

Education Scholarship: your opportunity to help.

Saving lives with the help of NLT

My name is David and I have just completed my second year of medical studies in Bangladesh. Studying medicine has taught me to treasure the vast knowledge we have about the human body. Anatomy is fascinating and I love that after five years of learning I will have enough knowledge to be able to save someone's life. This is both bizarre and wonderful and I am utterly amazed at how much we can learn about our bodies. Growing up in Lalgadh, in a medical environment, taught me the value of medical training. Watching the good examples of all the different doctors here has made me certain that this is what I want to do with my life. I want to be able to serve people who are poor and needy, particularly those with leprosy and other skin diseases. They are the worst off in our society.

The value of life is incalculable and the ability to save life, as a doctor, is hugely important. Since I was a little boy, it has been my greatest dream to work in Lalgadh, alongside the other doctors. I want to serve my community, to go into villages and see how I can help and make a real difference in these people's lives. Everyone says that studying medicine is difficult and they are right. There is a lot of rote learning and memorisation of body parts and medicines. We must wake up at 6am every day to be ready for our morning anatomy lectures and dissection classes.



I spend most of my time studying and practising my Bengali so that I can speak to the patients in Bangladesh. For me, though, the hardest part of studying medicine is not the learning but the cost. Becoming a doctor is very expensive. My family cannot afford it, so without the help of NLT I would be unable to finish my studies. I am so honoured that they have supported me so far and hope that they will be able to help me finish my studies. If I can one day become a member of the NLT team, I would be immensely happy. It is this that I am working towards: being able to serve my community as part of the NLT family in which I have grown up.

NLT nurses Laxmi's dream

I am Laxmi, 19 years old. Having just completed my second year of nursing studies, I am keen to encourage others to also study nursing. My education has empowered me to take care of myself, my family, and my community. Being able to make informed decisions about my family's health has proved utterly invaluable to us. It has given us more stability and control over our own lives, as I am able to work to prevent health problems and stop people suffering from avoidable illnesses. Without the help of the scholarship fund, however, it would have been impossible for me to continue my studies after school. My family is very poor. My father, who had leprosy, is the sole provider of income and his salary is not very high.

There is no way they could have afforded to educate me any further without help. The scholarship has given me a foothold on the ladder that I would never have been able to get by myself. Now I can take my future into my own hands. I am doing all I can to succeed at my studies. I am living in a hostel near my college in Janakpur in order to reduce travelling time and boost the time I can spend studying. The work I have been putting in has been paying off and this gives me confidence that if I work hard I will do well and fulfil my lifelong dream of becoming a good nurse.

What I love most about studying nursing is the power it gives me to care for the sick and needy people of my country. Often those who are sick get very down and depressed, particularly if they suffer from diseases that stigmatised them in their communities.

People also suffer greatly if they know that they are jeopardising their families by being ill, as they must frequently choose between medicine and food or education. I encourage them not only to improve their physical health but also their mental health because a positive outlook on life will help them improve their lives. It breaks my heart to see those who are sick and whose health is not improving. I find this to be the most difficult thing about studying nursing. These highs and lows are part of the job, though, so I try my best to focus on the good and not get overwhelmed by the bad. I am very thankful for this opportunity and help from NLT and look forward to a future of caring for the sick.



Bible quotation: A desire fulfilled is a tree of life. **Prov 13 v 12**

Brothers are thinking big



Building dreams

My name is Asis. I am 17 and have just finished my School Leaving Certificate. My dream is to become a civil engineer. I want to build small, beautiful buildings that are strong and, of course, earthquake-proof. I love studying maths; although I will have to learn through English, which I am not very confident about, numbers are the same in every language.

My family, however, is very poor and won't be able to afford to send me to college. I have been studying at the government school, which is not expensive. My mother is our only source of income as my father is frequently sick and cannot get work. If I could get the support of the NLT scholarship fund, it would mean the world to me. I would study hard and become the best civil engineer I could be. My plan, should I graduate, will be first to work in an engineering company to gain experience and then to open my own company. Engineering is my childhood dream and it will be worth working hard to achieve it.

Cooking up adventures

I am Anand and I am 16. I finished school at the same time as my brother. I dream about owning my own restaurant and serving world-class food. I have been cooking since I was a child. My mother taught me well and I really enjoy being in the kitchen. I absolutely love food and cooking. One of my favourite things to do is to try out a recipe that I've never done before. Being adventurous with food is hugely important to me.

Before I can open my own restaurant, though, I would like to study Hotel Management. This would give a good grounding in how to run a business and enable me to get a good job in a hotel. There I would gain a lot of experience and earn money so that I could open my own restaurant.

Unfortunately, my family is very poor, my mother would not be able to pay for me. With the help of the scholarship fund I would throw myself into my studies in order to do well and be the best restaurant owner I could be. I am confident that I can overcome any difficulties.

The privilege of giving

'As a couple we decided to sponsor a young lady through three years of nursing studies. We had heard about her need and were in a position to help. She was a talented student whose family could not afford to send her to college. She had a heart to serve and help others in her community but was stuck because of money.

Our financial commitment was difficult to sustain at times but it has been wonderful to see our student come top of the class in her final year. It is humbling to see someone achieve a serious life goal. The privilege was all ours.'

Anonymous Irish sponsor.

You can help ...

... to build a life, a family, a community and a nation through a single gift or a regular donation. It costs between €2,000 and €5,000 per annum in academic fees, books, and living expenses, per student, depending on the course and location.

Students apply to the NLT Nepal Education and Training Scholarship Scheme and are awarded a grant based on open specific criteria. For details of these, email info@nlt.ie

Examples of courses chosen by students studying under the scholarship fund include:


Medical doctor (5 years)

Staff nurse (3 years)

Pharmacist (3 years)

Community Medical Assistant (1 year)

Apprenticeships



Any donation,
large or small
is hugely
appreciated

If you would like the chance to support and journey with students like David, Laxmi, Asis and Anand, contact Vera by email, info@nlt.ie or phone, 086 2584367

NLT is a signatory of the Dóchas Code of Conduct on Images and Messages. By signing the Code, NLT Ireland commits to a set of principles ensuring that we will avoid stereotypical or sensational images, respect the dignity and equality of all people portrayed and promote fairness, solidarity and justice through all our communications. We also agree a number of commitments to ensure the Code's principles are implemented throughout all activities of our organisation. We welcome feedback about our communications. You may contact us at info@nlt.ie



**CODE OF CONDUCT ON
IMAGES & MESSAGES**

Nepal Leprosy Trust Ireland would like to thank all those who support our work. We are deeply grateful to all the donors, churches and individuals who strengthen our mission in a variety of ways. If you would like more information on any item covered in this edition please contact us by email: info@nlt.ie or phone: 086 2584367. Irish Registered Charity No 14810. Address: 83 Ballygoran View, Celbridge, Co Kildare.