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Collegiate university in Oxford, England "Oxford University" redirects here. For other uses, see Oxford University (disambiguation). University of OxfordCoat of armsLatin: Un
my lightTypeCollegiate research universityAncient universityEstablishedc. 1096; 929 years ago (1096)[5]Endowment£8.708 billion (2023/24)[7]ChancellorTrene Tracey[9]Academic staff7,220 (2023/24)[10]Administrative staff8,295 (2023/24)
[10]Students27,160 (2023/24)[11] 22,150 FTE (2023/24)[11]Undergraduates15,040 (2023/24)[11]Postgraduates15,040 (2023/24)[11]Postgraduates12,120 (2023/24)[11]Postgrad
Blue[14]AffiliationsACUEUAEuropaeumIARULERURussell GroupSESUniversities UKWebsiteox.ac.uk The University in Oxford is a collegiate research university in the English-speaking world and the world's second-oldest university in continuous
operation.[5][15][16] It expanded rapidly from 1167, when Henry II forbid English students from attending the University of Paris.[5] When disputes erupted between students and the Oxford academics fled northeast to Cambridge, where they established the University of Cambridge in 1209.[17] The two English ancient
universities share many common features and are jointly referred to as Oxbridge.[18] The University of Oxford comprises 43 constituent colleges, four permanent private halls and three societies (colleges that are departments of the university, without their own royal charter).[19][20] and a range of
academic departments that are organised into four divisions.[21] Each college is a self-governing institution within the university that controls its own members of a college. [19] Oxford does not have a main campus, but its buildings and facilities are scattered throughout
the city centre and around the town. Undergraduate teaching at the university consists of lectures, small-group tutorials at the colleges and halls, seminars, laboratory work and tutorials provided by the central university faculties and departments. Postgraduate teaching is provided in a predominantly centralised fashion. Oxford operates the
Ashmolean Museum, the world's oldest university Press, the largest academic library system nationwide. [22] In the fiscal year ending 31 July 2024, the university press in the world; and the largest academic library system nationwide. [21] In the fiscal year ending 31 July 2024, the university press in the world; and the largest academic library system nationwide.
In 2024, Oxford ranked first nationally for undergraduate education. Oxford has educated a wide range of notable alumni, including 31 prime ministers of the United Kingdom[23] and many heads of state and government around the world.[24] As of October 2022, [update] 73 Nobel Prize laureates, four Fields Medalists, and six Turing Award winners
have matriculated, worked, or held visiting fellowships at the University of Oxford, while its alumni have won 160 Olympic medals.[25] Oxford is home to a number of scholarship, including the Rhodes Scholarship, which is one of the oldest international graduate scholarship programmes in the world. See also: Timeline of Oxford Merton College's
Mob Quad, the oldest quadrangle of the university, constructed between 1288 and 1378 In 1605, Oxford was a walled city with several colleges outside the city walls (north is at the bottom). Balliol, one of Oxford's oldest colleges outside the city walls (north is at the bottom).
university was founded in the 9th century by Alfred the Great, but this story is apocryphal.[27] It is known that teaching at Oxford existed in some form as early as 1096, but it is unclear when the university came into being.[5] Scholar Theobald of Étampes lectured at Oxford in the early 1100s. It grew quickly from 1167 when English students
returned from the University of Paris.[5] The historian Gerald of Wales lectured to such scholars in 1188, and the first known foreign scholar, Emo of Friesland, arrived in 1190. The head of the university was
granted a royal charter in 1248 during the reign of King Henry III.[29] After disputes between students and Oxford townspeople in 1209, some academics fled from the violence to Cambridge, later forming the University of Cambridge.[17][30] The students associated together on the basis of geographical origins, into two 'nations', representing the
North (northerners or Boreales, who included the English people from south of the River Trent and the Scots) and the South (southerners or Australes, who included the English people from south of the Trent, the Irish and the Welsh).[31][32] In later centuries, geographical origins continued to influence many students' affiliations when membership of a
college or hall became customary at Oxford. Additionally, members of many religious orders, including Dominicans, Franciscans, Carmelites, and Augustinians, settled in Oxford in the mid-13th century, gained influence and maintained houses or halls for students.[33] At about the same time, private benefactors established colleges as self-contained
scholarly communities. Among the earliest such founders were William of Durham, who in 1249 endowed University College, [33] and John Balliol, father of a future King of Scots; Balliol College bears his name. [31] Another founder, Walter de Merton, a Lord Chancellor of England and afterwards Bishop of Rochester, composed a series of regulations
for college life;[34][35] Merton College thereby became the model for such establishments at Oxford,[36] as well as at Cambridge. Thereafter, an increasing number of students lived in colleges rather than in halls and religious houses.[33] In 1333-1334, an attempt by some dissatisfied Oxford scholars to found a new university at Stamford,
Lincolnshire, was blocked by the universities of Oxford and Cambridge petitioning King Edward III.[37] Thereafter, until the 1820s, no new universities were allowed to be founded in England, even in London; thus, Oxford and Cambridge had a duopoly, which was unusual in large western European countries.[38][39] An engraving of Christ Church,
Oxford, 1742 The new learning of the Renaissance greatly influenced Oxford from the late 15th century onwards. Among university scholars of the period were William Grocyn, who contributed to the revival of Greek language studies, [40] and John Colet, the noted biblical scholar. [41] With the English Reformation and the breaking of communion with
the Roman Catholic Church, recusant scholars from Oxford fled to continental Europe, settling especially at the University of Douai.[42] The method of teaching at Oxford was transformed from the medieval scholars from Oxford was transformed from the medieval scholars from Oxford fled to continental Europe, settling especially at the University of Douai.[42] The method of teaching at Oxford was transformed from the medieval scholars from Oxford was transformed from the medieval scholars from Oxford was transformed from the medieval scholars from Oxford fled to continental Europe, settling especially at the University of Douai.[42] The method of teaching at Oxford was transformed from the medieval scholars from from the mediev
centre of learning and scholarship, Oxford's reputation declined in the Age of Enlightenment; enrolments fell and teaching was neglected.[43] In 1636, William Laud, the chancellor and Archbishop of Canterbury, codified the university's statutes.[44] These, for the most part, remained its governing regulations until the mid-19th century. Laud was
