

# International Alumni Make Global Impact

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Brown University investments in need-blind international admissions will enable more alumni to make their mark around the world.



Journalist Mallika Kapur '97 (left) was heartbroken when she met Lakhan, an Indian boy with cerebral palsy whose desperate grandmother, living with him on a Mumbai sidewalk, regularly tied him to a pole to protect him from wandering into traffic. Kapur's compelling CNN coverage of their plight led to housing and a special school for Lakhan.

"Often, good journalism can trigger change," says Kapur. "There are many more Lakhans out there, but I'm grateful that my reporting improved the life of one child in need."

Raised in Kolkata (formerly known as Calcutta), Kapur studied international relations at Brown and wrote for the *Brown Daily Herald*. She earned a master's in journalism from Columbia University and pursued her dream of a career in broadcast news, spending nearly 20 years as

a CNN correspondent in London, Mumbai and Hong Kong. She is now an editor and podcast host at Bloomberg Live in London.

International alumni like Kapur are making an impact in their communities and professions around the world. The University is committed to expanding this outstanding group by providing need-blind admissions for international undergraduates in the coming years, meaning these students — like their domestic student counterparts — will be admitted to Brown without regard to their ability to pay.

"This initiative will create new opportunities for our students to learn from international peers who have distinct experiences and perspectives, while also providing a Brown education for talented young people who will go on to serve their communities locally, nationally and globally," says Provost Richard M. Locke.

## Laureate and Musician Address Societal Issues

Through his highly influential work, economist and international alumnus Guido W. Imbens '89 A.M., '91 Ph.D. (below), helps social scientists answer important policy questions in such areas as health, education and labor.



"Over the years, I've tried to help people do their research better," says Imbens, a professor of applied econometrics and economics at Stanford University who shared the 2021 Nobel Prize in economic sciences with David Card and Joshua Angrist.

Imbens' insights, including a groundbreaking statistical framework developed with Angrist in the 1990s, have enabled researchers to draw credible cause-and-effect conclusions from real-world experiments. These analytical methods have informed such questions as: How much does education affect earnings? Does a guaranteed unearned income change how much people work? And, what are the long-term benefits of youth training programs?

A Netherlands native, Imbens earned his doctorate in economics at Brown in 1991. He went on to teach at several other top U.S. universities and now collaborates with scholars at Brown and elsewhere to solve societal problems.

## Investing in International Students

The University will move to need-blind admissions for international students using proceeds from the strength of Brown's endowment, which had grown to \$6.9 billion at the end of fiscal year 2021, and a major fundraising effort. Brown plans to raise about \$120 million in new endowment funds to enable the phase-in of need-blind international admissions over four years.



Lawyer-musician Dolapo Akinkugbe '16 (above), meanwhile, addresses pressing issues of the day through music. While studying for the New York bar exam in 2020, he was moved to write the evocative rap song "Love The World" after seeing video footage of Ahmaud Arbery, a Black jogger in Georgia who was shot and killed after being chased by white men in pickup trucks — and whose murder helped fuel the Black Lives Matter movement in the U.S.

A classically trained pianist from Nigeria, Akinkugbe balances life as an associate at Proskauer Rose law firm in New York City and a professional musician known as DAP The Contract, who blends African, rap, gospel, soul and classical rhythms. Akinkugbe came to Brown in 2012 after a gap year studying music in Boston, concentrated in classics — he writes rap lyrics in meter, as if scanning Greek poetry — and computer music, and relished the creative energy on campus.

"Brown was so important in my musical journey," attests Akinkugbe, who earned his law degree from Columbia. "Eighty percent of the musicians I play with now are Brown students or friends of Brown students."

All three accomplished alumni agree that international students enrich the Brown experience. "Students from different parts of the world bring unique perspectives," says Kapur. "That makes for lively, smart and engaging debates, both in and out of the classroom."