

THE DEGREES INITIATIVE

England & Wales · Charity number 1196532

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	13290405
Registered	2021-11-11
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address The DEGREES Initiative
c/o Sedulo London
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London

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Website www.degrees.ngo

Activities

Objects: THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE SCIENCE OF SOLAR GEOENGINEERING AND RELATED TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT, IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY:1. CARRYING OUT AND COMMISSIONING EVIDENCE-LED RESEARCH AND PUBLISHING THE USEFUL RESULTS;2. ORGANISING, CONVENING, FUNDING AND DELIVERING EDUCATIONAL AND RESEARCH EVENTS WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS, ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS; AND3. BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF ACADEMICS, POLICYMAKERS, NGOS AND THE PUBLIC IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO EVALUATE SOLAR GEOENGINEERING.

Activities: The Degrees Initiative builds the capacity of developing countries to evaluate solar radiation management geoengineering and play a central role in research and discussions. The initiative's activities include providing research grants, engagement workshops and community-building activities.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Other Finance, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Argentina
- Benin
- Indonesia
- South Africa
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£2,574,382	£1,373,615	£4,867,607	8
2023-12-31	£3,102,468	£885,862	£2,216,607	5
2022-12-31	£262,044	£262,044	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Oliver Edmund Morton	Chair	2021-03-24
Jacqueline Alice Akinyi Kado		2022-04-28
Mohammed Mofizur Rahman		2023-09-28
Pauliina Murphy		2023-09-28

THE DEGREES INITIATIVE

England & Wales - Charity number 1196532

Accounts



The Degrees Initiative

Annual Report and
Financial Statements

2024



The DEGREES Initiative

Period of financial statements: 1st January 2024– 31st December 2024

Reference and administrative details

Name:	The DEGREES Initiative
Company number:	13290405
Charity registration number:	1196532
Registered address:	First Floor c/o Sedulo London Office 605, Albert House 256-260 Old Street London EC1V 9DD
Accountant:	Stuart Davis Associates UK Limited, Bank Chambers St Petersgate, Stockport SK4 5LL
Independent auditor:	Buzzacott Audit LLP 130 Wood Street London EC2V 6DL
Bankers:	The Co-operative Bank p.l.c. P.O. Box 101, 1 Balloon Street Manchester M60 4EP Barclays Bank UK PLC, 1 Churchill Place London E14 5HP
Chief executive officer:	Andy Parker
Trustees	Oliver Morton (Chair) Mark Hilton (Treasurer) Dr. Jacqueline Kado Pauliina Murphy Mohammed Rahman

The Degrees Initiative – 2024 Annual Report

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Note to the annual report

The Degrees Initiative is a company registered on 5 March 2021 in England and Wales, limited by guarantee without share capital (no: 13290405) and a charity registered in England and Wales (charity number: 1196532) on 11 November 2021. It operates under its Articles of Association.

Historically, the Degrees Initiative had a financial arrangement with Prism the Gift Fund (a financial administrator for UK charities). This arrangement continued until 31st July 2023, and prior to this date the Degrees Modelling Fund (DMF) grants, the majority of the consulting costs and much of the additional support costs were paid directly by the Degrees Collective Fund administered by Prism and so do not appear in the charity's financial statements. The 2023 financial statements show the costs where the contract was held directly by the Degrees Initiative.

The charity opened its own bank account and also holds client bank accounts, currently held with Stuart Davis Transaction Services Ltd and the funds held on its behalf by Prism the Gift Fund were released in 2023, with all activity from 1st August 2023 being reported in the financial statements of this entity, the Degrees Initiative. All activity conducted by the Degrees Initiative in 2024 has been reported in this year's financial statements.

Message from the Chair

2024 was a great year for Degrees. We secured new funding; we expanded our existing grants supporting natural scientists in the Global South; to complement that, we awarded our first grants for social science research; and we began new engagement efforts aimed at connecting our grantees with policymakers.

A particularly welcome step forward was new and generous funding from the Quadrature Climate Foundation, a far-sighted British climate philanthropy that since 2019 has made grants of more than £1bn to 234 organisations. We also welcomed new support from two American philanthropies, Crankstart and the Navigation Fund, and we continued to enjoy the backing of the LAD Climate Fund and Open Philanthropy.

This mix of funders aligns well with Degrees' goal of securing support from a range of institutions and regions. That said, we look forward to broadening our funding base yet further even as we deepen our relationships with existing funders.

The increased level of support has allowed us to give more grants. The best performing of the teams previously awarded grants under the Degrees Modelling Fund have been awarded follow-on support. We also made our first grants from the new Socio-Political Fund (SPF; yes, we know). This marks a substantial broadening of the research areas we support.

The SPF was launched and is sustained, as is so much of our work, with the help of our tireless and excellent volunteers, a growing number of whom come from the Global South. We remain, as ever, deeply grateful to them.

Efforts towards stronger regional programmes have also moved forward. We convened workshops that brought together researchers from each of our three key regions: Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. The networks created and reinforced through these efforts continue to grow in strength.

These advances mean Degrees is now, as we have long hoped to be, in a position to start helping grantees connect to policymakers. With two top hires from the world of global climate policy, this engagement effort kicked off with a side event at COP29 in Azerbaijan. It has quickly picked up pace, and will doubtless be a welcome component of the Degrees Global Forum, our big meeting in 2025.

I should acknowledge the sustained support of the Board, who continue to bring their diverse expertise and steadfastness to providing oversight, support and wise counsel.

They and I continue to be impressed by, and very grateful for, the hard work our CEO and staff undertake in order to bring about thoughtful progress in this challenging field. I look forward to following the continued growth of activity in what looks to be an exciting year ahead.

Oliver Morton



Chair of the Trustees

Message from the CEO

Degrees' mission is to build an established and experienced community of SRM researchers across the Global South with strong South–South and South–North connections – an essential precondition for the good governance of SRM.

How much progress have we made this past year? Academic papers are one measure of success: 11 were published by Degrees funded teams in 2024, bringing to total to more than 30 since the first grants were awarded in 2018. A more illustrative example of our impact may be that of the papers published in 2024, five represented the first-ever SRM studies for those countries: Brazil, Chile, Malaysia, Pakistan and Thailand.

We also awarded grants for the first-ever socio-political research projects in SRM exclusively for Southern researchers, encompassing projects in Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Ghana, India, Mexico, Pakistan, and the Philippines, covering economics, ethics, health justice, public perception and governance.

But we don't just support research for research's sake. Instead, we believe research is the most effective way to build expertise. This was shown by impacts in 2024 that are more about establishing experts and building community. For example, a record number of Degrees-funded scientists attended the 2024 annual meeting of GeoMIP and the Gordon Research Conference on Climate Engineering in Italy.

Several scientists who first came to SRM research through Degrees funding have also found success establishing themselves beyond our support. Several went on to secure new, external funding to expand their work, such as Dr Romaric Odoulami, a Beninese scientist at the University of Cape Town who was awarded a ~\$1.5 million grant from the Simons Foundation. Others were appointed to international bodies, such as the World Climate Research Programme's new Lighthouse Activity on Climate Intervention Research, which welcomed four Degrees-funded scientists to its scientific steering group.

We are also now at enough capacity to start building networks within regions. In early 2024, a team at the University of Cape Town – led by Degrees-funded scientist and research collaborator Dr Christopher Lennard – was awarded funding from The Rockefeller Foundation to support the exploration of the development of an African research coalition on SRM. This kicked off with a workshop bringing together African SRM researchers, which was swiftly followed by Degrees-led workshops for Asian and Latin American and Caribbean teams.

It's all coming together. And in 2025 we will bring the world of SRM together with the Degrees Global Forum. Taking place from 12–16 May 2025 in Cape Town, the event will bring together researchers, NGO representatives, policymakers, thought leaders, and journalists from around the world to discuss the scientific, social, and political dimensions of SRM.

This will mark the largest event we have held, but also the largest SRM event ever. It will be a testament to our convening power, which will also work in a new direction in 2025, as we build efforts to get Southern voices heard in policy processes.

I've been leading the Degrees Initiative in one form or another since 2011, and more than a decade in it's incredibly satisfying to see our early vision coming into focus. There's still a way to go, but I'm more confident than ever that we can achieve our mission to ensure that the Global South are at the centre of the SRM conversation.

Andy Parker



Chief Executive Officer

Our objectives and approach

Solar radiation modification (SRM) is a possible means to reduce the impacts of climate change. The decision to use it or reject it could be one of the biggest decisions humanity will face. This issue matters most to climate-vulnerable regions in the Global South.

For over a decade, the Degrees Initiative has led the world in building the capacity of developing countries to evaluate SRM, ensuring informed and confident representation in global discussions. Degrees' capacity-building model has received [widespread acclaim](#), and the initiative is now in a new, ambitious phase of expansion.

Degrees achieves its goals through:

1. **Outreach** - running regional workshops in the Global South bringing climate experts from developing countries into the SRM conversation.
2. **Research funding** - supporting the creation and growth of SRM expertise in the Global South by directly funding research, empowering teams to ask their own questions about SRM.
3. **Community building** - fostering a global community of experts by galvanising South–South and South–North collaboration in SRM research and policy making.

Our principles

SRM is a controversial topic, and we believe that organisations working in this space should commit to high standards of **integrity, transparency and good governance**:

- We are transparent about our funders, and our [vision, mission and values](#).
- Our independent [Board of Trustees](#) includes a balance of North and South voices.
- Strategic decisions are informed by [expert advisors](#) in the Global South and North.
- Research funding decisions are made by an independent grants committee following an open call, followed by a peer review process.
- Research teams have full academic freedom.
- We are impartial on whether SRM should ever be used and how it should be governed, but are strong supporters of safe and informative SRM research.

Achievements and performance

Progress to date

Degrees' research funds constitute the largest SRM research initiative globally, having supported more than 170 researchers working across 37 projects in 22 developing countries. We have awarded over \$3 million in grants to date.

The first projects were funded in 2018, focusing on modelling studies. In 2024, we launched a new funding stream for socio-political studies on SRM. With our support, Degrees researchers have published more than 30 papers in peer-reviewed journals, with many presenting their work at high-level conferences and contributing to key international reports.

Our volunteers

The teams are supported by some of the world's leading SRM modelling experts, including five scientists from the Global South who started working on SRM through Degrees grants. All of them volunteer their time because they believe in Degrees' mission. None of the volunteers received any payment for their support in 2024 (2023: there were no payments for volunteers).

Key successes

- Degrees supported the first SRM research projects in South America, the Caribbean, Africa, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, Small Island Developing States, and Least Developed Countries.
- In partnership with local organisations, we have hosted 30 outreach workshops, attended by over 1,000 global climate experts.
- Degrees has been commended by editors of [Nature](#) and the [US National Academy of Sciences](#), and was [selected](#) as a Scale-Up Project of the Paris Peace Forum.
- Our work has been covered by the *BBC World Service*, *Carbon Brief*, *Climate Home News*, the *Guardian*, the *Huffington Post*, the *Japan Times*, *Le Monde*, *Nature*, *Reuters*, and *SciDevNet*.

