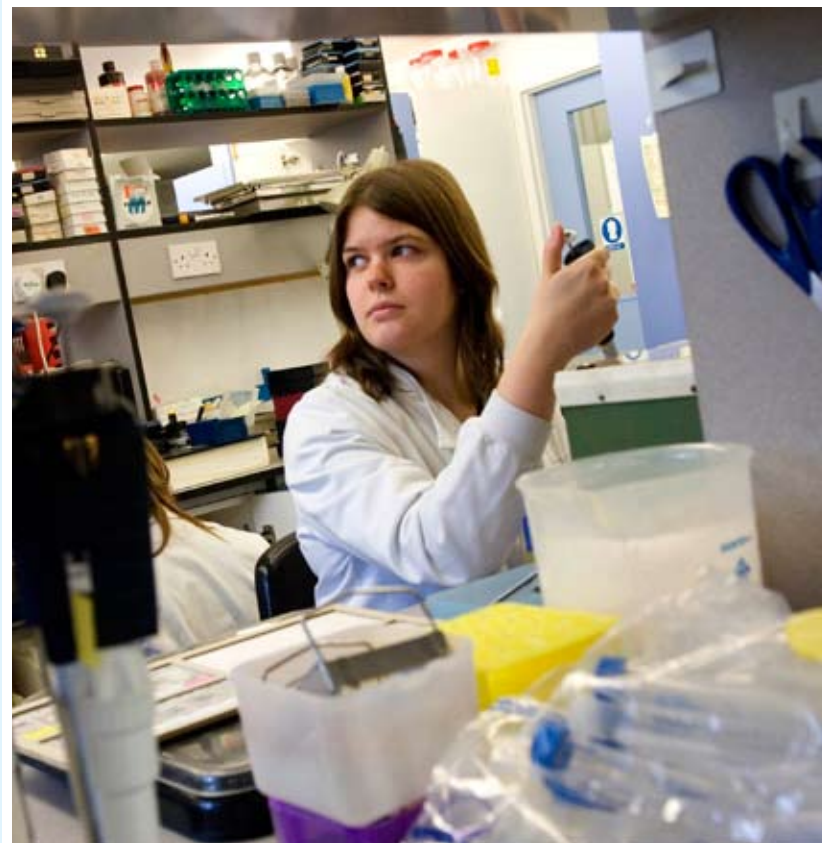
A few scholarships will also be available for students taking postgraduate certificates of education focusing on science or design and technology.

To be eligible to apply for the scholarships, students must be home, fee-paying students studying at one of 38 1994 Group or Russell Group institutions,

which together represent the major research-intensive UK universities. Part-time students are eligible to apply for half of the full scholarship.

It will be up to individual institutions to assess the applications and distribute the scholarships according to their own criteria. Most beneficiaries will be from underprivileged backgrounds. This could mean their parental income is low or that they are the first member of their family to go to university.

More details available at 1994group.ac.uk/dangoor and russellgroup.ac.uk/dangoor



Inspired by a love of science

On the day Hayley Lavender left to start her degree in molecular and cellular biology her father told her she would be back within a week. "He didn't think it was a good career path," she says.

He was wrong. Not only did she stay for the four years of her course at the University of Bath, graduating with a high 2.1, but she has remained in academia and is now a research assistant at the University of Oxford, working in the production of monoclonal antibodies. She is hoping to continue in academic research and eventually do a PhD.

She says the Dangoor scholarship, which she received at the beginning of the 2005 academic year, allowed her to buy all the recommended textbooks for her course. This,

she believes played a crucial part in her studies and her academic performance.

Now 23, Hayley cannot remember a time when she was not interested in science. She recalls being inspired at the age of six by a neighbour who had studied it at university and came back with tales of dissecting frogs and conducting experiments. Even though there was little history of science in the family – her mother works in a hotel and her father is a builder, she received encouragement from her school science teacher.

"I think science teaches valuable skills in everything else you do," she says. "You learn how to follow instructions, how to work with different people and how to solve problems."

1994 group >

Established to promote excellence in research and teaching. To enhance student and staff experience within our universities and to set the agenda for higher education.

RUSSELL INTERNATIONAL EXCELLENCE GROUP



(Northern Ireland)

Property tycoon donates £3m to help poor university students

Iraqi Naim Dangoor says money is his way of repaying the gratitude he felt to UK for giving him an education in the 1930s

**Online (via Guardian)
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He married a former Miss Baghdad and has named the scholarships after his father, Eliahou Dangoor.

In 2005, when he gave £1m to universities, he said: "I promised myself that, if I was ever able to help a British university student, I would, to assist the native people of the country that welcomed me. But I never dreamed I would be able to make such a big contribution."

Sir Martin Harris, director of the government's university access watchdog Offa, said: "It is heartening to see help for students on such a generous scale from a private donor. Our research has shown that awards of this kind have the potential to encourage students to apply for leading universities."

