

# OXFORD GUIDE 2024/25



UNIVERSITY OF  
OXFORD







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## INSTITUTION

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In this section you can read about the history of Oxford University and how Oxford's distinctive collegiate structure operates in the present day. Find out how students and academics benefit from belonging both to the University, a large, internationally renowned institution, and to a college or hall.

## History

Oxford is a unique and historic institution. As the oldest university in the English-speaking world, it can lay claim to nine centuries of continuous existence. **Here's a timeline of key dates:**



### **1096 Evidence of teaching**

There is no clear date of foundation but teaching existed at Oxford in some form by 1096.



### **1167 A Paris ban**

Oxford developed rapidly from 1167, when Henry II banned English students from attending the University of Paris following a quarrel with Thomas a Becket.



### **1188 A notable visitor**

In 1188, the historian Gerald of Wales gave a public reading to the assembled Oxford dons (university lecturers, especially at Oxford or Cambridge). As a royal clerk to the king and two archbishops, Gerald of Wales travelled widely and wrote extensively.



### **1190 First overseas student**

In around 1190 the arrival of Emo of Friesland, the first known overseas student, set in motion the University's tradition of developing international scholarly links.



### **1214 The title of Chancellor**

By 1201 the University was headed by a 'magister scholarum (head of an ecclesiastical school) Oxonie', on whom the title of Chancellor was later conferred in 1214, and in 1231 the Masters were recognised as a universitas or corporation.



### **1249 First colleges**

During the 13th century, rioting between town and gown (townspeople and students) hastened the establishment of primitive halls of residence. These were succeeded by the first of Oxford's colleges, which began as endowed houses or medieval halls of residence, under the supervision of a Master. Established between 1249 and 1264, University, Balliol and Merton Colleges are the oldest.





## 1355 Tributes from kings

Less than a century later, Oxford had achieved eminence above every other seat of learning, and won the praises of popes, kings and sages by virtue of its antiquity, curriculum, doctrine and privileges. In 1355, Edward III paid tribute to the University for its invaluable contribution to learning. He also commented on the services rendered to the state by distinguished Oxford graduates.



## 14th–17th centuries Religious and political controversy

Early on, Oxford became a centre for lively controversy with scholars involved in religious and political disputes. John Wyclif, a 14th-century Master of Balliol, campaigned for a Bible in English, against the wishes of the papacy. In the 16th century, Henry VIII forced the University to accept his divorce from Catherine of Aragon, and the Anglican churchmen Cranmer, Latimer and Ridley were later tried for heresy and burnt at the stake in the city. The University was Royalist during the Civil War and Charles I held a counter-Parliament in the University's Convocation House. In the late 17th century, the Oxford philosopher John Locke, suspected of treason, was forced to flee the country.



## 18th century Scientific discovery and religious revival

The 18th century became an era of scientific discovery and religious revival. Edmond Halley, Professor of Geometry, predicted the return of the comet that bears his name. John and Charles Wesley's prayer meetings laid the foundations for the Methodist Society.



## 1833 The Oxford Movement

From 1833 onwards, the Oxford Movement sought to revitalise the Catholic aspects of the Anglican Church. One of its leaders, John Henry Newman, became a Roman Catholic in 1845 and was later made a Cardinal. In 2019 he was canonised as a saint.



## 1860 A famous debate

In 1860 the new University Museum was the scene of a famous debate between Thomas Huxley, champion of evolution, and Bishop Wilberforce.



## 1920 Women become members

From 1878 academic halls were established for women, who were admitted as full members of the University from 1920. By 1986, all of Oxford's male colleges had changed their statutes to admit women and, since 2008, all colleges have admitted men and women.

## 20th–21st centuries Major research capabilities

During the 20th and early 21st centuries, Oxford established major new research capacities in the natural and applied sciences, including medicine. In so doing, it has enhanced and strengthened its traditional role as an international focus for learning and a forum for intellectual debate.



## 2020–present COVID-19 response

Oxford University has been at the centre of the COVID-19 response from the very onset of the pandemic, remaining at the forefront of global efforts to combat the disease and to mitigate its many effects, including developing a vaccine and identifying treatments.



Oxford University has remained at the forefront of global efforts to research COVID-19



## Who's who

**Chancellor** The Rt Hon the Lord Hague of Richmond, PC, FRSL

**Vice-Chancellor** Professor Irene Tracey, CBE, FRS, FMedSci

### Pro-Vice-Chancellors

**Education** Professor Martin Williams, CEng, FICE, FStructE

**Innovation** Professor Chas Bountra, OBE

**Planning and Resources** Dr David Prout, CB

**People and Digital** Professor Anne Trefethen, FEng

**Research** Professor Patrick Grant, FEng

### Pro-Vice-Chancellors without portfolio:

Professor Lady Sue Black, Baroness Black of Strome, LT, DBE, FRS, FRSE, FRAI, FRSB President of St John's College

Professor Judith Buchanan, Master of St Peter's College

Professor Richard Hobbs, CBE, FMedSci, FRCP, FRCGP, FRCPE, Mercian Professor of Primary Care, Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences

Dr Sir Michael Jacobs, Warden of Keble College

Professor Jonathan Michie, President of Kellogg College

Professor Jennifer Payne, Warden of Merton

Professor Sir Nigel Shadbolt, FRS, FEng, FBCS, Principal of Jesus College

The Very Revd Professor Jane Shaw, Principal of Harris Manchester College

Professor Lord Lionel Tarassenko, CBE, FEng, FMedSci, President of Reuben College

Professor Baroness Katherine J Willis, CBE, FGS, Principal of St Edmund Hall

**Registrar** Gill Aitken, CB

### Heads of Academic Divisions

**Humanities** Professor Daniel Grimley

**Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences** Professor James H Naismith, FRSC, FRSB, FRS, FRSE, FMedSci, MAE

**Medical Sciences** Professor Gavin Screaton, FMedSci, FRCP

**Social Sciences** Professor Timothy J Power

**Bodley's Librarian and Head of Gardens, Libraries and Museums** Richard Ovenden, OBE, FRSA, FSA, FRHistS

**Director of the Ashmolean Museum** Dr Alexander Sturgis

**Director of the History of Science Museum** Dr Silke Ackermann

**Director of the Pitt Rivers Museum** Professor Laura Van Broekhoven

**Director of the Oxford University Museum of Natural History** Professor Paul Smith

**Director of the Oxford Botanic Garden and Arboretum** Professor Simon Hiscock

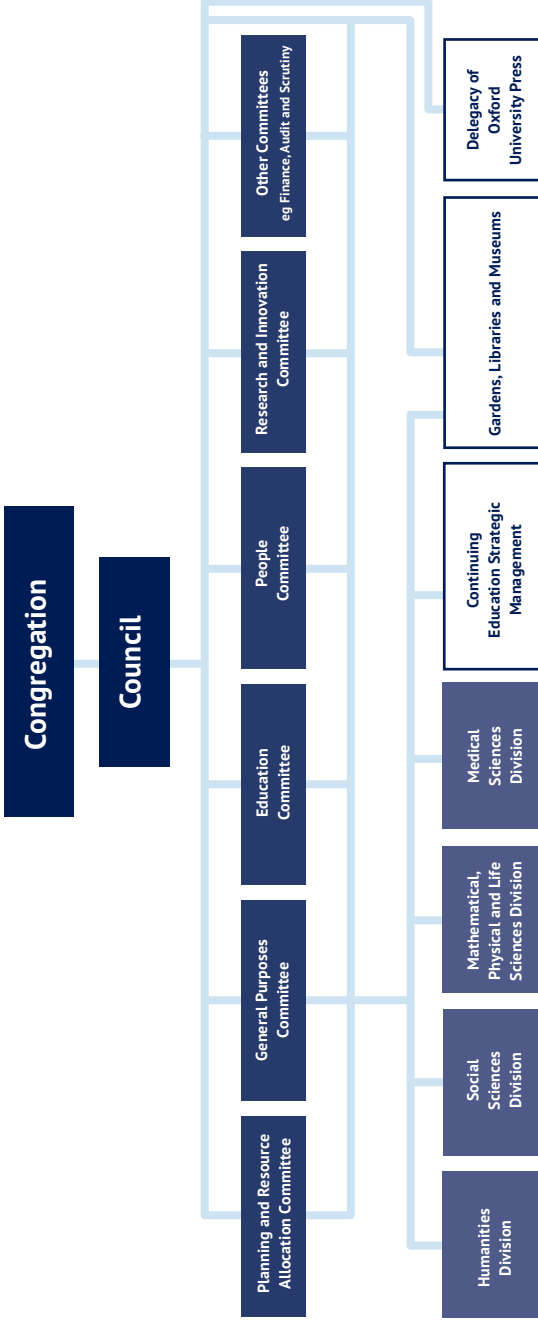
**Director of the Department for Continuing Education** Professor Matthew Weait

**Chief Executive of Oxford University Press** Nigel Portwood

Information about the current Proctors and Assessor can be found online at [proctors.ox.ac.uk/the-proctors-and-the-assessor](http://proctors.ox.ac.uk/the-proctors-and-the-assessor).



# Governance structure of the University



## Structure of the University

Oxford is an independent and self-governing institution consisting of the University, its divisions, departments and faculties, and the colleges.

### The University

**Vice-Chancellor** – holds office for seven years and is the senior officer of the University.

**Pro-Vice-Chancellors** – five Pro-Vice-Chancellors have specific, functional responsibility for Education; People and Digital; Planning and Resources; Research; and Innovation.

**Pro-Vice-Chancellors without responsibility** – there are also up to ten Pro-Vice-Chancellors without portfolio who undertake a range of duties on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, including chairing electoral boards and presiding at degree ceremonies.

**Chancellor** – usually an eminent public figure, often elected for life, the Chancellor serves as the titular head of the University, presiding over all major ceremonies.

**Council of the University** – the principal policy-making body. There are 26 positions on Council, plus provision for up to three co-opted members. These include those elected by Congregation, representatives of the colleges, and five members from outside the University. Council is responsible for the academic policy and strategic direction of the University and operates through a number of principal committees including Education, General Purposes, People, Planning and Resource Allocation, Research and Innovation, and Finance.

**Congregation** – is the supreme governing body of the University and consists of about 5,000 members, comprising academic staff, heads and other members of governing bodies of colleges and societies and senior research, computing, library and administrative staff.

**Academic divisions** – day-to-day decision-making in matters such as finance and planning is devolved to the University's four academic divisions Humanities; Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences; Medical Sciences; and Social Sciences. Each division has a full-time divisional head, a divisional board and a divisional registrar.

**Oxford University Press** – is a department of the University. The affairs of the Press are overseen by a group of delegates appointed from the academic staff of the University.

You can read more about the four academic divisions, Oxford University Press and the Department for Continuing Education on pages 10–12.

## The colleges

The **36 colleges** and **three societies** are a core element of the University, to which they are related via a federal system. Each college is independent and self-governing, having a charter approved by the Privy Council, under which it is governed by a Head of House, elected and appointed by the governing body directly. The governing body comprises a number of Fellows, most of whom also hold University posts. The three societies – **Kellogg College, Reuben College and St Cross College** – operate very much like the other colleges but are considered departments of the University rather than independent colleges because, unlike the others, they do not have a Royal Charter. One of the main differences is that the governing body recommends a president, who is then appointed by Council. There are also **four permanent private halls**, which were founded by different Christian denominations, and still retain their religious character today.

