

The University of Oxford

Donor Recognition

Over the centuries, major benefactors to the University have traditionally been honoured and recognised in many different ways.

The Sheldon Medal

The highest mark of distinction that the University of Oxford can bestow upon a benefactor is the prestigious Sheldon Medal. This recognition is reserved for a member of the Chancellor's Court of Benefactors whose contributions have made a significant strategic difference to the life and work of the University and the colleges. The medal may only be awarded to one benefactor each academic year.

The Clarendon Arch

A member of the Chancellor's Court of Benefactors may have their generosity to the University honoured by the engraving of their name in the Clarendon Archway, near the entrance of the Bodleian Library. Names so inscribed include the most generous benefactors in Oxford's history, Sir Thomas Bodley, Queen Elizabeth I, John Radcliffe, Cecil Rhodes, IBM UK, Charles Simonyi and James Martin. New additions to the Clarendon Arch are formally celebrated as part of the annual Chancellor's Court of Benefactors meeting.

The Chancellor's Court of Benefactors

Substantial philanthropic contributions by an individual, or by a company, foundation or other organisation, once received in full, may enable the Chancellor to invite the benefactor to join the Chancellor's Court of Benefactors. The Court meets annually in Oxford for a private business meeting and the formal ceremony of admission. This occasion provides an important opportunity for an individual benefactor or representative to have contact with the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, Heads of Colleges and senior academics, to meet with other members of the Court and to develop a more personal relationship with the University and its colleges. Benefactors that have provided exceptional support to the collegiate University are known as CCB Fellows.

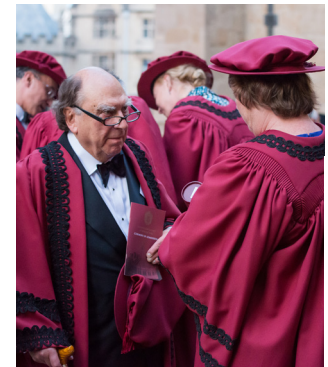
The Vice-Chancellor's Circle

The Vice-Chancellor's Circle was launched in 2009 to recognise those individual, foundation and corporate benefactors who have provided generous support to the University and the colleges. In addition to receiving regular communications from the Vice-Chancellor and other senior officers, members will be invited to special meetings of the Vice-Chancellor's Circle. These occasions showcase the breadth of intellectual talent at Oxford and the significant contribution to society of alumni and friends. The Circle engages members in the diverse, ever-vibrant life and work of the collegiate University.



Dick Wadkin

Gilbert Sheldon, after whom the Sheldon Medal is named, graduated from Trinity College in 1620 and was a great benefactor to the University



John Cairns

Members of the Chancellor's Court of Benefactors outside the Sheldonian Theatre



The Vice-Chancellor's Circle logo, inspired by the original embroidery design of the Vice-Chancellor's robe

Naming and recognition

The University of Oxford has a long history of public acknowledgement of its benefactors. One way in which this can be achieved is through naming opportunities on buildings, libraries, chairs, scholarships, plaques and rolls of honour. The Ashmolean Museum and the Bodleian Library were both named in honour of benefactors whose generosity lives on, continuing to contribute to the life of Oxford today.

Each donor has a unique relationship with the University and some benefactors may wish their philanthropy to be anonymous. We are happy to discuss the possibility of the naming of schools, institutes, posts or scholarship programmes where appropriate. Such opportunities are not restricted to the benefactor's name; the benefactor may choose to honour an eminent academic or distinguished figure. Donors can also make a contribution to research and teaching activity at Oxford, helping to launch a new generation of future leaders.

Providing benefactors are happy for us to do so, they will be recognised in publicity material and websites. These include the annual Oxford Thinking Campaign Report and the Encaenia Programme. Very generous benefactors will be mentioned in the Creweian Oration at Encaenia, the ceremony held by the University to commemorate its donors and to award honorary degrees to distinguished men and women.

Engaging Oxford's benefactors

Oxford enjoys maintaining ongoing relationships with its benefactors, whose continuing involvement in the life of the University may include taking part in a variety of important and stimulating events. Major benefactors will receive invitations to project related events, such as special lectures and opening ceremonies. In the year of their major benefaction, it is hoped that donors may join the University at its biggest celebration, Encaenia. Other important Oxford events include the annual Oxford v Cambridge Boat Race and the Christmas Recital.



The Varsity Boat Race between Oxford and Cambridge takes place on the Thames in London



Engraved names in the Clarendon Arch, which runs through the centre of the Clarendon Building, built to the design of Nicholas Hawksmoor in 1712 - 1715

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