

OXFORD AND THE WORLD

2021-22



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD





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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

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.



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

Oxford University Images/Museum of the History of Science

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



Oxford admits 1st international student

Today almost 50% of students are from outside the UK



Oxford alumnus Thomas Stephens visits India

The University now employs 170 Indian faculty



Oxford welcomes its first Chinese visitor

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

1096

1190

1249

1579

1636

1684



Study begins at Oxford

The oldest university in the English-speaking world



Oxford's earliest existing college is founded

The University now has 44 colleges and halls



The first Laudian Professor of Arabic is appointed

More than 70 faculty now study the Middle East

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD TIMELINE

Oxford has been a centre of learning, research and innovation for more than 900 years.



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



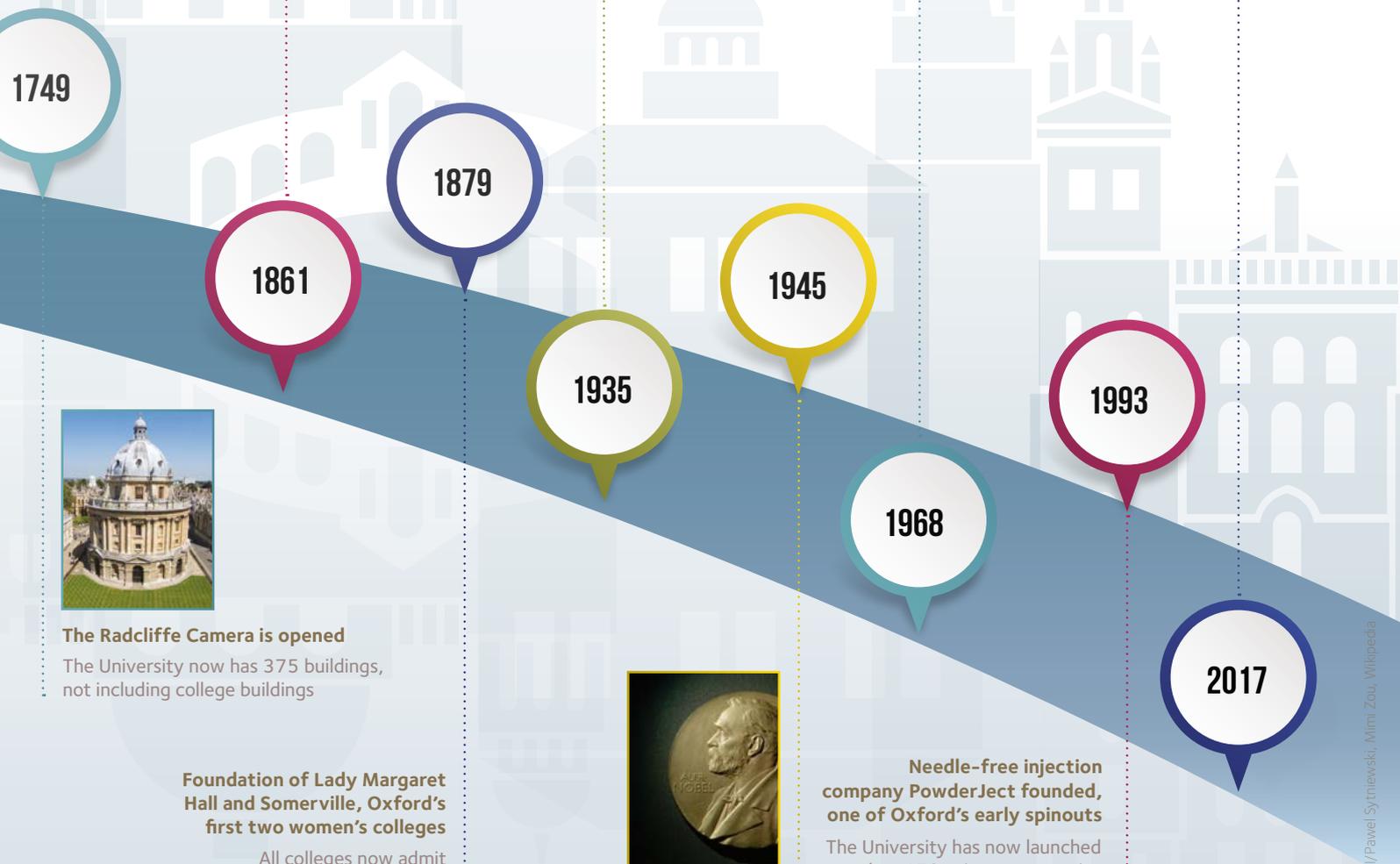
Bill Clinton is admitted to Oxford

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



1879

1935



Howard Florey awarded Nobel Prize for the discovery of penicillin

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

1945

1968

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

The University has now launched more than 150 spinout companies



1993

2017

The work of universities is a global endeavour. The discovery, interpretation, preservation and transmission of knowledge is carried out through interchanges between scholars, scientists and students across the world. The ultimate purpose of a university – wherever it may be located – is to build and critique a body of knowledge for the world as a whole.