Timeline

- **2010** – Work began as the SRM Governance Initiative (SRMGI)
- **2011** – Focus shifted to the Global South with the launch of our global workshop series
- **2017** – First Global Forum
- **2018** – Began funding SRM modelling research in developing countries
- **2019-21** – Many countries in the Global South launched their first SRM research projects with Degrees funding
- **2021** – Selected as Paris Peace Forum Scale-Up Project and became The Degrees Initiative
- **2022** – Expanded funding of SRM modelling research in the Global South
- **2024** – Launched new funding stream for socio-political research into SRM
- **2024** – Launched series of regionalisation workshops to kickstart the process of developing regional research hubs and centres of excellence in the Global South
- **2025** – Relaunching Global Forum series with Degrees Global Forum on SRM 2025 set to be held in Cape Town with more than 250 participants expected from around the world

Our Impacts in 2024

In last year's report, we set out what we hoped to achieve in 2024, which were, broadly:

- Support scientists and collaborators to attend international conferences
- Hold research-planning workshops in Latin America and South Africa to build on regionalisation efforts
- Fund our first SRM social science research projects and hold a planning workshop
- Award continuation grants to top-performing teams
- Continue to support scientists to publish and publicise their research findings
- Support collaboration between teams and provide training on areas such as science communications
- Plan the Degrees Global Forum on SRM, bringing together leading SRM scientists, collaborators, and stakeholders from around the world to review and collaborate on SRM research.

During 2024, Degrees has made substantial progress in these areas and more to meet core organisational objectives in **research funding, outreach and community building**.

Research funding

We began 2024 by funding [two new Mexican modelling teams](#), and ended by awarding the [first grant to a team in Vietnam](#). Ten of our modelling teams which we first funded in 2023 also received [grant extensions](#) to continue their work after excellent results in their first two years of research. Many of these teams published their first papers, representing the first-ever SRM modelling studies to come out of Brazil, Chile, Malaysia, Pakistan and Thailand. The modelling teams also [published more papers than ever](#), adding 11 to the list and bringing the total to over 30.

In the summer, we announced the first teams to receive [funding to research the socio-political aspects of SRM](#), as part of the world's first SRM social science grants programme exclusively for researchers in the Global South. The new cohort have begun their research, working to better understand how the use of SRM relates to a range of topics, including economics, ethics, health justice, public perception, and governance.

We also planned for future funding in new ways. In the autumn, we launched a new [sponsor-based call for proposals](#) to fund new modelling teams in countries and especially regions where we do not currently fund such projects. Each team should be sponsored by a principal or co-principal Investigator from an established research team who will enable them to quickly get up to speed and produce results relevant to their regions.

Outreach

Outreach moved into a couple of new phases in 2024. We held our first research-planning workshop in Istanbul, Turkey with our nine new teams funded to research the socio-political dimensions of SRM. From Argentina to Ghana to the Philippines, the teams form the world's first Global South-only SRM social science programme.

Twenty-four Degrees-funded scientists and research collaborators attended and led SRM sessions at the [Gordon Research Conference on Climate Engineering in Italy](#). This included a session devoted to SRM research in the Global South led by a Degrees scientist.

A record number of [Global South scientists attended the annual meeting of GeoMIP 2024](#). Held in Ithaca, New York, the meeting marked a significant milestone with the participation of fourteen

Degrees-funded climate modellers from across the Global South.

Degrees also [launched a policy workstream](#) to help its grantees connect to policymakers, by supporting them to give briefings, contribute to reports and attend international discussions. To carry out this process, we brought on two new team members near the end of 2024: Anita Nzeh (Policy Engagement Manager) and Dr Marcos Regis da Silva (Policy Engagement Director).

To kick off these activities, Degrees held an [official side event at COP29](#) – the annual meeting of global leaders addressing all things climate – to discuss the future of SRM research and policy as the topic rises on the international policy agenda. The panel included two PIs of Degrees-funded teams.

Community building

A core part of our vision at the Degrees initiative is to grow a global community of experts by fostering South–South and South–North collaboration around SRM research.

We made serious progress with regionalisation efforts, holding workshops for our research teams in each key region: Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean. This launched with bringing together our teams from Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Indonesia [for a workshop](#) to plan collaborative SRM modelling projects in Southeast Asia.

A [similar workshop](#) in Cape Town followed, run by local Degrees scientists Prof. Babatunde Abiodun and Dr Chris Lennard. It brought together the eleven African projects supported by the Degrees Modelling Fund.

Finally, a [workshop in Mexico](#) attracted scientists supported by Degrees in Argentina, Chile, Brazil, Jamaica and Mexico to explore what collaborative SRM modelling might look like in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In 2024, we have also seen several scientists go on to work on different projects or fellowships, or to receive additional funding, after starting SRM research with Degrees. For example, Dr Romaric Odoulami, a long-time Degrees researcher with a few of our teams, was [awarded a ~\\$1.5 million grant](#) from the Simons Foundation to explore the climate impacts of different reflective materials that might be used for SRM.

Four Southern SRM researchers, all principal investigators of Degrees Modelling Fund teams, were also appointed to the interim scientific steering group of the World Climate Research Programme's new [Lighthouse Activity](#) on Climate Intervention Research.

A University of Cape Town team led by Lennard and Abiodun explored the development of an [African SRM research coalition](#), supported by Dalberg Catalyst through grant funding from the Rockefeller Foundation. We expect to announce the formation of an African research hub on SRM in 2025.

Last, but certainly not least, we announced the [Degrees Global Forum on SRM](#), to be held 12-16 May 2025 in Cape Town, South Africa, and opened registrations. Early numbers confirm it will be the largest conference to date on SRM, bringing together researchers, NGO representatives, policymakers, thought leaders, and journalists from around the world to discuss the [scientific, social, and political dimensions of SRM](#).

Future plans – 2025 and beyond

Priorities in 2025

Looking ahead to 2025, we have some exciting things coming up for the Degrees Initiative.

Research funding

We aim to expand and strengthen Degrees' research programs by increasing research teams in unfunded Global South regions as well as increasing the scope of research projects. This will include new modelling teams in new countries as a result of the sponsored call for proposals launched in 2024, and continuation and expansion grants to support high-performing existing teams.

This will be done while introducing structured non-financial support systems, such as training, access to data, and policy engagement, to enhance their impact and sustainability.

Outreach

Policy engagement work will pick up significantly in 2024, beginning with the development of a strategy. This will enable Degrees-supported researchers to meaningfully engage with policymakers at national, regional, and international levels to build capacity for SRM governance in the Global South, strengthen science-policy linkages, and promote evidence-based decision-making.

Participation of Degrees and its funded researchers in major climate and or environmental policy forums or events will be a key aim for the year. We are also planning capacity-building activities for policymakers, including webinars, learning materials, and face-to-face meetings.

We will also build on the success of our side event at COP29 by organising at least one high-profile side event at COP30 or UNEA-7.

Furthermore, we will improve external communications with several major projects, including redeveloping the website, training researchers in media skills, and publishing high-quality thought leadership articles or op-eds in widely read outlets.

Community building

In 2025, we will host the Degrees Global Forum on SRM in Cape Town from 12-16 May. We expect more than 250 attendees from around the world, with a target of around half the participants and speakers being from the Global South.

Degrees-focused activities at the Forum will include facilitating strategic policy discussions between SRM researchers and Global South policymakers and conducting media engagements to secure coverage for the event and Degrees as a whole. We will host a 'Degrees Day' exclusively for our funded researchers and volunteers on the first day, allowing them to network and collaborate on new directions in their regional groups.

After extensive evaluation and a conference report, we will then plan forward for the next Global Forum in 2027, with a view to holding such an event every two years going forward.

We aim to recruit multiple additional team members in 2025. For example, the staff scientist will help with regionalisation efforts. They will coordinate and catalyse collaborative SRM research to help the teams develop regional research projects, engage with universities to drive policy-relevant research, and support Southern scientists to get access to the data and tools that they need.

2025-2030 outlook

SRM must be researched and evaluated globally, with the Global South playing a central role. Over the next five years we will support this aim by expanding in two key areas:

1. Turn emerging experts into global leaders

- Invest in the most promising Southern research projects, supporting the project leaders by funding more of their time and expanding their teams.
- Help Southern SRM experts have their voices heard in policy processes, making sure that discussions are informed by evidence.
- Host the Degrees Global Forum 2025 in Cape Town (12-16 May). This will be the largest SRM conference to date, and the first in the Global South. We will host a Global Forum every two years.

2. Move towards global SRM evaluation

- Create regional research hubs and centres of excellence building coalitions of research partners across the Global South.
- Support coordinated regional studies on policy-relevant climate and SRM impacts that matter most, such as agriculture, health, sea level rise and extreme heat. Findings will feed into reports on the state of SRM research.
- Reduce technical barriers to Southern research, such as by improving data access and boosting computing power.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity's headcount grew from six people in January 2024 to eight people by the end of the period (average headcount seven). The trustee board meets at least annually to review the remuneration of key management personnel, which included the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in this financial year. An annual review and appraisal process is conducted, with the pay policy considering annual inflationary salary increases and performance awards. In setting the remuneration of key management personnel the board considers market rates, skill sets and performance.

There were no changes in the make-up of the trustee board in the 2024 financial year. Trustees are appointed by a decision of the existing trustees under the terms of the Articles of Association. All trustees become members of the charity upon appointment. The process of determining the number of new trustees involved a review of the skillset of the current board, with the new trustees selection based on covering skills gaps and strengthening the Board's holistic expertise. Once appointed, each trustee undergoes an induction with the CEO and the executive team to understand the charity's work in detail.

Charity trustees have a duty to develop strategic plans to ensure that the charity provides public benefit and achieves its objects as set out in the governing document. These objects fall under the purposes defined by the Charities Act 2011. The trustees have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Degrees Initiative's aims and objectives and in planning future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

Fundraising

The charity's fundraising was very successful in 2024 as we were able to grow and diversify our funding base with seven new funders in the year (eight funders in total, with existing donor Open Philanthropy providing us an additional final grant). This has put us in a strong position to achieve our future plans.

As planned, we brought on a dedicated fundraising consultant this year with broad charitable, scientific, UK and international expertise, augmenting our fundraising team and strengthening our likelihood to be able to continue securing multi-year funding from several major donors in 2025 and beyond. We continue to reach out to new potential funders across a spectrum of charitable trusts and foundations engaging with these prospects in a systematic way, with the fundraising consultant creating a long-term structure to build a sustainable fundraising team. We apply for both core support and funds restricted to specific projects and purpose.

The charity does not engage with the general public with regards to any fundraising and only interacts with institutional donors. There are therefore minimal risks around persistent messaging or marketing. It has thus not registered with the UK fundraising regulator or any fundraising standards. No complaints were received during the year in relation to our fundraising.

When interacting with others, fundraisers ensure that they treat people fairly and with respect, explain the cause in a way that does not mislead people, and are sensitive to people who may be in vulnerable circumstances.

Risks and uncertainties

The trustees regularly review the risks and uncertainties to which the charity is exposed and continually work to enhance the systems and procedures that are in place to mitigate the Degrees Initiative's exposure to those risks. The key risks identified in 2024 were:

Key person dependencies

The charity started the financial year with six employees and thus faced the risk of key person dependencies and associated issues alongside that. Steadily growing to eight employees by the end of 2024 and scaling processes has attempted to reduce this risk (the average headcount was seven throughout 2024).

Public perception of SRM

SRM is a controversial field, and there is a risk that mistrust or an altered perception of SRM research amongst key audiences, including media voices in particular could have an impact on future income streams or desire for our services by beneficiaries in the Global South. Our communications strategy, maintaining key messages and consistent communications to ensure we deploy risk-risk and Global South and climate justice messaging will aim to minimise this risk.

