



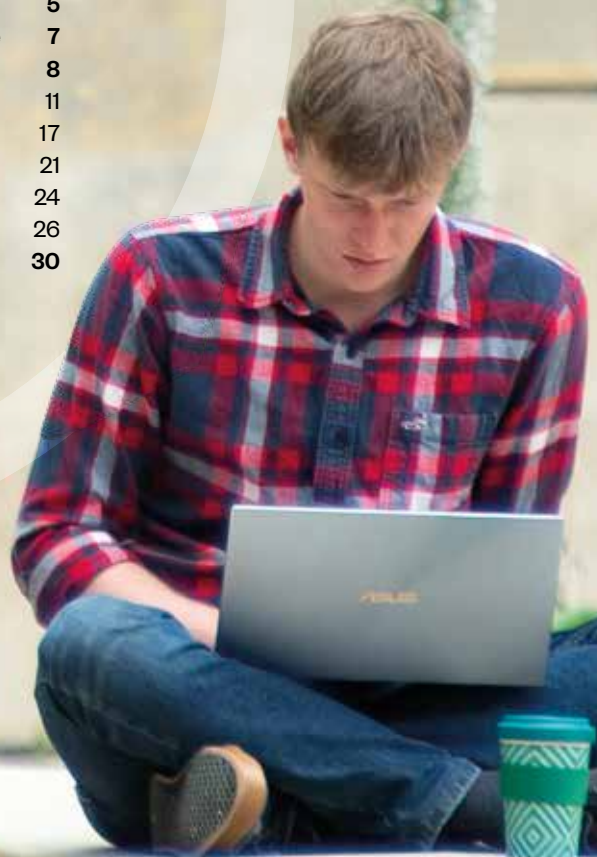
WADHAM  
COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

# DONOR REPORT 2021

How your support  
is changing lives

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## With gratitude

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After another year of global turmoil and disruption to student life at Wadham, it is a privilege to report on the College's remarkable philanthropic performance and the impact of your support. The pandemic has exposed growing global inequalities and social immobility, and the Access to Excellence programme is our small institutional contribution to creating a more equitable society where merit triumphs over privilege. Thanks to your continued generosity and encouragement, the College can share its wealth of learning more widely than ever and help students from a kaleidoscope of backgrounds to thrive and excel at Oxford and beyond. This is a cause to which my predecessor and friend Ken Macdonald was deeply committed and I look forward to carrying on his work.

As I have been learning more about Wadham during my first term as Warden, I have seen at first hand the immense impact of your generosity, and it has made a deep impression to hear about the thoughtful planning so many alumni and friends put into giving back to the College, both with your life-time donations and by leaving a bequest in your will. Your contributions, year on year, are vitally important for the continued delivery of our educational mission. Despite very prudent management of Wadham's relatively modest endowment, we quite simply could not offer an Oxford education without the loyal support of our wider community. On behalf of students, Fellows and staff, I would like to express my profound gratitude for the difference you have all made during a challenging year.

As the pages ahead demonstrate, donations of all sizes truly make a difference to current and future generations of students and, with your support, Wadham students and Fellows are making vital contributions to diverse areas of human knowledge and are addressing some of the world's most pressing challenges. It is particularly uplifting that alumni have supported us in greater numbers than ever during a year where so many of you have experienced personal hardship and adversity. We don't take your generosity for granted, and we are humbled by the trust you place in the College. I hope to get an opportunity to thank many of you in person over the coming months, and we are quietly optimistic that we can soon welcome you back to Wadham and to our alumni events in the UK and overseas. More than anything, we look forward to celebrating the opening of our wonderful, new Back Quad buildings later this year. Meanwhile, my warmest thanks to you for giving back to Wadham and helping the College remain at the forefront of teaching and research.

**Robert Hannigan**  
**Warden**

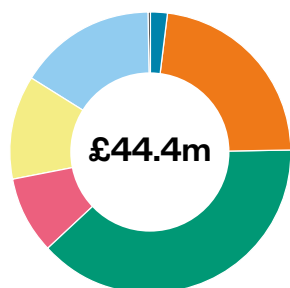


# Your support in numbers 2020–21

- **24%** of alumni made a gift
- **£743k** raised for the Wadham Fund
- **£360k** donated from 9 legacies
- **407** alumni have pledged a gift in their wills
- **£200k** raised from our 2nd Giving Day
- **600** alumni donated to our 2nd Giving Day

## Campaign Summary

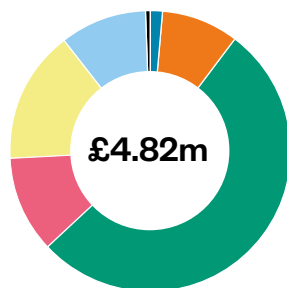
New funds raised from August 2012–21



Student Support	£0.9m
Graduate Scholarships	£10.0m
Buildings and Facilities	£17.3m
Access and Outreach	£4.1m
Wadham Fund	£5.1m
Academic Posts	£7.0m
Other	£23k

