In this section you can read about the history of Oxford University and how Oxford’s distinctive collegiate structure operates in the present day. Find out how students and academics benefit from belonging both to the University, a large, internationally renowned institution, and to a college or hall.
History

Oxford is a unique and historic institution. As the oldest university in the English-speaking world, it can lay claim to nine centuries of continuous existence. Here’s a timeline of key dates:

1096 Evidence of teaching
There is no clear date of foundation but teaching existed at Oxford in some form by 1096.

1167 A Paris ban
Oxford developed rapidly from 1167, when Henry II banned English students from attending the University of Paris following a quarrel with Thomas Becket.

1188 A notable visitor
In 1188, the historian Gerald of Wales gave a public reading to the assembled Oxford dons (university lecturers, especially at Oxford or Cambridge). As a royal clerk to the king and two archbishops, Gerald of Wales travelled widely and wrote extensively.

1190 First overseas student
In around 1190 the arrival of Emo of Friesland, the first known overseas student, set in motion the University’s tradition of developing international scholarly links.

1214 The title of Chancellor
By 1201 the University was headed by a ‘magister scholarum (head of an ecclesiastical school) Oxonie’, on whom the title of Chancellor was later conferred in 1214, and in 1231 the Masters were recognised as a universitas or corporation.

1249 First colleges
During the 13th century, rioting between town and gown (townspeople and students) hastened the establishment of primitive halls of residence. These were succeeded by the first of Oxford’s colleges, which began as endowed houses or medieval halls of residence, under the supervision of a Master. Established between 1249 and 1264, University, Balliol and Merton Colleges are the oldest.
Less than a century later, Oxford had achieved eminence above every other seat of learning, and won the praises of popes, kings and sages by virtue of its antiquity, curriculum, doctrine and privileges. In 1355, Edward III paid tribute to the University for its invaluable contribution to learning. He also commented on the services rendered to the state by distinguished Oxford graduates.

Early on, Oxford became a centre for lively controversy with scholars involved in religious and political disputes. John Wyclif, a 14th-century Master of Balliol, campaigned for a Bible in English, against the wishes of the papacy. In the 16th century, Henry VIII forced the University to accept his divorce from Catherine of Aragon, and the Anglican churchmen Cranmer, Latimer and Ridley were later tried for heresy and burnt at the stake in the city. The University was Royalist during the Civil War and Charles I held a counter-Parliament in the University’s Convocation House. In the late 17th century, the Oxford philosopher John Locke, suspected of treason, was forced to flee the country.

The 18th century became an era of scientific discovery and religious revival. Edmond Halley, Professor of Geometry, predicted the return of the comet that bears his name; John and Charles Wesley’s prayer meetings laid the foundations for the Methodist Society.

From 1833 onwards, the Oxford Movement sought to revitalise the Catholic aspects of the Anglican Church. One of its leaders, John Henry Newman, became a Roman Catholic in 1845 and was later made a Cardinal. In 2019 he was canonised as a saint.

In 1860 the new University Museum was the scene of a famous debate between Thomas Huxley, champion of evolution, and Bishop Wilberforce.

From 1878 academic halls were established for women, who were admitted as full members of the University from 1920. By 1986, all of Oxford’s male colleges had changed their statutes to admit women and, since 2008, all colleges have admitted men and women.
20th–21st centuries Major research capabilities

During the 20th and early 21st centuries, Oxford established major new research capacities in the natural and applied sciences, including medicine. In so doing, it has enhanced and strengthened its traditional role as an international focus for learning and a forum for intellectual debate.

2020–present A life-saving vaccine

Oxford University has been at the centre of the COVID-19 response from the very onset of the crisis, remaining at the forefront of global efforts to combat the disease and to mitigate its many effects, including developing a vaccine and identifying treatments. By early 2022, more than 2.6 billion doses of the Oxford–AstraZeneca vaccine had been supplied to over 180 countries, with approximately two-thirds going to low- and middle-income countries.

Oxford University’s innovation has provided a beacon of hope to the world, through the development of an effective COVID vaccine in record time.
Who’s who

Chancellor The Rt Hon the Lord Patten of Barnes, CH

Vice-Chancellor Professor Dame Louise Richardson, AAAS, AcSS, FRSE, RIIA, (until the end of December 2022).

The appointment of Professor Irene Tracey, FRCA, FMedSci, CBE, as the next Vice-Chancellor (from 1 January 2023) has been approved by Congregation.

Pro-Vice-Chancellors

Development and External Affairs: Professor David Gann, CBE, CEng, FICE, FCGI
Education: Professor Martin Williams, CEng, FICE, FIStructE
Innovation: Professor Chas Bountra, OBE
Planning and Resources: Dr David Prout, CB
People and Gardens, Libraries and Museums: Professor Anne Trefethen, FREng
Research: Professor Patrick Grant, FREng
Pro-Vice-Chancellors without portfolio:
Rt Hon Dame Elish Angiolini, DBE, QC, FRSE Principal of St Hugh’s College
Professor Roger Goodman, FAcSS Warden of St Antony’s College
Professor Richard Hobbs, CBE, FMedSci, FRCPP, FRCGP, FRCPE Head of Nuffield
Department of Primary Care Health Sciences
Professor Jonathan Michie, President of Kellogg College
Professor Sir Nigel Shadbolt, FRS, FREng, FBCS Principal of Jesus College
The Very Revd Professor Jane Shaw Principal of Harris Manchester College
Professor Lionel Tarassenko, CBE, FREng, FMedSci President of Reuben College
Professor Irene Tracey, FRCA, FMedSci, CBE Warden of Merton College
Sir Richard Trainor, KBE, FRHistS Rector of Exeter College
Professor Katherine J Willis, CBE, FGS, Principal of St Edmund Hall

Registrar Gill Aitken, CB

Heads of Academic Divisions

Humanities: Professor Daniel Grimley
Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences: Professor Sam Howison
Medical Sciences: Professor Gavin Screaton, FMedSci, FRCPP
Social Sciences: Professor Timothy J Power

Proctors Professor Jane Mellor, Dr Linda M Flores (until March 2023)
Assessor Dr Richard Earl (until March 2023)
Bodley’s Librarian Richard Ovenden, OBE, FRSA, FSA, FRHistS
Director of the Ashmolean Museum Dr Alexander Sturgis
Director of the Museum of the History of Science Dr Silke Ackermann
Director of the Pitt Rivers Museum Dr Laura Van Broekhoven
Director of the Oxford University Museum of Natural History Professor Paul Smith
Director of the Department for Continuing Education Professor Matthew Weait
Chief Executive of Oxford University Press Nigel Portwood
Governance structure of the University

Congregation

Council

Planning and Resource Allocation Committee
General Purposes Committee
Education Committee
Personnel Committee
Research and Innovation Committee
Other Committees (e.g., Finance, Audit and Scrutiny)

Humanities Division
Social Sciences Division
Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Division
Medical Sciences Division
Continuing Education Strategic Management Board
Gardens, Libraries and Museums
Delegacy of Oxford University Press
Structure of the University

Oxford is an independent and self-governing institution consisting of the University, its divisions, departments and faculties, and the colleges.

The University

**Vice-Chancellor** – holds office for seven years and is the senior officer of the University.

**Pro-Vice-Chancellors** – six Pro-Vice-Chancellors have specific, functional responsibility for: Development and External Affairs; Education; People and Gardens, Libraries and Museums; Planning and Resources; Research; and Innovation.

**Pro-Vice-Chancellors without responsibility** – there are also up to ten Pro-Vice-Chancellors without portfolio who undertake a range of duties on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, including chairing electoral boards and presiding at degree ceremonies.

**Chancellor** – usually an eminent public figure elected for life, the Chancellor serves as the titular head of the University, presiding over all major ceremonies.

**Council of the University** – the principal policy-making body. There are 25 positions on Council, plus provision for up to three co-opted members. These include those elected by Congregation, representatives of the colleges, and four members from outside the University. Council is responsible for the academic policy and strategic direction of the University and operates through a number of principal committees including Education, General Purposes, Personnel, Planning and Resource Allocation, Research and Innovation, and Finance.

**Congregation** – has final responsibility for legislative matters and consists of more than 5,000 members of the academic, senior research, library, museum and administrative staff.

**Academic divisions** – day-to-day decision-making in matters such as finance and planning is devolved to the University’s four academic divisions: Humanities; Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences; Medical Sciences; and Social Sciences. Each division has a full-time divisional head, a divisional board and a divisional registrar.

**Oxford University Press** – is a department of the University. The affairs of the Press are overseen by a group of delegates appointed from the academic staff of the University.

You can read more about the four academic divisions, Oxford University Press, and the Department for Continuing Education, which is the responsibility of a separate board, on pages 10–11.
The colleges

The **36 colleges** and **three societies** are a core element of the University, to which they are related via a federal system. Each college is independent and self-governing, having a charter approved by the Privy Council, under which it is governed by a Head of House, elected and appointed by the governing body directly. The governing body comprises a number of Fellows, most of whom also hold University posts. The three societies – **Kellogg College, Reuben College and St Cross College** – operate very much like the other colleges but are considered departments of the University rather than independent colleges because, unlike the others, they do not have a royal charter. One of the main differences is that the governing body recommends a president, who is then appointed by Council. There are also **five permanent private halls**, which were founded by different Christian denominations, and still retain their religious character today.

Undergraduates are admitted to 32 of the colleges and permanent private halls. All colleges accept applications from mature students, while Harris Manchester College is solely for mature students. Campion Hall and Green Templeton, Kellogg, Linacre, Nuffield, Reuben, St Antony’s, St Cross and Wolfson Colleges admit only postgraduate students. All Souls is unique among Oxford colleges because it has no student members; all are Fellows, except the Warden. University, Balliol, and Merton Colleges are the oldest and were established by the 13th century. Green Templeton, which came into existence in 2008 following the merger of Green and Templeton Colleges, is the University’s newest college, and Reuben College, which was founded by the University in 2019, is the newest society.

### Roles of the University and colleges

**Colleges, societies and halls:**
- select and admit undergraduate students, and select postgraduate students after they are admitted by the University
- provide accommodation, meals, common rooms, libraries, sports and social facilities, and pastoral care for their students
- are responsible for students’ undergraduate tutorial teaching and welfare

**The University:**
- determines the content of the courses within which college teaching takes place
- organises lectures and seminars
- provides a wide range of resources for teaching and learning in the form of libraries, laboratories, museums, computing facilities, etc
- admits and supervises postgraduate students
- examines theses
- sets and marks examinations
- awards degrees
Divisions, departments and GLAM

Oxford University is divided into four academic divisions. Within these divisions are numerous departments, faculties and schools. Oxford’s museums, libraries and collections provide an outstanding resource for the University and work closely with divisions to deliver teaching.

Oxford University Press, one of the largest and most successful university print presses in the world, is also a department of the University, while the Department for Continuing Education exists to enable Oxford to reach students beyond the full-time student body.

Academic Divisions

There are four academic divisions within Oxford University:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Humanities</th>
<th>Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences</th>
<th>Medical Sciences</th>
<th>Social Sciences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

All have a full-time divisional head and an elected divisional board.