Financial Review

This report covers the twelve months from 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024. In the previous year, a financial arrangement with Prism the Gift Fund (a financial administrator for UK charities) continued until the middle of 2023. For the initial period of last year, most costs were contracted to Prism the Gift Fund, and as this is a separate legal entity, these costs do not appear in the charity's 2023 financial statements. Only cost related to employees and suppliers directly contracting with the charity were recognised during this period. The charity was subsequently able to contract all grantees and suppliers directly, and therefore all costs are recognised within the charity from 1st August 2023 onwards. For this financial year (2024) all costs are recognised in this financial report.

During the reporting period, the charity incurred expenditure of £1,287k (2023: £820k). £421k (2023: £267k) related to staff remuneration and related staff costs, £411k (2023: £258k) was granted to institutions, £250k (2023: £97k) went towards our outreach and community building work, £203k (2023: £152k) related to consultancy costs, and £89k (2023: £45k) of other supporting costs. A further £87k (2023: -£66k loss) has been recognised as an unrealised foreign exchange gain because the charity has a US dollar bank account in addition to a British pound sterling account.

During the period, the charity recognised income of £2,574k (2022: £3,102k). This represents funds from eight different donors. Two of these, the funds from Quadrature Climate Foundation alongside those from the LAD Climate Fund were restricted. The rest of the funds are regarded as unrestricted funds, in that they may be used for any activity within the charity's objects. At the end of the period, the charity held unrestricted reserves of £3,504k (2023: £2,217k). The charity's policy is to hold unrestricted free reserves that are sufficient to cover three to six months' fixed expenditure and in extremis, the amount needed to wind down the charity in an orderly manner. The charity is therefore currently exceeding this target. This is thanks to the very generous exit grant provided by Open Philanthropy.

Further, the first instalment (£1,397k) of the restricted multi-year grant provided by the Quadrature Climate Foundation was provided in an advanced lump sum to cover future committed spending into

2025, thus providing the charity with deferred income of £1,364k (2023:£nil). £1,322k was from the Quadrature Climate Foundation and £42k was from the LAD Climate Fund.

DI holds no investments as the charity is still new, with no formal policy in place yet. However, DI is exploring its options and plans to develop an investment policy. Per the fundraising section, DI brought on a dedicated fundraising consultant this year with broad charitable, scientific, UK and international expertise, augmenting our fundraising team and strengthening our likelihood to be able to continue securing multi-year funding from several major donors in 2025 and beyond.

Going Concern

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these financial statements. The trustees have made this assessment in respect to a period of at least one year from the date of approval of these financial statements. The trustees have concluded that there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. This is because of the reserves position of the charity at the end of the year and indications of the Board and the funders to continue the work of the charity into the foreseeable future.

For this reason, The Degrees Initiative continues to adopt the going concern basis in the preparation of its financial statements.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of The Degrees Initiative for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the income and expenditure of the charitable company for that period.

- In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed,
- subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees by: **Oliver Morton, Chair**



Approved by the board on:

22 September 2025

Independent auditor's report to the members of the Degrees Initiative

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Degrees Initiative (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, and statement of cash flows, the principal accounting policies and the notes to the financial statements. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other

information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report, which is also the directors' report for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report, which is also the directors' report for the purposes of company law, has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- ◆ adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- ◆ the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
 - certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
 - we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the charity and determined that the most significant are the Charities SORP FRS 102, the Charities Act, employment legislation, Health & Safety regulations and Data Protection regulations.
- We understood how the charity is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks by making inquiries to management and those responsible for legal, compliance and governance procedures. We corroborated our inquiries through our review of minutes from trustee meetings and papers provided to the trustees.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatements, including how fraud might occur. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Identifying and assessing the design and implementation of controls in place to prevent and detect fraud;
- Challenging assumptions and judgments made by management and the trustees in its significant accounting estimates;
- Identifying and testing journal entries, in particular adjustments made at the year-end for financial statement preparation; and
- Assessing the extent of compliance with relevant laws and regulations by reviewing correspondence with regulators and legal advisors.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Buzzacott Audit LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

24 September 2025

Edward Finch (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Buzzacott Audit LLP, Statutory Auditor
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

The Degrees Initiative

Statement of financial activities

(including income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
		12 months	12 months	12 months	12 months
		1 Jan to 31 Dec 2024	1 Jan to 31 Dec 2024	1 Jan to 31 Dec 2024	1 Jan to 31 Dec 2023
		£	£	£	£
Income					
Donations and legacies	3	151,771	2,392,229	2,544,000	3,102,468
Other income		-	30,382	30,382	-
Total Income		151,771	2,422,611	2,574,382	3,102,468
Expenditure					
Charitable activities	4	151,771	1,221,844	1,373,615	819,827
Other Expenditure	4	-	(86,626)	(86,626)	66,035
Total Expenditure		151,771	1,135,218	1,286,989	885,862
Net movement in funds		-	1,287,393	1,287,393	2,216,607
Total funds brought forward		-	2,216,607	2,216,607	-
Movement in Year		-	1,287,393	1,287,393	2,216,607
Total funds carried forward		-	3,504,000	3,504,000	2,216,607

There are no gains or losses other than those shown above in the current or prior periods.

The Degrees Initiative

Balance sheet

As at 31st December 2024

		Total Funds	Total Funds
		31 Dec 2024	31 Dec 2023
	Note	£	£
Current Assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		4,601,440	2,229,807
Short term deposits		199,755	-
Other debtors	7	141,282	60,155
Total Current Assets		4,942,477	2,289,962
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	74,870	73,355
Net Current Liabilities		74,870	73,355
Deferred Income	9	1,363,607	-
Net Assets and Total Assets		3,504,000	2,216,607
Funds of the Charity			
Unrestricted funds		3,504,000	2,216,607
Total Funds		3,504,000	2,216,607

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on: **22 September 2025**

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees by: **Oliver Morton, Chair**



Company number: 13290405
Charity registration number: 1196532

The Degrees Initiative

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 December 2024

		Total	Total
		Funds	Funds
		31 Dec 2024	31 Dec 2023
	Note	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net movement in funds for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		1,287,393	2,216,607
Adjustments for:			
(Increase) / Decrease in debtors		(81,127)	201,889
Increase / (Decrease) in creditors		1,364,921	(188,689)
Net cash used in operating activities		2,571,388	13,200
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		2,571,388	2,229,807
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		2,229,807	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		4,801,195	2,229,807

Notes to the financial statements

1. Company Status

The Degrees Initiative Ltd is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England (registration number: 13290405), and has no share capital. It is a charity registered in England and Wales (registration number: 1196532).

2. Accounting Policies

2.1 Basis of Preparation

These financial statements have been prepared for the 12 months ending 31 December 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies below or the notes to these financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are presented in British pound sterling (GBP) and are rounded to the nearest pound. Several of the charity's donations are provided in US dollars (USD) and many of the charity's outgoing grants are contracted in USD and so the charity holds a USD client holding account with our accounting partner Stuart Davis Consulting. The balance of this USD account is converted to GBP in the financial statements.

The Degrees Initiative meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The Trustees do not believe there to be any significant estimates or areas of judgement when preparing these financial statements.

2.2 Fund Accounting

The charity has adopted the following definitions of funds:

Unrestricted funds comprise the accumulated surpluses and deficits on general funds. They are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of The Degrees Initiative's general charitable objectives.

Restricted income funds compromise grants which are earmarked by the funder for specific purposes. Such purposes are within the overall aims of the charity.

2.3 Income

All income is accounted for when the charity has entitlement, there is probability of receipt, and the amount is measurable.

The charity's income comprises of grants and donations. Where the charity receives performance related grants, it is recognised to the extent that expenditure has been committed to the specific programme as set out by the funder as this is deemed to be a reliable estimate of the right to receive payment for the work performed. In this case, cash

received in excess of expenditure is included as a creditor (as deferred income) and expenditure in excess of cash included as a debtor (as accrued income).

Donations are recognised when receivable.

2.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised when liability is incurred. Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

The grants that Degrees disseminates are paid in instalments over an extended period of time, and the expenditure on these grants is only booked once the grant conditions have been met and not when the initial grant is awarded. Grant costs are accounted for on a cash basis after each instalment is paid as no constructive or legal obligation exists until the payments have been made, with the cost recognised only when the charity ceases to control these resources.

Grants where the beneficiary has not been informed or has to meet certain conditions before the grant is released are not accrued for but are noted as financial commitments in the notes to the financial statements.

All expenditure is stated gross of VAT as The Degrees Initiative is not registered for VAT, and no VAT costs are recoverable.

Expenditure related to charitable activities comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries and includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities, plus those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs represent indirect charitable expenditure. In order to carry out the primary purposes of the charity it is necessary to provide support in the form of personnel development, financial procedures, provision of office services and equipment and a suitable working environment.

Governance costs comprise the costs involving the public accountability of the charity (including audit costs) and costs in respect to its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Support costs and governance costs are apportioned using percentages based on the time spent on the activities by the employees of the charity.

2.5 Pension costs

The charity participates in the NEST pension. This pension is open to UK staff in the charity. The scheme is a multi-employer defined contribution scheme. Accordingly, these financial statements include pension costs payable on a defined contribution basis in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 section 8.

2.6 Debtors

Debtors are recognised at their settlement amount, less any provision for non-recoverability.

2.7 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts and instruments that are available on demand or have a maturity of less than three months from the date of acquisitions. Deposits for more than three months but less than one year have been disclosed as short term deposits.

2.8 Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Creditors and provisions are recognised at the amount the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt.

2.9 Going Concern

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these financial statements. The trustees have made this assessment in respect to a period of at least one year from the date of approval of these financial statements. The trustees have concluded that there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. This is because of the reserves position of the charity at the end of the year and indications of the Board and the funders to continue the work of the charity into the foreseeable future.

3. Analysis of Income

	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds	Unrestricted Funds
	2024	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Donations and Legacies				
Income drawn on grants held by another charity	-	-	-	1,064,099
Income from:				
Open Philanthropy	-	1,521,213	1,521,213	2,038,369
Outlier Projects	-	196,001	196,001	-
Quadrature Climate Foundation	75,246	-	75,246	-
Crankstart Foundation	-	200,000	200,000	-
The Navigation Fund	-	388,450	388,450	-
LAD Climate Fund	76,525	-	76,625	-
Other Grants	-	86,565	86,565	-
Other income				
Interest received	-	13,730	13,730	-
Income from reimbursed expenditure	-	16,652	16,652	-
Total Income	151,771	2,422,611	2,574,382	3,102,468

At the beginning of 2023, funds supporting the Degrees Initiative's work were held in cash at Prism the Gift Fund. The arrangement ended in July 2023 and all funds were remitted to the charity.

4. Analysis of Expenditure

	2024			2023	
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total this year	Unrestricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Staff and related costs	-	421,273	421,273	266,830	266,830
Consultancy	75,246	127,289	202,535	151,666	151,666
Outreach & community building	76,525	173,326	249,851	97,260	97,260
Grants	-	411,022	411,022	257,803	257,803
Support costs	-	88,934	88,934	45,816	45,816
Total	151,771	1,221,844	1,373,615	819,375	819,375

		2024		2023
Other Expenditure		(86,626)		66,035
Other expenditure in the year relates to unrealised foreign exchange (gains)/losses on translating the USD account to GBP at the end of the year.				

