



WADHAM  
COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Access to Excellence

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## Cutting our own path to excellence.

While other institutions talk about the importance of widening access, at Wadham we're actually doing it. We're giving students from all backgrounds access to Oxford, and we're doing it by finding the very best talent in places – throughout the world – where others may not look.

With a student body among the most diverse in the University and a world-class academic reputation, Wadham is demonstrating that fair access, international reach and academic excellence go hand in hand. Our mission now is to break down the barriers that still exist, offering opportunity and scholarship to the very brightest students from all communities and from all walks of life – including potential graduate students who might be put off by cost. We want Wadham to be the living proof that fairness in education is not about lowering standards; it's about gathering up the best, wherever in the world they are to be found.

So help us to find them. Building on the secure platform of your wonderful generosity during the Wadham 2010 Campaign, our priority now is to invest in Access to Excellence. Our future is to drive the very best scholarship and research through to graduate level and beyond, by recruiting the brightest students and by nurturing their talent here in the heart of Oxford.

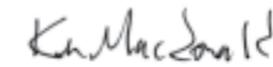
Arriving in welcoming Wadham was certainly less of a culture shock than arriving in a London comprehensive at the age of 12 – from my small hometown in Bulgaria. Since then, Wadham and Oxford have given me many opportunities, including summer projects in Russia and America and access initiatives in the UK. I never dreamt that doors like these would open for me or that the academic education at Wadham would be quite so distinctive and inspirational.

This is why we are running schools programmes, master classes and aspiration days, working with teachers and pupils, parents and carers. We are raising the horizons of the very smartest young people, showing them how Wadham can change their lives for ever. We are also funding more places for Oxford's best graduate students, allowing gifted young researchers to come here regardless of their personal means or their country of origin.

Last but not least, we are providing a home for outstanding research fellows, junior and senior, to enhance Wadham's international reputation for learning, discovery and innovation.

We are doing all this because in the twenty first century we want Wadham to be true to its historic values of openness and enlightenment, true to those brilliant seventeenth century polymaths who first defined our College's belief in modernity and progress. Please help us to continue developing Wadham as a progressive, open, special place, with scholarship as impressive as the best in the world.

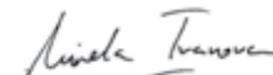
Above all, please help us to give others the opportunities that Wadham gave to you.



Ken Macdonald QC  
Warden, Wadham College

Quite simply, I hope that others like me will benefit from the same good fortune and amazing teaching that I have experienced, which is why I am asking you to support the College.

One day, I would like to make my own contribution. But in the meantime, Wadham's next generation is relying on you.



Mirela Ivanova  
History Finalist

“  
I grew up on a council estate in Peckham. So Oxford was a shock to the system. But behind the beauty and intelligence of Wadham's seventeenth-century facades, I found intellectual inspiration and friendship. I was valued there for my mind – not my colour, my age or my gender.

”

David Gustave (History, 1996)  
Chief Imagination Officer, Reluctantly Brave

Questioning convention.  
Lighting the way.

**Our vision:** over the next decade, Wadham will become a beacon for fair access in the UK and across the world by identifying and removing the barriers that impede potential applicants, students and researchers in their quest for excellence.

Our comprehensive strategy covers every step of the educational journey, as well as targeting even higher standards in both research and in the facilities that make the best work possible. Our goal is to raise a total of £30 million in new funds by 2020 to put this strategy into action.

Thanks in no small part to your 2010 Campaign investment we have an extraordinary College environment: remarkable researchers, first-class facilities and a talented student community. Your generosity has helped to preserve a proud tradition of academic excellence stretching back to the seventeenth century, when Wadham innovators took the radical step of founding the Royal Society and, in doing so, contributed to the invention of modern science. With your help, we want our College to reflect that fine legacy today and into the future, making it available to new generations.

So the next phase in our investment is about the scholars who are to come, the intellects who will drive Wadham in the twenty first century. Unusually for an Oxford college, we plan to ring-fence funds to ensure that Wadham remains for ever a beacon of fair access and a haven for unconventional thinkers from around the world – people whose research breaks new ground.

