



Donor Impact Report

2024



700riel
YEARS OF PEOPLE & PLACE

**“Every achievement is a collective effort
by our entire community. The success of
each student today is built on centuries of
support by alumni and friends.”**

Lord Mendoza CBE , Provost of Oriel College

Letter from the Director of Development

IT IS MY privilege to introduce this report on the impact of Oriel College's generous alumni and friends. Oriel is a special community brought together by a shared experience and 700 unbroken years of people and place. Your exceptional support demonstrates the strength of the ties that bind us.

Every member of our community has a stake in Oriel's driving missions to conduct ground-breaking research, deliver outstanding teaching, and preserve our spectacular heritage. Every day, whether it is in the lab, in a tutorial, on the stage, or on the river, our community comes together around these core charitable aims. Your generosity is a vote of confidence in our ability to continue to raise the bar for education and research in the future.

It is only right that we pause to recognise, and celebrate, Orielenes from around the world and across the generations, especially as we approach our 700th anniversary in 2026. However, it is also important to establish a sure footing from which to confront the urgent challenges of our times. This year, I am proud to say, Oriel has been doing just that. And this volume gives a taste of your contribution to our work.

Consecutive generations have built on the foundations laid by Adam de Brome to transform Oriel into the wonderful college that we know today. In more recent decades, alumni and friends have contributed to a campaign launched by the Development Trust, initially to raise £45m before our anniversary. The response to the campaign has been unprecedented. The original target was surpassed in 2018, and now, with one full year to go until the birthday year, we're aiming to take the campaign to over £70m.

The largest in our history, the "People and Place" anniversary campaign was set into motion at a time when most other colleges were largely insular and universities in the UK still depended almost solely on government funding. The scale of the change to funding for the higher education sector in all but three decades is staggering.

You will probably have read about the financial challenges that some universities are facing. The introduction of tuition fees in 1998 occurred in

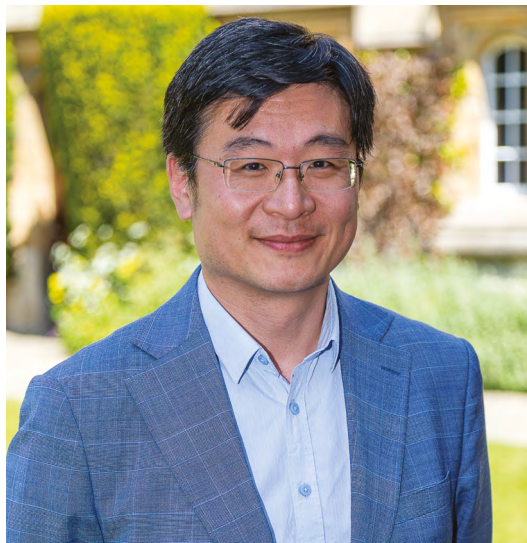


Photo by Ian Taylor / Oriel College

parallel, although largely unknown to the public, with disproportionately large reductions in government financial support. Compounded by the fee freezes of the past 12 years, resulting in real-term decreases in the value of tuition fees as inflation has soared, the funding squeeze has worsened, and many universities are now heavily reliant on alternative streams of income.

Back in May, the Office for Students issued a warning that as many as 40 per cent of England's universities are expected to run budget deficits in 2024. Some are dealing with the real prospect of closure. Oriel, I'm relieved to say, has continued to flourish, but only because of the ongoing support of its engaged community of alumni and friends.

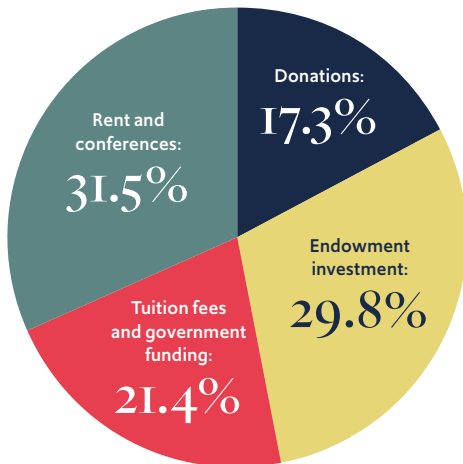
This report gives a few highlights of students whose lives have been changed, the great research that has taken place and the building projects being undertaken because of your support. Every gift, and every donor, matters. And we're deeply grateful.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Marco Zhang'.