Oxford, as one of the world's major universities, plays a strong part in this. Academics at the University study subjects the world over, and work in collaboration with colleagues around the world. Oxford's staff themselves come from all over the world, as do its students. The importance of global engagement is recognised in the University's current strategic plan, which states that Oxford's research will address the most significant problems facing the world today, ultimately aiming to change the world for the better.

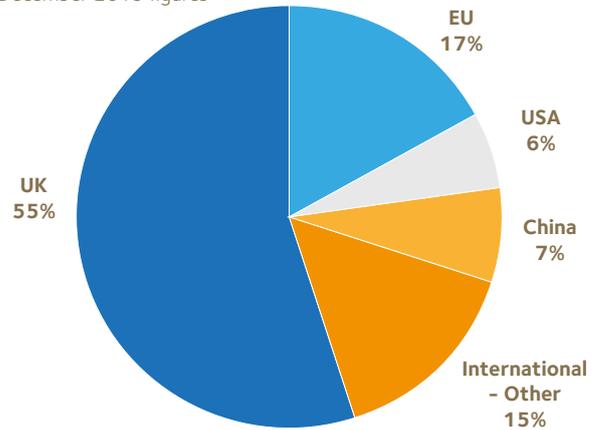
This brochure will show some of the ways that global engagement is taking place at Oxford.



OXFORD'S INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS, STAFF AND ALUMNI

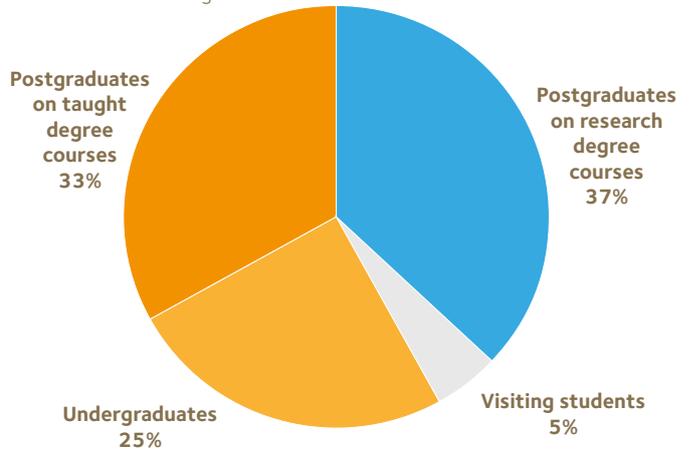
Oxford students by nationality (of 24,515)

December 2019 figures



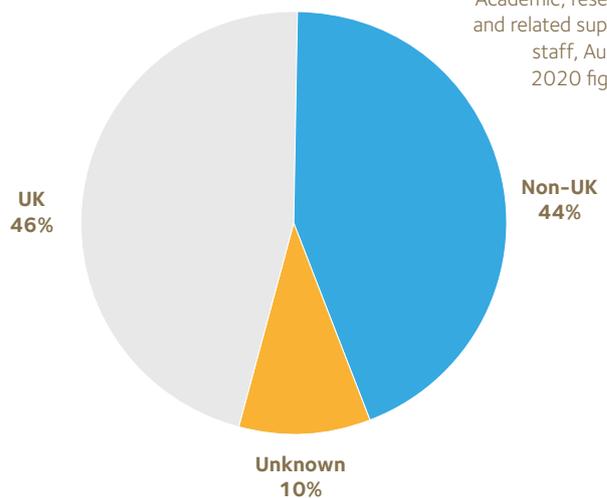
Non-UK students (of 10,954)

December 2019 figures



Oxford academic-related staff by nationality (of 7,843)

Academic, research and related support staff, August 2020 figures





NOTABLE INTERNATIONAL FIGURES AT OXFORD

Many well-known international figures have had a connection with the University.

Prominent figures who have worked at Oxford

Austria:

Sir Ernst Gombrich, art historian, author of *The Story of Art*;

Erwin Schrödinger, theoretical physicist, joint winner of the Nobel Prize in Physics;

Canada:

Charles Taylor, philosopher;

China:

George F. Gao, virologist, director-general of the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention;

Germany:

Sir Ernst Chain, biochemist, co-developer of penicillin at Oxford, joint winner of the Nobel Prize in Medicine;

Ireland:

Seamus Heaney, poet, winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature;

Dame Iris Murdoch, philosopher and writer;

Latvia:

Sir Isaiah Berlin, philosopher and founding president of Oxford's Wolfson College;

Spain:

Javier Marías, writer;

United States:

John Goodenough, physicist, whose work at Oxford was instrumental in the development of the lithium-ion battery, joint winner of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

Notable graduates of the University

Australia:

Rupert Murdoch, media owner, founder of News Corporation;

Canada:

