

Hertford College Public Benefit Statement

OBJECT

To advance public learning by the provision of a College within the University of Oxford

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The College advances public learning by providing higher education for undergraduate and postgraduate students within Oxford University, and by supporting the pursuit of publicly disseminated research. The College currently has approximately 380 undergraduates, 160 postgraduates, and around 40 fellows who have contractual obligations to teaching and to research.

The College provides public benefit by offering higher education to its undergraduates, much of it via the tutorial system which provides the opportunity to meet with a tutor on a weekly basis during term time. In addition, the college provides classes, seminars and other forms of teaching as appropriate, in conjunction with the University's departments. To support student learning, the College also provides the use of the College's library and accommodation, and actively promotes the wider cultural and social education of its students through the provision of computer, sports, careers advice and other facilities.

Graduates at the College form an important part of the academic community. While they are taught at their University Faculty, every graduate student is assigned a College Graduate Adviser who provides academic and pastoral support.

The College also advances research in a range of disciplines by employing academics who have a contractual obligation to undertake published research, and providing them with a supportive academic atmosphere, including the provision of research grants, library and computer facilities, office accommodation and meals. The high levels of research activity by College fellows have been audited by the national Research Assessment Scheme (2008); that research is disseminated through published papers, books, websites and lectures. The College supports the research of academics who, at the beginning of their careers, have already shown outstanding promise in their chosen field of research by providing a fully funded Junior Research Fellowship for a period of up to three years to enable the holder to concentrate solely on their topic of research.

The College does not consider that there is any detriment or harm that arises from carrying out the College's aims and is not aware of views among others that such detriment or harm might arise.

The resident members of the College, both students and academic staff, are the primary beneficiaries and are directly engaged in education, learning or research.

However, beneficiaries also include students and academic staff from other Colleges in Oxford and visiting academics from other higher education institutions.

The College offers undergraduate places on the basis of academic merit. The College aims to attract students who are most able to benefit from an Oxford education regardless of sex, gender, income, ethnic origin, religion, previous education opportunity or disability, and actively works to recruit students from non-traditional backgrounds by promoting access with comprehensive

schools. There are no geographical restrictions in the College's objects and students and academic staff are drawn from across the UK and internationally.

The College charges the following fees:

- a) Student fees at externally regulated rates to undergraduates entitled to Student Support and to graduate students (with those undergraduate fees being paid by grant funding through arrangements approved by the Government), and a fee determined by the College annually to Overseas undergraduates and any Home/EU undergraduates not entitled to Student Support; and
- b) Accommodation and meal charges at reasonable rates.

Financial support is available to undergraduates from the UK or the EU to assist them with the costs of tuition fees and living costs whilst at the College. In addition to student loans provided by the Student Loans Company that are available to undergraduates from within the EU, other financial support is available to undergraduates from the University and the College who are from households where income is below a certain level. Oxford Opportunity Bursaries are available to undergraduates from lower income households at the College. In addition, the College has a Student Support Fund which makes grants to both undergraduate and graduate students in financial hardship. The College has identified student support as one of its key development priorities and is actively fundraising to provide more bursaries.

Graduate funding is available for some studies and for the most able there are a limited number of scholarship funds available that graduates may apply for, which are administered by the University, the College or other sources. The College awards two Senior Scholarships each year which are open to any student intending to read for a higher degree in Oxford. A number of academic prizes are available to undergraduates and graduates at the College. Prizes are awarded on the basis of academic excellence and they serve to encourage academic endeavour at the College. The College also advances education for its graduates by providing travel grants to meet costs involved in undertaking research and presenting papers at conferences.

In order to fulfil its charitable objectives, Hertford College employs a Principal, Tutors and Senior Administrative Officers. These individuals are the Fellows and Trustees of the College, represented by the Governing Body. The benefits receivable by the Trustees are all in respect of academic and administrative work performed for Hertford College. No benefits receivable by Trustees are in respect of their duties as Trustees. All of the taxable benefits are defined, objectively reasonable and limited according to the Statutes and Bye-Laws of the College. In total the College has 44 trustees, without whom the College could not fulfil its charitable aims as a College in the University of Oxford.