## Financial Year 2020–21

Distribution of cash received



Student Support	£74k
Graduate Scholarships	£423k
Buildings and Facilities	£2.56m
Access and Outreach	£537k
Wadham Fund	£743k
Academic Posts	£470k
Other	£20k

# Your achievements

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Despite severe disruptions to all parts of College life, the 2020–21 academic and financial year has demonstrated the extraordinary resilience and resourcefulness of the Wadham community. It gives me great pleasure to thank you for being part of one of Oxford's most generous alumni groups – nearly a quarter of alumni made a gift to Wadham in 2020–21, a record for the College, and this in a year in which many of you have also faced increased financial pressures. We are profoundly touched by your remarkable show of community and munificence.

In 2020–21, we received a fantastic £4.8m in cash and pledge payments, and £3.1m in new gifts and pledges – a humbling result and a vital contribution as the College strives to deliver its educational mission during a pandemic. Our second #WadhamProud Giving Day in November 2020 had the best participation of any Oxbridge college to date, with 600 donors contributing over £200,000 to the College's greatest need and galvanising alumni networks all over the world.

As demonstrated on the following pages, the enormous commitment and generosity of our alumni in the UK and across the globe are making a very real difference to students' lives and, with your support, our Fellows are extending the depth and reach of their world-leading research. We are proud that the Access to Excellence programme is changing perceptions of Oxford and sending new generations out in the world to make a difference. Thanks to your donations of all sizes, we are able to offer thousands of applicants and students tailored support

and guidance every year, and these efforts are making a genuine difference, as evidenced in our annual Impact Report.

It is with special pride and anticipation that we look forward to thanking you all for your contributions to our new Back Quad buildings, and to welcoming you back for a tour and celebration of the new Dr Lee Shau Kee Building and the William Doo Undergraduate Centre. The students have made these inspirational buildings their home away from home at Wadham, and the Locke Access Centre has already hosted hundreds of students for inspiration days, summer schools and academic taster sessions for schools in our link areas. It will be a very special pleasure to thank you for your contributions to this transformative project.

More than ever, Wadham's achievements are thanks to you. Your inspiration, generosity and encouragement as we develop the plans for Wadham's future are deeply appreciated. On behalf of each and every one of us at Wadham, thank you.

**Julie Christiane Hage**  
Fellow and Development Director







**50%**

The fees received by Wadham cover little more than half of its costs in delivering an Oxford degree. This leaves the College with a major financial shortfall.

**2/30  
&  
14/30**

What about the endowment? Out of 30 undergraduate colleges, Wadham is ranked 2nd in total student numbers but 14th in terms of its relatively modest endowment.



# Your support makes a genuine difference

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As you know, Oxford's tutorial system is second to none: it enriches students' academic lives and career prospects considerably. However, the annual cost of educating and housing a Wadham undergraduate student exceeds course fees and charges, leaving the College with a major financial shortfall.

Without the generous and loyal support of our global community of alumni and friends, we could not provide the same educational

opportunities to today's and tomorrow's high-achieving students that you experienced.

Your support enables the College to open its doors to more exceptional students from a diversity of backgrounds, fulfilling academic potential and further raising our standards of academic excellence.

Wadham was able to provide well over £1 million in financial assistance to our students in 2020–21, thanks to the 24% of alumni who made a gift last year, and to a return from Wadham's endowment, which exists thanks to the donations of previous generations.

