Visitor Guide

Thursday 20 November 2025
Rhodes House,
University of Oxford

Exploring AI in research, education, and administration

Hosted by

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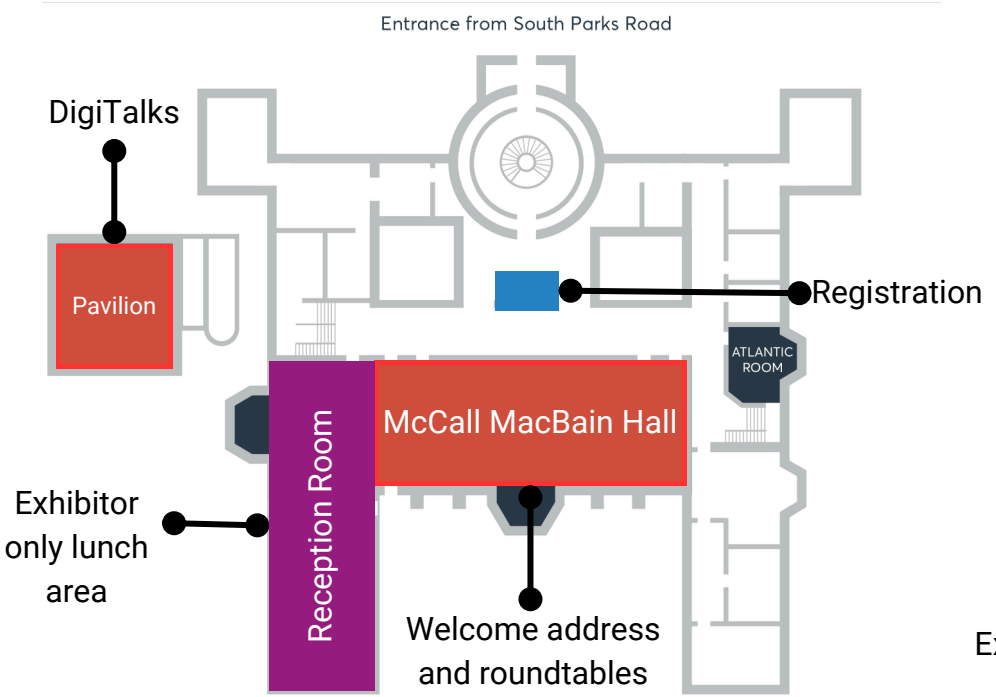
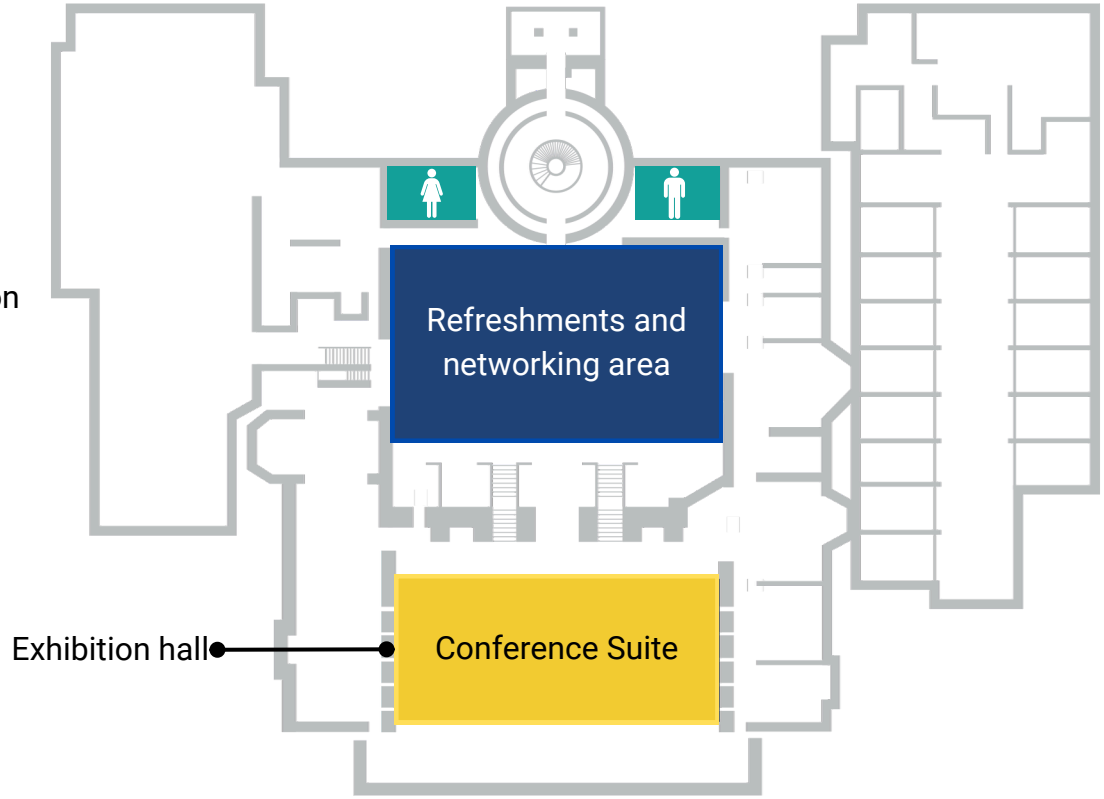
Venue map