The **Humanities Division** brings together nine faculties and the Ruskin School of Art. The faculties are among the largest in the world, enabling Oxford to offer an education in arts and humanities from music and fine art to ancient and modern languages. Oxford was named as the best university in the world for arts and humanities in the 2022 QS World University Rankings by Subject.

The **Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Division** is home to the non-medical sciences at Oxford. The ten academic departments in the division (nine from August 2022 – see pages 40 and 46 for more information) span the full spectrum of mathematical, computational, physical, engineering and life sciences, and undertake both research and cutting-edge applied work. In the *Times Higher Education* subject rankings for 2022, Oxford was ranked first in the world for Computer Science.

The **Medical Sciences Division** is the largest of the four academic divisions within the University and is internationally recognised as a centre of excellence for biomedical and clinical research and teaching. In the *Times Higher Education* subject rankings for 2022, Oxford was, for the 11th year running, ranked first in the world for Clinical, Pre-Clinical and Health subjects.

The **Social Sciences Division** brings together departments, faculties and schools committed to tackling some of the major challenges facing humanity, such as sustainable resource management, migration, global governance, justice, poverty and development. The *Times Higher Education* subject rankings placed the University of Oxford as number one in the world for Social Sciences in 2018, 2019 and 2022, and number one in the UK and Europe in 2020 and 2021.
You can read more about the research and innovation work of all four academic divisions in Section Three.

GLAM

Gardens, Libraries And Museums of Oxford University are collectively known by the acronym GLAM, and form one of the greatest concentrations of university collections in the world. Comprising over 20 million objects, specimens and printed items, they constitute one of the largest and most important research repositories, enabling GLAM to work closely with academic departments to deliver teaching and provide students access to important material for their study, as well as drawing scholars from all over the world.

You can read more about Oxford’s gardens, libraries, museums and collections on pages 20–22, how GLAM supports the research and innovation work of all four academic divisions in Section Three, and how it contributes to community and culture in Section Four.

Oxford University Press

Oxford University Press is the largest and most successful university press in the world and publishes for all audiences, from preschool to secondary-level schoolchildren, students to academics, general readers to researchers, individuals to institutions. Oxford University Press is a department of Oxford University and publishes thousands of titles each year, in countries across the globe, in more than 100 languages.

Find out more about how Oxford University Press plays a vital role in furthering the University’s objectives of excellence in scholarship and education in Section Two and research in Section Three.

Department for Continuing Education

The Department for Continuing Education is one of the largest providers of continuing adult education for lifelong learning in the UK. It enrols more than 15,000 students from all over the world on hundreds of part-time programmes each year, including undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications, from certificates and diplomas to masters’ and doctoral degrees, online courses, short courses, day schools, lectures and weekend events, continuing professional development courses, and summer programmes.

You can read more about the Department for Continuing Education on page 31.
Finance and funding

The key financial objectives of the University are to provide the long-term resources to strengthen and further its pre-eminent position – nationally and internationally – as a place of outstanding learning, teaching and research; and to enable it to provide additional support to its three core priorities of students, academic posts and buildings.

Financial Statements 2020/21

Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>13,044</th>
<th>8.6% change 2019/20 to 2020/21</th>
<th>68.2%</th>
<th>-0.4% change 2019/20 to 2020/21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate students</td>
<td></td>
<td>UK undergraduates admitted for 2021/22 entry are from state schools</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>12,510</th>
<th>4.6% change 2019/20 to 2020/21</th>
<th>20.6%</th>
<th>1.8% change 2019/20 to 2020/21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate students</td>
<td></td>
<td>of undergraduates admitted for 2021/22 entry are from the most disadvantaged areas of the UK¹</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ ACORN categories 4 and 5 and POLAR4 quintile 1.

Research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>£653.3m</th>
<th>3.1% change 2019/20 to 2020/21</th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>-</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research income</td>
<td>(6th time running) in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>£94.8m</th>
<th>-9.6% change 2019/20 to 2020/21</th>
<th>7,447</th>
<th>1.9% change 2019/20 to 2020/21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research income from industry</td>
<td>Research-related agreements executed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Educational publishing undertaken by OUP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>£694.3m</th>
<th>-8.0% change 2019/20 to 2020/21</th>
<th>£159.4m</th>
<th>6.4% change 2019/20 to 2020/21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Educational publishing income</td>
<td>Operating cash flow</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>62,000</th>
<th>N/A</th>
<th>£40.0m</th>
<th>41.3% change 2019/20 to 2020/21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>children in England benefited from the Nuffield Early Language Intervention programme</td>
<td>Total comprehensive income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Engagement and partnership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>More than 1,600 participants in the 18-month UNIQ 2021 programme</th>
<th>1,122</th>
<th>46.7% change 2019/20 to 2020/21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students from low-income backgrounds supported by Crankstart scholarships</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>163</th>
<th>58.3% change 2019/20 to 2020/21</th>
<th>169</th>
<th>14.2% change 2019/20 to 2020/21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>participants in our Opportunity Oxford bridging programme</td>
<td>Active spinout companies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Financial measures

### Income £m

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018/19</th>
<th>2019/20</th>
<th>2020/21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>£2,432.7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Surplus before other gains £m

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018/19</th>
<th>2019/20</th>
<th>2020/21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surplus</td>
<td>£100.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Net Assets £m

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018/19</th>
<th>2019/20</th>
<th>2020/21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net</td>
<td>£5,203.9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Capital Expenditure £m

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018/19</th>
<th>2019/20</th>
<th>2020/21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>£90.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Oxford was ranked first in the world in the *Times Higher Education* World University Rankings 2017–2022.
College funding

The colleges of Oxford University (apart from Kellogg, St Cross and Reuben) are financially autonomous. In 2020/21, the aggregate annual incoming resources (including donations for capital projects or endowment) of these 36 colleges amounted to £476m.

The three main sources of income are (percentages of the aggregate income):

- 37% teaching, research and residential
- 32% investment income
- 25% legacies and donations

Other income derives mostly from trading activity such as vacation conferences.

Total resources expended amounted to about £472 million in 2020/21; 85% of this expenditure was directly attributed to core activities including teaching, research and residential services. The balance is split between the costs of fundraising, running trading activities, such as conferences and tourism, and investment management costs.

Income streams

The University seeks to protect and grow its income streams by diversifying income sources and pursuing an ambitious development strategy which seeks to fund core long-term academic activities. A key source of income is fundraising, led by the University Development Office.

The Development Office is helping to generate philanthropic donations, in support of the University's strategic priorities.

The generosity of donors helps us to ensure that the most talented students can study here regardless of their background, that our research provides benefit on an international scale and that our expertise is brought to bear on some of the world's biggest challenges.

There are a range of cross-disciplinary core themes for which the University is seeking philanthropic support. These are: shared planet; transforming health; being human; visionary ideas; inspiring people; accelerating innovation; and knowledge infrastructure.

Achievements in 2021/22 include a £50 million donation from Serum Life Sciences Ltd to establish the Poonawalla Vaccines
Research Building. The new facility will be built on the same site as the new Pandemic Sciences Institute and together will significantly contribute to global pandemic preparedness and responsiveness. The Poonawalla Building will house the headquarters and main laboratory space of the Jenner Institute, the world-leading academic vaccine institute. The most recent Serum Institute–Jenner Institute collaboration saw the rapid development and global roll-out of the Oxford–AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine at scale.

Philanthropic support for students has continued to play a key role in ensuring that talented individuals are able to study at the University, regardless of their circumstances. Examples of student support in the past year include graduate scholarships for students from the Dominican Republic, scholarship and outreach support for students of Classics and support for students from under-represented backgrounds in computer science.

Additionally, donors have supported a range of academic posts and research programmes across all areas of the University. The Bennett Institute for Applied Data Science has been established in the Medical Sciences Division, while the Jonathan Cooper Chair of the History of Sexualities was created to lead and expand the study and teaching of LGBTQ+ history at Oxford and is the first fully endowed specialist post of this type in the UK.

Across our Gardens, Libraries and Museums, benefactors have provided a range of support. Examples include a significant donation for the Oxford–Multaka project, which utilises the rich and diverse knowledge of people settling in Oxford to help enlighten visitors to the History of Science Museum and the Pitt Rivers Museum. At the Bodleian Libraries, a generous gift has enabled the establishment of the first ever Curatorship of Photography at the University, alongside the Bern Schwartz archive of photographs, negatives and documentary material.

**Oxford University recognition**


- Oxford is ranked the number one university in the UK in *Complete University Guide’s* 2022 league table with an overall score of 100%.

- Oxford University topped The Best UK Universities 2022 league table in *The Guardian* with a score of 100/100.

Read more about Oxford awards for research and innovation in Section Three.
In the next section you can read all about the student body and resources at Oxford University for learning. You can also find out more about how Oxford engages more broadly through departments such as the Department for Continuing Education and Oxford University Press.
The University of Oxford provides an exceptional education. Oxford has some of the best undergraduate and postgraduate students in the world. They are attracted by the opportunity to study at an internationally renowned university with a centuries-old reputation for innovation and outstanding academic achievement, excellent facilities and resources in world-famous libraries, laboratories and museums, and to work alongside pre-eminent researchers.

Unparalleled experience

Students are members both of a college and of the University. The collegiate system is at the heart of the University’s success, giving students the benefits of belonging both to a large institution and to a small, interdisciplinary academic community. You can read more about the different roles of the University and colleges in student life on page 9.

At undergraduate level, the tutorial system forms the heart of the educational experience. In a tutorial, two or three students spend an hour discussing a topic in depth with their tutor. This offers an unparalleled experience of highly personalised educational development and close, regular contact with someone at the forefront of the field. Tutorials challenge students to prepare rigorously, offer evidence for their conclusions and engage in debate.
Oxford’s degrees

Oxford offers around 50 undergraduate degrees, most of which are three or four years long. Some 250 different combinations of subjects are offered. Oxford also offers more than 350 postgraduate courses, both taught and research degrees, ranging from one to three or more years in length. At postgraduate level, students make a major contribution to Oxford’s research endeavour.

Research and development is at the heart of the knowledge economy. Oxford’s provision of postgraduate research opportunities plays an important role in training future generations of researchers, educators and business leaders.

In addition, all degree courses at Oxford are open to mature students, and all colleges consider applications from mature students. Harris Manchester College caters exclusively to mature students, offering full-time study opportunities to people who may have missed out on a university education the first time around and to those who, having finished one career, wish to retrain for a new one. Kellogg College places special emphasis on part-time study, supporting an increasing number of part-time postgraduate courses.

The quality of an Oxford education is regularly reflected through high scores in student satisfaction surveys and by one of the lowest non-continuation rates in the country.

The student body

There are more than 26,000 students at Oxford, including 12,579 undergraduates and 13,445 postgraduates. In addition, more than 15,000 students enrol in the Department for Continuing Education’s part-time programmes each year – see page 31.

Around 11,955 students – 45% of the total student body – are citizens of foreign countries, including 23% of undergraduates and 65% of postgraduates.