Undergraduates are admitted to 32 of the colleges and permanent private halls. All colleges accept applications from mature students, while Harris Manchester College is solely for mature students. Campion Hall and Green Templeton, Kellogg, Linacre, Nuffield, Reuben, St Antony's, St Cross and Wolfson Colleges admit only postgraduate students. All Souls is unique among Oxford colleges because it has no student members; all are Fellows, except the Warden. University, Balliol, and Merton Colleges are the oldest and were established in the 13th century. Green Templeton, which came into existence in 2008 following the merger of Green and Templeton Colleges, is the University's newest college, and Reuben College, which was founded by the University in 2019, is the newest society.

### Roles of the University and colleges

#### Colleges, societies and halls:

- select and admit undergraduate students, and select postgraduate students after they are admitted by the University
- provide accommodation, meals, common rooms, libraries, sports and social facilities, and pastoral care for their students
- are responsible for students' undergraduate tutorial teaching and welfare

#### The University:

- determines the content of the courses within which college teaching takes place
- organises lectures and seminars
- provides a wide range of resources for teaching and learning in the form of libraries, laboratories, museums, computing facilities, etc
- admits and supervises postgraduate students
- examines theses
- sets and marks examinations
- awards degrees

## Divisions, departments and GLAM

Oxford University is divided into four academic divisions. Within these divisions are numerous departments, faculties and schools. Oxford's museums, libraries and collections provide an outstanding resource for the University and work closely with divisions to deliver teaching.

Oxford University Press, one of the largest and most successful university print presses in the world, is also a department of the University, while the Department for Continuing Education exists to enable Oxford to reach students beyond the full-time student body.

### Academic divisions

There are four academic divisions within Oxford University

|                   |   |                         |                        |
|-------------------|---|-------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Humanities</b> | <b>Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences</b> | <b>Medical Sciences</b> | <b>Social Sciences</b> |
|-------------------|---|-------------------------|------------------------|

All have a full-time divisional head and an elected divisional board.

The **Humanities Division** brings together nine faculties plus the Rothermere American Institute, the Ruskin School of Art and the Voltaire Foundation. The faculties are among the largest in the world, enabling Oxford to offer an education in arts and humanities from music and fine art to ancient and modern languages.

The **Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Division** is home to the non-medical sciences at Oxford. The nine academic departments in the division span the full spectrum of mathematical, computational, physical, engineering and life sciences, and undertake both research and cutting-edge applied work. In the *Times Higher Education* subject rankings for 2024, Oxford was ranked first in the world for Computer Science for the sixth year in a row.

The **Medical Sciences Division** is the largest of the four academic divisions within the University and is internationally recognised as a centre of excellence for biomedical and clinical research and teaching. In the *Times Higher Education* subject rankings for 2024, Oxford was, for the 13th year running, ranked first in the world for clinical, pre-clinical and health subjects.

The **Social Sciences Division** brings together departments, faculties and schools committed to tackling some of the major challenges facing humanity, such as sustainable resource management, migration, global governance, justice, poverty and development. In the *Times Higher Education* subject rankings for 2024, Oxford was the highest ranked university from the UK and Europe in Social Sciences.

You can read more about the research and innovation work of all four academic divisions in Section Three.

## GLAM

**Gardens, Libraries And Museums of Oxford University** are collectively known by the acronym GLAM, and form one of the greatest concentrations of university collections in the world. Comprising over 21 million objects, specimens and printed items, they constitute one of the largest and most important research repositories, enabling GLAM to work closely with academic departments to deliver teaching and provide students access to important material for their studies as well as drawing scholars from all over the world.



You can read more about Oxford's gardens, libraries, museums and collections on pages 17–19, how GLAM supports the research and innovation work of all four academic divisions in Section Three, and how it contributes to community and culture in Section Four.

## Oxford University Press

Oxford University Press (OUP) is one of the largest university press publishers in the world. It has become familiar to millions through a diverse publishing programme that includes scholarly works in all academic disciplines, bibles, sheet music, school and college textbooks, children's books, materials for teaching English as a foreign language, dictionaries and academic journals.

OUP is a department of the University, and shares the mission to further excellence in research, scholarship and education by publishing worldwide. It currently publishes thousands of new titles a year across the globe.

Find out more about how OUP plays a vital role in furthering the University's objectives of excellence in scholarship and education in Section Two and research in Section Three.

## Department for Continuing Education

The Department for Continuing Education is one of the largest providers of continuing adult education for lifelong learning in the UK. It enrolls more than 15,000 students from all over the world on hundreds of part-time programmes each year, including undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications, from certificates and diplomas to masters' and doctoral degrees, online courses, short courses, day schools, lectures and weekend events, continuing professional development courses and summer programmes.

You can read more about the Department for Continuing Education on page 28.

## Finance and funding

The key financial objectives of the University are to provide the long-term resources to strengthen and further its pre-eminent position – nationally and internationally – as a place of outstanding learning, teaching and research; and to enable it to provide additional support to its three core priorities of students, academic posts and buildings.

You can find the latest financial statements on the University's website at [ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/finance-and-funding](https://www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/finance-and-funding).

## College funding

The colleges at Oxford University are independent, self-governing and financially autonomous.

Kellogg College, Reuben College and St Cross College do not have Royal Charters and, for accounting purposes, are departments of the University. As such, their financial results are consolidated into the University's financial statements.

The financial statements of the other 36 colleges of Oxford are also available to view online via [www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/finance-and-funding](https://www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/finance-and-funding).

## Income streams

The University seeks to protect and grow its income streams by diversifying income sources and pursuing an ambitious development strategy, which seeks to fund core long-term strategic priorities. A key source of income is philanthropy, led by the Development and Alumni Engagement office (DAE).

The generosity of donors helps the University to ensure that the most talented students can study at Oxford regardless of their background, that its research provides benefit on an international scale and that expertise is brought to bear on some of the world's biggest challenges.



Highlights of philanthropic support in recent years include a generous donation from the Uehiro Foundation on Ethics and Education for the study of practical ethics. This support has endowed the Uehiro Institute for Practical Ethics, including support for a number of posts. Funding for scholarships continues to play an important role at Oxford. The University of Oxford and the Mastercard Foundation have established an innovative and ambitious partnership under the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program and the Africa Oxford Initiative (AfOx). This partnership will provide fully funded scholarships to 400 African students to pursue a master's degree at Oxford in programmes related to pandemic preparedness and recovery.

Donors have supported a range of academic posts and research programmes across all areas of the University. Recent examples include the endowment of a professorship in paediatric oncology, funding to investigate how digital tools can boost sustainability in farming, and support to improve the quality and understanding of climate coverage in journalism and media around the world.

In addition, benefactors also support work across the Gardens, Libraries and Museums at Oxford. Examples include a significant legacy gift to the Ashmolean Museum for the Heberden Coin Room, and the endowment of the Head of Conservation and Heritage Science at the Bodleian Libraries.

Donations have also played an important role in enabling the University to create world-class facilities for teaching, research and public engagement. Thanks to a generous donation from Stephen A. Schwarzman, a new centre for the humanities will open in 2025 (find out more on page 44). Bringing together humanities faculties and institutes from across the University, the centre will also house a range of cultural spaces including a 500-seat concert hall, a theatre, a cinema and an exhibition area.

For more information about philanthropy at Oxford visit [development.ox.ac.uk](https://development.ox.ac.uk).



## EDUCATION: STUDENTS

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In the next section you can read all about the student body and resources at Oxford University for learning. You can also find out more about how Oxford engages more broadly through departments such as the Department for Continuing Education and Oxford University Press.



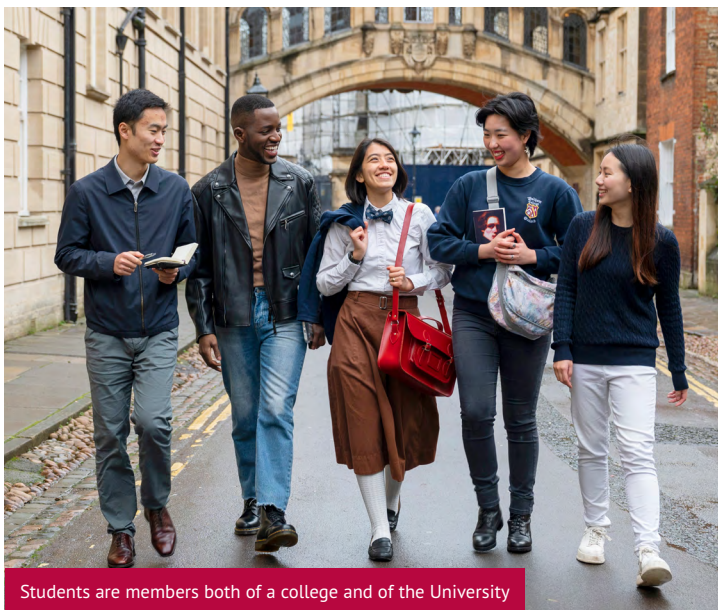
## Education – introduction

**The University of Oxford provides an exceptional education.** Oxford has some of the best undergraduate and postgraduate students in the world. They are attracted by the opportunity to study at an internationally renowned university with a centuries-old reputation for innovation and outstanding academic achievement, excellent facilities and resources in world-famous libraries, laboratories and museums, and to work alongside pre-eminent researchers.

### Unparalleled experience

Students are members both of a college and of the University. The collegiate system is at the heart of the University's success, giving students the benefits of belonging both to a large institution and to a small, interdisciplinary academic community. You can read more about the different roles of the University and colleges in student life on page 9.

At undergraduate level, the tutorial system forms the heart of the educational experience. In a tutorial, two or three students spend an hour discussing a topic in depth with their tutor. This offers an unparalleled experience of highly personalised educational development and close, regular contact with someone at the forefront of the field. Tutorials challenge students to prepare rigorously, offer evidence for their conclusions and engage in debate.



Students are members both of a college and of the University

## Oxford's degrees

Oxford offers around **50 undergraduate degrees**, most of which are three or four years long. Some **250 different combinations** of subjects are offered. Oxford also offers more than **350 postgraduate courses**, both taught and research degrees, ranging from nine-month full-time taught courses to part-time research degrees of up to eight years in length. At postgraduate level, students make a major contribution to Oxford's research endeavour.

Research and development are at the heart of the knowledge economy. Oxford's provision of postgraduate research opportunities plays an important role in training future generations of researchers, educators and business leaders.

In addition, all degree courses at Oxford are open to mature students, and all colleges consider applications from mature students. Harris Manchester College caters exclusively to mature students, offering full-time study opportunities to people who may have missed out on a university education the first time around and to those who, having finished one career, wish to retrain for a new one. Kellogg College places special emphasis on part-time study, supporting an increasing number of part-time postgraduate courses.

The quality of an Oxford education is regularly reflected through high scores in student satisfaction surveys and by one of the lowest non-continuation rates in the country.

