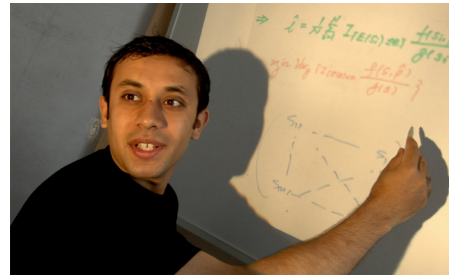


# India in Oxford



## Students from India: the sixth largest group of students at Oxford

The first Indian students came to Oxford in 1871. It was religion, not race, which had barred their entry previously: until that year, only members of the Church of England were admitted to the University.

Today, India is the 6th largest source of students at Oxford, with 281 students currently enrolled. The majority of our Indian students are graduate students. Indian students are the second fastest growing student group.

## Indian students: studying the social sciences

More than half of our Indian students are studying on courses in the social sciences, particularly business and law. Top areas studied by Indians include business administration, civil law, development studies, financial economics, biochemistry, and engineering science.

## Scholarships for Indians

One of the critical issues in attracting the best Indian students to Oxford is the availability of scholarship funding. The University is currently looking to increase funding for the best Indian students to study at Oxford.

## Rhodes Scholarships

Since 1947, many distinguished Indian students have benefited from this renowned scholarship programme, pursuing graduate studies at Oxford before going on to significant leadership roles.

They include **Professor Deepak Nayar** (member, Knowledge Commission), **Dr Mukund Rajan** (Vice President, Tata Sons Ltd) and **Mahesh Rangarajan** (historian and political commentator), to name only a few. We awarded an honorary doctorate to **Montek Singh Ahluwalia** (Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, also a Rhodes Scholar) in June 2008.

The 100th Indian Rhodes Scholar arrived in Oxford in 1995; five new Indian Rhodes Scholars arrive in Oxford each year.

A selection of prestigious scholarships at Oxford	Number of Indian students
Clarendon Fund	24
Felix	12
Rhodes Scholarships	10
Overseas Research Student Awards (ORS)	10
Kokil Pathak Scholarships	8
Dorothy Hodgkin Postgraduate Awards	2
Commonwealth scholarships	2
Shell Centenary / Shell Centenary Chevening	1



Top left: Hammad Khan is studying for a doctorate in Engineering Science at Oxford University  
Above: Past MBA students from India at Oxford University's Saïd Business School

## Other scholarships

A number of Indian students hold University of Oxford scholarships, such as the Clarendon Scholarship (open to non-European students) and the Felix Scholarship (for Indian students).

The generous support of outside donors is helping to expand our funding: the new Kokil Pathak Scholarships fully fund four Indian graduate students each year at Exeter College, Oxford.

Indian students also hold prestigious awards from the British government and research councils, such as the Dorothy Hodgkin Postgraduate Awards and the Commonwealth Scholarships.

## Prominent alumni

Over 880 graduates of Oxford live in India today. Many participate in the Oxford and Cambridge Societies of Mumbai, New Delhi, Kolkata, Bangalore, and Pune.

Since independence, a number of Indians who studied at Oxford have gone on to play prominent roles not only in Indian society but often on the world stage as well. These include:

- Dr Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India
- Indira Gandhi, first woman Prime Minister of India
- Cornelia Sorabji, India's first female lawyer
- Soha Ali Khan, actress
- Vikram Seth, award-winning novelist
- Girish Karnad, award-winning playwright and actor.



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

# INDIA & OXFORD



March 2009

## A strong bond

Oxford University has made strengthening its relationship with India a priority. Through new posts, scholarship programmes, and academic collaboration, Oxford is committed to expanding and invigorating the connections with India that have enriched the University's intellectual heritage for more than 400 years.



A bronze figure of a tiger, believed to be a bhutu (spirit). Mid 19th century. Pitt Rivers Museum

## A leading centre for the study of India in the West

### Specialist master's courses

Our two-year MPhil in Modern South Asian Studies gives students an in-depth understanding of the histories, societies and cultures of South Asia and neighbouring regions. It also provides intensive training in one or more of the languages of South Asia.

In 2008, Oxford University introduced a new one-year MSc course devoted specifically to the study of contemporary India. Professor Barbara Harriss-White, Professor of Development Studies, was instrumental in setting up this globally unique degree. Students are taught 'real knowledge' about contemporary India together with the social sciences skills necessary to analyse the theoretical foundations of that knowledge.

Other specialist courses focused on India include MPhils in Tibetan and Himalayan Studies and Classical Indian Religions. India also figures prominently in master's courses in development economics.



Professor Barbara Harriss-White learning about cultural change on an educational visit to Arunachal Pradesh in October 2007

### Rich collections

Oxford University's collections provide extremely rich resources for research on India. The **Indian Institute Library** holds over 100,000 volumes, comprising printed material in Indian languages, European language books relating to India, and one of the world's most important collections of Sanskrit manuscripts.

