Supporting postgraduate students in the Social Sciences

Department of Economics at the University of Oxford

Oxford’s Department of Economics is one of Europe’s leading economics departments. Our members include some of the world’s most distinguished academic economists, who undertake innovative research that extends the frontiers of modern economic analysis, and have forged close links between academic research and policy-making.

The Department is committed to excellence in teaching at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. We have around 1000 undergraduates studying economics on one of our three joint degree programmes, and more than 250 graduate students.

We offer three one-year Masters degrees jointly with other departments, in Financial Economics, Development Economics, and Economic History. Our flagship MPhil and DPhil programmes in Economics are internationally recognised for the excellence of the scholarship and training provided; many Oxford economics graduates have progressed to positions of leadership in academia, in public services and in the private sector.

Degrees

- MSc in Economics for Development (9 months)
- MSc in Economic and Social History (9 months)
- MSc in Financial Economics (9 mths run with Said Business School)
- MPhil in Economics (2 years)
- MPhil in Economics and Social History (2 year)
- DPhil in Economics (2 or 3 years)

Departmental Highlights

- In the most recent UK Research Assessment, REF 2014, the Department was ranked top in terms of overall research strength, with more research output graded as world-leading in terms of its originality, rigour and significance than did any other economics department in the UK.
- Members of the faculty currently serve in leading positions in the World Bank, UK Department for International Development, UK Office of Fair Trading, Bank of England and Competition Commission and have acted as advisors and consultants to International and UK agencies.

Student application and admissions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data year</th>
<th>Degree course</th>
<th>Subject/Dept</th>
<th>Applications</th>
<th>Offers</th>
<th>Admitted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td>MSc &amp; MPhil</td>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>513</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td>DPhil</td>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>17</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Investing in tomorrow’s leaders

We are looking for supporters who share Oxford University’s mission, and wish to play their part in addressing the problems of the 21st century through investing in the next generation of thinkers and doers. Single and multi-year scholarships would profoundly change the opportunities and futures of many talented people. Endowed scholarships will secure that impact in perpetuity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>2019-2020 per degree cost</th>
<th>Example multi-year scholarship</th>
<th>Endowment per student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MSc</td>
<td>£36,864 (Home) / £42,624 (Overseas)</td>
<td>£127,871 (3 MSc students)</td>
<td>£1,065,591</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSc with Said Business School</td>
<td>£58,554 (Home &amp; Overseas)</td>
<td>£175,661 (3 MSc students)</td>
<td>£1,463,841</td>
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<tr>
<td>MPhil</td>
<td>£67,908 (Home) / £75,025 (Overseas)</td>
<td>£150,050 (2 MPhil students)</td>
<td>£1,875,630</td>
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<tr>
<td>DPhil</td>
<td>£73,064 (Home) / £112,493 (Overseas)</td>
<td>£224,985 (2 DPhil students)</td>
<td>£2,812,313</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Alumni profiles

Maria Balgova, DPhil Economics

Maria Balgova is originally from Slovakia, and has studied in Oxford since 2013. She first completed an MPhil in Economics, and has now gone on to do further Economics research through a DPhil. Her MPhil thesis focused on inequality and unemployment as an economic problem. Her DPhil explores unemployment levels in Slovakia, which are stagnant at over 20% since the revolution in the late 1980s. She aims to analyse the phenomenon of these areas ‘that simply don’t seem to converge with the trends in the rest of the country. I’d like to extend this to all of Europe – and try to figure out why these regions seem to be stuck at very high unemployment levels, despite, for instance, the significant funding from the European Union’s Regional Cohesion Programmes.’ Her scholarship was essential to carrying out her studies at Oxford. ‘(This funding) enables us to help our home countries. It’s great to do well academically, but it’s even better to do well academically in something that matters for society.’

“‘I am extremely thankful for the scholarship which enabled me to focus on my studies during the last year and finish my DPhil in Economics. Due to the financial aid, I was able to concentrate my attention on my research and did not have to worry about how to finance my studies. I was very productive during this last year and managed to finish two-thirds of my thesis. In addition, I presented my work at several conferences and received valuable feedback on my research. Without the scholarship, I would have not been able to produce research at the current level, which in the end sparked the Federal Reserve’s interest in employing me after my studies.’”

Student reflections

‘After my graduation, I plan to continue my research in academia. The scholarship has provided strong support in my studies at Oxford and an internship which has enriched my understanding of the financial market and also provided me with a lot of insights and ideas for future research which can bring the industry needs and academic interests more closely together.’

“The generous contribution [from the scholarship] allowed me to focus on research during the final year of my doctorate degree. The money covered general living expenses and research-related travel costs. The scholarship also gave me the opportunity to teach graduate macroeconomics to incoming students, an experience I thoroughly enjoyed. After my graduation, I intend to continue with my research and hope to apply it to real-life policy problems. To that end, the scholarship has added true value to my current and future professional goals – and for that, I am sincerely grateful.”

“The support from the [scholarship] fund has been critical for my academic progress and I believe that my interactions with the financial sector has stimulated and improved my academic work.”

Further information: Rachel Kirwan - Head of Development Social Sciences Division, University of Oxford, Hayes House, 75 George St, Oxford, OX1 2BQ E rachel.kirwan@devoff.ox.ac.uk T +44 (0)7515 187385