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## MATCH FUNDING OPPORTUNITY AT OXFORD DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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## INTRODUCTION

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The Oxford Department of International Development (ODID), based at Queen Elizabeth House, is now widely recognised as one of the leading university development research centres in the UK and Europe, and is among the top five development research centres in the world. Our research is explicitly designed to engage with and have impact on real-world policy issues – albeit critically and with a long-term perspective. We strive to contribute to better design and implementation based on empirical evidence with the ultimate goal of improving the development outcomes for poor countries.

Research at the Department has influenced key policy fields, ranging from human development and childhood poverty, through technology transfer and global finance, to international migration and civil conflict. In each case, work has been initiated by the intellectual curiosity of scholars, supported by a wide range of strategic funding sources.

The Department receives no direct government support or University funding; QEH must earn its keep through student fees and research grants by competitive bidding. In this context, philanthropic support is crucial to ensure both our intellectual independence and access to Oxford for less wealthy students. The Department makes great efforts to secure scholarships for students from developing countries. We devote £300,000 a year from our own funds to provide eight full scholarships.

Dedicated to attracting exceptional students, the Department has offered an exciting and prestigious initiative for co-funded and co-named scholarships for benefactors to the Department who wish to support graduate scholarships at a cost of £14,500 per annum.

Mindful of government cuts in higher education, support for graduate students forms a critical element of ‘Oxford Thinking: The Campaign for the University of Oxford’, which aims to raise a minimum of £1.25 billion to ensure the future of this world-class institution. One of the Campaign’s key objectives is to enable the most gifted students to fulfil their potential without barriers of geography, financial hardship or community impeding their way.

You can support brilliant scholarship, life-changing research and expand the circle of opportunity to the most talented scholars by sponsoring a graduate student with Oxford Department of International Development.



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## OXFORD DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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The Oxford Department of International Development (ODID) is widely recognised as the leading multidisciplinary development research centres in the UK and Europe. The Department was judged to have the largest submission of world-leading research in its field by the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise, published in 2009.

Two-thirds of humankind lives in developing countries, where most of the world's deprivation is located. Understanding these societies is of central importance to any enquiry into the human condition. International action to reduce poverty, inequality and vulnerability of people and nations must be based on critical yet rigorous knowledge.

At ODID, our mission is to provide the highest quality research and training possible on issues of economic, social and political development; with the clear objective of helping the world's poorest improve their welfare and life-chances. We focus on the most deprived regions of the world, training a whole generation of young professionals who go out in the field and provide interdisciplinary research to support better policies. Our six graduate programmes, six specialised research centres and two research programmes give us unequalled depth of scholarship in key themes of this enquiry.

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## GRADUATE STUDENTS AT ODID

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At Oxford, graduate students are the research engines of the University. The future success of this world-class institution is reliant on the diligence, creativity and forward-thinking brilliance that our students possess. We attach the highest importance to graduate education, seeking to attract the very best students from around the world. At the start of the 2010-2011 academic year, the Department has a total of 207 students, of whom 60 are DPhil candidates. Talented graduate students are an invaluable part of the Department's academic enterprise. They act as valued collaborators with their academic supervisors, helping generate new insights, new breakthroughs and new understandings. Graduate students work with governments, businesses and third sector organisations both nationally and internationally.

Competition for a place at ODID is fierce. In 2010, 1,163 students applied to the Department for 151 places on our six graduate programmes. This reflects not only the high quality of teaching but also the unique Oxford approach to development studies – research-driven with strong disciplinary foundations – and excellent career opportunities as a result of our rigorous approach to research, therefore equipping students address international development in the 21st century.

Despite our global success, the Department is concerned that many outstanding students cannot afford the fees and living costs at Oxford, even though these are not high by international standards for this level of education. As a consequence, both the Department and the University have made great efforts to increase the availability of scholarships. At present, only one third of our students are on full or partial scholarships, but this is insufficient when we are competing for the world's brightest scholars. The Department is investing £300,000 a year in student support from our own funds.



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## INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

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Academic enterprise is driven above all by curiosity and wanting to make a difference. Research students not only play an integral role in Oxford's academic and research community; they are an invaluable resource to governments and businesses through research dissemination such as presenting at conferences, consulting and internships. Their dreams and desires to understand the past, as well as better the lives of millions of people across the world can only be realised with financial support to undertake research.

Reduced government funding for teaching and research, along with rising costs and increased international competition, threaten Oxford's ability to secure sufficient funds to offer scholarships to some of the world's brightest minds. Financial support is critical to attracting the best scholars, as lack of funding is the overriding reason why those holding an offer from the University turn it down.

It is vital that we raise philanthropic support so we are able to continue operating an admissions system that accepts students solely on academic grounds. It is only through long-term partnerships with our alumni and benefactors that we will be able to address these challenges.

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## AN OPPORTUNITY TO TRANSFORM LIVES

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*"I have seen poverty, tasted poverty and grew up in a poverty-stricken area in Lagos, Nigeria. Nonetheless, I would have been among millions of African students who would not be fulfilling my destiny at all, if it were not for the generosity of a Clarendon Scholarship. Ultimately, I hope to take my comparative perspective of development studies back to Africa and act as a catalyst for development change."* (Ayokunu Adedokun)

Committed to attracting the brightest scholars to the Department to make long-lasting impact on international development, the Department is initiating a prestigious opportunity for co-funded and co-named scholarships with QEH. It costs £29,000 per year to educate a graduate student (figure includes University fees, College fees and maintenance costs). The Department is offering a co-funding initiative for supporters of Oxford, at a cost of £14,500 per annum to sponsor a graduate student.

Your support will transform the lives of some of the world's most able students. Under the guidance of distinguished academics, nurtured and encouraged in a supportive collegiate environment, Oxford's graduates have the opportunity to undertake a range of research which will have long-lasting effects. We invite you to step forward and make a global difference.

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### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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