The **Bodleian Law Library** has extensive holdings related to law in India, with a primary focus on the laws of the Indian republic. The Oriental Institute Library, the History Faculty Library, and Queen Elizabeth House Library also hold important collections of South Asian materials.

The Indian collections of the **Ashmolean Museum** are of international importance. The India Gallery encompasses all periods of Indian history, from the Indus Valley Civilisation (circa 2000 BCE) to the 20th century. It also houses the Newberry collection of 1,200 early Gujarati printed cotton fragments – the most important study group of its kind in the world.

The Indian collections of the **Pitt Rivers Museum** comprise well over 15,000 items, covering most aspects of daily life relating to Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist and Sikh communities.

## Opening new paradigms: The Oxford University India Business Centre

In January 2008, the Vice-Chancellor announced the establishment of the Oxford University India Business Centre (OUIBC). The Centre, located at Oxford's Saïd Business School, will address major business issues affecting India, through collaborative research between academics in Oxford, India, and elsewhere. Its primary objective is to learn from India's business success and innovative solutions, as the country makes the transition from poverty to prosperity, which will form a guide to future generations of countries attempting similar transitions. The Centre will engage directly many Oxford academics throughout the University in cross-disciplinary research.

The India Business Centre will also focus on teaching, providing doctoral programmes for students and scholarships for degree programmes in Oxford. Generously supported by the Lavasa Corporation, which has also endowed a new Chair of Indian Business Studies, another key activity of the Centre is to develop a range of custom and open executive education programmes to be delivered in India at a new facility located in Lavasa, near Pune, in early 2010.

Mr Gulabchand, Chairman of Lavasa Corporation, says that this partnership between Lavasa and Oxford will open new paradigms of educational and managerial excellence for students in both countries. The collaboration is in line with Lavasa's vision to provide an appropriate environment to enable high-quality research.

**Oxford Thinking**  
The Campaign for the University of Oxford

Research links between Oxford and Indian universities include not only research about the country, but also collaborations on critical scientific and medical topics.

# Oxford and India collaborate across disciplines

## Oxford University Press

Oxford University Press (OUP) is a department of the University of Oxford. Established in 1478, it is by far the largest university press in the world. OUP India was established in 1912 in Bombay. Offices were later established at Chennai and Kolkata, and an office at Delhi was opened in 1972; OUP headquarters are now in Delhi.

OUP India's publishing operations currently fall into three distinct areas: academic, general and reference, higher education, and school education. Its academic list, in the humanities and social sciences, is widely acknowledged to be the most distinguished in the world on subjects relating to South Asia. Its growing reference publishing in India is considered a pioneering effort in this exclusive field.

Recently, OUP India has embarked on an ambitious higher education programme aimed at meeting the requirements of Indian college and university students with special focus on the disciplines of engineering, computer science and management.

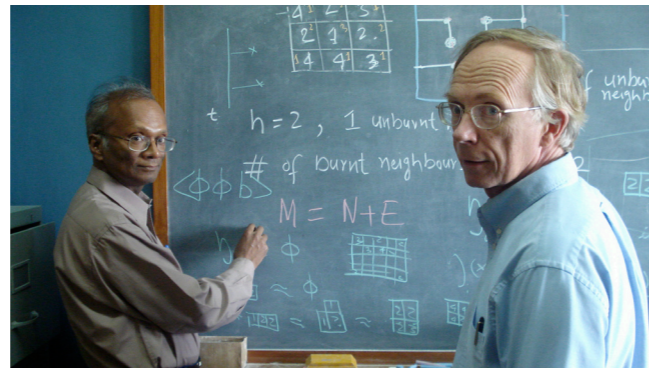
## Oxford India Network in Theoretical Physics

One thriving area of collaboration between Oxford and India is that of theoretical physics. 'India has built up a strong position in theoretical sciences since independence, so as to be arguably the most influential in Asia today.

Leading Indian research centres now attract back young physicists from prestigious institutions abroad,' says Professor Subir Sarkar, who is one of the drivers of a research network between Oxford physicists and several high-profile Indian institutions. 'When we started our collaboration, our philosophy was to work from the ground up and establish links on an individual level, so that we ensure that mutual interest is maintained.'

What started as individual research links has now developed into an Oxford-India network in theoretical physics that includes, among others, the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore, the Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics in Kolkata and the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research in Mumbai.

Professor Sarkar says: 'We are very pleased that our activities have



Prof John Cardy of All Souls College, Oxford (right) at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai, in discussion with Prof Deepak Dhar, Indian lead of the UKIERI-funded Theoretical Physics network

just been recognised by an award from the UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI). Some of us participate in another UKIERI-funded project (which involves experimentalists as well) where we may even benefit from the physical distance between India and Oxford because they would like to shoot neutrinos through the Earth from the proposed UK Neutrino Factory in Oxfordshire to the India-based Neutrino Observatory.

