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The University of Oxford aims to advance learning by teaching and research for the benefit of society on a global scale.

Drawing strength from its distinctive, college-based structure and interdisciplinary culture, Oxford has consistently developed its capacity to generate and share knowledge. For hundreds of years the University has continued to make significant contributions to global society, culture and economics.

Oxford’s expertise encompasses science, health, society and culture. In each of these areas the University has made key contributions to the advancement of knowledge.

Research carried out by Oxford’s staff, students and alumni has made an enormous impact on the world over the centuries. Among the most distinctive elements of Oxford’s unique profile are the University’s success in spinning out companies that convert scientific research into high-tech products and services; its global network of tropical medicine laboratories, which have been at the forefront of the fight against infectious disease for decades; and its close connections with British history, philosophy, religion and literature.

The impact of Oxford’s expertise in research and education is further enhanced by Oxford University Press, the world’s biggest English-language academic press and English language teaching publisher.

In the coming decade the University will further expand the impact of its research and education to maintain Oxford’s position as one of the world’s most renowned centres of learning.

**Nobel Prizes**

Current and former Oxford staff and students had won a total of 56 Nobel Prizes by 2020, with multiple Oxford alumni and staff winning prizes in each of the six categories.

Notable Nobel laureates associated with the University include chemist Dorothy Hodgkin; economists Amartya Sen and Joseph Stiglitz; Howard Florey, a member of the team that discovered penicillin; authors VS Naipaul and TS Eliot; physicist Erwin Schrödinger; and Peace Prize recipient José Ramos-Horta.

Current and former Oxford staff and students have also won a total of 21 Fields Medals, Balzan Prizes, Rolf Schock Prizes and Abel Prizes.
A CENTRE OF LEARNING FOR MORE THAN 900 YEARS

The University of Oxford is the oldest university in the English-speaking world. The exact date of the University’s foundation is not known, but teaching was taking place in Oxford by 1096. The University developed rapidly after 1167, when King Henry II banned English students from attending the University of Paris.

Despite a popular legend that University College was founded by King Alfred the Great in 872, it is now accepted that Oxford’s three oldest existing colleges – University, Balliol and Merton – were founded between 1249 and 1264. Colleges continued to be founded in Oxford in the centuries that followed, with the most recent, Reuben College, being founded in May 2019.

By the late medieval period, Oxford had achieved eminence above every other seat of learning, winning the praises of popes, kings and sages. In 1355, Edward III paid tribute not only to the University itself, but also to the services to the country provided by Oxford graduates.

Since that time, the University has been at the heart of Britain’s scientific, cultural, religious and political development. Oxford hosted King Charles I’s counter-Parliament during the English Civil War, was the scene of famous debates about evolution, and educated almost half of Britain’s prime ministers. Over the centuries Oxford’s ancient teaching and research departments such as the Faculty of Divinity and Faculty of Classics have continually evolved, and have been joined by new centres for teaching and research such as the Blavatnik School of Government and the interdisciplinary Oxford Martin School. The University will continue to grow its teaching and research capabilities to meet society’s ever-evolving needs.

CONNECTING BRITAIN AND THE WORLD

Emo of Friesland became the first international student at Oxford, when he travelled from Groningen (now in the Netherlands) to Oxford in around 1190. His time at the University marks the start of Oxford’s long history of internationalisation: alumnus Thomas Stephens was the first recorded Englishman to visit India in 1579, while the University began collecting Chinese publications in 1604.

Oxford played a leading role in training British civil servants for service abroad from the middle of the nineteenth century. In the 1960s these courses opened up to aspiring diplomatic leaders from around the world, transforming into the Diplomatic Studies Programme, also known as the Foreign Service Programme, which still exists today. The Programme now has more than 1,200 alumni and has contributed staff to more than 140 countries’ diplomatic services.

World leaders educated at Oxford

Around 60 heads of government or state, including close to half of all British prime ministers and at least 30 leaders of other nations, have either been educated or have taught at Oxford.