Ground Floor Plan



Lower Ground Floor Plan



Running order

09:30	Registration opens	
10:00 - 10:15	*In McCall MacBain Hall* Welcome and opening address from **Professor Anne Trefethen**, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Digital	
10:15 - 11:00	*In McCall MacBain Hall* Fireside discussion on AI at Oxford with the **Chancellor of the University, Lord William Hague** - hosted by **Professor Anne Trefethen**	
11:00 - 12:30	*In McCall MacBain Hall* Roundtable discussions on AI adoption - more information on pages 4 - 8	*In the Garden Pavilion* DigiTalks - lightning talks from colleagues, University partners and tech collaborators
13:30 - 15:00	*In McCall MacBain Hall* Roundtable discussions on AI adoption - more information on pages 4 - 8	*In the Garden Pavilion* DigiTalks - lightning talks from colleagues, University partners and tech collaborators
15:00 - 16:30	*Exhibition Hall remains open*	
16:30	End of main festival	
16:30 - 18:00	VIP Drinks Reception *(by invite only)*	

Exhibition Hall open all day

Refreshments served all day outside Exhibition Hall

Roundtable discussions

Table 1			
	Time	**Title**	**Abstract**
Session 1	**11:00**	**What can AI be expected to do when monitoring biodiversity?** • Tom Harwood, Associate Director, Environmental Change Institute	AI is a powerful tool, but like any tool requires good materials to produce a good product. Measuring nature is complex, starting from a gamut of definitions and cascading into issues of continuous spatio-temporal variation which interact with human impacts, and issues of data quality and expert opinion. Once we move beyond the rather limited “trees are good” paradigm these complications make it difficult to assess what is being measured. Understanding these practical limitations is critical to both developing and interpreting AI workflows for the monitoring of nature.
Session 2	**11:45**		
Session 3	**13:30**	**The Information Paradox: Why we underinvest in data and knowledge** • Michael Obersteiner, Director, Environmental Change Institute	Better data leads to better decisions on the individual and societal level. Yet society consistently underinvests in the digital. Evidence from multiple sectors shows that improved Earth observation, modelling, and digital decision-support systems routinely generate socio-economic benefits 5–10 times greater than the cost of producing them. We’ll discuss why such high-value knowledge systems remain under-deployed, what barriers stand in the way of investing in actionable information, and how shifting priorities toward data and insight can unlock more efficient, resilient, and sustainable development pathways.
Session 4	**14:15**		