## The student body



There are more than **26,000 students** at Oxford, including **12,470 undergraduates** and **13,920 postgraduates**. In addition, more than **15,000 students** enrol in the Department for Continuing Education's part-time programmes each year – see page 28.

Around **12,720 students** – **47%** of the total student body – are citizens of foreign countries, including **23%** of undergraduates and **67%** of postgraduates.

Students come to Oxford from **more than 170 countries** and territories. Currently, the largest groups of international students come from China (2,035), USA (2,025), Germany (665), India (550), Canada (530), Australia (425), Singapore (405), Hong Kong (SAR) (395), France (280), Italy (250) and Netherlands (140).

Data taken from Student Statistics 1 December 2023. All figures rounded to the nearest five.

## Resources for learning

Oxford students benefit from fantastic resources, such as outstanding libraries and museums and excellent IT and language-learning facilities.

### Libraries

Oxford University has the largest library system in the UK, with more than 100 libraries.

The Bodleian Libraries consist of 27 research and departmental libraries with more than 13 million printed items, in addition to 80,000 e-journals and a huge number of manuscripts, maps, music and other materials.

In 1610 Sir Thomas Bodley, after whom the Libraries are named, made a historic agreement with the Stationers' Company to claim a copy of every book and periodical published in print in this country.

This evolved into the Legal Deposit Act and is still in existence today. Because of this, the Bodleian Libraries receive 5,000 print and electronic books every week via Legal Deposit.

The Bodleian Libraries' priceless collections started in 1602 and are considered to be among the greatest in the world. They include:

- a Gutenberg Bible;
- the earliest surviving book written wholly in English;
- a quarter of the world's original copies (officially called engrossments) of the Magna Carta;
- almost 10,000 western medieval and renaissance manuscripts;
- one of the most significant collections of Hebrew manuscripts in the world.



The Bodleian Libraries made several notable manuscript acquisitions in 2024, including an outstanding collection of photographic albums and photographically illustrated books from the Wilson Centre for Photography, and the acquisition of the autograph of Johann Sebastian Bach's cantata for Ascension Day 'Auf Christi

Himmelfahrt allein' (BWV 128). The manuscript, which is one of only four in the UK in the hand of the great composer, was displayed in the public exhibition *Write, Cut, Rewrite* in the Weston Library's Treasury.

In 2024, the Bodleian Libraries also celebrated the enduring literary influence of Franz Kafka with a programme of University-wide events and activities to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the author's untimely death. The programme included a free public exhibition *Kafka Making of an Icon*, and Oxford students were given newly printed editions of one of his most famous works, *Metamorphosis*.

## Libraries: accessing resources

The Bodleian Libraries include iconic reading rooms in historic buildings, such as the Old Bodleian and the Taylorian Library. Its newer developments include the refurbished Weston Library, the Knowledge Centre (for medical sciences), the Bodleian Law Library – the largest law library in the UK – and the recently reopened Radcliffe Science Library.

Incredible digital resources include the online catalogue SOLO – Search Oxford Libraries Online – at [solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk](https://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk), which makes available resources across all the University's libraries, and Digital Bodleian at [digital.bodleian.ox.ac.uk](https://digital.bodleian.ox.ac.uk), a repository of all the Libraries' digital collections.

In addition to the Bodleian Libraries and other subject-based University libraries, every college also has its own library for use by college members.

## Language learning

The Oxford University Language Centre is the hub for all students and staff who want to improve their language skills, offering teaching across 11 modern languages and academic English. The centre helps thousands of people of different ages and abilities advance their languages each year. Academic English courses help improve



academic writing and communication for those whose first language isn't English. The Language Centre offers flexible modes of delivery with a range of online and in-person courses. Visit the Language Centre website for more information [lang.ox.ac.uk](https://lang.ox.ac.uk).

## Museums and collections

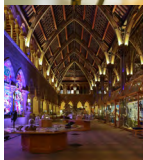
Oxford's museums and collections are of national and international importance. They provide an outstanding resource for both the University and the public. All work closely with academic departments to deliver teaching and provide students with access to important material for their study:



The Ashmolean Museum, which opened in 1683, is the University's museum of art and archaeology. Its rich and diverse collections range from classical sculpture to the Pre-Raphaelites and modern art.



The History of Science Museum contains the world's finest collection of medieval and early modern scientific instruments, and the most important collection of astronomical instruments from the Islamic world.



The Museum of Natural History, founded in 1860 as the centre for scientific study at the University, holds internationally significant collections of geological and zoological specimens, as well as a substantial archive.



The Pitt Rivers Museum holds one of the world's finest collections of anthropology and archaeology, with objects from every continent and all periods of human existence.



The Botanic Garden, founded in 1621, is the oldest botanic garden in Britain. It forms the most compact yet diverse collection of plants in the world.



The Bate Collection, part of the Faculty of Music, celebrates the history and development of musical instruments in the Western classical tradition, from the medieval period to the present day.



As well as being a working library and research centre, public event and exhibition space, the Weston Library is also the home of the Bodleian Libraries' special collections.





## Admissions and access

Oxford is looking for students with the highest academic potential from all backgrounds and has one of the most competitive application processes in the world. The University is committed to increasing the diversity of its student body and over the past few years students from a wider range of backgrounds than ever have undertaken their studies at Oxford.

### Undergraduate

Around four-fifths of Oxford undergraduate students are from the UK. In 2023, 68% of UK students were from state schools; more than 20% came from the least advantaged backgrounds and more than a quarter of UK students identified as Black and Ethnic Minority.

Oxford is committed to improving opportunities for talented students who are currently underrepresented at Oxford and to ensuring that students with outstanding academic potential from all backgrounds can access our world-leading teaching.

In 2024, Oxford developed a series of new access initiatives, including some that will engage pupils as young as 11, both online and in regions of the UK where fewer students currently go on to Oxford. The initiatives build on the outreach and access work already being undertaken across the collegiate University as part of Oxford's commitment to support the aspirations of young people in their educational goals and attract those with the highest academic potential and from all backgrounds to the University.

These include:

- **BeUNIQ** – a new outreach programme for 14–16-year-old UK state school students from groups who are currently underrepresented at Oxford, providing sustained engagement with students, schools, families and local communities.
- **Oxplore Festival** – a travelling event which will be hosted in regions where there is currently low progression to undergraduate study at Oxford to reach, inform and inspire children about higher education and Oxford.

- **Explore Teach** – (to be launched in autumn 2024) makes Explore super-curricula resources available to teachers and other educators to make use of these in their own teaching environments, in and out of the classroom.

Other initiatives include:

- **Opportunity Oxford** – this bridging programme includes an ambitious academic course and residential that helps to prepare talented UK offer-holders from underrepresented backgrounds for successful student careers at the University.
- **Astrophia Foundation Year** – a one-year fully funded foundation programme for UK state school students with significant academic potential who have experienced disadvantage or disruption during their education. It is designed to help students bridge the gap between level 3 (A-Level) study and the challenging undergraduate degrees at Oxford through a supportive and challenging academic course.
- **UNIQ** – this free programme to support students reach their higher education aspirations offers around 1,300 places each year to Year 12 UK state school students, with over 1,000 attending a residential in Oxford. Participants work with Oxford academics, engage with current undergraduates, and receive sustained admissions support and places are prioritised for students who have been in care, eligible for Free School Meals, live in areas where relatively few people progress to higher education or which are associated with lower socio-economic backgrounds.
- **Oxford for UK** – our colleges have combined forces to form regional outreach hubs offering bespoke support to local students and their wider communities in every region of the UK.
- **Explore: The Home of Big Questions** – each month around 40,000 11–18 year olds engage with Oxford’s digital resource designed to challenge school students via debates and encourage analytical and critical thinking, as well as academic confidence and curiosity. Find out more at <https://explore.org>.

Oxford’s financial support package for UK students is one of the most generous available, providing over £9.5m of financial support to undergraduates from lower-income households. Find out more on pages 24–25.

Entry to undergraduate courses at Oxford continues to be very competitive: there are around 3,300 places, and typically over 23,000





people apply annually. Oxford's undergraduate admissions process accesses academic ability and potential through a range of measures, including prior attainment, teacher's reference, admission tests (for many courses) and interviews. Wherever possible, students' prior academic attainment is viewed within the context of their socio-economic and educational opportunities.

At Oxford, any applicant flagged as eligible for free school meals (FSM) is automatically considered to be in the most disadvantaged group of applicants and is strongly recommended to be shortlisted for interview, provided they are predicted to achieve the entrance requirements for their course.

Undergraduate admissions statistics detailed here are from the Annual Admissions Statistical Report 2024. Further information on who studies here as an undergraduate and the latest reports can be found online at [ox.ac.uk/adstats](https://ox.ac.uk/adstats). Find out more about undergraduate admissions and outreach at [ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate](https://ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate).

## Postgraduate

Oxford offers more than 350 graduate courses across a very wide range of disciplines, with courses opening in new areas every year. This includes taught and research courses available for full-time and part-time study, from diplomas to doctorates. Course information and the application form are available via the Graduate Admissions website at [graduate.ox.ac.uk](https://graduate.ox.ac.uk).

About 40,000 applications are received each year for some 6,500 postgraduate places. More detailed graduate admissions data is published at [ox.ac.uk/about/facts-and-figures/admissions-statistics/graduate-admissions-statistics](https://ox.ac.uk/about/facts-and-figures/admissions-statistics/graduate-admissions-statistics).



Decisions are made after each application deadline against the entry requirements for the course and the strength of the application pool. Some departments may interview.

Recruitment activities for potential postgraduate students include attending fairs, organising online events, and running social media, video and email campaigns.

## Widening access and supporting talent

Equality, diversity and inclusion are at the heart of Oxford's academic mission. The University has introduced several pioneering initiatives to widen access to graduate study to increase the number of promising postgraduate students from disadvantaged and under-represented groups.

A cross-institutional Graduate Access Subcommittee directs efforts to enhance access and participation, including several initiatives to support fair admissions, such as the use of socio-economic and contextual data or the anonymisation of applications.

Oxford and its colleges offer a range of graduate funding opportunities to support disadvantaged and under-represented groups, and the collegiate University is committed to increasing the number of scholarships available to our graduate students:

- Launched in 2020, the **Black Academic Futures Scholarships** provide financial support to UK Black and Mixed Black students pursuing graduate study. The programme has since expanded to support students who have experienced being in care in the UK, as well as refugees and individuals who have experienced displacement. Academic Futures has awarded over 100 scholarships to Oxford graduate students.
- The **UNIQ+ programme** ([www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/uniqplus](http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/uniqplus)), launched in 2019, provides paid research internships for those from disadvantaged and underrepresented backgrounds. The programme gives about 130 interns the opportunity to experience postgraduate research for seven weeks in Oxford. Participants undertake a research project in one of the academic departments and attend training and information sessions, and are hosted in one of the Oxford's colleges.
- Oxford has also partnered with the University of Cambridge to undertake the **Close the Gap** project, partly funded by the Office for Students, to widen access to doctoral study.

Find out more about these initiatives at [www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/access](http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/access).

## Student support

Oxford is committed to ensuring that students with the ability and potential to succeed at the University are able to take up their places, regardless of financial circumstances. Securing funding for student support is a strategic priority for the University.