A study published last week found that a quarter of university students from low-income families were unaware of the roughly £200m on offer each year to help them pay their way through their degree courses.



Refugee pays UK student bursaries

08 December 2009

An Iraqi refugee who sought asylum in Britain is to fund one of the biggest scholarship schemes to have been launched for UK university students.

Property developer Naim Dangoor, who left Iraq for the UK in the 1960s, says he wants the £3m donation to be a way of expressing his gratitude.

He will contribute towards bursaries for 4,000 students in subjects including science and maths. University leader Paul Wellings praised this "generous donation".

"I promised myself that if I was ever able to help a British university student I would, to assist the native people of the country that welcomed me. But I never dreamt I would be able to make such a big contribution," said Dr Dangoor.

Engineering graduate

The scholarships, to be launched on Tuesday, will be for students at leading research universities in the UK - belonging either to the Russell Group or the 1994 Group.

The £1,000 bursaries, given in addition to other existing financial support, will be for students taking the so-called "STEM" subjects of science, technology, engineering and maths.

Dr Dangoor, now aged 95, studied engineering at university in London in the 1930s, before returning to Iraq, where he developed a property and manufacturing business.

He left Iraq amid political upheavals in the 1960s - leaving behind his business and seeking refuge in the UK.

Starting again, Dr Dangoor created another property business in the UK. This has funded a number of causes, including a community centre for other immigrants in west London, sponsoring an Academy in Westminster and supporting a journal for the Jewish Iraqi community.

The £3m donated by Dr Dangoor will be supplemented by additional funding from the government - with the awards to be called "Eliahou Dangoor Scholarships", after the sponsor's father.

The scholarships will be administered by individual universities and will be targeted at students from the UK beginning courses next autumn.

Students 'unaware'

Paul Wellings, chairman of the 1994 Group of universities, welcomed the extra money to support students as a "tremendous addition".

But he expressed concern over the lack of students' understanding over the complex range of bursaries and grants.

"We are concerned that some students, particularly from poorer backgrounds, may be put off from applying to university because of misinformation or lack of understanding about the generous support available," he said.

Wendy Piatt, head of the Russell Group of universities, praised this "magnificent scheme".

"We hope more people will be prompted to consider studying science and maths-based subjects at the UK's leading universities.

"Although there has been a welcome increase in science and maths students in recent years, we have been deeply concerned by the long term decline in students taking these subjects at A-level and beyond."

New scholarships for Cardiff University

Katie Norman
10 December 2009

NEW undergraduate scholarships have been established for Cardiff University students studying science, engineering, technology and maths.

In September, 30 first-year undergraduates will benefit from a £1,000 grant as part of a £4m UK-wide scheme called the Eliahou Dangoor Scholarships.

Thanks to a £3m donation from property developer Dr Naim Dangoor and additional government funding, the scheme aims to financially assist up to 4,000 students studying science and maths-based subjects at UK universities.

Cardiff University, which is the only Welsh institution to benefit from the initiative, has been awarded around £30,000 for undergraduate students from lower income backgrounds.

Dr David Grant, Cardiff University's vice-chancellor, said: "These scholarships represent another major investment in ensuring we are able to offer a higher education to the most talented students regardless of background.

"We are looking forward to playing our part in developing the top scientists and engineers of the future, made possible through this generous donation."

Dr Dangoor has said that this scholarships, named in honour of his father Eliahou Dangoor, are his way of thanking the country that gave him refuge after he fled anti-Semitic persecution Iraq.

The 95-year-old Jewish Iraqi came to London to study engineering 75 years ago and later returned to Iraq where he built up a successful business empire.

After being forced to leave his homeland due to persecution in the 1960s, he arrived in the UK with nothing.

But over the years Dr Dangoor has built up a successful property portfolio and he is now a multi-millionaire.

He was awarded an OBE three years ago in recognition of his services to the Jewish community in London, to which he belongs.

Dr Dangoor's donation follows a previous gift of £1m to British universities in 2005.

He said at the time: "I promised myself that, if I was ever able to help a British university student, I would, to assist the native people of the country that welcomed me. But I never dreamt I would be able to make such a big contribution."

Details of when and how students will be chosen to receive the new grants are still being finalised, but it is anticipated that there will not be an application process and candidates will instead be selected in accordance with the scheme's specified criteria.

Cardiff University intends to publish more details of the selection process on its website in due course.

The scholarships are being administered by the Russell Group and the 1994 Group, who together represent around 40 UK universities, including Oxford and Cambridge.

The bursaries created by Dr Dangoor will be available only to students taking science, technology, engineering and maths courses — subjects earmarked by the Government as needing a vital boost to graduate numbers.

Dr Wendy Piatt, the director general of the Russell Group, said she hoped the grants would prompt more people to consider studying science and maths-based subjects at UK universities. She said: “Although there has been a welcome increase in science and maths students in recent years, we have been deeply concerned by the long term decline in students taking these subjects at A-level and beyond.