Roundtable discussions

Table 2			
	Time	**Title**	**Abstract**
Session 1	**11:00**	**AI and Education: Amazing Improvement or Actually Insidious?** • Steve New, Associate Professor of Operations Management and Director of Graduate Studies, Saïd Business School, and Senior Fellow, Hertford College	Is Generative AI a radically transformative technology that will propel universities into a new golden age of educational improvement? Or an existential threat to the very idea of knowledge? In this discussion we look at a number of vignettes of the use of AI by educators and students, and consider the short- and long-term implications.
Session 2	**11:45**		
Session 3	**13:30**	**The Challenges and Opportunities for Generative AI in Education** • Tom Revell, Departmental Lecturer in English Language (pre-1400), Faculty of English Language and Literature, and Lecturer in Medieval Literature, Magdalen College	This roundtable is a chance to discuss with colleagues the potential benefits and the various limitations of employing Generative AI tools in pedagogy. These issues vary widely across the disciplines and are a matter of immediate interest across Faculties and Departments.
Session 4	**14:15**		

Roundtable discussions

Table 3			
	Time	**Title**	**Abstract**
Session 1	**11:00**	**Governing AI at the Frontier** • Robert Trager, Co-Director, Oxford Martin AI Governance Initiative, International Governance Lead, Centre for the Governance of AI, and Senior Research Fellow, Blavatnik School of Government	
Session 2	**11:45**		
Session 3	**13:30**	**From Data to Decisions: AI-Driven Insights in Estates Services** • Trevor Payne, Director of Estates, Estates Services • Richard Draper, Head of Estates Digital, Estates Services	University estates generate vast amounts of operational data—from building management systems and IoT sensors to maintenance requests and energy dashboards. Yet much of this information remains underused. This roundtable explores how emerging AI tools could help transform that data into actionable insights to support smarter, more sustainable estate management.
Session 4	**14:15**		

Roundtable discussions

Table 4			
	Time	**Title**	**Abstract**
Session 1	**11:00**	**From Prototype to Practice: Innovation and User Experience in AI Pilots at Oxford** • Sarah Zama, Head of User Experience, Digital Governance Unit • Nandy Millan, Digital Innovation Manager, Digital Governance Unit • Gavin Thomas, Business Technologist, Digital Innovation, Digital Governance Unit	As AI tools become embedded in university operations, digital innovation and user experience (UX) design are increasingly intertwined. This roundtable explores the challenges and insights from piloting a conversational bot for the Assurance Team at the University of Oxford—an initiative that surfaced critical questions about the usability of our processes.
Session 2	**11:45**		
Session 3	**13:30**	**From Curiosity to Competence: Building a Working Relationship with AI** • Morgan Jackson, Learning and Development Coordinator, People and Organisational Development • Ella Wicks, Content Officer, AI Competency Centre	Artificial intelligence tools aren't just for the technologically inclined — they're for anyone who wants to work smarter. In this roundtable, Morgan and Ella share how they've built a practical, creative relationship with AI tools in their day-to-day administrative roles. Drawing on real examples from their own work, they'll explore how to move beyond curiosity and start integrating AI into everyday workflows — whether that's managing shared inboxes, improving communications and increasing task efficiency.
Session 4	**14:15**		

Roundtable discussions

Table 5			
	Time	**Title**	**Abstract**
Session 1	**11:00**	**AI in the library: balancing the needs of authors, collections and readers** • Chris Morrison, Head of Copyright and Licensing, The Bodleian Libraries • Dr Alex Hitchman, Digital Metadata Analyst, The Bodleian Libraries • Charlotte Oertel, Metadata Innovation Researcher, Centre for Digital Scholarship	The Bodleian Libraries has been collecting data (books, archives, and manuscripts) since 1602 and has seen many a technological innovation in its long existence. But does the mass adoption of generative AI, especially LLMs, change the relationship between author, library, and reader?
Session 2	**11:45**		
Session 3	**13:30**	**AI for good. The promise, pitfalls and practicalities of AI in research and education** • Peter Sandford, Senior Solutions Architect, AWS	Algorithms have become deeply embedded in our daily lives. As artificial intelligence and machine learning technologies increasingly expand into research and educational contexts, there is an opportunity to decide how, and where, these systems are best used to support innovation while minimising potential negative outcomes. This roundtable will explore the necessity for thoughtful, intentional approaches to guide the implementation of AI systems and what mechanisms we can use to ensure that this technology is applied in the most appropriate way.
Session 4	**14:15**		

DigiTalks

Oxford Digital Festival 2025 sees the returns of DigiTalks - 5-minute lightning talks giving you a flavour of the latest innovations and research in AI. Hear from speakers from across the institution as well as guests from the tech sector. Topics and timings to be announced nearer the time.