### Support for undergraduates

Oxford offers one of the most generous financial support packages for UK undergraduates from lower-income backgrounds.

- Students from the lowest-income backgrounds are supported through the Crankstart Scholarship Programme. Since its inception in 2012, the programme has supported more than 3,000 students from across the University. All new UK undergraduates with a household income of £32,500 or less commencing their first degree will be offered a Crankstart Scholarship worth between at least £5,100 and £5,920 in 2024/25. Crankstart Scholars also benefit from funded internships, networking events and volunteering activities. The transformative programme was founded on a £75m commitment from alumnus Sir Michael Moritz and novelist Ms Harriet Heyman.
- Oxford Bursaries provided by the collegiate University support new, first-degree UK undergraduates with a household income of £50,000 or less, who are not eligible for or do not take up a Crankstart Scholarship. Bursaries of between £1,000 and £4,000 were available in 2023/24.
- Additional support in the form of travel supplements worth up to £500 is available to bursary holders who live more than 80 miles from Oxford to help with the costs of travelling to/from Oxford.
- UK undergraduates who are estranged from their families or care-experienced can access additional bursaries of up to £3,000 per year to assist with extra costs they may face.

For the latest information on financial support for undergraduates visit [ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/fees-and-funding](https://ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/fees-and-funding).

### Scholarships for postgraduates

Over 1,000 full or partial scholarships were available for new postgraduate students in 2024, including awards from major UK research funders such as the UKRI Research Councils.

These funding opportunities include:

- The Clarendon Fund is Oxford's flagship postgraduate scholarship scheme, in recent cohorts providing fully funded scholarships to more than 200 new scholars each year across all disciplines. Oxford University Press provides the core funding for these scholarships, with several million pounds of additional funding coming from partnerships with many colleges, departments and external organisations.
- In 2020, the Graduate Endowment Matched Scholarship Scheme (GEMS) was launched to support delivery of the University's Strategic Plan priority to increase graduate scholarship availability. The GEMS scheme continues to invest in endowed scholarships and has created nearly 30 scholarship schemes offering over 60 full scholarship awards to new graduate students each year.
- In recent years Oxford has developed innovative funding and access support for students from disadvantaged and under-represented groups. In 2021, the University launched Academic Futures, a series of scholarship programmes designed to help improve equality, diversity and inclusion in our graduate student body. In the three years after its inception, the Academic Futures programme supported nearly 150 students across three strands: Black Academic Futures, Refugee Academic Futures and Care-Experienced Academic Futures.
- In 2023, Oxford was awarded University of Sanctuary status in recognition of its commitment to continue to develop the support available for students who are refugees or who have experience of displacement, including the new Mastercard Foundation AfOx Graduate Scholarships, Refugee Academic Futures Scholarships and WHT Hope Scholarships.
- Established in 1903, the Rhodes Scholarships (funded by the Rhodes Trust and over 2,600 donors as well as the University and its colleges) have a long and prestigious history of supporting study at Oxford. More than 100 scholarships are awarded each year to students who demonstrate strong propensity to emerge as future leaders and have a global impact.

For the latest information on funding opportunities for graduate students visit [ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding](https://ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding).

## Welfare support

In addition to its financial help, Oxford provides extensive welfare support to all students. Colleges provide dedicated pastoral support for their communities through the college welfare team.



Students also have access to specialist support from the Counselling Service and Disability Advisory Service who can put in place individual adjustments and study support. Bursaries are available for care-experienced and estranged students, and advice is also available through the Oxford Student Union. Where students require medical treatment, welfare staff provide signposting and referral support to local NHS and statutory services.

## After Oxford

Oxford graduates go on to succeed in all walks of life, all over the world, and in every field of human endeavour.

Among Oxford's well-known alumni are 29 Nobel Prizewinners and numerous eminent politicians around the world.

In addition, thousands of Oxonians are using the knowledge and skills they acquired at the University to shape the world for the better in every field, including education, science, public service, medicine, local government, charities, non-governmental organisations, business, the arts and entertainment, law, economics and the media.

Employers consistently report that they find Oxford students better or much better than the average UK student at key employability skills such as problem-solving, leadership and communication.

Hundreds have participated in, and many more have been at the heart of helping to stage, the modern Olympics. We are extremely proud of the 170 Olympic medals that our alumni have won on behalf of many nations across the globe.

## Careers Service

Oxford University's Careers Service provides guidance to all undergraduates, postgraduates and Oxford alumni, helping them make informed decisions about their careers.

Services include a comprehensive open-access website with information on occupations and career skills, listings for thousands of vacancies and internships, guidance sessions and workshops, recruitment fairs and employer presentations, as well as the popular annual publication *The Oxford Guide to Careers*.

The Careers Service runs innovative learning programmes for students and researchers, including:

- Insight courses into strategy and management, teaching, medicine, academia, publishing, start-ups and pharma/biotech;
- The Oxford Strategy Challenge and the Student Consultancy, in which more than 1,000 students and researchers complete over 8,000 hours annually of voluntary work, solving genuine business problems for real organisations. For example, over the past year (to mid-2024), the Oxford Strategy Challenge has run a one-week online stratathon every month for teams of six undergraduate and postgraduate students training and working with clients all over the UK (and as far afield as South Australia) on their business issues;
- The Future Leaders Innovation Programme, a one-term skills programme open to students who want to gain skills, knowledge, and positive behaviours to innovate and drive change in the future. Upon completion, participants gain an ILM Level 3 Award in Leadership and Management.

The Internship Office's exclusive internship programmes for Oxford students, the Summer Internship Programme, the Crankstart Internship Programme, and the Micro-Internship Programme, offer a wide variety of research and professional experiences every year, all over the world. Shorter-term five-day internships are voluntary and part of the learning and development programmes, while longer internships are all financially supported.

## **Oxford alumni**

There are over 350,000 Oxford alumni around the world, and the University's Development and Alumni Engagement office offers a wide range of benefits and services to help graduates stay informed and engaged with Oxford and their fellow alumni.

These include 150 alumni groups in over 90 countries; stimulating online and in-person events featuring Oxford academics; professional networking opportunities; regular communications via email and social media; life-long learning resources including a dedicated book club, access to courses and online journals; and discounts from a range of hand-picked partners. You can find out more by visiting [alumni.ox.ac.uk](https://alumni.ox.ac.uk).

# EDUCATION ENGAGEMENT



As well as the matriculated undergraduate and postgraduate students who become members of the University, Oxford is also one of the largest providers of adult education in the country through its Department for Continuing Education. In addition, Saïd Business School works with global business leaders, change makers and innovators across every industry and sector to offer a broad portfolio of courses and Oxford University Press plays a vital role in furthering the University's objective of excellence in education, engaging a global audience.

## Department for Continuing Education

Oxford's Department for Continuing Education is one of the oldest providers of part-time adult education, having been founded in 1878 at the forefront of the University Extension movement. Today, it is among the largest providers of continuing adult education for lifelong learning in the UK.

It enrolls more than 15,000 students on hundreds of part-time programmes each year. Students range in age from 18 to nearly 100, and study subjects across the humanities, social sciences, environmental sciences, health sciences, business and technology.

The range of courses includes:

- Part-time undergraduate and postgraduate Oxford qualifications, from certificates and diplomas to masters' and doctoral degrees.
- Accredited short courses, lasting between one and ten weeks and offered in-person or online, including a rich selection of summer programmes usually held at Oxford's historic colleges.
- Continuing professional development courses, from day schools and short refresher courses to full degree programmes.
- A comprehensive programme of one-day events, lectures and weekend events, held in Oxford and online.



Oxford University's Saïd Business School educates global business leaders, change makers and innovators across every industry and sector

## Saïd Business School

Saïd Business School is a vibrant and innovative school, embedded within the University of Oxford, offering accredited degrees and diplomas for undergraduates and postgraduates and a broad portfolio of on-campus and online courses for business executives. The school educates global business leaders, change makers and innovators across every industry and sector. Its ground-breaking research and exceptional teaching transforms individuals, who transform businesses, which transforms the world and creates impact from within.

## Oxford University Press

For generations of learners around the world, reading an Oxford University Press (OUP) book is the first time they will come into contact with Oxford University. OUP publishes for all audiences, from preschool to secondary-level schoolchildren, students to academics, individuals to institutions. It publishes thousands of titles each year, has offices in more than 110 countries with a presence in many more, and reaches teachers, learners, and researchers around the world.

A major activity of OUP in the UK and internationally is publishing for schools. Millions of children learn from the educational resources that OUP publishes and thousands of teachers are trained around the world through professional development programmes.

- Oxford Reading Tree is the UK's most successful reading scheme and has taught over 30 million children in more than 130 countries how to read. The scheme has been adapted for different international markets and this has been a key part of its global success.



## English Language Teaching

Oxford University Press is proud to be at the heart of an international community of English language teachers and learners.

Its learning materials are trusted by millions of teachers, educational institutions, parents, and learners worldwide, enabling them to teach and learn on their own terms, make progress and achieve their goals.

- English File has supported millions of students to get talking in English for over 20 years. An impact study was conducted to gain an in depth understanding of how teachers feel that English File has helped students' English speaking skills:
  - 90% of teachers who took part in this impact study believe that English File has helped to improve students' speaking skills.
  - 84% think that English File helps students speak English more confidently.
- Endorsed by the University of Oxford and developed by Oxford University Press, English language proficiency tests – the *Oxford Test of English*, *Oxford Test of English Advanced* and *Oxford Test of English for Schools* – join OUP's renowned learning resources empowering English language learners across the world. They are the only suite of English proficiency tests certified by the University of Oxford.







## RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

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In the next section you will read about the global impact of research and innovation at Oxford University across all four academic divisions and how that research is made possible by our gardens, libraries and museums and state-of-the-art facilities, as well as the ways in which the University prioritises public engagement in research.

## Research and innovation – introduction

For the intensity, breadth, quality and impact of its research, the University of Oxford has few peers anywhere in the world.

Oxford's research activity extends from the study of the formation of the universe, through the development of early civilisations, up to high-performance computing and the latest breakthroughs in medical science, such as developing a vaccine and identifying treatments for COVID-19.

The University's staff and postgraduate researchers use innovative techniques and modern technology to examine problems of the modern world and to better understand the ancient one. The depth of its discipline-specific work provides an ideal foundation for the development of new interdisciplinary research initiatives.

### Research objectives

The University's overarching research objectives are to lead internationally and make significant contributions to society. Oxford aims to maximise the benefits of research by advancing fundamental knowledge, thus contributing to better public policy, and improved health outcomes, economic prosperity, social cohesion, international development, community identity, the arts, culture and quality of life.

Oxford has long adopted a global perspective in the extent of its research, and today its researchers are confronting some of the major challenges that face the 21st-century world, including the prevention and treatment of major killers around the world such as COVID-19, bacterial resistance, tuberculosis, malaria, HIV, cancer and heart disease. They also consider the causes and consequences of poverty, globalisation, climate change, migration, and problems posed by factors such as ageing populations and increasing pressures on natural resources and biodiversity.

### The highest potential

Oxford recruits researchers of the highest potential and distinction, attracts the very best research students from around the world and provides a supportive research environment in which researchers at every stage of their career can flourish.