also responsible for the granting of a charter securing privileges for the University Press, and he made notable contributions to the Bodleian Library, the main library of the church was a requirement to graduate as a Bachelor of Arts,
and "dissenters" were only permitted to be promoted to Master of Arts starting in 1871.[45] The university was a centre of the Royalist party during the English Invisible College Wadham College, founded in 1610, was the
undergraduate college of Sir Christopher Wren. He was part of a group of experimental scientists at Oxford in the 1650s, the Oxford Philosophical Club, which has at times been linked with Boyle's "Invisible College", held regular meetings at Wadham under the guidance of the college's
warden, John Wilkins, and the group formed the nucleus that went on to found the Royal Society.[47] In 1827, a major review of the university's statutes, some over 500 years old, was conducted. Among the changes made at this time was the removal of the requirement that students swear an oath of enmity towards an Oxford townsman Henry
Symeonis, who was found guilty of murdering an Oxford student in the early 19th century, the curriculum at Oxford was notoriously narrow and impractical. Sir Spencer Walpole, a historian of contemporary Great Britain and a senior government official, had not attended any university. He said, "Few
medical men, few solicitors, few persons intended for commerce or trade, ever dreamed of passing through a university career." He quoted the Oxford was not such as to conduce to the advancement in life of many persons, except those intended for the ministry."[49]
Nevertheless, Walpole argued: Among the many deficiencies attending a university education which the undergraduates gave themselves. It was impossible to collect some thousand or twelve hundred of the best young men in England, to give them the opportunity of making
acquaintance with one another, and full liberty to live their lives in their own way, without evolving in the best among them, some admirable qualities of loyalty, independence, and self-control. If the average undergraduate carried from the best among them, some admirable qualities of loyalty, independence, and self-control. If the average undergraduate carried from the best among them, some admirable qualities of loyalty, independence, and self-control. If the average undergraduate carried from the best among them, some admirable qualities of loyalty, independence, and self-control. If the average undergraduate carried from the best among them, some admirable qualities of loyalty, independence, and self-control.
for his fellows and himself, a reverence for the past, a code of honour for the present, which could not but be serviceable. He had enjoyed opportunities... of intercourse with men, some of whom were certain to rise to the highest places in the Senate, in the Church, or at the Bar. He might have mixed with them in his sports, in his studies, and perhaps
in his debating society; and any associations which he had this formed had been useful to him at the time, and might be a source of satisfaction to him in after life. [50] Of the students who matriculated in 1840, 65% were sons of professionals (34% were Anglican ministers). After graduation, 87% became professionals (59% as Anglican clergy). Out of
the students who matriculated in 1870, 59% were sons of professionals (25% were Anglican ministers). After graduation, 87% became professionals (42% as Anglican clergy).[51][52] M. C. Curthoys and H. S. Jones argue that the rise of organised sport was one of the most remarkable and distinctive features of the history of the universities of Oxford
and Cambridge during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It was carried over from the athleticism prevalent at the public schools such as Eton, Winchester, Shrewsbury, and Harrow.[53] All students, regardless of their chosen area of study, were required to spend (at least) their first year preparing for a first-year examination that was heavily
focused on classical languages. Science students found this particularly burdensome and supported a separate science degree with Greek language study removed from their required courses. This concept of a Bachelor of Science had been adopted at other European universities (London University had implemented it in 1860) but an 1880 proposal
at Oxford to replace the classical requirement with a modern language (like German or French) was unsuccessful. After considerable internal haggling over the structure of the first year examination. [54] At the start of 1914, the university housed
about 3,000 undergraduates and around 100 postgraduate students. During the First World War, many undergraduates and fellows joined the armed forces. By 1918 virtually all fellows were in uniform, and the student population in residence was reduced to 12 per cent of the pre-war total.[55] The University Roll of Service records that, in total,
14,792 members of the university served in the Great War fought with the Allies; there is a memorial to members of New College who served in the Great War fought with the Allies; there is a memorial to members of the university who served in the Great War fought with the Allies; there is a memorial to members of the university who served in the Great War fought with the Allies; there is a memorial to members of the university who served in the Great War fought with the Allies; there is a memorial to members of the university who served in the Great War fought with the Allies; there is a memorial to members of the university who served in the Great War fought with the Allies; there is a memorial to members of the university who served in the Great War fought with the Allies; there is a memorial to members of the university who served in the Great War fought with the Allies; there is a memorial to member of the university who served in the Great War fought with the Allies; there is a memorial to member of the university who served in the Great War fought with the Allies; there is a memorial to member of the university who served in the Great War fought with the Allies; there is a memorial to member of the university who served in the Great War fought with the Allies; there is a memorial to member of the university who served in the Great War fought with the Allies with the Great War fought with the Allies with the Allies with the Great War fought with the Allies with the Great War fought with the Allies with the Allies with the Allies with the Great War fought with the Allies with the Alli
foreign land entered into the inheritance of this place and returning fought and died for their country in the war 1914-1918'. During the war years the university buildings became hospitals, cadet schools and military training camps.[55] Two parliamentary commissions in 1852 issued recommendations for Oxford and Cambridge. Archibald Campbell
Tait, a former headmaster of Rugby School, was a key member of the Oxford Commission; he wanted Oxford to follow the German and Scottish model in which the professors and faculties, with a much stronger emphasis on research. The