Students come to Oxford from more than 160 countries and territories. Currently, the largest groups of international students come from the USA (1,900), China (1,672), Germany (696), Canada (479), India (434), Hong Kong (380), Australia (338), Singapore (329), Italy (291), France (247) and Netherlands (165).

Data taken from Student Statistics 1 December 2021.
Resources for learning

Oxford students benefit from fantastic resources, such as outstanding libraries and museums and excellent IT and language-learning facilities.

Libraries

Oxford University has the largest library system in the UK, with more than 100 libraries.

The Bodleian Libraries consist of 28 research and departmental libraries with more than 13 million printed items, in addition to 80,000 e-journals and a huge number of manuscripts, maps, music and other materials.

In 1610 Sir Thomas Bodley, after whom the Libraries are named, made a historic agreement with the Stationers’ Company to claim a copy of every book and periodical published in print in this country.

This evolved into the Legal Deposit Act and is still in existence today. Because of this, the Bodleian Libraries receive almost 5,000 print and electronic books every week via Legal Deposit.

The Bodleian Libraries’ priceless collections started in 1602 and are considered to be among the greatest in the world. They include:

- a Gutenberg Bible;
- the earliest surviving book written wholly in English;
- a quarter of the world’s original copies (officially called engrossments) of the Magna Carta;
- almost 10,000 western medieval and renaissance manuscripts;
- one of the most significant collections of Hebrew manuscripts in the world.

In 2021, the Bodleian Libraries was part of a campaign to acquire the Honresfield Library, a private collection of manuscripts and printed books associated with some of the greatest writers in English literature. The campaign involved a public appeal to generate donations to save the works from being dispersed through auction sale. A collection
of manuscripts written by Jane Austen, which were part of the Honresfield Library, was donated to the Bodleian Libraries and Jane Austen’s House, protecting them for future generations of scholars and the wider public.

Libraries: accessing resources

The Bodleian Libraries include iconic reading rooms in historic buildings, such as the Old Bodleian and the Taylor Institution Library. Its newer developments include the refurbished Weston Library, the Knowledge Centre (for medical sciences), the Bodleian Social Science Library and the Bodleian Law Library – the largest law library in the UK.

Incredible digital resources include the online catalogue SOLO – Search Oxford Libraries Online – at solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk, which makes available resources across all the University’s libraries, and Digital Bodleian at digital.bodleian.ox.ac.uk, a repository of all the Libraries’ digital collections. In addition to the Bodleian Libraries and other subject-based University libraries, every college also has its own library for use by college members.

Language learning

The Oxford University Language Centre is the hub for all students and staff who want to improve their language skills, offering teaching across 11 modern languages and academic English. The centre helps thousands of people of different ages and abilities advance their languages each year. Academic English courses help improve academic writing and communication for those whose first language isn’t English. The Language Centre offers flexible modes of delivery with a range of online and in-person courses. Visit the Language Centre website for more information: lang.ox.ac.uk.
Museums and collections

Oxford's museums and collections are of national and international importance. They provide an outstanding resource for both the University and the public. All work closely with academic departments to deliver teaching and provide students with access to important material for their study:

The Ashmolean Museum, which opened in 1683, is the University's museum of art and archaeology. Its rich and diverse collections range from classical sculpture to the Pre-Raphaelites and modern art.

The History of Science Museum contains the world's finest collection of medieval and early modern scientific instruments, and the most important collection of astronomical instruments from the Islamic world.

The Museum of Natural History, founded in 1860 as the centre for scientific study at the University, holds internationally significant collections of geological and zoological specimens, as well as a substantial archive.

The Pitt Rivers Museum holds one of the world's finest collections of anthropology and archaeology, with objects from every continent and all periods of human existence.

The Botanic Garden, founded in 1621, is the oldest botanic garden in Britain. It forms the most compact yet diverse collection of plants in the world.

The Bate Collection, part of the Faculty of Music, celebrates the history and development of musical instruments in the Western classical tradition, from the medieval period to the present day.

As well as being a working library and research centre, public event and exhibition space, the Weston Library is also the home of the Bodleian Libraries' special collections.
Admissions and access

Oxford seeks to recruit the very best students nationally and internationally through an impartial process based on academic achievement and potential. The University is committed to increasing the diversity of its student body and believes strongly that this approach not only enhances the Oxford student experience but is an important component of the University's success and reputation.

Undergraduate

The majority of Oxford’s UK undergraduates come from state schools. In 2021, over 68% of UK places went to students from state schools. Around 10% of Oxford undergraduates come from a household with an income under £16,000 – the threshold for eligibility for free school meals.

The University continues to be at the forefront of discussions on social mobility and works extensively with education experts and public sector organisations in order to help raise attainment in schools, encourage participation in higher education and applications to selective universities.

Oxford spends more than £7 million each year on undergraduate in-person and online outreach with targeted groups so that we can support potential applicants, wherever they may be in the world. Our key challenge is to improve opportunities for admission for able students from disadvantaged backgrounds who, because of lack of prior academic attainment or educational opportunity, are less able to make competitive applications. We have developed two important new initiatives to address this challenge:

- **Opportunity Oxford** – 225 places have been offered for 2022 through this bridging programme, an ambitious academic course and residential that helps to prepare talented UK offer-holders from under-represented backgrounds for successful student careers at our University.

- **Astrophoria Foundation Year** – for the first time in 2022, this fully funded, yearlong, bespoke and subject-specific course will recruit UK state school students with high academic potential, but who have experienced severe personal disadvantage or disrupted education. The first cohort of successful students will be admitted in October 2023.
Other initiatives include:

- **UNIQ** – in 2022, this free programme will provide sustained online mentoring for 1,600 selected UK state school students. Many participants will also attend a residential in Oxford. Since 2010, UNIQ has supported over 12,000 participants with nearly 2,400 going on to be offered a place at Oxford.

- **Oxford for UK** – our colleges have combined forces to form regional outreach hubs offering bespoke support to local students and their wider communities in every region of the UK.

- **Oxplore** – each month around 40,000 11–18 year olds engage with our digital resource designed to challenge via debates and encourage critical thinking. Last year saw the launch of Oxplore’s book club, supported by leading children’s writers including Philip Pullman.

Oxford’s financial support package for UK students is one of the most generous available, providing over £8.5 million of financial support to undergraduates from lower-income households. Around one in four UK students at Oxford currently receive a non-repayable annual bursary, such as an Oxford Bursary or a Crankstart Scholarship, which can be worth up to £5,000 per year.

Entry to undergraduate courses at Oxford continues to be very competitive: there are around 3,300 places, and typically over 23,000 people apply annually.

Undergraduate academic ability and potential is assessed through a range of measures, including predicted and actual exam grades, teacher’s reference, admission tests (for many courses) and interviews. Wherever possible, students’ prior academic attainment is viewed within the context of their socio-economic and educational opportunities.

In the 2022 admissions cycle, free school meal (FSM) eligibility data for English applicants was provided for the first time by the Department of Education (DfE) via UCAS. At Oxford, any applicant flagged as FSM eligible was automatically considered to be in the most disadvantaged group of applicants and were strongly recommended to be shortlisted for interview, provided they were predicted to achieve the entrance requirements for their course.

Further information on who studies here as an undergraduate can be found in the Annual Admissions Statistical Report available at [ox.ac.uk/adstats](http://ox.ac.uk/adstats).
Postgraduate

Oxford offers more than 350 graduate courses across a very wide range of disciplines, with courses opening in new areas every year. This includes taught and research courses available for full-time and part-time study, from diplomas to doctorates. Course information and the application form are available via the Graduate Admissions website.

For 2021/22 entry, over 40,000 applications were received for some 6,500 postgraduate places. More than 36,000 applications were for full-time courses and just over 4,000 for part-time study. Close to 29,000 applications were received from candidates domiciled outside the UK.

Our information for international applicants provides general guidance on the types of qualifications and grades from countries outside the UK that would usually be considered to meet its minimum entry requirements (undergraduate and postgraduate).

Decisions are made in gathered fields after each application deadline on the basis of the entry requirements for the course and the strength of the application pool. Some departments may interview as part of the assessment process.

Recruitment activities for potential postgraduate students include attending fairs, organising online events such as Q&A sessions, and running social media, video and email campaigns.
The University has introduced a number of pioneering initiatives to widen participation and improve access to graduate study, under the Graduate Access Working Group:

- In 2019, we launched our UNIQ+ programme that provides paid research internships for those from disadvantaged and underrepresented groups at the University of Oxford. The programme offers students the opportunity to experience graduate study at Oxford and receive a range of skills training and information sessions. UNIQ+ 2021 provided 67 students with postgraduate research experience through a fully paid remote internship and internships were offered in all four academic divisions. Alongside UNIQ+, six Wellcome Biomedical Vacation Scholarships were offered in 2021, providing in-person lab-based placements in Oxford.

- In 2020 and 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic an alternative online programme, UNIQ+ Digital, was run. It provided an insight into research at DPhil level and support and encouragement in preparing a competitive graduate application through a programme of mentoring, events and digital content.

- Students from low-income countries (as defined by the World Bank, OECD and UN), UK applicants from low-income backgrounds and refugees can access our application fee waiver scheme.

- A pilot to explore measures aimed at better contextualising our assessment procedures, while minimising conscious and unconscious bias, has been initiated with over 40 of our courses. This includes the submission of a standardised CV, anonymisation of applications and/or the use of contextual socio-economic data.

- In 2021, the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge were awarded Office for Students/Research England funding to improve Black, Asian and minority ethnic students’ access to postgraduate research. We will collaborate on a pioneering project to re-evaluate admissions practices, developing and testing new models of selection to better identify academic potential in graduate research applicants.
Student support

Oxford is committed to ensuring that students with the ability and potential to succeed at the University are able to take up their places, regardless of financial circumstances. Securing funding for student support is a strategic priority for the University.

Support for undergraduates

Oxford offers one of the most generous financial support packages for UK undergraduates from the lowest-income backgrounds.

- In addition to the Oxford Bursaries provided by the collegiate University is the Crankstart Scholarship Programme. Since its inception in 2012 the programme has supported more than 1,000 students from across the University. Following an expansion in 2020 all new UK undergraduates with a household income of £27,500 or less who are commencing their first degree are offered a Crankstart Scholarship worth between £4,200 and £5,000 per year. Crankstart Scholars also benefit from funded internships, networking events and volunteering activities. The transformative programme was founded on a £75 million commitment from alumnus Sir Michael Moritz and novelist Ms Harriet Heyman.

- 2020 also saw the launch of the University’s first scholarship programme for UK undergraduates of Black African and Caribbean heritage who come from disadvantaged backgrounds, which was funded by the generosity of Arlan Hamilton, an international entrepreneur assisting under-represented business founders. The Oxford–Arlan Hamilton & Earline Butler Sims Scholarship – named in part as a living tribute to Arlan’s mother – provides a full non-repayable scholarship covering fees and living costs for one undergraduate student per year for three years. Each beneficiary will also be provided with an internship grant of £3,000 to enhance their employability.