Sample DigiTalk titles:

- Bot-building problems
- CS Course Guide Chatbot
- Exploring PG student responses to a virtual dissertation supervisor bot
- AI-augmented decision-making in operational processes
- Divided by a common language
- AI and FAIR Principles
- Using AI with data sets to monitor/ predict fire patterns in the Amazon
- From Stranded to Scaled: An AI-Powered Engine for Global Social Impact

Meet our exhibitors

1 - User Experience Centre of Excellence

We focus on enhancing usability, accessibility, design and emotional response. Whether you're working on a website app, or other digital service, we're here to provide you with the best practices, tools and support you need to create intuitive, efficient and delightful experiences.

2 - AI Competency Centre

The AI Competency Centre supports the informed use of generative AI across the University. Bringing together expertise in research and education, it provides training, consultancy, and access to secure, university-approved AI tools. The Centre works directly with vendors on pilot programmes, mass deployment, and research projects - such as ChatGPT Edu, Microsoft 365 Copilot, Google Gemini and AI-in-teaching initiatives - to explore and embed AI in real academic contexts. Its mission is to empower Oxford's community to use AI responsibly, effectively, and in alignment with academic values.

3 - Beyond the Hype: Embedding AI into Meaningful Learning Experiences

Oxford Saïd Online (OSO) is reshaping education with purpose, innovation, and global reach. As part of Saïd Business School, OSO brings Oxford's academic excellence to a worldwide audience through dynamic, high-impact online learning. Designed for practitioners and learners navigating real-world challenges, OSO combines rigorous research, expert faculty, higher education partners, intergovernmental organisations, and leading digital platforms to deliver accessible, engaging education at scale. From city centres to remote regions, OSO empowers diverse learners to drive meaningful change. With a focus on inclusivity, creativity, and continuous evolution, OSO hopes to exemplify how Oxford is embracing digital transformation to extend its impact locally and globally.

4 - Digital Education at CTL

The University offers various digital technologies to support flexible and inclusive teaching and learning. The Digital Education team provides support, guidance and consultancy on the use of the Canvas virtual learning environment and associated technologies. Visit the CTL stand to find out more about using digital tools in your courses.

Meet our exhibitors

5 - PixselChat Interactive Avatar

PixselChat is a multilingual, real-time communication platform developed by Pixelar Ltd., designed to function even in low or no connectivity environments. It enables seamless translation and communication between users speaking different languages, making it especially valuable in critical, time-sensitive, or remote situations.
We will present the future of human-machine interaction with the PixselChat Interactive Avatar—a dynamic, AI-driven interface designed to understand and respond to your questions in your own language, instantly and intuitively. This installation demonstrates how PixselChat's embedded capabilities make communication seamless, intelligent, and deeply human-centric.

6 - Digital Innovation Team

Digital Innovation is a free service provided by the central IT Services department to support Oxford's staff and students in the early stages of innovation. They will be showcasing GenAI prototypes and demonstrations of immersive technologies.

7 - AI in Education at Oxford University (AIEOU)

The AI in Education at Oxford University (AIEOU) interdisciplinary research hub is a global initiative supported by the Social Sciences Division and based at the Department of Education. It brings together academics, students, educators, technologists, and industry leaders to shape participatory, human-centric research on AI. Since launching in December 2024, AIEOU has welcomed over 1,500 collaborators from 100+ countries and centres student and educator voice in global priority-setting. Endorsed by the UK Office of UNESCO for the Global ICT in Education Prize, AIEOU champions inclusive, purpose-driven AI across all levels of education for the benefit of society.

Meet our exhibitors

8 - NeuroMetrology Lab

Using digital technology, machine learning and AI to develop objective biomarkers for the diagnosis and tracking of progression of neurodegenerative conditions, specifically Parkinson's Disease and Progressive Supranuclear Palsy

9 - Cheng Kar Shun Digital Hub

The Digital Hub offers a wide range of interactive events, talks, workshops and performances led by Jesus researchers and collaborators, that aim to demystify the digital age, enable students to learn new digital skills and shine a light on how advances in digital technologies are transforming our understanding of the past, enabling us to question the present, and define the future.