Marco Zhang

Donor impact

College income, 2023/24



£5m to go

People and Place campaign, 2024



The year in numbers

£5m

The amount committed in new gifts and pledges for people and projects at Oriel College in 2023/24. £2.8m was received in cash gifts, including new commitments, instalments toward previously known pledges and bequests.

1,137

Alumni and friends who made gifts or pledges and the most donors Oriel has had in a single year. In no small part, this feat was achieved by the 400 alumni who contributed to the annual telephone campaign and the 361 Orielenes who decided to give back to their college during the Giving Day.

£65m

Amount raised so far by the People and Place campaign. With one year left to go until Oriel's 700th anniversary in 2026, a new target has been set for £70m.

29.8 per cent

Income yielded from endowment investments. Oriel has an endowment of around £101m, formed of donations received over seven centuries. Most Oxford colleges of a similar size have a larger endowment.

672

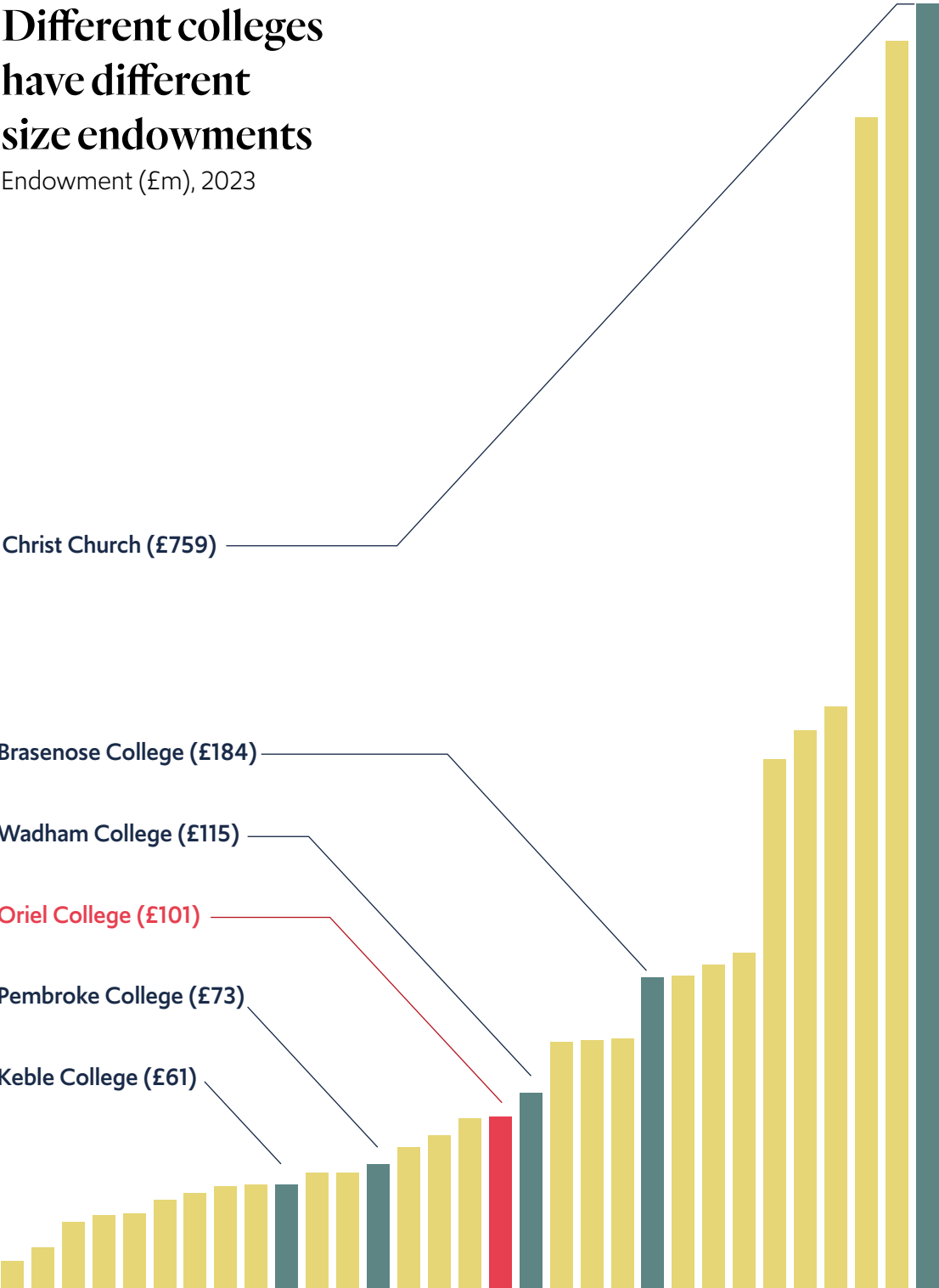
Regular donors make a monthly, quarterly or annual gift to Oriel.