Notable world leaders associated with the University include: King Abdullah II of Jordan, former President of the United States Bill Clinton, King Harald V of Norway, former Prime Minister of Australia Bob Hawke, Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan, former President of Ghana John Kufuor, former President of East Timor and Nobel Peace Prize recipient José Ramos-Horta and former Prime Minister of India Dr Manmohan Singh.
A PERSONAL APPROACH TO EDUCATION

Oxford’s approach to undergraduate teaching is based around the intensive Oxford tutorial: the heart of an undergraduate education at the University. The Oxford tutorial is a conversation, normally between two or three students and their tutor, who is an expert on the topic. Teaching in this way offers a level of personalised attention from academic experts that is rare even at other world-leading universities.

Tutorials are provided at Oxford’s colleges. Every student is a member of a college as well as the University. The colleges are academic communities, comprehensive in their provision of education yet focused in terms of scale. They also provide libraries, study spaces and lodgings for many students, and are the hub for social life.

At their tutorials students are encouraged to go beyond the facts they have learned, developing their own theories to challenge the assumptions of their classmates and even their tutor. The tutorial makes an undergraduate education at Oxford intensive and challenging; its spirit of free inquiry and discourse is an essential expression of Oxford’s culture and values. Tutorials are combined with learning through lectures, seminars and laboratory work.

WORLD-CLASS RESOURCES

Roughly half of Oxford’s students are postgraduates. Postgraduate students are also members of a college (with the exception of those on non-matriculated courses). Although their teaching and research activities take place in their department, they also benefit from their college’s resources and are able to draw upon the expertise of its interdisciplinary community, as well as the subject specialists in their department.

Education is bolstered by lectures from leading academics, some of the world’s largest libraries and best-equipped laboratories, and a rich term-time schedule of public lectures, debates and screenings. Oxford students are also able to draw on the collections of the University’s four museums, including the Ashmolean, the world’s first university museum and one of the most-visited sites in Britain.

Oxford’s postgraduate students are part of a world-renowned research community. The University’s research output was rated first out of all UK universities in the Research Excellence Framework 2014, and its medical and health teaching and research has been rated best in the world for eight years running by Times Higher Education.

Around half of Oxford’s postgraduate research students receive full or partial funding. Scholarships available to Oxford postgraduate applicants include the prestigious Clarendon Scholarships, awarded to the most promising research students, and the world-famous Rhodes Scholarships.
1096 1190 1249

1579

1636

1684

1749

1861

1935

1945

1968

1993

2019

1879

Chinese student numbers have increased more than tenfold in the last 20 years.

Oxford welcomes its first Chinese visitor

Oxford alumnus Thomas Stephens visits India

The University now employs 170 Indian faculty

More than 70 faculty now study the Middle East

The first Laudian Professor of Arabic is appointed

More than 70 faculty now study the Middle East

Oxford now has 44 colleges and halls

Oxford’s earliest existing college is founded

The University now has 44 colleges and halls

Study begins at Oxford

The oldest university in the English-speaking world

Oxford admits 1st international student

Today almost 50% of students are from outside the UK

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD TIMELINE

Oxford has been a centre of learning, research and innovation for more than 900 years.
The University has been ranked top every year since 2017. Oxford is ranked the best university in the world by the Times Higher Education World University Rankings.

The University now has over 400 students from Africa. Needle-free injection company PowderJect founded, one of Oxford’s early spinouts.

Almost 60 heads of state or government have been educated at the University. The University has been ranked top every year since 2017.

Howard Florey awarded Nobel Prize for the discovery of penicillin. In total, Oxford staff and students have received 56 Nobel Prizes.

Foundation of Lady Margaret Hall and Somerville, Oxford’s first two women’s colleges. All colleges now admit both men and women.

1,700 American students now study at Oxford.

Abraham Lincoln is sworn into office on an Oxford University Press bible.

Kofoworola Moore becomes the first African woman to graduate from Oxford. The University now has over 400 students from Africa.

Bill Clinton is admitted to Oxford. Almost 60 heads of state or government have been educated at the University.

