

An Introduction to Oxford University and its Colleges

Oxford University is the oldest university in the English-speaking world, but it is constantly innovating and is today a leader in cutting-edge science and medicine. Find out about its history and how it functions today. What is the role of the colleges? What is their relationship to the university? What is life like for the students? Discover Oxford, its key buildings, its ancient (and not so ancient) traditions and find out why it is today ranked No.1 in the world.



Alice and the Dodo in Oxford

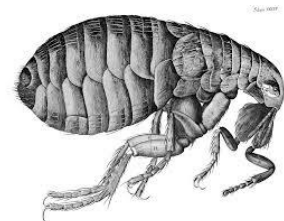
Alice in Wonderland is a brilliant work of fantasy, but many of its characters are based on real human beings from Lewis Carroll's college, Christ Church, and from the City of Oxford. This event introduces the audience to the author, the people behind his characters and to the Oxford of the 19th century, which is key to a deeper understanding of both books of Alice's adventures.

Oxford in the History of Medicine

Oxford today is at the forefront of medical research. The Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine has demonstrated the expertise of the university ranked First in the World for Medicine for a decade.

But how did we get here?

This talk ranges over the last 800 years and discusses a range of Oxford contributions which have helped shape modern medicine. The world's first neurologist worked in Oxford and a seminal book on mental conditions was written here. Techniques such as microscopy and X-Ray crystallography were championed here. The Penicillin scientists developed anti-biotics in Oxford and it was an Oxford professor who demonstrated the connection between smoking and cancer. Oxford also influenced medical teaching and recent interdisciplinary collaborations have led to practical inventions and new approaches and solutions to age-old problems.

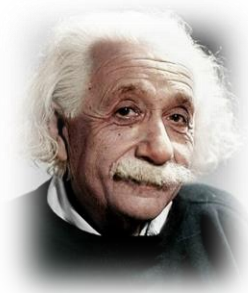


Oxford's Jewish Heritage

Oxford has one of the best documented medieval Jewish quarters in the world. Find out how the Jews of medieval Oxford lived and what happened to them.



After their readmission by Oliver Cromwell, they were slow to return, but in Oxford a certain Jacob founded England's first Coffee House. The nineteenth century saw a few families migrate from Poland and Eastern Europe and the 1930s saw visits by Einstein and an influx of Refugee Scholars, who made huge contributions to Oxford University in particular and the UK in general.



Einstein and the Refugee Scholars

How did the 'Einstein Blackboard' come to be a prize possession of Oxford's Museum of the History of Science? This is the story of Einstein's visits to Oxford in the 1930s, his reception and his significance. Discover the role played by Oxford University and the Society for the Protection of Science and Learning in saving scholars fleeing from the Nazis. Finally, find out about the lives, contributions and legacies of the refugee scholars themselves.

Oxford's Architecture

Oxford's oldest building is nearly 1,000 years old and we are still building. As the architectural historian Nikolaus Pevsner said 'There is a density of monuments here which has not the like in Europe'. This talk considers the motivations and thinking behind the architecture we see in Oxford today. It also examines the work of named Oxford architects, from Sir Christopher Wren and Nicholas Hawksmoor to Arne Jacobsen, Zaha Hadid and Alison Brooks.