professional staff should be strengthened and better paid. For students, removing entry restrictions for students, and more opportunities given to poorer families. It recommended an expansion of the curriculum, with honours to be awarded in many new fields. Undergraduate scholarships should be open to all Britons. Graduate fellowships should be
opened up to all members of the university. It recommended that fellows be released from an obligation for ordination. Students were to be allowed to save money by boarding in the city, instead of in one of the colleges.[57][58] The system of separate honour schools for different subjects began in 1802, with Mathematics and Literae Humaniores.[59]
Schools of "Natural Sciences" and "Law, and Modern History" were added in 1853.[59] By 1872, the last of these had split into "Jurisprudence" and "Modern History". Theology became the sixth honour school.[60] In addition to these B.A. Honours degrees, the postgraduate Bachelor of Civil Law (B.C.L.) was, and still is, offered.[61] The mid-19th
century saw the impact of the Oxford Movement (1833-1845), led, among others, by the future Cardinal John Henry Newman. Administrative reforms during the 19th century included the replacement of oral examinations with written entrance tests, greater tolerance for religious dissent, and the establishment of four women's colleges. Privy Council
decisions in the 20th century - the abolition of compulsory daily worship, dissociation of the Regius Professorship of Hebrew from clerical status, diversion of colleges' theological bequests to other purposes - loosened the link with traditional belief and practice. Furthermore, although the university's emphasis had historically been on classical
knowledge, its curriculum expanded during the 19th century to include scientific and medical studies. The postgraduate degrees of Bachelor of Science and Master of Letters in the 1970s) were introduced in 1895, and the university began to award doctorates for research in 1900 with the Doctor of
Letters and Doctor of Science degrees.[62] Oxford was the first British university to institute a Doctor of Philosophy degree (abbreviated DPhil) in 1917; it was first awarded in 1878Somerville College, founded in 1879St Hugh's College, founded
1886 See also: Delegacy for Women Students and First women at mitted to degrees at the University passed a statute in 1875 allowed the "steamboat ladies" to receive ad eundem degrees from the University of Oxford The univ
Dublin.[65] In June 1878, the Association for the Education of Women (AEW) was formed, aiming for the eventual creation of a college for women in Oxford. Some of the more prominent members of the association were George Granville Bradley, T. H. Green and Edward Stuart Talbot. Talbot insisted on a specifically Anglican institution, which was
unacceptable to most of the other members. The two parties eventually split, and Talbot's group founded Lady Margaret Hall in 1879, while T. H. Green founded the non-denominational Somerville Ollege in 1879, while T. H. Green founded the non-denominational Somerville College in 1879, and Talbot's group founded the non-denominational Somerville College in 1879, and Talbot's group founded the non-denominational Somerville College in 1879, and Talbot's group founded the non-denominational Somerville College in 1879, and Talbot's group founded the non-denominational Somerville College in 1879, and Talbot's group founded the non-denominational Somerville College in 1879, and Talbot's group founded the non-denominational Somerville College in 1879, and Talbot's group founded the non-denominational Somerville College in 1879, and Talbot's group founded the non-denominational Somerville College in 1879, and Talbot's group founded the non-denominational Somerville College in 1879, and Talbot's group founded the non-denomination for the non
who attended lectures in rooms above an Oxford baker's shop.[64] There were also 25 women students living at home or with friends in 1879, a group which evolved into the Society of Oxford Home-Students and in 1952 into St Anne's College.[67][68] These first three societies for women were followed by St Hugh's (1886)[69] and St Hilda's (1893).
[70] All of these colleges later became coeducational, starting with Lady Margaret Hall and St Anne's in 1979,[71][67] and finishing with St Hilda's, which began to accept male students in 2008.[72] In the early 20th century, Oxford and Cambridge were widely perceived to be bastions of male privilege;[73] however, the integration of women into
Oxford moved forward during the First World War. In 1916 women were admitted as medical students on a par with men, and in 1917 the university accepted financial responsibility for women became eligible for admission as full members of the university and were given the right to take degrees.[74]
In 1927 the university's dons created a quota that limited the number of female students to a quarter that of men, a ruling which was not until 1957. [64] Additionally, during this period Oxford colleges were single sex, so the number of women was also limited by the capacity of the women's colleges to admit students. It was not until 1959.
that the women's colleges were given full colleges to admit women. [76] In 1974, Brasenose, Jesus, Wadham, Hertford and St Catherine's became the first female students in 1979, [77] with Christ Church following in 1980, [78] and Oriel becoming the last
men's college to admit women in 1985.[79] Most of Oxford's graduate colleges were founded as a men's college in 1950 and began to accept women only in 1962.[80] By 1988, 40% of undergraduates at Oxford were female;[81] in 2016, 45% of
the student population, and 47% of undergraduate students, were female.[82][83] In June 2017, Oxford announced that starting in the 2018 academic year, history students may choose to sit a take-home exam in some courses, with the intention that this will equalise rates of firsts awarded to women and men at Oxford.[84] That same summer, maths
and computer science tests were extended by 15 minutes, in a bid to see if female student scores would improve.[85][86] The detective novel Gaudy Night by Dorothy L. Sayers, who was one of the first women to gain an academic degree from Oxford, is largely set in the all-female Shrewsbury College, Oxford (based on Sayers' own Somerville
the University of Oxford St Anne's College St Antony's College St Hugh's College St 
CollegeHarris Manchester CollegeHertford CollegeKellogg CollegeEuniversity CollegeEuniversity CollegeEuniversity CollegeEuniversity CollegeWadham
CollegeWolfson CollegeWolfson College (Permanent Private Hall)St Stephen's HouseSt S
Hall)St Stephen's HouseSt Stephen's HouseSt Stephen's HouseWycliffe HallMathsZoologyTheology and ReligionPhilosophyComputer SciencePlant SciencesLawSocial Policy and InterventionMedieval and Modern LanguagesROQPhysicsBlavatnik School of GovernmentChemistryRothermere American InstituteHistoryInternetMartin SchoolOxford-
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Oxford Faculties & Facilities (Central Oxford)Show map of Oxford city centreSt Anne's CollegeSt Antony's CollegeSt Hugh's CollegeSt Hugh's CollegeSt Hugh's CollegeSt Hugh's CollegeSt Antony's CollegeSt A
