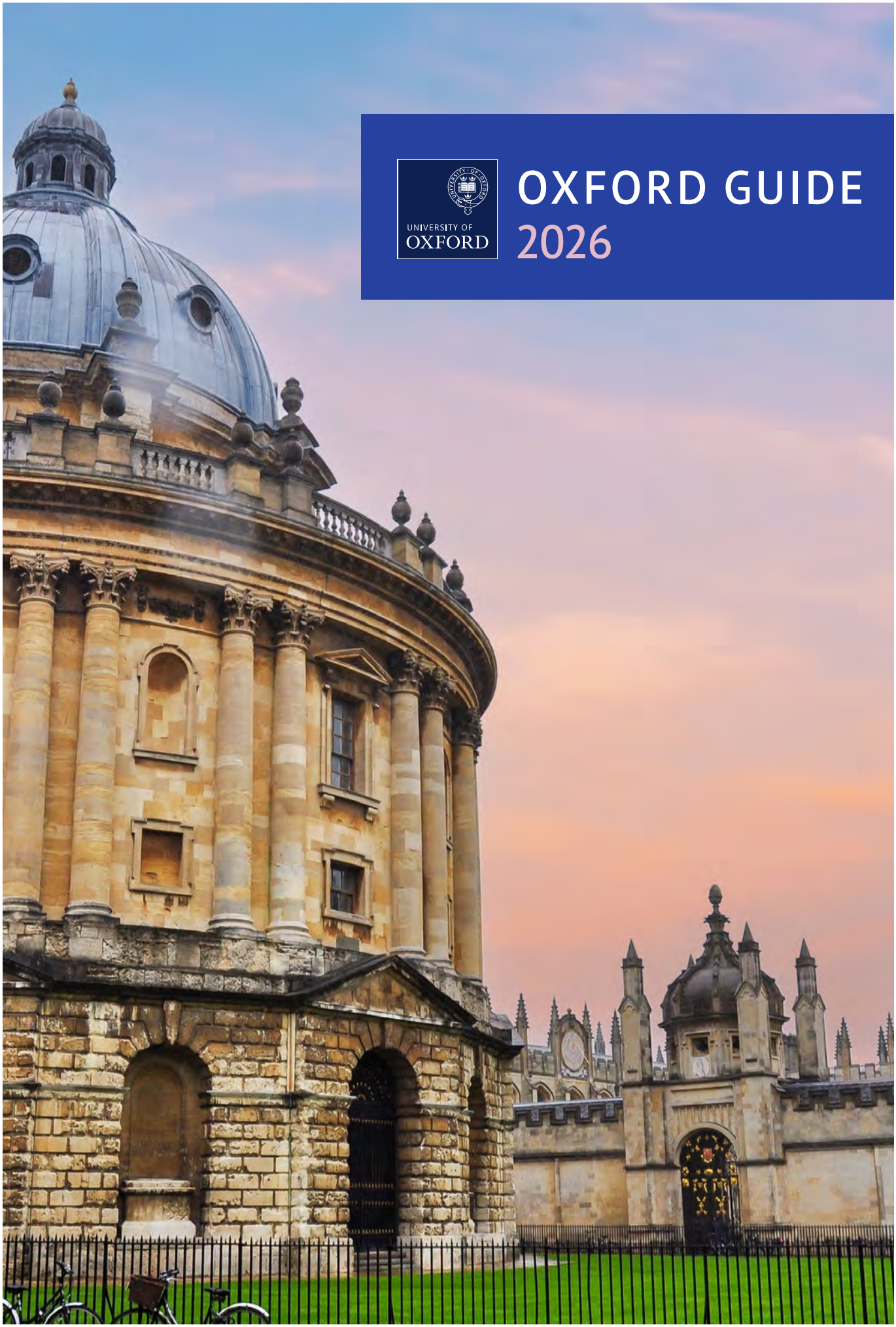

UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD
OXFORD GUIDE
2026

CONTENT



INSTITUTION 5

- History 6
- Structure of the University 8
- Committees and University bodies 8
- The colleges 9
- Who's who 10
- Divisions, departments and GLAM 11
- Finance and funding 13
- College funding 13
- Income streams 13

EDUCATION: STUDENTS 15

- Education – introduction 16
- The student body 16
- Admissions and access 17
- Student support 19
- Welfare support 21
- Resources for learning 22
- After Oxford 23
- Oxford Lifelong Learning 25
- Saïd Business School 25
- Oxford University Press 25

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION 27

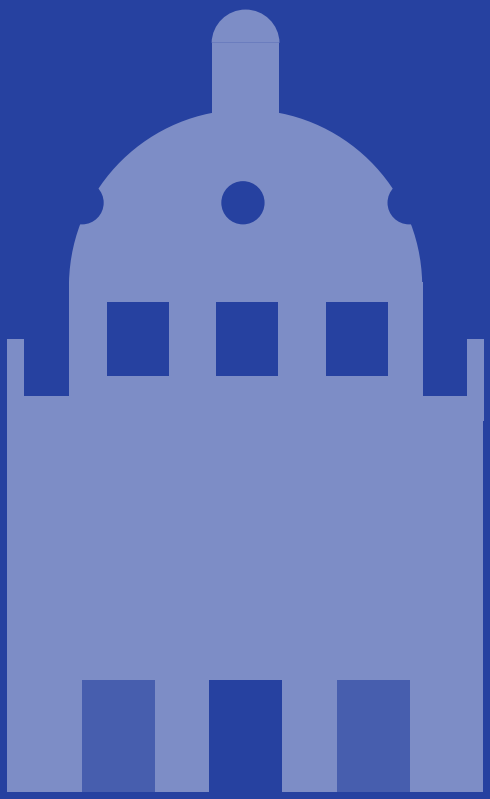
- Research and innovation – introduction 28
- Academic divisions 29
- Research and Innovation – engagment 35
- Engagement in healthcare 36

COMMUNITY AND CULTURE 37

- Community and culture – introduction 38
- Gardens, libraries and museums 38
- Sport and culture 39
- Economic engagement 40
- Student engagement 40



Procession leaving the Divinity School, about to enter the Sheldonian Theatre on Encaenia Day



INSTITUTION

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 more than 9 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 a 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 2 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.

1355 Tributes from kings

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.

14th–17th centuries Religious and political controversy

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.

18th century Scientific discovery and religious revival

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.

1833 The Oxford Movement

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.

1860 A famous debate

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

1920 Women become members

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. Today, the University remains at the forefront of global efforts to confront some of the major challenges that face the 21st-century world, including research into COVID-19, malaria, HIV, Ebola and bacterial resistance.



Oxford University has remained at the forefront of global efforts to research COVID-19

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 7 years and is the senior officer of the University.

Pro-Vice-Chancellors – Pro-Vice-Chancellors have specific, functional responsibility, currently for Education; External Engagement; Innovation; People and Culture; Planning and Resources; Research; and Strategic Initiatives.

Pro-Vice-Chancellors without responsibility – there are also up to 10 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, currently serving for a term of 10 years, the Chancellor serves as the titular head of the University, presiding over all major ceremonies.



Council of the University – the University's executive governing body. There are 26 positions on Council, plus provision for up to 3 co-opted members. These include those elected by Congregation, representatives of the colleges, and 5 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.You can read more about committees that report to Council below.

Congregation – is the ultimate legislative body of the University. Membership of Congregation is composed of members of colleges, faculties and departments of the University. It has responsibility for considering major policy issues submitted to it by Council or members of Congregation; elects members to certain University bodies, including Council and the Audit and Scrutiny Committee; and approves changes or additions to the University's Statutes and Regulations (its legislation), which define the governance structure.

Academic divisions – day-to-day decision-making in matters such as finance and planning is devolved to the University's 4 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 4 academic divisions, Oxford University Press and Oxford Lifelong Learning on **pages 11–12.**

Committees and University bodies

You can find tables that include all committees and University bodies which, under the University's Statutes and Regulations, explicitly report to Council or to one of its main committees, and a 'Committee Diagram: Committees of Council', at: **ox.ac.uk/about/how-we-are-run/governance-finance/committees**.

Main committees of Council

Education Committee
General Purposes Committee
People Committee
Planning and Resource Allocation Committee
Research and Innovation Committee

Divisional Boards

Humanities Divisional Board
Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Divisional Board
Medical Sciences Divisional Board
Social Sciences Divisional Board



Christ Church Meadow

The colleges

The **36 colleges** and **3 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 3 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 4 **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 in 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

Use the links on this webpage to visit the websites of all Oxford University Colleges and Permanent Private Halls: **ox.ac.uk/colleges**.

