Parliamentary Briefing

Oxford’s Global Reach

Key facts

- 20% of Oxford’s Full Time (FT) undergraduates are non-UK citizens\(^1\)
- 64% of Oxford’s FT post-graduates are non-UK citizens\(^1\)
- 41% of Oxford’s academic staff are non-UK citizens
- Oxford University Press has offices in over 50 countries
- 29% of Oxford’s research funding is now from international sources, meaning it is one of the UK universities which receive the most overseas funding\(^2\)
- Oxford has almost 75,000 overseas alumni across 202 countries\(^3\)
- More than 33 million students use OUP resources to learn English every year.

Oxford in the world

The University of Oxford is one of the UK’s truly global universities. Oxford was ranked first in the world by the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2016, and its presence is particularly strong in regions such as the Middle East, India, and China. In addition to educating 27 British Prime Ministers, the university has also contributed to the education of at least 30 prime ministers and presidents worldwide. Centres such as the Blavatnik School of Government continue to produce the global policy-makers of tomorrow. Oxford is consistently ranked first in the world in medicine\(^4\) and its research has an impact in every part of the populated world.

Students come to Oxford from over 140 countries and territories. The largest groups of international students come from the USA (1,573), China and Hong Kong (1,151), Germany (883), India (390), Italy (385), Canada (361), Australia (348), France (308), Singapore (290), and Ireland (242).\(^1\)

Oxford has more than a dozen centres and institutes specialising in the study of specific countries and regions. Some regions of the world have built up particularly strong links.

The Middle East

Oxford is one of the leading centres in the English-speaking world for the study of the Middle East; with a tradition of scholarship and teaching in Arabic that dates back to the 17\(^{th}\)

\(^1\) Based on most recent student numbers report, December 2016 (http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/aad/studentregistry/sdma/statistics/student/)

\(^2\) Internal statistics from Finance division, June 2017

\(^3\) Internal statistics from Alumni Office, June 2017

\(^4\) Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2010-2016

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century. The Middle East Centre of St Antony’s College, one of the first centres of its kind at a Western university, is a hub for the interdisciplinary study of the modern Middle East. Ongoing or forthcoming research collaborations include:

- The Oxford Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism will work with the Dasman Diabetes Institute in Kuwait to focus on prevention and therapies for diabetes (MoU signed in 2017).
- Oxford researchers from the Department of Engineering Science will work with the University of Bahrain on low-energy desalination of sea-water (partnership announced in 2017).

China

Oxford is the leading centre for the study of China in Europe. In China alone, 14 million school children use Oxford books every year. At any one time there are normally more than 1000 Chinese students at Oxford. Oxford’s Clinical Trial Service Unit (CSTU) collaborates with Chinese partners on a globally unique, massive study of chronic diseases: the China Kadoorie Biobank (CKB). Oxford collaborates with Chinese partners on world-leading medical research into diabetes, infectious and tropical diseases, and major depression.

India

Oxford’s first Indian students arrived in 1871. Currently 144 academic staff and 390 students¹ are from India. Oxford is a thriving centre for the study of India and has many research collaborations and projects in India:

- The India-Oxford Cancer Research Network (INDOX) has developed since 2005 into India’s leading academic oncology network. It conducts clinical trials and provides training to Indian doctors and scientists.
- The Oxford-India Network in Theoretical Physical Sciences has strengthened Oxford’s links with premier institutions in India including the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore; Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata; and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai.

Research and Technology Transfer

Oxford University Innovation, the University’s highly successful research commercialisation company, has an office in Hong Kong, local representatives in several other countries, and a network of joint ventures in mainland China, which facilitate technology transfer between the University, businesses and local government.

Oxford works in partnership with the Wellcome Trust in Kenya, Vietnam and Thailand to address tropical diseases. Currently WHO-recommended treatments for malaria, typhoid, TB, meningitis, diphtheria and leptospirosis are all based on Oxford research.

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