

# SOUTHEAST ASIA & OXFORD



2017/18

## A bright future together

The University of Oxford's ties to the ASEAN nations span cutting-edge scientific research programmes and deeply impactful medical work through to social science research in areas such as demography and migration and cultural and historical study.

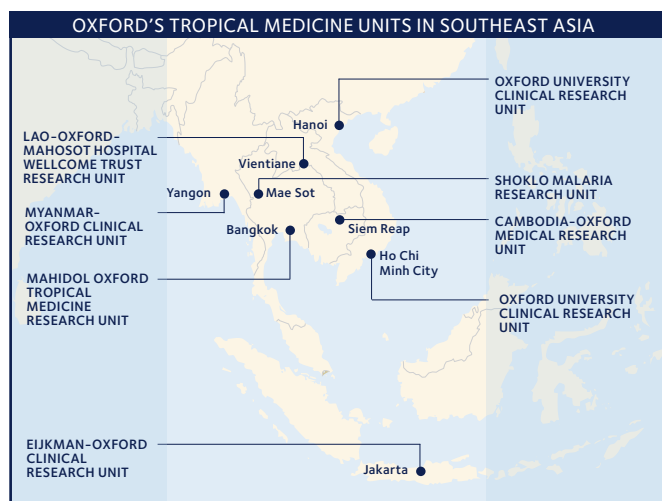
Our largest presence in Southeast Asia is through our tropical medicine laboratories – a network of collaborative centres with bases in Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, Burma/Myanmar, Laos, and Cambodia that are among the largest research facilities run by any university overseas.

Oxford's deep collaboration with the region covers more than research partnerships. Burma is the only country globally in which Oxford has developed a strategic programme of support for higher education, led by the University's senior leadership and spanning all academic divisions. We also work closely with

outstanding schools in Singapore and across the region to reach out to prospective applicants, and the result is that hundreds of Southeast Asian students come to Oxford each year – many then returning to produce a vibrant community of more than 3,500 alumni across Southeast Asia.



*An Indonesian mask from Bali on display at the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford*



## Our goals in the ASEAN region

Oxford is committed to recruiting the brightest and best students from Southeast Asia. In the coming years we hope to recruit more talented students at all levels of study, as well as raising further funds to support growing scholarship opportunities for students from the region.

We have developed exciting initiatives to deepen our research and teaching links with Burma, to create more opportunities for Oxford students in Burma, and to provide English language training for Yangon academics.

Oxford also aims to bolster the study of Southeast Asia by generating resources to support new posts focused on the region.

## Vital medical research to prevent tropical disease



Oxford's network of Tropical Medicine Laboratories, which includes eight labs in Southeast Asia, contains several of the largest-scale and most enduring medical research facilities in the world.

The majority of the network's research in the region takes place at two Wellcome Trust-funded programmes: the Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit in Bangkok, Thailand, and the Oxford University Clinical Research Unit at the Hospital for Tropical Diseases in Ho Chi Minh City and the National Institute of Infectious & Tropical Diseases in Hanoi, Vietnam. These units conduct vital research into malaria, typhoid, avian flu, and other tropical diseases and emerging infections.

Other network partners in the region include centres in Myanmar, Laos,

Cambodia and Indonesia.

One of the Tropical Medicine Laboratories' greatest achievements is the development of world's most effective anti-malarial drug, artemisinin. For nearly three decades Professor Sir Nick White, Professor François Nosten, Professor Tran Tinh Hien and other members of the research team and our collaborators throughout the region have conducted research on artemisinin, derived from a herbal extract (qinghaosu) used in traditional Chinese medicine. This research has proved definitively that it and its derivatives work better than quinine and other existing antimalarial drugs to vanquish malaria. Through the efforts of Professor Sir Nick and his colleagues the artemisinins are now recommended by WHO as the first line treatment of malaria worldwide.

### STUDENT PROFILE: FUADI PITSUWAN



#### Course

DPhil in International Relations

#### Hometown

Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand

#### Why Oxford?

Oxford gives me the intellectual support that I need to excel in my research as well as the platform to pursue the extracurricular activities to create a lasting impact for my community back home in Thailand.