Mark Carney, former governor of the Bank of England and the Bank of Canada;

France:

George Steiner, literary critic;

India:

Indira Gandhi, former prime minister of India;

Vikram Seth, writer, author of *A Suitable Boy*;

Japan:

Emperor Naruhito and **Empress Masako**;

Jordan:

Prince Hassan bin Talal, advocate for inter-faith dialogue;

South Africa:

Pixley ka Isaka Seme, lawyer, political activist, one of the founders of the African National Congress;

United States:

J. William Fullbright, US senator, established the Fullbright scholarship programme;

Joseph Heller, writer, author of *Catch-22*;

Elena Kagan and **Stephen Breyer**, serving US Supreme Court justices;

Alain Locke, philosopher and writer, first African American Rhodes scholar, leading advocate of the Harlem Renaissance movement;

John Rawls, philosopher, author of *A Theory of Justice*.

DEVELOPING TIES WITH INDIA AND AFRICA

Oxford has a commitment to develop and increase its links with India and Africa. To that end, two networks have been established within the University to promote and co-ordinate activity related to those regions.

IndOx – the India–Oxford Initiative

The India–Oxford Initiative (IndOx) was created in 2018 as a mechanism to build and sustain partnerships between individuals and institutions in India and academics and researchers at the University. It acts as a hub to coordinate India-related activities across the University, and as a contact point for potential external partners.

IndOx seeks to develop equitable partnerships with Indian organisations and institutions, leading to collaborative academic research of mutual benefit, and

seeks in particular to support students and early-career researchers in developing such collaborations.

Within Oxford, the initiative aims to attract participants from across the University. Its strategy board includes representatives from all five of Oxford’s divisions, and one representative from an Oxford college or centre with an India focus. In addition, IndOx’s working groups provide another forum for participation by academics with links to India.

AfOx – the Africa Oxford Initiative

The Africa Oxford Initiative (AfOx) is a cross-University network established to bring the University of Oxford’s long-standing, multi-disciplinary engagement with Africa under one platform. The overarching goal of AfOx is to ensure Africa remains a strategic priority for the University. AfOx supports research and academic excellence by facilitating sustainable and equitable research partnerships between researchers based in African institutions and the University. AfOx is working with colleagues across Oxford to develop a University-wide strategy to increase the number of African students studying at Oxford and increase the University’s engagement with research institutions and universities based in Africa.

AfOx uses its considerable expertise of the dynamic African academic landscape to mobilise resources for Africa-focused research, working with departments and colleges across the University and with universities, research institutions, governments and NGOs across African countries. Such collaborations have facilitated new advances in the fields of medical science, big data engineering and astrophysics, conserving environments and ecosystems, archaeology, and preservation of ancient languages amongst other research areas. To enable effective partnerships that are genuinely co-developed, they offer two researcher mobility schemes – the AfOx Visiting Fellowship Programme and the AfOx Travel Grant.

In support of students, and in partnership with the Oxford University Africa Society, AfOx runs academic support programs to enhance the graduate experience at Oxford, promote a sense of belonging and enhance the academic success of emerging African leaders in Oxford.

These targeted programs include essay writing workshops and tips on pursuing DPhils at Oxford. AfOx also hosts an annual online admissions open day for prospective African graduate applicants.



AfOx’s Focus on Research Africa (FORA) event, 2019. FORA brings together experts in a variety of disciplines from Oxford and partner institutions in Africa to discuss Africa-related issues.

AfOx



The quad at Oxford's St Antony's College. On the right is the Investcorp building, designed by Zaha Hadid Architects

SOCIETY AND HEALTH

Oxford has one of the largest groupings of social scientists in the world, and is an internationally recognised centre of excellence for biomedical and clinical research and teaching. Academics and scientists at Oxford work on understanding and tackling some of the major health and social challenges that face people around the world.

Digital health monitoring

Oxford's Nuffield Department of Women's & Reproductive Health is working with the George Institute for Global Health to help prevent cardiovascular disease among women in rural India following high-risk pregnancy. SMARThealth Pregnancy is an extension of the SMARThealth project developed jointly by Oxford and the George Institute, which uses smartphone applications to help community healthcare workers diagnose and manage patients in situations where there are few trained doctors. A pilot study of SMARThealth Pregnancy is focusing on identifying diabetes and high blood pressure in pregnant and postpartum women, who are at greater risk of going on to develop heart disease if they experience these conditions during pregnancy.

The Centre for Tropical Medicine and Global Health

Oxford's Centre for Tropical Medicine and Global Health is an international network of medical research centres, primarily funded by Wellcome and based in Oxford and at Wellcome programmes in Kenya, Vietnam and Thailand.



Pearl Gan

Together with further study sites elsewhere in Africa and southeast Asia, the centre's facilities are amongst the largest-scale and most enduring research facilities run by any university overseas.