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A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH EUROPE

In a turbulent world, Oxford is recognised for its continued world-leading excellence in teaching, research and innovation. The THE World University Rankings have consistently ranked the University number one since 2017.

In recent years Oxford has adapted to the changing European situation, deepening its ties with European institutions outside the UK to ensure that these productive relationships endure for many years to come.

Existing and new initiatives that will provide a basis for ongoing and expanded collaboration with European partners include the Oxford–Berlin Research Partnership, the Novo Nordisk Research Centre in Oxford, and OxPo – formerly known as the Oxford Sciences Po Programme – that forms a meeting point for scholars from two of the world’s foremost universities in the field of social sciences.

In the coming years, Oxford will continue to recruit the best European staff and students. European scholars have been coming to Oxford for more than 800 years and now study, teach and carry out research at the University in greater numbers than ever before. Oxford’s ability to attract some of the world’s brightest minds has always been at the heart of the University’s strength, and a diverse international community will continue to be one of Oxford’s defining features in the years ahead.

Benefiting from partnership with European institutions and the skills of the many European scholars in its community, Oxford contributes new knowledge, discoveries and inventions that improve the lives of millions of European citizens. With support from EU funding bodies and European businesses, the University has developed new medicines and medical treatments, inventions such as more efficient solar panels and devices that will drive next-generation technology, surveys and studies that seek to understand social and political change, and new approaches to the preservation and dissemination of Europe’s cultural wealth.

With a long record of partnership and enriching European life, Oxford looks forward to centuries more of close cooperation with Europe’s scholars, and academic and research institutions.

OXFORD AND BERLIN IN PARTNERSHIP

In December 2017, Oxford announced the formation of a new research partnership with four institutions in Berlin: the Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt–Universität zu Berlin, Technische Universität Berlin and the Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin.

The partnership will enhance existing links and create an environment for taking forward new projects across the five institutions, including all areas of academic research and also within the museums and libraries of both Berlin and Oxford. Its ambition is to enable Oxford academics and researchers to spend time in Berlin, collaborating with colleagues in the Charité teaching hospital and the three universities, and also support academics and researchers from Berlin wishing to spend time in departments and colleges in Oxford.

A first round of seed funding across all academic disciplines was awarded in early 2019 and a second call launched in May 2019. These will make available funding for colleagues in Oxford and Berlin to develop projects and prepare joint research grant applications to external funding bodies.

ERASMUS+

Through the Erasmus programme, funded by the European Union, Oxford supports approximately 300 students and staff every year to complete study, work or teaching placements across Europe. The Erasmus grant enables students to benefit from a period of study or work in Europe, either as part of their defined curriculum, or as an enrichment to their studies.

Oxford currently has agreements with more than 50 partner institutions across 19 European countries; many of these agreements are focused on exchanges in modern languages. The agreements underpin study exchanges as part of students’ degree programmes, and academics working as guest lecturers. Oxford also facilitates around 230 work placements each year for students studying a wide range of subjects including languages, mathematics and politics.
The University of Oxford is proud to work together with other European institutions to advance fundamental and applied research for the benefit of all Europeans. The projects we run will inspire new knowledge, practices, treatments and inventions.

Oxford is one of the largest holders of European Commission Research and Innovation funding, with the University receiving over €300 million by November 2018 under the current Horizon 2020 programme – more than any other university. Since 2007 and the beginning of Framework Programme 7 (the precursor to Horizon 2020) Oxford has been involved in more than 1100 Commission-funded projects, about 60% of which are collaborations with other European institutions.

Important examples of Horizon 2020 programmes that Oxford is taking part in include Aligning Migration Management and the Migration–Development Nexus (MIGNEX), which aims to better understand the relationship between development and migration; scaling-up biodegradable nanomedicines for multimodal precision cancer immunotherapy (PRECIOUS), which aims to develop nanomedicines that will help patients’ immune systems fight cancer; and ALIGNED: Quality-centric Software and Data Engineering, which will develop new ways to build and maintain IT systems that use big data on the web.