278

Alumni and friends have informed Oriel of their intention to make a bequest. It is not obligatory for those who plan to leave a gift in their will to inform the College, but those who do receive an invitation to join the Adam de Brome Society.

Different colleges have different size endowments

Endowment (£m), 2023



Professor Teresa M. Bejan, Fellow in Politics at Oriel College



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Development and Alumni Engagement Office
Oriel College
Oxford
OX1 4EW

Tel: **01865 276 521**
Email: **development.office@oriel.ox.ac.uk**
Website: **www.alumni.oriel.ox.ac.uk**

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Editors

Jared Smith, Communications Officer
Aarti Basnyat, Head of Communications
Marco Zhang, Director of Development
James Fletcher, Deputy Director of Development

Front Cover

Photo by Sam Allard

Design

Fine Print Services Ltd: fineprint.co.uk

Print

Lavenham Press: lavenhampress.com

Places for the brightest

Programme widens access for disadvantaged students at Oxford

Oxford offers one of the best educations globally. For this to continue, the collegiate University must continue to attract the brightest minds, regardless of background or family income.

That does not mean changing the admissions process, which should remain fair and objective. Instead, the obstacles to ensuring coveted university places go to the most exceptional students are found at the point of application.

High-achieving pupils from lower socio-economic backgrounds are less likely to submit applications to top-tier universities than their more affluent peers, so are admitted in disproportionately fewer numbers. Orielenes are helping to raise the bar.

Oriel's access and outreach programme, funded entirely by alumni, aims to address the perceived barriers stopping pupils from schools, regions and backgrounds with low progression to higher education from applying to the University of Oxford.

Thanks in particular to the generosity of one alumnus, the College employs a full-time Outreach Officer, Carys Owen, who works directly with pupils



Photo by Aarti Bhatnagar/Oriel College

Carys Owen with student ambassadors.

attending non-selective state schools.

In order to streamline outreach efforts, she primarily works with non-selective state schools within seven link regions assigned to the College — Walsall, Wolverhampton, Dudley, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Kensington and Chelsea, and Richmond upon Thames — as part of the University's regional outreach strategy.

She also aggregates resources with access and social mobility charities and counterparts at other colleges and universities to maximise outcomes.

Oriel partners with the charity Generating Genius and St John's College, Cambridge, for example, to help disadvantaged students, primarily from Black African and Caribbean backgrounds, develop the requisite skills to enrol in STEM courses at top-tier universities.●

Covering the distance

Reimbursement scheme covers expenses for schools in link regions

School pupils who visit universities are more likely to view higher education as an option, research suggests, but not all schools can shoulder the associated expenses.