“Schemes like the Eliahou Dangoor scholarship build on this upturn in popularity which, in the long run, will mean that the UK can continue to be home to more than its fair share of the world’s top scientists, engineers and entrepreneurs.”

To ensure the maximum number of students are aware of the scholarship, leaflets and posters are being distributed to state schools across the country.

Both the Russell Group and 1994 Group will also be providing their own Eliahou Dangoor scholarships pages on their websites, which will include information on the number of scholarships available, criteria for students, and how to apply.

The UK’s leading universities have faced increasing pressure in recent years to widen participation and recruit more students from poorer backgrounds.

Last week a report by Office for Fair Access (OFFA) warned that many students are unaware of the bursaries on offer.

Russell Group and 1994 Group universities launch £4 million scholarships scheme

Online

08 December 2009

The 1994 Group and the Russell Group of universities will today launch a groundbreaking £1000 scholarship for students who wish to study science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) subjects.

The 'Eliahou Dangoor Scholarships', launched with a £3 million donation over three years, will be the largest private bursary or scholarship widening participation scheme known to the Office for Fair Access (OFFA) in the UK, and will be administered across Russell Group and 1994 Group universities. Matched funding from government is expected to bring the total funding available to over £4 million.

Thanks to the generous donation from Dr Naim Dangoor, a successful property developer, this scholarship will assist up to 4000 students, most from under-privileged backgrounds, to study vital science and maths-based subjects at the UK's leading research-intensive universities.

Dr Dangoor has said that this scholarship, named in honour of his father Eliahou Dangoor, is his way of thanking the country that gave him refuge after he left Iraq in the 1960s. It is hoped that this ambitious scheme will encourage more young people to consider studying STEM subjects at one of the country's leading universities.

Both the 1994 Group and Russell Group have warmly welcomed the donation and the creation of the scholarship. Professor Paul Wellings, Vice Chancellor of Lancaster University and Chair of the 1994 Group of universities said: "Dr Naim Dangoor's generous donation will support talented students to study at the leading universities in the United Kingdom.

"With record numbers of applications to university the signs are that the current system of variable bursaries, fees and loans, with no upfront costs and generous repayment terms, are not acting as a deterrent.

"Nevertheless, we are concerned that some students, particularly from poorer backgrounds, may be put off from applying to university because of misinformation or lack of understanding about the generous support available.

"These scholarships are a tremendous addition to the range of bursaries our universities offer to help ensure that students fulfil their potential and are encouraged to apply to leading universities."

Dr Wendy Piatt, Director General of the Russell Group, said: "Russell Group universities are working hard to ensure that information about bursaries - including this magnificent scheme - is being constantly updated and improved.

"The new Russell Group website will also serve as a helpful gateway for students looking for information about the financial support available at all of our universities. We hope more people will be prompted to consider studying science and maths-based subjects at the UK's leading universities.

"Although there has been a welcome increase in science and maths students in recent years, we are still deeply concerned by the long term decline in students - particularly those from low-income backgrounds - taking these subjects at A-level and beyond."

Prof Michael Arthur, Chair of the Russell Group added: "Schemes like the Eliahou Dangoor scholarship build on this upturn in popularity which, in the long run, will mean that the UK can continue to be home to more than its fair share of the world's top scientists, engineers and entrepreneurs."

Welcoming this announcement, Sir Martin Harris, Director of OFFA said: "It is heartening to see help for students on such a generous scale from a private donor. Our research has shown that awards of this kind have the potential to encourage students to apply for leading universities and we hope they will be widely publicised and play a part in helping to raise aspirations in schools and colleges."



Refugee pays UK student bursaries

**Online (via BBC)
08 December 2009**

An Iraqi refugee who sought asylum in Britain is to fund one of the biggest scholarship schemes to have been launched for UK university students.

Property developer Naim Dangoor, who left Iraq for the UK in the 1960s, says he wants the £3m donation to be a way of expressing his gratitude.

He will contribute towards bursaries for 4,000 students in subjects including science and maths. University leader Paul Wellings praised this "generous donation".

"I promised myself that if I was ever able to help a British university student I would, to assist the native people of the country that welcomed me. But I never dreamt I would be able to make such a big contribution," said Dr Dangoor.

Engineering graduate

The scholarships, to be launched on Tuesday, will be for students at leading research universities in the UK - belonging either to the Russell Group or the 1994 Group.

The £1,000 bursaries, given in addition to other existing financial support, will be for students taking the so-called "STEM" subjects of science, technology, engineering and maths.

Dr Dangoor, now aged 95, studied engineering at university in London in the 1930s, before returning to Iraq, where he developed a property and manufacturing business.

He left Iraq amid political upheavals in the 1960s - leaving behind his business and seeking refuge in the UK.

Starting again, Dr Dangoor created another property business in the UK. This has funded a number of causes, including a community centre for other immigrants in west London, sponsoring an Academy in Westminster and supporting a journal for the Jewish Iraqi community.