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OxfordShow map of Oxford Key - University Pacility - University Pacility - University Pacility - University Pacility - University Pacilities at the laboratory; the university Pacilities at the laboratory; the university Pacilities at the laboratory; the university Pacilities at the laboratory in recent years. Sheldonian Theatre, built by Christopher Wren between 1664 and 1668
hosts the university's Congregation and its concerts and degree ceremonies. The university in that it does not have a main campus; instead, colleges, departments, accommodation, and other facilities are scattered throughout the city centre and in some other areas of the city. The Science Area, in which most science departments
are located, is the area that bears closest resemblance to a campus. There is a ten-acre (4-hectare) Radcliffe Observatory Quarter in the northwest of the city. Iconic university buildings include the Radcliffe Camera, the Sheldonian Theatre used for music concerts, lectures, and university buildings include the Radcliffe Camera, the Sheldonian Theatre used for music concerts, lectures, and university buildings include the Radcliffe Camera, the Sheldonian Theatre used for music concerts, lectures, and university buildings include the Radcliffe Camera, the Sheldonian Theatre used for music concerts, lectures, and university buildings include the Radcliffe Camera, the Sheldonian Theatre used for music concerts, lectures, and university buildings include the Radcliffe Camera, the Sheldonian Theatre used for music concerts, lectures, and university buildings include the Radcliffe Camera, the Sheldonian Theatre used for music concerts, lectures, and university buildings include the Radcliffe Camera, the Sheldonian Theatre used for music concerts, lectures, and university buildings include the Radcliffe Camera, the Sheldonian Theatre used for music concerts, lectures, and university buildings include the Radcliffe Camera, the Sheldonian Theatre used for music concerts, lectures, and university buildings include the Radcliffe Camera, and university buildings include the Radcliffe Camera, and the Radcliffe 
and some lectures take place. The University Church of St Mary the Virgin was used for university ceremonies before the construction of the Sheldonian. In 2012-2013, the university built the controversial one-hectare (400 m × 25 m) Castle Mill development of 4-5-storey blocks of student flats overlooking Cripley Meadow and the historic Port
Meadow, blocking views of the spires in the city centre.[89] The development has been likened to building a "skyscraper beside Stonehenge".[90] Summer in the Botanic Garden The University Parks are a 70-acre (28 ha) parkland area in the northeast of the city, near Keble College, Somerville College and Lady Margaret Hall. It is open to the public
during daylight hours. There are also various college-owned open spaces open to the public, including Bagley Wood and most notably Christ Church Meadow.[91] The Botanic Garden on the High Street is the oldest botanic garden in the UK. It contains over 8,000 different plant species on 1.8 ha (4+1/2 acres). It is one of the most diverse yet compactions the botanic garden in the UK.
major collections of plants in the world and includes representatives of over 90% of the higher plant families. The Harcourt Arboretum is a 130-acre (4.0 km2) Wytham Woods are owned by the university and used for
research in zoology and climate change. [92] See also: Category: Departments of the University of OxfordColleges arrange the tutorial teaching for their undergraduates, and the members of an academic department are spread around many colleges. Though certain colleges do have subject alignments (e.g., Nuffield College as a centre for the social
sciences), these are exceptions, and most colleges will have a broad mix of academics and students from a diverse range of subjects. Facilities such as libraries, such as the English Faculty Library), and by colleges (each of
which maintains a multi-discipline library for the use of its members).[93] Wellington Square has become synonymous with the university's central administration. The university's formal head is the chancellor, with Lord Hague of Richmond expected to be inaugurated in early 2025[94] although, as at most British universities, the chancellor is a
titular figurehead and is not involved with the day-to-day running of the university. The chancellor is elected by the members of convocation, a body comprising all graduates of the university. Five pro-vice-chancellors have specific
responsibilities for education; research; planning and resources; development and external affairs; and personnel and equal opportunities. Two university proctors, elected annually on a rotating basis from any two of the colleges, are the internal ombudsmen who make sure that the university and its members adhere to its statutes. This role
incorporates student discipline and complaints, as well as oversight of the university's proceedings. [96] The university of Oxford. They are particularly influential in the running of the university's graduate programmes. Examples of statutory professors are the
Chichele Professorships and the Drummond Professor of Political Economy. Oxford is a "public university" in the sense that it receives some public money from the government, but it is a "private by rejecting public funds.[97] Main article
Colleges of the University of Oxford Tom Quad, Christ Church Main Quad, Worcester College Christ Church, Oxford To be a member of a college or hall. There are thirty-nine colleges of the University of Oxford and four permanent private halls (PPHs), each controlling its
membership and with its own internal structure and activities.[19] Not all colleges offer all courses, but they generally cover a broad range of subjects. The 39 colleges are: All Souls Balliol Brasenose Brasenose Ehrist Church Corpus Christi Exeter Exet
Manchester Harris Manchester Hertford Hertford Jesus Jesus Keble Kellogg Kello
Somerville St Anne's St Anne's St Anne's St Antony's St Antony's St Catherine's St Catherine's St Catherine's St Peter's Trinity University University University Wadham Wolfson Worcester Worcester # These three have no royal charter, and
are thus officially departments of the university rather than independent colleges are governed by the fellows of the college, the governance of a PPH resides, at least in part, with the corresponding
Christian denomination. The four PPHs are: Blackfriars Hall Campion Hall Campion Hall Regent's Park Regent's Park Wycliffe Hall Campion H
dealings with the central university. [98] [99] The Conference of Colleges was established as a recommendation of the Franks Commission in 1965. [100] Teaching members of the colleges (i.e. fellows and tutors) are collectively and familiarly known as dons, although the term is rarely used by the university itself. In addition to residential and dining
facilities, the colleges provide social, cultural, and recreational activities for their members. Colleges have responsibility falls upon the departments. Dining hall at Christ Church; the hall is an important feature of the typical Oxford college, providing a place to
dine and socialise. University of Oxford's finances: key statistics (£ billions) Financial year ending 31 July 2024 2023 Total group income of the University (excluding colleges) 3.054 2.829 Total expenditure during the year[7] 2.263 2.581 Key sources of income[7] Tuition fees and education contracts 0.551 0.5042 Grants from funding bodies 0.2247