'One of the amazing discoveries of recent years is that neutrinos change from one kind into another as they travel through space and it turns out that 7,000 km is a "magic baseline" for testing certain fundamental laws of Nature in these ghostly transmutations.'

## Further collaborations

Stephen Kennedy, head of the **Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology** at Oxford, is involved in a longstanding collaboration in southern India investigating the genetic epidemiology of endometriosis. This involves the Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology in Hyderabad, the University of Oxford and clinicians in Hyderabad and Kolkata.



There are 94 million smokers in India

**The Clinical Trial Service Unit** is an active collaborator in the Chennai Prospective Study of 500,000 adults, led by epidemiologist Dr Vendhan Gajalakshmi of the Epidemiological Research Centre Chennai. The study surveyed 500,000 men and women aged 35 years or more in 1998-2001, collecting information on smoking, chewing habit, alcohol

consumption, weight, height, waist circumference (in men only), blood pressure and medical history. Since then, participants have been followed up for cause-specific mortality. The study will provide evidence about risk factor-disease relationships in South India.



Four million people were directly affected by the Kashmir earthquake in 2005

**The Department of Earth Sciences** is a key partner in COMET, the Centre for the Observation and Modelling of Earthquakes and Tectonics, a collaboration of Oxford, UCL and Cambridge funded by the UK Natural Environment Research Council. Through COMET and satellite technology, Oxford scientists have improved our ability to

forecast earthquake and seismic activity. They have done critical work on the Indian subcontinent, such as pinpointing the fault that caused the Kashmir earthquake in 2005 and finding that India is moving northwards into Tibet at a rate of five centimetres per year.

Since 2006, the Saïd Business School has run the **Oxford India Business Forum**, 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. Speakers at the 2008 Forum in Oxford focused on 'Corporate Governance & Capital Markets' and included co-authors of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act Paul Sarbanes, former US Senator and Michael Oxley, Vice Chairman of NASDAQ; James Turley, Chairman of Ernst & Young; Jairam Ramesh, Indian Minister of State for Commerce; and M Damodaran, former Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India. Oxford's Vice-Chancellor Dr John Hood was the chief guest. The audience included some of the biggest names in corporate India, including Vikram Singh Mehta, Chairman of the Shell Group of Companies, India; Ajit Gulabchand, Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Construction Company Ltd; and Ragiv Lall, Managing Director and CEO of the Infrastructure, Development, and Finance Corporation (IDFC).

## Oxford - India Timeline

- 1579 Father Thomas Stephens, from New College, is the first recorded Englishman to arrive in India. His letters lay the foundation of Anglo-Indian literature.
- 1630 William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury and St John's College graduate, presents an album of Mughal paintings to the Bodleian Library. They are the first Indian paintings given to any Western library.
- 1784 The Asiatic Society is founded in Calcutta by Sir William Jones of University College, oriental scholar and pioneer of comparative philology.
- 1832 The Boden Chair of Sanskrit is endowed by Colonel Joseph Boden of the East India Company.
- 1868 Friedrich Max Müller, a founder of Indian studies and of comparative religion, becomes Oxford's first Professor of Comparative Theology at All Soul's College.
- 1871 Indian students first come to Oxford when entry is no longer confined to members of the Church of England.
- 1883 The Indian Institute is founded. Three years later the Indian Institute Library, part of the Bodleian Library, is founded.
- 1908 The number of Indian students rises sharply as they are exempted from examinations in Latin and Greek.
- 1912 Oxford University Press India is founded.
- 1936 The first Spalding Professor of Eastern Religions and Ethics is appointed.
- 1961 The Indian Institute's teaching facilities move to the new Oriental Institute and its art holdings go to the newly created Department of Eastern Art in the Ashmolean a year later.
- 1982 The Asian Studies Centre is founded at St Antony's College.
- 2002 Oxford's first Professor of Indian History and Culture is appointed.
- 2006 Launch of The Oxford India Business Forum.
- 2008 Memorandum of Understanding to establish the Oxford University India Business Centre is signed.
- 2008 Arrival of the first MSc in Contemporary India students.

## INDOX - The India-Oxford Cancer Network

Cancer is already the second leading cause of death in India. But with an aging population and changes in diet and lifestyle, the incidence of cancer in India is expected to double in the next 10 years to about two million cases a year. To help address this critical issue, a new partnership was established in 2005 between Oxford University and six leading cancer centres in India, the INDOX (INDia-Oxford) Cancer Research Network, with the assistance of an educational grant from GlaxoSmithKline. Over the past three years, INDOX has established itself as India's leading academic oncology network, conducting a number of clinical studies in common cancers in India and providing training and fellowships to more than 30 Indian clinicians and scientists.

Dr Raghib Ali, Director of INDOX, believes it has the potential to benefit millions of people: 'The INDOX collaboration includes many leading cancer specialists in Oxford and India and is already conducting high quality research that can reduce death and suffering from cancer in India. We are particularly interested in investigating the causes of cancer in Indian patients and how cancer can be prevented and treated cost effectively in India.'

INDOX