

Oxford Human Sciences

Training students to come up with interdisciplinary, multidimensional, and research-based solutions to complex global issues



The University of Oxford has long been committed to addressing the world's most pressing issues. These challenges have grown larger, more complex, and urgent over time. War, climate change, and the recent COVID-19 pandemics underscore the need for interdisciplinary training and research to foster and inform a new generation of scientists and leaders capable of crafting effective and holistic solutions to complex problems.

By combining human biology, evolution, development, physiology, psychology, behaviour, ecology, sociology, genetics, demography and anthropology, the BA in Human Sciences at the University of Oxford trains interdisciplinary scientists and future leaders to move between and beyond traditional academic divides, bringing integrated, big-picture, evidence-based thinking to the problems that humankind faces. Human scientists thrive on the freedom to offer creative interdisciplinary solutions within a framework of human diversity and sustainability.



Established in 1969 and with more than 1,400 alumni effecting change across the world, the BA Human Sciences degree is now at a crucial juncture as we look to the next 50 years. It is vital that we support its future development and ensure that it continues attract talented undergraduates and academics, and continues to encourage innovative research and teaching across disciplines.



If, like us, you believe in the importance of Human Sciences at Oxford, we would ask you to consider donating through our website (www.development.ox.ac.uk/human-sciences). If you would like to have a conversation about the way which your philanthropy or other help might secure the study of Human Sciences for future generations, please get in touch.



Alumni profiles



“As a teenager, I was not ready to narrow my area of interest to one discipline. I was curious about how things are connected and how deeper study might help to untangle the issues I had begun to be interested in – environmental

sustainability, feminism, and how different cultures brought up children. I don't think I was atypical. We are all naturally curious, but the lack of undergraduate courses that taught anything that was deliberately interdisciplinary meant that most of my contemporaries, even at Oxford, had not even heard about Human Sciences.

I'm so glad that I found the Human Sciences degree. It uniquely enabled me to keep my natural curiosity and interest in complex issues and in how we learn from one another across disciplines.”

Rachel Stancliffe, Founder and Director of the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare. Founded in 2008 as The Campaign for Greener Healthcare, it is now one of the world's foremost institutions for sustainable healthcare in research and practice



“There is no doubt in my mind that Human Sciences was an extraordinary training, one that opened my mind to new possibilities rather than focusing it on a narrow pathway from which I would then have very limited

opportunities to diverge in the future. ... To this day, I still refer to my Oxford binders filled with my Human Sciences lecture and tutorial notes. They are sitting on the top shelf of my office. Just by way of example, I am currently writing a paper that takes an evolutionary perspective on knowledge utilization by teams, for which I recently dug out my notes from my courses on evolution; I have another paper that focuses on knowledge withholding by geneticists, for which I consulted my notes on genetics.

Human Sciences is a great degree program, I would recommend it to my children (and hopefully it will still be there when the time comes to do so!), as well as to any prospective undergraduate student seeking a fascinating grounding in the fundamental issues of the biological and social sciences that underpin so much of who we are and how we function as individuals and societies. I only wish that more leading universities in the UK had the insight to recognize the value of such a program and support it in their institutions.”

Martine Haas, Lauder Chair and Professor of Management, The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. She is an award-winning academic whose research focuses on on collaboration in global, knowledge-intensive organisations.

**To support the Human Sciences please visit
www.development.ox.ac.uk/human-sciences**

For more information about how your philanthropy or other help could secure the study of Human Sciences for future generations, please contact;

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