Due to budgetary constraints, schools may not be able to send groups of talented prospective students

to visit Oxford, creating disparities in access to the University. The myths that deter talented students from putting in applications are not clarified. The message that Oriel is a place for everyone is never delivered.

To overcome this, Oriel reimburses the travel expenses of schools and individuals from a link region who visit Oxford for events organised by the Outreach Officer.

The scheme is supported by an alumnus. Thanks to them, hundreds of pupils who might not have considered applying to university have had the chance to explore the city, meet with current students and be inspired to make a competitive application to Oxford.●

Equal opportunity to flourish

Brand-new bursary to ease financial strain on students from low-income families

Oriel has established a brand-new bursary thanks to a particularly generous alumnus, who has endowed the scheme.

Although students from the UK are eligible for government loans to cover living expenses and tuition fees, the rising cost of living can be a significant deterrent to UK undergraduates from under-privileged backgrounds who have earned a place at Oxford.

Oriel offers considerable bursary funding thanks to alumni support already.

By covering some of the costs of going to university, bursaries help ensure that all students, regardless of household income, have equal opportunity to flourish. They also help ensure the College has the first choice of the most talented applicants.

One student will receive funds through the new bursary each year.

Because it has been endowed, the bursary will be protected in perpetuity. ●

Support for the least well-off students

One in five UK undergraduates receive some form of financial support

In 2023/24, Oriel College gave 58 UK undergraduate students bursaries based on means-tested family income as part of the Oxford Opportunity programme.

The bursary programme offers financial support to students whose combined family income is less than £42,875 per annum.

Roughly one in five UK undergraduate students at Oriel receive a bursary to help them cover the costs of going to university. Meanwhile, students who

encounter unforeseeable financial difficulties once enrolled in a programme can apply for hardship grants and loans.

This financial provision is only possible because of the cumulative donations of thousands of alumni and friends.

In 2023/24, more than 250 students received some form of financial support in the form of bursaries, hardship funds, academic prizes, graduate scholarships and grants. ●

Photo by Jared Smith/Oriel College



Students running in the annual pancake race, 2024.

1 in 5

UK undergraduate students at Oriel receive a bursary

250

students received some form of financial support in 2023/24

Scholarships for female Afghan scholars

Yalda Hakim sponsors graduate education for Afghan women

Oriel College offers female Afghan students an opportunity to study for a fully funded master's course at the University of Oxford.

Yalda Hakim, an international broadcast journalist for Sky News, partnered with Oriel to launch the graduate scholarships programme in March 2021.

Five months later, on 15 August, the Taliban swept into Kabul, forming a de facto government which has imposed restrictions on the freedoms of women, including banning education.

Today, it has been over three years — more than 1,000 days — since girls aged 12 or over could receive a formal education in the country.

The scholarships at Oriel are singular at Oxford in preference being given to Afghan candidates at the selection stage. They are awarded on the basis of academic merit and offer full funding — which cover all fees at the overseas level as well as living costs.

This scholarship programme is one among many established by the Yalda Hakim Foundation to address

the education crisis in Afghanistan.

To date, the foundation has supported more than 200 displaced Afghan students.

Oriel offers more than 20 graduate scholarships, thanks to alumni funding, to attract the best graduate talent globally. ●



The Yalda Hakim Foundation was set up by its eponymous founder in 2019.

Funding scheme for academics

Oriel Fellows tap into exclusive research fund

Nurturing the research of academics in tandem with the central University's faculties and departments is a growing priority for Oriel College.

For three consecutive years now, Fellows at the College have had exclusive access to an alumni-sponsored funding scheme.

Three Fellows submitted proposals and have received funds to support their research in 2023/24. They are Professor Julia Mannherz, Professor Patrick Farrell and Dr Olivia Elder.

Professor Mannherz, Fellow in History, has received funding to publish a Russian translation of her 2012 book, *Modern Occultism in Late Imperial Russia*, with Academic Studies Press.

The translation will make her research accessible to a global Russian-language readership — something that will help disprove the notion that the “all Western engagement with Russia is inevitably hostile”, she says.