The centre's work includes fundamental research, drug discovery, and clinical trials and implementation, focusing on infectious diseases that kill millions each year, and it works in line with the healthcare priorities of its host countries and in alignment with its local host institutions. The centre specifically aims to provide world-class research facilities in its host countries, coupled with a strong ethos of capacity development that includes local training programmes for aspiring research scientists. It also conducts research funded by major bodies such as the Gates Foundation, the European Commission, UKRI and (formerly) DFID.

Past research has, for example, informed the World Health Organisation's advice on first-line treatment for malaria. More recently, the centre is undertaking a significant amount of global research into COVID-19.

Understanding cities

PEAK Urban is a project run from Oxford's Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS) that aims to understand how cities work as systems. Its research is intended to inform decision-makers on ways of improving urban life, and ultimately to contribute towards the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 11: making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. An international and multi-disciplinary project, PEAK Urban conducts studies of cities around the world under the themes of city governance, health and wellbeing, migration and cities, sustainable cities, and sustainable growth. Oxford's partners in the project are the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS), Peking University, the Universidad EAFIT in Colombia, and the African Centre for Cities at the University of Cape Town.

Large-scale research on the causes of chronic diseases

The China Kadoorie Biobank is investigating the long-term causes of common chronic diseases that contribute to premature death, such as stroke, diabetes, cancer and heart disease. A collaboration between Oxford's Nuffield

Left: An entomologist dissecting mosquito wings at the Oxford University Clinical Research Unit (OUCRU) in Vietnam, part of Oxford's Centre for Tropical Medicine and Global Health, as part of work on the mosquito-borne dengue virus. The picture was taken for OUCRU's 'Picturing Health: Dengue in Vietnam' project



Above: Oxford's Blavatnik School of Government

Department of Population Health, the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking University, the Biobank collected questionnaire data and measurements from over 510,000 participants in China between 2004 and 2008. Biological samples were also taken for genetic and biochemical analyses. Participants' subsequent major health events are being tracked indefinitely – including their ultimate cause of death – and the data is used to investigate the effects particular factors have on the group's health and mortality.

Recent China Kadoorie Biobank findings include that:

- if current cigarette consumption patterns continue, smoking could account for 2 million deaths annually in China by 2030 and 3 million by 2050;
- improvements in cardiovascular care and outcomes in China can be linked to healthcare reforms;
- higher red meat and fish consumption is associated with an increased risk of diabetes.

Improving government worldwide

Oxford's Blavatnik School of Government exists to inspire and support better government and public policy around the world. Its research, teaching and engagement activities are led by the challenges dominating the agendas of governments and by the needs of the people they serve.

With an exceptionally global approach, the Blavatnik School's areas of research, the case studies taught in

class and the countries of origin of its community cover most of the world. In September 2020, the School welcomed degree students from 53 different countries and territories.

Seeking examples of success all over the world in tackling big issues and improving lives, the Blavatnik School undertakes research to understand deeply why and in what context they were successful; and then helps policymakers from other countries understand how such success could be applied to their contexts.

Measuring and reducing poverty around the world

The Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) runs the Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN), which it founded together with Mexico's National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy and Colombia's Department for Social Prosperity. The MPPN aims to help eliminate poverty by developing and promulgating more sophisticated methods of measuring poverty, and by promoting the creation of better designed and more effective policies for reducing poverty. Its work centres around supporting policymakers in using a method of measuring poverty developed at the OPHI that complements income-based measures of poverty by taking into account multiple other aspects of deprivation, such as poor health, poor or no education, and low living standards. The network's members include ministers and senior officials from more than 60 governments and 19 international organisations.

SOCIETY AND HEALTH (CONTINUED)



Cliff Nyaga

Above: A FundiFix technician fixing a handpump at Nzaini Community in Kitui, Kenya, during the COVID-19 pandemic. FundiFix is a social enterprise that provides professional maintenance services for water infrastructure in rural communities. Its development was led by Oxford's Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment

Ensuring water supplies in rural communities

A number of Oxford projects co-ordinated by the University's Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment work together to improve water services in rural Kenya. Their work combines the remote monitoring of handpumps with a model for delivering and funding timely servicing of handpumps and small piped water schemes.

It helps communities keep their waterpoints working, as well as contributing to an understanding of the relative performance and reliability of different types of handpump. The work now forms part of the Uptime consortium, which is delivering reliable water services to over one million rural people in Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Kenya and Uganda.



THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE NATURAL WORLD

Oxford is widely recognised as one of the world’s leading science universities. Scientists and researchers work on both fundamental and cutting-edge applied research. Work being done at Oxford aims to contribute to understanding the natural world, and to finding ways of living sustainably within it.

Sustainable air conditioning for a warming world

As climate change causes increased temperatures and heatwaves, the energy needed for air conditioning is likely to triple by 2050. How can this need for cooling be met without exacerbating the very problem it’s responding to? The Future of Cooling programme at the Oxford Martin School aims to understand how sustainable cooling can be delivered for all, and to establish the provision of cooling as a global priority for the successful implementation of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals.

