The Christ Church Graduate Common Room

50th ANNIVERSARY SCHOLARSHIPS

"Research is to see what everybody else has seen and to think what nobody else has thought."

ALBERT SZEINT GYORGYI
Christ Church: a path to many opportunities

"The seeds sown during my six years at Christ Church have blossomed in the last fifty years. As graduates it was the ambience of the GCR, the quality of the intellectual association we enjoyed, and the House’s unique relationship with its own cathedral, that enabled us to acquire a broad vision of what higher education could mean to society.

I gained a deep respect for the spiritual values of the great religions of the world, and a passionate belief that both Church and Politics must focus on poor and vulnerable people. Thus my wife Mary and I founded "Wells for India". We also continue our enthusiasm for Oxford Collegiate life; our four children gained greatly from their experiences, and so we hope does society generally."

NICHOLAS GREY, at Ch. Ch. 1955-61, Founding President GCR. 1960-61, Founder & Chairman of Wells For India.

"I met some wonderful people in the GCR who enabled me to broaden my view of the world and stretch my personal boundaries. Many of them remain my closest friends to this day. In that respect Student support for Graduate Scholarships is vital. Graduate Scholarships will help the College and University attract the best talent and enable others to experience what we all enjoyed."


"One of the most valuable things I have gained from my time in Christ Church is a deep-rooted sense of confidence. I feel that I can accomplish anything and can overcome any challenge. This is not a lesson that can be taught, but one that is learned by taking advantage of the seemingly limitless opportunities Oxford has to offer. I believe that as many people as possible should have the chance to learn this lesson, and that money should not be a barrier to such an opportunity."


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Celebration: September 2010

An invitation from:
Dr Paul Kent FRSC, Emeritus Student. First Tutor for Graduates at Christ Church
& Dr Katya Andreyev, Tutor for Graduates, Christ Church

We invite all Old Members of the GCR to join us for the weekend of festivities to mark the 50th Anniversary of its founding, to be held on 24/25/26 September 2010.

This anniversary year provides an opportunity to celebrate what has been achieved and to reflect on how provision can be made for the future. The foundation of more post-graduate scholarships is the way forward, to maintain incentive and innovation, to secure the basis of post-graduate life, and to contribute to Christ Church’s and Oxford’s high standing in the international field. We hope that Old GCR Members in particular will support this initiative, as the weekend would be the perfect time to announce the successful completion of our funding aims for Christ Church graduate scholarships.

“Graduate research is the most mind-expanding thing I have ever done. I hope, moreover, that my research contributes in some way to humankind’s collective knowledge and understanding. Assistance with funding means I can focus on intellectual enquiry, not material necessity.”

GEORGE MOLYNEAUX (2003)
Christ Church and All Souls
Why do we need Graduate Scholarships?

The Very Reverend Christopher Lewis, Dean of Christ Church

People often say that Oxford is one of the best Universities in the world. Quite how you reach such a judgement is hard to work out, and anyone who carefully evaluates league tables will conclude that they are not much of a guide. Whichever way you look at it, however, there is general assent to the view that we are among the leaders in undergraduate teaching and in being a great centre of research.

But there is one area in which we lag behind other great universities in a marked manner: graduate funding. Oxford is geared to undergraduates and to research; those doing post-graduate study are the poor relations. For them, funding is generally erratic and then varies even more according to the subject studied.

This initiative is thus crucial to the House. Alongside similar efforts being made in other colleges and together with other efforts made by the University as a whole, we hope to provide for some of those doing post-graduate degrees, thus making entry fairer and also improving our chances of attracting the brightest students.

Graduate students tend to go wherever in the world the support and supervision is best. They have become an essential part of the University and of the Christ Church community. I hope that you will give generously to help this cause.

“Supporting graduate students is not only important for the students; Christ Church benefits greatly from its increasingly active graduate community. Over the past years graduates have played an active role in many College projects, such as helping to reduce the College’s carbon footprint.”

Kerrith Davies
(2003) GCR President
(2008-09)
Post-Graduates at Oxford: Fifty years on

Dr Paul Kent FRSC. Emeritus Student. First Tutor for Graduates at Christ Church

At Oxford, the past fifty years has brought changes to post-graduate life in nearly all its aspects. Throughout the University there has been a widening of the fields of research and advanced study. Well-established higher degrees have been supplemented by new to meet these growing demands for further education as many employers require additional qualifications for the best positions, as funding has followed research, and as academic disciplines and inter-disciplines themselves have transformed. Education has changed to provide for both greater specialisation and a desire for greater breadth.

Over the period the post-graduate population of the University has grown from around 25% to some 37%. This has necessarily meant enlargement in the collegiate domain. The emergence of new graduate colleges such as Linacre, Wolfson, Green Templeton and St Cross is of particular relevance to researchers, both seniors and post-graduates. Within the older colleges there was the introduction of Graduate/Middle Common Rooms; with Christ Church being amongst the first, in 1960. The result has been an enhancement of the colleges’ educational worth, and a greater dynamism in many areas. Graduates have opportunities to both specialise academically and yet experience many other cultural, social, and sporting opportunities. They can help to motivate JCRs, and to present challenging research and ideas to SCRs. This interaction within the college community allows for the best of traditional structures to avoid growing stale and to be continuously refreshed with new ideas. Inspirational teaching relies on first class research. Many graduates are the future academics: Oxford and its colleges are their ‘training ground’.