**£202K**

in bursaries and hardship support

**£130K**

additional funds allocated for welfare-related support

**£42K**

further in accommodation and vacation residence assistance

**£80K**

in Living Out grants

**£9K**

in Freshers' book grants

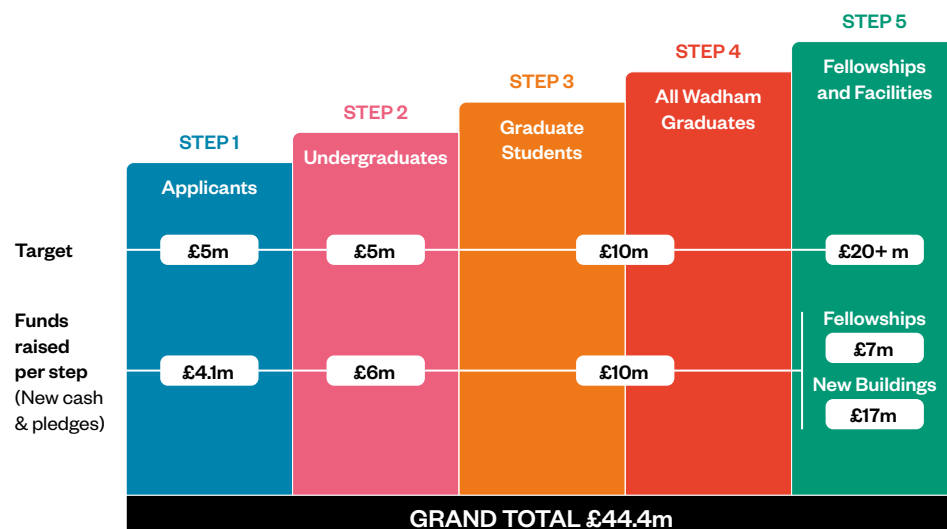


# Access to Excellence Campaign

**One distinctive strategy.  
Five bold steps.**

Our Access to Excellence programme aims to support young people from the moment they consider university, through their undergraduate and graduate studies, and as they go out into the world to make a positive impact on society.

**2016 launch target:** £30m  
**New target set in 2019:** £45m by 2021–22  
**Total raised to date:** £44.4m



# Target within touching distance

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Thanks to you, Wadham's 'Access to Excellence' fundraising campaign reached a total of £44.4 million in gifts and pledges in August 2021 – bringing us tantalisingly close to our target.

Since we started counting in 2012, the campaign has been the strategic framework for all of your donations. So great was your collective generosity that we revised the target upwards in 2019, with the aim of raising £45 million by the end of the academic year 2021–22. We are counting on your momentum as we enter the final straight.

The 'Access to Excellence' programme will stand as a lasting testament to Wadham's commitment to advance the College's distinctive values of fairness and academic distinction, and we are poised to build on this foundation, also for the future. Launched in 2016 by the chair of our Development Council, Warren East (Engineering, 1980 – pictured, right), the stated objective for the campaign was not just to make admission to Wadham even fairer and to reach new heights of academic excellence, but also to demonstrate that inclusivity genuinely raises performance. One further goal was for Wadham to become a beacon of best practice in access and outreach – both within the University and beyond.

Regardless of the fundraising total, the impact of your donations is already clearly visible. In 2021,

Wadham was sixth in the Norrington Table and in the 'top ten' for all of the University's access measures (UK undergraduate admissions from state schools, ethnic minorities and postcodes with high levels of disadvantage or low progression to university). Admissions statistics also suggest that, over the course of our campaign, Oxford as a whole has become a far more inclusive institution. Perhaps most visible of all, however, is the transformation of our Back Quad with its dedicated access centre – unique in the University of Oxford.

We are proud of the campaign, but we are not complacent. The socio-economic impact of the pandemic is such that we must intensify our efforts for fairer access and to nurture and support world-leading teaching and research. And one important funding shortfall remains: the gap between the cost of an Oxford undergraduate education and the state support we receive currently stands at £10,000 per student, per annum. This is why your collective donations of all sizes to the Wadham Fund, which enables us to spend where the need is greatest, are so important every year.







# Applicants

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Our Outreach and Access programme is a defining part of Wadham's ethos. Despite the renewed lockdown, our dedicated team redoubled its efforts to create virtual methods of supporting young students from our link areas and beyond, thanks to your generous and continued support.

There really is no substitute for the experience that thousands of pupils from Years 7-13 gain by coming to Wadham on Aspiration and Taster Days, or through our outreach events in one of the 200+ schools in our link regions. They bring excitement, fun and inspiration – and provide a tangible sense of university life.

But that's only possible outside a pandemic and, for most of last year, lockdown meant that those students from disadvantaged backgrounds, whom we aim to support and engage with, were more likely to face additional hurdles in applying to highly selective universities.

Kudos then to our specialist team – Dr Hugh Munro and Dr Catherine Seed – who focused their creative and tireless energy on adapting our Access programme to provide tailored support for students and teachers from Wadham's link regions. This was achieved through a mix of live and pre-recorded virtual sessions, and collaborations with partner organisations. We ran 109 Wadham-specific events and engaged with 4,644 pupils from 234 schools.

Fortunately, it wasn't entirely an 'online' year of engagement. Our August summer schools demonstrated the power of person-to-person interactions in College, and we hope the current academic year allows in-bound visits to continue. Whatever the circumstances, Wadham's Access team has made us proud and shown that, with the amazing generosity and support of our donor community, we can pull out all the stops to ensure that Wadham remains a beacon of inclusivity that attracts and supports the best students from all backgrounds.

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Almost a fifth (18.3%) of our current students are from postcodes that are in the bottom two quintiles against the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI).

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In total, almost three-quarters of our August summer school participants applied to Oxford, with nearly half of those participants applying to Wadham – by far our best results to date.