Scholarships for postgraduates

Up to 1,000 full and partial scholarships are available for new postgraduate students in 2021, including awards from major UK research funders such as the UKRI Research Councils. Oxford scholarships include:

- The Clarendon Fund is Oxford’s flagship postgraduate scholarship scheme, providing fully funded scholarships to more than 400 on-course scholars across all disciplines. Oxford University Press provides the core funding for these scholarships each year, with several million pounds of additional funding coming from partnerships with many colleges, departments and external organisations.
In 2020 the University launched the Graduate Endowment Matched Scholarship Scheme (GEMS). GEMS demonstrates the University’s ongoing commitment to graduate scholarships, supporting delivery of the Strategic Plan priority to create 300 new graduate scholarships by 2023. To date the GEMS scheme has committed £28 million of the total £53 million available, creating 44 graduate scholarship schemes which provide around 80 students with full scholarships every year.

In 2021 the University launched Academic Futures, a series of scholarship programmes to address under-representation and help improve equality, diversity and inclusion in our graduate student body. Fourteen Black Academic Futures scholarships were awarded in 2021, with up to 30 on offer in 2022, to UK-resident students of Black or Mixed-Black ethnicity who are applying to a postgraduate degree at the University.

The Ertegun Graduate Scholarship Programme in the Humanities funds around 15 graduate scholarships a year.

Established in 1903, the Rhodes Scholarships are perhaps the oldest prestigious international graduate scholarships in the world. More than 100 scholarships are awarded each year to students who demonstrate strong propensity to emerge as future leaders and to have a global impact.

Welfare support

In addition to its financial help, Oxford provides extensive welfare support to all students. Colleges provide dedicated pastoral support for their communities through the college welfare team.

Students also have access to specialist support from the Counselling Service and Disability Advisory Service who can put in place individual adjustments and study support. Bursaries are available for care-experienced and estranged students, and advice is also available through the Oxford Student Union.
After Oxford

Oxford graduates go on to succeed in all walks of life, all over the world, and in every field of human endeavour.

Among Oxford’s well-known alumni are 29 Nobel Prize winners and numerous eminent politicians around the world. Hundreds have participated in, and many more have been at the heart of helping to stage, the modern Olympics. We are extremely proud of the 170 Olympic medals that our alumni have won on behalf of many nations across the globe.

In addition to the famous faces, thousands of Oxonians are using the knowledge and skills they acquired at the University to shape the world for the better in every field, including education, science, public service, medicine, local government, charities, non-governmental organisations, business, the arts and entertainment, law, economics and the media.

Employers consistently report that they find Oxford students better or much better than the average UK student at key employability skills such as problem-solving, leadership and communication.

Careers Service

Oxford University’s Careers Service provides guidance to all undergraduates, postgraduates and researchers at Oxford, and to all alumni for life, helping them make informed decisions about their careers.

Services include a comprehensive open-access website with information on occupations and career skills, listings for thousands of vacancies and internships, guidance sessions and workshops, recruitment fairs and employer presentations, as well as the annual Oxford Guide to Careers.

The Careers Service runs innovative learning programmes for students and researchers, including:

- insight courses into Strategy and Management, Teaching, Medicine, Academia, Publishing, Marketing and Pharma/Biotech;

- The Oxford Strategy Challenge, the Student Consultancy and Researcher Strategy Consultancy, in which more than 1,000 students and researchers complete over 8,000 hours annually of voluntary work, solving real business problems for local organisations. For example, over the past year the Oxford Strategy Challenge has run a one-week online stratathon.
every month, for teams of six undergraduate and postgraduate students, training and working with clients all over the UK on real business issues;

- Career Design and Development, a programme for DPhil students and research staff.

Three Internship Programmes offer approximately 2,000 research and professional experiences every year all over the world. Shorter-term five-day internships are voluntary and part of the learning and development programmes, while longer internships are all financially supported.

**Oxford alumni**

There are almost 350,000 Oxford alumni around the world, and the University’s Alumni Office offers a wide range of benefits and services to help graduates stay informed, engaged and inspired with Oxford and their fellow alumni.

These include more than 150 regional alumni groups in over 90 countries; stimulating gatherings featuring Oxford academics, such as the Meeting Minds series of in-person and online events; professional networking opportunities; regular communications via email and social media; electronic journals via JSTOR; life-long learning resources such as a dedicated book club and access to courses; and discounts from a range of hand-picked partners.

You can find out more by visiting [alumni.ox.ac.uk](http://alumni.ox.ac.uk).
As well as the matriculated undergraduate and postgraduate students who become members of the University, Oxford is also one of the largest providers of adult education in the country through its Department for Continuing Education. In addition, Saïd Business School works in partnership with global business, industry and governments to offer Executive Education programmes and Oxford University Press plays a vital role in furthering the University’s objective of excellence in education, engaging a global audience.

Department for Continuing Education

Oxford's Department for Continuing Education is one of the oldest providers of part-time adult education, having been founded in 1878 at the forefront of the University Extension movement. Today, it is among the largest providers of continuing adult education for lifelong learning in the UK.

It enrols more than 15,000 students on hundreds of part-time programmes each year. Students range in age from 18 to nearly 100, and study subjects across the humanities, social sciences, health sciences and technology.

The range of courses includes:

- more than 60 part-time undergraduate and postgraduate Oxford qualifications, from certificates and diplomas to masters’ and doctoral degrees
- more than 450 accredited short courses, lasting between one and ten weeks and offered face to face or online, including a rich selection of summer programmes usually held at Oxford's historic colleges
- nearly 250 continuing professional development courses, from day schools and short refresher courses to full degree programmes
- dozens of day schools, lectures and weekend events, held in Oxford and online.
Saïd Business School

In addition to its degree and diploma courses for undergraduate and postgraduate students, Oxford University’s Saïd Business School works in partnership with global business, industry and governments to offer Executive Education programmes to individuals and organisations from around the world. Executive Education programmes are delivered in person in Oxford, online and internationally. The school’s focus is on tackling complex world-scale challenges and preparing business leaders for the task of making the world a better and more equitable place.

Oxford University Press

For many people around the world, reading an Oxford University Press (OUP) book is the first time they will come into contact with Oxford University. OUP publishes for all audiences, from preschool to secondary-level schoolchildren, students to academics, general readers to researchers, individuals to institutions.

The Press publishes thousands of titles each year, has offices in more than 50 countries with a presence in many more, and publishes in countries around the world, including some of the most vulnerable, in some 100 languages. A major activity of OUP in the UK and internationally is publishing for schools. Millions of children learn from the educational resources that OUP publishes and thousands of teachers are trained around the world through professional development programmes.
English Language

For many, Oxford University Press defines and is the world’s authority on the English language, including being synonymous with the Oxford English Dictionary.

Every year millions of students also use its English Language Teaching (ELT) materials to learn English and OUP is the world’s leading publisher of ELT materials.

- Oxford Reading Tree is the UK’s most successful reading scheme and has taught over 30 million children globally to read. In the UK, 80% of children learn to read using it, and it is exported to more than 130 countries across the world.

- The Headway series is now in its 35th year, and 91% of teachers trust that Headway delivers the learning outcomes that support students to move to the next level of study. It is OUP’s most successful adult series, and its authors received MBEs in recognition of the contribution they have made to the learning and teaching of English.

The Oxford Global Languages programme is a major, community-led initiative aiming to transform the experience of millions of people worldwide by making their language available in digital form.

Since the programme’s launch in 2015, Oxford Languages has been working with native speakers of languages with limited digital presence to build quality lexical data and resources which can be used by developers and technology companies to create websites, apps, and other digital products.
In the next section you will read all about the global impact of research and innovation at Oxford University across all four academic divisions and how that research is made possible by our gardens, libraries and museums and state-of-the-art facilities, as well as ways in which the University prioritises public engagement in research and health.
Research and innovation – Introduction

For the intensity, breadth, quality and impact of its research, the University of Oxford has few peers anywhere in the world.

Oxford’s research activity extends from the study of the formation of the universe, through the development of early civilisations, up to high-performance computing and the latest breakthroughs in medical science, such as developing a vaccine and identifying treatments for COVID-19.

The University’s staff and postgraduate researchers use innovative techniques and modern technology to examine problems of the modern world and to better understand the ancient one. The depth of its discipline-specific work provides an ideal foundation for the development of new interdisciplinary research initiatives.

Research objectives

The University’s overarching research objectives are to lead internationally and make significant contributions to society. Oxford aims to maximise the benefits of research by advancing fundamental knowledge, thus contributing to better public policy, and improved health outcomes, economic prosperity, social cohesion, international development, community identity, the arts, culture and quality of life.

Oxford has long adopted a global perspective in the extent of its research, and today its researchers are confronting some of the major challenges that face the 21st-century world, including the prevention and treatment of major killers around the world such as COVID-19, bacterial resistance, tuberculosis, malaria, HIV, cancer and heart disease. They also consider the causes and consequences of poverty, globalisation, climate change, migration, and problems posed by factors such as ageing populations and increasing pressures on natural resources and biodiversity.

The highest potential

Oxford recruits researchers of the highest potential and distinction, attracts the very best research students from around the world, and provides a supportive research environment in which researchers at every stage of their career can flourish.

The University fosters research collaborations regionally, nationally and internationally, and builds partnerships with other research institutions, research agencies, funding bodies, industrial and commercial partners, sponsors and benefactors.
Responding to a global crisis

Oxford University has been at the centre of the global COVID-19 response from the very onset of the crisis, remaining at the forefront of global efforts to combat the disease and to mitigate its many effects.

The University is particularly well placed to respond to the global COVID-19 challenge. Oxford’s world-class academic expertise, ground-breaking research and national and international partnerships – combined with Oxford’s unique structure – have enabled rapid reaction during this unprecedented time.

At Oxford, some of the world’s brightest minds continue to come together, working in innovative ways, to deliver world-class research that is having an impact on the frontline of this crisis. The research undertaken in response to the pandemic includes critical themes across a breadth of often interdisciplinary areas such as pandemic preparedness, vaccines, treatments, testing, modelling and increased understanding of the virus through advanced diagnostic, detection, characterisation and computational science.

This rapid research response has endeavoured to better the situation of humanity and society from almost every angle. This includes analysis of non-pharmaceutical interventions, the development of mental health interventions, practical resources for families who are isolating, mitigating the impacts to education, analysis of the actions taken by governments across the world as they respond to the crisis, and considering what measures could be taken by leaders to build a better and greener future.

Oxford’s innovation has provided a beacon of hope to the world, through the development of an effective vaccine in record time. By early 2022, more than 2.6 billion doses of the vaccine had been supplied to over 180 countries, with approximately two-thirds going to low- and middle-income countries. The vaccine was also estimated to have helped prevent 50 million COVID-19 cases and five million hospitalisations, and saved more than one million lives.

Simultaneously the University and its spinouts have mobilised in a major way to tackle the COVID threat, developing rapid diagnostic
tests, DNA sequencing and tracking, automated X-ray diagnostics and web-based applications to improve efficiencies in hospitals.