The £3m donated by Dr Dangoor will be supplemented by additional funding from the government - with the awards to be called "Eliahou Dangoor Scholarships", after the sponsor's father.

The scholarships will be administered by individual universities and will be targeted at students from the UK beginning courses next autumn.

Students 'unaware'

Paul Wellings, chairman of the 1994 Group of universities, welcomed the extra money to support students as a "tremendous addition".

But he expressed concern over the lack of students' understanding over the complex range of bursaries and grants.

"We are concerned that some students, particularly from poorer backgrounds, may be put off from applying to university because of misinformation or lack of understanding about the generous support available," he said.

Wendy Piatt, head of the Russell Group of universities, praised this "magnificent scheme".

"We hope more people will be prompted to consider studying science and maths-based subjects at the UK's leading universities.

"Although there has been a welcome increase in science and maths students in recent years, we have been deeply concerned by the long term decline in students taking these subjects at A-level and beyond."



Exiled tycoon gives £3m to students

Sideways news -online

08 December 2009

Fleeing Iraq to escape anti-Semitic persecution, Naim Dangoor was forced to abandon his lucrative Baghdad business empire and arrived in Britain with little option but to start again from scratch.

More than 40 years later Mr Dangoor, 95, has donated £3 million to help poor students through university - the largest single sum in UK history ever given to such a cause.

Mr Dangoor - who read engineering at the University of London in the 1930s - said the money was his way of repaying the gratitude he felt to Britain for giving him an education.

The government will donate an additional £1 million to Mr Dangoor's gift, meaning that 4,000 university applicants will each receive £1,000.

Grants will go to almost 40 of the UK's most competitive universities for students doing science, maths, engineering and technology degrees - all subjects the government wants to become more popular.

Mr Dangoor returned to Iraq after completing his studies and built a number of profitable businesses, including a furniture factory and a property development company.

However, life became difficult after the revolution of 1958 in which the king was killed and the Baath Party came to power - one of the tools by which Saddam Hussein later maintained a tight grip on his country.

Mr Dangoor escaped Iraq alongside many other Jews and returned to the UK in the 1960s with his wife - a former Miss Baghdad - and four sons.

Despite being almost 50, Mr Dangoor instated another property development business and was ultimately successful.

He has named the scholarships after his father, Eliahou Dangoor.



‘SFS Group Ltd has been a market leader in the provision of leading edge insurance in independent education since 1989.’

UK universities receive bursary boost

**Online
08 December 2009**

An Iraqi property developer has made funding available to people hoping to attend university in the UK.

Naim Dangoor has donated £3 million, which will be given in bursaries to students hoping to study science and maths-related subjects.

"I promised myself that if I was ever able to help a British university student I would, to assist the native people of the country that welcomed me," Dr Dangoor commented.

The funding will be made available from Tuesday (December 15th) to students of UK research universities which fall into the 1994 Group or Russell Group.

His donation has been matched with government funding, which will provide bursaries of £1,000.

According to the Office for Fair Access, bursaries are helping to overcome financial barriers to higher education.

It said that more needs to be done to educate people in the benefits of bursaries in independent schools and state schools alike.



Dangoor Scholarships at Russell Group universities

09 December 2009

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Jxrf_gkZSs

Video introducing the groundbreaking £1000 'Eliahou Dangoor scholarships' for students who wish to study science, technology, engineering or maths (STEM) subjects at one of the Russell Group or 1994 Group of leading UK universities



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Dangoor scholarships at Russell Group universities



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MARIO CREATURA

Speech given at the Royal Society about Dangoor Scholarships

Blog <http://mariocreatura.blogspot.com/2009/12/speech-given-at-royal-society-about.html>
08 December 2009

I am a Dangoor scholar. Just being able to say those words adds a certain level of gravitas doesn't it? When I first heard those words my mind was overflowing with images of robed lecturers, flying mortar boards and dusty tomes. Stereotypes are wonderful things aren't they?

But it didn't mean that at all. What it did mean was something far more deep and meaningful.

I come from working class Italian parents, parents who came to England, parents who had no experience of further let alone higher education. They encouraged me in my studies and enshrined within me an appreciation of all learning regardless of subject. For them, if their son was interested in it then it was worth studying.

Interest. Curiosity. These are the things that spurred me on. My parents didn't understand why I wanted to go to university. My father took me aside one day and said to me "Son, I see students work all the time for nothing! Wasting time before getting their hands dirty in the real world. By the time you get a degree you could be a manager in a 'real' job!" They didn't understand. But they supported my stubborn will regardless. *I* wanted to go to university.

Then I came across a problem. My first major hurdle. How was I going to pay for it? I started doing the maths. Money for accommodation; money for bills; money for books; money for transport; money for food; and money for drink (very important!). It all started adding up. My parents tried but were unable to support me. What was I to do? What I had spent my life studying for? My goal seemed dead in the water.

But then I heard about the Dangoor Scholarships. I heard that an incredible man had decided out of the kindness of his heart, with no personal gain whatsoever, to financially support students. Young people who had the same curiosity and interest that he had when he came to London to study engineering all those years ago. His name is Naim Dangoor.