Turning waste plastic into fuel

Plastic waste is a major environmental problem – plastic is used and disposed of in great volume, yet it does not biodegrade easily and only 10% of plastic is recycled. Oxford Sustainable Fuels (OSF), a spin-out company from Oxford’s Department of Chemistry, has created a novel use for waste plastic and also tyres. ‘End-of-life’ plastic and tyres can already be turned into an oil-like substance, but one which is volatile and difficult to use. OSF has developed ways of processing this substance to

produce usable fuels. The company hopes soon to open a waste-to-fuel plant capable of handling 10,000 – 20,000 tonnes of plastic.

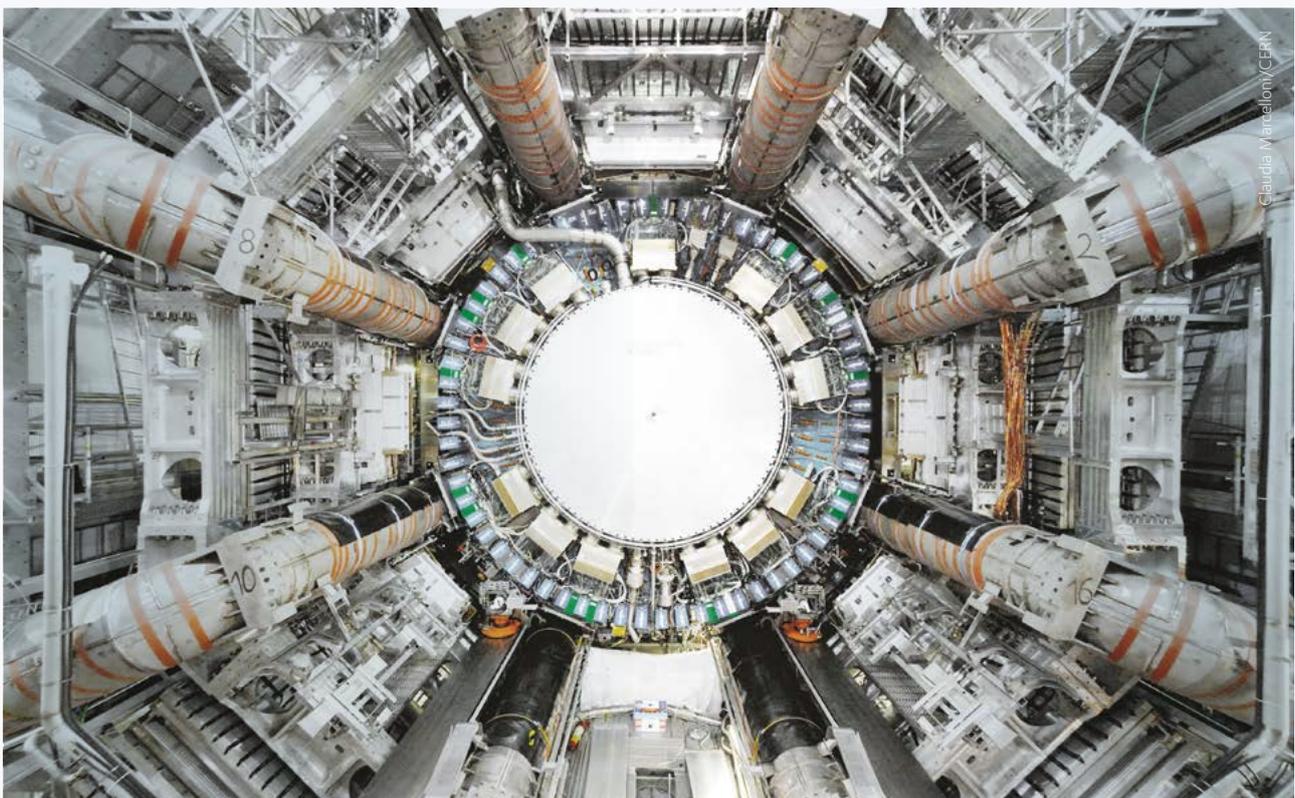
The Large Hadron Collider

Oxford’s particle physics group has a substantial commitment to the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN, the world’s largest and most powerful particle accelerator.

Scientists from Oxford are closely involved in the general operations of the LHC and in two of the major experiments that run on the collider: ATLAS, which tests the predictions of the Standard Model of particle physics, and LHCb, which tries to explain the dominance of matter over antimatter in the universe.

Oxford is also closely involved in efforts to create a successor to the LHC – in the Future Circular Collider and Compact Linear Collider projects at CERN, and in the International Linear Collider alternative that would be sited in Japan. It is also part of the major project to upgrade the LHC to create the High-Luminosity Large Hadron Collider (HL-LHC), extending the LHC’s life to around 2040.