#### The Oxford Experience

At Nuffield College I enjoy the privilege of being among the best social scientists in the world. Lunches and formal dinners in college lead to fruitful discussion of the world's most pressing problems.

The Department of Politics and International Relations (DPIR), where I am also based, produces

some of the world's most cutting-edge research in political science. DPIR hosts talks by scholars from around the world and holds academic workshops that are beneficial for a young scholar like myself.

I am also active in the Oxford Thai Society. Every year, Thai students participate in Oxbridge Games, an annual sporting event with Cambridge's Thai Society, and a football tournament featuring teams from different ASEAN countries. OTS also hosts Thai Night, featuring some of the best Thai foods and cultural shows, for the Oxford community to enjoy.

#### Clarendon Scholarship

The Clarendon Scholarship allows me to study at Oxford without taking on any financial burden. I am in debt to my supervisors and the selection committee for this prestigious scholarship allowing me to study here.

## Oxford Earth Scientists in Burma

Burma's extraordinary mineral wealth – jade, rubies, gold, as well as viable tin and oil deposits – is largely thanks to the country's unique geological conditions: rare precious minerals form in the crust thanks to the extreme pressure caused by the movement of the Indian plate into the Eurasian plate.

Oxford geologists have been working in Burma for many years. Since Burma's 2015 elections, access to unique research sites in the disputed north of the country and the possibilities of collaboration with local institutions has substantially improved. Over the past two years Earth Scientists Mike Searle and Laurence Robb, both from the Department's Hard Rock Group, have been carrying out joint research and providing guest teaching at several universities in Burma, in particular the University of Mandalay; some local mine owners have also been involved in this research and teaching to a limited extent.

The Department of Earth Sciences has also received philanthropic funding to fully fund a Burmese DPhil student who is studying oil and gas fields in Burma.

Head of Department Prof Gideon Henderson is a leader of Oxford's engagement with Burma and a regular visitor to the country. He is working with NGO and university partners to develop a water quality research programme in Burma, with Royal Society support.

## Building maths capacity in Malaysia

Over the past six years, the Oxford Centre for Industrial and Applied Maths (OCIAM) and the Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) have jointly developed the UTM Centre for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (UTM-CIAM). Through Study Groups held at Johor Bahru in 2011, 2014, and 2015, UTM-CIAM has brought OCIAM's 50 years of experience to bear on challenging industrial problems using mathematical modelling and analysis. The alliance also involves faculty and student exchanges and graduate scholarships as well as monthly collaborations on a wide variety of mathematical problems relevant to Malaysian industry. A Memorandum of Understanding between the partners was renewed in 2016 during a visit to Oxford by a UTM delegation led by Vice-Chancellor Professor Wahid Omar.



## Revitalising higher education in Burma



*Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at Encaenia in Oxford, 2012*

Upon receiving an honorary degree from Oxford in June 2012, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi challenged Oxford to support the redevelopment of Burmese higher education. Across Oxford, departments and colleges, staff and students have taken up this challenge enthusiastically, creating a range of projects that we believe are the most diverse and productive of any foreign university working in the country.

We have sent academics in law, earth sciences, gender studies, and wildlife conservation, student groups, administrators, and others to Burma. Working mostly with the University of Yangon, Oxford staff have offered

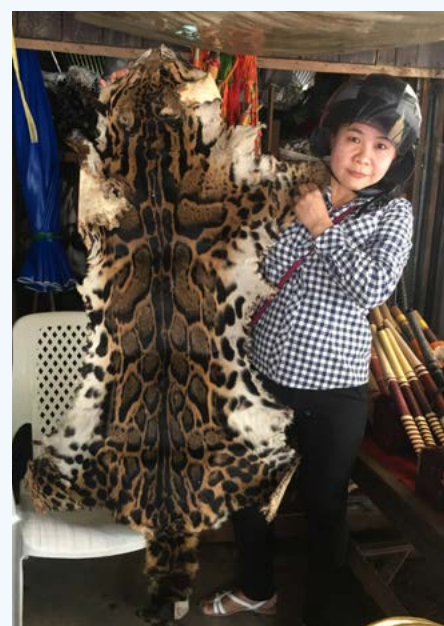
intensive courses and English tuition, developed research collaborations, advised on curriculum design and university strategy, and donated thousands of books. Law Professors Adrian Briggs and Andy Burrows have recently completed the first textbook on contract law in Burma, a major contribution to the field.

