

# INDIA & OXFORD



2014/15



## A new era of collaboration

The University of Oxford has made developing research collaborations in India a major focus.

These 21st century links build on an unparalleled history of engagement. In 1580 Father Thomas Stephens of Oxford's New College became the first recorded Englishman to visit India. Oxford established the Boden Chair in Sanskrit in 1832, welcomed its first Indian students in 1871, and established an Indian branch of Oxford University Press in 1912.

### Where next: Our aims in India

One distinctive feature of our strategy in India is our focus on joint research with Indian partners. For Oxford, India offers a unique opportunity to undertake cutting-edge research of global significance with outstanding local institutions. Some highlights are overleaf.

Now we seek to create new partnerships with a broader range of collaborators, particularly in the government and private sector. As this document shows, healthcare is a strong focus of our

research; other areas of particular strength include sustainable development, understanding the effects of adversity on young people, and engaging with the newly prosperous private sector.

We are also committed to recruiting the brightest and best Indian students at all levels of higher education study. In the coming years we hope to raise additional scholarships for postgraduate study, to complement existing schemes such as the Rhodes and Clarendon Scholarships; and for the first time to create undergraduate scholarships for Indian students at Oxford. And we aim to strengthen our Indian alumni associations: our more than 1,500 graduates are the face of Oxford in India.

### Oxford-India by the numbers

Indian students studying at Oxford today: **381**

Increase in Indian students at Oxford since 2006: **48%**

Indian states in which Oxford has active collaborations: **16**

Oxford alumni in India: **1,521**

Indian academic staff at Oxford: **112**

Year of first contact between Oxford and India: **1580**

# Oxford - India collaboration

Few if any universities can match Oxford's research engagement in India. Our focus areas are healthcare, sustainable development, the impact of adversity on youth, and India's new economy.

## Haemoglobinopathies

Several inherited blood diseases which are common across India, including sickle haemoglobin and thalassaemias, are being studied by researchers in Oxford, at PGMIR Chandigarh and elsewhere.



## "Million Adolescents" study

Indian researchers from a range of institutions are working with Oxford colleagues on a Delhi-based study of one million adolescents in India. Their work specifically aims to identify social and physical environmental factors associated with mental illness and cardiovascular disease.

[www.georgeinstitute.org.uk/projects](http://www.georgeinstitute.org.uk/projects)



## Climate change and the informal economy

Barbara Harris-White is leading research at Oxford on the impact of India's informal economy on climate change. The team is looking at rice production and marketing in three Indian states and is using interdisciplinary methods to examine the trade-offs within activities in the informal economy and to develop models that replicate CO<sub>2</sub> emissions during rice production and dissemination.

[www.southasia.ox.ac.uk/research](http://www.southasia.ox.ac.uk/research)

## INTERGROWTH-21st

INTERGROWTH-21st researchers in eight countries are developing growth charts for infants that can be used as a way of monitoring maternal and infant health and nutrition worldwide.

[www.intergrowth21.org.uk](http://www.intergrowth21.org.uk)



## Stock trading behaviour

Research led by Tarun Ramadorai at the Saïd Business School uses the largest datasets of Indian stock trading and Indian mortgages ever compiled to shed light on trends in market behaviour.



## "Young Lives" study of childhood poverty

Young Lives is an international study of childhood poverty following the lives of 12,000 children in four countries – Ethiopia, India (Hyderabad), Peru and Vietnam. Through surveys and interviews with the children, their care-givers, and teachers, researchers are collecting information about the children's social and material circumstances and their perspectives and aspirations.

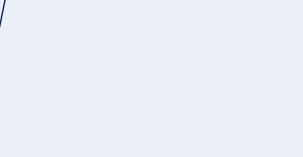
[www.younglives-india.org.uk](http://www.younglives-india.org.uk)



## SEALINKS

The SEALINKS Project is a large international project that is investigating the first seafarers of the Indian Ocean.

[www.sealinkspoint.com](http://www.sealinkspoint.com)





### Lifelines

In Uttarakhand, 2,500m high in the Indian Himalayas, life is changing. This short documentary is one man's story of juggling responsibilities and fighting for dreams, both for himself and for his community. It is part of a research project on education, unemployment and social change led by Dr Jane Dyson at Oxford.

<http://iseeindia.com/2014/06/02/lifelines-film-life-indian-himalayas>

### Oxford University Press

Oxford University Press (OUP) India now headquartered in Delhi with offices and showrooms across India, is a department of the University. OUP India publishes more than 400 new books a year ranging from scholarly academic and general titles to school courses, higher education textbooks, bilingual dictionaries, and atlases. OUP India is considered the country's foremost publisher of school textbooks and is a market leader in ELT. It has developed course-linked digital resources for students and teachers, and over the last decade has set up a successful higher education programme focusing on the areas of engineering, computer science, and management. OUP India celebrated its centenary in 2012.

### "Alchemists of the Revolution"

An Oxford team led by Professor Craig Jeffrey is conducting ethnographic research in South Asia, including India, to assess how unemployment has affected youth politics.

[www.esrc.ac.uk/my-esrc/grants/ES.J011444.1/read](http://www.esrc.ac.uk/my-esrc/grants/ES/J011444.1/read)

### Obstetric surveillance

Medics are assessing the feasibility of developing a routine obstetric surveillance system in Assam, the state with the highest proportion of maternal deaths in India.

Assam

Kolkata



### INDOX

The INDOX Cancer Research Network, a partnership between the University of Oxford (led by Dr Raghib Ali) and 12 of India's top comprehensive cancer centres, is conducting a series of case-control studies to investigate lifestyle, diet and genetic factors associated with the most common cancers in India.