Below: A view of the ATLAS detector at the Large Hadron Collider. Partially designed and built by Oxford’s particle physics group, the detector is one of the largest and most complex scientific instruments ever constructed





Above: Researchers at Oxford's Department of Zoology studied how Antarctic penguin populations adapt to changing ecosystems

Studying the impact of climate change on animals

Researchers from the United States, Canada, and Oxford's Department of Zoology have shown how species may succeed or fail to adapt to changing ecosystems, by studying the historical diets of two Antarctic penguin species. The study found that both species ate krill as their staple food during a period when human activity had contributed to a krill surplus. However, subsequent human activity has put krill stocks under pressure, and the study found that only one of the two penguin species has been able to vary its diet to cope. The study illustrates the difficulties that animals with a specialised diet face from human impact on their environments.

Ensuring the supply of staple foods for a growing population

In future, demand for food is likely to grow due to an increasing population, while the ability to grow that food will be threatened by the loss of agricultural land to urbanisation. In Asia, these pressures mean that the predicted future demand for rice will not be met unless

yields can be increased significantly; addressing this is considered one of the 'grand challenges' for science in the 21st century. The C4 Rice Project, led by Oxford's Department of Plant Sciences, aims to create a higher-yielding breed of rice through the introduction of a trait that will increase its photosynthetic efficiency. Originally begun by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in the Philippines, the project has partners in Australia, Germany, Taiwan and the USA, and receives funding from the Gates Foundation.

Building the world's largest radio telescope

Astrophysics at Oxford is a leading partner in the international Square Kilometre Array (SKA) project to build the world's largest radio telescope. The SKA will be a transformational scientific instrument because of the speed and detail of its coverage of the sky, with a total collecting area of more than a square kilometre divided between sites in South Africa and Australia. Oxford teams are involved in receiver and software design, and in planning for scientific exploitation of the data. A world-wide project with partners in over fifteen countries, the SKA is one of the UK's key strategic science projects for the coming decade.

HISTORY, PEOPLES AND CULTURES

Oxford is one of the world's major centres for the study of the world's history, peoples and cultures. Its faculties in these fields are amongst the world's largest, and amongst the most broad-ranging in terms of the subjects they cover.

Centres for the study of languages and cultures

World-leading centres at Oxford combine the study of languages with the study of the cultures in which they are used.

The Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages is one of the world's leading centres for the study of European languages, literatures and cultures. It covers more than 15 European and Slavonic languages over the span of their historical development, and over the scope of their geographical spread – Portuguese in Brazil, for example, or French in parts of Africa. The department also promotes language learning in schools, through initiatives such as its Creative Multilingualism project.

In the Faculty of Oriental Studies, around 20 ancient and modern languages from the Middle East and Asia are studied and taught, as a part of studying the cultures, literatures, histories and religions of the people and places that use them. The breadth of Oxford's coverage of these regions is matched by only a few other universities in the world.

Oxford's Faculty of Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics studies language itself as a phenomenon from a variety of perspectives. This includes studying language structure and how languages have developed historically, how the brain processes language, and the mechanisms of speech,

sound and hearing. A variety of European, ancient and other languages are studied as part of this work, including a number that are threatened with extinction, helped by the faculty's close connection to the Modern Languages faculty.

The Oxford School of Global and Area Studies

The Oxford School of Global and Area Studies (OSGA) is amongst the world's leading centres for area studies and is the world's largest community of area studies scholars. It comprises the African Studies Centre, the Latin American Centre, the Middle East Centre, the Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies, the Russian and East European Studies Centre, and the South Asian Studies Centre. It also runs the graduate Contemporary China Studies Programme at Oxford's China Centre jointly with the Faculty of Oriental Studies.

The Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies

The Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies, part of the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies, was established at Oxford in 1981 thanks to an endowment from the Nissan Motor Corporation. It and the Oriental Studies faculty are Oxford's two centres for Japanese studies: the Nissan Institute focuses on the study of Japan from a social sciences perspective, while work at Oriental Studies is mainly in the humanities. Members of both units contribute to the teaching of undergraduate Japanese students, run a combined MSc and MPhil in Japanese Studies, and supervise DPhils on Japan-related topics in many departments.

Since the 1980s, the Nissan Institute has been responsible for the Nissan Institute/Routledge Japanese Studies Series, the largest single series of academic works on Japan published anywhere in the world.

Tracing the lives of convicts in Britain and Australia

The Digital Panopticon website brings together material from British and Australian records of convicts sentenced in London between 1780 and 1925. It allows the lives of around 90,000 individuals to be traced through the millions of records in the 50 datasets used by the site. These include trial records, records of sentencing and transportation, and records held on individuals after they had reached the Australian colonies. Digital Panopticon is a joint project between the Universities of Liverpool, Oxford, Sheffield, Sussex, and Tasmania in Australia.