Dr Dangoor realised that money should not be an obstacle to education. Dr Dangoor realised that hard work and a meticulous attention to your studies gets you a world class education – something that money can help, but not buy. I was lucky enough to receive a Dangoor Scholarship. It would be naive to think that it alleviated all of my financial woes, but it helped just that little bit. It meant that I could work at my part time job 2 days a week instead of 5. It meant that I could read my journals and write my essays and temporarily ignore my monetary worries.

The scholarship did not solve my financial difficulties whilst at university. Hard work and good planning did. But it alleviated them just enough so that I could focus on my degree; focus on co-curricular activities like volunteering in my local community, focus on working with my students' union - supporting students like me who had come under similar hardship. There is no doubt in my mind that the scholarship helped me. The generosity of Dr Dangoor ensured that I could grab higher education by the horns and live my university life to the full. Something that, in hindsight, I might not have been able to do without his crucial help.

I went to Royal Holloway and it's motto is 'Esse Quam Videri' which means 'To be rather than to seem'. Rather fitting don't you think? The desire to pursue higher education was in me. But it *seemed* that my financial situation would stop me. Dr Dangoor enabled me *to be*, to be a student fully rather than just to struggle along. And for that I wish to join the rest of the room this evening and say – from a Dangoor Scholar to a Dangoor – thank you.

Point of no return

Information and links about the Middle East's forgotten Jewish refugees

Iraqi exile gives £3m for UK university scholarships

Blog <http://jewishrefugees.blogspot.com/2009/12/iraqi-exile-gives-3m-for-uk-university.html>

08 December 2009

A Jew who fled anti-Semitism in his native Iraq is now giving something back to his new home - Britain. A gift of £3 million will fund the Eliahou Dangoor scholarships for needy students at the best universities, *The Times* reports

When he fled Iraq and arrived in Britain as a refugee in the 1960s, Naim Dangoor had to abandon his lucrative business empire and comfortable lifestyle in Baghdad and start again from scratch. Now aged 95, and the wealthy head of a successful property investment company, Dr Dangoor is giving something back by donating £3 million in scholarships, so bright teenagers from poor families can go to university.

It is a debt of gratitude to the country where he was educated in 1930s, and returned to raise his family. Dr Dangoor was forced to leave Iraq because of anti-Semitic persecution after the revolution, and was awarded an OBE in 2006 because of his services to the Jewish community in London, to which he belongs.

His donation is worth £4 million with matched funding from the Government. This will pay for bursaries of £1,000, for 4,000 students from deprived backgrounds who are the first in their families to study at university.

It will be announced tomorrow by the Russell Group and 1994 Group, who together make up almost 40 leading universities including Oxford and Cambridge, and will give out the scholarships. They have come under pressure from ministers in recent years to take on more students from under-privileged areas and become less exclusive.

Dr Dangoor, who married a former Miss Baghdad and went on to have four sons, has named the scholarships after his father Eliahou Dangoor.



Renee (Mrs Naim) Dangoor: Miss Baghdad (Photo: The Scribe)

It is not the first time he has made such a donation; when he gave £1 million to universities in 2005, he said: “I promised myself that, if I was ever able to help a British university student, I would, to assist the native people of the country that welcomed me. But I never dreamt I would be able to make such a big contribution.” Now he has trebled that amount.

Dr Dangoor’s son David, who was 10 when the family left Iraq, has organised the latest donation on his father’s behalf. He told *The Times*: “When my father was 17 he came to the UK for three years to study engineering at the University of London — at a time when you had to spend five days coming here by road and boat from what was then Palestine.

“He went back to Baghdad afterwards to help build bridges, some of which were destroyed in 2003 [after the invasion]. While here, he felt he had a special boost to his education and that, if he was able to, one day he’d like repay the debt.

“My father went into business in Iraq and was quite successful. He built a furniture factory and a match factory. He had a property development company and the Coca-Cola franchise.

“In the early 1950s, after the creation of Israel, most of the Jews left Iraq — whereas in 1917 the population of Baghdad had been 40 per cent Jewish.

“Those who had businesses tried to stay behind, and my father was one of those. But things became difficult after the revolution in 1958 when the king was killed and the Baath Party came to power.

“He brought his family to the UK in the 1960s and we were very lucky to be accepted. I had my primary education in Baghdad and my secondary education in Britain.

“He had to start more or less from scratch as he was not allowed to take money out of Iraq. My father chose his liberty over his assets, and gave it all up. He was almost 50 when he came to the UK. Over the years he built up a property development business and was ultimately successful.” Dr Dangoor came to Britain at the same time as other Iraqi Jews, including the families of the Saatchi brothers and Alan Yentob, his son said.



Queen Mary alumnus invests millions in the future of UK science and engineering

07 December 2009

An ambitious scholarship scheme to help the poorest students pursue their dreams in science and engineering, and sponsored by an alumnus of Queen Mary, University of London, has been announced today.