Who's who

Chancellor The Rt Hon the Lord Hague of Richmond, PC, FRSL

Vice-Chancellor Professor Irene Tracey, CBE, FRS, FMedSci

Pro-Vice-Chancellors

Education Professor Freya Johnston
External Engagement Professor Alexander Betts
Innovation Professor Constantin Coussios OBE, FREng, FMedSci
People and Culture Professor David Doyle
Planning and Resources Professor Mark E Smith CBE
Research Professor Patrick Grant, FREng
Strategic Initiatives Professor Heidi Johansen-Berg FRS, FMedSci

Pro-Vice-Chancellors without portfolio

Professor Dame Julia Black, DBE, FBA, Warden of Nuffield College
Professor Lady Sue Black, Baroness Black of Strome, LT, DBE, FRS, FRSE, FRAI, FRSB, President of St John's College
Professor Judith Buchanan, Master of St Peter's College
The Very Revd Professor Sarah Foot, FRHistS, FSA, Dean of Christ Church
Professor Jonathan Michie, President of Kellogg College
Professor Helen Moore, President of Corpus Christi College
Professor Jennifer Payne, Warden of Merton College
Professor Sir Nigel Shadbolt, FRS, FREng, FBCS Fellow of Magdalen College
Professor Sir Aziz Sheikh, OBE, FRSE, FMedSci, Head of the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences
Professor Lord Lionel Tarassenko, CBE, FREng, FMedSci, President of Reuben College

Registrar Dr Stephen Conway (Interim Registrar)

Proctors and Assessor

Senior Proctor Professor Andrew Farmery
Junior Proctor Professor Caroline Warman
Assessor Professor Jeff Tseng

Heads of Academic Divisions

Humanities Professor Daniel Grimley
Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Professor James H Naismith, FRSC, FRSB, FRS, FRSE, FMedSci, MAE
Medical Sciences Professor Gavin Screaton, FMedSci, FRCP
Social Sciences Professor Timothy J Power

Bodley's Librarian and Head of Gardens, Libraries and Museums Richard Ovenden, OBE, FRSA, FSA , FRHistS
Director of the Ashmolean Museum Dr Alexander Sturgis
Director of the History of Science Museum Dr Silke Ackermann
Director of the Pitt Rivers Museum Professor Laura Van Broekhoven
Director of the Oxford University Museum of Natural History Dr Gavin J Svenson
Director of the Oxford Botanic Garden and Arboretum Professor Simon Hiscock
Interim Director of the Department for Continuing Education Dr Alison MacDonald
Chief Executive of Oxford University Press Nigel Portwood

Find out more about senior University personnel at:
ox.ac.uk/about/our-people/university-officers.

Divisions, departments and GLAM

Oxford University is divided into 4 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 Oxford Lifelong Learning exists to enable Oxford to reach students beyond the full-time student body.

Academic divisions

Humanities	Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences	Medical Sciences	Social Sciences

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

The **Humanities Division** brings together 9 faculties plus the Rothermere American Institute, the Ruskin School of Art and the Voltaire Foundation. 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.

The 9 academic departments in the **Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Division** span the full spectrum of mathematical, computational, physical, engineering and life sciences, and undertake both research and cutting-edge applied work.

The **Medical Sciences Division** is the largest of the 4 academic divisions within the University and is internationally recognised as a centre of excellence for biomedical and clinical research and teaching.

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.

You can read more about the research and innovation work of all 4 academic divisions on **page 29**.



The Schwarzman centre for the Humanities

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 21 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 studies as well as drawing scholars from all over the world.

You can read more about Oxford's collections on **pages 22–23**, about how GLAM supports the research and innovation work of all 4 academic divisions on **page 29**, and how it contributes to community and culture on **page 38**.

Oxford University Press

Oxford University Press (OUP) is one of the largest university press publishers in the world. It has become familiar to millions through a diverse publishing programme that includes scholarly works in all academic disciplines, bibles, sheet music, school and college textbooks, children's books, materials for teaching English as a foreign language, dictionaries and academic journals.

OUP is a department of the University, and shares the mission to further excellence in research, scholarship and education by publishing worldwide. It currently publishes thousands of new titles a year across the globe.

Find out more about how OUP plays a vital role in furthering the University's objectives of excellence in scholarship and education on **page 25** and research on **page 33**.

Oxford Lifelong Learning

Oxford Lifelong Learning, at the Department for Continuing Education, brings the quality of an Oxford University education within reach of everyone, inspiring people across the world. Whether learning for personal enrichment, career development or intellectual curiosity, students are supported to realise their potential and contribute meaningfully to their communities and the wider world. An extensive range of courses, provided in Oxford and online to over 15,000 students each year, is led by tutors selected for their expertise and dedication to the exceptional teaching expected from a world-class university.

You can read more about Oxford Lifelong Learning on **page 25**.

Institutional progress

Oxford University has been world number one in the ***Times Higher Education*** **World University Rankings** for 11 years in a row – the longest time any university has held the position in the 22 annual editions of the rankings. Harvard University and the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) are the only other universities to have topped the rankings. The 2027 rankings considered a record 2,297 universities from 118 countries, based on 17 metrics grouped into 5 areas: Teaching; Research environment; Research quality; International outlook; and Industry. In the 2027 table, Oxford scored the maximum 100 in 8 metrics – including research productivity, research excellence and teaching reputation – and in 6 other metrics scored above 95.

In the ***Times Higher Education*** **World University Rankings by Subject 2026,** Oxford was ranked first in the world for computer science for the 8th year in a row and first in the world for medical and health subjects for the 15th year running.

Oxford also secured the top place in the **QS World University Rankings 2026** (published March 2026) in 4 subjects: Anatomy and Physiology, Anthropology, Geography, and Modern Languages. It was also named top in the world overall in the Arts and Humanities. The School of Geography and the Environment topped the ranking for the 16th consecutive year.

The **University of Oxford's Strategic Plan 2025–2030** sets out our shared ambitions for the next 5years:**ox.ac.uk/about/how-we-are-run/strategic-plan**.



Oxford University Press

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 3 core priorities of students, academic posts and buildings.

You can find the latest financial statements on the University's website at **ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/finance-and-funding**.

College funding

The colleges at Oxford University are independent, self-governing and financially autonomous.

Kellogg College, Reuben College and St Cross College do not have Royal Charters and, for accounting purposes, are departments of the University. As such, their financial results are consolidated into the University's financial statements.

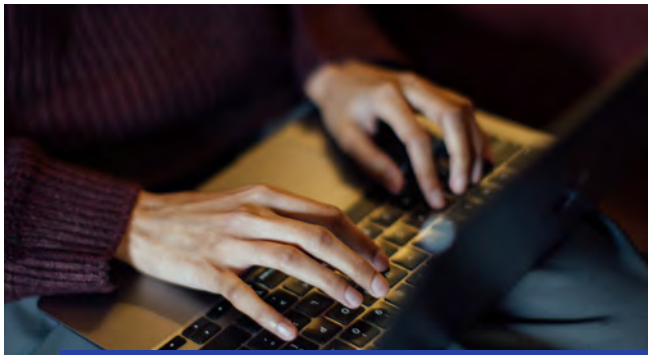
The financial statements of the other 36 colleges of Oxford are also available to view online via **www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/finance-and-funding**.

Income streams

The University seeks to protect and grow its income streams by diversifying its sources of funding. Philanthropy is an important part of this approach, strengthening Oxford's financial sustainability and enabling it to pursue its long-term academic mission. This work is led by Development and Alumni Engagement.

Oxford Excellence, the University's multi-billion-pound fundraising campaign, launched publicly in 2026 to help tackle some of the world's most complex and urgent challenges. The campaign seeks to support cross-disciplinary research with transformational impact across 3 themes: climate change and the environment; improving health; and society, community and citizenship.

Funds are also being raised across the University and colleges to support Oxford's people, enabling talented graduate students from all backgrounds to study with fully funded scholarships and supporting academic leadership through the endowment of priority posts. Philanthropy is also playing a key role in enabling capital projects,



Financial objectives include providing long-term resources to strengthen and further the University's position as a place of outstanding learning, teaching and research

providing world-class research facilities and places for students to live and learn, alongside strategic initiatives such as the digitisation of the Bodleian Libraries and Oxford's collections.

Recent philanthropic highlights include a generous donation from the Dieter Schwarz Foundation to fund key academic posts at the Oxford Internet Institute, advancing research into AI's impact on work, government and policy, and emerging technologies. The foundation is also supporting a 5-year research programme and other related activities in Oxford and at the Dieter Schwarz AI Campus in Heilbronn, Germany.