At 31 December 2024, 33 grants had been pledged subject to the fulfilment of certain conditions by the recipients. These grants totalled £1,399,842 (2023: £417,496 pledged to 24 beneficiaries).

5. Support Costs

	2024			2023
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total for 2024	Total unrestricted for 2023
Support Cost Categories	£	£	£	£
Governance	-	28,844	28,844	14,699
Legal & Professional Fees	-	-	-	16,910
IT Costs	-	20,024	20,024	6,349
Other	-	40,067	40,067	10,258
Total Support Costs		<u>88,934</u>	<u>88,934</u>	<u>45,816</u>

Included within governance costs are £18,308 (inclusive of VAT) of costs in respect of the charity's audit fee for the period (2023: £14,400 for independent examination included within activities undertaken directly). All support expenditure is unrestricted (period ending 2023 was also unrestricted).

6. Paid Employees

Staff Costs	2024	2023
	£	£
Salaries & Wages	324,437	251,641
Social Security Costs	35,896	23,018
Pension Costs	26,014	20,060
Total Staff Costs	<u>386,347</u>	<u>294,719</u>

Employee Banding	2024	2023
	Number of Employees	Number of Employees
£70,000 to £80,000	1	0
£100,000 to £110,000	0	1

Key Management Personnel	2024	2023
	£	£

The amount paid to key management personnel	90,095	126,635
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The above amounts are the total remuneration (including employee pension contributions and employer's national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the organisation.

Average Headcount		
The average headcount for the year (period) was	7	5

Pension Scheme		
The charity operates a defined contribution scheme	2024	2023
	£	£
The amount of pension contributions recognised as an expense during the year (period) was:	26,014	20,060

7. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Prepayments and Accrued Income	72,010	27,850
Other Debtors	69,271	32,305
Total	<u>141,282</u>	<u>60,155</u>

8. Creditors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade Creditors	5,993	11,235
Accruals	57,993	62,120
Total	<u>63,986</u>	<u>73,355</u>

9. Deferred Income

	2024	2023
	£	£
Deferred income at 1 January	-	-
Released during the year	-	-
Resources deferred in the year	1,363,606	-
Deferred income at 31 December	<u>1,363,606</u>	-

Deferred income relates to grant funding received from Quadrature Climate Foundation and the LAD Climate Fund but not yet spent.

10. Commitments

The charity has no capital or operating lease commitments at 31 December 2024, nor any contingent liabilities (2023 – none).

11. Related party transactions

During the current period, no Trustees received remuneration (2023: Mark Hilton received £16,168 for consultancy services towards the Charity's operational business strategy. This was authorised by the Trustee Board per the Articles of Association governing the charity).

Apart from that disclosed above and elsewhere in the financial statements, there are no other transactions with related parties that require disclosure.



Thank you

degrees.ngo
degreesglobalforum.org



The Degrees Initiative is a Company Limited by Guarantee without share capital registered in England and Wales (company number: 13290405) and a charity registered in England and Wales (charity number: 1196532). Registered address: The Degrees Initiative, c/o Sedulo London, Office 605, Albert House, 256-260 Old Street, London, EC1V 9DD. Email: info@degrees.ngo. Website: www.degrees.ngo

THE DEGREES INITIATIVE

England & Wales - Charity number 1196532

Accounts



The DEGREES Initiative

Annual report and financial statements 2023

**Period of financial statements: 1st January 2023– 31st
December 2023**

Company number: 13290405

Charity registration number: 1196532

The DEGREES Initiative

Reference and administrative details

Name:	The DEGREES Initiative
Company Number:	13290405
Charity Registration Number:	1196532
Registered Address:	First Floor 10 Queen Street Place London EC4R 1BE
Legal Representatives:	Bates Wells 10 Queen Street Place London EC4R 1BE
Accountant:	Stuart Davis Consulting Ltd 23 Carnforth Road Heaton Chapel Stockport SK4 5LL
Independent auditor:	Buzzacott LLP 130 Wood Street London EC2V 6DL
Bankers:	The Co-operative Bank p.l.c., P.O. Box 101, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester M60 4EP HSBC UK Bank plc, 1 Centenary Square, Birmingham, B1 1HQ Barclays Bank UK PLC, 1 Churchill Place, London E14 5HP
Chief Executive officer:	Mr Andy Parker
Trustees	Oliver Morton (Chair, appointed 20 July 2023) Mark Hilton (Treasurer) Dr. Jacqueline Kado Prof. John Shepherd CBE FRS (retired 20 July 2023) Prof. Saleemul Huq (retired 28 October 2023) Pauliina Murphy (appointed 28 September 2023) Mohammed Rahman (appointed 28 September 2023)

The Degrees Initiative – 2023 Annual Report

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Note to the annual report

The Degrees Initiative is a company registered on 5 March 2021 in England and Wales, limited by guarantee without share capital (no: 13290405) and a charity registered in England and Wales (charity number: 1196532) on 11 November 2021. It operates under its Articles of Association.

The financial arrangement with Prism the Gift Fund (a financial administrator for UK charities) and the Degrees Initiative continued until 31st July 2023, and until this date the Degrees Modelling Fund (DMF) grants, the majority of the consulting costs and much of the additional support costs were paid directly by the Degrees Collective Fund administered by Prism and so do not appear in the charity's financial statements. These financial statements show the costs where the contract was held directly by the Degrees Initiative. The charity opened its own bank account and client bank accounts with Stuart Davis Consulting Ltd (our accounting provider) during the course of 2023, and the funds held on its behalf by Prism the Gift Fund were released, with all activity from 1st August 2023 being reported in the financial statements of this entity, the Degrees Initiative.

The messages from the Chair and CEO, objectives and approach, achievements, impacts, and note for future plans outline the work undertaken across the entire project, covering financials from the Degrees Collective Fund administered by Prism until 31st July 2023 in addition to the amounts in these financial statements from the Degrees Initiative across the whole of 2023.

Message from the Chair

2023 has been an important year of growth for the Degrees Initiative, seeing the delivery of substantial new funding for research projects, expansion of the Degrees team, and an increase in activity of our staff, funded scientists and research collaborators in events, key moments, and workshops around the world.

Early 2023 was marked by the addition of fifteen new funded research projects, all from the Global South. In January, Degrees held a research planning workshop in Istanbul, bringing together scientists and research collaborators from the 2018 Solar Radiation Management Governance Initiative (SRMGI) cohort (the predecessor to the Degrees Initiative) with the new project teams. The 2023 project teams are progressing apace, with research now well underway and new papers already in the pipeline.

Other key events have marked Degrees' activities last year, including an engagement workshop in Mexico which led to a special call for proposals for teams in Mexico & Central America. We announced the resulting teams in March 2024, and they are an exciting addition to the programme of work. Degrees-funded scientists have also played central roles in international events such as GeoMIP, the UN Science Summit, and the World Climate Research Programme's Open Science Conference.

In another testament to the achievements of the Degrees projects, the profile of funded scientists continues to grow. Several have been appointed in high level advisory roles,

becoming IPCC Vice-Chairs and co-authors of key reports on SRM from UNEP and UNESCO. It has also been welcome to see a number of scientists funded by Degrees go onto receive funding from additional sources.

Last year, Degrees also appointed five leading new SRM modellers from the Global South to our research collaborator programme. Four of these started working on SRM when they received SRMGI funding in 2018 and have since become leading experts in the region. Welcoming these scientists as collaborators marks an important milestone towards achieving Degrees' mission to build a global community of SRM experts. As Chair, I am grateful to all the research collaborators for the time they provide voluntarily in growing SRM expertise in the Global South and being a vital part of Degrees' mission.

Closer to home, the Degrees team continues to grow and has doubled in size over the past year. While we welcomed two new members and a new Chair to our Board of Trustees, we bid farewell and thanks to outgoing chair John Shepherd, and we mourned the sad loss of our friend and colleague Saleemul Huq—one of the giants of global climate policy.

With the stark warning from the latest UN Environment Programme (UNEP) *Emissions Gap* report, of a likely overshoot of the 1.5 degrees global warming target, SRM is receiving more attention. We've also seen new international reports focused on SRM, such as the UNEP one in early 2023, and the recent ethics report from UNESCO. As interest builds in SRM and its research, it's more important than ever that those most affected by climate change must be central in the discussion around its research, evaluation, and governance.

As Chair, I am grateful for the ongoing efforts by our CEO and staff to help responsibly build this challenging field, and look forward to following the continued growth of activity in what looks to be an exciting year ahead.

Oliver Morton



Chair of the Trustees

Message from the CEO

The last twelve months have brought an impressive range of achievements from Degrees-funded scientists, research collaborators and the Degrees team.

As with previous years, we have held and attended events and workshops around the world, from Istanbul to Mexico City to Kigali, building a global community through workshops, events, and research funding. Degrees-funded scientists have continued to publish papers exploring the impacts of SRM in their regions, on topics ranging from the impacts of SRM on rainfall to food production. Many of these issues weren't being researched before we launched the Degrees Modelling Fund. This work will soon expand to social sciences, as we will announce the inaugural projects that will research the socio-political dimensions of SRM.

The end of 2023 also marked five years of Degrees and SRMGI research funding, which provides an opportunity to look back on some achievements since then. When we launched the Degrees Modelling Fund in 2018, it was a bit of a leap of faith, and we had no idea whether we would receive any applications at all. Five years on, the Degrees Initiative supports the largest SRM research programme in the world. It has supported over 150 scientists in 26 projects hosted in 21 countries in the Global South, and Degrees-funded scientists are becoming leading experts in SRM. They present work at high-level conferences and events, they contribute to international reports, and several have even received funding from other sources to expand their projects.

This is central to our theory of change: research builds expertise, and expertise enables independent evaluation and decision making.

In the next year beyond, the Degrees Initiative will continue our work to ensure that the Global South are at the centre of the SRM conversation.



Andy Parker, Chief Executive Officer, The Degrees Initiative



The Degrees Initiative supports the largest SRM research programme in the world. It has supported over 150 scientists in 26 projects hosted in 21 countries in the Global South, and Degrees-funded scientists are becoming leading experts in SRM.

Andy Parker
Chief Executive Officer, The Degrees Initiative

Our objectives and approach

For over a decade, the Degrees Initiative has led the world in building the capacity of developing countries to evaluate solar radiation modification (SRM).

Degrees Initiative achieves its goals through:

1. **Outreach** - running SRM engagement workshops in the Global South (26 thus far), bringing climate experts from developing countries into the SRM conversation.
2. **Research funding** - supporting the creation and growth of SRM expertise in the Global South through research funding. This empowers teams of researchers to ask their own questions about SRM and develop their own expertise.
3. **Community building** - creating a global community of experts by **fostering** South–South and South–North collaboration around SRM research.

SRM is an issue that matters more to developing countries. They are on the front lines of climate change. If SRM could work to reduce climate impacts, they stand to gain the most. But if SRM goes wrong or is rejected prematurely, they stand to lose the most.

Most research to date has taken place in the Global North (higher income countries including several European nations, the US and Japan). A laissez-faire approach would mean the gulf will continue to widen. It is therefore critical that action be taken to ensure that developing countries play a more central role in the evaluation of SRM. The more they understand SRM and its implications, the better placed they will be to shape SRM governance arrangements, to stand up for their interests, and to resist any bad-faith attempts to persuade them to support or oppose SRM.