The University fosters research collaborations regionally, nationally and internationally, and builds partnerships with other research institutions, research agencies, funding bodies, industrial and commercial partners, sponsors and benefactors.

## Oxford REF 2021



The Research Excellence Framework (REF) assesses the quality of research in UK Higher Education Institutions. For REF 2021, 157 UK higher education institutions made submissions in 34 subject-based units of assessment.

When the UK funding bodies published the outcomes of REF 2021 in May 2022, results showed Oxford's submission had the highest volume of world-leading research.

The University of Oxford made the largest submission of any higher education institution in the UK, submitting over 3,600 researchers (3,405 full-time equivalent) in 29 subject areas, over 8,500 research outputs in a range of formats from journal articles to compositions, and 220 case studies about the impact of Oxford research beyond academia.

Highlights of the submission can be found on the Oxford REF 2021 webpages at [ox.ac.uk/research/recognition/REF2021](https://ox.ac.uk/research/recognition/REF2021).

### Scope of research

|                |   |                                |
|----------------|---|--------------------------------|
| <b>2,085</b>   | <b>6,440</b>                                  | <b>7,305</b>                   |
| Academic staff | Research, teaching and research support staff | Postgraduate research students |

More than 2,000 academic staff, over 6,400 research, and teaching and research support staff and more than 7,300 postgraduate research students, assisted by Oxford's research administrators, are involved in Oxford's research activity. At postgraduate level, 52% of students are studying for a higher degree by research.

Data above is rounded to the nearest five. Staffing figures as at 31 July 2023. Student numbers correct as of 1 December 2023. Turn to page 60 for information on where you can find more detailed reports on the latest staffing and student numbers.

## Academic divisions

Research at Oxford is carried out across the four academic divisions – find out more on the following pages.

### Humanities

#### Research expertise

Oxford is at the forefront of humanities research internationally. The depth and diversity of research stretches from ancient and classical civilisations to the intersection between humanities and neuroscience. Historically, the Oxford research community has been founded upon the work of the independent scholar, and individual research remains important to humanities research. Alongside this work is an increasing range of collaborative, interdisciplinary projects, involving groups of researchers and support from large research grants or donations. Some major projects, such as Modern Languages' Creative Multilingualism and the division's National Trust Partnership, also involve a large number of external partner organisations.

#### Key highlights

- **The Modern Slavery and Human Rights Policy and Evidence Research Centre**, created in 2019 to enhance understanding of modern slavery and transform the effectiveness of laws and policies designed to address it, moved to Oxford University in 2024. The centre is part of the Humanities Division and the University's vision for the new Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities, which is due to open in 2025. You can read more about the Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities on page 44.
- **The Exemplars network** is a project developed by researchers at Oxford that launched May 2024 on young people (Gen Z) and their spiritual or religious role models. It convenes researchers and students from around the world collaborating and writing about their role models and inspiring the public through the lives of remarkable individuals from different historical and contemporary contexts.  
Find out more <https://oxfordexemplars.org/generation-z/>.
- **The Kazakh language programme** in January 2024, the Kazakh Minister of Higher Education signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Wolfson College and the Oxford Birsöz Initiative. This MoU acts in support of the creation of a Central Asian and Turkic Studies Research Cluster. The research cluster will host linguists from Baitursunuly in partnership with the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. This will bring Oxford's leading linguists together with their Kazakh counterparts to develop a suite of educational materials tailored for the Kazakh language

programme. The collaboration is envisioned to not only foster the growth of Central Asian linguistic and cultural studies at Oxford but also to create a platform for shared academic excellence and cultural insights between the UK and Kazakhstan.

Find out more <https://birsoz.web.ox.ac.uk>.

- **The Institute for Ethics in AI** in the Philosophy Faculty brings together philosophers and other experts in the humanities with the technical developers and users of AI in academia, business and government. The institute continues to confront the most pressing ethical challenges which are posed by this fast-growing technology, from face recognition and voter profiling to AI's impact on employment. The institute will also move into the Schwarzman Centre when it opens.
- **The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities** (TORCH) stimulates, supports and promotes high-quality humanities research that transcends disciplinary boundaries and engages with a wide audience.
- The **CHANGE** project in the Classics Faculty is investigating the origins and development of coinage as a medium of monetary exchange, backed by a major ERC grant. The project uses digital methods to gather evidence for the development of the monetary economy in ancient Anatolia (which made up the majority of modern-day Turkey) for the first time. The project is charting developments from the invention of coinage there in the late 7th century BC to the absorption of the region by Rome in circa 30 BC.

Find out more <https://change.web.ox.ac.uk/home>.

- A research project to study urban soundscapes is underway in the Music Faculty, funded by a significant grant from the ERC. **Sonorous Cities Towards a Sonic Urbanism (SONCITIES)** is investigating these soundscapes with a view to better understanding how they are produced, managed, controlled and experienced. The five-year project, led by Professor Gascia Ouzounian, will involve working with architects and urban designers to help shape the way their designs impact on the sounds of cities around the world.

Find out more [www.soncities.org/about](http://www.soncities.org/about).

The Humanities Division comprises the Faculties of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies; Classics; English Language and Literature; History; Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics; Medieval and Modern Languages; Music; Philosophy; and Theology and Religion, plus the Rothermere American Institute, the Ruskin School of Art and the Voltaire Foundation.

## Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences

### Research expertise

Researchers in the Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences (MPLS) Division undertake world-leading fundamental and applied research that addresses many of the major societal challenges of the day from the development of novel imaging techniques, which enhance our understanding of biology and medicine, to data science and artificial intelligence, and from quantum technologies to developing low-carbon energy systems, tackling antimicrobial resistance (including through the Ineos Oxford Institute in AMR), and preserving biodiversity. Expertise stretches from the structure of matter and the origins of life to applied work in areas such as next-generation solar cells, autonomous vehicles and biomedical engineering. Other current research themes include the world's changing climate, technologies for the space sector and food security.

### Key highlights

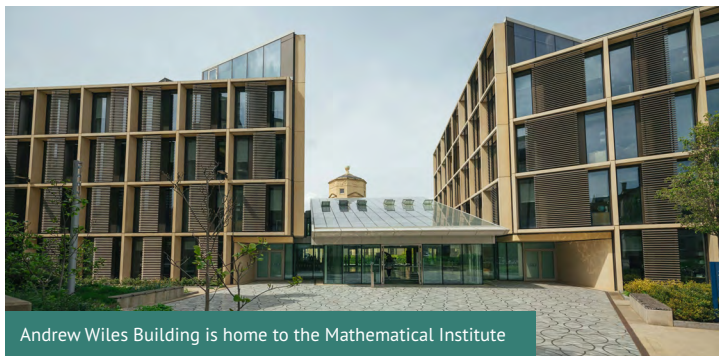
- On energy research, MPLS has founded the new multi-disciplinary ZERO Institute (Zero-carbon Energy Research Oxford) which is tackling the challenges of an equitable, secure global zero-carbon energy transition.

Find out more at <https://zero.ox.ac.uk>.

- MPLS has one of the largest groupings of AI researchers in Europe, with four of the seven UKRI Turing World Leading Research Fellows, and EPSRC funding for a new AI Research Hub.

Read more [www.ox.ac.uk/new-ai-research-hub](http://www.ox.ac.uk/new-ai-research-hub).

It has secured funding from the Eric and Wendy Schmidt AI in Science Postdoctoral Fellowship programme and has Centres for Doctoral Training in AI, which are building the skills of the next generation of AI researchers.



Andrew Wiles Building is home to the Mathematical Institute

- MPLS researchers have founded a significant proportion of the UK's quantum-related companies, reflecting its research expertise in this area.
- Other notable successes in MPLS include the award of a prestigious Queen's Anniversary Prize to the Oxford Robotics Institute for innovation in autonomous robotic technologies; a \$38m award to the Department of Physics from the Breakthrough Listen programme, aimed at finding evidence of signatures of technology beyond our planet; and EPSRC funding for a new Sustainable Chemicals and Materials Manufacturing Research Hub to develop solutions around sustainable materials.

Read more [www.ox.ac.uk/oxford-robotics-prize](http://www.ox.ac.uk/oxford-robotics-prize) and [www.ox.ac.uk/breakthrough-listen-programme](http://www.ox.ac.uk/breakthrough-listen-programme).

The Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Division comprises nine departments Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Earth Sciences, Engineering Science, Materials, the Mathematical Institute, Physics and Statistics – as well as an interdisciplinary Doctoral Training Centre and the Oxford University Begbroke Science Park.

## Medical Sciences

### Research expertise

The Medical Sciences Division is internationally recognised for its excellent biomedical and clinical research and teaching and is the largest of the four academic divisions within the University of Oxford with a thriving, multidisciplinary community of over 8,500 academics, staff, students and clinicians.

The division's research spans the full spectrum of biomedical sciences from basic discovery to translation and implementation. Scientific breadth, depth and scale allow the division to remain agile, respond flexibly and deliver research that has global impact, as was evident throughout 2020–21 by the response to COVID-19.

The ability to forge connections between diverse disciplines enables researchers to build multidisciplinary and international partnerships to drive advances in knowledge, and to address some of the most significant problems facing the world today such as malaria, TB and HIV.

The division is closely aligned, both physically and through research aims, with the two local NHS partners, and this is exemplified by shared National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Biomedical



Medical Sciences is the largest of the four academic divisions

Research Centres. These partnerships, alongside involvement in the Oxford Academic Health Science Centre and the Oxford Academic Health Sciences Network, offer many benefits. Patients receive high-quality care underpinned by world-leading research, medical students gain experience in one of the leading medical centres in the UK, and discoveries in basic and applied biomedical research quickly result in improvements in healthcare and medical innovations.

Medical Sciences at Oxford aims to be the best university biomedical institution in Europe and among the best five biomedical institutions in the world and, at the time this edition of the *Oxford Guide* was published, had been ranked number one for 13 years (2012–24) in the *Times Higher Education* World University Rankings by subject for clinical, pre-clinical and health sciences.

## Key highlights

- The highly effective Oxford R21/Matrix-M™ malaria vaccine, developed in collaboration with the Serum Institute of India, was approved for use by WHO. The vaccine can be manufactured at mass scale and at modest cost, and has the potential to reduce half a million deaths annually. Researchers across the Division are also working on vaccines in many other disease areas, such as meningitis-B and tuberculosis and are also developing a portfolio of precision-prevention vaccines for cancer.

Find out more

[www.ox.ac.uk/malaria-vaccine-who-recommendation](http://www.ox.ac.uk/malaria-vaccine-who-recommendation),

[www.ox.ac.uk/new-meningitis-b-vaccine](http://www.ox.ac.uk/new-meningitis-b-vaccine) and

[www.ox.ac.uk/breakthrough-tuberculosis-vaccine](http://www.ox.ac.uk/breakthrough-tuberculosis-vaccine).

- Poxviruses are responsible for a range of human and animal diseases, most noticeably smallpox and, recently, the global monkeypox epidemic. Research from one of the division's pre-clinical departments sheds light on how these viruses are able to evade the natural defences that our bodies use to combat infection, and also suggests potential new targets for anti-viral drugs.