0.2292 Research grants and contracts 0.7789 0.789 Publishing services 0.7468 0.753 Investment income 0.1972 0.1805 Donations and endowments (excluding colleges) 1.912 1.678 Total net assets[7] 6.388 5.385 Total College endowments 6.796 6.388 Total college net assets[6] 8.738 8.176
The combined endowment figure of £8.708 billion makes Oxford hold the largest endowment of any university in the UK.[7] The college figure does not reflect all the assets held by the colleges as their accounts do not include the cost or value of many of their main sites or heritage assets such as works of art or libraries.[101] The central University's
endowment, along with some of the colleges', is managed by the university's wholly-owned endowment management office, Oxford University Endowment Management, formed in 2007.[102] The university used to maintain substantial investments in fossil fuel companies.[103] However, in April 2020, the university committed to divest from direct
investments in fossil fuel companies and to require indirect investments in fossil fuel companies be subjected to the Oxford Martin Principles.[104][105] The university was one of the first in the UK to raise money through a major public fundraising campaign, the Campaign for Oxford. The current campaign, its second, was launched in May 2008 and
is entitled "Oxford Thinking - The Campaign for the University of Oxford".[108] This is looking to support three areas: academic posts and programmes, student support, and buildings and infrastructure;[107] having passed its original target of £1.25 billion in March 2012, the target was raised to £3 billion.[108] The university has faced criticism for
some of its sources of donations and funding. In 2017, attention was drawn to historical donations including All Souls College having receiving £10,000 from the will of the imperialist Cecil Rhodes in 1902.[110][111] In 1996 a donation of £20 million
was received from Wafic Saïd who was involved in the Al-Yammah arms deal,[112][113] and taking £150 million from the US billionaire businessman Stephen A. Schwarzman in 2019.[114] The university has defended its decisions saying it "takes legal, ethical and reputational issues into consideration". The university also faced criticism, as noted
above, over its decision to accept donations from fossil fuel companies having received £21.8 million from the fossil fuel industry between 2015 and 2021.[118] The university accepted £6 million between 2015 and 2021.[118] The university accepted £6 million between 2015 and 2021.[118] The university accepted £6 million from the fossil fuel industry between 2010 and 2015.[118] The university accepted £6 million from the fossil fuel industry between 2010 and 2015.[118] The university accepted £6 million from the fossil fuel industry between 2010 and 2015.[118] The university accepted £6 million from the fossil fuel industry between 2010 and 2015.[118] The university accepted £6 million from the fossil fuel industry between 2010 and 2015.[118] The university accepted £6 million from the fossil fuel industry between 2010 and 2015.[118] The university accepted £6 million from the fossil fuel industry between 2010 and 2015.[118] The university accepted £6 million from the fossil fuel industry between 2010 and 2015.[118] The university accepted £6 million from the fossil fuel industry between 2010 and 2015.[118] The university accepted £6 million from the fossil fuel industry between 2010 and 2015.[118] The university accepted £6 million from the fossil fuel industry between 2010 and 2015.[118] The university accepted £6 million from the fossil fuel industry between 2010 and 2015.[118] The university accepted £6 million from the fossil fuel industry between 2010 and 2015.[118] The university accepted £6 million from the fossil fuel industry between 2010 and 2015.[118] The university accepted £6 million from the fossil fuel industry between 2010 and 2015.[118] The university accepted £6 million from the fossil fuel industry between 2010 and 2015.[118] The university accepted £6 million from the fossil fuel industry between 2010 and 2015.[118] The university accepted £6 million from the fossil fuel industry between 2010 and 2015.[118] The university accepted £6 million from the fossil fuel industry between 2010 and 2015
racing driver Max Mosley stated that he set up the trust "to house the fortune he inherited" from his father,[119] Oswald Mosley, who was founder of two far right groups: Union Movement and the British Union of Fascists.[120] Oxford is a member of the Russell Group of research-led British universities and is regarded to be part of the non-formal
grouping of universities which make up the "golden triangle" in South East England. Internationally, it is a member of the Europeaum, the League of Europeaum, the League o
23,211 23,819 24,338 23,414 23,020 Offer Rate (%) 16.0 15.3 14.6 16.8 16.9 Enrolments 3,219 3,271 3,288 Yield (%) 86.5 89.7 92.8 94.0 84.3 Applicant/Enrolled Ratio 7.21 7.28 7.38 6.34 7.02 Average Entry Tariff[127] — 205 201 200 HESA Student Body Composition (2023/24) Domicile[128] and Ethnicity[129] Total British White[a]
46% 46 British Ethnic Minorities[b] 18% 18 International EU 8% 8 I
universities, prospective undergraduate students apply through the UCAS application system, but prospective applicants for the University of Oxford, along with those for medicine, dentistry, and University and Cambridge applicants, must observe an earlier deadline of 15 October.[133] The Sutton Trust maintains that Oxford University and Cambridge
University recruit undergraduates disproportionately from 8 schools which accounted for 1,310 Oxbridge places during three years, contrasted with 1,220 from 2,900 other schools.[134] To allow a more personalised judgement of students, who might otherwise apply for both, undergraduate applicants are not permitted to apply to both Oxford and
Cambridge in the same year. The only exceptions are applicants for organ scholarships[135] and those applying to read for a second undergraduate degree. [136] Oxford has the lowest offer rate of all Russell Group universities. [137] Most applicants choose to apply to one of the individual colleges. For undergraduates, these colleges work with each
other to ensure that the best students gain a place somewhere at the university regardless of their college preferences. For postgraduates, all applicants who receive an offer from the university are guaranteed a college place, even if they do not receive an offer from the university are guaranteed a college place, even if they do not receive an offer from the university are guaranteed a college place, even if they do not receive a place at their chosen college. [138] Undergraduate shortlisting is based on achieved and
predicted exam results, school references, and, in some subjects, written admission tests or candidate-submitted written work. Approximately 60% of applicants for a subject choose one college, then students who named that college may be reallocated randomly and the college may be reallocated randomly applicants for a subject. If a large number of shortlisted applicants for a subject choose one college, then students who named that college may be reallocated randomly applicants for a subject.