August 2021	Biology & Human Sciences	Classics	Modern Languages
Summer School Applications (for 16 places)	256 (3 times higher than 2019)	119 (2.4 times higher than 2019)	107 (new course)
Summer School Participants	16	16	16
Applied to Oxford	13	14	8
Applied to Wadham	9	8	6

## Summer School successes

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In August, we were excited to host 48 students from Year 12 for three summer schools in Biology & Human Sciences, Classics and, for the first time, Modern Languages (funded by the McCall MacBain Foundation).

Hosting this year's summer schools was special for two reasons: firstly, they were – at long last – an opportunity to use the modern, inspiring teaching space of the new Locke Access Centre in the Dr Lee Shau Kee Building; secondly, these were the only access events of the year to be delivered face-to-face. Dr Hugh Munro, who heads Wadham's Access programme, said: "It was amazing. These were the first students to use this space for what it was built for. It was incredibly relaxed, with the students being able to focus on just being students –

Oxford students at that – for a week. They made the space their own and developed an easy rapport with each other, our student ambassadors and our lecturers. They were highly stimulated by the environment and the experience, and the stats reflect the success of that" [see box opposite].

While the Engineering summer school remained virtual this year, it was also extremely successful, with the number of participants up from 46 to 55. Organised by the University's 'UNIQ' programme and generously funded by Wadham alumni, it enabled students to interact through an online portal and to participate in academic sessions via the chat function.

One of the events, chaired by Mark Thompson, Professor of Engineering, gave the students an opportunity to interact with a panel of four Wadham engineering alumni: Helen Macadam (MEng Engineering Science, 2005), Pete Mason (MEng Engineering Science, Economics & Management, 1994), Erol Mustafa (Engineering Sciences,

1985) and Foundation Fellow Amanda East (Engineering Science, 1981). Participants also enjoyed extra activities around the academic programme to allow them to get to know one another as well as the student ambassadors who supervised the week.

Former Access Tutor, Peter Thonemann, has been involved in the summer schools' delivery and refinement over the past several years, and noted: "Wadham's academic summer schools are intellectually rigorous, heavily over-subscribed, and extraordinarily effective in helping talented students from under-represented backgrounds to develop the skills and confidence required to make competitive applications to Oxford. I am thrilled that this year has seen the highest proportion ever of our summer school alumni applying to Wadham, and very much hope that many of them will be successful in their applications."





## Mentoring as a pandemic measure

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Generous donations and a specialist partner enabled us to provide vital mentoring for high-potential students disadvantaged by the pandemic.

School closures, limited access to technology, poor connectivity and inadequate study spaces: just a few of the well-documented impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on students from disadvantaged communities. To make matters worse, many families suffered from food or fuel poverty in the economic fallout from the

pandemic, which further affected school attainment.

Supporting high-potential students from low-income families in tangible, impactful ways was therefore a priority for Wadham during last year's lockdown. Our solution was to team up with specialist charity, Causeway Education, to create an online mentoring programme for 250 hand-picked Year 12 students from 23 of our link schools. But the initiative was only made possible by a generous donation of £27,000.

Each student was paired with a subject-specialist mentor, who guided them through the process of drafting a personal statement in preparation for their university applications.

There is evidence that this kind of support has a significant impact on offer rates from Oxford and other highly selective universities. Both pupils and teachers reported that the mentoring was invaluable. One teacher said: "Thank you for the incredible support that Wadham has financed for our sixth form through the Causeway mentoring scheme. The 10 students who benefited over the summer rated it very highly, and it has helped staff out in terms of workload at a very busy time too. We were delighted to hear we might be able to get more spaces for our students and will certainly be applying for those."

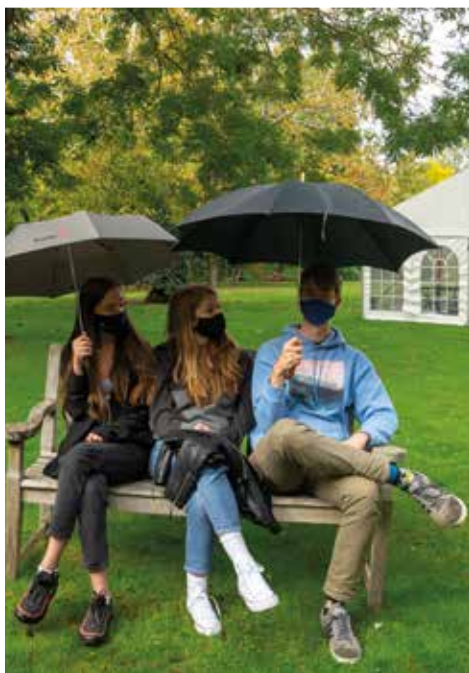
◀ Our Access team pulled out every stop to maintain virtual support to the schools in our link regions throughout the pandemic. However, it was clear as restrictions were lifted that there is no substitute to welcoming students to Wadham in person and utilising our purpose-built Access Centre.