[www.indox.org.uk](http://www.indox.org.uk)

### Smart phone-enabled health monitoring

Oxford and Indian researchers are working to develop clinical decision support for rural healthcare workers, focused on high blood pressure and mental health.

[www.georgeinstitute.org.uk/projects](http://www.georgeinstitute.org.uk/projects)



### Next generation prostheses

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore (IISc) are working with experts at the University of Oxford to design, develop and prepare affordable prostheses for manufacture. This international partnership will ensure that new design ideas from IISc have a major impact on affordable healthcare in India.

[www.ibme.ox.ac.uk/research/regenerative-medicine](http://www.ibme.ox.ac.uk/research/regenerative-medicine)

### Chennai Prospective Study

One-third of all adults over 35 in Chennai are participating in an Oxford-coordinated study of health behaviours (tobacco smoking, quid chewing, alcohol drinking and others) and their impact on mortality.

[www.ctsu.ox.ac.uk/research/mega-studies](http://www.ctsu.ox.ac.uk/research/mega-studies)

### Oxford's Saïd Business School

Oxford's Saïd Business School has run the Oxford India Business Forum since 2006. It was established to provide a platform for global business leaders, academics, policy makers and sector specialists to debate some of the most pertinent issues affecting business, economic and social growth in India. In previous years, the Forum has focused on health and the environment, corporate governance, capital markets and education, bringing together Indian, Oxford, and other international experts for lively discussion. The focus for the December 2014 forum in Mumbai will be 'Responsible Business'.

# India in Oxford

## Academics studying India

Oxford is home to more than eighty academics with a South Asia focus, the vast majority specialising in the study of India. Oxford academics study all aspects of India, including its history, language, literature, religions, economy, politics, society and public health. A new generation of postdoctoral scholars are broadening the range of research interests in India, with recent projects on microfinance; energy technology; food distribution; and dalit business among others.

Oxford currently hosts the UK's only full time university lecturer in Hindi language and literature (Dr Imre Bangha). Support from the Indian government and High Commission enabled Oxford to establish a professorship in Indian History and Culture, currently held by Professor Polly O'Hanlon.

## Ways to study India at Oxford

Oxford offers a number of India-focused courses, both at undergraduate and graduate level.

Undergraduate students taking Philosophy, Politics and Economics can choose to study an option in the Politics of South Asia with a strong focus on Indian politics.

### STUDENT PROFILE: Amit Kumar


**Hometown:**

Saharsa, Bihar

**Course:**

DPhil in Inorganic Chemistry  
(Rhodes Scholar)

**Previous education:**  
MSc Chemistry, Kolkata
 
**The Oxford Experience:**

Amir came to Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar to work on catalysis and an organometallic chemistry mechanism to develop hydrogen storage materials and produce new types of polymeric materials. He very much enjoys his research in Oxford, and notes that the infrastructure and plentiful resources in Oxford make research life highly productive. Amir has also found the college system a great opportunity to meet people of different academic backgrounds, nationalities and cultures, and to learn about research in different fields. When not in the lab, Amir can be found in the Balliol College common room, playing badminton or enjoying writing and reciting poetry.

**Aspirations:**

Amir hopes to pursue postdoctoral research work after finishing his DPhil. Later he would like to join academia in India.


Oxford University Images/Jay Williams

At the postgraduate level Oxford has three specific taught courses focused on India, in addition to hosting a number of doctoral students researching India. Launched in 2008, **Oxford's MSc in Contemporary India** immerses graduate students in the study of India's signal achievements and its persistent challenges, while equipping them to conduct rigorous social science analysis. It is the first degree of its kind anywhere in the world. The Faculty of Oriental Studies also offers a two-year **MPhil in Classical Indian Religions** and an **MPhil in Indian History and Culture**.

## Collections at Oxford

**Museums:** The Indian collections of the **Ashmolean Museum** are of international importance. The India Gallery showcases Indian history from 600 to 1900. It also houses the Newberry collection of 1,200 early Gujarati printed cotton fragments – the most important study of its kind in the world. The Indian collections of the **Pitt Rivers Museum** comprise well over 15,000 items, covering most aspects of daily life relating to Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist and Sikh communities.

**Libraries:** The **Bodleian Indian Institute Library** holds over 100,000 volumes in Indian and European languages and one of the world's most important collections of Sanskrit manuscripts. The Bodleian Law Library has extensive holdings related to law in India. The **Oriental Institute Library**, the **History Faculty Library** and **Queen Elizabeth House Library** also hold important collections of South Asian materials.


Ashmolean Museum/Tony Jo Hung

### STUDENT PROFILE: Teja Varma Pusapati


**Hometown:**

Visakhapatnam,  
Andhra Pradesh

**Course:**

DPhil English Literature  
(Felix Scholar)

**Previous education:**  
BA (Hons) English, University of Delhi
 
**The Oxford Experience:**

Teja's doctoral research focuses on the work of Victorian women writers, particularly journalists, and assesses how they devised models of professional authorship in mid-Victorian England. What Teja enjoys most about studying at Oxford is its truly outstanding facilities for research, particularly

in English Literature. She was also surprised at how seamlessly the University merged with the general life of the city of Oxford, "For example, I have seen churches host lectures on the work of Charles Dickens, and these drew a large and varied audience whose questions often revealed the magnetic power of these authors." It was in Oxford that Teja first attended a Western Classical Music concert. "There are few things as delightful as walking into a concert at the Sheldonian after a long day at the library." Teja also immensely enjoys the vibrant culture of theatre in Oxford.

**Aspirations:**

After her DPhil, Teja hopes to continue working on Victorian print culture.