

# David Mather

## FOUNDATION

Raising aspiration in disadvantaged communities.....

**University Edition**



*"I am so pleased to be supporting this project which has real benefits for disadvantaged students in Argentina as well as presenting opportunities for British students"*  
*Dr Geoffrey Thomas, Emeritus Professor, Oxford University*

.....creating exciting opportunities for students

# Who, what, why, how, where.....?

## Who are we?

The David Mather Foundation, registered charity number 1131333 was founded in 2009. It is a small charity with seven trustees in the UK and 4 in Salta, Argentina, ensuring action is appropriately targeted and utilised. [www.davidmatherfoundation.org](http://www.davidmatherfoundation.org)

## What do we do?

We support young people in the disadvantaged communities of Salta Northwest Argentina to achieve their aspirations to higher education by helping them overcome their economic, social and political barriers, through practical and academic support.



## Why is this important ?

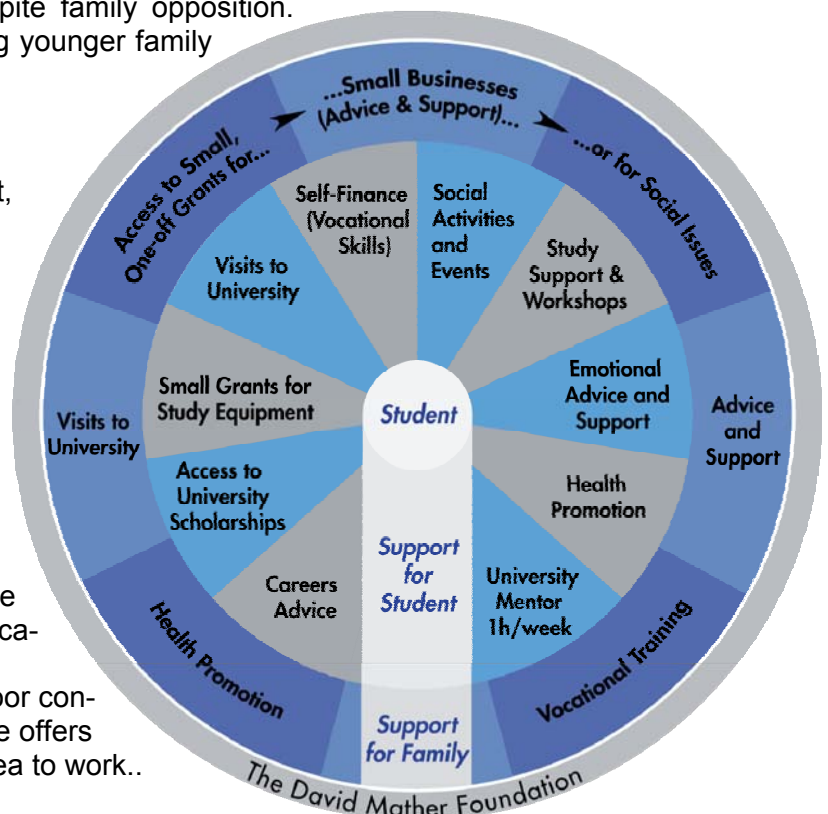
Eighty five per cent of the population of Salta, are aboriginal. Young people from these communities have an extremely poor record of accessing and completing higher education courses. Only 16% of this population are able to start tertiary education and of those only 4% complete their course. (UNDP2005). Many eat, sleep and live in one room homes with no access to educational resources. Our key objective is to enable these young people to have greater access to University programmes and to provide support so that they can successfully gain qualifications and go on to be professionals and the future leaders of their communities. Our inspiration is Irma Miranda who succeeded against the odds, made and sold teddy bears to support herself through university despite family opposition. She is now a qualified accountant inspiring younger family members to follow professional training.

## How?

We work with selected, academically bright, young people from schools in highly disadvantaged communities, who are in the last year of their school education to help prepare them better for higher level education programmes.

We have renovated a central city study centre for our young people to access a range of curriculum support. We provide English and Mathematics lessons, study skills and personal development sessions. Students have access to computers and the internet as well as one to one support and careers sessions.

For our young people overcrowding and poor conditions at home mean that the Study Centre offers the only opportunity of a quiet and calm area to work..



## Currently

We have 9 students at the National University of Salta (UNSA) this year and a further 32 students in their last year of schooling.

