



About Oxford SU

Part business, part charity, part membership body – students' unions are all seriously fun places to work. Oxford SU has a professional staff team that support our elected student leaders to improve the experience for current and future students at the University of Oxford. Oxford SU is one of more than 550 students' unions across the country. And with more than 20,000 members and a bold new strategy, it is an exciting time to consider joining us.

Our Purpose

Oxford SU's purpose is to improve the overall experience for current and future students at the University of Oxford.

The Oxford SU Manifesto

Oxford SU believes that the University of Oxford must lead the way in creating an environment where current and future students are governed by fairness; where everyone has an equal opportunity to flourish in their pursuit of education. We believe that education is the foundation for the future. The better the education, the better the future for all of us.

Being a student at the University of Oxford brings unique privileges, opportunities and challenges. Oxford SU is committed to empowering its students; we will ensure that their voice is listened to at every level of the University and is a catalyst for positive change. We embrace the entire student experience, from the grandly institutional to the intensely personal. We are entirely devoted to the wants and needs of all students, current and future.

Over the next five years, we will focus our work on the three themes of **education, wellbeing** and **communities**; each theme has a number of objectives. Alongside these objectives sits a 'vision' document, which highlights our campaigning priorities and policy positions. We believe in making the University of Oxford a better place, to the benefit of our students and society at large.

Our Culture and Behaviours

Our organisation is committed to being student-led and working for, and with, students to achieve positive change. Underpinning this collaborative approach are a number of desirable behaviours, which enable us to instill our values into all aspects of Oxford SU:

- **Inclusive:** We ensure that everything we do is accessible to all of our student members.
- **Listening:** We represent the voice of students. We must ensure that in everything we do, we first listen to what the students want and need.
- **Doing:** There's no point just talking - or taking ineffective action. We will always assess what actions will be most effective and fair in any situation, then enact this.
- **Challenging:** It is our responsibility to question the institution in which we work to ensure provisions for students at the University of Oxford are the best they can be.
- **Adapting:** Oxford SU aims to grow to be the best version of itself, ensuring that our membership receives as much as possible from our organisation.



Our Ways of Working

In order to bring about positive change, we must be a strong and effective organisation. The following six areas will underpin our work and enable us to succeed.

Student-driven	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will maintain our strong student-led governance, with students making key decisions. • Our permanent SU team will work in close and effective partnership with elected sabbatical officers and student volunteers. And - very importantly - we will ensure that all SU staff have regular direct contact with students. • We will use all means at our disposal – from the traditional to the cutting edge – to extend and strengthen our direct engagement with the entire student body,
Research and Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We must be able to demonstrate a genuine understanding of student wishes and needs. We will ensure a robust approach to research, evidence and developing policy.
Sustainable Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As we develop, our resources must match - or exceed - our ambitions. We will be pro-active in increasing our own income, alongside working with the University to secure a sustainable future for the SU.
People and culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We make Oxford SU an enjoyable place to work by foster a strong culture of collaboration, while supporting and developing individual talents. We will strive to build a diverse organisation that reflects the communities, which we work within. We will encourage creativity, initiative and a shared sense of purpose.
Effective Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our digital presence is as important as our physical; it makes us immediate, accessible and flexible. We will focus resources on looking for the digital angle in all our work.
Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will be most effective if we work with others. We will explore and develop a range of partnerships to increase our reach and impact.

Background

Born in the 1960s struggle for students' freedom of speech, Oxford University Students' Union has evolved into a union, which aims to represent, support and enhance the lives of Oxford students.

The Students' Union predecessor, the Students' Representative Council, was formed in 1961 after the University Proctors banned the magazine Isis from reviewing tutors' lectures, and students came together to defend their freedom of speech by establishing a University-wide representative organisation. From being a part-time secretary operating in a hut behind the Debating Society buildings, the Student Union has expanded considerably, with six full-time sabbatical officers, a team of professional staff, its own offices in Gloucester Green and a turnover of more than a million pounds.

In 2010, the University agreed to give an annual block grant to replace common room affiliation fees, putting the Students' Union on a more stable financial footing and allowing it focus on professionalising its work and placing it in a better position to deliver for students.