Our approach

SRM is a very controversial topic and we believe that organisations working in this space should commit to high standards of **integrity, transparency** and **good governance**. To adhere to these principles:

- We are transparent about our funders, and our vision, mission and values.
- Our independent Board of Trustees includes a balance of North and South voices.
- Strategic decisions are informed by expert advisors in the Global South (broadly lower income countries comprising Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia without Israel, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, and Oceania without Australia and New Zealand) and North.
- Research funding decisions are made by an independent grants committee following an open call and peer review.
- Research teams have full academic freedom.

We are impartial on SRM: on whether it should ever be used and how it should be governed. But we are strong supporters of safe and informative SRM research.

Achievements and performance



‘We need to take a leading role in research on SRM so that we do not let other countries decide for us.’

Dr Casimir Y. Da-Allada
National University of Sciences, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, Benin

Developing country research

Degrees’ research funds are the first international SRM funds and the first ones aimed exclusively at scientists in developing countries. The Degrees Modelling Fund was launched in 2018 through SRMGI which later became the Degrees Initiative, accompanied by a Comment in the scientific journal *Nature*. It is the largest SRM research initiative in the world by number of scientists, having supported over 150 researchers working across 26 projects hosted in 21 developing countries. It has awarded over \$1,800,000 in grants to date.

At present over 150 Degrees-supported scientists—including 20 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) authors—are researching how SRM could affect their regions: including impacts on drought in Southern Africa, dust storms in the Middle East, and the spread of malaria in South Asia. The projects are publishing their findings in high-level peer-reviewed journals. Researchers have also presented their work at high-level conferences and events, and have contributed to key international reports. For example, Inés Camilloni—who was first funded by SRMGI in 2018 and now volunteers as a Research Collaborator—has co-authored a recent UNESCO report on the ethics of SRM and also sits as an IPCC Vice-Chair.

In 2023, the Degrees Initiative launched the first fund for SRM research in the social sciences aimed exclusively at developing countries. These inaugural projects were announced in the first half of 2024.

Volunteer Support

The teams are supported by fifteen of the world's leading SRM modelling experts, including five scientists from the Global South who started working on SRM through Degrees grants. All of them volunteer their time because they believe in Degrees' mission. None of the volunteers received any payment for their support in 2023.

Research Collaborator Spotlight: Professor Inés Camilloni

Professor Inés Camilloni is a Degrees research collaborator and principal investigator for the project in Argentina. She began working on SRM through a Degrees grant in 2018 to study the impacts of SRM on the hydrology of the La Plata Basin and she continues to lead the Degrees-funded team at the University of Buenos Aires in Argentina. Her team is the world's first majority-female SRM modelling team, and she has emerged as a leading voice on SRM in Latin America and beyond – she gave a TED talk on the subject in 2022.

2023 was an exciting year for Inés's SRM work. She was elected as an IPCC (WG1) Vice-Chair, was a co-author for the UNEP independent expert review on SRM and has been instrumental in the recent UNESCO ethics report on SRM. In October, she also took part in and organised a special session which included discussion of SRM at the World Climate Research Program's Open Science Conference in Kigali, Rwanda in October. To end the year, she was awarded groundbreaking funding for SRM research from Harvard University's GEM Incubation Fund to explore the potential impacts of SRM and climate change on major coastal cities in Latin America.



Our Impacts in 2023

2023 Highlights



Doubling of SRM research in the Global South announced



Launch first grant programme for SRM research in social sciences exclusively for developing countries



Seven new papers on SRM published by Degrees-funded teams



Held events and workshops around the world, from Istanbul to Mexico City to Kigali



Supported scientists to attend key international events including the WCRP, a UN Science Summit, and GeoMIP

Progress towards key 2023 objectives:

In last year's report, we set out that we hoped to achieve in 2023: broaden our reach and impact, continue to grow the organisation, expanding funding opportunities for Central America, providing continuation grants, supporting social science research, organising and convening events to bring together Degrees-funded scientists with SRM experts from around the world, and holding further workshops regionally.

During 2023, the Degrees Initiative has made progress in a number of areas to meet core organisational objectives in **outreach, research funding** and **community building**.

OUTREACH

2023 took us around the world from Istanbul to Mexico City to Kigali, building a global community through a number of workshops and events. We held a Research Planning Workshop in Istanbul in January for the new cohort of Degrees-funded scientists, an engagement workshop in Mexico in April, which resulted in an open call for proposals in Mexico and Central America to further study the impacts of SRM in the region, and began planning for a South East Asia Regional Workshop which took place in January 2024.

We've also supported our scientists to attend and present their work at workshops and conferences—such as at GeoMIP, and the World Climate Research Program's Open Science Conference. These allowed scientists to make contributions on a range of SRM topics, including modelling methodologies, knowledge gaps, and managing climate overshoot. These events represents an achievement for Degrees to have such a number of Degrees-funded scientists centre stage, putting developing country perspectives at the centre of SRM evaluation.

Finally, in September 2023, our CEO, alongside research collaborator and Degrees-funded scientist Prof. Inés Camilloni, also delivered a keynote presentation on SRM knowledge gaps at a special Science Summit session in New York, in advance of the UN General Assembly. Conversations at the session underlined the need for further SRM research and broader stakeholder engagement, particularly in the Global South.



Research Planning Workshop, Istanbul, January

A new cohort of Degrees-funded scientists met with those from 2018 for three days of induction, planning and discussion at Degrees' research planning workshop in Istanbul, from 24-26 January 2023. The meeting marked the starting point for Degrees Modelling Fund's second round of research projects, bringing two scientists from each of the 15 new teams together with members from all of its previous projects, as well as eight leading SRM modelling experts who volunteer their time as research collaborators.

Over the three days, each of the 15 new research teams gave presentations on their research plans, receiving input and feedback from other workshop participants. Research collaborators also provided the new teams with modelling data and ran sessions to help them navigate the challenges of SRM modelling.

Degrees aims to turn the research planning workshop into an annual event to help us achieve our goals of putting the Global South at the centre of the SRM conversation and building a global community of SRM experts.

RESEARCH FUNDING

In early 2023, we announced a doubling of funding for SRM research in the Global South, and at the end of the year, we launched the world's first research funds for SRM research in social sciences in developing countries. We're expecting to announce the inaugural projects in the first half of 2024.

We have followed through with expanding funding with a Central America grants call – we have now awarded funding to two projects based in Mexico to model the impacts of SRM on heatwaves and biodiversity in their regions. These were announced in Spring 2024.

We have also recently opened a call for proposals for continuation grants to support existing Degrees-funded projects. These will be awarded later in 2024.

During 2023, Degrees-funded teams published seven new papers, exploring the impacts of SRM on areas such as monsoon and sea surface temperature in West Africa, cocoa production in Nigeria, and rainfall in Southeast Asia. Teams funded from 2023 have made good progress in their research, and there are several research papers in the pipeline for 2024 and beyond.

Grant making policy

The charity offers grants for individual and institutional beneficiaries in developing economies and economies in transition (as defined by the United Nations). This currently includes:

- Research grants: to support individuals or teams carrying out research projects in relation to solar radiation modification (SRM).
- Ad hoc grants: to provide other financial support to beneficiaries to further the charity's mission.

Research grant applications are made to charity in the form of dedicated calls for proposals, which may be public calls for proposals for initial grants, private calls for proposals for teams that have already received funding from the initiative, or any other ad hoc grant the charity may offer.

For the new initial grant requests from public calls for proposals, the research funding decisions are made by an independent grants committee following a peer review process.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

A core part of our vision at the Degrees initiative is to continue to grow a global community of experts by fostering South–South and South–North collaboration around SRM research.

One target of 2023, was to progress regionalisation of SRM across the Global South. The workshop held in South East Asia in January 2024 (planned and organised in 2023), began this regionalisation work, and we look forward to further activities planned in South Africa and Latin America in 2024.

In 2023, we have also seen several scientists go on to work on different projects or fellowships, or to receive additional funding, after starting SRM research with Degrees. For example, two Degrees scientists attended International Centre for Theoretical Physics as research fellows, and we’ve seen scientists collaborating on computer modelling and systems, sharing resources and knowledge across different countries. Read the spotlight below for more detail on funding awards.



Additional Funding Awards for Degrees-Funded Scientists

Ultimately, the Degrees Initiative aims for research programmes to become well established with further deepening links between experts and regional policy makers, with developing country engagement with SRM having the momentum to be self-sustaining. This means scientists who we introduced to SRM, are going on to grow their work and become leading experts in their region. One aspect of this, is using this expertise to then take advantage of other funding opportunities beyond the Degrees Initiative programmes.



In 2023, we saw some high profile funding being awarded to scientists who began working on SRM through the Degrees Initiative funding. For example, Degrees PI’s Inés Camilloni and Athar Hussain were awarded groundbreaking research funding from Harvard University’s GEM Incubation Fund, which supports innovative research projects that address development challenges and foster policy changes in developing economies.

Organisational Growth

To enable us to continue to expand our work, the Degrees team has continued to grow and has doubled in size over the past year, with new members of staff supporting core work

areas such as communications and operations. We also welcomed two new board members and a new Chair to our Board of Trustees. Please see the structure, governance and management section for further detail.

Future Plans – 2024 and beyond

In February 2023 we held a convening at the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center in Italy, bringing together 20 climate experts from Global South and North to plan how to accelerate our mission to put developing countries at the centre of SRM evaluation.

For 2024-2028, we plan to expand our **outreach, research funding, and community building** work, by:

- Continuing to build SRM knowledge and expertise in the Global South;
- Reducing technical and nontechnical obstacles that hinder SRM research;
- Enhancing the reach and impact of our capacity-building efforts, for instance through regionalisation;
- Deepening connection between SRM researchers, local stakeholders, and policymakers;
- Empowering researchers in the Global South to become significant and influential voices within the SRM and broader climate change communities.

Priorities in 2024

Looking ahead to 2024, we have some exciting things coming up for the Degrees Initiative.

OUTREACH

In 2024, we will be supporting scientists and collaborators to attend several international conferences including: the Gordon Research Conference, GeoMIP, UNEA, and the European Geophysical Union. We will also hold research planning workshops in Latin America and South Africa, to continue to build on our regionalisation efforts.

On the publications side, there are over 20 Degrees Modelling Fund publications in various stages of production, building SRM impact analysis across the Global South. We will work with scientists to support publication, and communications around new papers.

RESEARCH FUNDING

We will be announcing two new research teams in Mexico, as well as the successful projects from our call for proposals for SRM social science research, and will be holding research planning workshops for both.

We will also award continuation grants to Degrees-funded teams whose funding would have ended in 2023 and that have met our standards of excellence, to continue their SRM research. An application process for this funding will soon be underway.

We will continue to review funding needs based on feedback from collaborators, stakeholders, and scientists, with a view to possibly launching grants with specific needs.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

Progressing our regionalisation objectives, workshops will be held in Southeast Asia, Latin America, and South Africa to discuss the possibility of collaborative research in the region.

Across the year, as the Degrees Initiative grows, we are looking forward to increasing our offering to the scientists we support, including with supporting collaboration between teams, and providing training on areas such as science communications.

