

The Harry Lownds Memorial Scholarship

Supporter Report

Autumn 2020



Thank you

The University of Sussex is extremely grateful to Matthew & Becky Lownds and the Lownds family & friends for their ongoing support of the Harry Lownds Memorial Scholarship.

The scholarship provides a lasting memorial to Harry Lownds, an exceptional Sussex alumnus who had a great passion for life science and how it could contribute towards making the world a better place.

The outgoing 2019-20 Lownds scholar is Ieva Didziokaite.
Callum Loader is the incoming 2020/21 recipient of the Harry Lownds Memorial Scholarship.

Their updates follow.



Ieva Didziokaite

Genetic Manipulation and Molecular Cell Biology, MSc – the School of Life Sciences

Dear Mrs & Mr Lownds and family,

I hope you are doing well during these weird times.

Sadly, this is the final letter from me, and I thought you might find it interesting to hear a little bit about my MSc results. In the middle of August, I submitted my MSc dissertation. I did not find the writing process too tedious or boring. In fact, I enjoyed writing about various vaccine platforms, which have been employed to combat the spread of the Ebola virus, and antivirals, which have previously been observed to be effective against it. I have come up with a few exciting ideas, which have been noticed by evaluators, and I got 75% on my MSc dissertation. Therefore, I am happy to tell you that I have been able to graduate my MSc with a Distinction.

Also in the middle of August, I received an offer to join a team of several scientists to write an article about SARS-CoV-2. I find it very interesting and try to spend every free minute that I have reading about this novel virus and ways to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. I am super-excited about this opportunity.

I have had a beautiful time studying at the University of Sussex and met a lot of people that I admire. Although it has been only a few months since I arrived back in



we spent a peaceful evening near lake Alausas in the Utena district

my home country, I already miss the United Kingdom, Sussex and Brighton. As soon as the pandemic ends and it is safe to travel, I plan to visit the UK.

Thank you for your beautiful initiative in creating the Harry Lownds Memorial Scholarship, for its financial support and for the possibility to study at Sussex that it gave me. I will always remember this.

All the best,

leva



a beautiful backyard of one of the restaurants in Vilnius, Lithuania

Callum Loader

Genetic Manipulation and Molecular Cell Biology, MSc – the School of Life Sciences

Dear Mr & Mrs Lownds and family,

I have had the honour of being awarded the Harry Lownds Memorial Scholarship this year for my Masters course in Genetic Manipulation and Molecular Cell Biology.

I am 21-years old and currently living in Seaford with my family, which is where I have lived all my life, apart from the three years that I spent studying Biochemistry at the University of Kent in Canterbury.

After finishing my degree at Kent, I decided that, because of the pandemic, I would be more comfortable returning home. This led to the decision to continue my education at the University of Sussex. I decided to study Genetic Manipulation and Molecular Cell Biology as it will allow me to develop the experiences and skills that I gained in Kent and, although I am not sure on what career I would like to pursue after my education, I realised that I enjoyed the molecular biology aspects of my time in Kent more than any other.



me at my computer at home, which is where I spend most of my time these days. Unfortunately, I was not able to get a photo in the lab as we were not allowed to use mobile phones.

So far, I have enjoyed the course, especially the time that I have been able to spend on campus and work in the teaching labs. This has made Mondays something to look forward to in particular. I've been impressed with the standard of teaching that has been organised, despite limited chances for this teaching to be done in person, and I believe that the University has done a great job ensuring that a high standard has been maintained via Zoom.

Having been awarded this scholarship, I have been able to spend money on the things that are necessary for me to do well during my year at Sussex. This award has removed a great deal of the kind of stress that might otherwise have been entailed by studying at university which has affected me in the past. I believe that this scholarship, as well as living at home with my family this year, has given me a unique opportunity to be successful this year and will give me the best experience possible during a tough year for everyone.

Thank you and best wishes,

Callum Loader