10 - MyOxford Student hub

MyOxford student app is a cloud-based platform that aims to simplify access to systems and key information that students require to navigate Oxford digitally. It can be accessed as either a mobile app or via a web browser. It includes a college dashboard and a University dashboard that both contain tiles which either link to systems or signpost students to web or intranet content.

11 - Business Intelligence at Oxford

We now have the technical foundation and the people in place to deliver cross-domain 'enterprise' reports to allow our colleagues to, for example, join People / Finance / Student source systems to analyse trends over time by function, department or student lifecycle stage. Come meet the BI Team who are already delivering these sorts of reports and can help you do so as well.

Meet our exhibitors

12 - Visual AI from the Visual Geometry Group

The Visual Geometry Group's Visual AI project seeks to turn research into practical applications of AI in visual and multimodal domains, often carried out in collaboration with industry or the public sector (such as the BBC) and researchers across the sciences, humanities, social sciences and GLAM sector. Part of Oxford's Robotics Research Group, VGG hosts a large number of researchers at doctoral and postdoctoral level as well as research software engineers and project 'ambassadors' in various domains. Areas of interest include: audiovisual search; 3d reconstruction; scene understanding; audio description for movies, comics and other media; and object detection and tracking. We welcome interest from potential collaborators in any discipline and field.

13 - Digital Scholarship @Oxford

Digital Scholarship @Oxford is a project in the Humanities that aims to build capacity and community for researchers engaging in digital scholarship methods through events, newsletters, small scale grants for innovative research projects. Our team of Research Software Engineers collaborate with researchers on digital scholarship projects across divisions.

14 - AI-Assisted Annotations for Histology

Our team explored the use of AI-driven annotation of digital histology slides to support medical and biomedical students. The project demonstrated the effectiveness of clustering, segmentation, and classification techniques in detecting, outlining, and grouping cells. Collaboration among DPAG educators, software engineers from the AI Competency Centre, and Medical Sciences Division learning technologists was crucial to refining the models and aligning outcomes with teaching objectives. Insights from this work now support CSlide V2, a digital platform for accessing slides, which will integrate enhanced AI tools. As a future goal, we plan to add interactive features—such as annotation tools and quizzes—to further enrich histology teaching and learning for both staff and students.

Meet our exhibitors

15 - Centre for Digital Scholarship

The Centre for Digital Scholarship (CDS) at the Bodleian Libraries, is a space and place for engaging, leading and shaping discussions around digital scholarship practice and research within and beyond the University of Oxford.
The team works to support digital research outputs through the Sustainable Digital Scholarship service, produce high quality academic digital editions as part of Electronic Enlightenment, and offers a range of training and engagement events as part of an annual events programme. We work with researchers developing new approaches to AI as well as leading on AI research in libraries.

16 - Oxford Research Software Engineering Group

The Oxford Research Software Engineering Group at the University of Oxford (OxRSE, rse.ox.ac.uk) collaborates with researchers to develop high-quality software solutions tailored to the specific needs of their research projects and provides training to equip researchers with essential software engineering skills.
OxRSE brings together a diverse range of skills, including web application development, mobile app development, GUI development, data analysis, machine learning, artificial intelligence, high-performance computing, scientific computing, numerical methods, computational physics, and agent-based simulations.

17 - Institute for Ethics in AI

The Institute for Ethics in AI leads the study of the ethical implications of artificial intelligence and other new computing technologies. The Institute brings the highest standards of academic rigour to the discussion of AI ethics and bridges the divide between science and humanities. Through cross-disciplinary research and collaboration, the Institute will cements Oxford's position as the global convenor and reference institution for the ethical development and application of AI.

Meet our exhibitors

18 - Integrating AI at the Bodleian Libraries

The mission of the Bodleian Libraries is to provide an excellent service to support the learning, teaching and research objectives of the University of Oxford, and to develop and maintain access to Oxford's unique collections for the benefit of scholarship and society. Recent AI pilots at the Bodleian have focussed on both staff information literacy, efficiency in the workplace, and enhancing digital scholarship. The exhibts will demonstrate the variety of these use cases, from AI tools like OCR and text transcription to enhance metadata quality and discoverability, to chatbots, to AI simulations for training fire wardens.