We will also begin the process of organising a Global Forum on SRM, bringing together leading SRM scientists, collaborators, and stakeholders from around the world to review and collaborate on SRM research.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity's headcount grew from four people in January 2023 to six people by the end of the period (average headcount five). As part of this expansion and organisational formation, the trustees have transitioned to a more traditional non-executive role. The trustee board meets at least annually to review the remuneration of key management personnel, which included the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in this financial year. An annual review and appraisal process is conducted, with the pay policy considering annual inflationary salary increases and performance awards. In setting the remuneration of key management personnel the board considers market rates, skill sets and performance.

One of the trustees provided additional consulting services to support the organisation, please see the related parties disclosure for full details. Professor John Shepherd retired from his role as Chair of Trustees at Degrees on 20th July 2023, with existing trustee Oliver Morton taking over as the new Chair. Two further trustees, Pauliina Murphy and Mohammed Mofizur Rahman were appointed to the board on 28th September 2023, increasing the size and diversity of the board. Trustees are appointed by a decision of the existing trustees under the terms of the Articles of Association. All trustees become members of the charity upon appointment. The process of determining the number of new trustees involved a review of the skillset of the current board, with the new trustees selection based on covering skills gaps and strengthening the Board's holistic expertise. Once appointed, each trustee undergoes an induction with the CEO and the executive team, with a programmes onboarding to understand the charity's work in detail.

Sadly, trustee Professor Saleemul Haq passed away on 28th October 2023.

Charity trustees have a duty to develop strategic plans to ensure that the charity provides public benefit and achieves its objects as set out in the governing document. These objects fall under the purposes defined by the Charities Act 2011. The trustees have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Degrees Initiative's aims and objectives and in planning future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

Fundraising

We have devised a new fundraising strategy for the forthcoming years in order to achieve our future plans and will continue to grow and diversify our funding base.

We have a fundraising team that is focusing on securing multi-year funding from several major donors and in 2024 plan to bring on a dedicated fundraising consultant. We are reaching out to new potential funders across a spectrum of charitable trusts and foundations engaging with these prospects in a systematic way. We apply for both core support and funds restricted to specific projects and purposes.

The charity does not engage with the general public with regards to any fundraising and only interacts with institutional donors. There are therefore minimal risks around persistent messaging or marketing. It has thus not registered with the UK fundraising regulator or any fundraising standards. No complaints were received during the year in relation to our fundraising.

When interacting with others, fundraisers ensure that they treat people fairly and with respect, explain the cause in a way that does not mislead people, and are sensitive to people who may be in vulnerable circumstances.

Risks and uncertainties

The trustees regularly review the risks and uncertainties to which the charity is exposed and continually work to enhance the systems and procedures that are in place to mitigate the Degrees Initiative's exposure to those risks. The key risks identified in 2023 were:

Lack of funding

The Degrees Initiative has had substantial grant funding from Open Philanthropy for our work through to the end of 2024. However, having one main funder increases the risk that the charity will face a loss of income and lack of funding if this source is not renewed. Per the fundraising strategy, diversified sources of funding with several major donors is necessary to mitigate this risk. In 2024 the charity has now secured funding from two new donors, and is expected to receive large grants from three further donors in 2024 that will secure the charity funding into 2026 at the least.

Public perception of SRM

SRM is a controversial field, and there is a risk that mistrust or an altered perception of SRM research amongst key audiences, including media voices in particular could have an impact on future income streams or desire for our services by beneficiaries in the Global South. Our communications strategy, maintaining key messages and consistent communications to ensure we deploy risk-risk and Global South and climate justice messaging will aim to minimise this risk.

Key person dependencies

The charity started the financial year with four employees and thus faced the risk of key person dependencies and associated issues alongside that. Steadily growing to six employees by the end 2023 and scaling processes has attempted to reduce this risk (the average headcount was five throughout 2023).

Financial Review

This report covers the twelve months from 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023. In the previous year, the charity shortened its financial year to bring it in line with the calendar

year. As such, comparative numbers relate to the nine-month period 1st April 2022 to 31st December 2022.

A previous financial arrangement with Prism the Gift Fund (a financial administrator for UK charities) continued into this period, with the process of termination commencing on 31st March 2023. For this initial period, most costs were contracted to Prism the Gift Fund, and as this is a separate legal entity, these costs do not appear in the charity's financial statements. Only cost related to employees and suppliers directly contracting with the charity are recognised in this period and the previous accounting period.

Following a transition period between 1st April 2023 and 31st July 2023, the charity contracted with all grantees and suppliers directly, and therefore all costs are recognised within the charity from 1st August 2023 onwards. During the reporting period, the charity incurred expenditure of £820k (2022: £262k). £295k (2022: £135k) related to staff remuneration, £258k (2022: £nil) was granted to institutions, £152k (2022: £nil) related to consultancy costs, and £116k (2022: £nil) of other costs. A further £66k (2022: £nil) has been recognised as a foreign exchange loss because the majority of the charity's cash is held in USD.

During the period, the charity recognised income of £3,102k (2022: £262k). This represents the balance of funds held at Prism the Gift fund at the end of the financial hosting arrangement (2022: £262k), with a further receipt of £2,038k (2022: £nil) from the Good Ventures Foundation.

All funds are regarded as unrestricted funds, in that they may be used for any activity within the charity's objects. At the end of the period, the charity held unrestricted reserves of £2,217k, all of which are considered free reserves (2022: £Nil). The charity's policy is to hold unrestricted free reserves that are sufficient to cover three to six month's fixed expenditure and in extremis, the amount needed to wind down the charity in an orderly manner. The charity is therefore currently exceeding this target. This is because the incoming grant from Good Ventures Foundation was provided in an advanced lump sum to cover future committed spending into 2024.

DI holds no investments, nor does it use the services of a professional fundraiser.

Going Concern

Per the lack of funding section in risks and uncertainties, after making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Degrees Initiative has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. That is, as the charity has now secured funding from two new donors in 2024, and is expected to receive large grants from three further donors in 2024 that will secure the charity funding into 2026.

The executive team and trustees have evaluated the cash flow forecasts and future income streams and remain confident of the ongoing viability of the charity. For this reason, The Degrees Initiative continues to adopt the going concern basis in the preparation of its financial statements.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of The Degrees Initiative for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the income and expenditure of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees by: **Oliver Morton, Chair**



Approved by the board on: **06/06/2024**

Independent auditor's report to the members of the Degrees Initiative

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Degrees Initiative (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, and statement of cash flows, the principal accounting policies and the notes to the financial statements. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- ◆ give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- ◆ have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- ◆ have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Matter

The prior year comparative figures were subject to an independent examination and are therefore unaudited.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are

described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- ◆ the information given in the trustees' report, which is also the directors' report for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- ◆ the trustees' report, which is also the directors' report for the purposes of company law, has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- ◆ adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- ◆ the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- ◆ certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- ◆ we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- ◆ the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

How the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities including fraud

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- ◆ the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- ◆ we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charitable company through discussions with management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector;
- ◆ we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charitable company, including the Charities Act 2011, Companies Act 2006, data protection legislation, anti-bribery and employment legislation;

- ◆ we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- ◆ identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- ◆ making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- ◆ considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- ◆ performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- ◆ tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- ◆ assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in the accounting policies (note 2.1) were indicative of potential bias; and
- ◆ used data analytics to identify any significant or unusual transactions and identify the rationale for them.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- ◆ agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- ◆ reading the minutes of trustee meetings;
- ◆ enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- ◆ reviewing any available correspondence with HMRC and the company's legal advisors (although none was noted as being received by the charitable company).

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Edward Finch (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Buzzacott LLP, Statutory Auditor
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

Date: 11 June 2024

Statement of financial activities

(including income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds
		12 months	9 months
		1 Jan to 31 Dec 2023	1 Apr to 31 Dec 2022
		£	£
Income			
Donations and legacies	3	3,102,468	262,044
Total Income		3,102,468	262,044
Expenditure			
Charitable activities	4	819,827	262,044
Other Expenditure	4	66,035	-
Total Expenditure		885,862	262,044
Net movement in funds		2,216,607	-
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward		-	-
Movement in Year		2,216,607	-
Total funds carried forward		2,216,607	-

There are no gains or losses other than those shown above in the current or prior periods.

The Degrees Initiative

Balance sheet

As at 31st December 2023

		Unrestricted Funds 31 Dec 2023	Unrestricted Funds 31 Dec 2022
	Note	£	£
Current Assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		2,229,807	-
Debtors	7	60,155	262,044
Total Current Assets		2,289,962	262,044
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	73,355	262,044
Net Current Assets and Total Assets		2,216,607	-
Funds of the Charity			
Unrestricted funds		2,216,607	-
Total Funds		2,216,607	-

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on: **06/06/2024**

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees by: **Oliver Morton, Chair**



Company number: 13290405

Charity registration number: 1196532

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 December 2023

		Unrestricted	Unrestricted
		Funds	Funds
		31 Dec 2023	31 Dec 2022
	Note	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net movement in funds for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		2,216,607	-
Adjustments for:			
Decrease in debtors		201,889	-
(Decrease) in creditors		(188,689)	-
Net cash used in operating activities		13,200	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		2,229,807	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		-	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		2,229,807	-

Notes to the financial statements

1. Company Status

The Degrees Initiative Ltd is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England (registration number: 13290405), and has no share capital. It is also a charity registered in England and Wales (registration number: 1196532).

2. Accounting Policies

2.1 Basis of Preparation

These financial statements have been prepared for the 12 months ended 31 December 2023.

A previous financial arrangement with Prism the Gift Fund (a financial administrator for UK charities) continued into this period, with the process of termination commencing on 31st March 2023. For the period from 1st January to 31st March 2023, most costs were contracted to Prism the Gift Fund, and as this is a separate legal entity, these costs do not appear in the charity's financial statements. Only cost related to employees and suppliers directly contracting with the charity are recognised in this period and the previous accounting period.

Following a transition period between 1st April 2023 and 31st July 2023, the charity contracted with all grantees and suppliers directly, and therefore all costs are recognised within the charity from 1st August 2023 onwards.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies below or the notes to these financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP FRS 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are presented in sterling and are rounded to the nearest pound. The Degrees Initiative meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The Trustees do not believe there to be any significant estimates or areas of judgement when preparing these financial statements.

2.2 Change to Accounting Period

The previous accounting period had been adjusted from the financial year to the calendar year. As such these financial statements show comparative figures for 9 months from 1st April 2022 to 31st December 2022. The current accounting period covers the full year from 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023.

2.3 Fund Accounting

The charity has adopted the following definitions of funds:

- Unrestricted funds comprise the accumulated surpluses and deficits on general funds. They are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of The Degrees Initiative's general charitable objectives.

2.4 Income

All income is accounted for when the charity has entitlement, there is probability of receipt, and the amount is measurable. Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met (5.10 to 5.12 FRS102 SORP).

2.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred. Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

The grants that Degrees disseminates are paid in installments over an extended period of time, and the expenditure on these grants is only booked once the grant conditions have been met and not when the initial grant is awarded. Grant costs are accounted for on a cash basis after each installment is paid as no constructive or legal obligation exists until the payments have been made, with the cost recognised only when the charity ceases to control these resources.

All expenditure is stated gross of VAT as The Degrees Initiative is not registered for VAT, and no VAT costs are recoverable.

Expenditure related to charitable activities comprise those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries and includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities, plus those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them. Support costs are those relating to governance and legal and professional fees required to maintain the charity's operations.