From our own long experience, we know that school leavers from poorer families are reluctant to apply to Oxford. And now, as the first UK generation of full fee payers moves into research, there is a distinct danger that postgraduate study in Oxford will become the preserve of the wealthy. Already, we have begun to lose students to better-endowed institutions in other parts of the world. Wadham's mission is to rise above these constraints, to break the barriers that stand in the way of opportunity and to bring talent where it belongs – inside our gates.

**In the UK, state schools educate 93% of children and 67% of triple-A achievers at A level... but just 57% of the undergraduates admitted to Oxford.\***

**At Wadham, 66% of our UK undergraduates are state-educated. But 74.7% of our UK applicants are state-educated, so there is still a gap to close.\***

**More than 33% of applicants offered a postgraduate place at Wadham (and across Oxford) turn it down for lack of funding.\***

“

When Jeffrey Hackney became my tutor, he changed my life. My attitude turned through 179 degrees and lethargy became light. Jeffrey lit a flash of inspiration that would live within me forever.

I continue to give generously to Wadham because of the way it puts unlikely people together, allowing serendipity to flow across the generations.

”

**Stephen Stow (Law, 1974)**  
Private Equity (Private Partner and Limited Partner)  
and Foundation Fellow

# One distinctive strategy. Five bold steps.

Working with the University, we will build on Wadham's past pioneering activities and develop distinctive new models to gather up talented students regardless of their backgrounds. We have devised a comprehensive five-step access strategy to realise our vision – to recruit the very best wherever they are to be found and to nurture their talent to the full in their years with us. This strategy requires a total investment of £30 million, which we aim to raise by 2020. Please help us to break through the myriad of barriers to opportunity – and proclaim once again Wadham's famous commitment to openness and progress.

## Access to Excellence Fund

Total target: £30 million

£15 million raised  
(January 2016)

### Step 1

**Applicants**  
Raising aspirations and attracting talent

Building on Wadham's hugely successful access work to date, we ask you to support more **open days**, more **outreach visits** to priority schools, more **work with teachers** and more **subject-specific summer schools**, as well as helping us to pioneer new **online resources** for preparing applications. Make it possible for us to find the best.

Target  
**£5m**

### Step 2

**Undergraduates**  
Fulfilling potential and nurturing our community

Today's students bear a greater financial burden than any generation before them. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we will create more **targeted bursaries and scholarships**, and offer **greater pastoral and academic support** for those who most need it.

Target  
**£5m**

### Step 3

**Graduate students**  
Competing for the world's most gifted minds

Many elite overseas institutions now offer full PhD funding. In order for us to continue to attract the best we ask you to help us create **new scholarships for international students, as well as for UK students** who are burdened with such high levels of debt.

Target  
**£10m**

### Step 4

**All Wadham graduates**  
Opening doors to a better world

Ultimately, there is no point removing barriers from talented students' progress to and through Oxford, only for further barriers to rise up when they choose a career. We therefore seek donations of both money and time for **careers support** – whether for inspiration days, **online careers resources** or **grants to enable internships and volunteering**.

Target  
**£10m**

### Step 5

**Fellowships and facilities**  
Maintaining world class teaching and research at Wadham

We want a College environment that is among the finest in Oxford. It is by offering the very best education founded on the very best research that we attract the very best students. Help us to secure the future excellence of Wadham's scholarship by **endowing Fellowships**. Help us also to **maintain a physical environment** in which all of our students can reach their full potential.

Target  
**£10m**

# Lighting the beacon. Looking to you.

First a few facts about Wadham's finances. Like most Oxbridge colleges and top U.S. universities, we rely on our well-invested endowment to generate much of our income. Thanks to our donors and prudent financial management, our endowment currently contributes 26% of the College's annual income. Regular alumni donations to the Wadham Fund account for another 9% of our revenues.

Now for some harder facts. The cornerstone of the Oxford education, the tutorial system, is expensive to maintain and the system is under immense pressure. The average cost of an Oxford undergraduate education is estimated to be £18,000 a year.