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**£27k provided  
online mentoring  
for 250 Y12 students**

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# Undergraduates

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Our donor community stepped up in a year of unprecedented challenges to allow the College to support students in need.

Our global community of alumni and friends has consistently been generous and supportive in responding to our fundraising appeals. It has always been because of your benevolence that any student facing financial hardship can turn to the College for assistance.

Then came 2020–21, a year in which demand for student support surged due to the pandemic. It was also a year in which our annual fundraising calendar was significantly curtailed. On top of that, the College lost some £1.5 million in anticipated conference and residential income due to lockdown.

We appealed for your support and, despite many in the community facing similar uncertainty and hardship, you responded with a crescendo of warmth and humbling generosity. Last year an astonishing 24% of our alumni community made a gift to Wadham, a record, putting us in the top three of Oxford colleges in terms of alumni participation. The College as a whole and the individual students you helped are profoundly grateful for your support.

Thanks to the generosity of the trustees of late Dr Peter Burum Sherry, we were able to disburse £130,000 to assist students adversely affected by COVID-19. Your response to our second Giving Day in November 2020 was astounding and set a new Oxford record for participation: over 600 alumni donated to it – including Wadham alumna Rosamund Pike (English, 1997 – middle left photo), whose 'WadhamProud' video went viral – enabling us to raise over £200,000. The total amount raised for the Wadham Fund was an extraordinary £743,000 in 2020–21. During a year with unprecedented pressures on College finances, this allowed Wadham to support more than 90 students who were facing unexpected hardship or needed on-course support. It also enabled us to continue the generous provision of subsidised accommodation and meals, and to fund our welfare support team.

The year was a phenomenal show of the Wadham community's belief in supporting our students who faced financial hardship when it mattered most. A heartfelt thanks to each of you who contributed so generously.

Wadham lost some £1.5 million in anticipated conference and residential income due to lockdown





## Student welfare

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Demand for student welfare assistance was unprecedentedly high in a year where the pandemic continued to turn College life upside-down. Wadham – thanks to alumni support – provided additional resources at this crucial time.

Thinking back to your own time at Wadham, imagine how different it would have been if the pandemic hit then – Freshers' Week, balls, festivals, tutorials, access to the library, socialising, clubs and societies, a mix of either being cancelled, heavily curtailed or moved online. Or having to attend tutorials online and to work at your residential home, perhaps without a dedicated desk or room, and all interaction with your peers done online. For many students, these circumstances prompted anxiety and a sense of isolation, affecting

their motivation, mood and academic confidence.

Wadham's Welfare network – including our two Welfare Advisors, Annie Lawson, Chaplain Jane Baun (ably assisted by Welfare 'Cat' Maggie Mae), together with Academic Office staff – were there to support each student who needed encouragement, advice and a listening ear.

Annie and Jane were busy during lockdowns providing remote support, and meeting students in person when that was possible, pioneering garden welfare chats, outdoor teas, tree walks, and mindfulness exercises. The lockdowns created new welfare challenges. Most international students were unable to return home for any vacations, and needed help with loneliness, anxiety for their families, and practical living challenges. Students self-isolating in

College accommodation needed increased moral and practical support, including meal deliveries by the College. Some students found themselves unable to continue their academic work properly at home due to domestic circumstances, including lack of space, privacy, equipment, or reliable internet.

The College increased to £130,000 its welfare-related funding to mitigate lockdown effects on student wellbeing. Alumni donations supported this critical effort, which helped students come back into residence when needed, and provided IT equipment and technical support necessary for remote tutorials and study where that was lacking. It provided many small interventions that positively affected student wellbeing and the ability to continue on course for their degrees.

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**Wadham increased its welfare-related funding to £130k to help alleviate lockdown effects on student wellbeing**

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## Matched funding from the Black Academic Futures Scheme

This year, the College has been able to secure matched funding from a new University scholarship scheme entitled "Black Academic Futures Scheme": thanks to a generous £30,000 gift from two Law alumni, the Scheme will match the gift and allow a graduate student to study for a DPhil in the Humanities. With continued reduction of funding for the Humanities, we are delighted to offer this scholarship and we would love to hear from others who would like to help us seize the time-limited matched funding from the Black Academic Futures Scheme.

► Dennis Mazingi was one of our Beit Scholars in 2020-21, studying an MSc in international health and tropical medicine.

## Graduate students

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Wadham's scholarship opportunities – made possible through the generous support of our alumni – support world-leading academic research and reflect Wadham's ethos of encouraging diversity by providing opportunities for the best and brightest graduate students, regardless of background or nationality.