Find out more

[www.ox.ac.uk/how-poxviruses-evade-host-defences](http://www.ox.ac.uk/how-poxviruses-evade-host-defences).



- An AI tool has been developed that can predict 10-year risks of deadly heart attacks. In the first real-world trial of the tool, it was found to improve treatment for up to 45% of patients. The tool could save the lives of thousands with chest pain, who may not have been identified at risk of a heart attack and therefore may not have received appropriate treatment to lower their risk. AI is being deployed in many ways by our researchers, including to diagnose and monitor psychiatric disorders, develop diagnostic tests for chronic fatigue, predict cancer risk, check bone health and reduce fracture risk, predict viral outbreaks, and accelerate medicine discovery.

Find out more [www.ox.ac.uk/ai-at-oxford](http://www.ox.ac.uk/ai-at-oxford) and [www.ox.ac.uk/ai-predicts-heart-attack-risks](http://www.ox.ac.uk/ai-predicts-heart-attack-risks).

- By investigating data from the UK Biobank, our scientists are making many important discoveries related to increased risk of developing dementia. Diabetes, traffic-related air pollution and alcohol intake were found to be the most harmful out of 15 modifiable risk factors, and both poor metabolic health and difficulty hearing spoken conversation were shown to increase dementia risk. Researchers are also testing existing and novel blood tests as part of a UK-wide study, to explore how to better detect dementia.

Find out more [www.ox.ac.uk/risk-factors-for-dementia](http://www.ox.ac.uk/risk-factors-for-dementia), [www.ox.ac.uk/poor-metabolic-health-and-dementia](http://www.ox.ac.uk/poor-metabolic-health-and-dementia), [www.ox.ac.uk/difficulty-hearing-speech-and-dementia](http://www.ox.ac.uk/difficulty-hearing-speech-and-dementia) and [www.ox.ac.uk/blood-tests-for-diagnosing-dementia](http://www.ox.ac.uk/blood-tests-for-diagnosing-dementia).

- Scientists from the OxPLoreD/OxCURE study, in partnership with Janssen, found a molecular 'signature' in people with non-malignant blood conditions that shows whether they are at high risk of developing leukaemia or not. High-risk patients are being fast-tracked into an early intervention study with a new immunotherapy that recruits T cells to attack leukaemic and even pre-leukaemic cells. Early findings are available, and the trial will continue for the next couple of years. As well as this great success in early cancer detection and immunotherapy research, the renewal of the CRUK Clinical Academic Training Programme and funding allocated to non-clinical DPhil students allows us to keep training the next generation of cancer scientists, and continue to bring novel cancer treatments to patients.

Find out more [www.nature.com/articles/s41588-022-01211-y](http://www.nature.com/articles/s41588-022-01211-y) and [www.ox.ac.uk/CRUK-Clinical-Academic-Training-Programme](http://www.ox.ac.uk/CRUK-Clinical-Academic-Training-Programme).

- In 2022, the first UK newborn screening trial for spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) launched. Screening has the potential to save about 70 babies in the UK from severe disability each year, if included in the UK's National Newborn Screening Programme. In parallel, the researchers are also involved in clinical trials to support patients who have been diagnosed with the condition. They have also initiated an investigational physiotherapy study to optimise physiotherapy practices for children between one and ten years old who have been diagnosed with SMA.

Find out more

[www.ox.ac.uk/newborn-screening-spinal-muscular-atrophy](http://www.ox.ac.uk/newborn-screening-spinal-muscular-atrophy).

The Medical Sciences Division encompasses the Department of Biochemistry, the Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine, the Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences, the Department of Experimental Psychology, the Radcliffe Department of Medicine, the Department of Oncology, the Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences, the Department of Paediatrics, the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology, the Department of Pharmacology, the Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics, the Nuffield Department of Population Health, the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences, the Department of Psychiatry, the Nuffield Department of Surgical Sciences and the Nuffield Department of Women's & Reproductive Health.



## Social Sciences

### Research expertise

The Social Sciences Division's academic and research staff and students are international thought leaders, generating new evidence, insights and policy tools with which to address some of the major global challenges facing humanity, such as sustainable resource management, poverty and forced migration, effective governance and justice. As well as active interdisciplinary links with researchers in other divisions at Oxford, Social Sciences engages and collaborates extensively with other universities and a wide range of governmental and non-governmental practitioner communities such as law, business, public health and welfare, international development and education around the world.

## Key highlights

- Oxford's social scientists continue to work at the cutting edge of interdisciplinary and collaborative global efforts on **climate change**, addressing issues from social inequality, blue carbon habitats, and climate law and governance, to strategies for news media and business leaders in addressing and combating the climate crisis.
- In early 2024, the University of Oxford, Oxford Brookes University and Oxfordshire County Council launched a new initiative that aims to promote relationships and bridge the gap between research and local policy. The **Local Policy Lab** aims to connect researchers with county and district council policymakers, local volunteer and charity organisations, and communities to support evidence-based public policy in key areas, initially focusing on health and climate policy. It also aims to create opportunities for graduate students, supervised by academics and county officers, to work on existing datasets, collect new qualitative data and undertake impact evaluations.

Find out more [www.socsci.ox.ac.uk/local-policy-lab](http://www.socsci.ox.ac.uk/local-policy-lab).

- Announced in 2023, Oxford is co-leading on an £8.7m research project to establish an **Energy Demand Observatory and Laboratory** in the UK. The five-year programme will establish a national energy data platform to help facilitate the transition to net-zero carbon emissions.
- The Oxford-led **CO<sub>2</sub>RE Hub** is coordinating the UK government's £30m Greenhouse Gas Removal programme, researching innovative ways of removing the gases to help to stabilise the climate. Comprising a multidisciplinary team of leading academic experts on greenhouse gas removal in the UK and backed by seven institutions, it is located at the division's Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment.
- An Oxford-based **Leverhulme Centre for Nature Recovery** was announced in January 2022, and acts as a hub for innovative thinking, discussion and analysis of nature recovery nationally and worldwide, uniting leading researchers from a wide range of disciplines across the University.

Find out more [www.naturerecovery.ox.ac.uk](http://www.naturerecovery.ox.ac.uk).

The Social Sciences Division consists of the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography, the School of Archaeology, the Blavatnik School of Government, the Department of Economics, the Department of Education, the School of Geography and the Environment, the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies, the Department of International Development, the Oxford Internet Institute, the Faculty of Law, the Oxford Martin School, the Department of Politics and International Relations, the Saïd Business School, the Department of Social Policy and Intervention, and the Department of Sociology.

## The colleges



Alongside the divisions, the colleges have a vital role to play in Oxford's research activity, through the provision of natural multidisciplinary communities that facilitate and foster research activities, the funding of posts and, where appropriate, the provision of space and support to specialist research institutes.

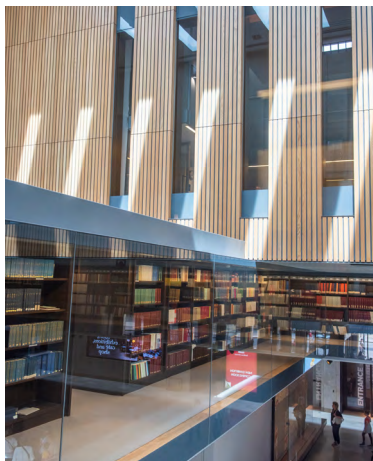
## Resources for research – GLAM

Oxford's outstanding gardens, libraries and museums form one of the greatest concentrations of university collections in the world. Comprising over 21 million objects, specimens and printed items, they constitute one of the world's largest and most important research repositories, drawing scholars from all over the globe.

**The Bodleian Libraries** work to provide services that anticipate and respond to the needs of 21st-century scholars across subject disciplines. The libraries have invested heavily in increased digital access and have taken the lead in the digitisation of manuscripts, searchable text archives and image databases, which proved invaluable during the COVID-19 pandemic. They aim to increase the speed of access to other information as well, including high-demand

print collections and resources beyond their own vast collections. Academic subject librarians provide research training and support and also assist in accessing the rich resources available.

**The Bodleian Libraries' special collections** comprise one of the largest collections of western manuscripts, rare books, maps and music in the world, and some of the world's greatest written treasures. Access to the special collections for research forms an important and unique element of Oxford's academic offering.



The Weston Library is home to the Bodleian Libraries' special collections

All of the museums and collections engage in externally funded research projects and collaborate as partners on research projects in Oxford and with universities around the world. For example:

- The **Ashmolean** partners with institutions across the globe and other departments of the University to contribute to new research in the history of art, the conservation of material culture and archaeological fieldwork. Current projects range over ancient economic networks, explored through coinage; the museum's collections of Renaissance drawings; and the representation of the goddess Aphrodite in Cyprus, which will be presented in a new exhibition in 2026–27.
- Research in the **Museum of Natural History** encompasses geology, palaeobiology and zoology with a focus on material housed in the extensive Earth and Life collections. A major theme is the early evolution of animals in the Ediacaran-Cambrian transition.
- The **Botanic Garden** has been working with botanists from around the world to develop conservation plant collections of species from biodiversity hotspots, with research focused on the Mediterranean Basin, Ethiopian and Japanese floristic regions.
- In a series of research projects across the Gardens, Libraries and Museums, GLAM staff are collaborating with colleagues in the Medical Sciences Division to explore the role of the cultural sector for supporting and improving people's mental health and wellbeing.

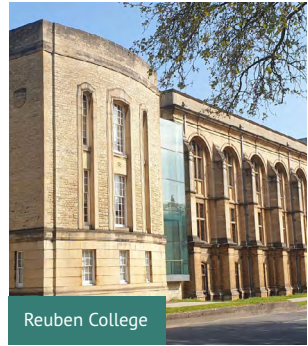
## Resources for research – state-of-the-art facilities

As well as its museums and collections, the University makes significant and ongoing investment in state-of-the-art research facilities.

### Key developments:

- The Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities is on track to open in 2025, after celebrations to mark construction reaching the new building's highest point were held in May 2024. The project will provide high-quality spaces for teaching, research, performance and outreach, including a new library, a 500-seat concert hall and a theatre.
- Construction of the Life and Mind Building will also be completed in 2025. The £200m project will house the Experimental Psychology and Biology Departments, and is being delivered under the University's joint venture with Legal & General (L&G).
- The L&G partnership is enabling the University to meet its strategic targets to create innovation districts and new housing for staff and graduate students. Seventy-one new L&G-funded homes for postgraduates and their families will be completed in 2024 at Court Place Gardens in Iffley. Replacing houses at the end of their usable lives, they will be far more comfortable with radically improved environmental performance.
- Two new science and innovation buildings were also completed at Begbroke Science Park in spring 2024 – the first major new facilities delivered through the joint venture. Ultimately the University aims to turn its land around the Science Park into a unique innovation district, with new research and development space alongside housing, shops, cafes, schools, leisure and community facilities and extensive green space. Following a planning application in 2023, a decision from the local authority is expected in 2024.
- The Old Power Station in Osney is being transformed into the Saïd Business School's new Global Leadership Centre. Once completed in 2025, this will provide dedicated facilities for executive education.
- Work has started at Old Road Campus to create a new Global Health building. Expected to be finished in early 2026, the £32m project will provide space for global health teaching and research, the Centre for Tropical Medicine and part of the Oxford Population Health department, to improve health and save lives all over the world.

