

India in Oxford

A major source of students and academic staff

Indian student numbers at Oxford have grown into the sixth largest nationality group. The majority of Oxford's 354 Indian students are graduate students, with a particular concentration in the social sciences. Top subjects studied by Indians at Oxford include mathematical finance, economics, physics and PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics). Indian students contribute to student life through many societies, including the Oxford Indian Society and the Oxford University Hindu Society. In addition to the growing number of students from India, there are nearly 100 academics from India working at Oxford. They include lecturers, professors, and full-time researchers, across all disciplines.

Scholarships

One critical issue in attracting the best Indian students to Oxford is the availability of scholarship funding. The University has a strong history of providing scholarship opportunities to students from India, and is seeking to increase the number of such opportunities.

- Since 1947, over 180 Rhodes Scholars from India have pursued graduate study at Oxford
- Since the scheme was established in 2001, around 60 Indian students have been awarded scholarships through the Clarendon Fund – Oxford's flagship award for graduates, which is funded by OUP, over two dozen Oxford Colleges, and several external partners
- The Felix Scholarships have been dedicated to supporting Indian students at Oxford since 1991, with 115 scholarships funded to date
- Indian students at Oxford also hold other prestigious scholarships, such

as the Commonwealth Scholarships and Chevening Rolls-Royce Science and Innovation Leadership Programme scholarships

The generous support of donors is helping to expand crucial funding. For example, the Weidenfeld Scholarships and Leadership programme cultivates leaders of tomorrow from several countries, including India. Links with colleges include the SKP (Pathak) Scholarships for Indian graduate students and the Pathak Travel Fellowship at Exeter College, made possible by the generous support of Mr Krishna Pathak.

Rich collections

Coinciding with the centenary celebrations of Oxford University Press India, the Ashmolean is exhibiting Howard Hodgkin's collection of paintings from Mughal India, long considered one of the finest of its kind in the world, from February to April 2012. The exhibition is titled "Howard Hodgkin: Visions of Mughal India" and many of the works which will be shown have never been exhibited to the public before.

The Indian collections of the Ashmolean Museum are of international importance, showcasing Indian history from 600 to 1900 and in the Pitt Rivers Museum the Indian collections comprise well over 15,000 items, covering most aspects of daily life relating to Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist and Sikh communities. The Bodleian Indian Institute Library holds over 100,000 volumes in Indian and European languages and one of the world's most important collections of Sanskrit manuscripts. The Bodleian Law Library has extensive holdings related to law in India, while the Oriental Institute Library, the History Faculty Library, and Queen Elizabeth House Library also hold important collections of South Asian materials.



Dr Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India, in conversation with the Chancellor of Oxford University, Lord Patten of Barnes, after receiving his honorary Degree of Doctor of Civil Law

Prominent alumni

Over 1,300 graduates of Oxford live in India today. Many participate in the Oxford and Cambridge Societies of Mumbai, New Delhi, Kolkata, Bangalore, and Pune. Indian graduates of Oxford join a glittering list of alumni playing leading roles in Indian society and the world. They include:

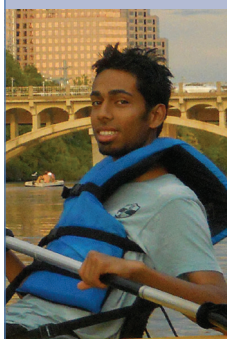
- Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India
- Indira Gandhi, first woman Prime Minister of India
- Cornelia Sorabji, India's first woman lawyer
- Soha Ali Khan, actress
- Amitav Ghosh, award-winning novelist
- Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission
- Deepak Nayyar, member of the National Knowledge Commission
- Sagarika Ghose, journalist
- Mukund Rajan, Managing Partner, Tata Capital Private Equity Fund
- Vikram Seth, award-winning author

is always so much to do in Oxford, that there has barely been a dull day." Outside his research, Challenger has been the winner of a table tennis tournament at Exeter College.

Aspirations:

After completing his DPhil, Challenger would like to continue pursuing a research career in Physics. He hopes to work on unravelling some of the many mysteries in theoretical physics, especially in the processes involved at the time of the origin of our Universe, or in his terms "a fundamental theory of everything". He would also like to promote the study of basic sciences in his home country.

STUDENT PROFILE: Challenger Mishra



Course: DPhil in Theoretical Physics

Hometown: Kolkata

Previous education: M.A. Physics, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Kolkata

The Oxford Experience:

Challenger came to Oxford in October 2011 as a Rhodes Scholar. He joined the Rudolf Peierls Centre for Theoretical Physics and is undertaking research on String theory with Professor Andre Lukas.

Challenger's stay in Oxford has been fascinating both academically and socially. Being in the company of fine academics from almost every possible field is truly inspiring. "The greatest virtue of being in Oxford is the ease with which one can engage with people across all disciplines." Challenger thinks that Oxford helps one build a multidimensional character. "There

INDIA & OXFORD



March 2012

A growing partnership

Oxford University continues invigorating the connections with India that have enriched the University's intellectual heritage for more than 400 years. Today these links are among the broadest and deepest of any university. Through research on and in India, collaborations, courses at both Undergraduate and Postgraduate level and a growing number of scholarships, Oxford has made this expanding partnership one of its priorities.



