

The Student Support Fund (Target: £150,000)

We aim to further bolster our efforts in providing comprehensive student support, ensuring that every student has access to services and opportunities that foster their well-being and academic success. Donations will help secure the existing fund and enable us to do even more. This fund is especially targeted at students in need, financial or otherwise, and is already partly supported by donations.



By raising funds, we aim to provide financial assistance for the following purposes (on the basis of which students can apply for funding from the College).

Helping students in financial need

- Those who experience unforeseen hardship due to changes in personal or family circumstances.
- Students on mandatory years abroad who face increased costs, especially due to Brexit (including the attendant inability to work within the EU and visa fees).
- DPhil students who need additional support to complete their theses due to financial, health or other reasons.

Supporting postgraduate research

- Funding for graduate students to travel for archival/field/lab work and attend academic conferences, where they may present papers and meet other scholars. This is key for future career development.
- Support for essential IT equipment needed for academic work and research.

Academic & personal development

- Funds to support undergraduates in carrying out course-related research activities.
- Grants to help students undertake extracurricular activities (language-learning, music, and sports).
- Travel abroad to enhance coursework and encourage personal development.

£76,222 raised

£73,778 remaining to complete the Student Support appeal

Graduate Scholarships

Increasing support for graduate students is a major priority for the College. Thanks to the impressive collective generosity of Mertonians, nine new graduate scholarships have been funded since the summer of 2021 – including five annually-funded ('pay-as-you-go') scholarships in a range of disciplines: Chemistry, Archaeology, Law, Mathematics, and History.

With increased financial pressures on students, we strive to maintain this momentum. The College wants to provide as much support as possible, especially for students in Humanities subjects facing chronic underfunding.

New Graduate Scholarship in Music (Target: £80,000)

This year we aim to raise £80,000 to provide essential living costs for four years of doctoral study in Music, a financially-challenged subject which evokes our shared humanity across time and space. We will look to match this with University funding for fees, creating one full scholarship and a transformational opportunity for a talented student. An opportunity to name the scholarship will be offered for a donation of the full target. In that event, any surplus will support the establishment of a second scholarship.



£3,621 raised

£76,379 remaining to complete the New Graduate Scholarship in Music

New Reach Scholarship for Undergraduates (Target: £110,000)

The Reach Scholarship was created to enable undergraduates of exceptional academic ability from low-income countries to access an Oxford education. This scholarship, covering both tuition fees and living costs, is funded collaboratively by the JCR, the University and alumni donations. Merton has already hosted two Reach Scholars and your support for the next cycle will make it possible for us to host a third. The current scholar Jana (pictured) will finish her degree in Trinity term 2024, and you can read more about her on the College website: www.merton.ox.ac.uk/jana-nedelkoska.



COMPLETED

The Dobson Organ's 10th Anniversary (Target: £50,000)

As the College celebrates the 10th anniversary of the installation of the widely-acclaimed Dobson Organ in the College Chapel – manufactured and built in Lake City, Iowa – we seek to raise funds to cover the cost of essential maintenance of the organ and associated activities. The organ programme at Merton offers unrivalled training for two organ scholars at any one time: they receive tuition on repertoire and improvisation, masterclasses from visiting performers as well as regular concert opportunities. We also hope to raise funds to cover the cost of regular concerts to be given by guest organists from all over the world. The first of these will be the 10th anniversary Gala Concert, to be given by Olivier Latty, the Organist of Notre-Dame Cathedral, Paris in April 2024.



COMPLETED

Helping our sporting Blues (Target: £20,000)

Committed to sporting participation and excellence and in light of Covid disruptions, the College is eager for students to have the opportunity to develop athletic talents that support physical and mental health. Whilst fundraising has thus far focused on College sports and Cuppers competitions, our funding for students participating in Blues-level sports at University level needs augmenting. In the last two years, the College has only been able to cover around half of essential Blues-funding needs across 24 different sports, in a scheme run jointly with the JCR and MCR. We want to expand that funding by raising £20,000, enabling the College to support our Merton Blues for a five-year period, covering club subscriptions and tournament entry fees. Any surplus raised will help us go further, by embracing travel, accommodation, and costs of individuals' competition kit.



£2,692 raised

£17,308 remaining to complete the Sporting Blues appeal

Sandy Irvine's Expedition: Library exhibition project (Target: £8,000)

The College will undertake a special exhibition to mark the centenary of Mertonian Andrew 'Sandy' Irvine's (pictured) great Everest expedition. In 1924, Sandy was chosen for an expedition led by George Mallory. The expedition represented the third British attempt to reach the summit of Everest. It resulted in tragedy with the disappearance of both men. The 2024 exhibition in College will feature precious items recovered from Everest (Irvine's iconic ice axe and oxygen cylinder), alongside carefully reproduced clothing. We seek donations to support the costs of exhibiting these unique treasures for the first time in Oxford. A College symposium will be held, bringing together renowned explorers and scholars, with access available online. This exhibition appeal follows a previous campaign to digitise Irvine's expedition diaries and correspondence, generously supported by Neil Brown and Eric Braverman, as well as other members of our MC3 community in the US.



COMPLETED

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.