Successful businessman and Queen Mary alumnus, Dr Naim Dangoor, has pledged a generous £3 million to give talented students the opportunity to study science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects at 1994 Group and Russell Group universities; the UK's leading higher education institutions. The grants will be matched by the chosen institutions and by government.

The Eliahou Dangoor Scholarships hope to encourage students to study subjects that are vital to the country's international standing and future economic growth, but have seen a recent decline in popularity.

Queen Mary is especially pleased to participate in this scheme as Dr Naim Dangoor studied Engineering at the College during the 1930s. Queen Mary is also delighted to extend the scheme's proposed funding, increasing the number of scholarships available at the College to 33 per year for three years.

Dr Dangoor has said that the scholarships, named in honour of his father Eliahou Dangoor, are his way of thanking the country that gave him refuge after he left Iraq in the 1960s.

Professor Simon Gaskell, Queen Mary's Principal, said: "The Eliahou Dangoor Scholarship scheme is both generous and insightful. By opening up opportunities like this, we hope to produce the next generation of top graduates with the skills needed to maintain the UK's leading position in innovative and technological industries."



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Russell Group and 1994 Group universities launch £4 million scholarships scheme

08 December 09

The 1994 Group and the Russell Group of universities will today launch a groundbreaking £1000 scholarship for students who wish to study science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) subjects.

The 'Eliahou Dangoor Scholarships', launched with a £3 million donation over three years, will be the largest private bursary or scholarship widening participation scheme known to the Office for Fair Access (OFFA) in the UK, and will be administered across Russell Group and 1994 Group universities. Matched funding from government is expected to bring the total funding available to over £4 million.

Thanks to the generous donation from Dr Naim Dangoor, a successful property developer, this scholarship will assist up to 4000 students, most from under-privileged backgrounds, to study vital science and maths-based subjects at the UK's leading research-intensive universities.

Dr Dangoor has said that this scholarship, named in honour of his father Eliahou Dangoor, is his way of thanking the country that gave him refuge after he left Iraq in the 1960s. It is hoped that this ambitious scheme will encourage more young people to consider studying STEM subjects at one of the country's leading universities.

Both the 1994 Group and Russell Group have warmly welcomed the donation and the creation of the scholarship. Professor Paul Wellings, Vice Chancellor of Lancaster University and Chair of the 1994 Group of universities said: "Dr Naim Dangoor's generous donation will support talented students to study at the leading universities in the United Kingdom.

"With record numbers of applications to university the signs are that the current system of variable bursaries, fees and loans, with no upfront costs and generous repayment terms, are not acting as a deterrent. Nevertheless, we are concerned that some students, particularly from poorer backgrounds, may be put off from applying to university because of misinformation or lack of understanding about the generous support available. These scholarships are a tremendous addition to the range of bursaries our universities offer to help ensure that students fulfil their potential and are encouraged to apply to leading universities."

Dr Wendy Piatt, Director General of the Russell Group, said: "Russell Group universities are working hard to ensure that information about bursaries - including this magnificent scheme - is being constantly updated and improved. The new Russell Group website will also serve as a helpful gateway for students looking for information about the financial support available at all of our universities. We hope more people will be prompted to consider studying science and maths-based subjects at the UK's leading universities.

"Although there has been a welcome increase in science and maths students in recent years, we are still deeply concerned by the long term decline in students - particularly those from low-income backgrounds - taking these subjects at A-level and beyond."

Prof Michael Arthur, Chair of the Russell Group added: "Schemes like the Eliahou Dangoor scholarship build on this upturn in popularity which, in the long run, will mean that the UK can continue to be home to more than its fair share of the world's top scientists, engineers and entrepreneurs."



Scholarship scheme rewards talent

08 December 2009

Students at Leicester to benefit from new awards

Talented students seeking to study Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths at the University of Leicester are to be entitled to a £1000 scholarship, it is announced today (Tuesday 8 December). Students achieving AAA (excluding general studies) will be entitled to the scholarship made available through the generous support of Dr Naim Dangoor.

Dr Dangoor has said that this scholarship, named in honour of his father Eliahou Dangoor, is his way of thanking the country that gave him refuge after he left Iraq in the 1960s. It is hoped that this ambitious scheme will encourage more young people to consider studying STEM subjects at the country's leading universities.

The £3 million donation over three years is the largest private bursary or scholarship widening participation scheme known to the Office for Fair Access (OFFA) in the UK, and will be administered across Russell Group and 1994 Group universities. Matched funding from government is expected to bring the total funding available to £4 million.

At Leicester, students applying for the following will be eligible:

- Biological Sciences
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Engineering
- Geology
- Mathematics
- Physics & Astronomy (including i-science)

Students must have been resident in the UK for three years prior to entry at the University of Leicester. There is no application mechanism and no limit to the number of awards that can be made. Eligible students will automatically receive the scholarship in January of their first year.