Add this to today's uncertain higher education funding regime and, even with UK fees at an all-time high, there is a clear shortfall. There is also a distinct danger that the demands of our core activities, teaching and research, will erode our current budget for access, outreach, undergraduate support and graduate scholarships.

#### Recognising your support

There are a number of ways in which we recognise your vital contribution to Wadham's future, from membership of the Wilkins, Nicholas, and Dorothy Circles to permanent acknowledgment on the Donor Wall in the Cloisters. Benefactors giving more than £1 million can be elected to a Foundation Fellowship. Every gift to the College is also recognised by the University and donors can become a member of the Vice-Chancellor's Circle or the Chancellor's Court of Benefactors. You can read more about the ways we recognise your support on [www.wadham.ox.ac/alumni](http://www.wadham.ox.ac/alumni)

#### University match funding

Your donations to graduate scholarships can be increased in value on a 60:40 basis thanks to a time-limited University-wide match funding programme:

[www.wadham.ox.ac.uk/alumni/matched-funding](http://www.wadham.ox.ac.uk/alumni/matched-funding)

#### How your donation makes a difference

##### Step 1

£15,000 will fund one year's series of Aspiration Days organised for 11–16-year-olds.

£25,000 will pay for 25 students from underperforming schools to experience a week of Oxford education at a Wadham subject-specific summer school – and improve their chances of studying at a top university.

These events can be named after the donor.

##### Step 2

An endowed gift of £100,000 will give one UK undergraduate of limited means £3,500 a year (increasing annually in line with inflation) to supplement the student loan and help them cope with living costs in one of Europe's most expensive cities.

Donors can name these bursaries in perpetuity.

##### Step 3

A gift of £475,000 towards an endowed graduate scholarship at Wadham can secure additional match funding of £316,000 from the University and support a postgraduate student (international, EU or UK) every year in perpetuity. Payments towards endowed scholarships can be made over a number of years.

Donors can choose a permanent name for these scholarships.

##### Step 4

£5,000 can help fund a career support programme – such as our Inspiration Days – or fund a number of internships for current students or recent graduates.

##### Step 5

Donations for fellowships and facilities are vital to the College and there are a range of naming opportunities available to major donors.

Think of the future.  
Achieve the vision.

The Wadham I see in the future continues to be in division one academically – top tier in the sciences, my own subject area, alongside the arts and social sciences. This College will also be engaged with the wider community and known for making a positive impact on the world. Like the Wadham of the present and the past, it will have a string of alumni whom people know about and it will still be edgy and radical. Wadham will be perceived as a distinctive college – and a desirable one with which to be associated.

If you have a similar vision of Wadham, please give and help make it reality. Faced with the challenges of the present, the Wadham of the future depends on us – the students of its past.

*Warren East*

Warren East CBE (1980, Engineering)  
Chairman, Wadham College Development Council  
and CEO of Rolls Royce

We are fortunate that more than 23% of our alumni support the College every year. Our thanks go out to everyone who has given to Wadham. Yet, in order to make Wadham a beacon of fair access and diversity, we are asking you once again to give your best gift. If you are already a donor, perhaps you would consider increasing your annual contribution to the Wadham Fund or making a significant one-off gift.

Whether your passion is for social mobility or for academic excellence, whether your interests lie in undergraduate or postgraduate education, whether your focus is the UK or the wider world, whether you simply love Wadham and want to give something back, your gift – large or small – will enable Access to Excellence.

“

**That Wadham was one of the first historically men's colleges at the University to admit women gave me and many others an opportunity to participate in a cultural and generational shift. And Wadham has remained expansive, inclusive and innovative.**

”

**Lissa Muscatine (Politics, Rhodes Scholar, 1977)**  
Owner of Politics and Prose bookstore and coffee house in Washington DC and former chief speechwriter to Hillary Rodham Clinton

“

**My father was a Hong Kong taxi driver and my mother a tailor. They did not even graduate from secondary school and they could not speak English. Studying in Oxford was an impossible dream for me. But when I was given a scholarship to Wadham I resolved to pass the blessings to others.**

”

**Victor HB Lee (Engineering, 1993)**  
Investment Manager, J.P. Morgan,  
former Lee Shau Kee Scholar

#### Get in touch

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