

Oxford Thinking

The Campaign for the University of Oxford



Investing in the future

Supporting the next generation of talented scholars

The Department of Politics and International Relations at Oxford



Case for support



In the Department of Politics and International Relations, we train the very best. And to enable the very best to study at Oxford, we must support our brightest graduates, regardless of their financial situation.

Doctoral students are the research engines needed to underpin thought and leadership. Research produced by these leading young academics in turn brings in significant income from research grants and funding and will support further growth and development of academic study.



Supporting the next generation of postgraduate scholars

Why support postgraduate study?

It is vital that we attract the next generation of scholars, who will teach future generations of undergraduates. Scholars such as those who teach at Oxford need to be nurtured, taught to research, and taught to teach.

Additionally, postgraduate study generates a much wider group of social scientists with the skills of research, data-gathering, hypothesis testing, modelling and programming. These skills – put to good use right across the public and private sectors – are not, for the most part, honed through undergraduate study alone. To get the edge in a demanding skills market, increasingly you need a graduate degree.

But graduate study only justifies itself when built on excellence. In the Department of Politics and International Relations we train the very best. To enable the very best to study at Oxford we must support our brightest graduates irrespective of their financial situation. Needs-blind admission at graduate level is the biggest funding challenge facing higher education in the UK. In Politics and International Relations, our department has strong competitors, many of whom, especially in North America, have formidable resources to offer full graduate bursaries. Our reputation helps to make up for the funding gap but without proper funding regimes to support postgraduate study in Politics and International Relations, the best postgraduates will simply not be able to come to the UK.

We need above all to retain in Oxford the best of our Masters'-level students to generate the best doctoral research and publications. This demands fully-funded pathways from Master's degree to doctoral thesis. Graduate study is costly. Lack of finance is too often today the cause of promising young scholars declining their places for postgraduate study at Oxford.

Scholar profile:

Angela Cummine trained in political science and law at undergraduate level before working as a policy advisor in the Australian public service and qualifying as a solicitor. Her preparation for doctoral research included our two-year MPhil in Political Theory, which combines normative analysis of problems of justice, liberty and power with critical theories of political and social systems and the study of the history of political thought. Angela's design for her doctoral research combined historical and documentary-based data with interviews and focus groups in a range of fieldwork settings from Alaska to the UAE, Norway, Singapore and Australia as part of an enquiry into the management and values of sovereign wealth funds. For her, studying normative political theory while furthering her political science training gave her doctoral thesis a strikingly wide range of disciplinary excellence, methodological virtuosity, and scholarly rigour. True diversity and depth.

Dr E. Frazer, Head of Department

Dr Angela Cummine currently holds a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship in the department. Her research project is titled 'Who Owns the State? A Contemporary Theory of Public Ownership'





Politics and International Relations at Oxford: A world-class structure for excellence

The department at Oxford is one of the best in the world, and one of the largest. Size matters. It builds networks of academics whose research clusters in political theory, political economy, area studies, international relations and institutional analysis provide a critical mass for fully professional research training. Cross-fertilisation between different sub-branches is also built on size, with returns to scale from common training in textual analysis, historical study, statistical analysis, formal and mathematical analysis, research ethics, ethnographic and observational methods and experiments.

Our strength also lies in our unique capacity to understand global and regional perspectives, combining the highest level disciplinary teaching and research skills with deep knowledge of the regions of the world. The success of our alumni worldwide is testament to the complex linkages between top-quality research and real world impact.

Our one- and two-year Master's courses are grouped in a tripartite framework of international studies, political theory, or comparative government. In one-year courses, the focus is on training in valid and reliable research design and practical methods of data gathering, handling, and analysis. Two-year taught courses take students into more depth in substantive subjects as well as methods and include a larger research component. For the most capable, this leads through to doctoral-level research and to research publishing.



'The Department of Politics and International Relations boasts a unique structure as political philosophers are housed alongside international relations scholars and comparative political scientists, encouraging researchers to situate their work within the wider field of political inquiry and consciously reflect on their own methodological approach to the study of politics.'

Dr Angela Cummine

Recruiting the best of the next generation of scholars

Our goal is competitive funding packages for our best applicants at graduate entry level. The table below gives the current cost of postgraduate study for students from different parts of the world. This is what it will cost – per annum – to train a doctoral student in 2015-16. The maintenance levels are based on those recommended by the main UK research councils.

Table of fees

2015-16	International Student	UK/EU Student
Tuition fees	£18,220	£8,210
College fees	£2,850	£2,850
Maintenance and living	£14,130	£14,130
Total	£35,200	£25,190

In effect, and taking in opportunities for paid teaching and research, we currently need about £30,000 per year for each scholarship.





Amplifying the impact of your gift: The Oxford Graduate Scholarship Matched Fund

The University of Oxford is strongly committed to the provision of full funding for all of its graduate students. The [Oxford Graduate Scholarship Matched Fund](#) addresses this goal by combining philanthropic giving with strategic investments by the University.

The University has set aside £50 million from its endowment to provide a 40% match to donors' gifts towards graduate scholarships. This will create an endowment of £125 million to fund scholarships in perpetuity. Through this funding, the University will create more than 160 new scholarships.

Progress to date and immediate impact

Since the programme's launch in 2012, matching for philanthropic gifts of over £55 million has been approved. These gifts will attract a match of over £36 million from the Matched Fund.



Donors: making a difference

The Department of Politics and International Relations is working to secure philanthropic gifts for its most talented prospective students to benefit from the flexibility of the Oxford Graduate Scholarship Matched Fund. However, all gifts, of whatever size, are vital, as we can amalgamate even the smallest donations to create full scholarships.

We invite you to join this important endeavour. Your generosity will allow exceptional students to benefit from the diversity and depth of the Department of Politics and International Relations, at the heart of the oldest university in the English-speaking world.



Contact

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