Left: A student taking part in an experiment to measure brain activity in response to language material at the Faculty of Linguistics' Language and Brain Laboratory



Oxford University Images/PSunlimited



Sean Leatherbury/Manar al-Athar

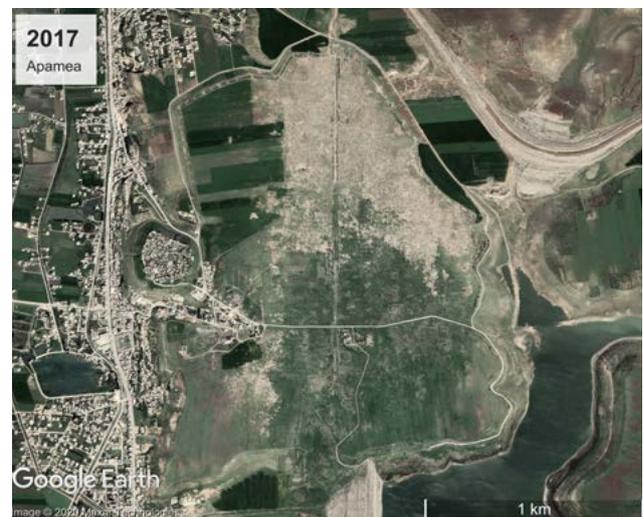
Above: An example of an image from Oxford's Manar al-Athar picture repository of archaeological sites. It shows a portion of a larger mosaic that depicts Telete and the Seasons, in the Zeugma Mosaic Museum in Turkey

Recording and protecting world heritage

The Faculty of Classics is home to the Manar al-Athar website, a repository of high-resolution images of archaeological sites covering the parts of the former Roman empire that later came under Islamic rule. It makes high-quality images freely available for teaching, research and publication, and is the first website of its kind to provide such material labelled in both English and Arabic, to facilitate its use in the Middle East and North Africa.

Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa (EAMENA) is a project that aims to identify, record and help protect that region's threatened archaeological sites and landscapes. Run by Oxford's

School of Archaeology in partnership with Leicester and Durham Universities, it is funded by Arcadia, a charitable fund of Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin. The EAMENA project uses satellite imagery to discover and record undocumented archaeological sites and to monitor the state of sites across the region, building up a public database of site information. Where sites are at risk, the project documents them in greater detail and works with local and international bodies to investigate and preserve them. As part of this work, through a scheme funded by the British Council's Cultural Protection Fund, the EAMENA project provides training to heritage organisations in the region, including in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Palestine, Tunisia, and Yemen.



Google Earth/Maxar Technologies

Above: The Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa project monitors threatened archaeological sites using satellite imagery. These images show damage inflicted by looting to the site of the multi-period city of Apamea, Syria, contrasting the site in 2003 and 2017



One of the Raphael drawings in the Ashmolean Museum's collection, a chalk portrait of an unknown youth, or possibly a self-portrait (1498–99)

THE UNIVERSITY'S GARDENS, LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS



Oxford University Images/Bodleian Library



Oxford University Images/Oxford University Museum of Natural History

Far left: A page from the Bodleian Libraries' Gutenberg Bible

Left: 'Wallace's giant bee' from Indonesia, the world's largest bee, from the Museum of Natural History's Alfred Russel Wallace collections.

The University of Oxford's gardens, libraries and museums house some of the world's most significant collections. With over 21 million objects, specimens and printed items originating from around the world, these collections not only constitute one of the world's largest and most important repositories for scholars and researchers, but they also bring more than three million visitors each year to the University's public museums and galleries, library spaces and gardens.

The Gardens, Libraries and Museums (GLAM) division of the University comprises:

- the Bodleian Libraries, the largest academic library system in the United Kingdom;
- the Ashmolean, a museum of art and archaeology of international stature, and Britain's first public museum;
- the History of Science Museum, the world's finest collection of historical scientific instruments;
- the Museum of Natural History, an internationally significant collection of geological and zoological specimens;
- the Pitt Rivers Museum, which houses one of the world's finest collections of anthropology and archaeology;
- the Botanic Garden and Arboretum, the oldest botanic garden in Britain.

Some highlights of the University's collections

The Bodleian Libraries' collections of rare books include one of the few surviving bibles printed by Johannes Gutenberg in Germany in the 15th century, which were the first books to be printed in Europe from movable metal type.

The Ashmolean Museum's Western Art collection includes the world's largest and most important group of drawings by the Italian Renaissance artist Raphael. In 2017, the Ashmolean hosted a major exhibition of Raphael drawings from both its own collection and those of other institutions, including the Albertina Museum in Vienna, the Louvre in Paris, and Florence's Uffizi Gallery.

The Pitt Rivers Museum houses an almost three-story-tall Haida totem pole from British Columbia, where it had been erected in 1879 to mark the adoption of a daughter by the Haida chief Anetlas and his wife.

The History of Science Museum has the world's finest collection of astrolabes and sundials from Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Africa. It includes a geared astrolabe made in Isfahan in around 1200 that is the oldest surviving geared machine in the world.