19 - Online Education Hub

Supporting academic teams to achieve their ambitions for online education, from concept through to evaluation and beyond. With expertise in data, market insight, digital pedagogy and teaching, the Hub can enable course teams to design, build, market, deliver and manage world-leading online courses.
The Hub is part of Oxford's investment in Digital Transformation, helping to increase innovation in education and widen participation and access. It’s housed within the Department for Continuing Education (DCE), helping support non-traditional students and flexibly delivered award-bearing and non award courses.

20 - AI-assisted Simulated Patient for clinical communication training: case study

Discover our innovative project, the AI-Assisted Simulated Patient for Clinical Communication Training, developed through the AI in Teaching and Learning Fund. Designed for use in seminars with MSc students in Sleep Medicine, this tool offers a dynamic and realistic approach to communication skills training. We believe its adaptable framework makes it an excellent resource for a wide range of teaching and research applications across clinical education and beyond. Stop by our booth to see how AI is transforming communication training!

Meet our exhibitors

21 - FAIRsharing - making research data FAIR

The requirement to make data Finable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable can be assisted by automating guidance, improving tools and services, and enhancing education. FAIRsharing's machine-accessible curated database provides a core resource for automated tools and services, which can be used by other services, both within and without UOXF, to provide automated FAIR assessments for researchers.

22 - AI Justice Atlas: Mapping Fairness in the Age of AI

Discover the AI Justice Atlas — a global map exploring how artificial intelligence is being used in courts and justice systems worldwide. From sentencing to case management, the Atlas gathers real-world examples to show both the opportunities and the risks of applying AI in the courtroom. Designed for everyone, not just legal experts, it helps visitors understand where AI is changing access to justice, where it may cause harm, and how people around the world are working to ensure technology in the courts is fair and accountable.

23 - Research Practice

The Research Practice team in the Research Services department supports researchers in producing work that is as robust, transparent, open and ethical as it can be. This support includes a set of short, free e-learning courses that provide a foundation of good research practice principles and the context of why they are important, as well as general tips for putting these principles into practice. These courses also link to curated internal and external resources (such as policies, guidelines, tools, and training) on specific topics, such as data and digital-focused initiatives.

Meet our exhibitors

24 - Oxford Artificial Intelligence Society

The Oxford Artificial Intelligence Society (OxAI) is the largest student-led AI organization in Europe, uniting over 4,000 members across every Oxford college and department. Our mission, “AI for Everyone,” drives a year-round program of 50+ events spanning technical research, policy, and entrepreneurship. This year, OxAI companies have raised over $40 million in follow-on funding, and our speakers have historically included leading figures such as Geoffrey Hinton, Yoshua Bengio, and senior Oxford faculty. Our exhibit will showcase the Society’s initiatives, partnerships, research, and impact in shaping the future of AI innovation and education.

25 - AWS: Accelerating Education and Research Through Cloud Innovation

AWS empowers education and research institutions with cutting-edge cloud and AI technologies. Our global infrastructure and advanced tools like Amazon SageMaker enable breakthrough research, while programs such as AWS Educate and Academy prepare students for the digital future. Through these initiatives, we're helping institutions transform learning experiences, accelerate scientific discovery, and drive innovation in education worldwide.

26 - Microsoft

Microsoft is a global technology provider and cybersecurity business, holding relationships with the vast majority of universities and research entities across the world. Microsoft offers productivity tools in our Microsoft 365 cloud as well as advanced computing capability through our public cloud platform, Microsoft Azure, including powerful AI tools. We want to encourage use of our technology to empower those who do and support research to achieve more.

27 - Dell

Dell will be showing their GenAI digital assistant trained on a specific Oxford educational subject. It will be showcasing it so that people can ask questions and see it in action. This digital assistant forms part of the Dell solution offering in the wider Dell NVIDIA AI Factory – which is Dell’s approach to AI and helping customers on their AI journey.