A major new research and engagement programme exploring how healthier, more sustainable diets can be achieved at population level is now underway following a donation from the Chellaram Foundation, while a new long-term initiative with Qube Research & Technologies (QRT), alongside Imperial College London and the University of Cambridge, will advance multidisciplinary research and nurture future scientific leaders across mathematics, statistics, computer science and engineering.

In spring 2026 Oxford celebrated the public opening of the Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities, made possible by a generous donation from Stephen A. Schwarzman. The centre brings together humanities faculties and institutes from across the University, as well as housing a range of cultural spaces. Find out more on **pages 32** and **39**.

The generosity of donors helps Oxford sustain academic ambition over the long term, supporting talented people and research that improves lives and informs policy around the world.

For more information about the Oxford Excellence campaign, visit **ox.ac.uk/giving**.



Students are members both of a college and of the University



EDUCATION: STUDENTS

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 Oxford Lifelong Learning and Oxford University Press.



Students are attracted by the opportunity to study at an internationally renowned university

Education – introduction

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, 2 or 3 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 3 or 4 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 9-month full-time taught courses to part-time research degrees of up to 8 years in length. At postgraduate level, students make a major contribution to Oxford's research endeavour.

Research and development are 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, while Kellogg College places special emphasis on part-time study.

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

15,000	13,755	12,460
Oxford Lifelong Learning	Postgraduates	Undergraduates

There are more than **26,000 students** at Oxford, including **12,460 undergraduates** and **13,755 postgraduates**. In addition, more than **15,000 students** enrol in Oxford Lifelong Learning programmes each year.

At postgraduate level, **54%** of students are reading for **degrees by research** and **46%** are **studying for a taught degree.**

Around **12,565 students** – **43%** of the total student body – are citizens of foreign countries, including **21%** of undergraduates and **60%** of postgraduates.

Students come to Oxford from **more than 170 countries** and territories. The largest groups of international students come from USA (2,160), China (2,115), Germany (610), India (560), Canada (540), Singapore (430), Australia (415), Hong Kong (SAR) (395), France (245) and Italy (230).

Find more information about **student numbers at Oxford: ox.ac.uk/about/the-university/facts-and-figures/student-numbers**.

Data taken from Student Statistics, 1 December 2025. All figures rounded to the nearest 5.

Admissions and access

Oxford is looking for students with the highest academic potential from all backgrounds and has one of the most competitive application processes in the world. The University is committed to increasing the diversity of its student body and over the past few years students from a wider range of backgrounds than ever have undertaken their studies at Oxford.

Undergraduate

Over the past 5 years, students from a wider range of backgrounds have joined the University. Oxford is committed to building on its access programmes and engages with students from the age of 11 to support attainment, provide advice and help build confidence. In 2025, 21% of UK students admitted to Oxford came from the most socio-economically disadvantaged areas, 6.6% were eligible for Free School Meals and 30% identified as Black and Minority Ethnic.

Oxford Outreach

Across the UK, the University works extensively with education experts, charities and public sector organisations. We support the raising of attainment and enrichment programmes in schools and colleges, and encourage participation in higher education and applications to selective universities. We are committed to increasing the number of students from currently underrepresented backgrounds and in recent years have created several access initiatives designed to achieve this goal. Together, our tailored outreach programmes provide step-by-step support for our students' journeys to Oxford and beyond.

We also work with our local community; for example, for the past 10 years, we have collaborated with Christ Church and the charity IntoUniversity to support the South East Learning Centre in Blackbird Leys in Oxford. This sustained contact programme for primary and secondary pupils supports aspiration and attainment in Oxford's most socio-economically challenged areas.

Oxplore: Home of Big Questions: Designed for young people aged 11–18 and their teachers, our digital learning platforms engage and challenge school students via debates and encourage the sort of analytical and critical thinking which promotes academic confidence and curiosity.

Oxplore Teach is targeted at state school teachers committed to raising their students' attainment, enabling them to deliver Oxplore: Home of Big Questions resources in their own learning environments. These resources aim to help promote a love of learning, oracy skills and academic confidence, which in turn supports students to reach their academic goals. Oxplore Teach also supports the professional development of teachers by offering CPDL accredited online training.

The Oxplore Festival takes Oxplore on the road – bringing to schools and colleges a day of curiosity, discovery and inspiration delivered by Oxford academics.

BeUNIQ: This is our free sustained contact programme for 14–16-year-old UK state school students from groups who are currently underrepresented among Oxford undergraduates. Sessions aim to equip students with the academic confidence, critical thinking skills and self-efficacy they need to support their higher education goals and aspirations. BeUNIQ's bespoke engagement aims to reach beyond schools and collaborate with organisations working in the wider local community.

UNIQ: Offering over 1,000 places each year including a residential in Oxford, our free flagship outreach programme supports Year 12 (or equivalent) UK state school students to reach their higher education aspirations. All participants work with our academics, engage with current undergraduates and receive sustained admissions support. Places are prioritised for students with academic potential who have ever been in care, who have been eligible for Free School Meals, and who live in areas which are associated with lower socio-economic backgrounds.

Since 2010, **UNIQ** has supported over

20,523 young people

During the last 5 years **UNIQ participants**, from disadvantaged backgrounds and state schools, were more likely to receive an offer to study at Oxford:



All UNIQ applicants (2021–25)

All other UK applicants (2021–25)

Target Oxbridge: Our thriving collaboration with programmes such as Target Oxbridge helps UK Black African and Caribbean students and students of mixed race with Black African and Caribbean heritage secure offers from Oxford. Since 2016, the University has contributed financially and provided a 3-day spring residential and summer visit to Oxford. The programme offers mentoring, academic tasters and help with applications.

Opportunity Oxford: An academic bridging programme which supports the transition of students from the least advantaged socio-economic backgrounds to the University of Oxford. The programme develops students' core academic skills and knowledge, and builds strategies for effective independent learning, study and success at the University. It also provides a supportive introduction to life as an Oxford student, helping participants to build confidence, make friends and feel ready to embrace their university experience.

Since 2020, the University has made more than 1,600 offers with a place on the Opportunity Oxford programme which includes both online learning and a residential experience in Oxford. A further 2,100 offer holders have been invited to take part in the online digital component.

Astrophoria Foundation Year: Welcoming the first cohort of students in 2023, this fully funded, 1-year programme is designed for UK state school students with high academic potential who have experienced significant disadvantage or disruption during their education. Places are offered annually across 4 academic streams: Humanities, Law, PPE, and Chemistry, Engineering and Materials Science. Students are fully integrated into Oxford college life, with free tuition, accommodation and a non-repayable bursary for living costs. The programme provides students with a supportive and academically challenging 1-year course, and the opportunity to progress on to their chosen undergraduate degree at Oxford without the need to reapply.



Oxford is looking for students with the highest academic potential from all backgrounds

Oxford for UK: Our colleges have formed a network of regional hubs by working with local schools and colleges to support their students' Higher Education goals.

Our undergraduate admissions process assesses academic ability and potential through a range of measures, including prior attainment, 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.

Undergraduate admissions statistics detailed here are from the Annual Admissions Statistical Report 2026. Further information on who studies here as an undergraduate and the latest reports can be found online at: **ox.ac.uk/about/the-university/facts-and-figures/admissions-statistics/undergraduate/current**.

Find out more about undergraduate admissions at: **ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate**.

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 at **graduate.ox.ac.uk**.

Graduate applications have increased by 14% overall (with increases from the UK, EU and rest of the world) to reach about 50,000 applications for just under 7,000 postgraduate places. Postgraduate research applications increased by 22%, while taught applications have increased by 8%. More detailed graduate admissions data is published at **ox.ac.uk/about/the-university/facts-and-figures/admissions-statistics/graduate**.

Decisions are made after each application deadline against the entry requirements for the course and the strength of the application pool. Some departments may interview. Recruitment activities for potential postgraduate students include attending fairs, organising online

events, and running social media, video and email campaigns.

Widening access

Equality, diversity and inclusion are at the heart of Oxford's academic mission.

The Graduate Student Access Strategy aims to increase academic excellence by widening opportunities for exceptional students from every background and address barriers that can prevent students from considering Oxford for postgraduate study. In the University's Strategic Plan (2025–30), graduate scholarships and access are identified as a key priority.