2.6 Pension costs

The charity participates in the NEST pension. This pension is open to UK staff in the charity. The scheme is a multi-employer defined contribution scheme. Accordingly, these financial statements include pension costs payable on a defined contribution basis in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 section 8.

2.7 Debtors

Debtors are recognised at their settlement amount, less any provision for non-recoverability.

2.8 Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at the amount the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt.

2.9 Going Concern

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these financial statements. The trustees have made this assessment in respect to a period of at least one year from the date of approval of these financial statements. The trustees have concluded that there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. This is because of the reserves position of the charity at the end of the year and indications of the Board and the funders to continue the work of the charity into the foreseeable future.

3. Analysis of Income

	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds
	2023	1 Apr 2022 to 31 Dec 2022
	£	£
Donations and Legacies		
Income drawn on grants held by another charity	1,064,099	262,044
Income from Good Ventures Foundation	2,038,369	-
Total Income	3,102,468	262,044

At the beginning of 2023, funds supporting the Degrees Initiative's work were held in cash at Prism the Gift Fund. At the end of this arrangement, Prism the Gift Fund granted all remaining balances to the charity.

4. Analysis of Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	2023				1 Apr 2022 to 31 Dec 2022			
	Activities undertaken directly	Grant funding of activities (see below)	Support Costs (see note 5)	Total this year	Activities undertaken directly	Grant funding of activities (see below)	Support Costs (see note 6)	Total last year
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Charitable Activities	515,756	257,803	45,816	819,375	262,044	-	-	262,044

Grant Making Activities		
	2023	1 Apr 2022 to 31 Dec 2022
DMF Research Grants	247,827	-
Additional Support Grants	9,976	-
Total	257,803	-
Other Expenditure	66,035	-
Other expenditure in the year relates to foreign exchange losses on translating the US dollar account at the end of the year.		

5. Support Costs

	2023	1 Apr 2022 to 31 Dec 2022
Support Cost Categories	£	£
Governance	14,699	-
Legal & Professional Fees	16,910	-
IT Costs	6,349	-
Other	10,258	-
Total Support Costs	45,816	-

Included within governance costs are £14,400 (inclusive of VAT) of costs in respect of the charity's audit fee for the period (2022: £4,500 for independent examination included within activities undertaken directly). All expenditure is unrestricted (period ending 2022 unrestricted).

6. Paid Employees

Staff Costs	2023	1 Apr 2022 to 31 Dec 2022
	£	£
Salaries & Wages	247,746	72,296
Social Security Costs	23,018	53,732
Pension Costs	20,060	8,914
Holiday Allowance Accrual	3,895	-
Total Staff Costs	294,719	134,942

Employee Banding	2023	1 Apr 2022 to 31 Dec 2022
	Number of Employees	Number of Employees
£100,000 to £109,999	1	-

Key Management Personnel	2023	1 Apr 2022 to 31 Dec 2022
	£	£
The amount paid to key management personnel	126,635	52,582

Average Headcount		
The average headcount for the year (period) was	5	2

Pension Scheme		

The charity operates a defined contribution scheme	2023	1 Apr 2022 to 31 Dec 2022
	£	£
The amount of pension contributions recognised as an expense during the year (period) was:	20,060	8,123

7. Debtors

	2023	1 Apr 2022 to 31 Dec 2022
	£	£
Prepayments and Accrued Income	27,850	262,044
Other Debtors	32,305	-
Total	60,155	262,044

8. Creditors

	2023	1 Apr 2022 to 31 Dec 2022
	£	£
Trade Creditors	11,235	-
Accruals	62,120	262,044
Total	73,355	262,044

9. Commitments

The charity has no capital or operating lease commitments at 31 December 2023, nor any contingent liabilities (2022 – none).

10. Related party transactions

During the period, one Trustee, Mark Hilton, received remuneration of £16,168 (2022: £18,285) for consultancy services towards the Charity's operational business strategy. This was authorised by the Trustee Board per the Articles of Association governing the charity. Apart from that disclosed above and elsewhere in the financial statements, there are no other transactions with related parties that require disclosure.

THE DEGREES INITIATIVE

England & Wales - Charity number 1196532

Accounts



The DEGREES Initiative

Annual Report and financial statements 2022

Period of financial statements: 1st April 2022 – 31st December 2022

Company Number: 13290405

Charity Registration Number: 1196532

The DEGREES Initiative

Reference and Administrative Details

Name:	The DEGREES Initiative
Company Number:	13290405
Charity Registration Number:	1196532
Registered Address:	First Floor 10 Queen Street Place London EC4R 1BE
Legal Representatives:	Bates Wells 10 Queen Street Place London EC4R 1BE
Accountant:	Stuart Davis Consulting Ltd 23 Carnforth Road Heaton Chapel Stockport SK4 5LL
Independent Examiner:	Buzzacott LLP 130 Wood Street London EC2V 6DL
Chief Executive officer:	Mr Andy Parker
Trustees	Professor John Shepherd (Chair, retired 20 July 2023) Mark Hilton (Treasurer) Professor Saleemul Huq Oliver Morton (appointed Chair 20 July 2023) Jacqueline Kado (Appointed 28 April 2022)

During the period, we did not operate a bank account and so no banking details have been included above.

Message from the outgoing Chair

This message refers to the entire programme of work under the project, covering financials from the Degrees Collective Fund administered by Prism in addition to the amounts in these financial statements from the Degrees Initiative. Please see the structure, governance and management section for further information.

2022 was a milestone year for the Degrees Initiative, both in its development as an organisation and for its mission, as the global conversation around solar radiation modification (SRM) grew in intensity and urgency.

It is a pleasure to report that we have made excellent progress during this period, including a significant growth from one to four staff members and five advisers by the end of the period, and a planned doubling of research funding under the renamed Degrees Modelling Fund (DMF, formerly the DECIMALS Fund). This was accompanied by a renewed communications push, including an updated website with clear messaging about our work, an active social media presence, a video explaining our mission, and the relaunch of a quarterly newsletter featuring a wealth of materials about our activities and the Global South scientists we support.

On the management and operations side, we set up financial controls, human resources procedures, auditing, accounting, and banking services. This was challenging work, requiring long hours and creative thinking to navigate an often complicated transition having become an independent NGO.

Despite these challenges, our programmes continued apace. Degrees managed an entire new DMF funding round, adding 15 new research projects and five new research collaborators — all from the Global South. As with previous DMF grants, the scientists were free to define their own research questions, and funding selections were based on independent peer review. The quality of applications was deeply encouraging — underlining the wealth of Global South talent to be realised with sufficient support.

We were also featured at the Paris Peace Forum and the International Geographic Union (IGU-UGI) conference, helped organise a research residency for DMF scientists at Harvard, arranged for scientists to attend the Gordon Research Conference on SRM, and co-convened a major SRM outreach workshop in Jamaica, in partnership with the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research and Carnegie Climate Governance Initiative.

In the policy field, Degrees staff and DMF researchers gave input to the Climate Overshoot Commission over three days in Cairo — a significant new initiative led by former WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy which seeks to place SRM in context with other forms of climate action. Its recommendations, alongside rising political attention at the UN and in major economies, are set to make 2023 a seminal year for SRM policy — and Degrees' long-term strategy of building and supporting Global South expertise is proving more prescient and necessary than ever.

Annual Report and financial statements for period 1st April 2022 – 31st December 2022

We also successfully applied for a funded meeting at the Rockefeller Bellagio Center, to bring together prominent climate experts to review, amend, and polish practical plans for putting developing countries at the forefront of SRM evaluation within the next five years. The Center's support was an important signal of the high esteem in which Degrees' work and mission is held. In 2023 we plan to develop and implement a new growth strategy on the basis of these recommendations.

As Chairman, I am deeply grateful for the extraordinary efforts by our CEO and staff to reap such extraordinary results in a uniquely challenging field.

Professor John Shepherd CBE FRS

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Shepherd." with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Chair of the Trustees (retired July 2023)

Message from the new Chair

It is an honour to succeed John Shepherd as the chair of the trustees. John has led Degrees through a sometimes difficult process of transition with a firm but gentle hand, getting us over humps and keeping us focused on the charity's long-term aims. The growing community of scientists working on solar geoengineering in developing countries around the world and the professional staff that manages the charity are both testaments to his hard work and good judgment.

It is daunting to have to follow him, but I am comforted by the fact that the rest of the board, which we will soon be expanding, is both wise and supportive, and the excellence of the senior executive team. After a summer of extraordinary temperature extremes during which the need for serious discussion of solar geoengineering only became more clear, I think the Degrees Initiative is in a unique position to serve developing countries by helping their scientists quickly develop and deepen the sort of understanding that vital discussion requires.

Oliver Morton

A handwritten signature in blue ink that appears to read "Oliver Morton".

Chair of the Trustees (appointed July 2023)

Trustees' Report for the period April 2022 to December 2022

Structure, Governance and Management

DI is a company registered on 5 March 2021 in England and Wales, limited by guarantee without share capital (no: 13290405) and a charity registered in England and Wales (charity number: 1196532) on 11 November 2021. It operates under its Articles of Association.

Due to the continued financial arrangement with Prism the Gift Fund (a financial administrator for UK charities), the Degrees Modelling Fund (DMF) grants, the majority of the consulting costs and much of the additional support costs were paid directly by the Degrees Collective Fund administered by Prism and so do not appear in the charity's financial statements for this year. These financial statements show the costs where the contract was held directly by the Degrees Initiative. Once the charity has its own bank account, the funds held on its behalf will be released by Prism the Gift Fund, and all future activity will be reported in the financial statements of this entity, the Degrees Initiative.

The message from the chair, the achievements and performance section, and the note for future plans outline the work undertaken across the entire project, covering financials from the Degrees Collective Fund administered by Prism in addition to the amounts in these financial statements from the Degrees Initiative.

The charity's headcount grew from one to four by the end of the period. As part of this expansion and organisational formation, the trustees have transitioned to a more traditional non-executive role. One of the Trustees provided additional consulting services to support the organisation, please see the related parties disclosure for full details. Trustees were appointed on incorporation, and it is intended to increase the number of trustees with the aim of broadening the diversity of the board. The plan to bring on three additional trustees were agreed by the board in December 2022. The process of determining the number of new Trustees involved a review of the skillset of the current Board, with a view to broadening the Board's skills mix by recruiting new Trustees who would cover skills gaps and strengthen the Board's holistic expertise.

Charity trustees have a duty to develop strategic plans to ensure that the charity provides public benefit and achieves its objects as set out in the governing document. These objects fall under the purposes defined by the Charities Act 2011. The trustees have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing DI's aims and objectives and in planning future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

Objectives

The DEGREES Initiative (DI) acts for the public benefit by building the capacity of developing countries to research and evaluate solar radiation modification.

This is achieved through undertaking outreach through engagement workshops in the Global South, community building activities which promote South–South and South–North connection and collaboration, and the funding of research through the Degrees Modelling Fund that empowers scientists in the Global South to ask their own questions and develop their own expertise.

Background

DI was incorporated on 24 March 2021. Prior to this it was known as the Solar Radiation Management Governance Initiative (SRMGI), a project initiated by a partnership between the Royal Society, The World Academy of Science (TWAS) and the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF). Since its formation it has led the world in engaging developing countries on the issue of solar radiation management (SRM), primarily through its series of in-country workshops and through the world's first international SRM modelling research fund. This was known as the DECIMALS Fund but has recently been re-named the DEGREES Modelling Fund to avoid confusion between the two different names.