Graduate education is an expanding area of activity for Oxford. However, the marketplace for academic talent is also highly demanding. Wadham competes with the most prestigious international institutions, as well as other colleges, for the world's best minds. And it is the ability to offer financial incentives that often makes the difference.

Increasingly UK graduate students face challenges as a result of high levels of debt accumulated during their undergraduate years. In particular, those from less wealthy backgrounds are reluctant to take out new loans and have no access to parental support. International students from developing economies face even greater challenges – and may not be able to borrow what they need at all.

In short, the campaign objective of Access to Excellence is doubly evident in graduate education and we are incredibly grateful to alumni supporters who have helped treble the College's graduate provision in recent years to a total of 30 scholarships, offering close to 20% of our graduates some kind of support. Not only do your donations give Wadham access to the most excellent students; your generosity also provides access to Oxford excellence for brilliant graduates in financial need.

### Multiply your money

Through the generosity of donors, Wadham has trebled graduate scholarship provision in recent years. Currently we offer more than 30 scholarships, representing over 20% of our graduate community.

Thanks to your donations of all sizes, we have secured matched funding for graduate scholarships from University departments, increasing the impact of donations. For example, the Law Faculty offers £5,000 to top up every £10,000 scholarship donation, making it more cost effective to fund a talented graduate through their studies.

Thanks to a newly launched University scheme, you can also help ensure that we attract the best academic talent in perpetuity. The Graduate Endowment Matched Scholarship (GEMS) will match donations for endowed scholarships on a 2:1 basis.

“This scholarship really helps to relieve my stress around financial considerations, so it’s a huge gift for me. I am incredibly grateful to Mr Mok for it.”



## Grabbing insomnia by the neurons

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Rice Siu knows a thing or two about insomnia. Since the age of 12, it has been a daily fact of life for her, initially brought on she says by her home environment and the “intense academic pressures and expectations” she faced as a student growing up in Hong Kong.

Rice endured her insomnia, however, and eventually attained a place in an academically prestigious high school. But in her fourth year she did the unthinkable in Hong Kong – she dropped out. “Do this and you get no support, everyone thinks you’re crazy

– you’ve committed a big sin!” she says with a laugh, recollecting the reaction of family, friends and teachers.

But for Rice, it was essential for her health and mental wellbeing. She spent a year exploring self-healing techniques and, alongside some medical support to sleep regularly, emerged with a clearer perspective of herself and what she wanted to achieve. She returned to high school and was able to focus and enjoy her studies, graduating among the very top in her year.

Fast-forward to the present and Rice, who was awarded an Oxford-Dr H Y Mok Graduate Scholarship to complete her DPhil in neuroscience, is applying her intelligence to understanding the very condition that challenges her – and so many others – every evening: part of her current research focuses on our sleep circuitry,

investigating neurons that might, like switches, turn off and on, controlling when we sleep and wake up.

“My research focuses on understanding how neurons affect patterns of sleeping and waking: so imagine drugs that can be directed to particular neurons in the brain to help remedy things like insomnia by being able to effectively control their activity,” she says.

The Mok Scholarship is generously funded by Foundation Fellow Edwin Mok (Law, 1979). Without her Mok scholarship, Rice says she would have had to take a year out to save money or work part time and be unable to dedicate herself entirely to her research work. “This scholarship really helps to relieve my stress around financial considerations, so it’s a huge gift for me. I am incredibly grateful to Mr Mok for it.”



## 24 All Wadham graduates

Once graduated from Oxford and Wadham, how do students secure that first job and move on to a career? Access to professional networks, training and internships is difficult, which is why our Access to Excellence programme also seeks to support graduates from diverse backgrounds.

As usual, we thank all those who provided financial support for graduate careers in 2020–21. However, we would also like to thank all those who gave their precious time to our worldwide Wadham network, which provides lifelong Access to Excellence. Upsetting as it was to cancel a year's worth of planned alumni activities and events in the UK and overseas, we managed to reach more alumni than ever before through a rich array of virtual and hybrid events.

It was truly uplifting to witness the warmth and enthusiasm of the Wadham community, as more than 2,200 graduates from 40

countries joined us for events as diverse as a conversation with Sir Roger Penrose, Emeritus Fellow, and an evening with Wadham poets: Hilary Davies (Modern Languages, 1974), Grevel Lindop (English, 1966), Michael Schmidt (English, 1967) and Rowan Williams (Theology, 1972). Of course, there is no substitute for in-person engagement, but one advantage is that most of the events of 2020–21 are still available for you to enjoy on our website.