Key highlights:

- The **Academic Futures Scholarship programme** has grown to support nearly 200 scholars on course in 2025–26, across a wide variety of underrepresented groups including: Black British students; refugee and displaced background students; and care-experienced students.
- In 2026–27, scholars from British Pakistani and British Bangladeshi backgrounds will join **Academic Futures** and for 2027–28 entry, UK awards based on contextual data relating to socio-economic disadvantage have been launched for UK residents. By 2030, our ambition is to grow Academic Futures so that it is comparable in size to our other flagship graduate scholarship cohort, the Clarendon Fund (around 700 scholars on course in 2025–26).
- The majority of courses are using **contextual data** in the graduate admissions and assessment process. This is because we know that factors relating to socio-economic disadvantage and school performance can make it difficult for students to demonstrate their full potential. Therefore, some of the information may be considered to better understand the context of applicant achievements.
- The **UNIQplus programme** (**www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/uniqplus**), launched in 2019, provides paid research internships for those from disadvantaged and underrepresented backgrounds. In summer 2026, UNIQplus welcomed 120 interns who took part in in-person research projects in Oxford. Participants undertake a research project in one of the academic departments, attend training and information sessions, and are hosted in one of Oxford's colleges. In addition, 32 prospective applicants undertook a new online research skills development programme (**UNIQplus PASS**), run in collaboration with Oxford Lifelong Learning and aimed at supporting those planning to apply to Oxford for postgraduate study in the following year.



Securing funding for student support is a strategic priority

Find out more about increasing graduate access at: **ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/access**.

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

Around 1 in 4 undergraduate UK students currently receives an annual, non-repayable bursary from Oxford. Our ambition is to ensure that no-one with outstanding academic potential is deterred from studying here because of their background, personal circumstances or finances.

Oxford offers one of the most generous financial support packages available for UK students, providing around £10.5 million of financial support to undergraduates from lower-income households.

All following information pertains to 2026 entry.

- Oxford offers generous non-repayable bursaries of up to £6,370 p.a. to eligible UK resident students studying for their first undergraduate degree with an annual household income of £32,500 or less as part of our **Crankstart Scholarships programme**. These awards include funded internships and volunteering opportunities. Find out more at: **ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/fees-and-funding/crankstart-scholarship**.



Oxford seeks to recruit the very best students, nationally and internationally

- For students who are not eligible for, or do not take up, a Crankstart Scholarship, we provide **Oxford Bursaries** of between £4,390 and £1,100 p.a. to eligible undergraduates with family incomes of £0–£50,000. Find out more at: **ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/fees-and-funding/oxford-bursaries-and-scholarships**.
- Eligible UK students who are **care-experienced or estranged** (studying without family support) can also apply for an additional non-repayable annual bursary of up to £3,500.
- **Oxford Travel Supplements** of between £220 and £550 are available to Crankstart Scholars or Oxford Bursary recipients from the UK who live more than 80 miles from Oxford.

For the latest information on funding opportunities for undergraduate students visit: **ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/fees-and-funding**.

Scholarships for postgraduates

For the 2027–28 academic year, the University expects to be able to offer over 1,200 full or partial graduate scholarships for new students, including awards from major UK research funders such as the UKRI Research Councils.

These funding opportunities include the following:

- The **Clarendon Fund** is Oxford's flagship postgraduate scholarship scheme, in recent cohorts providing fully funded scholarships to more than 200 new scholars each year across all disciplines. Oxford University Press provides the core funding for these scholarships, with several million pounds of additional funding coming from partnerships with many colleges, departments and external organisations. Find out more at: **ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/funding/clarendon**.
- In 2020, the **Graduate Endowment Matched Scholarship Scheme (GEMS)** was launched to support delivery of the University's Strategic Plan priority to increase graduate scholarship availability. The GEMS scheme continues to invest in endowed scholarships and has created over 40 scholarship schemes offering over 80 full scholarship awards to new graduate students each year.
- In recent years Oxford has developed innovative funding and access support for students from disadvantaged and under-represented groups. **Academic Futures** is a scholarship programme that aims to increase academic excellence by widening opportunities for exceptional students from socio-economically disadvantaged and underrepresented backgrounds. The Academic Futures programme currently supports nearly 200 scholars on course, across a variety of eligibility routes including Black British, British Bangladeshi, British Pakistani, care-experienced and refugees or students with lived experience of displacement. Visit: **ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-funding-and-scholarship-search/academic-futures**.
- Oxford continues to develop support available for students who are refugees or who have experience of displacement, including the new Mastercard Foundation AfOx Graduate Scholarships, Academic Futures Scholarships and WHT Hope Scholarships.

- Established in 1902, the **Rhodes Scholarships** (funded by the Rhodes Trust and over 2,600 donors as well as the University and its colleges) have a long and prestigious history of supporting study at Oxford. More than 100 scholarships are awarded each year to students who demonstrate strong propensity to emerge as future leaders and have a global impact.

For the latest information on funding opportunities for graduate students visit **ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding**.

Welfare support

The University of Oxford is proud to cultivate a community that prioritises the mental health and wellbeing of all its students. Beyond academic excellence, Oxford offers a rich and supportive environment where students are encouraged to thrive, grow personally and take an active role in caring for their own wellbeing.

Recognising that university life can at times be demanding, Oxford provides a wide-ranging network of support services across the whole University and colleges. For students experiencing more serious and enduring mental health challenges, the University also works closely with specialist NHS services to ensure appropriate clinical care is available.

With this comprehensive approach, the University remains deeply committed to helping students engage fully with both their academic work and the wider university experience.

More detail is set out in our Common Approach to Support Student Mental Health: **ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/counselling/a-common-approach-to-student-mental-health**.

College support

The University of Oxford's distinctive college system is at the heart of its approach to student wellbeing. Each college and department forms a close-knit academic and social community, uniquely positioned to anticipate student needs and provide tailored pastoral and welfare support. This structure allows for early identification of academic or personal difficulties, and offers a responsive environment where students feel known, supported and valued.

Oxford's educational model, with its emphasis on small-group tutorials and personalised teaching, fosters strong relationships between students and academic staff. Beyond the classroom, students have access to a wide range of opportunities to engage in sport, the arts and cultural activities, which further enrich their university experience and help to build a sense of community and belonging. Student-run clubs and societies offer a chance to meet other students with shared interests and try new activities.

These core features of the Oxford experience are fundamental in promoting emotional wellbeing and establishing the foundations for good mental health.

Comprehensive services

Oxford's Counselling Service plays a key role in supporting students' mental health. Staffed by highly qualified and expert practitioners, the service offers one-to-one counselling, therapeutic groups and workshops. It operates an open-access policy and is able to provide extended support when needed.

For students with long-term or complex mental health conditions, the University's Disability Advisory Service (DAS) provides expert specialist mentoring and guidance. The DAS also advises on reasonable adjustments to teaching and assessment to ensure all students can fully participate in academic life.

Oxford's welfare provision includes a wide range of trained professionals, such as college nurses, general practitioners, welfare deans and tutors, and chaplains.

In addition to professional services, the University also offers one of the UK's most extensive and established peer support networks. Over 360 trained Peer Supporters offer confidential listening and signposting services across colleges and departments, including those with specialist roles to support peers with shared aspects of their identity and experience.

Oxford Nightline, an independent student-run support and information service, also operates overnight to ensure help is available at all hours during term time.

For further information about Welfare and Wellbeing at Oxford University visit: **ox.ac.uk/students/welfare**.

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.

Libraries in the Bodleian Libraries group include the principal University library – the Bodleian Library – which has been a library of legal deposit for more than 400 years, as well as 21 other libraries across Oxford, including major research libraries and faculty, department and institute libraries.

Together, the Libraries hold more than 14million printed items, over 80,000 e-journals and outstanding special collections including rare books and manuscripts, classical papyri, photography, maps, music, art and printed ephemera. In recent years the Libraries' mission has engaged more deeply and urgently with the challenges presented by the evolving digital landscape, including social media preservation and AI. Making information more accessible for online communities, while protecting its integrity through renewed partnerships and developing robust infrastructure, is a constant priority.

Digital Bodleian also makes portions of the Bodleian's extraordinary library collections open to a wide variety of users from around the world for learning, teaching and research.

In addition to the Bodleian Libraries, all colleges have their own libraries and there are a number of other department and faculty libraries at Oxford.

The new Humanities Library housed in the Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities brings together 7 libraries and collections: English language and literature, film studies, history of medicine, music, philosophy, theology and religion and internet studies.

Historic agreement

In 1610 Sir Thomas Bodley, after whom the Bodleian 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 5,000 print and electronic books every week via Legal Deposit.

First opened to scholars in 1602, the Bodleian Libraries' priceless collections 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.

The Bodleian Libraries continues to add to its collections. For example, in 2026, Christ Church and the Bodleian Libraries announced that they had become joint owners of an exceptionally rare first edition of Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (1865). The book was previously owned by Carroll himself and had never before been exhibited in the UK. The book is considered to be the most important of only 22 known surviving first editions. It includes handwritten annotations in the margins by the author alongside original drawings by John Tenniel, the story's first illustrator.