After 50 years these features have become integral to the colleges and the University. They have resulted not only in the enrichment of academic, cultural and sporting life, but in benefits for the country and the whole world.

"Increasingly professions are requiring further qualifications to ensure they secure the best talent. My time at Christ Church both inspired me and equipped me to take on these challenges and prove myself capable of thriving in the financial world of the City. I am pleased now to be able to give something back.”

KOJI FUSA (1984)
The creation of the Christ Church GCR drew post-graduates closer to the House, gave more structure to their studies and reduced the number of unfinished theses. The GCR now has nearly 300 members and contributes to all aspects of Christ Church life.

Fifty years on we are confronted with another important challenge; that of attracting and funding the best graduates. One of our agreed core values is to maintain a balanced mix of undergraduate, post-graduate and research study; yet it is increasingly difficult for graduate students to get funds from the Research Councils in order to pursue their studies. Paradoxically, it is too often the case that our own undergraduates are those who have the greatest difficulty in securing available funds.

The picture is a complex one and varies according to the subject studied and also whether graduates are studying for a taught Master’s programme or have already embarked on the research required for a D.Phil. However British and EU students need from £18,000 a year to pay for fees and maintenance at Oxford, whereas Overseas Students, whose fees are much higher, usually need over £25,000 per year. An overseas student studying Medical Science might need £45,000 annually!

In the Physical and Medical Sciences some 70% of students are fully funded, however in the Humanities only 41% are, and in the Social Sciences the figure is even less, at 36%.

The University estimates that only 60% of full-time graduates at Oxford are fully funded, yet in the United States the figure is nearly 100%. Most graduates require four years funding, one year for a Master’s degree and then three more for a D.Phil. However this also varies.

In a world where Government grants are fewer and fewer, where many will already have large debts from their undergraduate courses, and where many parents can not afford to support their offspring further, there is a real danger that without the ability to offer scholarships Christ Church will not only fail to attract and retain the best, but that many potentially able graduates will be put off coming at all. Christ Church must create a fund for Graduate Scholarships to attract the finest minds to the House.

The American Friends’ Scholarships have shown the way, with generous Annual Fund donations helping students come to and stay on at Oxford. It is time that we addressed the issue in this country as well. We must provide as many, and as broad a range of scholarships as possible, with the flexibility to address the areas of need at any particular time.
The Finances: our aims are threefold...

- To build on our endowment by raising £1.5 million through gifts of £5,000 or more. This will produce an annual income of £50,000 specifically for graduate support. The most useful gift to the House is an unrestricted, gift aided donation which allows the Tutors to award it as they see fit.

- To find at least three individual donors who wish to name specific scholarships. Gifts which are restricted by domicile or subject are hugely valued but need to be greater to be truly supportive of the Graduate. Discussion with the Development Office is required and these gifts need to be in the order of £150,000.

- To continue to encourage giving to the Annual Fund; of amounts from as little as £5 a month; which are directed to Graduate student support and help as they are immediate, flexible and when added together significant.

GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP GIFT TABLE: Gifts donated over five years, illustrating the monthly cost to you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gross value of your gift to Christ Church over five years</th>
<th>Required donation before Gift Aid &amp; Gov. Transitional relief</th>
<th>Annual equivalent over five years</th>
<th>Annual cost to you net of higher rate tax relief (at Dec. 2009)</th>
<th>Monthly cost to you over five years</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
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<td>£27,000</td>
<td>£26,700</td>
<td>£18,020</td>
<td>£1,500</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* A gift at this level and above entitles the donor to Membership of the Board of Benefactors.
† A gift of this magnitude entitles the donor to name a scholarship, probably in conjunction with a matching institution. Please discuss this with the Development Office.

For larger gifts it is possible to spread payments over a longer period.

Should you wish to support Graduate Scholarships by means of a legacy, gaining membership of the 1546 Society, and benefiting from their tax-exempt status, please request the legacy brochure.

"The American Friends’ Scholarship has supported some of the most exciting years of my life... enabling me to earn an M.Phil in Russian Studies. I am now working towards my D.Phil. I hope in the future to contribute to a fund that helps American students to enjoy and learn from the incredible opportunities of a Christ Church and Oxford education."  
WILLIAM PARTLETT (2001)
The rear cover depicts the Graham Sutherland portrait of Dean Cuthbert Aikman Simpson (1959-69) to be found in Hall.

The front cover depicts Dr Paul Kent, Emeritus Student, who with Dean Simpson was instrumental in the founding of the GCR in 1960, and was the first Tutor for Graduates. With him, under the gaze of another portrait of Dean Simpson, is the present Tutor for Graduates, Dr Katya Andreyev, and a number of present members of the GCR.

"Somewhere something incredible is waiting to be known"

CARL SAGAN