Maharaja Dhiraj Singh of Raghugarh riding © Howard Hodgkin Collection

Inaugural Oxford-India Day



On 17 June 2011 the University held its first Oxford-India Day, an event to showcase the incredible breadth of work at Oxford on, and in collaboration with, India. More than 80 external visitors attended, many of them flying over from India, including business leaders, civil society leaders, policy planners and academics. Almost 200 members of the University were at the celebrations too, including many Indian students. The proceedings were kicked off by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Andrew Hamilton, and the Chancellor, Lord Patten of Barnes, Co-Chair of the UK-India Round Table, who emphasised the importance of the enduring 400-year-old relationship between Oxford and India. Indian historian Professor Ramachandra Guha (pictured) gave a keynote address entitled 'Why India is the World's Most Interesting Country'. Oxford-India Day provided Indian visitors with a chance to sample something of Oxford and hear about current research projects. The day was also a platform for Oxford scholars, and research relevant to India that each of the separate academic divisions is conducting was explored in talks during the afternoon. The day culminated in a cricket match between the Oxford Indian Society and the Oxford International team, followed by an evening reception at the Ashmolean.

INDOX: The India-Oxford Cancer Research Network

By 2020, it is estimated that 70% of all cancer cases will be in low and middle-income countries – and approximately one fifth of these in India alone. Dr Raghbir Ali, Clinical Epidemiologist at Oxford's Cancer Epidemiology Unit and Director of INDOX says that 'cancer is increasing in India and if it reaches levels seen in the West, tens of millions of people will be affected. If we can understand the causes of cancer in India better, we can take steps to change some of these factors and prevent an epidemic.'

Mortality rates for cancer are much higher in India than in the West due to the cost of treatment, social stigmas and lack of awareness of the signs of cancer which prevent many people from coming forward for treatment. INDOX, a partnership between the University of Oxford and 12 of India's top comprehensive cancer centres, was established in 2005 to foster collaboration and build capacity for research across all the participating centres to conduct epidemiological studies and clinical trials of significance to the Indian population, to raise awareness and to inform future cancer prevention programmes in India. For instance, the INDOX Case Control Consortium study is investigating lifestyle, diet and genetic factors associated with the most common cancers in India.



India and Oxford's extensive collaboration

Oxford-India Network in Theoretical Physical Sciences

Professor Subir Sarkar has been a key driver of the Oxford-India Network in Theoretical Physical Sciences which has strengthened Oxford's links with premier institutions in India including the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai. The collaborative interdisciplinary research spans fields of enormous diversity in scale, ranging from elementary particle and superstring theory, through nanotechnology, complexity and the collective behaviour of matter, to the motion of living organisms and the evolution of the universe as a whole.

Climate change and the informal economy



Together with Indian researchers, Professor Barbara Harriss-White is studying the way technologies and workers combined produce CO₂ in India's informal economy, outside the direct ambit of public policy, and aims to diagnose ways of reducing CO₂ emissions and improving jobs. Professor Harriss-White says: 'Informal economies have been largely ignored in the debates about climate change. We hope to develop new models.' The pilot project will focus on rice and aims to develop a number of micro-level methods that will be usefully applied elsewhere, including in advanced economies.

Young Lives project

Young Lives is a long-term international study following the lives of 12,000 children over 15 years in 4 study countries – Ethiopia, the state of Andhra Pradesh in India, Peru, and Vietnam. Through a combination of interviews, group work and case studies it is providing an evidence base to improve understanding of childhood poverty and inform policy formulation. Professor Jo Boyden at Oxford leads the team, working with partners in Andhra Pradesh: the Centre for Economic and Social Sciences, Sri Padmavathi Mahila Visvavidyalayam, and Save the Children.



© Young Lives/Farhatullah Beig



The Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative

Initiative (OPHI), directed by Dr Sabina Alkire and advised by Nobel laureate Professor Amartya Sen, is an economic research centre within the Department of International Development. OPHI's work is grounded in Professor Sen's capability approach. It has pioneered new ways to measure poverty including the "Multidimensional Poverty Index", a global poverty measure covering 109 countries, first included in UNDP's flagship Human Development Report in 2010. OPHI has explored poverty in India using the MPI, drawing attention to the numbers of poor people living in India's poorest states and the intensity of their poverty. Its research also includes papers on India's Below Poverty Line threshold.

Study into politicisation of young unemployed



A new Oxford University-led study launched in January 2012 is looking at how young educated people who are unemployed become politicised in different ways - either through violent struggle or as reformers working for a more equal society. Dr Craig Jeffrey is leading the three-year extensive research project, which will focus on northern India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, and involves colleagues at Oxford and Edinburgh universities.

Providing essential healthcare

The George Centre for Healthcare Innovation at the University of Oxford is devoted to finding effective affordable ways to provide essential healthcare to all those who need it, particularly in resource-poor settings. In India, the Centre works closely with its sister organisation in Hyderabad (The George Institute for Global Health, India), as well as with other key stakeholders. The Centre has three major programs in India: the Million Indian Adolescents' Study, which looks at how to provide appropriate healthcare to this group, the India Rural Health Initiative and the Healthcare Leadership Programme.