Following cataloguing and digitisation, the book went on public display in the Weston Library and featured in the Bodleian's *Pets and their People* exhibition. Lewis Carroll, whose real name was Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, studied at Christ Church, and subsequently remained there until his death, serving in several roles including lecturer in mathematics, a sub-librarian in the college library and curator of the Senior Common Room.

Language learning

The Oxford University Language Centre is the hub for all students, academic and professional staff who want to improve their language skills, offering teaching across 14 modern languages. Expert tutors use modern teaching methods and high-quality resources to teach in small groups. The Language Centre offers flexible modes of delivery and has helped thousands of people of different ages and abilities to advance their languages, whether to enhance research skills, communicate with people more easily, improve career prospects or simply learn something new. Visit the Language Centre website for more information: **lang.ox.ac.uk**.

Museums and collections



The Bate Collection

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.

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 30 Nobel Prizewinners and numerous eminent politicians around the world.

In addition, 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.

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.

Careers, University of Oxford

Careers, University of Oxford, equips students, researchers and alumni to explore career paths, develop workplace skills, gain experience and make informed decisions throughout their career development.

Careers combines impartial guidance and extensive careers information with programmes, internships and other opportunities to explore different sectors, gain professional insight and prepare for what comes next.

Its open-access webpages provide guidance on career paths and sectors, applications, interviews and employability skills. Students, researchers and alumni can also access vacancies and internships, careers appointments, workshops, careers fairs and employer events, alongside resources including *The Oxford Guide to Careers*.

The Careers learning and development programmes for students and researchers include:

- Insight programmes providing opportunities to learn more from specialists and explore areas including academia, consulting, creative writing, medicine, pharma/biotech, policy and publishing;
- Go Public! introducing students to careers and pathways across the public sector through events, professional insights, resources and micro-internships;
- the Summer Internship and Micro-Internship Programmes, providing Oxford students with exclusive opportunities to gain practical experience with organisations in the UK and internationally;
- the Crankstart Internship and Careers Mentoring Programmes, providing dedicated experience, career development and professional connections for Crankstart Scholars;
- OxAbility, offering learning and development opportunities for students who have a long-term health condition, disability or who are neurodivergent;
- specialist support for doctoral students and researchers exploring academic and non-academic career pathways.

Careers connects Oxford with employers, alumni and external organisations through careers fairs, events, internships, programmes and other activities, bringing opportunities and insight from the world of work into the University.

Find out more at: **ox.ac.uk/careers**.

Oxford alumni

Studying at Oxford is the beginning of a lifelong connection with a remarkable global community. Across the world, around 400,000 Oxford alumni are continuing to learn, lead, create and make a difference.

The University's Development and Alumni Engagement office curates a variety of opportunities for alumni to stay connected and be part of the Oxford community, wherever they are. Find out more at: **ox.ac.uk/alumni**.



Careers tutorial in the Stephen A. Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities

EDUCATION ENGAGEMENT

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 Oxford Lifelong Learning. In addition, Saïd Business School works with global business leaders, change makers and innovators across every industry and sector to offer a broad portfolio of courses and Oxford University Press plays a vital role in furthering the University's objective of excellence in education, engaging a global audience.

Oxford Lifelong Learning

Oxford Lifelong Learning at the 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, environmental sciences, health sciences, business and technology.

The range of courses includes:

- part-time undergraduate and postgraduate Oxford qualifications, from certificates and diplomas to masters' and doctoral degrees;
- accredited short courses, lasting between 1 and 10 weeks and offered in-person or online, including a rich selection of summer programmes usually held at Oxford's historic colleges;
- continuing professional development courses, from day schools and short refresher courses to full degree programmes;
- a comprehensive programme of 1-day events, lectures and weekend events, held in Oxford and online.

Saïd Business School

Saïd Business School is a vibrant and innovative school, embedded within the University of Oxford, offering accredited degrees and diplomas for undergraduates and postgraduates and a broad portfolio of on-campus and online courses for business executives. The school educates global business leaders, change makers and innovators across every industry and sector. Its ground-breaking research and exceptional teaching transforms individuals, who transform businesses, which transforms the world and creates impact from within.

Oxford University Press

For generations of learners 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, individuals to institutions. It is known to millions for its diverse print and digital publishing programme, which includes academic journals, reference books, educational resources, English language learning materials and dictionaries.

Across the UK and internationally, OUP provides teaching and learning resources for schools, reaching more than 50 million children each year. It also provides a range of professional development programmes to support teachers across the globe.

Oxford Reading Tree is the UK's most successful reading scheme and has taught over 30 million children in more than 130 countries how to read. The scheme has been adapted for different international markets to help young people all over the world become confident, lifelong readers.

English Language Teaching

Oxford University Press is proud to be at the heart of an international community of English language teachers and learners.

Its learning materials are trusted by millions of teachers, educational institutions, parents, and learners worldwide, and are complemented by its English language assessment services which provide that all-important recognition that empowers individuals to achieve their goals.

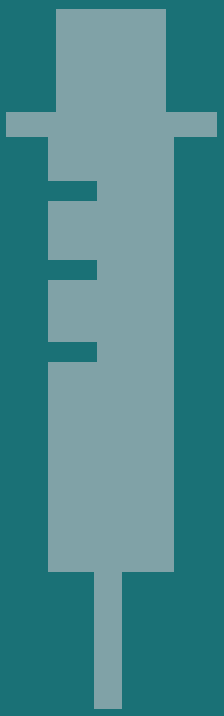
English File has supported millions of students to get talking in English for nearly 30 years. An impact study was conducted to gain an in-depth understanding of how teachers feel that English File has helped students' English-speaking skills.

- 90% of teachers who took part in this impact study believe that English File has helped to improve students' speaking skills.
- 84% think that English File helps students speak English more confidently.

The Oxford Test of English, Oxford Test of English Advanced, Oxford Test of English for Schools and Oxford Placement Test are the only suite of English proficiency tests certified by the University of Oxford. They build on OUP's English learning resources to assess learners' proficiency and open up new opportunities for success in study, work and life.



Boston Dynamics' robot dog SPOT, used to support mapping and navigation research, at the Oxford Robotics Institute



RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

In the next section you will read about the global impact of research and innovation at Oxford University across all 4 academic divisions and how that research is made possible by our gardens, libraries and museums and state-of-the-art facilities, as well as the ways in which the University prioritises public engagement in research.



Oxford's researchers are confronting some of the major challenges that face the 21st-century world

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.

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 including the prevention and treatment of major killers around the world such as bacterial resistance, 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.

Oxford REF 2021

The Research Excellence Framework (REF) assesses the quality of research in UK Higher Education Institutions. Most recently, 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) in 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**.

Academic divisions

Research at Oxford is carried out across the 4 academic divisions.

Humanities

Oxford University secured the top place in the QS World University Rankings 2026 for Arts & Humanities overall as well as in 4 academic subjects: Anatomy and Physiology, Anthropology, Geography and Modern Languages.

Artificial Intelligence, climate and ecological breakdown, future pandemics, global conflict, political systems under pressure. These are just some of the significant challenges that humanity faces today. But these challenges also present us with great opportunities to make a positive difference, through our teaching and research. The Humanities effect positive change in the world by analysing complex problems, informing debate, exchanging ideas and influencing for good. They enable us to expand our horizons and allow for other perspectives to be heard in an empathetic way. The Humanities also have the power to help us understand such challenges in their broader context through historical, cultural, political and linguistic lenses.

Find out more about the Humanities Division at Oxford: **humanities.ox.ac.uk/home**.

Read about the latest news and research from the Humanities Division at: **humanities.ox.ac.uk/news**.

The Humanities Division comprises the Faculties of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies; Classics; English Language and Literature; History; Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics; Medieval and Modern Languages; Music; Philosophy; and Theology and Religion, plus the Modern Slavery and Human Rights Policy and Evidence Centre; Rothermere American Institute; Ruskin School of Art; the Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities Cultural Programme; TORCH: The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities; Uehiro Oxford Institute; and Voltaire Foundation.



Artwork at the Ruskin School



Begbroke Science Park

Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences

In the Times Higher Education World University Rankings by Subject 2026, Oxford was ranked 1st in the world for computer science for the 8th year in a row.

Research in the Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences (MPLS) Division tackles major societal and technological challenges – whether developing new energy solutions or improved cancer treatments, understanding climate change processes, or helping to preserve biodiversity, and is increasingly focused on key interdisciplinary issues such as AI across the sciences. The 9 academic departments in MPLS Division span the full spectrum of the mathematical, computational, physical, engineering and life sciences, to undertake both fundamental research and cutting-edge applied work.