Through the COVID-19 Rapid Solutions Builder Programme, Oxford’s entrepreneurial students and alumni have mobilised the formation of start-up companies that are building practical solutions to the secondary and tertiary problems presented by the crisis, such as food scarcity, supply chain breakdown, coping with trauma and the remote delivery of education.

The University of Oxford’s research response to COVID-19 has been world leading and at the heart of this response has been its people. Researchers, support staff, students, alumni and partners have collaborated, supported and united with one another during this exceptional time in the University’s 900-year history.

**Oxford REF 2021**

The Research Excellence Framework (REF) assesses the quality of research in UK Higher Education Institutions. For REF 2021, 157 UK higher education institutions made submissions in 34 subject-based units of assessment.

When the UK Funding Bodies published the outcomes of REF 2021 in May 2022, results showed Oxford’s submission had the highest volume of world-leading research.

The University of Oxford made the largest submission of any Higher Education Institution in the UK, submitting over 3,600 researchers (3,405 full-time equivalent) into 29 subject areas, over 8,500 research outputs in a range of formats from journal articles to compositions, and 220 case studies about the impact of Oxford research beyond academia.

Highlights of the submission can be found on the Oxford REF 2021 webpages at: [ox.ac.uk/research/recognition/REF2021](ox.ac.uk/research/recognition/REF2021).

**Scope of research**

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More than 1,900 academic staff, over 5,800 research, teaching and research support staff and more than 7,000 postgraduate research students, assisted by Oxford’s research administrators, are involved in Oxford’s research activity. At postgraduate level, 52% of students are studying for a higher degree by research.
Academic divisions

Research at Oxford is carried out across the four academic divisions – find out more on the following pages.

Humanities

Research expertise

Oxford is at the forefront of humanities research internationally. The depth and diversity of research stretches from ancient and classical civilisations to the intersection between humanities and neuroscience. Historically, the Oxford research community has been founded upon the work of the independent scholar, and individual research remains important to humanities research. Alongside this work is an increasing range of collaborative, interdisciplinary projects, involving groups of researchers and support from large research grants or donations. Some major projects, such as Modern Languages’ Creative Multilingualism and the division’s National Trust Partnership, also involve a large number of external partner organisations.

Key highlights

The Institute for Ethics in AI in the Philosophy Faculty brings together philosophers and other experts in the humanities with the technical developers and users of AI in academia, business and government.

The Institute aims to confront the most pressing ethical challenges which are posed by this fast-growing technology, from face recognition and voter profiling to AI’s impact on employment. The Institute will move into the Stephen A. Schwarzman Centre, which will also house seven Humanities faculties and a new library when it opens in 2025.

The CHANGE project in the Classics Faculty is investigating the origins and development of coinage as a medium of monetary exchange, backed by a major ERC grant. The project uses digital methods to gather evidence for the development of the monetary economy in ancient Anatolia (which made up the majority of modern-day Turkey) for the first time. The project will chart developments from the invention of coinage there in the late 7th century BC to the absorption of the region by Rome in c30 BC.

A research project to study urban soundscapes is underway in the Music Faculty, funded by a significant grant from the ERC. SONCITIES is investigating these soundscapes with a view to better understanding how they are produced, managed, controlled and experienced.

The five-year project, led by Professor Gascia Ouzounian, will involve working with architects and urban designers to help shape the way their designs impact on the sounds of cities around the world.
The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH) stimulates, supports and promotes high-quality humanities research that transcends disciplinary boundaries and engages with a wide audience. It sponsors major research programmes into areas including environmental humanities, medieval studies, and race and resistance.

TORCH’s digital engagement strategy during the COVID-related lockdowns brought its events to tens of thousands of online viewers around the world. One event discussed research in the History Faculty into how previous pandemics have ended.

The Humanities Division comprises the Faculties of Classics; English Language and Literature; History; Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics; Medieval and Modern Languages; Music; Oriental Studies; Philosophy; and Theology and Religion, plus the Rothermere American Institute, the Ruskin School of Art and the Voltaire Foundation.

Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences

Research expertise

Researchers in the Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences (MPLS) Division undertake world-leading fundamental and applied research that addresses many of the major societal challenges of the day: from the development of novel imaging techniques, which enhance our understanding of biology and medicine, to data science and artificial intelligence, and from quantum technologies to developing low carbon energy systems, tackling antimicrobial resistance (including through the newly created Ineos Oxford Institute in AMR), and preserving biodiversity. Expertise stretches from the structure of matter and the origins of life to applied work in areas such as next-generation solar cells, autonomous vehicles and biomedical engineering (with a ground-breaking new institute in Youth Sports Medicine and Technology launched in 2021). Other current research themes include the world’s changing climate, technologies for the space sector and food security.
Key highlights

Eleven new spin-out companies were formed from MPLS research in 2020/21, including one focusing on machine learning algorithms and codes for quantum computers – the fifth spin-out based on quantum research in MPLS departments. Oxford Nanopore Technologies, spun out from the department of Chemistry in 2005, had a record-breaking flotation (£3.6 billion) on the London Stock Exchange in September 2021.

Academics continue to play a leading role in many major national and international research projects, including international telescope developments (such as recent upgrades to the William Herschel Telescope) and NASA missions. MPLS researchers were founding members of the ATLAS collaboration at CERN (which helped to detect the Higgs boson) and made key contributions to a new beamline for high-density energy science at the European X-Ray Laser (XFEL). Closer to home, MPLS researchers based at the Rosalind Franklin Institute at Harwell led the development of a unique new electron microscope able to study biological samples at a million frames a second, transforming study of biological processes.

In 2021, Oxford was placed first in the world for Computer Science in the THE rankings for the fourth year running.

From August 2022 the Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Division will comprise nine departments (after Zoology and Plant Sciences merge to form a new Department of Biology) – Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Earth Sciences, Engineering Science, Materials, the Mathematical Institute, Physics and Statistics – as well as an interdisciplinary Doctoral Training Centre and the Oxford University Begbroke Science Park.

Medical Sciences
Research expertise

The Medical Sciences Division is internationally recognised for its excellent biomedical and clinical research and teaching and is the largest of the four academic divisions within the University of Oxford with a thriving, multidisciplinary community of over 8,500 academics, staff, students and clinicians.

The division’s research spans the full spectrum of biomedical sciences from basic discovery to implementation. Scientific breadth, depth and scale allow the division to remain agile, respond flexibly and deliver research that has global impact, as has been evident by the response to COVID-19.
The ability to forge connections between diverse disciplines enables researchers to build multidisciplinary and international partnerships to drive advances in knowledge, and to address some of the most significant problems facing the world today such as malaria, TB and HIV.

The division is closely aligned, both physically and through research aims, with the two local NHS partners, and this is exemplified by shared NIHR Biomedical Research Centres. These partnerships, alongside involvement in the Oxford Academic Health Science Centre and the Oxford Academic Health Sciences Network, offer many benefits. Patients receive high-quality care underpinned by world-leading research, medical students gain experience in one of the leading medical centres in the UK, and discoveries in basic and applied biomedical research quickly result in improvements in healthcare and medical innovations.

Medical Sciences at Oxford aims to be the best university biomedical institution in Europe and among the best five biomedical institutions in the world, and has been ranked number one for the last 11 years in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings by subject for clinical, pre-clinical and health sciences.

Key highlights

The Randomised Evaluation of COVID-19 Therapy (RECOVERY) trial demonstrated in early 2022 that baricitinib, an anti-inflammatory treatment normally used to treat rheumatoid arthritis, reduces the risk of death when given to hospitalised patients with severe COVID-19.

INTERCOVID-2022 was also launched, the second round of the global study to evaluate the effects of COVID-19 variants and vaccination in pregnancy. Another new study found that pregnant women who are 30 years old or more, overweight, of mixed ethnicity or have gestational diabetes have a greater risk of contracting severe COVID-19, which poses significant risks for both mother and baby.

When researchers examined changes to the brain on average 4.5 months after mild SARS-CoV-2 infection, the findings revealed tissue damage and greater shrinkage in brain areas related to smell. This new insight into the damaging effects of COVID-19 will contribute to an overall understanding of how the disease spreads through the central nervous system.
In other studies, scientists identified the gene responsible for doubling the risk of respiratory failure from COVID-19 and found that people who have had COVID but don’t complain of Long COVID symptoms nevertheless can show degraded attention and memory for 6–9 months.

The wide-ranging effects of Long COVID were also revealed in a new review of the major studies into the condition, which specifically highlighted the impact of Long COVID on the cardiovascular system. People who were hospitalised with COVID-19, and continued to experience symptoms five months later, were shown to have limited further recovery one year after hospital discharge according to the results of another major national study.

Away from COVID-19, the Globally Relevant AIDS Vaccine Europe-Africa Trials Partnership (GREAT) – of which the University of Oxford is a lead partner – announced the start of vaccinations in a Phase I clinical trial of a novel HIV vaccine candidate in the summer of 2021.

Also in mid-2021, researchers launched a Phase 1 trial to test a new vaccine against plague. A trial to test an Ebola vaccine in human volunteers began in 2022 and the vaccination of the first participants in a trial testing a novel rabies vaccine in human volunteers started in Tanzania in late 2021.

The first comprehensive analysis of the global impact of antimicrobial resistance estimated that resistance itself caused 1.27 million deaths in 2019 and that antimicrobial-resistant infections played a role in 4.95 million deaths. Scientists also discovered a new potential treatment that has the ability to reverse antibiotic resistance in bacteria that cause conditions such as sepsis, pneumonia and urinary tract infections.

A new blood-based test became the first ever to simultaneously identify if a patient has cancer and whether it has spread, and other findings offered hope that a pioneering new clinical test could be developed to diagnose Parkinson’s correctly in its early stages. Another study found that difficulty hearing spoken conversations is associated with up to 91% increased risk of dementia.

Scientists shed light on an important stage of early embryonic development that has never been fully mapped out in humans before, while researchers also identified a drug that could ultimately help improve heart function in people with diabetes who have heart attacks.

Read more on the latest news about Oxford’s lifesaving vaccine, developed by researchers in Medical Sciences, on p36.
The Medical Sciences Division encompasses the Department of Biochemistry, the Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine, the Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences, the Department of Experimental Psychology, the Radcliffe Department of Medicine, the Department of Oncology, the Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences, the Department of Paediatrics, the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology, the Department of Pharmacology, the Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics, the Nuffield Department of Population Health, the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences, the Department of Psychiatry, the Nuffield Department of Surgical Sciences and the Nuffield Department of Women’s & Reproductive Health.

Social Sciences

Research expertise

The Social Sciences Division’s academic and research staff and students are international thought leaders, generating new evidence, insights and policy tools with which to address some of the major global challenges facing humanity, such as sustainable resource management, poverty and forced migration, effective governance and justice. As well as active interdisciplinary links with researchers in other divisions at Oxford, Social Sciences engages and collaborates extensively with other universities and a wide range of governmental and non-governmental practitioner communities such as law, business, public health and welfare, international development and education around the world.