Professor Patrick Farrell, Fellow in Mathematics, has received funding to recruit a graduate student as a research assistant to study the “topology optimisation of multistable mechanical structures” for five months.

Leveraging funds from the scheme, Dr Olivia Elder, Fellow in Ancient History, held a two-day workshop on women in Roman historiography in September 2024, in preparation for an edited volume on the same theme. ●

A partnership about change

Oriel College continues partnership with the Environmental Change Institute

Oriel has continued its nearly 20-year partnership with the University of Oxford's Environmental Change Institute after a grant-making trust, introduced to Oriel by an alumnus, agreed to fully fund a new energy researcher for a further five years.

Oriel Research Fellows leveraging previous investments by the trust have brought in more than £60m of additional funding — founding research centres with a global reach and recruiting top junior academics and graduate students.

Professor Yadvinder Malhi CBE FRS is the Director of the Leverhulme Centre for Nature Recovery, a £15m programme that aims to "halt and reverse" the ongoing loss and degradation of nature and its biodiversity. has also been reappointed as the Trustee of the Natural History Museum board for a second four-year term.

For the decade to 2017, when he vacated his research fellowship to lead the £19m Centre for Research into Energy Demand Solutions, Professor

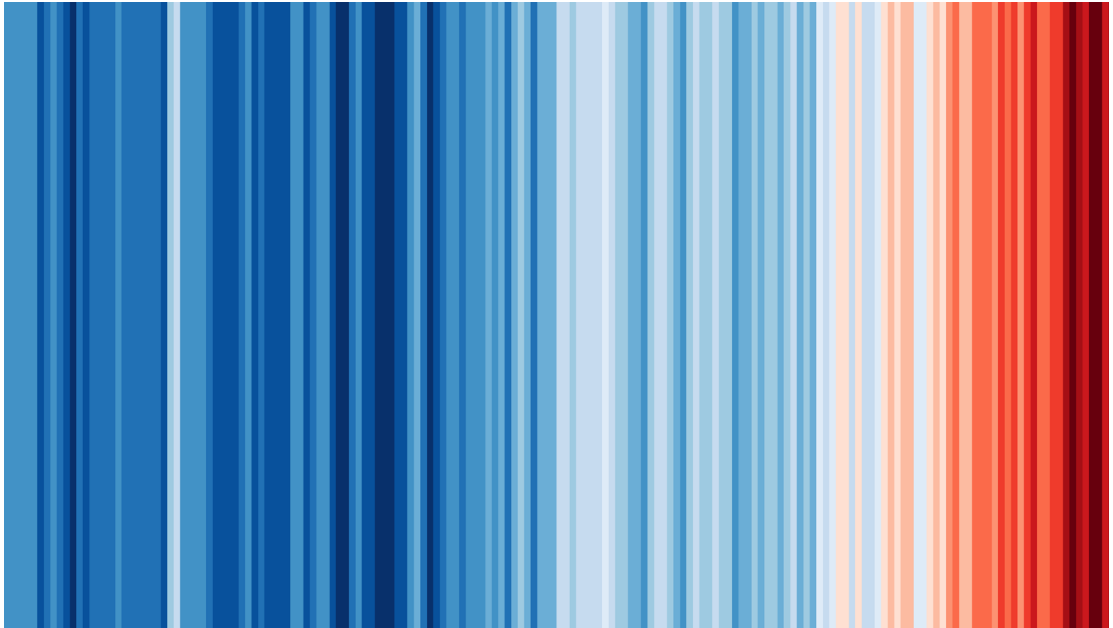
Nicholas Eyre was a co-director at the UK Energy Research Centre.

Additionally, he was a lead author of the key report for the climate negotiations in France when global leaders signed the Paris Agreement in 2015.

Meanwhile, Dr Connie McDermott's tenure has been defined by policy and public engagement. For example, she has advised the UK House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee on the sustainability of the UK's domestic timber sector.