These efforts have been boosted through the creation of an Oxford-Burma Visiting Fund, supporting academic visits from Oxford to Burma to carry out teaching and research in collaboration with local partners. Burmese students and scholars also have access to several Burma-focused scholarships and fellowships.

## Supporting wildlife conservation

Several prominent Oxonians are involved in preserving the rich wildlife of Southeast Asia. In December 2014, Oxford's Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU), in collaboration with the Myanmar Programme of the Wildlife Conservation Society and the Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary in northern Burma, launched an extensive programme to camera trap the rare clouded leopard and other endangered mammals in Burma. Initial results from the programme, in January 2015, far exceeded expectations, with clouded leopard, tiger, golden cat, large Indian civet, yellow throated marten, muntjac, wild boar and gaur all featuring on the camera traps. Two further surveys have been completed since then and the findings are in press in the journal *Oryx*. Dr Sapai Min from the University of Yangon and a recent academic visitor to WildCRU, is collaborating on WildCRU's illegal trade project, to document the scale and detail of trade in clouded leopard parts in Burma markets in remote borderlands with China.

This WildCRU project, led by Professor David Macdonald, fits into a wider framework of camera-trapping sites across Southeast Asia ranging from Kalimantan, through Sabah and Sumatra, and on the mainland in Peninsula Malaya, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, through India and into Nepal, collectively comprising one of the largest studies of its kind ever undertaken. Currently, WildCRU doctoral students work in Sabah, Sumatra, and Laos, and the Unit has welcomed Oxford Diploma students from throughout Southeast Asia.



*Dr Sapai Min documenting the clouded leopard trade in northern Myanmar*

### STUDENT PROFILE: PUTU NATIH



#### Course

MPhil in Development Studies;  
DPhil in Social Policy

#### Hometown

Singaraja, Bali, Indonesia

#### Why Oxford?

I chose Oxford because of the University's long-standing tradition of academic excellence and the firm belief that here, I would develop my understanding of Indonesia from an international perspective.

#### The Oxford Experience

When we arrived at Trinity College, they opened the big blue main gates to let us in with our luggage. There were tourists all round, taking photos and it felt really special. It felt like I was going to live in a castle.

There is an active Oxford Indonesian Society – OXIS – that I am starting to get really involved

in. Our society helps Indonesians meet and welcomes people from other countries who are interested in Indonesian culture. I really enjoy setting up arts events, like teaching Balinese dancing and showing people traditional shadow puppets.

Oxford's libraries are amazing; the Bodleian holds some fascinating ancient Hindu, Buddhist and Muslim texts which have been translated into English. Reading them has really helped me feel more in touch with my Indonesian heritage.

#### Jardine Foundation Scholarship

For my MPhil I was awarded a Jardine Foundation Scholarship. It fully funded me and even allowed me to return to Indonesia to carry out two months of research. My DPhil is funded by a partnership between Jardines and Oxford. There is no way I could have come to Oxford without the scholarships – I feel very lucky.

## Southeast Asian students, staff, alumni

Southeast Asian students and scholars are a pillar of the Oxford community and among the fastest growing of all sources. Oxford currently has 612 students from ASEAN countries, up by more than a third over the last five years. This includes 290 Singaporeans, 146 Malaysians and 69 Thais. The most dramatic growth has come from Indonesia, which sent Oxford 48 students in 2016–17, a rise of more than 300% in five years. Oxford also benefits from 43 members of academic staff from ASEAN countries.

Rapid student growth has translated into a burgeoning alumni community. More than 3,500 Oxford alumni are based in ASEAN countries, with 1,880 in Singapore, 765 in Malaysia, and 488 in Thailand. Oxford has active alumni groups across much of the ASEAN area, with groups located in Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam and Myanmar.