Media Law and Policy



Oxford University's Programme in Comparative Media Law & Policy (PCMLP), under the leadership of Dr Nicole Stremlau, has established an India media research project. PCMLP is currently engaged in research on media law and policy in India and, since 2010, has organised annual regional rounds of the Price Media Law Moot Court Competition in Delhi and an annual symposium on contemporary issues of media policy in South Asia. These events have been organised in collaboration with the National Law University, Delhi and the National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata.

A leading centre for the study of India in the West

Talented academics

Oxford is home to more than eighty academics who work on South Asia, the vast majority specialising in the study of India. Oxford academics study all aspects of India, including its history, language, literature, religions, economy, politics, society, and public health. In addition to those already mentioned, they include an expert on Islamic militancy (Faisal Devji), the author of *Vishnu's Crowded Temple: India Since the Great Rebellion* (Maria Misra) and an anthropologist studying skilled migrants from India and China (Xiang Biao), as well as a new generation of postdoctoral scholars working in economics: e.g., microfinance, energy technology and dalit business.

Specialist postgraduate courses

In 2008, the University of Oxford launched the one-year MSc in Contemporary India, the first of its kind in the world. The course immerses graduate students in the study of India's signal achievements and its persistent challenges, at the same time as equipping them to conduct rigorous social science analysis. Barbara Harriss-White, Professor of Development Studies, led the creation of the course, and has been delighted by the quality and the diversity of the students it has attracted: 'They are a fascinating mix of academics-in-training, consultants and potential investors, and a stream of journalists and media experts, many taking a sabbatical from established careers.' Now led by Dr Nandini Goopu, this course is the most recent addition to a suite of graduate programmes focused on South Asia.

Oxford: promoting Business, Innovation and Growth in India

Isis Innovation (Isis) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the University of Oxford, which manages Oxford's intellectual property portfolio and takes these innovations to the market place. As a matter of strategic priority Isis is exploring alliances with organisations in India who are interested in innovation and entrepreneurship, including one initiative currently underway at the University of Calcutta. Isis will map the University's innovation ecosystem and provide technology transfer support to enable effective translation of research. This will enable the University to build its existing capabilities and develop and implement a technology transfer framework.

Oxford's Said Business School has run the Oxford India Business Forum since 2006. It was established to provide a platform for global business leaders, academics, policy makers and sector specialists to debate some of the most pertinent issues affecting business, economic, and social growth in India. In previous years, the Forum has focused on health and the environment, corporate governance, capital markets and education, bringing together Indian, Oxford, and other international experts for lively discussion. The focus for the 2012 forum, to be held in Mumbai in March, will be Governance and Financial Regulation.

Oxford University Press

Oxford University Press (OUP), a department of the University of Oxford, established its Indian operation in Bombay (now Mumbai) in 1912. It now includes a head office in Delhi, four regional offices, and 15 showrooms across the country. OUP India publishes more than 400 new books a year ranging from scholarly academic and general titles to school courses, higher education textbooks, bilingual dictionaries, and atlases. Its scholarly list is considered an authoritative resource for the study of South Asia. In recent years its academic books programme has expanded to include companions and encyclopaedias on the Indian economy, politics, music, and South Asian Christianity, among others. OUP India is considered the country's foremost publisher of school textbooks and is a market leader in ELT. It has developed suitable course-linked digital resources for students and teachers, and over the last decade has set up a successful higher education programme focusing on the areas of engineering, computer science, and management. OUP India celebrates its centenary in 2012.



Partnership with IISc Bangalore

Oxford and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore have signed an MOU focused on affordable healthcare. The initiative will bring together the complementary scientific capabilities of Oxford and IISc in biology and engineering by working with scientists and clinicians from Bangalore hospitals as well as scientists from rural Indian universities, and innovation and commercialisation experts from the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore.

STUDENT PROFILE: Hem Borker



Course: DPhil in Education

Hometown: Delhi

Previous education:

B.A. (Hons.) History, St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi; M.A. Social Work, Department of Social Work, University of Delhi

The Oxford Experience:

Hem is a Clarendon Scholar and is seeking in her doctoral research to explore the complex matrix of Muslim identity, gender and madrasa education. Her research aims to understand patriarchy at the intersection of religion, caste and class through an ethnographic study of an exclusive girls' madrasa in India. Since arriving she has found the Oxford experience truly liberating. "I find the academic environment in Oxford so positively charged that it fires me up to give my best not just to my research but everything. The supportive departmental intellectual climate, the quality of research supervision, the stimulating peer interaction and social contact, all positively enhance academic life at Oxford." What encapsulates the spirit of Oxford for Hem is the manner in which people are always willing to go that extra mile. Outside of her department or library, Hem can be found in the University Parks on a run or doing yoga.

Aspirations:

After completing her DPhil, Hem wishes to pursue a career in research geared towards policy making in India, especially policy which translates the goal of inclusive development into reality.