Professor Charlie Wilson is the principal investigator for projects with more than €18m of funding. He is also an advisor for a pioneering £8.7m project led by Dr Phil Grünewald, a Supernumerary Research Fellow at Oriel, to track residential electricity use as the UK decarbonises energy infrastructure.

Recruitment for Professor Wilson's successor, who will lead the Environmental Change Institute's energy programme, is ongoing. ●



Mean global temperatures from 1850 to 2020.

Graphic by Professor Ed Hawkins/University of Reading

Attracting global talent

Three African graduates to complete fully-funded master's degrees

Three graduate students from sub-Saharan Africa will be offered the opportunity to study for a fully-funded master's degree at Oriel thanks to an alumnus who has financially backed their studies.

The alumnus has accepted an extraordinary matched funding opportunity made possible by the Mastercard Foundation to partner with the Africa Oxford Initiative (AfOx) and offer the scholarships.

The three students offered the scholarships will be automatically enrolled in the AfOx Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program.

Once they have completed their courses, the students will have the option to work with African organisations on projects to address challenges that face the continent.

The funding covers the tuition fees and associated living expenses of one graduate student undertaking a one-year course for each of the next three years.

Patricia Mativo, who was the first AfOx scholarship



Photo by Arti Basyal/Oriel College

Patricia Mativo (2023) was the first AfOx scholar to attend Oriel College.

recipient at Oriel, completed a master's course in Environmental Change and Management in September 2024.

Mativo shared her plans to work for the UN and the government of Kenya, saying: "I am happy to go back to Kenya. I am passionate about working with my people.

"The thing that gives me pleasure is when I really make an impact on people's lives." ●

Physical and life sciences

Two more doctoral students to receive James Meade Scholarships

Two doctoral students in the physical and life sciences are to receive James Meade Scholarships following a transformational gift.

James Meade (1926), among the most influential economists of the previous century, is one of two alumni of Oriel College to have won a Nobel Prize.

The inaugural James Meade scholar, Jonathon Clark, joined Oriel to complete a doctorate in Inorganic Chemistry in 2022.

The donor who originally funded Clark's doctorate

has increased his contribution to support a second talented scholar.

"The James Meade Scholarship has given me complete freedom to explore what I find most interesting," Clark has said.

He added: "As the funding is not tied to industry or a grant on a specific topic, I am not limited in what I can explore with my research which I really enjoy."

Clark studies how light exposure affects the magnetic and electronic properties of molecules that contain lanthanide ions. Lanthanide ions are commonly used in molecular probes for visualising tumours and as contrast agents in magnetic resonance imaging.

He has said that his research could lead to advances in imaging technology which, in turn, could help medical professionals identify tumours and tailor therapies accordingly. ●

Mechanical Engineering

Engineering fellowship endowment secures future of subject

Engineering has been taught at Oxford for one hundred years and at Oriel for half of that time, but is now set to become a permanent fixture on the prospectus.

Dr John Huber, the incumbent Tutor in Mechanical Engineering, whose Fellowship will be named by the donor in due course, has expressed his sincerest thanks on behalf of Oriel for the impactful endowment of his post.

The endowment ensures that Oriel can “continue to educate and inspire the engineers of the future”, he said.

Lord Mendoza CBE, Oriel’s Provost, said that

the endowment of the Mechanical Engineering Fellowship “underpins an important post at our College”, adding that it “benefits our entire community”.

Currently, about half of Oriel’s 48 Tutorial Fellowships are fully funded. To protect the future of tutorial teaching, more posts need to be endowed.

Huber researches the mechanics of materials, modelling the responses of different materials to stresses and strains, and teaches mechanical engineering and mathematics to engineering students.

His research group at the University of Oxford’s Department of Engineering Science is specifically interested in materials that have “unexpected properties”, such as being able to change shape “on demand”, or redirect or suppress sound waves.

He also has ongoing projects exploring the microstructures of ferroelectrics, methods to convert vibrational energy into electrical energy and the effects of dry wear of metals. ●

Nature recovery in sub-Saharan Africa

Ghanaian doctoral student receives full scholarship

A student from Ghana is studying for a fully-funded doctorate while based at Oriel after a recent donation by an alumnus.