Several Oxford researchers have also been awarded grants under the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI), a partnership between the European Union and Europe’s pharmaceutical industry (represented by the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations). The IMI facilitates collaboration between the key players in health research: universities, research centres, pharmaceutical and other health businesses, patient organisations, and medicines regulators. It aims to speed up the development of innovative medicines, particularly in areas where there is an unmet medical or social need.

Oxford researchers with IMI grants include Professor George Tofaris, from the Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences, who co-ordinates IMPRiND, an international collaboration investigating ways to block the accumulation and aggregation of proteins implicated in incurable neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases. Professor Matthew Snape and Professor Andrew Pollard from the Oxford Vaccine group in the Department of Paediatrics have been working on the EBOVAC projects, assessing the safety of the ‘prime-boost’ Ebola vaccine regimen, in which patients are first given a dose to prime the immune system, and then a boost dose which is intended to enhance the immune response over time. They have also been working on RESCEU, a project to estimate the burden of RSV infection, which causes a serious respiratory disease in babies, and biomarkers that are associated with the infection and its complications.
Oxford is bound to key European universities through two alliances:

The League of European Research Universities (LERU) is a consortium of 23 of Europe’s strongest research universities; Oxford was one of the League’s founding members.

Since 2002 LERU has advocated for education that expands the frontiers of human understanding, the creation of new knowledge through basic research, and the promotion of research including in partnership with industry and society at large.

LERU develops and disseminates leading institutions’ views through policy papers, statements, meetings and events, helping to shape national and in particular European policy on research, innovation and higher education. The League provides a unified voice for research-intensive universities and is a valued interlocutor with the European institutions and other policy stakeholders.

In addition to policy work and advocacy for universities, LERU organises more than 22 working groups through which institutions exchange knowledge and best practices.

The Europaeum, an association of more than a dozen leading European universities, was founded by the University of Oxford and partners in 1992, and its main office is based in Oxford. It brings together students and faculty working mainly in the Humanities and the Social Sciences, to promote a better ‘sense of Europe’ through collaboration and academic mobility. It aims to foster collaborative research and teaching, to provide opportunities for scholars, leaders, academics and graduates, through international conferences, summer schools and colloquia, and to enable leading figures from the worlds of business, politics and culture to take part in transnational and interdisciplinary dialogue with the world of scholarship.

In 2018 the Europaeum launched its multi-disciplinary, multi-university, and multi-locational Scholars Programme, with the aim of producing a new generation of leaders, thinkers, and researchers who have the capacity and desire to shape the future of Europe.
A HOME FOR THE STUDY OF EUROPE

Oxford is today one of the world’s leading centres for the study of Europe’s history, society, economy and culture.

History and thought
The history of Europe is taught and studied extensively at the University’s History Faculty, which hosts several centres and programmes for European history. Faculty centres include the Oxford Centre for European History, which brings together around 40 leading historians to form one of the largest and foremost communities in the world for research on European history since the Renaissance. The Faculty also hosts the Britain and Europe Group, which brings together historians working on the cultural and intellectual relationship between Britain and the rest of Europe since the Eighteenth Century.

The Oxford Centre for Byzantine Research, based at the Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies is a research hub which brings together experts from several disciplines including history, archaeology and classics.

Law, politics, economics and area studies
Oxford’s Law Faculty offers a special BA degree in Law with Law Studies in Europe, which is a four year course. The third year is spent in France, Germany, Italy or Spain where students study the law of those countries taught in the local language, or in the Netherlands, where students study European law. In addition, the Faculty runs a Diploma in Legal Studies course which is open to students from its European partner universities and which allows undergraduate students from a non-common law background to spend a year at Oxford studying three courses from the regular BA in Law degree programme. These courses are managed by the Institute of European and Comparative Law (IECL), one of the Faculty’s major research centres. The IECL also organises exchange programmes for Faculty members and postgraduate students to visit the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law in Hamburg, the University of Seville, the University of Rome La Sapienza and the Lomonosov Moscow State University. It runs a thriving visitor programme attracting scholars from all over Europe and also holds regular seminars and conferences on diverse topics within its remit.