You can catch up with recordings of our virtual events here: [www.wadham.ox.ac.uk/alumni/alumni-events-online](http://www.wadham.ox.ac.uk/alumni/alumni-events-online)



Several dozen alumni attended the Wadham College Alumni "Entrepreneurs' Networking" event hosted by Sachin Patel (Physics, 2001), OCO at Funding Circle. It included a conversation between Indro Mukerjee (Engineering, 1979) and Maurice Ostro (Law, 1985).

## A legal lifecycle

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Wadham's Access to Excellence programme is the inspiration and context for an innovation with Linklaters and link schools.

This year, thanks to the extraordinary support and vision of Nathalie Hobbs (Law, 1986), a partner at the global law firm, Linklaters, Wadham has received £300,000 in support of an innovative, 4-year programme that will enable access to Law at university and as a career by adopting our Access to Excellence "life cycle" approach.

Inspired by Wadham's access and outreach achievements, Linklaters is now partnering with the College to design a programme that will support disadvantaged students through their entire journey into a legal career – from applications to study Law to career planning and preparation, including internships and mentoring. This innovation

is unique across the collegiate University.

Fionnghuala, who is a trainee recruitment partner at Linklaters, comments: "Improving the socio-economic diversity of the legal profession requires action at every stage of the career cycle, starting from school level. The programme will look to ensure that talented candidates can achieve their full potential and aren't excluded before they even have a chance to embark on their legal career just because they may be from a less privileged background."

We are incredibly proud of this new programme, and our Access Officer, Dr Hugh Munro (pictured) and his colleagues are busy preparing the launch. The first lucky sixth formers selected from non-selective state schools in our link regions will embark on their legal life cycle in 2022, receiving support in critical thinking from Wadham law tutors, as well as help with university applications and career advice.

The programme will also provide current

undergraduates with targeted guidance for legal careers and networking events designed to overcome the challenges they face in joining the profession. In addition, a teachers' advisory panel involving Linklaters, Wadham law tutors, school teachers and Oxford University Department of Education will create programme resources available through an online portal, led by a dedicated post-graduate Wadham staff member.



# Fellowships and Facilities

Wadham's outstanding Fellows and facilities are the foundation for both excellence and access. Our world-leading scholarship is at the heart of the College's mission and the key to success in teaching, research and wider global impact. At the same time, our inspirational environment enables us to share that wealth of learning with link schools, undergraduates, graduate students and alumni. Your support in both endowing Fellowships and funding buildings has surpassed all expectations over the past few years and transformed the College for generations to come.



## Funding a better future through Fellowships

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The standout gift of the year came from long-time supporters, Sarah Taylor (Biochemistry, 1976) and her husband, Bernard (Chemistry, St John's), who generously endowed Wadham's Biochemistry Fellowship. The Sarah Taylor Fellowship in Biochemistry, as it is now called, will support world-changing scientific research by its holders in perpetuity. The post guarantees the future of the subject at Wadham – with Sarah's name forever attached.

Meanwhile, earlier campaign gifts in support of research bore fruit in 2020–21, notably in the field of climate change. The Waterloo Foundation, founded by alumna Heather Stevens (Experimental Psychology, 1977), funded the research of Wadham biology Fellow, Professor Nathalie Seddon, into nature-based solutions for major world problems. The gift has helped Nathalie to significantly expand the scope of her research group and, in 2021, enabled her to take a leading role in COP26.

Another Wadham scientist undertaking research with implications for global climate policy is Dr Hannah Christensen, the David Richards Fellow in Physics and Climate Science. Working with Wadham

MPhys student, Oliver Driver, she has demonstrated that high-resolution atmospheric simulations can mimic the fractal dimensions of clouds, copying their behaviour and enabling powerful predictions. Hannah is one of the scholars funded by a benefaction from the late and much-missed David Richards (Foundation Fellow, PPE, 1961). Through her work, his foresight is now helping to shape a better future for the world far beyond Wadham.

▲ Professor Keith Dyke, Emeritus Fellow, Sarah Taylor and former Warden, Ken Macdonald, QC.

◀ Wadham Biology Fellow, Professor Nat Seddon, speaking on nature-based solutions at Wadham's Circles event, February 2020.





## Facilities: inspirational environment

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We were so proud to open – albeit unofficially – the doors of the William Doo Undergraduate Centre and the Locke Access Centre in the Dr Lee Shau Kee Building to our students, visiting students and alumni towards the end of the academic year. These exquisite facilities would not be standing in our transformed Back Quad without the generosity and shared vision of hundreds of alumni and friends from around the world, who have so far contributed £17 million of our £18.2 million goal.

It was particularly moving to see the unveiling of the 'Macdonald Terrace' initiative, led by Foundation Fellow Alasdair Locke (History, 1974) and other Foundation Fellows to honour Lord Macdonald's successful tenure as Warden by raising £1 million to name the Macdonald Terrace.