- Reuben College opened its doors in October 2023, after the completion of a major project to create dining facilities, offices, student study and social areas and conference facilities for Oxford's 39th college, through extensive refurbishment of former library, teaching and research spaces. The project also provided new museum collections storage, and a refurbishment of the Radcliffe Science Library.



### Begbroke Science Park

Begbroke Science Park is a fully integrated research and development facility, where world-class University scientists work with industry decision-makers and entrepreneurs to turn cutting-edge research into commercial opportunities. It is home to more than 20 research groups in engineering, materials and life sciences as well as around 30 high-tech companies. The park hosts innovation and enterprise initiatives and provides a space where academic theory is converted into business practice by nurturing up-and-coming science-based industries.

### Wider investment

The Mini Energy Systems Accelerator (TESA) and the Clinical Bio-Manufacturing (CBF) refurbishment projects are part of a wider £8m-worth of investment into the Oxfordshire region, via OxLEP and the government's Get Building Fund.

The Mini-TESA is the first phase of wider University plans to develop a world-leading multi-disciplinary hub, championing green innovation, at Osney Mead in Oxford, while the refurbishment of the Clinical Bio-Manufacturing facility complements plans to expand clinical bio-manufacturing capacity in Oxford.

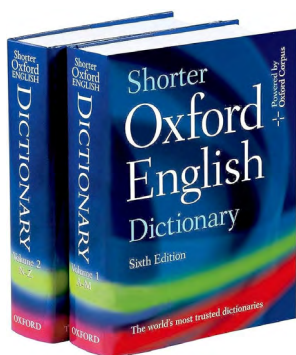
The refurbishment of the CBF is nearly complete, while the Mini-TESA is complete and already home to two University Research Groups, the Low Carbon Hub (a social enterprise) and a team from Scottish and Southern Energy Networks ([lowcarbonhub.org](https://www.lowcarbonhub.org) and [ssen.co.uk](https://www.ssen.co.uk)) – and is also hosting the popular MSc in Energy Systems.

TESA also hosts the director of the ZERO Institute ([zero.ox.ac.uk](https://www.zero.ox.ac.uk)) that brings together over 200 professors from across the University to tackle questions surrounding zero-carbon energy systems. TESA stimulates multi-stakeholder innovation into the energy transition and identification of pathways to smooth and accelerated transition.

Oxford University Press (OUP) furthers the University's objective of excellence in research through its publishing worldwide. It is one of the largest university press publishers and works with institutions and learned societies to bring a world of knowledge to the fingertips of students and researchers worldwide.

### High quality

OUP publishes high-quality journals working closely with society partners and authors in order to provide publishing services that support their research needs. More than 500 journals are published in the humanities, social sciences, law, science and medicine. Two-thirds of these are published with learned and professional societies.



The *Oxford English Dictionary* is widely regarded as the accepted authority on the English language and aims to document the English language in all its varieties from the 11th century to the present day. It now contains more than 850,000 definitions from the last 1,000 years and 15,000 definitions are added or updated each year.

### Major reference works

OUP has a series of major reference works in both digital and print formats – from the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, a partnership with the University that features over 60,000 biographies of influential figures who have shaped British history, to the Oxford Research Encyclopedias, a continuously updated digital resource that features an expanding set of original long-form overview articles written and peer reviewed by experts from around the globe.

Oxford University Press publishes thousands of titles every year in a variety of formats. The range includes dictionaries, English language teaching materials, children's books, journals, scholarly monographs, printed music, higher education textbooks and school books. You can read more about OUP's work to further the University's objective of excellence in scholarship and education on pages 29–30.

Find out more about OUP at <https://corp.oup.com>.



## Oxford University Innovation

Oxford University is committed to ensuring that innovative and entrepreneurial staff are supported to develop commercial impact from their research through licensing of technologies, consulting and company creation. Oxford University Innovation (OUI) helps academics turn their research into positive societal and economic impact, such as jobs and wealth, improving and saving lives, and offering solutions to the world's greatest problems. OUI provides support to researchers seeking to protect, develop or commercialise intellectual property, or to apply their expertise more widely through academic consultancy. OUI brings together academics, investors and industry through the Oxford Innovation Society.

### Key highlights

Licences and spinouts managed by OUI generate impact from University research to support the next generation of entrepreneurs from across the University and help them flourish. In 2023, Oxford University Innovation reached the milestone of creating 300 companies based on research and ideas from students, staff and alumni.

Oxford University, through OUI, is the UK leader in generating spinout companies, creating 16 for the academic year 2022/23, in addition to startups and social enterprises. Figures for the financial year ending July 2023 showed it had created 205 spinouts and 300 companies in total. In the 2022–23 financial year, OUI returned £15.9m to researchers and the University. Find out more at <https://innovation.ox.ac.uk>.

## Oxford Science Enterprises

Oxford Science Enterprises launched in 2015 as a joint venture with the University of Oxford, and has partnered with over 200 of Oxford's leading academics, creating a portfolio worth more than £2bn. The company invests in companies that are part of the Oxford cluster (including the science parks and Saïd Business School), with a special focus on the University's science departments. A core portfolio of around 40 companies spans three high-growth sectors – life sciences, health technology and deep technology. This unique partnership with Oxford's scientists has identified cutting-edge research, scientific breakthroughs and advances in technology capable of changing the world and turning ideas into business. Enterprises address problems that affect people in life-changing ways their health, the availability of food and the survival of the planet.

## Recognition of research

The strength of research at Oxford is regularly recognised by the award of international prizes to its academics.

More than 50 Nobel Prizes have been won by alumni and staff of the University. More than 100 Oxford academics have been made Fellows of the Royal Society and Fellows of the British Academy.

In addition, the University's academic community includes Fellows of the Royal Academy of Engineering, the Academy of Medical Sciences, the Academy of Social Sciences, and many international learned societies. Oxford mathematician Professor James Maynard was named as one of four recipients of the 2022 Fields Medal, the most prestigious award in mathematics for those under 40.

## Research income

Oxford's total research income is consistently the highest of any UK university. For example, in 2022/23, the University earned £789m in external research funding. When the block grant for research from Research England (£164.2m) is added, the University's research income totalled £953.2m. Oxford's largest and most important competitive research funders over the past ten years have been the Wellcome Trust, the UK Research Councils and the European Commission.

You can find the latest financial statements, including more detailed information on research income, on the University's website at [ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/finance-and-funding](https://ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/finance-and-funding).



Major collaborations mean patients benefit rapidly from innovative new treatments

# RESEARCH AND INNOVATION ENGAGEMENT

Oxford's research raises debate and solves real-world problems on topics such as religion, politics, emerging technologies, health, climate, the arts and more. One of the core priorities of the University is to widen engagement with society, including fostering public engagement with research and contributing to an improved quality of life for people in Oxford and throughout the world through research-led engagement in healthcare.

## Public engagement with research

The University believes that researchers can and should be inspired by learning from those outside academia. Through public engagement we can stimulate debate on important issues, ignite the imagination, build trust and enrich citizenship. The benefits allow researchers to gain from fresh insights and the expertise of the public.

The University tries to provide as many opportunities as possible for the public to meet and interact with researchers.

### Come together

People have many opportunities to participate in research at Oxford. In fact, research is made possible by hundreds of thousands of volunteers from around the world who come together to assist professional researchers – many volunteers have participated in various COVID-19 trials and studies, enabling scientific advancement and helping to save lives.

The digital platform Zooniverse allows people to contribute to real discoveries in fields ranging from astronomy to zoology.

Other projects work collaboratively with communities on specific challenges, such as how best to address flood risk. The Knowledge Exchange Fellowships scheme, hosted by The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH), enables researchers to build partnerships with local organisations that will benefit from and inform their research.

### Sharing findings

University researchers share their findings in many other ways participating in debate on our Futuremakers podcast, holding seminars and lectures the public can attend, and hosting events which enable young people and adults to engage directly with the researchers involved.

The museums and collections also enable University researchers and staff to engage with the public in numerous events and activities.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many such events and activities successfully moved online.

## Public engagement in health

The University makes a major contribution to improving the quality of life for people in Oxford and throughout the world through its research-led engagement in healthcare.

### National Health Service

A longstanding partnership between the University and the local National Health Service (NHS) in research, training and treatment offers patients tangible benefits.

Most Oxfordshire patients will come into contact with a University medic at some point. Many are on joint NHS appointments, while many NHS consultants and GPs contribute to University research and to the teaching of medical students.

### Major collaborations

The Medical Sciences Division is involved in a number of major collaborations.

Such collaborations facilitate the rapid movement of scientific discoveries from the lab to the ward, operating theatre and general practice, meaning patients benefit from innovative new treatments.

Combining strengths in world-class science, translational research, training and clinical expertise allow the University to address 21st-century healthcare challenges.

#### Collaborations include:

- the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)-funded Oxford Biomedical Research Centre and Oxford Health Biomedical Research Centre;
- the Oxford Academic Health Sciences Network (OAHSN) and the Academic Health Sciences Centre (AHSC).





## COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

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In the next section you can read how the University makes a major contribution to the local community, its social life and economy, and the vibrant culture of Oxford city and the wider region.



## Community and culture – introduction

Oxford is one of the world's most influential and international universities – part of a local, national and global community.

The previous section explains how the University's work in research and innovation impacts and engages people all across the globe, including in Oxfordshire.

Oxford University also contributes to the economy, social life and vibrant culture of our local community. That engagement extends from making accessible spaces such as libraries, gardens and museums or supporting local events to the work of student volunteers with Oxford charities.

### Cultural and social life

The collegiate University makes a major contribution to the social and cultural life of the city and region. Departments, faculties and schools of the four academic divisions regularly host events to which everyone is welcome, while the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra, the University's orchestra-in-residence, runs concerts open to all. The University is also a core funder of the Oxford Playhouse.

The University also partners with the Oxford Preservation Trust for the annual Oxford Open Doors weekend. Oxford Open Doors has been running since 2008, and part of the programme sees places which are not usually accessible to the general public open for free, celebrating heritage and culture across all walks of the city's life. The event returns in 2024 on Saturday and Sunday, 14–15 September.

To find dates for future Oxford Open Doors events, visit [oxfordpreservation.org.uk/oxford-open-doors](https://oxfordpreservation.org.uk/oxford-open-doors).

### Gardens, libraries and museums



Oxford University's gardens, libraries and museums (GLAM) welcomed over 3.3 million visitors in 2023, according to figures from the Association of Leading Visitor Attractions.

Each site hosts an extensive programme of events for all ages, including children, young people, adults and community groups, both in person and online, making them accessible to a wide audience.