to under-subscribed colleges for the subject. The colleges then invite shortlisted candidates for interview, where they are provided with food and accommodation for around three days in December. Most undergraduate applicants will be individually interviewed by academics at more than one college. In 2020 interviews were moved online,[139] and
they will remain online until at least 2027.[140] Undergraduate offers are sent out in early January, with each offer usually being from a specific college. One in four successful candidates, who are not assigned to a particular college
until A Level results day in August.[141][142] The university has come under criticism for the number of students from private schools; [143] for instance, Laura Spence's rejection from the university in 2000 led to widespread debate.[144] In 2016, the University of Oxford gave 59% of offers to UK students to students from state schools,
while about 93% of all UK pupils and 86% of post-16 UK pupils are educated in state schools.[145][146][147] However, 64% of UK applicants were from state schools and the university notes that state school students apply disproportionately to oversubscribed subjects.[148] The proportion of students coming from state schools has been increasing.
From 2015 to 2019, the state proportion of total UK students admitted each year was: 55.6%, 58.0%, 58.2%, 60.5% and 62.3%.[149] Oxford University spends over £6 million per year on outreach programs to encourage applicants from underrepresented demographics.[145] In 2018 the university's annual admissions report revealed that eight of
Oxford's colleges had accepted fewer than three black applicants in the past three years.[150] Labour MP David Lammy said, "This is social apartheid and it is utterly unrepresentative of life in modern Britain."[151] In 2020, Oxford had increased its proportion of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) students to record levels.[152][153] The
number of BAME undergraduates accepted to the university in 2020 rose to 684 students, or 23.6% of the UK intake, up from 80 students (3.2%).[153][154] UCAS data also showed that Oxford is more likely than comparable institutions to make offers to ethnic
minority and socially disadvantaged pupils.[152] Main articles: Degrees of the University of Oxford, List of professorships at the University of Oxford, and Undergraduate education at Univers
essay (humanities, most social sciences, some mathematical, physical, and life sciences) or problem sheet (most mathematical, physical, and life sciences). The university itself is responsible for conducting examinations and conferring degrees. Undergraduate teaching takes place during three eight-week academic terms:
Michaelmas, Hilary and Trinity.[155] (These are officially known as "Full Term': 'Term' is a lengthier period with little practical significance.) Internally, the weeks in a term begin on Sundays, and are referred to numerically, with the initial week known as "first week" and with the numbering extended to refer to weeks before
and after term (for example "noughth week" precedes term).[156] Undergraduates must be in residence from Thursday of 0th week. These teaching terms are shorter than those of most other British universities,[157] and their total duration amounts to less than half the year. However, undergraduates are also expected to do some academic work
during the three holidays (known as the Christmas, Easter, and Long Vacations). Rhodes House is home to the awarding body for Rhodes Scholarships, often considered the world's most prestigious scholarship, often considered the world's most prestigious scholarship. There are many opportunities for students at Oxford to receive financial help during their studies. The Oxford Opportunity Bursaries,
introduced in 2006, are university-wide means-based bursaries available to any British undergraduate, with a total possible grant of £10,235 over a 3-year degree. In addition, individual colleges also offer bursaries and funds to help their students from
all sorts of backgrounds, from Rhodes Scholarships to the relatively new Weidenfeld Scholarships.[158] Oxford also offers the Clarendon Scholarship is principally funded by Oxford University Press in association with colleges and other partnership awards.[160]
[161] In 2016, Oxford University announced that it is to run its first free online economics course as part of a "massive open online course" (MOOC) scheme, in partnership with a US online university network. [162] The course available is called 'From Poverty to Prosperity: Understanding Economic Development'. Students successful in early
examinations are rewarded by their colleges with scholarships and exhibitions, normally the result of a long-standing endowment, although since the introduction of tuition fees the amounts of money available are purely nominal. Scholarships and exhibitioners in some colleges, are entitled to wear a more voluminous undergraduate gown; "commoners
(originally those who had to pay for their "commons", or food and lodging) are restricted to a short, sleeveless garment. The term "scholar" in relation to Oxford therefore has a specific meaning as well as the more general meaning of someone of outstanding academic ability. In previous times, there were "noblemen commoners" and "gentlemen
commoners", but these ranks were abolished in the 19th century. "Closed" schools, were abolished in the 1970s and 1980s.[163] See also: Category:Libraries of the University of Oxford Clarendon Building, home to many senior Bodleian Library staff
previously housed the university's own central administration. The university maintains the largest university library system in the UK, [22] and, with over 11 million volumes housed on 120 miles (190 km) of shelving, the Bodleian group is the second-largest library in the UK, after the British Library. The Bodleian is a legal deposit library, which
means that it is entitled to request a free copy of every book published in the UK. As such, its collection is growing at a rate of over three miles (five kilometres) of shelving every year. [164] The buildings referred to as the university's main research library, The Bodleian, consist of the original Bodleian Library in the Old Schools Quadrangle, founded
by Sir Thomas Bodley in 1598 and opened in 1602,[165] the Radcliffe Camera, the Clarendon Building, and the Weston Library. A tunnel underneath Broad Street connects these buildings, with the Gladstone Link, which opened in 2000,
bringing the Bodleian Library and some of the subject libraries together, including the Sackler Library, Social Science Library and Radcliffe Science Library, Iaw Library, Including the Sackler Library, Social Science Library, Social Science Library, Including the Sackler Librar
has been a joint integrated libraries of individual colleges and other faculty libraries, which are not members of the group but do share
cataloguing information. [169] Duke Humfrey's Library in the Bodleian Library A new book depository opened in South Marston, Swindon, in October 2010, [170] and recent building projects include the remodelling of the New Bodleian building, which was renamed the Weston Library when it reopened in 2015. [171] [172] The renovation is designed to
better showcase the library's various treasures (which include a Shakespeare First Folio and a Gutenberg Bible) as well as temporary exhibitions. The Bodleian engaged in a mass-digitisation project with Google in 2004.[173][174] Notable electronic resources hosted by the Bodleian Group include the Electronic Enlightenment Project, which was
awarded the 2010 Digital Prize by the British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies.[175] See also: Category: Museum of the University of Oxford Interior of the Pitt Rivers Museum, founded in 1683, is the oldest museum in the UK, and the
oldest university museum in the world.[176] It holds significant collections of art and archaeology, including works by Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Turner, and Picasso, as well as treasures such as the Scorpion Macehead, the Parian Marble and the Alfred Jewel. It also contains "The Messiah", a pristine Stradivarius violin, regarded by some as
one of the finest examples in existence. [177] The University Museum of Natural History holds the university's zoological and geological specimens. It is housed in a large neo-Gothic building on Parks Road, in the university's Science Area. [178] Among its collection are the skeletons of a Tyrannosaurus rex and Triceratops, and the
most complete remains of a dodo found anywhere in the World. It also hosts the Simonyi Professorship of the Public Understanding of Science, currently held by Marcus du Sautoy.[180] Adjoining the Museum of Natural History is the Pitt Rivers Museum, founded in 1884, which displays the university's archaeological and anthropological collections.