Some readers may also recall the Donald Locke Staircase, named by Alasdair in honour of his father, who should also have been an alumnus. Donald Locke received an

offer from Wadham in 1938 but, conscripted into the Second World War, was never able to take up his place. We are now delighted to report that Alasdair, a loyal benefactor to fairer access over many years, has agreed to name Oxford's first dedicated facility in this field. The Locke Access Centre stands in the Back Quad as a permanent and fitting tribute to both father and son.

In October we were proud to welcome Professor Louise Richardson, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford, to the Locke Access Centre, where she praised Wadham's pioneering leadership in its widening access programme. There was further cause for celebration, as the Back Quad development as a whole was shortlisted in July for a major global architectural prize, the Prix Versailles.

Most important of all, however, our undergraduates and summer school students have at last brought the spaces in the Dr Lee Kau Shee Building and the William

Doo Undergraduate Centre to life. Seeing them used for academic and social pursuits has been tremendously heartening. The pandemic may have pushed back the official opening ceremony to 2022, but these facilities have already transformed the Back Quad and embody, in both purpose and aesthetic, Wadham's commitment to pluralism, diversity and academic excellence.

▲ Donor plaques throughout the new William Doo Undergraduate Centre and Dr Lee Shau Kee Building recognise the incredible generosity of many alumni and friends, without whose support these beautiful facilities would not have been possible.

◀ Former Warden, Ken Macdonald QC, with Foundation Fellows and College Fellows at the unveiling of the 'Macdonald Terrace'.

▼ Vice-Chancellor Professor Louise Richardson speaking with Warden Robert Hannigan and Foundation Fellows in the Locke Access Centre.

# 30 A legacy of opportunities

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Tracy Hofman (English, 1978) became a 1610 Society Member in 2015 and is a Committee Member. She explains what inspired her to leave a bequest to Wadham.

"Wadham had a progressive and counter-culture image," recalls Tracy Hofman fondly. "Also, it was founded by a woman and was one of the first colleges to admit women." But she is also looking forward: "I like the idea of being connected to future generations of Wadham students through a legacy."

Tracy was born in 1960 in South Africa, where her Polish grandparents had settled early in the century. After the tightening of South Africa's Apartheid laws in the early 1960s, her parents emigrated to London, seeking a more liberal future for their family. She says, "I never considered myself fully English: I had a foreign surname and I didn't really know how things 'were done' amongst the upper-middle classes." Wadham seemed a natural fit.

Tracy remains close to the friends she made at Wadham and sees her Oxford degree as a "passport" that helped "open doors" throughout her career. She started out in television, and roles included script editing at the BBC and ITV before she progressed to commissioning editor, first at Channel Four and then ITV. In the '90s she left television and undertook an MSc Management at London Business School. This led to financial journalism and management consulting.

Her decision to "give back" to Wadham through several generous donations and a legacy came relatively recently. "Seeing my friends' kids agonise over university choices reconnected me with Oxford and reminded me of the opportunities I'd had."

"Maybe it's also an age thing," Tracy adds. "Education has always been important in my family. It lays the foundation for social mobility and widens your horizons." Wadham's Access to Excellence programme resonates particularly, and she is proud to be able to support future students from under-represented groups through her bequest.

"An education has longevity," she says. "It is more satisfying than leaving something material. To provide an opportunity that lasts a lifetime – well that's something to celebrate!"

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We are deeply grateful for all legacy giving, which typically represents 20% of our philanthropic income.

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## Join the 1610 Society

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Everyone who informs College of the intention to leave a legacy to Wadham is invited to join the 1610 Society, which now has well over 400 members.

Benefits of membership include invitations to annual events such as the Benefactors' Garden Party and the 1610 Society Dinner. The highlight of the year was an event in October 2021 (postponed from January), hosted by the 1610 Society in London and our energetic 1610 Society President, Colin Drummond (Classics, 1969). The occasion gave alumni the chance to hear Wadham's Chapel Choir sing Evensong in St Paul's Cathedral, followed by a reception to hear more about the 1610 Society.

Colin noted: "It was a special privilege that the service was sung by our Choir in the wonderful building designed by Wadham alumnus, Sir Christopher Wren (indeed his own *monumentum*). The event resulted in a number of further generous pledges of support, for which the College is deeply grateful."

▲ Colin Drummond and fellow 1610 Society Committee member, Claudia Pendred (Human Sciences, 1977), speak to 1610 Society members and guests at the St Paul's reception event.

► 1610 Society members and guests enjoyed 'Afternoon Tea with the Warden' at Wadham in September 2021 – the College's first in-person event since the start of the pandemic.

▼ Wadham Warden, Robert Hannigan, and guests at the St Paul's reception event.





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