Richard Taylor, Director of Marketing & Communications said: "Leicester seeks to recruit the brightest and best regardless of background. This very generous donation will help us with our work attracting those with talent to the University from across the UK".

Professor Paul Wellings, Chair of the 1994 Group of universities, of which Leicester is a member, said: "Dr Naim Dangoor's generous donation will support talented students to study at the leading universities in the United Kingdom. With record numbers of applications to university the signs are that the current system of variable bursaries, fees and loans, with no upfront costs and generous repayment terms, are not acting as a deterrent. Nevertheless, we are concerned that some students, particularly from poorer backgrounds, may be put off from applying to university because of misinformation or lack of understanding about the generous support available. These scholarships are a tremendous addition to the range of bursaries our universities offer to help ensure that students fulfill their potential and are encouraged to apply to leading universities."



Boost for STEM students at University of Nottingham

08 December 2009

New students at The University of Nottingham will benefit from a £3m national scholarship scheme.

Students embarking on degree courses in STEM subjects — Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths — from 2010 could be eligible for financial help through the Eliahou Dangoor Scholarships Scheme.

A £3m donation is being made to 38 of the UK's top universities, including The University of Nottingham, by Dr Naim Dangoor. Named in honour of Dr Dangoor's father, the donation will fund scholarships for students from underprivileged backgrounds over the next three years.

With matched funding from the government, the scheme will be worth a total of £4 million and will benefit thousands of first year students commencing degrees in STEM subjects from 2010-2012.

The University of Nottingham will be offering up to 40 scholarships per year worth £1,000 each, for first-year home undergraduates who are liable to pay tuition fees and meet the eligibility criteria.

The scheme has its official launch at the Royal Society in London, on December 8th. Speakers will include the universities minister David Lammy MP, Lord (Melvyn) Bragg, Chancellor of the University of Leeds, the Chairs of the Russell Group and the 1994 Group of universities, and graduates who received Dangoor scholarships under a previous scheme at 1994 Group institutions.

Guests will include the Dangoor family, vice-chancellors, students/graduates who have benefitted from the Dangoor scholarships, Government representatives, senior Higher Education figures, and guests of the Dangoor family.

Dr Dangoor, 95, is the head of a successful property investment company who arrived in Britain as a refugee in the 1960s after fleeing persecution in Iraq. He was awarded an OBE in 2006 because of his services to the Jewish community in London, to which he belongs.

The scholarships will be targeted at students coming to study STEM subjects who may otherwise be deterred from entering university — for example, students from families with no experience of higher education and students from low income backgrounds.

Information about the Eliahou Dangoor Scholarships to be available at The University of Nottingham are available at: www.nottingham.ac.uk/financialsupport

Further details, including the full list of eligible courses and an application form, will be available on this site from mid-January 2010. Enquiries prior to this date can be directed to the Financial Support Team on 0115 8232071, or financialsupport@nottingham.ac.uk



Lancaster shares in a £4 million scholarship scheme

08 December 2009

The 1994 Group and the Russell Group of universities have launched a groundbreaking £1000 scholarship for students who wish to study science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) subjects at university.

Lancaster University is expecting to award around 30 scholarships, worth £1,000 each, to eligible students to help support their studies.

The 'Eliahou Dangoor Scholarships', launched with a £3 million donation over three years, will be the largest private bursary or scholarship widening participation scheme known to the Office for Fair Access (OFFA) in the UK, and will be administered across Russell Group and 1994 Group universities. Matched funding from government is expected to bring the total funding available to £4 million.

Thanks to the generous donation from Dr Naim Dangoor, a successful property developer, this scholarship will assist up to 4000 students, most from under-privileged backgrounds, to study vital science and maths-based subjects at the UK's leading research-intensive universities.

Dr Dangoor has said that this scholarship, named in honour of his father Eliahou Dangoor, is his way of thanking the country that gave him refuge after he left Iraq in the 1960s. It is hoped that this ambitious scheme will encourage more young people to consider studying STEM subjects at one of the country's leading universities.

Professor Paul Wellings, Vice Chancellor of Lancaster University and Chair of the 1994 Group of universities warmly welcomed the donation and the creation of the scholarships. He said: "Dr Naim Dangoor's generous donation will support talented students to study at the leading universities in the United Kingdom. With record numbers of applications to university the signs are that the current system of variable bursaries, fees and loans, with no upfront costs and generous repayment terms, are not acting as a deterrent. Nevertheless, we are concerned that some students particularly from poorer backgrounds, may be put off from applying to university because of misinformation or lack of understanding about the generous support available. These scholarships are a tremendous addition to the range of bursaries our universities offer to help ensure that students fulfil their potential and are encouraged to apply to leading universities."

The Eliahou Dangoor scholarships will be administered by each 1994 Group and Russell Group university. To qualify for the £1000 scholarship students must be due to enter their first year of study at either a Russell Group or 1994 Group university.