## Scholarships for South-east Asian students

The University offers a wide variety of scholarships for graduate students covering fees and living costs: over 1,000 fully-funded scholarships are available for new masters' and doctoral students starting a course in 2017–18 from the University, our colleges and our supporters.

The University's flagship Clarendon Fund provides over 130 graduate scholarships each year to students studying any course, from any country. Students from Southeast Asia are also eligible for major, prestigious scholarships such as the Oxford-Weidenfeld and Hoffmann Scholarships and the Chevening Scholarships, which enable scholars with leadership potential to study for one-year masters' courses in the UK.

For more detail on the scholarships listed above and other scholarships open to graduate applicants from South-East Asia, please use our online Funding Search tool: [www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/fundingsearch](http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/fundingsearch).

## Oxford reaches out to prospective undergraduates

The Undergraduate Admissions Office visits Southeast Asia annually in April and October, working with schools, guidance counsellors, teachers, students and parents to inform and advise on all aspects of the admissions process. Oxford and its colleges are frequent visitors to Singapore to speak at local schools, with undergraduate admissions staff delivering interview workshops annually. Raffles Institute hosts Oxford undergraduate admissions interviews conducted by Skype for students from many Singapore schools each year.

In 2016–17, 187 Singaporeans are undertaking undergraduate study at Oxford, up by more than 70 since 2010–11. Ten schools in Singapore are among our top 30 globally in terms of acceptances. This makes Singapore the most concentrated source of Oxford undergraduates from anywhere outside the British Isles.

We are keen to expand on our current delivery by including admissions advice sessions for students and parents during future visits to Singapore, and would be delighted if we could bring together a small group of interested alumni to talk specifically about their course choice and careers path. If anyone is interested please do get in touch with the Student Recruitment Team at: [international.recruitment@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:international.recruitment@admin.ox.ac.uk).



School children at an Oxford University Press dictionary giveaway. OUP has an extensive presence across Southeast Asia.

## Prominent alumni

Numerous notable Southeast Asian people have studied at the University, before returning to serve their countries with the knowledge they developed at Oxford. Some of the most notable examples include:

In Burma, State Counsellor and Nobel Peace Prize winner **Daw Aung San Suu Kyi**.

In Malaysia, King **Abdul Halim of Kedah**, as well as former Kings **Ahmad Shah of Pahang** and **Tuanku Jaafar of Negeri Sembilan**. Also MP **Khairy Jamaluddin**, appointed Minister for Youth and Sports in 2013.

In Singapore, Professor **Tan Chorh Chuan**, President of the National University of Singapore, and former Singapore Minister for Transport **Raymond Lim**.

In Thailand, former Prime Ministers **Abhisit Vejjajiva** and **Seni Pramoj**, former Finance Minister **Korn Chatikavanij**, and former Governor of Bangkok **Sukhumbhand Paribatra**.

In Brunei, Crown Prince **Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah**.



### STUDENT PROFILE: ABIGAIL GUILLERMO

#### Course

DPhil Interdisciplinary Bioscience DTP

#### Hometown

Manila, Philippines

#### Why Oxford?

The University of Oxford has amazing research facilities and attracts some of the best scientific researchers in the world, making it a conducive environment to do my PhD in. To be living amongst the beautiful 'dreaming spires' is also a bonus.

#### The Oxford Experience

When I first arrived, I was welcomed very warmly and there wasn't any time to feel homesick due to the busy social calendar of freshers week. Over time I gained amazing friends at my three Oxford "bases" – Lincoln

College, the Doctoral Training Centre and the lab. Oxford's a small place and everybody knows everybody in one way or another. As a member of the university I've enjoyed visiting the beautiful libraries and colleges; you won't find them anywhere else! Getting invited for formal dinners in the different colleges is also quite an experience.

There is a small community of Filipino students/post-docs in the university where I've found a home away from home: traditional Filipino cooking and the little luxury of speaking Tagalog language to other people again.

#### Clarendon Scholarship

I am extremely grateful to the Clarendon Fund for giving me a full scholarship for the duration of my studies. I wouldn't have been able to even consider pursuing a DPhil without their financial support.