                            over 500,000 items. It recently built a new research annexe; its staff have been involved with the teaching of anthropology at Oxford since its foundation, when as part of his donation General Augustus Pitt Rivers stipulated that the university establish a lectureship in anthropology. [181] The Museum of the History of Science is
housed on Broad Street in the world's oldest-surviving purpose-built museum building.[182] It contains 15,000 artefacts, from antiquity to the 20th century, representing almost all aspects of the history of science. In the Faculty of Music on St Aldate's is the Bate Collection of Musical Instruments, a collection mostly of instruments from Western
classical music, from the medieval period onwards. Christ Church Picture Gallery holds a large collection of old master paintings and drawings.[183] Main article: Oxford University Press is the world's second oldest and currently the largest university press by the number of publications.[184] More than 6,000 new books
are published annually,[185] including many reference, professional, and academic works (such as the Oxford English Dictionary, the Concise Dictionary of National Biography). RankingsNational rankingsComplete (2025)
[186]2Guardian (2025)[187]1Times / Sunday Times (2025)[188]3Global rankingsARWU (2024)[189]6QS (2025)[190]3THE (2025)[191]1 University of Oxford is considered to be one of Britain's
most prestigious or elite universities[196][197] and to form, along with the University of Cambridge, a top two that stand above other UK universities in the world in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings,[199][200] as well as the Forbes's
World University Rankings [201] It held the number one position in the Times Good University Rankings for the past seven consecutive years [203] In 2021
it ranked sixth among the universities around the world by SCImago Institutions Rankings, along with Berkeley, Cambridge, Harvard, MIT, and Stanford. [205] The university is fourth worldwide on the US News ranking. [206] Its Saïd
Business School came 13th in the world in Financial Times Global MBA Ranking. [207] Oxford was ranked 13th in the world in 82 leading journals. [208] It is ranked fifth best university worldwide and first in Britain for forming CEOs according to the
Professional Ranking World Universities, [210] and first in the UK for the quality of its graduates as chosen by the recruiters of the UK's major companies. [211] In the 2018 Complete University Guide, all 38 subjects offered by Oxford rank within the top 10 nationally meaning Oxford was one of only two multi-faculty universities (along with
Cambridge) in the UK to have 100% of their subjects in the UK by the guide. [213] According to the QS World University Rankings by Subject, the University of Oxford also ranks as number one in the world for four Humanities disciplines: English
Language and Literature, Modern Languages, Geography, and History. It also ranks second globally for Anthropology, Archaeology, Law, Medicine, Politics & International Studies, and Psychology (214) See also: Academic dress of the University of Oxford An undergraduate student at the University of Oxford in subfusc for matriculation Academic
dress is required for examinations, matriculation, disciplinary hearings, and when visiting university officers. A referendum held among the Oxford student body in 2015 showed 76% against making it voluntary in examinations - 8,671 students voted, with the 40.2% turnout the highest ever for a UK student union referendum.[215] This was widely
interpreted by students as being a vote not so much on making subfusc voluntary, but, in effect, on abolishing it by default, in that if a minority of people came to exams without subfusc, the rest would soon follow.[217] 'Trashing' is a
tradition of spraying those who just finished their last examination of the year with alcohol, flour and confetti. The sprayed student stays in the academic dress worn to the exam. The custom began in the 1970s when friends of student stays in the academic dress worn to the exam. The custom began in the 1970s when friends of students taking their finals waited outside Oxford's Examination Schools where exams for most degrees are taken. [218] Other
traditions and customs vary by college. For example, some colleges have formal hall six times a week, but in others this only happens occasionally, or even not at all. Balls are major events held by colleges; the largest, held triennially in ninth week of Trinity Term, are known as commemoration balls; the dress code is usually white tie. Many other
colleges hold smaller events during the year that they call summer balls or parties. See also: Category: Clubs and societies of the University of Oxford Union (not to be confused with the Oxford Union's debating chamber Rowing at Eights Week, an annual intercollegiate bumps race The Oxford Union (not to be confused with the Oxford Union's debating chamber Rowing at Eights Week, an annual intercollegiate bumps race The Oxford Union (not to be confused with the Oxford Union's debating chamber Rowing at Eights Week, an annual intercollegiate bumps race The Oxford Union (not to be confused with the Oxford Union) is an independent
debating society which hosts weekly debates and high-profile speakers. Party political groups include Oxford University Labour Club. Most academic areas have student societies of some form, for example the Scientific Society. There are two weekly student newspapers: the independent Cherwell and
OUSU's The Oxford Student. Other publications include the Isis magazine, the satirical Oxymoron, the graduate Oxonian Review, [219] and the online only newspaper The Oxford Blue. The student radio station is Oxide Radio. Sport is played between college teams, in tournaments known as cuppers (the term is also used
for some non-sporting competitions). In particular, much attention is given to the termly intercollegiate rowing regattas: Christ Church Regatta, Torpids, and Summer Eights. In addition, there are higher standard university wide teams. Significant focus is given to annual varsity matches played against Cambridge, the most famous of which is The
Boat Race, watched by a TV audience of between five and ten million viewers. A blue is an award given to those who compete at the university team level in certain sports. Music, drama, and other arts societies exist both at the collegiate level and as university team level in certain sports. Music, drama, and other arts societies exist both at the collegiate level and as university team level in certain sports.