The Department of Politics and International Relations offers studies focused on Europe through its MPhil in European Politics and Society. The Department is home to numerous research projects into contemporary European politics.

The European Studies Centre at St Antony’s College is dedicated to the interdisciplinary study of Europe, particularly in politics, history and international relations but also brings together economists, sociologists, social anthropologists and students of culture. The Centre’s research projects include investigations into the political economy of Europe, welfare reform, civil resistance, media and democracy in Central and Eastern Europe. Within the Centre, South East European Studies at Oxford focuses on the interdisciplinary study of the relationship between European integration and the politics, economics and societies of the Balkans, Greece, Turkey and Cyprus.

St Antony’s also hosts the Russian and Eurasian Studies Centre, which was launched in 2003 to carry forward the work of the internationally renowned Russian and East European Studies Centre, established in 1953. The Centre is a major component of research on Russia, Ukraine, the Caucasus and Central Asia at Oxford. The Oxford School of Global and Area Studies teaches the University’s MSc and MPhil degrees in Russian and East European Studies.

Language and culture
Modern languages have been taught at Oxford since
1724 and the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages is one of the leading centres for the study of European language, literature, and culture in the world. It offers expertise in the entire chronological range from the earliest times to the present day, with specialists in film studies, cultural studies, and cultural history as well as languages and literatures. Undergraduate students study a four-year degree course with a compulsory year abroad normally taken in the third year. The department also offers taught and research-based graduate programmes.

The Language Centre is the University’s home for all students, and academic and professional staff who want to improve their language skills. It offers teaching across 12 modern languages (including Dutch, French, German, Italian, Modern Greek, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish) and Academic English courses for those whose first language is not English. The expert tutors use modern teaching methods and high-quality resources to teach in small groups and the Language Library has multi-media materials available to borrow in over 200 languages.

Understanding contemporary Europe

As Europe endures continuing political uncertainty, Oxford serves as a hub for the study of the continent’s governance and society. The University’s researchers collaborate with academics and institutions across Europe to advance research that aids understanding of political processes, economics, policy making and the impact of different constitutional arrangements.

Current research projects into European politics and society include SCHOOLPOL, studying the post-war development of education systems in OECD countries, led by Professor Jane Gingrich and funded by the European Research Council. Also funded by the Horizon 2020 programme is “EU3D: EU Differentiation, Dominance and Democracy”, a €3 million research project conducted by a consortium of eight universities and two think tanks based in ten countries, including Professors Jan Zielonka and Kalypso Nicolaïdis from the University of Oxford.

Professor Ben Ansell of Oxford’s Department of Politics and International Relations leads The Politics of Wealth Inequality, a research project funded by the European Research Council, examining wealth inequality, social mobility and how governments have tried to manage wealth – how they tax it, regulate it, shape its growth and transfer it from generation to generation.

Other notable initiatives include the multiple projects run by the OxPo consortium. Formed by Oxford and Sciences Po to facilitate scholarly exchange and collaboration, the consortium has grown to include the Maison Française d’Oxford, which facilitates collaboration between French researchers and Oxford. OxPo’s ongoing projects include The State in Europe, which has held conferences, workshops and co-taught classes at both institutions since 2007 as well as producing a number of publications.

Working with French institutions, promoting French culture

The Maison Française d’Oxford (MFO) is a French academic centre associated with the University of Oxford, which facilitates collaboration with France. The MFO has three French parent organisations: the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), the Ministry for European and Foreign Affairs and the Chancellerie des Universités de Paris.

The MFO hosts French academics working on long-term collaborative projects with colleagues at Oxford, it organises academic conferences and cultural events, has an extensive library of French books, and supports French students visiting Oxford. The MFO has a lengthy history of supporting world-class scholarship in the humanities and social sciences and is currently expanding its activities to offer greater support to scientific and medical collaborations.