As the SRMGI project ran towards its end date, the organisation wished to continue its work and so sought to become an independent NGO, whilst maintaining its close relationship with TWAS.

Andy Parker was the first and only SRMGI Project Director, before becoming the founder and CEO of DI once it became incorporated as a company limited by guarantee. DI was registered as a charity on 11 November 2021.

Achievements and Performance

This message refers to the entire programme of work under the project, covering financials from the Degrees Collective Fund administered by Prism in addition to the amounts in these financial statements from the Degrees Initiative. Please see the structure, governance and management section for further information.

During the period in question, the organisation made great strides with its programmatic aims and successfully launched the Degrees Modelling Fund (DMF). In October 2022 15 research projects spanning Africa, Asia, and South America were successful in being awarded grants through the charity's DMF, following open calls for proposals and a robust selection process. The new projects are based in Benin, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mali, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Africa (x2), Thailand, and Uganda. Over the next two years, they will explore how solar radiation modification (SRM) could affect climate impacts in their regions. Integrating the ongoing 11 projects under the previously titled Decimals Fund, the DMF now supports 26 modelling projects in 21 different countries, involving over 150 scientists, making the Degrees Modelling Fund the largest SRM research initiative in the world.

Further, the charity continued to expand its outreach and community building work engaging in several events during the period in question. Organisational development continued throughout the period to supplement this growth in activity as the headcount grew from one to four, along with five consultants by the end of the period. One of these consultants was a Trustee providing additional services to support the organisation, please see the related parties disclosure for full details.

Financial Review

This report covers the nine month period between 1st April 2022 and 31 December 2022 as

DI transition the annual reporting period from the financial year to the calendar year.

Comparator numbers relate to the period of incorporation to 31 March 2022.

During the reporting period, DI incurred expenditure of £262.0k (2021/22: £24k). £126.7k related to staff remuneration, £130.9k related to consultancy costs where the contract was held by DI, and £4.5k related to the fee of our Independent Examiner.

With a corresponding income of £262.0k, the charity requires the financial statements to be reviewed by an independent examiner for the first time (threshold £25k).

Due to the continued financial arrangement with Prism the Gift Fund as previously outlined, in this shortened reporting year 2022/23 DI had a reserves level of zero as it had no operating costs. For the reporting year 2023/24 the charity's policy is to hold unrestricted free reserves that are sufficient to cover three to six month's fixed expenditure and in extremis, the amount needed to wind down the charity in an orderly manner. The charity shall calculate this reserve requirement at least on a quarterly basis. This amount shall be referred to as the Target Reserves Level.

DI holds no investments, nor does it use the services of a professional fundraiser.

Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that The Degrees Initiative has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The executive team and trustees have evaluated the cash flow forecasts and future income streams including the pledged funding from the Good Ventures Foundation and remain confident of the ongoing viability of the charity. For this reason, The Degrees Initiative continues to adopt the going concern basis in the preparation of its financial statements.

Future Plans

This message refers to the entire programme of work under the project, covering financials from the Degrees Collective Fund administered by Prism in addition to the amounts in these financial statements from the Degrees Initiative. Please see the structure, governance and management section for further information.

For 2023 and beyond DI plans to broaden its reach and impact by continuing to grow the organisation. A workshop held in Mexico in early 2023 has led to DI planning to expand the Degrees Modelling Fund with a Central America grants call. There is the intention to provide continuation grants to some of the existing DMF scientists for additional projects. DI is also planning to support social science research to broaden the scope of developing countries to evaluate SRM, with new grant calls being prepared for this additional academic sector.

In order to improve connections and networks across the Global North and Global South DI will organise and convene a conference style event, bringing together our DMF funded scientists with SRM experts from all around the world. Further workshops in Southeast Asia

The DEGREES Initiative

Annual Report and financial statements for period 1st April 2022 – 31st December 2022 and North Africa will be run by DI in order to reach out to these underrepresented Global South regions, with the aim to engage scientists here to participate in future grant calls.

DI is also very optimistic about being able to help build research centres of excellence for climate modelling and SRM across the Global South. These would act to ensure that developing countries could research and evaluate SRM and enable them to be at the centre of the SRM conversation.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of The Degrees Initiative for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the income and expenditure of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- ◆ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- ◆ observe the methods and principles in Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- ◆ make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- ◆ state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- ◆ prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees by: **Oliver Morton, Chair**



Approved by the board on: **21st September 2023**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Degrees Initiative

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the financial statements of the charitable company for the 9 month period ended 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charitable company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

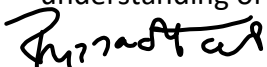
Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charitable company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's financial statements as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with my examination giving me cause to believe:

- ◆ accounting records were not kept in respect of the charitable company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- ◆ the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- ◆ the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the financial statements give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- ◆ the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the for "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)."

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



Edward Finch, ACA
On behalf of Buzzacott LLP
Chartered Accountant
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

21/09/23

The Degrees Initiative
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period 1st April 2022 to 31st December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds 1st Apr 2022 - 31st Dec 2022 £	Prior year funds 24th Mar 2021 - 31st Mar 2022 £
Income			
Donations and legacies	3	262,044	24,038
Total Income		262,044	24,038
Expenditure			
Charitable activities	4	262,044	24,038
Total Expenditure		262,044	24,038
Net movement in funds		-	-
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward		-	-
Movement in Year		-	-
Total funds carried forward		-	-

The Degrees Initiative
Balance Sheet
As at 31st December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds 1st Apr 2022 - 31st Dec 2022 £	Total last year 24th Mar 2021 - 31st Mar 2022 £
Current assets			
Debtors	6	262,044	24,038
Total Current Assets		262,044	24,038
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	262,044	24,038
Net Current Assets and Total Assets		-	-
Funds of the Charity			
Unrestricted funds		-	-
Total Funds		-	-

For the period to the 31st December 2022, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under s477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with FRS102 SORP.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on: **21st September 2023**

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees by: **Oliver Morton, Chair**



Notes to the financial statements

1. Company Status

The Degrees Initiative Ltd is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England (registration number: 13290405), and has no share capital. It is also a charity registered in England and Wales (registration number: 1196532).

2. Accounting Policies

2.1 Basis of Preparation

These financial statements have been prepared for the 9 month period ended 31 December 2022.

Due to the continued financial arrangement with Prism the Gift Fund (a financial administrator for UK charities), the Degrees Modelling Fund (DMF) grants, the majority of the consulting costs and much of the additional support costs were paid directly by the Degrees Collective Fund administered by Prism and so do not appear in the charity's financial statements for this year. Once the charity has its own bank account, the funds held on its behalf will be released by Prism the Gift Fund, and all future activity will be reported in the financial statements of this entity, the Degrees Initiative. These financial statements show the costs where the contract was held directly by the Degrees Initiative.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies below or the notes to these financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP FRS 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are presented in sterling and are rounded to the nearest pound.

The Degrees Initiative meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102, and the definition of a small charity under the Charities SORP. As such, the charity has taken advantage of the exemption to include a statement of cash flows. The Trustees do not believe there to be any significant estimates or areas of judgement when preparing these financial statements.

2.2 Change to Accounting Period

The accounting period has been adjusted from the financial year to the calendar year. As such these financial statements represent 9 months from 1st April 2022 to 31st December 2022. The previous accounting period covered from the charity's initial incorporation (24th March 2021) to 31st March 2022.

2.3 Fund Accounting

The charity has adopted the following definitions of funds:

- Unrestricted funds comprise the accumulated surpluses and deficits on general funds. They are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of The Degrees Initiative's general charitable objectives.

2.4 Income

All income is accounted for when the charity has entitlement, there is certainty of receipt, and the amount is measurable. Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met (5.10 to 5.12 FRS102 SORP). Given the arrangements with Prism the Gift Fund as noted above, the charity only recognises income to the extent spend is incurred by the intermediary organisation as this is the point the entitlement criteria is met.

2.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred. Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

All expenditure is stated gross of VAT as The Degrees Initiative is not registered for VAT, and no VAT costs are recoverable.

Expenditure related to charitable activities comprise those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries, and includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities, plus those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them, though there are no such support costs in this period.

2.6 Pension costs

The charity participates in the NEST pension. This pension is open to UK staff in the charity. The scheme is a multi-employer defined contribution scheme. Accordingly, these financial statements include pension costs payable on a defined contribution basis in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 section 8.

2.7 Debtors

Debtors are recognised at their settlement amount, less any provision for non-recoverability.

Debtors comprise only of amounts due from Prism the Gift Fund as a result of the arrangements the charity has with them noted above.

2.8 Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at the amount the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt. Creditors comprise only of amounts due to Prism the Gift Fund as a result of the arrangements the charity has with them noted above.

3. Analysis of Income

	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds (prior period)
	1st Apr 2022 - 31st Dec 2022	24th Mar 2021 - 31st Mar 2022
	£	£
Donations and Legacies		
Income drawn on grants held by other charity	262,044	24,038
Total Income	262,044	24,038

Grants supporting the Degrees Initiative's work are held in cash at Prism the Gift Fund. The charity has accounted for the income that has been drawn down in relation to expenditure directly contracted with the charity.

4. Analysis of Expenditure

	Unrestricted Funds 1st Apr 2022 - 31st Dec 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds (prior period) 24th Mar 2021 - 31st Mar 2022 £
Expenditure on Charitable Activities		
Direct project costs	262,044	24,038
Total Expenditure	262,044	24,038

Included in the above are governance costs of £4,500 (inclusive of VAT) in respect of the charity's independent examination fee for the period.

5. Paid Employees

Staff Costs	1st Apr 2022 - 31st Dec 2022 £	24th Mar 2021 - 31st Mar 2022 £
Salaries & Wages	72,296	18,750
Social Security Costs	53,732	2,588
Pension Costs	8,914	1,500
Total Staff Costs	134,942	22,838

No employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) for the reporting period of more than £60,000.

Key Management Personnel	1st Apr 2022 - 31st Dec 2022 £	24th Mar 2021 - 31st Mar 2022 £
The amount paid to key	52,582	18,750
Average Headcount		
The average headcount for the period was:	2.11	0.25

Pension Scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme.

The amount of pension contributions recognised as an expense during the period was:	1st Apr 2022 - 31st Dec 2022 £	24th Mar 2021 - 31st Mar 2022 £
	8,914	1,500

6. Debtors

Amounts due from Prism the Gift Fund	1st Apr 2022 - 31st Dec 2022 £	24th Mar 2021 - 31st Mar 2022 £
	262,044	24,038
	262,044	24,038

7. Creditors

	1st Apr 2022 - 31st Dec 2022	24th Mar 2021 - 31st Mar 2022
	£	£
Amounts due to Prism the Gift Fund	262,044	24,038
	262,044	24,038

8. Commitments

The charity has no capital or operating lease commitments at 31 December 2022, nor any contingent liabilities (2021 – none).

9. Related party transactions

One Trustee, Mark Hilton, received remuneration of £18,285 for consultancy services towards the Charity's operational business strategy. This was authorised by the Trustee Board per the Articles of Association governing the charity. Apart from that disclosed above and elsewhere in the financial statements, there are no other transactions with related parties that require disclosure.