



Merton College Urgent Appeals, Summer 2023



Message from Professor Jennifer Payne, Warden Elect:

As we come to the end of Trinity term, I remain touched by the generosity and warmth of our alumni community. I am particularly pleased that during the last two busy terms at Merton I have had the pleasure of meeting some of you at events, both around the country and back at College.

I am now calling on you, as Mertonians, to consider supporting the projects below, which will benefit particularly the new generation – by ensuring that they can enjoy Merton in all its academic excellence, rich history, and warmth of community, thereby leaving here with fond memories and every chance of success. The funds below speak to the crucial role of alumni donations in ensuring that we attract the most talented students; that we then provide them with the highest quality teaching and support they need to set them on the path to success; that we preserve our unique heritage; and that we continue to engage with our wider community, in no small part by hosting one of Oxford's most distinguished choirs.

Whatever your particular memories of College, I hope that you find something here that invokes both pleasure and pride. If, upon reflection, you are able to donate, we would be very grateful. Every gift will help make a huge difference in setting us up for Michaelmas term with a clearer view of the future, knowing that we can count on your support as we maintain and improve on these core aspects of Merton's excellence.

Ukrainian Refugee Doctoral Scholarship

We have been overwhelmed by the support we have received from our alumni, enabling us to provide a Master's scholarship to Taisiia Sazonova over the last year. Taisiia's plans to complete her medical residency in Ukraine were cut short when the conflict escalated, and her life and family were thrown into danger as they lived under 'constant shelling and bombardment'.

"Being here in Oxford has enabled me and my daughter to settle into a new life. My daughter has been able to sleep at night...and at last started to smile again."

*- Nadiya Ivanenko, (left),
Research Fellow hosted by Merton College as
an at-risk academic*

"I'm so inspired by the community at Merton, and next, I plan to obtain a DPhil in Medical Sciences to continue my research career."

*- Taisiia Sazonova, (right),
2022-23 Master's Scholarship Recipient*



We have also been able to host an at-risk academic from Ukraine, Nadiya Ivanenko, and her daughter (following from our previous support for a Syrian academic). Nadiya, among her other research and settling into life here, has organised Ukraine Culture Seminars, and been a fantastic source of knowledge and education in Oxford on subjects of Ukrainian culture, politics, and resistance.

Building on the support for Taisiia and Nadiya, we now urgently aspire to establish a full DPhil scholarship for a student ordinarily resident in Ukraine before the war, in order to offer a world-class education to someone displaced by the conflict. The scholarship will contribute to our diverse and supportive community at Merton, where students from around the world can find solace and safety and undertake their academic work in peace.

£109,799 raised

£94,201 remaining to complete DPhil scholarship



Choral Recordings, Commissions & Compositions

Merton Choir seeks funding for an exciting series of six new commissions inspired by Peter Abelard's Hymns for Heloise, as part of a research project undertaken by Mertonian Classicist, Tristan Franklins. This will give the talented singers in our Choir a unique chance to work with a diverse range of exceptional contemporary composers and contribute to a fascinating recording, which will undoubtedly benefit their musical improvement. The recordings will bring Abelard's musical and historical legacy to life anew, raising awareness of medieval music for current and future generations. As a second component, the project will also include recordings of new pieces by young composer Cheryl Frances-Hoad, a recent Visiting Fellow at Merton who was featured at last year's BBC Proms. By bringing these brilliant new pieces to a much wider audience, the commission will further the public reach and reputation of Merton's acclaimed choir.

£29,737 raised

£20,263 remaining to complete project

Library Medieval Stained Glass Appeal - Final 8 windows remaining

Thanks to the incredible support of Merton donors, we have established sponsorship for all but eight of the 38 stained-glass windows in the Upper Library.

If you would like to sponsor one of the remaining lancet windows (example pictured right) at a cost of £9,000 (for which payments can be made in instalments), please do not hesitate to get in touch. This is a rare opportunity to leave your mark at Merton as a vital protector of these unique windows, preserving them from further damage and for the enjoyment of future generations. All window sponsors will be recognised within a special 'Scroll of Honour'.

All contributions are welcome, as restoration for four of these windows has been funded by the combined donations of many alumni, rather than by individual sponsorship, showcasing the power of collective giving from Mertonians.



32 windows sponsored

6 windows remaining



Black Academic Futures Scholarship

This academic year, we welcomed the first recipient of a Black Academic Futures Graduate Scholarship at Merton, which has been made possible through alumni support. This scholarship provides full funding for three years of postgraduate study, and is open to British students of Black African and Caribbean heritage.

This is an important first step in addressing the under-representation of Black British students, who previously made up just 1.5% of UK students undertaking doctoral research at the University, compared with 3.8% across higher education in the UK. With your support we can complete this scholarship, and ensure that our academic community benefits from a range of diverse perspectives.

£91,443 raised

£21,057 remaining to complete current scholarship

Graduate Scholarship in Law

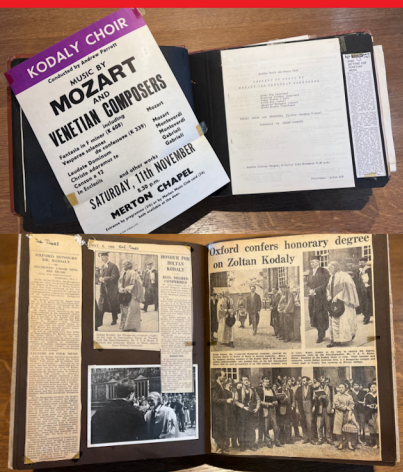
A syndicate of Mertonians, who matriculated in three different decades, have started a campaign to establish a new Graduate Scholarship in Law. The goal is to raise £80,000 to provide an essential living costs grant for four years of doctoral study. We will seek to match this with University funding for fees, creating a full scholarship and a transformational opportunity.

Increasing support for graduate students is a major priority for the College. Thanks to the fantastic collective generosity of Mertonians, seven new graduate scholarships have been funded in the last two years alone. With financial pressures on students escalating, we are eager to maintain this momentum and provide as much support as possible.



£57,900 raised

£22,100 remaining to complete scholarship



Conservation: Merton Floats & Kodály Choir Memorabilia

Amongst the treasures of the Merton Library are several volumes of 'scrapbook' collections which serve as a record of Mertonians' experiences at, and impact on, the College. To be preserved for future generations, some volumes are now in urgent need of conservation. The process of conservation includes digital capture, indexing, and fitting memorabilia with their own protective boxes (on which donors can be recognised). The costs to sponsor each volume are given to the right, but smaller contributions towards restoring any or all of these books relating to drama and music at Merton are very welcome.

Merton Floats 1939-69

£6,000

Kodály Choir 1957-65

£4,750

Kodály Choir 1965-71

£4,750

Core Support (the Unrestricted Fund)

College is always grateful for, and benefits from, gifts towards our area of greatest need, which enable us to protect our core activities by increasing our endowment. By entrusting Merton to spend your donation in this way, you will help to ensure that the vital costs of College are met, so that we may continue to support students, provide excellent tutorial teaching, pursue world-class research, and maintain our buildings for these purposes. Our endowment, in particular, has been well supported by Mertonians who have generously left gifts in their Wills.

