



Merton College Urgent Appeals, Summer 2024



Message from Professor Jennifer Payne, Warden:

Dear Mertonians,

As I complete my first full year as Warden, I am struck by just what an extraordinary community this is; we excel not only academically but in so many other areas. We aspire to provide a supportive and kind environment, where students, staff and Fellows can flourish and where the community always welcomes back its alumni and friends.

It has been particularly enjoyable meeting so many Mertonians over the last year, either in Oxford or further afield. It is heartening to see the College's identity and values upheld by our alumni wherever I go, and we are sustained by the valuable donations and support of our alumni.

This summer we invite you to consider supporting a number of urgent causes important to the College, and these appeals are included here. They are diverse and outward-looking and represent many activities and initiatives close to our community.

In a volatile and uncertain world, we continue our mission to deliver excellence and opportunity and to ensure we are open to talented people from all backgrounds. I hope you feel you can help us in this dimension. All gifts will be gratefully received.

Graduate Scholarships

Increasing support for graduate students is a major priority for the College. Thanks to the impressive collective generosity of Mertonians and friends, a number of new graduate scholarships have been funded in the last three years alone. Subjects include: Chemistry, Archaeology, Law, History, and research on sustainability in a variety of disciplines. We have also established scholarships for Ukrainian refugee students.

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 and cultural appreciation. We will look to match the living costs grant with University funding for fees, creating one full scholarship and a transformational opportunity for a talented student. A chance 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.



£25,125 raised

£54,875 remaining to complete the New Graduate Scholarship in Music



Refugee Academic Futures Scholarship (Target: £215,000)

This scholarship will provide a significant opportunity by fully funding a graduate student – from any part of the world – who is a refugee or has experienced forced displacement. Building on our recent funding for Syrian and Ukrainian scholars, we are eager to ensure that our academic community can support students who have been displaced due to conflict, persecution or deprivation of their human rights. This scholarship is open to all subjects and is part of a wider University of Oxford programme, through which the recipient can receive mentoring and tailored support – before, during, and after their studies.

Appeal newly launched in June 2024!

Black Academic Futures Scholarship (Target: £112,500)

As we approach the third year of the Black Academic Futures Graduate Scholarship, we would like to express our gratitude to the alumni and friends who have made this opportunity possible. Thanks to your support, only 8% of the target remains to be raised.

This scholarship provides full funding for three years of postgraduate study for students of Black or Mixed Black ethnicity resident in the UK. It was started with the aim of addressing the under-representation of Black British graduate students at Oxford compared to the UK university sector. With your support we can complete this scholarship and ensure our academic community continues to benefit from diverse perspectives.

"Merton is an environment where intellectual curiosity is nurtured, where you're encouraged to push the boundaries of your research and academic interests, and where you're constantly exposed to intriguing, often novel, research across disciplines."

- Qalid Mohamed (2022, MSc Law and Finance)

First Black Academic Futures Graduate Scholarship Recipient

bit.ly/mertonbaf

Read more about
Qalid's story here :



£103,293 raised

£9,207 remaining



£2,692 raised

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

Committed to supporting sports participation and achievement, the College is keen for students to develop their athletic talents, benefiting both physical and mental health. As fundraising has thus far primarily focused on college sports, we are turning our attention to Merton students taking part in Blues sports at university level. We aim to raise £20,000 to support our Merton Blues' essential costs for the next five years, helping to ensure that students aren't discouraged from participating due to financial constraints.

£17,308 remaining to complete the sporting students appeal

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

We aim to bolster further 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.

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

Supporting postgraduate research

Academic & personal development



£76,222 raised

£73,778 remaining to complete the Student Support appeal

Your Legacy at Merton

Since 1264, philanthropy has been critical for Merton, helping the College survive and evolve into an exceptional academic institution. Looking ahead, legacy gifts will be vital for securing our high quality of education and myriad forms of support for students. We hope you will consider remembering Merton in your Will and joining the 200+ members of our Founder's Society, which meets for a special annual event. If you are thinking about leaving a legacy, or have made your decision, do get in touch: development@merton.ox.ac.uk.