Key highlights

Oxford’s social scientists continue to work at the cutting edge of interdisciplinary and collaborative global efforts on climate change and were at the heart of a vast array of COP26 events in Glasgow and beyond, addressing issues from social inequality, blue carbon habitats, and climate law and governance, to strategies for news media and business leaders in addressing and combatting the climate crisis.

Announced in May 2021, the Oxford-led CO₂RE Hub is coordinating the UK Government’s £30 million Greenhouse Gas Removal programme, researching innovative ways of removing the gases to help to stabilise the climate. Comprising a multidisciplinary team of 19 leading academic experts on greenhouse gas removal in the UK and backed by seven institutions, it is located at the division’s Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment.
The G20 Peoples’ Climate Vote – a poll of nearly 700,000 coordinated by researchers in the Department of Sociology and the UN Development Programme – revealed that two in three adults across G20 believe climate change to be a global emergency. A new £10 million, Oxford-based Leverhulme Centre for Nature Recovery was announced in January 2022, which will undertake critical research in helping to halt and reverse the loss and degradation of nature and its biodiversity.

Researchers across the division also continue to work relentlessly in addressing the complex and unprecedented disruption wrought by the pandemic. The COVID-19 Playful Parenting Resources project, led by researchers in the Department of Social Policy and Intervention (DSPI) in collaboration with UNICEF, WHO and hundreds of international NGOs, is reducing violence against children and improving child wellbeing through evidence-informed parenting resources already delivered globally to more than 210 million people during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In an excellent example of academic research translated into practical application at scale, the Nuffield Early Language Intervention programme (co-led by researchers in the Department of Education) helped young children in some 6,500 schools across the UK to improve their oral language skills – recognised as a critical foundation for the whole of their formal foundation. The programme received a further £8 million of government funding in 2021 to support even more children in the wake of the disruption caused by COVID-19.

Researchers in DSPI were also awarded major funding to probe the impact of poverty and social inequalities in early childhood. Fifteen doctoral scholarships, funded by a £1.35 million Leverhulme Trust award, will span the social and biological sciences with the aim of reducing the impact of these disadvantages on children’s life chances.
The colleges

Alongside the divisions, the colleges have a vital role to play in Oxford’s research activity, through the provision of natural multidisciplinary communities that facilitate and foster research activities, the funding of posts and, where appropriate, the provision of space and support to specialist research institutes.

Resources for research – GLAM

Oxford’s outstanding gardens, libraries and museums form one of the greatest concentrations of university collections in the world. Comprising over 20 million objects, specimens and printed items, they constitute one of the world’s largest and most important research repositories, drawing scholars from all over the globe.

The Bodleian Libraries work to provide services that anticipate and respond to the needs of 21st-century scholars across subject disciplines. The libraries have invested heavily in increased digital access and have taken the lead in the digitisation of manuscripts, searchable text archives and image databases, which proved invaluable during the COVID-19 pandemic. They aim to increase the speed of access to other information as well, including high-demand print collections and resources beyond their own vast collections. Academic subject librarians provide research training, support and assist in accessing the rich resources available.

The Bodleian Libraries’ special collections comprise one of the largest collections of western manuscripts, rare books, maps and music in the world, and some of the world’s greatest written treasures. Access to the special collections for research forms an important and unique element of Oxford’s academic offering.

All of the museums and collections engage in externally funded research projects and collaborate as partners on research projects in Oxford and with universities around the world. For example:

- The Ashmolean is a partner in CHROMOTOPE, a five-year ERC-funded project with Sorbonne Université bringing together literature, visual culture, the history of sciences and techniques, and the chemistry of pigments and dyes, in order to offer new, invaluable insight into hitherto neglected aspects of 19th-
century European cultural history. The project will lead to a major Ashmolean exhibition in 2023 on the use of colour in Victorian art and culture.

- Research in the Museum of Natural History encompasses geology, palaeobiology and zoology with a focus on material housed in the extensive Earth and Life collections. A major theme is the early evolution of animals in the Ediacaran-Cambrian transition.

- The Botanic Garden has been working with botanists from around the world to develop conservation plant collections of species from biodiversity hotspots, with research focused on the Mediterranean Basin, Ethiopian and Japanese floristic regions.

- In a series of research projects across the Gardens, Libraries and Museums, GLAM staff are collaborating with colleagues in the Medical Sciences Division to explore the role of the cultural sector for supporting and improving people’s mental health and wellbeing.

### Resources for research – state-of-the-art facilities

As well as its museums and collections, the University makes significant and ongoing investment in state-of-the-art research facilities.

#### Key developments over the last year include:

- Finishing construction of the Institute of Developmental and Regenerative Medicine (IDRM) on Old Road Campus, which was handed over to its future occupants in February 2022. The IDRM will house around 240 scientists working at the intersection of developmental biology and regenerative medicine.

- Receiving planning permission for the Stephen A. Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities. The project on the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter will create high-quality facilities for teaching, research and public engagement, including a theatre and 500-seat concert hall. Completion is expected in 2025.

- Beginning construction work on the Life and Mind Building in November 2021. This is the largest construction project ever undertaken by the University, and once finished will become its biggest teaching and research facility, replacing the now-demolished Tinbergen Building. It will house the Department of Experimental Psychology and a new Department of Biology, combining the existing Departments of Plant Sciences and Zoology, and is being delivered under the University’s joint venture with Legal & General.
The L&G partnership will enable Oxford University to achieve its strategic goals of building world-class innovation districts, as well as at least 1,000 new subsidised staff homes and 1,000 units of graduate accommodation. Work will start later in 2022 on the redevelopment of graduate housing at Court Place Gardens and the expansion of Begbroke Science Park, both joint venture projects. The Begbroke project will create two highly flexible new buildings, almost doubling the Science Park’s total internal area and providing superb new facilities for innovation, collaboration and research. The University is also making good progress on its longer-term aspiration to develop the area around the Science Park into a major new innovation district.

**Begbroke Science Park**

Begbroke Science Park is a fully integrated research and development facility, where world-class University scientists work with industry decision-makers and entrepreneurs to turn cutting-edge research into commercial opportunities. It is home to more than 20 research groups in engineering, materials and life sciences as well as around 30 high-tech companies. The park hosts innovation and enterprise initiatives and provides a space where academic theory is converted into business practice by nurturing up-and-coming science-based industries.

**Wider investment**

The Mini Energy Systems Accelerator (TESA) and the Clinical Bio-Manufacturing (CBF) refurbishment projects are part of a wider £8 million worth of investment into the Oxfordshire region, via OxLEP and the Government’s Get Building Fund.

The Mini-TESA is the first phase of wider University plans to develop a world-leading multi-disciplinary hub, championing green innovation, at Osney Mead in Oxford, while the refurbishment of the Clinical Bio-Manufacturing facility complements plans to expand clinical bio-manufacturing capacity in Oxford.

The refurbishment of the CBF is nearly complete, while the Mini TESA is complete and already home to the University's Energy Systems research group, the Low Carbon Hub (a social enterprise) and a team from Scottish and Southern Energy Networks (visit lowcarbonhub.org and ssen.co.uk/Home), and is hosting the popular MSc in Energy Systems programme. This will support student–researcher interaction, multi-stakeholder discussions of underlying issues to energy transition, and the identification of pathways to smoothen the transition.
Oxford University Press

Oxford University Press (OUP) furthers the University’s objective of excellence in research through its publishing worldwide. It is the largest and most successful university press in the world.

The highest quality

OUP publishes the highest-quality journals and delivers this research to the widest-possible audience, working closely with society partners, authors and subscribers in order to provide publishing services that support their research needs. More than 450 journals are published in the humanities, social sciences, law, science and medicine. Two-thirds of these are published with learned and professional societies.

The Oxford English Dictionary is one of the UK’s largest humanities projects, with regular online updates. It now contains more than 600,000 words from the last 1,000 years and 3.5 million quotations.

Major reference works

OUP has a series of major reference works in both digital and print formats – from the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, a partnership with the University that features over 60,000 biographies of influential figures who have shaped British history, to the Oxford Research Encyclopedias, a continuously updated digital resource that features an expanding set of original long-form overview articles written and peer reviewed by experts from around the globe.

Oxford University Press publishes more than 6,000 titles a year worldwide in a variety of formats. The range includes dictionaries, English language teaching materials, children’s books, journals, scholarly monographs, printed music, higher education textbooks and school books. You can read more about OUP’s work to further the University’s objective of excellence in scholarship and education on page 33.

Oxford University Innovation

Oxford University is committed to ensuring that innovative and entrepreneurial staff are supported to develop commercial impact from their research through licensing of technologies, consulting
and company creation. Oxford University Innovation (OUI) helps academics turn their research into positive societal and economic impact, such as jobs and wealth, improving and saving lives, and offering solutions to the world’s greatest problems. OUI provides support to researchers seeking to protect, develop or commercialise intellectual property, or to apply their expertise more widely through academic consultancy. OUI brings together academics, investors and industry, and has pioneered the successful commercial exploitation of academic research.

**Key highlights**

Licences and spinouts managed by OUI generate impact from University research, with returns to academics, departments and the University to support the next generation of entrepreneurial academics. In the past year, OUI saw its most successful spinout to date, Oxford Nanopore, hold its initial public offering on the London Stock Market. The IPO was the most successful exit on record for an Oxford University company, and the third largest biotech flotation globally in 2021.

Oxford University through OUI is the UK leader in generating spinout companies, creating 22 for the academic year 2020/21, plus many more startups and social enterprises. Overall, it has created 233 spinouts and 281 companies, more than any other UK institution. OUI is also the most prolific university filer of patent in the UK and receives more income from intellectual property than UK peers. In the past financial year, OUI returned £9.2 million to researchers and the University.

**Oxford Science Enterprises**

Since 2015, Oxford Science Enterprises has worked with over 200 of Oxford’s leading academics to build a portfolio of more than 100 companies, worth over $2 billion (around £1.4 billion), all based on Oxford science. This unique partnership with Oxford’s scientists has identified cutting-edge research, scientific breakthroughs and advances in technology capable of changing the world and turning ideas into business. Enterprises address problems that affect people in life-changing ways: their health, the availability of food and the survival of the planet.

**Recognition of research**

The strength of research at Oxford is regularly recognised by the award of international prizes to its academics.
Professors Dame Sarah Gilbert, Teresa Lambe, Sir Andrew Pollard and Fiona Powrie were recognised in 2021 for their outstanding contributions to immunology with Honorary Lifetime Membership of the British Society for Immunology. The Faculty of Public Health also awarded its prestigious Alwyn Smith Prize to Professor Sir Peter Horby for 2020/2021 in recognition of his longstanding contribution to improving the treatment and control of epidemic infections and his more recent contribution to improving the treatment of COVID-19 through the RECOVERY trial.