The Museum of Natural History holds tens of thousands of specimens collected by Alfred Russel Wallace, one of the 19th century's greatest explorers and naturalists, mostly during his expedition to the Malay Archipelago (the area of modern-day Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines).

Finally, the University's Botanic Garden has seven glasshouses that recreate different climatic conditions, allowing them to house plants from around the world. For example, the warm and humid environment of the rainforest house allows tropical plants such as coffee, cocoa, pineapple, plantain and vanilla to be grown in the centre of Oxford.

Below: History of Science Museum's 13th century geared astrolabe. An ingenious internal mechanism reveals the phases of the moon, displays the days of the lunar calendar and shows the relative positions of sun and moon on two concentric rings. HSM inv. 48213.



History of Science Museum, University of Oxford

THE UNIVERSITY'S GARDENS, LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS (CONTINUED)



Above: Biology undergraduates being given a tutorial at the Botanic Garden's lily house

Projects and exhibitions

The University's gardens, libraries and museums undertake a variety of projects and other activities where they work with international partners or address issues of global relevance; these are a small selection:

The Artefacts of Excavation project, run by the Ashmolean Museum and Oxford's Griffith Institute of Egyptology, aims to re-establish links between artefacts that were excavated by British expeditions in Egypt and then dispersed amongst institutions around the world, and to thereby inform a critical examination of historical museum and archaeological practices.

The Museum of Natural History's major recent exhibition, First Animals, brought together fossils from the period of

the 'Cambrian explosion', a period beginning 540 million years ago that saw a leap in the diversity and complexity of living organisms and the first evolution of the various fundamental body plans exhibited by modern animals. The exhibition was particularly notable for its display of specimens loaned by Yunnan University from the Chengjiang fossil site in China, one of the most important sites of fossil evidence from the Cambrian explosion.

Based on an initiative developed by a group of Berlin museums, the Multaka–Oxford project brings locally resident forced migrants from the Middle East and elsewhere to the History of Science Museum and Pitt Rivers Museum to act as volunteer guides. As well as building up their experience of working in the UK and their links in the community, the volunteers contribute their perspectives on objects in the museums that originate from their home countries. 'Multaka' means 'meeting point' in Arabic.

The Pitt Rivers Museum, along with thirteen other European museums, is involved in TAKING CARE – Ethnographic and World Cultures Museums as Spaces of Care, a project that examines how these kinds of museums could inform a broad concept of 'care' – how their preservation practices could be extended to preserving threatened traditions, languages or species; how traditional knowledge embodied in their collections could inspire more sustainable ways of living; and whether they can play a role in bringing people together to care for our shared world.

Below: The Haida totem pole from British Columbia in the collection of the Pitt Rivers Museum



THE WORLD'S LARGEST UNIVERSITY PRESS

Oxford University Press (OUP), a department of the University, is the world's largest university press with the widest global presence. It currently publishes thousands of new publications each year, has offices in more than 60 countries, and employs approximately 6,000 people around the world.

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THE STEPHEN A. SCHWARZMAN CENTRE: A NEW HOME FOR OXFORD HUMANITIES

Oxford has led the world in the study of humanities and ethics for nearly 1,000 years and today offers an unrivalled depth and range of expertise across disciplines. Thanks to a landmark gift of £150 million from Stephen A. Schwarzman, the American philanthropist and co-founder of the Blackstone investment group, Oxford's humanities faculties will for the first time be housed together in a single place.

Once it is built, the Stephen A. Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities will house the Faculties of English; History; Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics; Medieval and Modern Languages; Music; Philosophy; and Theology and Religion in a space designed to encourage experiential learning and bold experimentation through cross-disciplinary and collaborative study.

The centre will also be home to a new institute for ethics in AI which will build upon the University's world-class capabilities in the humanities to lead the study of the ethical implications of artificial intelligence and other new computing technologies.

In addition to its academic function, the Schwarzman Centre will serve as a major cultural venue for the city of Oxford. The facilities it will offer for performances and exhibitions will centre around what is intended to be a world-class concert hall to seat 500 people, and it is hoped the quality of the centre's facilities will attract leading musicians, artists and performers from around the world. Speaking about the new venue and referring to the troubles faced by the performing arts due to COVID-19 restrictions, Oxford's Head of Humanities Professor Karen O'Brien said, 'Building a new, world-class concert hall in Oxford is a statement of our confidence in the value of the arts and humanities despite this time of great uncertainty.'

Hopkins Architects has been appointed to design the new centre. The firm's past projects include Portcullis House for the UK's parliament, redevelopment plans for the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Royal Academy of Arts, the London 2012 Olympic Velodrome, and work for a number of universities including Cambridge, Hamburg and Harvard. The practice is known for designing environmentally efficient buildings, which is one of the goals for the new centre at Oxford.

The soprano Dame Emma Kirkby, accompanied on lute, performing at the University's historic Sheldonian Theatre



Oxford University Images/John Cairns Photography



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