### University Visits

The school students are taken to the university to see the courses in action and to recognise that it is a place where they can feel comfortable and will be able to succeed.

Students in the programme are provided with a **University Mentor**, a second or third year student from the University of Salta. These mentors support our academically bright school students in their studies and in particular to achieve their target grades for university. They also help the school students overcome their concerns about attending university which have built up over many generations. Once at University the mentors act as 'buddies' to help them settle in to the ways of working and into the social side of university life.

In the process of supporting our target students, we have the opportunity to strengthen the two universities by creating links with UK universities



## How can your university help.....?



There are opportunities for UK students to access exchange programmes, for students wishing to experience a Latin American perspective in their studies eg geography, anthropology, environmental and social sciences or Spanish etc .



We are seeking University partners, formal or informal, who would be interested in exploring how to work with the two universities in Salta (UNSA & Universidad Catholica) in developing joint projects for our students and those of local schools.

*For example: Argentina has extensive natural gas, and electricity is cheap . Therefore there is little interest in green energy except biofuels. A proposal is to explore alternative energy production in the Americas and Europe to contrast and compare activity, natural resources and potential. This will develop research skills, support maths and language development and widen the horizons of our students while exploring potential opportunities for enterprising European students.*



We intend to host a bi-annual International Youth Conference, led by young people for young people, in conjunction with our Family of Schools, (see over) the inaugural conference will be in 2013. Support in terms of organisation, speakers or funding would be greatly appreciated

### **University students in the UK can:**

Become a Foundation Volunteer in the U.K. – helping to promote the Foundation and to bring in support from schools, businesses and Universities.

Become a Foundation Champion, 'adopting' one student to support, throughout their educational journey.

Become a Foundation Volunteer in Salta, Argentina. – working with University and school students to further the aims of the Foundation. For short periods up to a month the Foundation can offer free accommodation. Longer periods are open to discussion. We are unable to help with flights or other expenditure.



*If you are interested in discussing these programmes further, please contact Ian Mather, Chair, at [ian@davidmatherfoundation.org](mailto:ian@davidmatherfoundation.org)*

# What else is happening?

## The Family of Schools - part of our UK support network

Members include Schools in Greenwich, Wimbledon, Cleveland and Lancashire and more are coming on board..

Students have already raised over £8000 through their charitable activities to help the Salta students improve their facilities and equipment.

### Benefits for schools

- Collaborating with young people in a different hemisphere and continent increases awareness of different living conditions, cultures, aspirations and opportunities and enables schools to fulfil their Global learning requirements
- Students learning Spanish have the opportunity to discuss and correspond via Skype and Facebook with Latin American Spanish speakers, widening horizons.
- Schools can become Foundation Champions, 'adopting' one student to support, mentor and befriend throughout their educational journey.
- We plan to hold a bi-annual student led conference for members of the 'Family of Schools' and Universities to look at the needs of young people across the world and to discuss the challenges that lay ahead.

## Business Links

This work is still developing to:

- Provide work experience and business mentors for the young people on the programme. This can be through local employees of International companies or through 'distance' mentoring through the internet.
- Provide support for local businesses and communities in Salta with projects to enhance the life chances of young people in their areas
- Pass on old IT hardware and software for schools to utilise
- Support the conference, financially or in giving time or expertise.
- Adopt a future employee and support them through tailored courses, with work experience to deliver relevant workforce skills

## The money supports:

School student	£4.00 per week	£16 per month	£192 per year
University Student	£10 per week	£40 per month	£480 per year
Study Centre		£1500	£18000 per year

## Further information can be found on:

[www.davidmatherfoundation.org](http://www.davidmatherfoundation.org)

<http://www.thebiggive.org.uk/> input Argentina

[www.facebook.com David Mather Foundation Group:](https://www.facebook.com/DavidMatherFoundationGroup/)  
[ian@davidmatherfoundation.org](mailto:ian@davidmatherfoundation.org)



**David Mather 1980-2008**

**BSc Social Policy and Criminology (Hull)**

Following his untimely death in a paragliding accident in Salta on New Year's Eve 2008, David's family and friends wanted to establish a fitting and lasting legacy for him, hence the Foundation that bears his name.

David had an amazing love of life, always aware of his own advantages in a largely disadvantaged world. He had been moved by the situations he saw when he travelled & talked of how he would like to do something that would really give young people and communities the opportunity to achieve, succeed and raise themselves out of poverty.

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