In total, 56 Nobel Prizes have been won by alumni and staff of the University. In 2021, six Oxford professors were also elected to the Fellowship of the Royal Society, which means Oxford’s academic community now includes more than 90 Fellows of the Royal Society. There are also more than 100 Fellows of the British Academy. In addition, our academic community includes Fellows of the Royal Academy of Engineering, the Academy of Medical Sciences, the Academy of Social Sciences, and many international learned societies. Her Majesty The Queen approved the award of The Queen’s Anniversary Prizes to 21 higher and further education institutions in 2021, including Oxford University for ‘Life-saving rapid response to COVID-19’. The University has now won 12 Queen’s Anniversary Prizes.

**Research income**

Oxford’s total research income is consistently the highest of any UK university. In 2020/21, the University earned £653.3 million in external research funding. When the block grant for research from Research England is added, the University’s research income totals £809.4 million. Oxford’s largest and most important competitive research funders over the past ten years have been the Wellcome Trust, the UK Research Councils and the European Commission.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research income 2020/21</th>
<th>£m</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research councils</td>
<td>163.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK charities</td>
<td>156.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK government and health authorities</td>
<td>101.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK industry and commerce</td>
<td>23.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Commission and other EU government bodies</td>
<td>57.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU-based charities, industry and commerce</td>
<td>36.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other international governments, charities, industry and commerce</td>
<td>115.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>653.3</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research England – block grant</td>
<td>156.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overall total research income</strong>*</td>
<td><strong>809.4</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*not including college research income
Oxford’s research raises debate and solves real-world problems on topics such as religion, politics, emerging technologies, health, climate, the arts and more. One of the core priorities of the University is to widen engagement with society, including fostering public engagement with research and contributing to an improved quality of life for people in Oxford and throughout the world through research-led engagement in healthcare.

Public engagement with research

The University believes that researchers can and should be inspired by learning from those outside academia. Through public engagement we can stimulate debate on important issues, ignite the imagination, build trust and enrich citizenship. The benefits allow researchers to gain from fresh insights and the expertise of the public.

The University tries to provide as many opportunities as possible for the public to meet and interact with researchers.

Come together

People have many opportunities to participate in research at Oxford. In fact, research is made possible by hundreds of thousands of volunteers from around the world who come together to assist professional researchers – many volunteers have participated in various COVID-19 trials and studies, enabling scientific advancement and helping to save lives.
The digital platform Zooniverse allows people to contribute to real discoveries in fields ranging from astronomy to zoology.

Other projects work collaboratively with communities on specific challenges, such as how best to address flood risk. The Knowledge Exchange Fellowships scheme, hosted by The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH), enables researchers to build partnerships with local organisations that will benefit from and inform their research.

**Sharing findings**

University researchers share their findings in many other ways: participating in debate on our Futuremakers podcast, holding seminars and lectures the public can attend, and hosting events which enable young people and adults to engage directly with the researchers involved.

The museums and collections also enable University researchers and staff to engage with the public in numerous events and activities.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many such events and activities have successfully moved online.

**Public engagement in health**

The University makes a major contribution to improving the quality of life for people in Oxford and throughout the world through its research-led engagement in healthcare.

**National Health Service**

A longstanding partnership between the University and the local National Health Service (NHS) in research, training and treatment offers patients tangible benefits.

Most Oxfordshire patients will come into contact with a University medic at some point. Many are on joint NHS appointments, while many NHS consultants and GPs contribute to University research and to the teaching of medical students.

**Major collaborations**

The Medical Sciences Division is involved in a number of major collaborations.

Such collaborations facilitate the rapid movement of scientific discoveries from the lab to the ward, operating theatre and general practice, meaning patients benefit from innovative new treatments.
Combining strengths in world-class science, translational research, training and clinical expertise allow us to address 21st-century healthcare challenges.

**Collaborations include:**

- the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)-funded Oxford Biomedical Research Centre;
- partnership with the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, and the Oxford Health Biomedical Research Centre in partnership with Health NHS Foundation Trust;
- the Oxford Academic Health Sciences Network (OAHSN) and the Academic Health Sciences Centre (AHSC).

Curiosity Carnival – Oxford’s European Researchers’ Night – took place in 2018 and attracted more than 9,000 people, engaging 493 researchers, DPhil students and academics from over 60 departments and faculties across the University
In the next section you can read how the University makes a major contribution to the local community, its social life and economy, and the vibrant culture of Oxford city and wider region.
Community and culture – Introduction

Oxford is one of the world’s most influential and international universities – part of a local, national and global community.

The previous section explains how the University’s work in research and innovation impacts and engages people all across the globe, including in Oxfordshire.

Oxford University also contributes to the economy, social life and vibrant culture of our local community. That engagement extends from making accessible spaces such as libraries, gardens and museums or supporting local events to the work of student volunteers with Oxford charities.

Cultural and social life

The collegiate University makes a major contribution to the social and cultural life of the city and region. Departments, faculties and schools of the four academic divisions regularly host events to which everyone is welcome, while the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra, the University’s orchestra-in-residence, runs concerts open to all. The University is also a major financial supporter of the Oxford Playhouse.

The University also partners with the Oxford Preservation Trust for the annual Oxford Open Doors weekend. Oxford Open Doors has been running for 15 years, and sees places which are not usually accessible to the general public open for free, celebrating heritage and culture across all walks of the city’s life. The event returns in 2022 on Saturday and Sunday, 10–11 September.

Gardens, libraries and museums

Overall, Oxford University’s gardens, libraries and museums enjoyed just over one million visits in 2021, according to figures from the Association of Leading Visitor Attractions, despite it being an unusual year with sites having to close and reopen in response to COVID restrictions.

Each site hosts an extensive programme of events for all ages, including children, young people, adults and community groups, both in person and online, making them accessible to a wide audience.
Major exhibitions for 2022

Throughout 2022 a range of exhibitions and major events are taking place:

- **Pissarro: Father of Impressionism** at the Ashmolean Museum features the work of Camille Pissarro, one of the most celebrated artists of 19th-century France and a central figure in Impressionism.

- **Biodiversity: Kurt Jackson** at the Museum of Natural History brings together the celebrated art of Kurt Jackson with reflections from Oxford University researchers, to explore biodiversity across British landscapes and consider the future of our country’s habitats.

- **Beyond the Binary** at the Pitt Rivers Museum looks at gender identities and alternative understandings of gender from people with different identities, as well as identifying human histories that are unrepresented as a result of intolerance. The exhibition was developed through a project working with LGBTQ+ stakeholders to explore the diversity of sexual and gender identities.

- In 2021, **Oxford’s Botanic Garden celebrated 400 years** of botanical research and teaching at the University of Oxford as the UK’s oldest botanic garden. Celebrations continued in 2022 when the Botanic Garden welcomed the public for a fortnight of events and activities.
Economic engagement

The University plays an integral role in the economic life of the city of Oxford and its surrounding region, and has long been a major driver in the growth of the area’s economy. Oxfordshire is one of Europe’s leading centres of enterprise and innovation, with particular strengths in biosciences and new technologies, and many of the region’s high-tech companies have links with the University.

The economic impact of the University is not only felt regionally. A study carried out by London Economics, which measured the University’s impact on the UK economy in 2018/19, found that the total impact in regions outside the South East was over £4 billion (38%), with impacts in excess of £100 million occurring in each region outside of the South East.

The report showed that the University contributed a total of £15.7 billion to the UK economy, and that every £1 invested in University of Oxford research and knowledge exchange activities generated £10.30 for the UK national economy.

The economic impact of the University of Oxford’s research and knowledge exchange activities was estimated at £7.9 billion and these activities supported over 28,000 full time jobs. This includes a £4.5 billion impact of the University’s research activities on the UK economy. In addition, £3.4 billion was generated by impacts associated with the University’s licensing of its intellectual property (IP) to other organisations, the operations of spinout companies whose activities are based on the University’s IP, and the activities of companies located at the Begbroke and Oxford Science Parks.

View the full report at: ox.ac.uk/about/facts-and-figures/economic-impact.
Community funding
Oxford University gives £50,000 annually to community projects and events in the city of Oxford as part of the Small Community Grants Scheme.

A few of the projects benefiting over the past 12 months include:

- the Gatehouse’s takeaway cafe and home delivery service for homeless people and the vulnerably housed
- a number of charities assisting refugees and migrants in Oxford by supporting English language learning, arts and crafts, and digital skills through organisations such as FloFest Oxford and the Iranian Community Network
- community projects supporting education within the city, including Leys Community Development Initiative’s Blackbird Leys Homework Club and Quest for Learning’s Catch Up Literacy Support for Disadvantaged Children in East Oxford
- several festivals have received grants, including Oxford Pride 2022 and Headington Festival 2022
- community allotments schemes such as Rose Hill Junior Youth Club’s ‘Kids get growing’ and Fairview Allotments Association’s Learning Together Programme.
Student engagement

Many of Oxford’s students are committed to giving something back to the community through volunteering and charity work. Oxford Student Union’s Raise and Give (RAG), for example, raises money for charities chosen by students. Target Schools is Oxford SU’s student-led access group, providing an Oxford ‘day-in-the-life’ experience for local secondary school children.

There are also hundreds of societies at Oxford, all with engaged student committees running conferences, socials, community events and much more. Student media is very popular at Oxford, with students writing and editing publications such as The Oxford Student and Oxide Radio.

Oxford Hub is a charity working to build a more equal, resilient and connected Oxford. They run volunteering programmes and collaborative projects that support people to thrive, participate in their community, and bring about systemic change. As part of this, Oxford Hub connects students with volunteering opportunities and many students have also become involved in the local COVID-19 response through the charity. Work undertaken by students includes tackling education inequality by tutoring a local young person, from 7–18 years old, for one hour a week, and tutoring those in Oxford who would like to build up their English skills. Volunteering gives students a chance to also develop transferable skills, such as teamwork and leadership, and increase their own wellbeing and sense of belonging to the city.

In partnership with the Oxford Faculty of Law and a local solicitors’ firm, postgraduate law students have been part of a legal aid clinic providing immigration and asylum advice to prison inmates. More widely, there are student groups working to support education and community projects in the developing world.

The Oxford Strategy Challenge, the Student Consultancy and the Researcher Strategy Consultancy, run by Oxford University’s Careers Service, provide free consultancy services to local Oxfordshire businesses and organisations. Undergraduate and graduate students and research staff from all disciplines work in teams to address a real strategic issue or business problem affecting the organisation. The programme provides an opportunity for local, small and medium-sized companies, charities and community organisations to access free consultancy services, and for students to gain valuable job skills and work experience.
In the next section you can find out more about Oxford’s student body including the numbers of postgraduates by academic division, undergraduates by subject, and students by nationality. You can also read more about the number of staff at Oxford and find reference information about the 39 colleges and five permanent private halls.
All student figures as at 1 December 2021.