MPLS Division also includes the Oxford University Science Park, Begbroke – the only science park wholly owned and managed by Oxford University. A place where science and industry meet, it stands at the forefront of innovative collaboration. MPLS collaborates closely with colleagues in Oxford across the medical sciences, social sciences and humanities, and with other universities, research organisations and industrial partners across the globe in pursuit of transformational research geared to address critical and fundamental scientific questions.

Find out more about the MPLS Division at Oxford: **mpls.ox.ac.uk**.

Read about the latest news and research from the MPLS Division at: **mpls.ox.ac.uk/latest/news**.

The Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Division comprises the Departments of 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

In the Times Higher Education World University Rankings by Subject 2026, Oxford was, for the 15th year running, ranked first in the world for medical and health subjects.

The Medical Sciences Division's research spans the full spectrum of biomedical sciences from basic discovery to translation and implementation. Scientific breadth, depth and scale allow the division to remain agile, respond flexibly and deliver research that has global impact. 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. The division is internationally recognised for its biomedical and clinical research and teaching and is the largest of the 4 academic divisions within the University with a thriving, multidisciplinary community of academics, staff, students and clinicians.The division is closely aligned, both physically and through research aims, with the 2 local NHS partners, and this is exemplified by shared National Institute for Health Research (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.

Find out more about the Medical Sciences Division at Oxford: **medsci.ox.ac.uk**.
Read about the latest news and research from the Medical Sciences Division at: **medsci.ox.ac.uk/news**.

The Medical Sciences Division encompasses the Department of Biochemistry, the Nuffield Department of 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

In the Times Higher Education World University Rankings by Subject 2026, Oxford was the highest ranked university from the UK and Europe in Social Sciences.

The 15 outstanding departments, faculties and schools within the Social Sciences Division create an intellectually fertile environment for social scientists to thrive. Their outputs inform decision-making of current policy and business leaders, and their teaching nurtures the next generation. The division represents one of the largest groupings of social scientists in the world, with over 1,000 researchers and 5,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students exploring major challenges facing humanity, such as climate change, migration, global governance, justice, poverty and international development.

Find out more about the Social Sciences Division at Oxford: **socsci.ox.ac.uk**.
Read about the latest news and research from the Social Sciences Division at: **socsci.ox.ac.uk/news-and-events**.

The Social Sciences Division consists of the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography, the School of Archaeology, the Blavatnik School of Government, the Department of Economics, the Department of Education, the School of Geography and the Environment, the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies, the Department of International Development, the Oxford Internet Institute, the Faculty of Law, the Oxford Martin School, the Department of Politics and International Relations, the Saïd Business School, the Department of Social Policy and Intervention, and the Department of Sociology.

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.

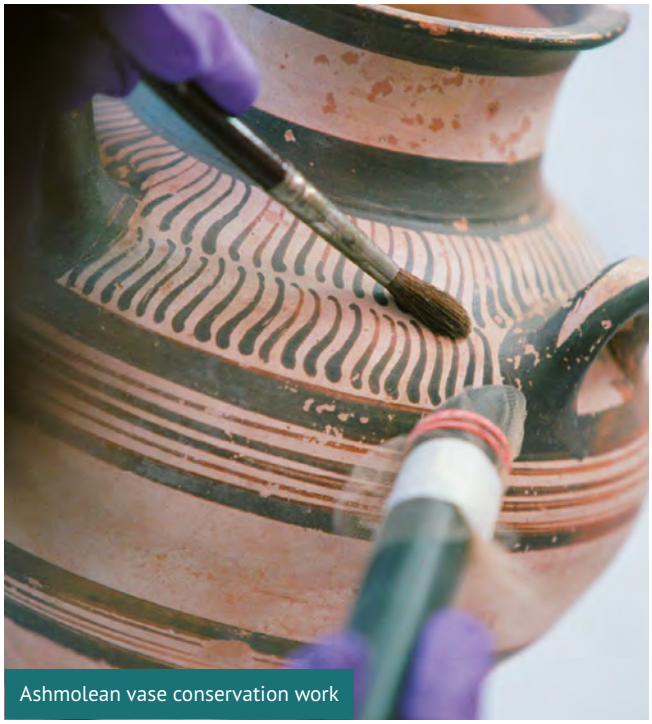
Resources for research – GLAM

Oxford's outstanding gardens, libraries and museums form one of the greatest concentrations of university collections in the world. Comprising over 21 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. 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 and support and also 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.

GLAM will soon see the completion of the **GLAM Collections Storage Facility in Swindon**, an extension of the Bodleian Libraries' Book Storage Facility. The Collections Storage Facility will house many of GLAM's world-renowned museum collections, from entomology to sculpture, alongside the 14 million books, documents, maps and other materials from the Bodleian's collections. The facility ensures the preservation of national and internationally significant research collections, enables high standards of collection care and helps to increase accessibility (both physical and virtual) for teaching, research and wider engagement with society.



Ashmolean vase conservation work

In October 2026, GLAM opened its new **Collections Teaching and Research Centre**, after several years in development. The centre brings together collections from the 4 museums in dedicated spaces for teaching and research with the collections. Located centrally, it offers previously unavailable access to objects, creating a sector-leading base for research into innovative object-based teaching.

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** partners with institutions across the globe and other departments of the University to contribute to new research in the history of art, the conservation of material culture and archaeological fieldwork.
- 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.



Saïd Business School

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

Current key developments at Oxford University include:

- **The Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities** launched its cultural programme with a day of free events and performances in April 2026 after opening to staff and students last year (2025). This world-leading new hub for the arts and humanities was made possible by £185 million in donations from Stephen A. Schwarzman. Its environmental performance is remarkable – it is the largest university building in Europe to be certified under the Passivhaus standard for very low-energy construction, and the world's first Passivhaus concert hall.
- **The Saïd Business School** has transformed the historic Osney Power Station into its new Global Leadership Centre. After formally opening in autumn 2026, its dedicated executive education facilities are now helping train the next generation of leaders so they can have a positive impact within their organisations, society and the world.
- The £41.5 million new Global Health Building has been completed at Old Road Campus and is now occupied by the Nuffield Department of Medicine's Centre for Global Health Research, some staff and students from Oxford Population Health, and members of the Oxford Global Health team. The teaching and research taking place there will bring together people from across disciplines and continents to tackle disease, improve how care is delivered and strengthen health systems worldwide.
- Nearby, construction continues on a major new facility for pandemic and vaccine research. Expected to open in 2028, the new building will host researchers from across Medical Sciences, including the Jenner Institute, the Pandemic Sciences Institute and the Oxford Vaccine Group.
- The University is working to develop its land around Oxford University Science Park, Begbroke to the north of Oxford into a unique innovation district with around 1,800 new homes, science and innovation buildings, a school, cafes, biodiverse green spaces and sporting, leisure and community facilities. Outline planning consent for the development is now secure, and detailed design work is underway with the aim of starting work on site in 2028.
- The University is recreating the Genetic Garden, an area of the University Parks that was originally designed and planted decades ago by University scientists with the aim of teaching botanical science through horticulture, but has since fallen into neglect. The Parks team has worked with 8 botanists and biochemists to produce a new planting scheme that will help both students and

the public understand fundamental genetic concepts through displays of plant families, from apples to peonies. Landscaping and planting have been underway over 2026, and by next summer this will already be growing into a beautiful and illuminating addition to the Parks.

- Oxford City Council gave approval in principle for the planning application to redevelop the Warneford Hospital site in partnership with Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust in April 2026. With philanthropic support, the University and trust are now working towards realising a vision for the site that will transform mental healthcare in Oxfordshire and beyond. Warneford Park will include a new medical sciences-focused postgraduate college, a dedicated mental health hospital and specialist facilities for the Department of Psychiatry and related disciplines.

Oxford University Science Park, Begbroke 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.

Oxford University Press

Oxford University Press (OUP) furthers the University's objective of excellence in research through publishing, assessment and the provision of associated services worldwide.

OUP works with institutions and learned societies to bring knowledge to the fingertips of students and researchers globally; curating and connecting ideas that push research and scholarship forward.

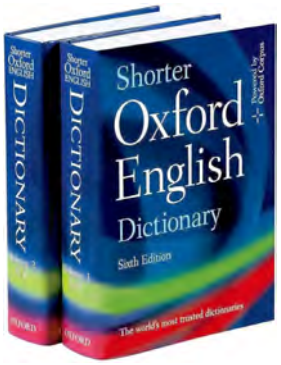
High quality

OUP publishes more than 550 high-quality journals across the humanities, social sciences, law, science and medicine. Working closely with society partners and authors, its journals contribute to a substantial body of research that supports the dissemination of knowledge. Additionally, OUP publishes more than 40,000 open access articles each year, meaning they don't have barriers to access or re-use.