colleges have chapel choirs. The Oxford Imps, a comedy improvisation troupe, perform weekly at The Jericho Tavern during term time. [220] Private members' clubs for students include Vincent's Club (primarily for sportspeople) [221] and The Gridiron Club. [222] A number of invitation-only student dining clubs also exist, including the Bullingdon
Club. The Oxford University Student Union, formerly better known by its acronym OUSU and now rebranded as Oxford SU,[223] exists to represent students in the university's decision-making, to act as the voice for students in the national higher education policy debate, and to provide direct services to the student body. Reflecting the collegiate
nature of the University of Oxford itself, OUSU is both an association of Oxford's more than 21,000 individual students and a federation of the affiliated college common rooms, and other affiliated organisations that represent subsets of the undergraduate and graduate students. The importance of collegiate life is such that for many students their
college JCR (Junior Common Room, for undergraduates) or MCR (Middle Common Room, for graduates) is seen as more important than OUSU. JCRs and MCRs each have a committee, with a president and often have significant budgets to
spend as they wish (money coming from their colleges and sometimes other sources such as student-run bars). Main articles: List of University of Oxford people and List of Nobel laureates affiliated with the University of Oxford people and List of Nobel laureates affiliated with the University of Oxford people and List of Nobel laureates affiliated with the University of Oxford people and List of Nobel laureates affiliated with the University of Oxford people and List of Nobel laureates affiliated with the University of Oxford people and List of Nobel laureates affiliated with the University of Oxford people and List of Nobel laureates affiliated with the University of Oxford people and List of Nobel laureates affiliated with the University of Oxford people and List of Nobel laureates affiliated with the University of Oxford people and List of Nobel laureates affiliated with the University of Oxford people and List of Nobel laureates affiliated with the University of Oxford people and List of Nobel laureates affiliated with the University of Oxford people and List of Nobel laureates affiliated with the University of Oxford people and List of Nobel laureates affiliated with the University of Oxford people and List of Nobel laureates affiliated with the University of Oxford people and List of Nobel laureates affiliated with the University of Oxford people and List of Nobel laureates affiliated with the University of Oxford people and List of Nobel laureates affiliated with the University of Oxford people affiliated with the University of Oxford people and List of Nobel laureates affiliated with the University of Oxford people affiliated with the University of Oxford people and List of Nobel laureates affiliated with the University of Oxford people affiliated with the University 
in this section. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. (May 2025) (Learn how and when to remove this message) Throughout its history, a sizeable number of Oxford alumni, known as Oxonians, have become notable in many varied fields, both academic and otherwise. More than 70 Nobel prize-winners have studied or taught at Oxford,
with prizes won in all six categories.[24] More information on notable members of the university can be found in the individual college articles. An individual may be associated with two or more colleges, as an undergraduate, postgraduate or member of staff. Notable alumniOscar Wilde, Magdalen College articles. An individual college articles. An individual college articles.
Clinton, University College Notable alumni include three Fields Medallists, two British kings and at least fifteen monarchs of eleven other countries. As of July 2019 there are seven Oxonians in the
Cabinet of the United Kingdom and two in the Shadow Cabinet. The university has produced 291 Members of Parliament (excluding MPs who were subsequently peers), eleven Members of the European Parliament (excluding MPs who were subsequently peers), eleven Members of the European Parliament (excluding MPs who were subsequently peers), eleven Members of the European Parliament (excluding MPs who were subsequently peers), eleven Members of the European Parliament (excluding MPs who were subsequently peers), eleven Members of the European Parliament (excluding MPs who were subsequently peers).
Senators, ten US Representatives (including a Speaker of the House), three state governors, and four associate justices of the now defunct Federal Court of Canada. The University of Oxford is the setting for numerous works of fiction. Oxford
was mentioned in fiction as early as 1400 when Chaucer, in Canterbury Tales, referred to a "Clerk [student] of Oxenford".[224] Mortimer Proctor argues the first campus novel was The Adventures of Oxymel Classic, Esq; Once an Oxford Scholar (1768).[225] It is filled with violence and debauchery, with obnoxious, foolish dons becoming easy prey for
cunning students.[226] Proctor argues that by 1900, "novels about Oxford and Cambridge were so numerous that they clearly represent a striking literary phenomenon."[227] By 1989, 533 novels based in Oxford had been identified and the number continues to rise.[228] Famous literary works range from Brideshead Revisited by Evelyn Waugh,
which in 1981 was adapted as a television serial, to the trilogy His Dark Materials by Philip Pullman, which features an alternate-reality version of the university and was adapted for film in 2007 and as a BBC television series in 2019. Other notable examples include: Zuleika Dobson (1911) by Max Beerbohm, a satire about undergraduate life. Gaudy
Night (1935) by Dorothy L. Sayers, herself a graduate of Somerville College, a Lord Peter Wimsey mystery novel. The Inspector Morse (1987-2000), the spin-off Lewis (2006-2015), and the preguel Endeavour (2012-2023). True Blue (1996), a film about the
mutiny at the time of the Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race of 1987. The History Boys (2004) by Alan Bennett, alumnus of Exeter College, a play about a group of grammar school boys in Sheffield in 1983 applying to read history at Oxford and Cambridge. It premiered at the National Theatre and was adapted for film in 2006. Posh (2010), a play by Laura
Wade, and its film adaptation The Riot Club (2014), about a fictionalised equivalent of the Bullingdon Club. Testament of Youth (2014), a drama film based on the memoir of the same name written by Somerville alumna Vera Brittain. Notable non-fiction works on Oxford by Jan Morris. [229] Portals: University of Oxford Oxfordshire
Education Academic scarves of the University of Oxford Gaudy celebration Oxford University of Oxford University Oxford U
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