## Total students

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduates</td>
<td>5,965</td>
<td>6,614</td>
<td>12,579</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduates</td>
<td>7,032</td>
<td>6,413</td>
<td>13,445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visiting, recognised and other students</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>13,166</td>
<td>13,289</td>
<td>26,455</td>
</tr>
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</table>

## Students by nationality

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>UK</th>
<th>EU</th>
<th>Non-EU</th>
<th>Unknown</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduates</td>
<td>9,739</td>
<td>1,156</td>
<td>1,683</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12,579</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduates</td>
<td>4,748</td>
<td>2,809</td>
<td>5,884</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13,445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visiting, recognised and other students</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>368</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>431</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>14,495</td>
<td>4,020</td>
<td>7,935</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>26,455</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Postgraduates by academic division

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Taught</th>
<th>Research</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Humanities</td>
<td>848</td>
<td>1,151</td>
<td>1,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences</td>
<td>680</td>
<td>2,697</td>
<td>3,377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Sciences</td>
<td>458</td>
<td>1,674</td>
<td>2,132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
<td>3,421</td>
<td>1,390</td>
<td>4,811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuing Education</td>
<td>997</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>1,126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>6,404</td>
<td>7,041</td>
<td>13,445</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
All student figures as at 1 December 2021.

**Undergraduates by subject**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ancient and Modern History</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archaeology and Anthropology</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological Sciences</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biomedical Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cell and Systems Biology</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>703</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classical Archaeology and Ancient History</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classics and English</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classics and Modern Languages</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classics and Oriental Studies</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Science and Philosophy</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth Sciences</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics and Management</td>
<td>265</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engineering Science</td>
<td>674</td>
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<tr>
<td>English Language and Literature</td>
<td>698</td>
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<tr>
<td>English and Modern Languages</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European and Middle Eastern Languages</td>
<td>55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Experimental Psychology</td>
<td>178</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fine Art</td>
<td>82</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>270</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>700</td>
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<tr>
<td>History and Economics</td>
<td>53</td>
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<tr>
<td>History and English</td>
<td>36</td>
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<tr>
<td>History and Modern Languages</td>
<td>84</td>
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<tr>
<td>History and Politics</td>
<td>151</td>
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<tr>
<td>History of Art</td>
<td>43</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Sciences</td>
<td>96</td>
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<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>720</td>
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<tr>
<td>Literae Humaniores</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials Science</td>
<td>174</td>
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<td>Music</td>
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<td>Neuroscience</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oriental Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philosophy and Modern Languages</td>
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<td>Philosophy and Theology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>617</td>
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<td>Physics and Philosophy</td>
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<td>Religion and Oriental Studies</td>
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</table>

**Other undergraduates**

Continuing Education Certificates and Diplomas including Theology/Pastoral Studies (BTh, Cert, Dip): 619

**Total**: 12,579
All student figures as at 1 December 2021.

### Students by college/permanent private hall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Undergraduates</th>
<th>Postgraduates</th>
<th>Visiting, recognised and other students</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>Jesus</td>
<td>384</td>
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<td>642</td>
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<td>Keble</td>
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<td>1,193</td>
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<td>963</td>
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<td>St Peter’s</td>
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<td>Trinity</td>
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<td>441</td>
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<td>718</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>655</td>
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<td>Wycliffe Hall</td>
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<td>No college</td>
<td>546</td>
<td>806</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>1,407</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No college represents, almost exclusively, non-matriculated courses such as PG and UG Diplomas and Certificates.
All staff number figures as at 31 July 2021.

### Staff numbers

#### Full-time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic</td>
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<td>Research</td>
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<td>460</td>
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<td>Administrative</td>
<td>774</td>
<td>1,806</td>
<td>2,580</td>
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<td>437</td>
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<td>137</td>
<td>706</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>155</td>
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<tr>
<td>Museum</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical and crafts</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>467</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ancillary</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>401</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total full-time staff</strong></td>
<td>5,971</td>
<td>5,464</td>
<td>11,435</td>
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#### Part-time

<table>
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<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>Academic</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>182</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>468</td>
<td>814</td>
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<td>Teaching and research support</td>
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<td>Finance</td>
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<td>Library</td>
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<td>Museum</td>
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<td>Technical and crafts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ancillary</td>
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<td>98</td>
<td>169</td>
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<td><strong>Total part-time staff</strong></td>
<td>897</td>
<td>2,240</td>
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#### All staff

<table>
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<th>Category</th>
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<th>Total</th>
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<td>Research</td>
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<td>Teaching and research support</td>
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<td>Administrative</td>
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<td>3,631</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
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<td>381</td>
<td>544</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computing</td>
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<td>204</td>
<td>838</td>
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<td>Library</td>
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<td>327</td>
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<td>Museum</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>137</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical and crafts</td>
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<td>232</td>
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<td><strong>Total staff</strong></td>
<td>6,868</td>
<td>7,704</td>
<td>14,572</td>
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These figures do not include those employed solely by the colleges or those employed by Oxford University Press, casual workers and those on variable hours contracts.
The dialling code for Oxford is **01865**
The international dialling code for the UK is **+44**

College foundation date in brackets

**Colleges**

**All Souls College** (1438)
Warden: Prof Sir John Vickers, FBA
Tel: 279379 www.asc.ox.ac.uk

**Balliol College** (1263)
Master: Dame Helen Ghosh, DCB
Tel: 277777 www.balliol.ox.ac.uk

**Brasenose College** (1509)
Principal: John Bowers, QC
Tel: 277830 www.bnc.ox.ac.uk

**Christ Church** (1546)
Censor Theologiae: Prof Sarah Foot
Tel: 276150 www.chch.ox.ac.uk

**Corpus Christi College** (1517)
President: Prof Helen Moore
Tel: 276700 www.ccc.ox.ac.uk

**Exeter College** (1314)
Rector: Prof Sir Rick Trainor, KBE, FRHistS, FAcSS
Tel: 279600 www.exeter.ox.ac.uk

* *Green Templeton College* (2008)
Principal: Sir Michael Dixon
Tel: 274770 www.gtc.ox.ac.uk

**Harris Manchester College** (1889)
Principal: Prof Jane Shaw, FRHistS
Tel: 271006 www.hmc.ox.ac.uk

**Hertford College** (1740)
Principal: Tom Fletcher, CMG
Tel: 279400 www.hertford.ox.ac.uk

* Graduate-only college  ** For mature students (aged 21 and over)
  i Cardinal Wolsey founded his ‘Cardinal College’ in 1525 but then the institution was re-founded as Christ Church by Henry VIII in 1546 | ii Founded in Manchester, 1786; moved to Oxford 1889
**Jesus College** (1571)
Principal: Prof Sir Nigel Shadbolt, FRS, FREng, FBCS
Tel: 279700 www.jesus.ox.ac.uk

**Keble College** (1870)
Warden: Sir Jonathan Phillips, KCB; Dr Sir Michael Jacobs from Michaelmas term 2022
Tel: 272727 www.keble.ox.ac.uk

* **Kellogg College** (1990)
President: Prof Jonathan Michie, OBE
Tel: 612000 www.kellogg.ox.ac.uk

**Lincoln College** (1427)
Rector: Prof Henry Woudhuysen, FBA
Tel: 279800 www.lincoln.ox.ac.uk

**Magdalen College** (1458)
President: Dinah Rose, QC
Tel: 276000 www.magd.ox.ac.uk

**Mansfield College** (1886)
Principal: Helen Mountfield, QC
Tel: 270999 www.mansfield.ox.ac.uk

**Merton College** (1264)
Warden: Prof Irene Tracey, CBE
Tel: 276310 www.merton.ox.ac.uk

**New College** (1379)
Warden: Miles Young
Tel: 279555 www.new.ox.ac.uk

* **Nuffield College** (1958)
Warden: Sir Andrew Dilnot, CBE
Tel: 278500 www.nuffield.ox.ac.uk

**Oriel College** (1326)
Provost: Lord Mendoza of King’s Reach
Tel: 276555 www.oriel.ox.ac.uk

**Pembroke College** (1624)
Master: The Rt Hon Sir Ernest Ryder PC, Kt
Tel: 276444 www.pmb.ox.ac.uk

**The Queen’s College** (1341)
Provost: Dr Claire Craig CBE
Tel: 279120 www.queens.ox.ac.uk

President: Prof Lionel Tarassenko, CBE, FREng, FMedSci
Email: info@reuben.ox.ac.uk;
www.reuben.ox.ac.uk

**St Anne’s College** (1879)
Principal: Helen King, QPM
Tel: 274800 www.st-annes.ox.ac.uk

* **St Antony’s College** (1953)
Warden: Prof Roger Goodman
Tel: 284700 www.sant.ox.ac.uk

**St Catherine’s College** (1962)
Master: Prof Kersti Börjars
Tel: 271700 www.stcatz.ox.ac.uk

* **St Cross College** (1965)
Master: Carole Souter, CBE
Tel: 278490 www.stx.ox.ac.uk

**St Edmund Hall** (c1278)
Principal: Prof Katherine Willis, CBE
Tel: 279000 www.seh.ox.ac.uk

**St Hilda’s College** (1893)
Principal: Prof Dame Sarah Springman, DBE, FREng
Tel: 276884 www.sthildas.ox.ac.uk

**St Hugh’s College** (1886)
Principal: The Rt Hon Dame Elish Angiolini, DBE, QC, FRSE
Tel: 274900 www.st-hughs.ox.ac.uk

* Graduate-only college

iii Founded 1879 as the Association for the Education of Women in Oxford, later known as The Society of Oxford Home Students
St John’s College (1555)
President: Prof Margaret Snowling, CBE, FBA, FMedSci; Prof Dame Sue Black, DBE, OBE, FRSE, FBA, FRAI, FRSB, ChFA, Baroness Black of Strome, from September 2022.
Tel: 277300 www.sjc.ox.ac.uk

St Peter’s College (1929)
Master: Prof Judith Buchanan
Tel: 278900 www.spc.ox.ac.uk

Somerville College (1879)
Principal: Baroness Royall of Blaisdon
Tel: 270600 www.some.ox.ac.uk

Trinity College (1555)
President: Dame Hilary Boulding, DBE
Tel: 279900 www.trinity.ox.ac.uk

University College (1249)
Master: Baroness Valerie Amos, LG
Tel: 276602 www.univ.ox.ac.uk

Wadham College (1610)
Warden: Robert Hannigan
Tel: 277900 www.wadham.ox.ac.uk

* Wolfson College (1966)
President: Sir Tim Hitchens, KCVO, CMG
Tel: 274100 www.wolfson.ox.ac.uk

Worcester College (1714)
Provost: David Isaac, CBE
Tel: 278300 www.worc.ox.ac.uk

Permanent Private Halls

Blackfriars Hall (1221)
Regent of Studies: The Very Rev Dr John O’Connor, OP
Tel: 278400 www.bfriars.ox.ac.uk

*Campion Hall (1896)
Master: The Revd Dr Nicholas Austin, SJ
Tel: 286100 www.campion.ox.ac.uk

Regent’s Park College (1810iiii)
Interim Principal: Elizabeth Crawford
Tel: 288120 www.rpc.ox.ac.uk

St Stephen’s House (1876)
Principal: The Revd Canon Dr Robin Ward
Tel: 613500 www.ssho.ox.ac.uk

Wycliffe Hall (1877)
Principal: The Revd Dr Michael Lloyd
Tel: 274200 www.wycliffe.ox.ac.uk

* Graduate-only college
iiii Founded in London 1810; moved to Oxford 1927