Oxford’s Voltaire Foundation is a world leader in eighteenth-century scholarship. It publishes the definitive edition of the Complete Works of Voltaire (Œuvres complètes de Voltaire), due to be complete in around 200 print volumes in 2020; a Digital Voltaire is in active preparation. The Foundation also publishes Oxford University Studies in the Enlightenment (previously Studies on Voltaire and the Eighteenth Century), the foremost series devoted to Enlightenment studies with over 600 volumes published to date; the online edition became available in 2019.

The Foundation has also published the correspondences of several key French thinkers, including Voltaire, Rousseau, Bayle and Helvétius, and was responsible for creating a pioneering digital project Electronic Enlightenment.

With Voltaire’s voice and Enlightenment values remaining a vital presence in European culture, it is the Foundation’s mission to promote and explore these values, and to do that by bringing together scholars at all levels from across Europe.
The Mathematical Institute, with the Radcliffe Observatory in the background.
Oxford works together with universities and institutes from across Europe to develop the scientific knowledge and inventions that will define human life in the years ahead.

Amongst other areas, our collaborations in Europe seek new breakthroughs in the medical sciences, environmental studies and technology, future materials, the development of new high-tech equipment, and big data engineering. Teams and individual researchers work with European partners on almost every area of fundamental and applied science.

Examples of joint research carried out by the University include:

The Linear Collider Collaboration study, an international collaboration working on a concept for a machine to collide electrons and positrons head-on at energies up to several Teraelectronvolts. The proposed collider will build on the research carried out by CERN’s Large Hadron Collider – the biggest ever experiment. By using electrons and their antiparticles rather than protons, physicists will gain new perspectives on the underlying physics of the Universe.

The European Space Agency’s Cloud Climate Change Initiative, is creating long-term cloud property data sets from different Earth observing satellites, improving the accuracy of climate data. The initiative will meet the world-wide scientific community’s need for better data for climate change studies.

Work is ongoing to develop carbon nanomaterials to allow future forms of drug delivery, by the Nanomaterials by Design research team in Oxford’s Department of Materials, led by Professor Nicole Grobert. The team collaborates with European institutions including Sorbonne Université.

The Horizon 2020-funded INFORM project brings together a multidisciplinary team from across Europe to research opto-electronic thin film devices, used in electronic circuitry and devices such as transistors, solar panels and display screens. Oxford’s partners in INFORM include Imperial College, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, TU Eindhoven, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, and the Universities of Bayreuth, Cyprus, Fribourg and Valencia.

Oxford PVTM – The Perovskite CompanyTM – is the leader in the development of perovskite solar cells, which will substantially improve the performance of solar panels in the coming years. Spun out from the University in 2010, Oxford PV now has the world’s largest team focused on the development and commercialisation of perovskite solar technology. Co-founded by Oxford’s Professor Henry Snaith, the company carries out its research and development in Oxford, and has established a pilot manufacturing plant near Berlin.

Novo Nordisk Centre advances diabetes research

Novo Nordisk, a Danish multinational pharmaceutical company, has invested in the formation of the Novo Nordisk Research Centre Oxford (NNRCO). Novo Nordisk is in a strategic alliance with Oxford University, which builds upon a long-standing relationship and successful fellowship scheme.

This strategic alliance has resulted in the opening of a new building on Old Road Campus in September 2018, which houses state of the art laboratories and will look to host up to 100 Novo Nordisk scientists. The ultimate goal of NNRCO is to develop treatments for type 2 Diabetes and associated diseases. Scientists and clinicians from the University and Novo Nordisk will undertake collaborative research projects to identify early research outcomes with the most promise for new medicines. The co-location of NNRCO in the heart of the University’s Old Road Campus in close proximity to buildings such as the Target Discovery Institute, Big Data Institute and the Oxford Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism is intended to expedite identification of new therapies.
PRESERVING EUROPEAN CULTURE

Established in 1683, Oxford’s Ashmolean Museum is the oldest public museum in the world. It holds over a million objects from across the globe that date from 500,000 BC right up to the present. The collections chart the development of European culture from the triumphs of classical Greece and Rome, through the Renaissance, to masterpieces of modern art. Highlights include:

The Felix Gem: an engraved sealstone from Rome in the 1st century AD, depicting an episode of the Trojan War.

A reliquary casket of Thomas Becket from Limoges, France (c. 1200) showing the saint’s murder on 29 December 1170.

The ‘Messiah’ violin: the best-preserved instrument from the workshop of Cremonese luthier, Antonio Stradivari (1644–1737).

Cycladic figurines: 5000 year old marble sculptures from the Cyclades islands in the Aegean Sea – which influenced the work of modernist sculptors like Brancusi, Giacometti and Hepworth.

The Hunt in the Forest (c. 1465-70) by Paolo Uccello: an early-Renaissance masterpiece famous for its pioneering use of linear perspective.
The University’s other museums include the Pitt Rivers ethnographic collection. The Pitt Rivers Museum’s object collection includes more than 80,000 artefacts from Europe and the British Isles. Highlights include the Museum’s collection of several thousand European amulets and witchcraft-related objects including the iconic witch in a bottle. The rich archaeological collections include Palaeolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and medieval materials from Britain and Europe. Highlights of the European musical instrument collections include an Italian virginal made by Marcus Jadra in 1552 and early bagpipes including an 18th century musette de cour. The textile collections include some of the earliest Morris costumes in the UK. Others are embroidered textiles from Slovakia and the Czech Republic collected by Leonie Gombrich, the Irvine collection of 18th and 19th century British costume, and a collection of silverwork from the Balkans collected by Mary Edith Durham.

One of Europe’s oldest libraries, the Bodleian Library, has been acquiring books and manuscripts from Europe since its inception more than 400 years ago. Today the Bodleian Libraries encompasses 27 dependent libraries and has become the largest academic library system in Europe. The Bodleian Libraries now hold more than 13 million printed items including outstanding European treasures ranging from illuminated medieval manuscripts and classical papyri to literary classics and rare scientific works by Copernicus, Galileo and Kepler.

Highlights from the Bodleian Libraries’ European collections include the Gutenberg Bible, the first substantial book to be printed in Europe, a very rare original edition of Cervantes’s Don Quixote, four original ‘engrossments’ of Magna Carta and the oldest known manuscript of the Chanson de Roland, considered to be the national epic of France. The Libraries’ extensive music collection also includes exceptional European works, such as the original conducting score of Handel’s Messiah, and is home to the largest Mendelssohn archive outside Berlin.
European students and staff at Oxford

Almost 4,000 students from EU countries excluding the UK currently study at Oxford. A further more than 400 from other European countries also study at the University.

European students study in all departments and at all levels of study. There are particularly large communities of students from Germany, Italy, France, Poland and the Netherlands.

The University employs almost 2,000 non-UK European staff, or whom about 1,500 are researchers. About 1,800 of Oxford’s European staff come from EU countries.

Oxford alumni contribute to Europe

Around 23,000 alumni of the University live in European countries outside the UK, with more than 20,000 of these based in EU countries. Oxford’s European alumni are able to join 59 alumni clubs, based in cities in 30 European countries.

Oxford’s notable European alumni have included Maltese philosopher Edward de Bono, German economist E.F. Schumacher, Polish politician Radosław Sikorski, French-British poet Hilaire Belloc, and King Harald V of Norway.

Scholarship opportunities

Graduate students from European countries who are starting new courses at Oxford can receive funding from a wide range of scholarships. These include scholarships open to applicants from all countries (such as the Clarendon Fund, which makes over 130 new awards each year), and scholarships for specific courses and regions (such as the Research Councils Studentships, the Ertegun Graduate Scholarship Programme in the Humanities and the Oxford-Wolfson-Marriott Graduate Scholarships).

Oxford also offers a range of scholarships focussed on particular countries in Europe. Examples include the Oxford-TrygFonden Graduate Scholarships for students from Denmark; the Hill Foundation scholarship for students from Russia, and dedicated Rhodes Scholarships open to applicants from Germany. Rhodes Scholarships for Germany have been awarded since 1903, and there have been more than 180 German Scholars. The war memorial inside the rotunda at Rhodes House was one of the first memorials in the world to commemorate German and allied war casualties side by side.