Ashmolean Museum

**Throughout 2024/25 a range of exhibitions and major events are taking place:**

- **Anselm Kiefer Early Works (Feb–Jun 2025)** at the Ashmolean Museum is a landmark survey of the early output of one of the most important artists working today. It includes 45 pieces rarely displayed in public before and new work produced for the exhibition.
- **Breaking Ground (from Oct 2024)** at the Museum of Natural History draws on the extraordinary archive of the groundbreaking palaeontologists William and Mary Buckland, who transformed our understanding of Earth history with their discoveries in the 1820s and 30s.
- **Mō'olelo of the Ahupua'a A Re-imagined Journey into a Hawaiian Ecosystem (until Mar 2025)** at the Pitt Rivers shows art by Hawaiian artist Solomon Enos, exploring themes within the epic Hawaiian myth Hi'iakaikapoliopole.
- At the Bodleian, **Kafka Making of an Icon (until Oct 2024)** explores the life and legacy of one of the most influential writers of all time at the 100th anniversary of his death; **Write, Cut, Rewrite (until Jan 2025)** is dedicated to the creative importance of editing in literature.
- The History of Science Museum hosts a range of special displays throughout the year covering topics from historic timepieces to fake medicine, and what we can learn from the COVID pandemic.

A listing of public events at the University is available online at [ox.ac.uk/events-list](https://ox.ac.uk/events-list).



## Wider community engagement

Oxford's gardens, libraries and museums offer a key route for the wider community to engage with the University. GLAM venues participate in regular local and community events like Oxford's Christmas Light Night, the annual Alice's Day, and the One World Festival that celebrates different faith and community groups from the surrounding area.

Each year over 60,000 school students aged 3–18 visit GLAM sites. GLAM is the University's only designated Arts Award centre and works with students from Iffley Academy, a special school in Oxford for children with complex learning needs and disabilities, to help them attain Arts Awards; the recognised qualifications that inspire young people to grow their arts and leadership skills.

GLAM also offers regular targeted sessions to groups who face barriers to visiting their sites, from sessions for adults with learning disabilities, to tours for the blind and partially-sighted and autism-friendly quiet opening times.

Find out more about the Gardens, Libraries and Museums of the University of Oxford at [www.glam.ox.ac.uk/home](http://www.glam.ox.ac.uk/home).

## Economic engagement

The University plays an integral role in the economic life of the city of Oxford and its surrounding region, and has long been a major driver in the growth of the area's economy. Oxfordshire is one of Europe's leading centres of enterprise and innovation, with particular strengths in biosciences and new technologies, and many of the region's high-tech companies have links with the University.

The economic impact of the University is not only felt regionally. A study carried out by London Economics, which measured the University's impact on the UK economy in 2018/19, found that the total impact in regions outside the South East was over £4bn (38%), with impacts in excess of £100m occurring in each region outside of the South East.

The report showed that the University contributed a total of £15.7bn to the UK economy, and that every £1 invested in University of Oxford research and knowledge exchange activities generated £10.30 for the UK national economy.



Oxford's gardens, libraries and museums welcomed over 3.3 million visitors in 2023

The economic impact of the University of Oxford's research and knowledge exchange activities was estimated at £7.9bn and these activities supported over 28,000 full-time jobs. This includes a £4.5bn impact of the University's research activities on the UK economy. In addition, £3.4bn was generated by impacts associated with the University's licensing of its intellectual property (IP) to other organisations, the operations of spinout companies whose activities are based on the University's IP, and the activities of companies located at the Begbroke and Oxford Science Parks.

A new University of Oxford economic impact report is expected autumn 2024. You can read the latest report at [ox.ac.uk/research/recognition/economic-impact](https://ox.ac.uk/research/recognition/economic-impact).

### Community funding

Oxford University makes donations annually to community projects and events in the city of Oxford as part of the Small Community Grants Scheme.

A few of the projects benefiting over recent years include:

- Emmaus Oxford's Resettlement Support Project, which aims to help homeless and other vulnerable groups, including people fleeing domestic abuse, refugees and asylum seekers in Oxfordshire.
- A number of charities assisting refugees and migrants in Oxford by supporting English language learning, such as the Iranian Community Network.
- Community projects supporting education within the city, including Assisted Reading for Children (ARCh), Jacari Oxford Tutoring Scheme and FarmAbility.
- Several festivals have received grants, including Oxford Pride.
- Other local groups offering services, activities, support and vital community connection that have received grants include the Bullingdon Community Centre and Home-Start Oxford's Rosebuds group at Rose Hill Community Centre.
- Further projects benefiting from grants are helping connect people with nature, boost physical and mental health, provide practical support for families in need, and run activities for disabled young people and children in Oxford.



## Community engagement

### Oxford Sport Leaders Programme

The Oxford SDG Impact Lab launched the Oxford Sport Leaders Programme, which leverages the University's sports facilities and expertise to promote community inclusion in Oxford, in 2023. By mid-2024, the programme had involved more than 60 Year 8 students from three secondary schools in Oxford Greyfriars School, Oxford Spires and the Oxford Academy.



Students participate in various sports with University athletes, as well as educational sessions linking sport to academic subjects

Over 4–6 weeks, the students spend one day each week at the University, participating in various sports with University athletes such as rowing, basketball, football, flag football and athletics. This is followed by lunch at different colleges and an educational session linking sport to academic subjects. These sessions have included *Football on the Brain* with the neuroscience team at the John Radcliffe Hospital, *Maths vs Sport*, exploring the geometry of the perfect penalty shootout, and cognitive anthropology on the history and psychology of teamwork.

- By June 2024, more than 30 University students had supported the Sport Leaders Programme, including members of the Blues basketball, football and athletics teams, as well as Oxford University Boat Club and the Lancers, the University's American Football team.
- Colleges such as Trinity, Magdalen, Christ Church and Hertford have provided lunch or space for the programme.
- Academics from the Saïd Business School and Anthropology, Mathematics and Neuroscience departments have also contributed.

### Inspiring initiatives

Moreover, the Sport Leaders Programme has inspired additional community projects. These include the Lancers' after-school American Football Club at Greyfriars School, BMW's support for an RC racing club, and the Falcon Boat Club's learn-to-row programmes for disadvantaged children in Oxford.

The Sport Leaders Programme is just one example of the kind of innovative engagement initiatives undertaken by University of Oxford students to benefit the local community.

Many students are engaged in activities that positively impact Oxfordshire and beyond (see pages 58–59).

## Student engagement

Many of Oxford's students are committed to giving something back to the community through volunteering and charity work.

Volunteering gives students a chance to also develop transferable skills, such as teamwork and leadership, and increase their own wellbeing and sense of belonging to the city.

Examples include:

- Oxford Students' Union Raise and Give (RAG) raises money for charities chosen by students. As of 2024, a number of Oxford SU's ten student-led Campaigns were also working to foster engagement with the community.
- There are also hundreds of societies at Oxford, all with engaged student committees running conferences, socials, community events and more. Student media is very popular at Oxford, with students writing and editing publications such as *Cherwell* and *The Oxford Student* and broadcasting Oxide Radio.
- Oxford Hub is a charity working to build a more equal, resilient and connected Oxford. They run volunteering programmes and collaborative projects that support people to thrive, participate in their community, and bring about systemic change. As part of this, Oxford Hub connects students with volunteering opportunities. Work undertaken by students includes tackling education inequality by tutoring a local young person from 7–18 years old for an hour a week, and tutoring those in Oxford who would like to build up their English skills. For more information on Oxford Hub programmes, and to get involved, visit [oxfordhub.org/programmes](https://oxfordhub.org/programmes).
- Another notable example is the Oxford SDG Impact Lab, housed within the Department of International Development. Established in 2022, the SDG Impact Lab is a social innovation programme that brings together graduate students from across the University for a six-month training and impact programme. During its first couple of years, the Lab trained more than 100 students, collaborating with a diverse range of partners to advance the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. These partners include BMW, easyJet Holidays, the United Nations, Formula 1, Climeworks and The Ocean Cleanup, along with numerous community partners. Their initiatives range from promoting Net Zero in Oxford to supporting physical activity pathways for adults with learning difficulties.

- The Oxford SDG Impact Lab also launched the Oxford Sport Leaders Programme (see p57), which sees students from local schools spend one day each week at the University participating in various sports with University athletes, followed by lunch at different colleges, and then an educational session linking sport to academic subjects. By mid-2024, more than 30 University students had supported the programme, which also inspired additional community projects including the Lancers' after-school American Football Club at Greyfriars School and the Falcon Boat Club's learn-to-row programmes for disadvantaged children in Oxford.
- More widely, there are student groups working to support education and community projects in the developing world.

The Oxford Strategy Challenge and the Student Consultancy, run by Oxford University's Careers Service, provide free consultancy services to local Oxfordshire businesses and organisations. Undergraduate and graduate students from all disciplines work in teams to address a real strategic issue or business problem affecting the organisation. The programmes provide an opportunity for local small and medium-sized companies, charities and community organisations to access free consultancy services, and for students to gain valuable job skills and work experience.

## University of Sanctuary

Oxford University and its colleges have a long-standing history of being a place of safety, offering support for individuals with lived experience of displacement.

In 2023, Oxford University received the University of Sanctuary award in recognition of this sustained commitment to being a place of welcome for people who have been forcibly displaced around the world.

The status recognises Oxford's continued determination and initiatives to aid sanctuary seekers, whether they be students, staff or members of the local community.

Universities of Sanctuary make up a national network which collectively strives to make higher education institutions places of safety, solidarity and empowerment for people seeking sanctuary.

Institutions must provide evidence of their commitment to developing initiatives that align with three core principles learn, embed and share.

Read more about Oxford University as a Community of Sanctuary [ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/oxford-community-sanctuary](https://ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/oxford-community-sanctuary).



## **Useful links:**

*Oxford Guide 2024/25* was printed in July 2024, and includes the most up-to-date information at the time of publication. You can use the webpages below to check for updates on the University's website at [ox.ac.uk](https://ox.ac.uk):

### **Organisation**

[ox.ac.uk/about/organisation](https://ox.ac.uk/about/organisation)

### **Governance**

[ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/governance](https://ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/governance)

### **A–Z of colleges (including heads of colleges, halls and societies)**

[ox.ac.uk/about/colleges](https://ox.ac.uk/about/colleges)

### **Financial statements**

[ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/finance-and-funding](https://ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/finance-and-funding)

### **Economic impact report**

[ox.ac.uk/research/recognition/economic-impact](https://ox.ac.uk/research/recognition/economic-impact)

### **Student numbers**

[ox.ac.uk/about/facts-and-figures/student-numbers](https://ox.ac.uk/about/facts-and-figures/student-numbers)

### **Staff numbers**

[ox.ac.uk/about/facts-and-figures/staff-numbers](https://ox.ac.uk/about/facts-and-figures/staff-numbers)

### **Admissions statistics**

[ox.ac.uk/about/facts-and-figures/admissions-statistics](https://ox.ac.uk/about/facts-and-figures/admissions-statistics)

### **Facts and figures**

[ox.ac.uk/about/facts-and-figures](https://ox.ac.uk/about/facts-and-figures)



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## Information Office

University Offices  
Wellington Square  
Oxford OX1 2JD  
+44 (0)1865 270010  
[information.office@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:information.office@admin.ox.ac.uk)

## Undergraduate Admissions

[ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate](https://ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate)  
Email [study@ox.ac.uk](mailto:study@ox.ac.uk)

## Graduate Admissions

[ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate](https://ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate)  
+44 (0)1865 270059

## Alumni Office

[alumni.ox.ac.uk](https://alumni.ox.ac.uk)  
+44 (0)1865 611610

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