The *Oxford English Dictionary* is widely regarded as the accepted authority on the English language and aims to document the English language in all its varieties from the 11th century to the present day. It contains more than 500,000 definitions from across the English-speaking world, and every year thousands of new or revised definitions are added.

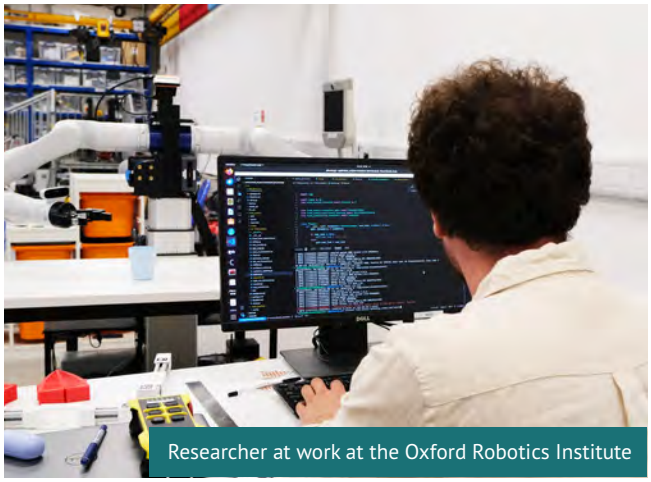
Major reference works

OUP publishes widely in the major reference works space. This includes 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; the Oxford Research Encyclopedias, featuring tens of thousands of in-depth articles across a number of core topics from climate science to criminology; and Oxford Explains, videos covering complex concepts, major debates and historical context in the field of politics. Other notable titles include Oxford Intersections, which brings together interdisciplinary research across multiple academic disciplines, and the Very Short Introduction series which has sold more than 10 million copies.



Oxford University Press creates thousands of titles and resources every year in a variety of formats. The range includes dictionaries, English language teaching materials and assessments, children's books, journals, scholarly monographs, printed music, higher education textbooks, school books, and support for teachers. You can read more about OUP's work to further the University's objective of excellence in research, scholarship and education on **page 25**.

Find out more about OUP at **https://corp.oup.com**.



Researcher at work at the Oxford Robotics Institute

Oxford University Innovation

As the University of Oxford's innovation partner, Oxford University Innovation (OUI) brings together expertise across intellectual property, licensing, consultancy, company creation and growth to help turn academic knowledge and research into real-world applications.

Whether individuals are looking to start, protect, create, grow or consult, OUI provides joined-up expertise at every stage, turning ideas into solutions that shape industries, improve lives and support a more sustainable future.

Through OUI's Incubator, students, researchers and alumni also have access to a range of programmes and support for entrepreneurs building businesses that don't rely on University-owned intellectual property (IP). The Incubator supports ideas and ventures emerging from the University's wider entrepreneurial community that need technical or commercial development.

OUI also supports social ventures and mission-led companies that balance profitability with a commitment to positive social, environmental or cultural change. This includes developing connections between universities, expertise, investment and entrepreneurial communities to help promising ideas emerge, grow and achieve impact at scale.

In the financial year 2024/25, OUI filed 93 new patent applications, concluded 1,173 licensing deals and returned £18.5 million to the University and its researchers. Oxford University through OUI is the UK leader for spinout creation and ranked first in Europe for deep tech and life sciences spinout value, with 19 new companies created in 2024/25 (15 spinouts, 4 startups). Visit: **innovation.ox.ac.uk**.

Oxford Science Enterprises

Oxford Science Enterprises launched in 2015 as a joint venture with the University of Oxford and transforms cutting-edge research into companies that can solve humanity's greatest challenges. The early-stage venture capital firm seeks to find bold ideas, fund them with patient capital, and build companies ready to change the world. A team of more than 60 are embedded in Oxford's innovation ecosystem, working hand-in-hand with academics and the leading scientific minds at the University to create spinouts, and with global investors to build transformational ventures. More than 50 breakout companies are now scaling including breakthroughs across quantum, AI, healthtech, climate and life sciences.

Recognition of research

The strength of research at Oxford is regularly recognised by the award of international prizes to its academics.

More than 50 Nobel Prizes have been won by alumni and staff of the University. More than 100 Oxford academics have been made Fellows of the Royal Society and Fellows of the British Academy.

In addition, the University's 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.

Research income

Oxford's total research income is consistently the highest of any UK university.

In the 2024/25 financial year, Oxford's total research income was £801.3 million (+2.9% change year on year).

Oxford's 2024/25 research income growth was driven by strong grant success, dynamic innovation opportunities, major partnerships and its enduring global reputation, all together creating a resilient and attractive environment for research funding.

Funding increases are driven mainly by the Research Councils (+9.5%) and also the UK public sector (+8.3%). £142.2 million research income also came from industry (+3.9%). Oxford also continues to attract largescale

partnerships, which support both direct research income and longterm funding pipelines. For the 11th consecutive year, the *Times Higher Education* World University Rankings named Oxford the UK's top university for research income.

You can find the latest financial statements, including more detailed information on research income, on the University's website at: **ox.ac.uk/about/how-we-are-run/governance-finance/finance-funding**.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION – ENGAGEMENT

Oxford's research raises debate and solves real-world problems on topics such as 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.

Fostering public engagement

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

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.

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.

Two major citizen science projects at Oxford University, which enable research that wouldn't otherwise be possible without the help of thousands of volunteers, are:

- The digital platform **Zooniverse**, which allows everyone to play their part in today's scientific discoveries and help to change the world they live in. The platform provides researchers with an invaluable resource in many fields across the sciences, humanities and more.
- **Climateprediction.net**, the world's largest climate modelling experiment for the 21st century. It runs climate modelling experiments using the home computers of thousands of volunteers. This allows researchers to answer important and difficult questions about how climate change is affecting our world now and how it will affect our world in the future.

Other projects work collaboratively with communities on specific challenges. For example, Knowledge Exchange in the Humanities at Oxford fosters collaborations with researchers and organisations external to the University. Researchers work alongside businesses, charities, artists and more to bring their research out of the higher education setting to have real-world impact.

University researchers share their findings in many ways: participating in podcasts and through the media, 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.



Botanic Garden Discovery Day



Patients benefit from a longstanding partnership between the University and local NHS through research, training and treatment

Engagement in healthcare

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.

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.

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 the University to address 21st-century healthcare challenges.


Oxford is at the forefront of research-led engagement in healthcare

Strategic partnerships

The University of Oxford has established a wide range of strategic biomedical partnerships with leading global healthcare companies, creating opportunities for researchers, clinicians and students to work collaboratively on major healthcare challenges.

Examples include the Novo Nordisk Oxford Fellowship Programme, which supports talented early-career researchers working at the interface of academia and industry, and Oxford's strategic research alliance with GSK, which brings together expertise in molecular medicine, artificial intelligence, biostatistics, experimental medicine and cancer prevention research.

Oxford researchers are also collaborating with Moderna on the development of next-generation vaccine technologies, including a pioneering clinical trial of a vaccine designed to prevent cancers associated with Lynch syndrome.

In addition, Oxford works with Apollo Therapeutics to help translate promising scientific discoveries into new medicines through collaborative drug discovery and development programmes. These examples form part of a broader portfolio of major biomedical partnerships that provide access to industrial expertise, technologies and training opportunities while accelerating the translation of research into improved patient care and public health.



COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

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 the wider region.

Community and culture – introduction

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

The University has been piloting a new staff volunteer scheme, enabling employees to allocate a number of hours to volunteering activities.

We recently published our first local engagement report, **Beyond Town and Gown: Towards a More Inclusive Oxford**. It highlights the range of ways in which the University is already working collaboratively to support a brighter future for our city and county, and our ambitions for the future.

Read more about external engagement at Oxford: **ox.ac.uk/about/oxford-in-the-world/external-engagement**.

Gardens, libraries and museums

Our gardens, libraries and museums (GLAM) continue to be at the forefront of our public engagement work, delivering an extraordinary array of high-profile programmes from their Natural Science and Heritage Scheme, providing museum-based work experience for young people, and the Iffley Academy Partnership (see below) to museum and outreach sessions, touch tours for the blind and partially sighted and workshops for adults with learning disabilities. Read more about the work of the GLAM Community Engagement team at: **glam.ox.ac.uk/community-outreach**.

Through their extensive learning programmes, GLAM offers schools and colleges unique opportunities to engage directly with collections, artefacts, original sources and the natural world, supporting curriculum learning and inspiring new perspectives for ~100,000 learners every year. Alongside workshops and visits, GLAM provides free learning resources, SEND provision, teacher development, apprenticeships and work experience, helping learners of all ages access Oxford's world-class collections and expertise – as well as working with partners in communities in the city and wider region.