Around the same time, changes to UK charity law required the organisation to register with the Charity Commission in order to continue to operate as a charity, and the opportunity was taken to reform its legal structure in line with the requirements of charitable registration. In 2010, the Students' Union adopted its Memorandum and Articles of Association and thereby incorporated as a company limited by guarantee. It also established a Trustee Board, comprising the sabbatical officers, elected Student Trustees and appointed External Trustees.



People

As a membership-led charity, Oxford SU is led by students and professional supported by a team of permanent staff and students staff who run the day to day activities and services.

Full-time Elected Sabbatical Officers

Full-time Sabbatical Officers (sabbs) are elected annually in a cross-campus ballot, with each leading a specific portfolio of responsibility and reporting to Student Council, our democratic body. Their primary role is to represent students and they lead on policy-making, campaigning and lobbying work to improve the experience for students at the University.

Our Sabbatical Team for 2017-18 is:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| • President: | Joe Inwood |
| • VP Welfare & Equal Opportunities: | Ellie MacDonald |
| • VP Women: | Kathryn Walton |
| • VP Graduates: | Allison D'Ambrosia |
| • VP Access & Academic Affairs: | Lucas Bertholdi-Saad |
| • VP Charities & Community: | Rosanna Greenwood |

Board of Trustees

The Trustee Board is responsible for directing Oxford SU's work in the long term. The board is responsible for maintaining the legal, financial and reputational integrity of the organisation. The Trustees oversee the strategic direction and work with the management team we are delivering for our members.

The Board comprises of the six Full-time Elected Sabbatical Officers, three Student Trustees and four External Trustees.

Senior Management Team

The Senior Management Team has operational responsibility for the day to day running of the organisation.

The Senior Management Team consists of:

- Chief Executive
- Head of Business Development & Operations
- Head of Student Engagement & Communications

The Senior Management Team work with the wider staff team to deliver the operational plan.

Further Information

For more information about Oxford SU please visit our website at: <https://www.oxfordsu.org/>. You can also view our Facebook page here, follow us on Twitter [@oxfordstudents](#) and follow us on Instagram [here](#).



About the University of Oxford

The University of Oxford is the oldest university in the English-speaking world and a leader in teaching and research. It is a collegiate University, comprising the central University and the college.

Students and academics benefit from belonging both to the University, a large, internationally-renowned institution, and to a college or hall, a small, interdisciplinary academic community.

The Colleges

There are [38 Oxford colleges](#), which are financially independent and self-governing, but relate to the central University in a kind of federal system. There are also six permanent private halls, which are similar to colleges except that they tend to be smaller, and were founded by particular Christian denominations. The colleges and halls are close academic communities, which bring together students and researchers from different disciplines, cultures and countries. This helps to foster the outstanding research achievement that has made Oxford a leader in so many fields.

The colleges and the University work together to organise teaching and research, and many staff at Oxford will hold both a college and a University post.

The Central University

The central University is made up of many different sections, including academic and administrative departments, [libraries](#) and [museums](#).

There are roughly 100 major academic departments, which are overseen by the four academic divisions: [Medical Sciences](#); [Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences](#); [Humanities](#) and [Social Sciences](#).

Each department organises teaching and research in a different subject area, from Anthropology to Zoology. There are also many smaller, specialist research centres and sub-departments.

The [Department for Continuing Education](#) offers part-time, flexible courses and programmes for adult learners. It offers more than 1,000 courses each year, including weekly classes, online courses, day, weekend and summer schools, undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications, and continuing professional development courses.

Almost every student at Oxford is a member of a college. Most colleges admit both graduate and undergraduate students.

For more information please visit the University of Oxford [website](#). There are some interesting facts and figures that can be found [here](#).



Finding Us

We are based at the following address:

Oxford University Student Union
4 Worcester Street
Oxford OX1 2BX
Tel: 01865 288452

You can call us for further details on 01865 288452 or email enquiries@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk.

The nearest main line station is Oxford, which is a five-minute walk towards the city centre. Oxford Bus Station is right behind the office next to Gloucester Green. Check out our [website](#) for a google map.