Bawa Sulemana (2024) has received a scholarship to complete his doctoral research at the University of Oxford’s School of Geography and the Environment.

The research is being supervised by Professor Yadvinder Malhi, who has been a Senior Research Fellow at Oriel for nearly 20 years.

Sulemana’s project complements Malhi’s own ecological studies monitoring biodiversity in relation to forest biomass at the Leverhulme Institute for Nature Recovery.

The doctoral student’s goal is to understand the dynamics of nature recovery in Kwahu, Ghana, the site of an ambitious community-based nature restoration programme.

The Kwahu region — a “living laboratory” — is already a case study landscape for Malhi and his colleagues at the Leverhulme Institute. ●



Photo by Yadvinder Malhi/Oriel College

A programme in Kwahu, Ghana, aims to restore a degraded cocoa landscape to a biodiverse and economically productive ecosystem.



Photo by John Cairns/Oriel College

Future-proofing our built heritage

Largest renovation in a century underway ahead of 2026 anniversary

Oriel College is preparing for its eighth century of continuous existence by restoring its built heritage so that it continues to inspire future generations of students.

The social heart of the College — the east range of First Quad, built more than half a millennium ago — is undergoing an extensive renovation.

A full restoration of Hall has already been completed. Now the bar and other catering spaces are being refurbished, and the kitchens rebuilt.

Modifications such as the installation of lifts will improve accessibility so that everyone can enjoy the social spaces.

Once the work in First Quad is complete, an ambitious refurbishment project of Oriel's intellectual epicentre will begin.

The Senior Library, seated on the first floor of the neoclassical building designed by James Wyatt in Second Quad, will be restored and upgraded. Oriel's Librarian Hannah Robertson said the project will be "transformative".

In addition to structural repairs to the floor and gallery, environmental controls, security features and new lighting will be installed, creating a functional rare books library for research.

Alumni who donate £500 or more to support the work will be recognised with a celebratory bookplate fitted to an item in the collection.

Many of the works in the library's collection of more than 25,000 rare books and manuscripts are academically significant.

While the renovation is ongoing, the collection is being held for safekeeping at a secure external storage facility. But once it has returned, a scrupulous cataloguing project of the total holdings of the library is set to begin.

All of the items in the collection will be listed on the University of Oxford's library digital catalogue, SOLO, making them discoverable to researchers from all around the world.

The collection includes a number of treasures, including Oriel's first edition of Isaac Newton's *Chronology of Ancient Kingdoms*, Captain Sir John Franklin's personal copy of his *Narrative of a Journey to the Shores of the Polar Sea* and first editions of Henry Purcell's musical scores.

Neither the restoration work nor the cataloguing project in the Senior Library would be possible without the extraordinary support from alumni and friends. ●

Contribute to our people and place

To make a one-off donation or set up a direct debit visit Oriel College's secure giving page: www.development.ox.ac.uk/oriel-college

Most donations are unrestricted and allow the college to respond to where the need is greatest.

Contact development.office@oriel.ox.ac.uk to discuss your gift with a member of the Development and Alumni Engagement team.

Leaving a legacy

With almost 300 members, the Adam de Brome Society is a distinguished community of alumni and friends who share a deep commitment to Oriel College.

The society bears the name the founder and first Provost who was also the Oriel's first legator.

In recognition of their generosity, members are invited to a lunch at Oriel College and will receive an Adam de Brome tie or silk scarf.

Anyone planning to make a provision in their will is welcome to get in touch with development office for a confidential conversation. A member of the team will be happy to share more information about the impact of legacies.

£10
per month

could help a student jump at every opportunity of their precious time at Oriel

£50
per month

could help unleash the knowledge contained in the Senior Library

£100
per month

could help researchers move one step closer to solving the world's most pressing problems

Donate



Photo by John Cairns/Oriel College



Development and Alumni Engagement Office
Oriel College
Oxford
OX1 4EW
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