GLAM has worked with Oxfordshire Hospital School for over 25 years, bringing objects and creative learning to pupils in hospital, specialist and outreach settings. More recently, partnerships with local schools, The Swan School and The Cherwell School, have extended GLAM's Discover and Create programme to support young people whose mental health needs may make it difficult to access a full school timetable. GLAM's 10-year partnership with The Iffley Academy, a community special academy for children and young people with complex special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), demonstrates how sustained collaboration can create opportunities for young people with SEND while also helping us make Oxford's museums, libraries and gardens more accessible and inclusive.



Oxford's gardens, libraries and museums welcomed around 3.8 million visitors in 2025

In 2025, **GLAM institutions together welcomed 3,816,898 visitors**. This represents a 7% year-on-year increase from 2024. With so many local residents and international visitors enjoying GLAM spaces, collections and public programmes, these institutions are now some of the most popular attractions in Oxfordshire.

The **Ashmolean achieved a major milestone in 2025**, welcoming 1 million visitors through its doors by the end of November 2025. This is the first time the museum has reached a million visitors since the reopening of the Ashmolean in 2009.

In June 2026, the Museum of Natural History officially completed its new ground floor redisplay project known as **Life as We Know It**. Installed in 4 phases over 8 years, the redisplay features 47 new showcases covering themes of eco-systems and biodiversity, evolution and earth. Visitors can see an incredible array of natural history specimens and objects in the

new displays plus plesiosaur skeletons and a new presentation of the Oxfordshire dinosaurs, including Megalosaurus, the first dinosaur ever to be scientifically described.

Read the latest news about our **Gardens, Libraries and Museums** and find out more about their events and exhibitions at: **glam.ox.ac.uk/home**.

Sport and culture

The new Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities has opened, representing a new civic and cultural hub in Oxford. Its Cultural Programme continues to build connections to the wider community and its Open House festival welcomed around 12,000 visitors. The centre now hosts a regular programme of outstanding cultural performance. Over the summer 2026, its first season, called *Unfinished Revolutions*, marked 250 years of American Independence. **The Schwarzman website lists all upcoming performances: schwarzmancentre.ox.ac.uk**.

The **Leys Festival** took place for a third consecutive year in July 2026, co-created by the Cultural Programme and communities in the Leys, and bringing University- and community-run stalls and activities together in Blackbird Leys Park.

The University partners with the Oxford Preservation Trust for the annual Oxford Open Doors weekend. Oxford Open Doors has been running since 2008, and part of the programme sees places that are not usually accessible to the general public open for free, celebrating heritage and culture across all walks of city life. To find dates for future Oxford Open Doors events and find out more, visit: **oxfordpreservation.org.uk/open-doors**.

Changing the Game

The University recently published a review of sport, entitled *Changing the Game: The Future of Oxford Sport*, which provides a clear roadmap for how we can work together across University and colleges to ensure our student, staff and the wider community benefit from excellent facilities and programmes.

We are making progress on the development of our sports facilities. The world-famous Sir Roger Bannister Iffley Road running track was officially 'opened' by the Vice-Chancellor at the 151st Athletics Varsity Match on 23 May 2026 after its 2-year renovation, resurface and accessibility transformation. Plans to further expand facilities across the city are being explored including an artificial grass football pitch, a city centre sport and leisure facility and an indoor tennis centre.

For the third year in a row, our Young Sport Leaders Programme, run jointly with student volunteers, reached 80 secondary school children from the Oxford Academy, Greyfriars, Cheney, Cherwell, Spires, Swan and John Watson schools, providing opportunities for Year 8s to come to the University, try new sports, learn from our academics and connect with our students.

We have now expanded this model to also focus on primary schools through the new Vice-Chancellor's Sports Ambassadors Programme, which supports our student athletes to go out to local schools and deliver sports enrichment clubs. We piloted the scheme at Orchard Meadow and St John Fisher primary schools with a focus on athletics, delivering sessions on running, throwing and jumping, alongside character skills development, culminating in a mini-athletics festival at Iffley Road. In 2027, the scheme plans to scale up from 2 to 6 primary schools.

Alongside this, the University continues to partner with local sports clubs to support opportunities for young people. With Oxford City FC we are developing a new 'Learning through Football' initiative to support educational opportunities for boys and girls at the club, alongside continuing as the club's main shirt sponsor.

With Oxfordshire County Cricket we have supported their Future Leaders Academy for 13–18 year olds through providing leadership education.

Read more about sport and wellbeing programmes at the University: **ox.ac.uk/about/oxford-in-the-world/sport-wellbeing**



The collegiate University is working collaboratively to ensure that everyone, including the wider community, benefits from excellent facilities and programmes

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 estimated that the total economic impact on the UK economy associated with the University of Oxford's activities in 2021–22 was £16.9 billion. The University's activities supported a total of 90,400 jobs across the UK economy, of which 56,715 were located in the South East.

The report also showed that the impact of the University's contribution to tourism in 2021–22 was £445 million.

Read more about **Oxford University's economic impact at: ox.ac.uk/research/making-a-difference/economic-impact**.

Community Partnership Fund

The University's **Community Partnership Fund** has evolved beyond a funding scheme into a partnership model, combining funding with University expertise, volunteering, storytelling, research collaboration, networks and capacity building. This year, the fund has developed partnerships with Emmaus Oxford to support pathways to employment for people with lived experience of homelessness; supported the Oxford Preservation Trust to deliver Oxford Open Doors; worked with the Oxford Hub to develop an online community platform with the Blackbird Leys community; launched the OX4 STEM club to support science education in primary schools; and collaborated with Oxford Community Action to support children's access to cycling and swimming lessons.



Student volunteering during Open Days

Student engagement

Many of Oxford's students are committed to giving something back to the community through volunteering and charity work. 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.

Examples include:

- Oxford Students' Union has a number of initiatives to help students get involved in their local community including Raise and Give (RAG), which raises money for charities chosen by students.
- There are also hundreds of societies at Oxford, all with engaged student committees running conferences, socials, community events and more.
- 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. For more information on Oxford Hub programmes, and to get involved, visit **oxfordhub.org/programmes**.
- Another notable example is the Oxford SDG Impact Lab, housed within the Department of International Development. Established in 2022, the SDG Impact Lab is a social innovation programme that brings together graduate students from across the University for a 6-month training and impact programme. During its first couple of years, the lab trained more than 100 students, collaborating with a diverse range of partners to advance the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. These partners include BMW, easyJet Holidays, the United Nations, Formula 1, Climeworks and the Ocean Cleanup, along with numerous community partners. Their initiatives range from promoting net zero in Oxford to supporting physical activity pathways for adults with learning difficulties.



The Refugee-Led Research Hub (RLRH) is a global organisation working to support people with lived experience of displacement (Refugee-led Research Festival)

Careers, University of Oxford, builds partnerships with employers, community organisations and University teams to create opportunities for students to gain experience while contributing their skills and perspectives to organisations within and beyond Oxford. **OxAbility** is one example of this work, providing 5 to 10-day learning and development placements for students who have a long-term health condition, disability or are neurodivergent. Recent hosts have included Oxford City Council, d-fine, Future Planet Capital and the Nasio Trust, as well as University teams including the Department of Biology, Oxford Lifelong Learning and the Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences. These partnerships benefit both students and the organisations involved. Students gain professional experience, develop confidence and explore the environments and adjustments that enable them to work at their best, while hosts benefit from students' skills and perspectives and gain opportunities to reflect on accessibility and inclusive working practices. OxAbility demonstrates how Careers facilitates engagement between Oxford students and the wider community, while broadening access to professional experience and encouraging more inclusive workplaces.

Global engagement

Oxford University has now been a University of Sanctuary for 3 years, and continues to be committed to being a place of welcome and inclusion. For 2026–27 admission, we will once again have more than 50 full scholarships for graduate students from displacement backgrounds. Under our Colleges of Sanctuary scheme, Reuben College has become a college of sanctuary, and other colleges have recently submitted applications.

The **Refugee-Led Research Hub**, supported by the Mastercard Foundation and the IKEA Foundation, is now supporting researchers from sanctuary backgrounds around the world, with offices and hubs in Kenya, Uganda, Malaysia, Jordan and Oxford. Our students convened a highly successful Borders, Belonging, and Building Futures conference, bringing together local and national perspectives on refugees' access to health across the UK. Locally, we convened a first meeting of the Oxfordshire Sanctuary Community, bringing together the University, Oxford Brookes, and the county and city councils' sanctuary leads to coordinate on creating a more inclusive region.

Read more about Oxford in the world at: **ox.ac.uk/about/oxford-in-the-world**





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