Goldsmiths to take part in Eliahou Dangoor Scholarship scheme

08 December 2009

Goldsmiths, University of London has confirmed it will be taking part in a scheme which provides £1000 scholarship for students who wish to study science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) subjects at university.

The Russell Group and 1994 Group of universities have launched the 'Eliahou Dangoor Scholarships' which will see a £3million donation made over three years.

There are up to 33 scholarships available every year for three years to prospective students who have a strong academic ability to study for a full or part-time undergraduate degree at Goldsmiths from September 2010.

To be eligible, students must be in their first year of study in the Department of Computing on one of the following courses; BSc Computer Science, BSc Computing & Information Systems, BSc Creative Computing, BSc Information Technology or BSc Internet Computing. Part-time students may be eligible for a reduced scholarship of £500.

The scheme will be the largest private bursary or scholarship widening participation scheme known to the Office for Fair Access (OFFA) in the UK, and will be administered across Russell Group and 1994 Group universities. Matched funding from government is expected to bring the total funding available to £4 million.

Thanks to the generous donation from Dr Naim Dangoor, a successful property developer, this scholarship will assist up to 4000 students, most from under-privileged backgrounds, to study vital science and maths-based subjects at the UK's leading research-intensive universities.

Dr Dangoor has said that this scholarship, named in honour of his father Eliahou Dangoor, is his way of thanking the country that gave him refuge after he left Iraq in the 1960s. It is hoped that this ambitious scheme will encourage more young people to consider studying STEM subjects at one of the country's leading universities.



New scholarship fund for undergraduates

08 December 2009

Thirty first-year undergraduate students at the University are to benefit from a £1,000 scholarship scheme for students studying science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM) subjects at research-intensive universities.

In the region of £30,000 has been awarded to Cardiff University to assist undergraduate students from lower income backgrounds, thanks to the generous donation from Dr Naim Dangoor, a successful property developer.

The 'Eliahou Dangoor Scholarships' will assist up to 4,000 students in the UK to study science and maths-based subjects at the UK's Russell Group of leading research-intensive universities and the 1994 Group of universities. Cardiff is the only university in Wales to receive funding for the scholarships.

The Scholarships have been launched with a £3 million donation over three years, Matched funding from government is expected to bring the total funding available to £4 million.

Dr Dangoor has said that this scholarship, named in honour of his father Eliahou Dangoor, is his way of thanking the country that gave him refuge after he left Iraq in the 1960s. It is hoped that this ambitious scheme will encourage more young people to consider studying STEM subjects at one of the country's leading universities.

Dr David Grant, Cardiff University's Vice-Chancellor said: "These scholarships represent another major investment in ensuring we are able to offer a higher education to the most talented students regardless of background. We are looking forward to playing our part in developing the top scientists and engineers of the future, made possible through this generous donation."

The head of the Russell Group warmly welcomed the donation and the creation of the scholarship. Dr Wendy Piatt, the Director General of the Russell Group of Universities, said: "Russell Group universities are working hard to ensure that information about bursaries – including this magnificent scheme - is being constantly updated and improved. The new Russell Group website will also serve as a handy doorway for students looking for information about the financial support available at all of our universities. We hope more people will be prompted to consider studying science and maths-based subjects at the UK's leading universities. Although there has been a welcome increase in science and maths students in recent years, we have been deeply concerned by the long term decline in students taking these subjects at A-level and beyond. Schemes like the Eliahou Dangoor scholarship build on this upturn in popularity which, in the long run, will mean that the UK can continue to be home to more than its fair share of the world's top scientists, engineers and entrepreneurs."

The official launch of the new Scholarship scheme takes place at the Royal Society in London on Tuesday 8th December, attended by Lord Melvyn Bragg, universities minister David Lammy, and other distinguished guests.



Eliahou Dangoor Scholarships

10 December 2009

The University is very pleased to announce that for the 2010-2011 academic year, it will offer a minimum of 25 Eliahou Dangoor Scholarships to first year Undergraduate students studying science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM subjects).

The Russell Group and 1994 Group of universities have launched a £1000 scholarship for students who wish to study STEM subjects at university. The 'Eliahou Dangoor Scholarships', launched with a £3 million donation over three years, will be one of the largest private bursary or scholarship schemes in the UK. Matched funding from government is expected to bring the total funding available to over £4 million.

The scholarships will support up to 4,000 students, many from under-privileged backgrounds, to study vital science and maths-based subjects at the UK's leading research-intensive universities. It is also hoped that this scheme will encourage more young people to consider studying STEM subjects at one of the country's leading universities.

Dr Naim Dangoor, a multi-millionaire property developer has donated the £3 million funding as a way to thank the UK for giving him refuge after he left Iraq in the 1960s. Dr Dangoor, who is now 95, has named the scholarships in honour of his father Eliahou Dangoor.

The scholarships will be administered by the Russell Group and the 1994 Group, who together represent around 40 of the nation's leading universities, including Warwick.

For more information on how students can benefit from an Eliahou Dangoor Scholarship watch this video from the Russell Group: