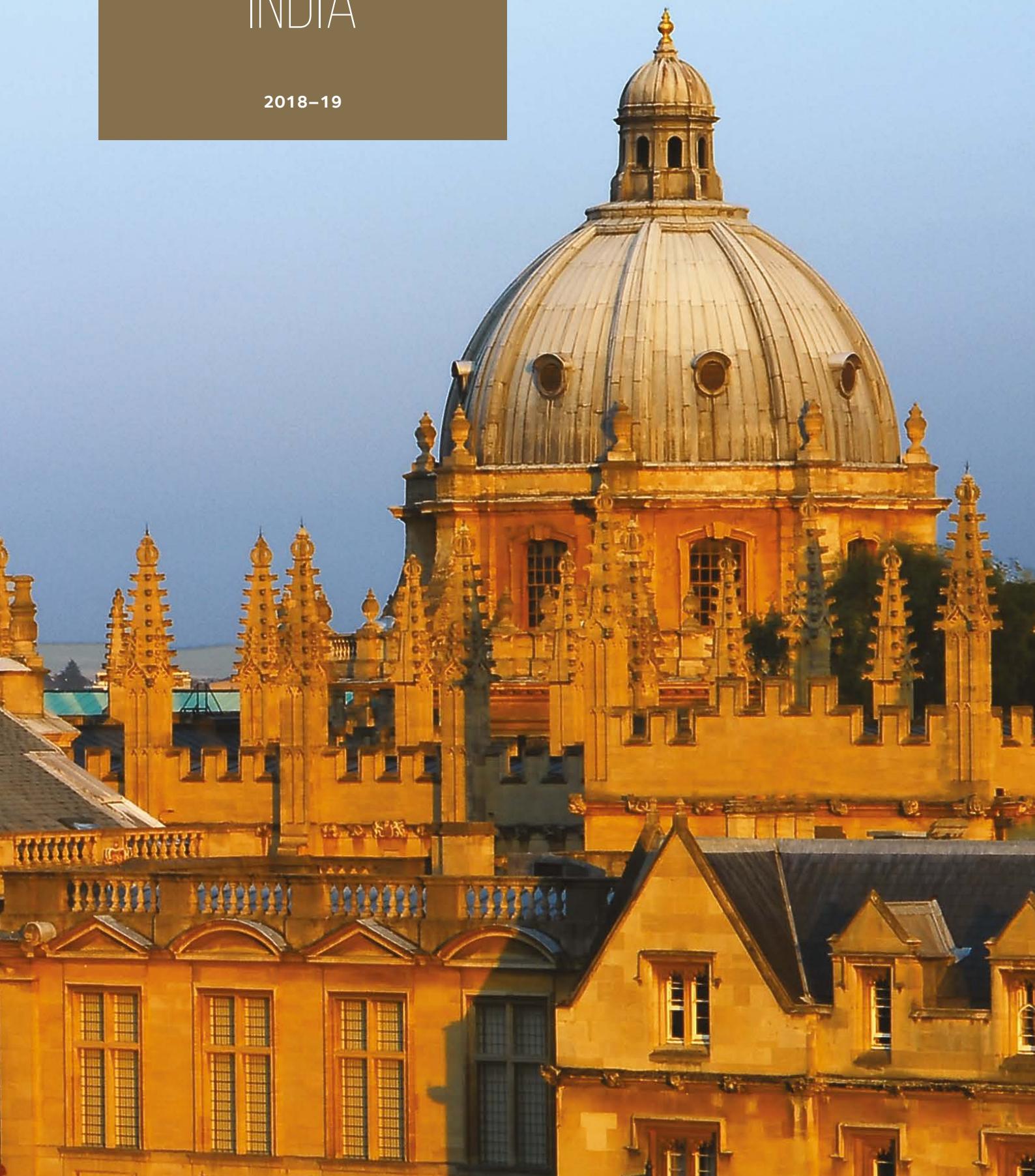


# OXFORD AND INDIA

2018–19





## CONTENTS

The University of Oxford .....	3
Oxford and India .....	8

**Note:**

This brochure does not reflect the changes to the University's activities caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which in particular has affected teaching arrangements, fieldwork, and access to libraries and museums. Continually updated information on Oxford's pandemic response and COVID-19 research can be found at [www.ox.ac.uk/coronavirus](http://www.ox.ac.uk/coronavirus)

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.



Dorothy Hodgkin

Wikipedia

**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.



Oxford University Images / Museum of the History of Science

Engraving of University buildings on Broad Street, Oxford, by James Basire, from a drawing by Edward Dayes, c.1800

### 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.



Oxford University Images/John Cairns

## 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.

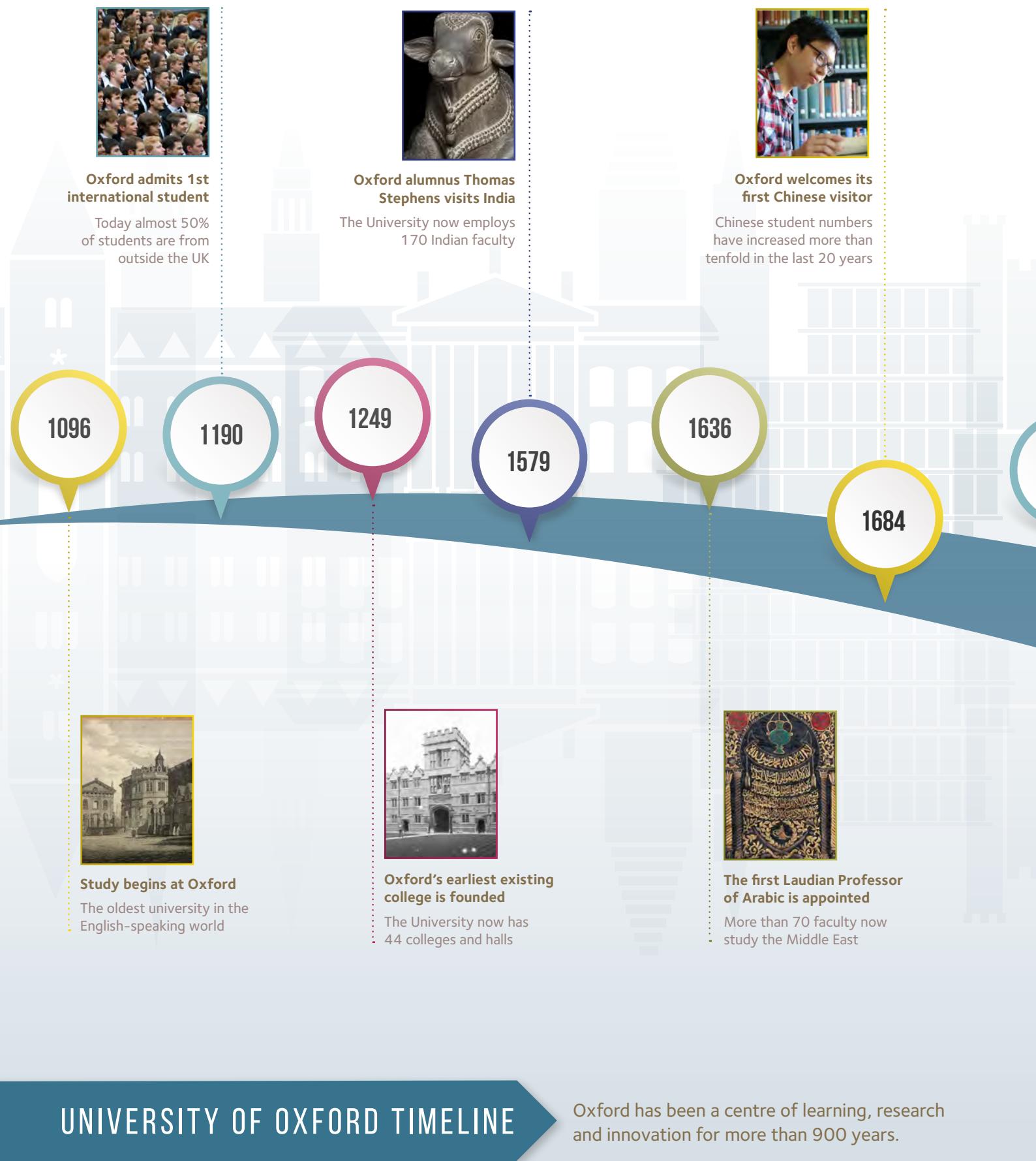
Education is bolstered by lectures from leading academics, some of the world's largest libraries and best-equipped laboratories, and a rich term-time schedule of public lectures, debates and screenings. Oxford students are also able to draw on the collections of the University's four museums, including 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.

Above: The Weston Library

Left: Student in tutorial





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

1,700 American students now study at Oxford

\*Barack Obama used the same 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



Oxford is ranked the best university in the world by the *Times Higher Education World University Rankings*

The University has been ranked top every year since in 2017

1749



The Radcliffe Camera is opened

The University now has 375 buildings, not including college buildings

Foundation of Lady Margaret Hall and Somerville, Oxford's first two women's colleges

All colleges now admit both men and women



1861

1879

1935

1945

1968

1993

2019



Howard Florey awarded Nobel Prize for the discovery of penicillin

In total, Oxford staff and students have received 56 Nobel Prizes

Needle-free injection company PowderJect founded, one of Oxford's early spinouts

The University has now launched more than 150 spinout companies



# TACKLING INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGES TOGETHER

Partnership with India is a strategic priority for the University of Oxford. We are working with Indian institutions to push forward the boundaries of knowledge in areas as diverse as education, healthcare, politics, and history. Together, we are improving the lives of people around the globe.

Oxford has longstanding connections with India, dating back over 400 years. We now recruit more Indian students and employ more Indian academics than ever before. Scholarship programmes such as Rhodes and Clarendon allow the most talented students to join us, developing the skills and publishing the research that will define the 21st Century.

## Oxford's aims in India

The University of Oxford seeks to recruit and retain the best academic staff from India, and to develop collaborations with Indian academics, institutions, and organisations where such partnerships lead to world-changing research and outstanding teaching.

We are committed to recruiting the brightest and best Indian students at all levels of study. We aim to ensure no potential Indian student is deterred from applying to Oxford for financial or other barriers, through increased funding for scholarships, building on our existing offer.

Through our commitment to the personal, collegiate education of each student, we will ensure a quality of education and experience which enables Indian students to apply the values, skills, and intellectual discipline they acquire at Oxford in their future lives and careers, with a lifelong sense of connection to the university.

Below: Student studying in the main reading room of the Taylor Institution Library



## IMPROVING HEALTH AND LIFE

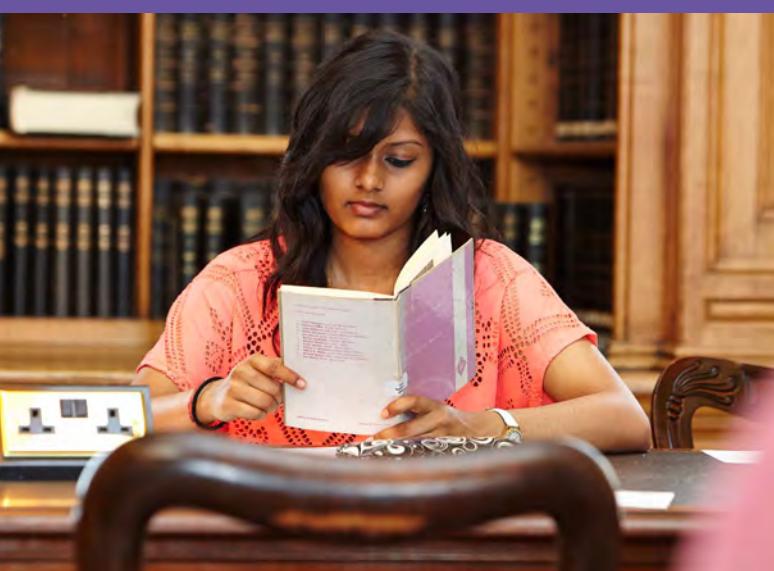
Helping people live a healthy life is at the heart of much of Oxford's India activity. The University collaborates with leading Indian institutions, combining expertise to generate new products and knowledge.

### Digital healthcare for rural villages

A team of researchers in Oxford, India and Australia have developed a low-cost, high-quality delivery system which aims to bring state-of-the-art healthcare to people living in villages in rural India. Developed by The George Institute for Global Health, *SMARThealth* is an innovative system with the potential to play a significant role in addressing the rising burden of chronic diseases in India, by enabling community healthcare workers and primary care doctors to identify and treat people at high risk of these conditions.

Primary healthcare centres in rural India commonly serve around 30,000 people, often with only one or two doctors. In a low-resource context with severe healthcare workforce shortages and high out-of-pocket costs for patients, prioritising those at high risk for preventive treatment could be a highly cost-efficient solution. The *SMARThealth* programme, which was trialled in Andhra Pradesh, has since been rolled out in Haryana as well as East Java in Indonesia to assess whether it can be scaled up in different contexts, potentially helping to transform healthcare systems and improve the lives of tens of millions of people.

*SMARThealth* is also being adapted for antenatal and postnatal care (*SMARThealth Pregnancy*), to support frontline healthcare workers to identify and manage the care of pregnant women at high risk of future heart disease, stroke and diabetes in order to reduce premature deaths. Both type 2 diabetes and high blood pressure are directly linked to heart disease, and some of those at greatest risk are women who develop these conditions during pregnancy.



## The Oxford-India Health Research Network

The Oxford-India Health Research Network is an informal, multidisciplinary network of researchers and students at the University of Oxford, who are engaged in or aiming to establish collaborations in any health-related area with researchers in India. It hosts regular meetings and events, providing networking opportunities for researchers to learn about planned and ongoing research activities, and potential funding opportunities to support Oxford-India research collaborations. The network is hosted by The George Institute for Global Health at the University of Oxford.

### Monitoring dialysis patients remotely

Patients in India with advanced kidney disease may avoid lengthy travels to dialysis centres and specialist care in hospitals thanks to an innovative health information technology that enables better management of treatment at home. Researchers at The George Institute for Global Health in Oxford and India are developing a patient-centred, sustainable system to enable remote monitoring of patients undergoing peritoneal dialysis (PD). By enabling early recognition of problems, 'SUPPORT-PD' aims to reduce morbidity, hospitalisation and deaths, and provide an affordable alternative to prevailing, labour-intensive models of kidney disease care.

Every year, around 220,000 people in India develop end-stage kidney disease, a major cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide. The SUPPORT-PD system has the potential to transform their treatment by reducing the need for repeated hospital visits.

### Affordable prostheses to aid working amputees

Indian and Oxford scientists have been working together to develop affordable artificial limbs.

Researchers from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore (IISc) are working with Oxford's Institute of Biomedical Engineering on the development of cheap but effective prosthetic hands that it is hoped will have a major impact on affordable healthcare.

The international collaboration has taken novel prosthetic design prototypes developed at the IISc and readied them for commercial manufacture. The work has exploited the complementary strengths of the two partners – the IISc providing expertise in affordable and appropriate design, and Oxford providing expertise on biomechanics and clinical trials together with experts in commercialisation at both centres. This international partnership will ensure that the new design ideas from IISc have a major impact on affordable healthcare in India.

Professor Mark Thompson, Oxford's lead for the project, said: "This is an exciting opportunity for translational biomechanics research to have a major impact on affordable healthcare in India. Together with the IISc, originators of the design, we have brought together a fantastic team of engineers, clinicians, NGOs and manufacturers."



# A CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF INDIA

## New Masters Programme

In recent years, the University's School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies has strengthened its study of modern India. The flagship MSc and MPhil in Modern South Asian Studies, with its specialist stream of study on Contemporary India, bring together the University's expertise from a number of disciplinary perspectives, including economics, politics, international relations, anthropology, development studies, history, languages and religious studies.

The course offers a variety of study options that build knowledge of present-day social, economic and political achievements and challenges in the world's biggest democracy, as well as their historical and cultural underpinnings.

Complementing the new Modern South Asian Studies degrees, Oxford also offers an MPhil in Classical Indian Religion. The course provides an overview of classical Indian religion through the study of original sources, as well as the opportunity to choose two religious traditions in which to specialise. Its first five months feature an intensive study of the rudiments of Sanskrit. In the second part of the course students have regular classes in reading Sanskrit religious texts and write supervised essays on topics in Indian religion. Lectures and seminars on relevant topics are offered throughout the two years.

## Improving impoverished children's lives

The Young Lives study was set up just after the turn of the Millennium and follows 3,000 Indian children as they grow up to examine what mattered most in their lives.

Young Lives is an international study of childhood poverty in India (in the states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh) and three other countries: Ethiopia, Peru and Vietnam. It captures children's experiences and aspirations for their futures, and traces their trajectories through education, growth, labour markets, and relationships into adulthood. These rich insights are set against the context of the social and economic realities of their communities, in addition to standard poverty measures.

This unique mixed-methods approach is enabling researchers to build up a comprehensive picture of what living in poverty means for children in India today, producing research and gathering evidence to help policymakers design programmes that make a real difference to children and their families.

Young Lives India is led by Country Director Dr Renu Singh.

## Engaging with Indian Law

The University of Oxford has taught law in different forms for more than 800 years. Today the University's Faculty of Law maintains its world-leading position thanks to its internationally diverse student and staff body and large amount of international legal research. In 2017 more than 30 Indian students were studying in the Faculty, while teaching and research activity in India remained at the heart of the Faculty's international engagement.

The Faculty of Law delivers a week-long intensive course on constitutional law in common law countries annually at a guest law school in India. The Great Constitutional Cases course, sponsored by international law firm Herbert Smith Freehills, has been held in India every year since 2010. It has been hosted by law schools in Bangalore, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Jodhpur, Delhi, and Pune.

Launched in 2017, new journal Indian Law Review was established by Oxford's Dr Tarunabh Khaitan, with Dr Dev Gangjee sitting on the editorial board. Dr Khaitan is deeply involved in Indian legislation, drafting the Anti-Discrimination and Equality Bill that was introduced to the Lok Sabha in March 2017.

Other Faculty India activity includes holding a preliminary round of the Monroe Price International Media Law Moot in India annually, and Oxford Law academics have provided many guest lectures and other events in India in recent years, notably in conjunction with the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy.

## Building a sustainable future

The Oxford India Centre for Sustainable Development (OICSD), based at Somerville College, conducts multidisciplinary research in areas vital to India's future, acts as a hub for research-related activity on India and sustainable development across Oxford and beyond, and provides scholarships for exceptional Indian graduate students.

This creates pathways to impact by the application of cutting edge research, by convening experts from diverse fields – academia, government, business, and NGOs – to tackle sustainable development problems, and by translating research into impact on the ground.

The core research areas of the OICSD are: sustainable cities, climate change and clean energy, healthcare innovation, environmental sustainability and food and water security. The Centre's multidisciplinary research examines innovation towards sustainable development in these areas. It aims to build a community on India and sustainable development at Oxford and beyond, and to strengthen ties with key institutions in India.



Lecture in a theatre  
at the University of  
Oxford Law Faculty



## ENGAGING WITH INDIA'S CHANGING SOCIETY AND ECONOMY

India's recent ascendance to the status of a major economic power has been accompanied by rapid cultural and social change. Researchers at the Oxford Department of International Development are investigating the impact of the nation's changing culture, society and economy in rural and urban communities throughout the country.

The issues being explored include the social and political implications of the development of an enterprise culture; the changing attitudes to work and employment; the conversion of agricultural, forest, coastal and pastoral land for industrial and commercial use; the influence of religion on developing regional identities; and how state and private businesses interact in several States.

The Department has a long history of public engagement and contributing to national and local policy making. Recent examples include Dr Indrajit Roy's surveys of internal migrants and the Young Lives Project's support for state-level approaches to early marriage.



### STAFF PROFILE:

**Dr Faisal Devji**  
Faisal Devji is an expert on Indian political thought and political thought in modern Islam, more broadly his work investigates ethics and violence in a globalised world.

Dr Devji has held faculty positions at the New School in New York, Yale University and the University of Chicago, from where he also received his PhD in Intellectual History. He has published four books including 2012's *The Impossible Indian: Gandhi and the Temptation of Violence*, which offered a fresh view of Gandhi as a hard-hitting political thinker with a global vision that went far beyond his national agenda

Left: Mumbai skyline on a summer evening



Above: The 70 leaves of birch bark that make up the Bakhshali manuscript are incredibly fragile and are housed in this specially designed book at the Bodleian Libraries' Weston Library, Oxford. Scholars are able to view both sides of the birch bark through the 'windows' of the book.

## THE ORIGINS OF ZERO

The origin of the symbol zero, for many years one of the world's greatest mathematical mysteries, was finally revealed by research at Oxford in 2017. Carbon dating research commissioned by Oxford's Bodleian Libraries revealed that the ancient Indian Bakhshali manuscript, one of the Libraries most precious Indian documents, was hundreds of years older than previously thought, making it the recorded origin of the zero symbol used today.

The document is now known to date from the Third or Fourth Century. Throughout it can be found a dot symbol, which is used as a placeholder to indicate orders of magnitude in numbers, in the same way as the modern '0'.

Marcus du Sautoy, Professor of Mathematics at Oxford, said: "Today we take it for granted that the concept of zero is used across the globe and is a key building block of the digital world. But the creation of zero as a number in its own right, which evolved from the placeholder dot symbol found in the Bakhshali manuscript, was one of the greatest breakthroughs in the history of mathematics.

"We now know that it was as early as the Third Century that mathematicians in India planted the seed of the idea that would later become so fundamental to the modern world. The findings show how vibrant mathematics have been in the Indian sub-continent for centuries."

## Chevening scholarships

The Chevening Gurukul Fellowship for Leadership and Excellence is the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office's flagship fellowship for India and is delivered by Oxford's Department of Politics and International Relations. The fellowship is aimed at young high-flyers and mid-career professionals from diverse backgrounds with strong and demonstrable leadership potential, and aims to familiarise India's future leaders with an understanding of the contemporary opportunities and challenges of global integration, the leadership skills to address them, and the knowledge to translate this into policy and practice. Every year twelve Gurukul Fellows are selected for the fellowship programme.

The Chevening Science and Innovation Leadership Fellowship is aimed at mid-career professionals with very high potential in the fields of science, innovation, and business from India and Sri Lanka.

The broad-ranging programme, which is delivered at Oxford's St Cross College, is funded by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Its main academic strands include science, innovation, entrepreneurship and leadership, as well as wider issues including global challenges, politics, and international relations.

## Scholarship opportunities

Graduate students from India who are considering studying at Oxford are able to apply to several significant fully-funded scholarship schemes, and the University remains committed to expanding scholarship opportunities for students from the region.

The Clarendon Scholarships are the largest University-run scheme for students coming to Oxford from outside Europe, with over 130 scholarships awarded every year on the basis of excellence in any academic field.

The Oxford India Centre for Sustainable Development (at Somerville College) provides a range of scholarships to support exceptional Indian scholars to study at Oxford; with a particular focus on multidisciplinary research on sustainable nutrition, the environment and health.

For 25 years the Felix Scholarships have supported outstanding Indian students to pursue graduate study at Oxford.

The famous Rhodes Scholarships have been awarded to Indian students since 1947. They currently provide full funding for five Indian Scholars each year to study postgraduate courses at the University.

## The World's largest university press

Oxford University Press (OUP), a department of the University of Oxford, is the world's largest university press with the widest global presence, publishing in a range of print and digital formats in over 40 countries worldwide.

Established in 1912, OUP India is now headquartered in Delhi-NCR and has grown to be one of the largest publishers in the region, with regional offices in Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai. OUP India publishes over 400 new and revised titles each year including higher education textbooks, bilingual dictionaries and atlases and is considered to be the country's foremost publisher of school textbooks. OUP also provides digital learning aids, assessment solutions and professional development programmes for teachers in both schools and higher education segments.

## Notable alumni

Oxford has over 2,200 alumni in India, many of whom are active in local alumni groups including the Oxford University Society of Mumbai and the joint Oxford and Cambridge Societies in Delhi and Bangalore.

Some of India's most prominent public figures including politicians, businesspeople, actors and novelists were educated at Oxford. Notable Indian graduates of Oxford include:

- **Indira Gandhi**, India's first woman Prime Minister
- **Amitav Ghosh**, award-winning novelist
- **Soha Ali Khan**, actress
- **Chief Justice Mrs Sujata Vasant Manohar**, former Judge of the Supreme Court of India
- **Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi**, former captain of the Indian cricket team
- **Mukund Rajan**, Vice-President of Tata Sons Ltd.
- **Vikram Seth**, award-winning author
- **Manmohan Singh**, former Prime Minister of India
- **Cornelia Sorabji**, India's first female lawyer

**Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan**, the distinguished scholar who served as India's second President, was Oxford's Spalding Professor of Eastern Religions and Ethics from 1936 to 1952. He left a bequest to the University that every two years appoints an eminent scholar of Indian Studies to provide a lecture series at Oxford. The Radhakrishnan Bequest also provides grants to enhance Indian Studies and supports graduate scholars.



A colourful  
Ganesha from the  
early 1880s, gifted  
to Oxford by the  
Maharaja of Jaipur



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