Students and fellows work closely together to answer some of the most pressing questions of our times. Students come to exchange thoughts, conduct research, make discoveries and learn how to move from enquiry to theory to evidence base to practice.

For seventy-five years Nuffield College has built its reputation for study and research in the social sciences within the University of Oxford. Today, the need has never been greater to bring the best minds to bear on the relationship between the individual and society. The world economic crisis, major changes in our climate and technology, and the ageing population are just some of the huge challenges that the social sciences exist to address.

Nuffield is dedicated to excellence in Economics, Sociology and Politics. Students and Fellows work closely together to answer some of the most pressing questions of our times. Students come to exchange thoughts, conduct research, make discoveries and learn how to move from enquiry to theory to evidence base to practice. College runs an active international visitors’ programme to enable senior social science academics from other universities to spend time in Nuffield so that students can study with world-class faculty in an environment that encourages interdisciplinary research. Nuffield is known for the intimacy of its community, but also the reach, through this special network, to a wonderful larger world of expertise beyond.

We are currently closely involved in understanding the effects of policy, and with that knowledge we are helping policy-makers to improve people’s lives. The College is associated with major research achievements in the social sciences: with pioneering work on the development of cost benefit analysis for developing countries, then making major contributions in econometrics, our economists are now looking at ways to reignite growth, and have played a leading role in designing auctions for central banks and governments.
Our sociologists are engaged in studying inequality and social mobility, and in examining the patterns of population shifts and the challenges they bring. Our political scientists are trying to understand the complexities of democratization and how to rebuild political participation.

If research impact is one side of our mission, the other part is to nurture the leaders of tomorrow. We accelerate social progress through educating the very best people in an interdisciplinary environment, supporting those who work at the cutting edge of the social sciences. For example, for all Oxford students, formal degree supervision is arranged by the University, but Nuffield additionally provides students with supervision by College Fellows, a distinctive feature of which we are very proud. The Governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney, is a Nuffield alumnus, as is Indian Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, UN Climate report author Lord Nick Stern, former Cabinet Secretary, Sir Gus O’Donnell, three Economics Nobel Prize winners and a range of leaders in the finance, policy, Government and not-for-profit arenas. Visiting Fellows include George Soros, Stephanie Flanders and Shami Chakrabarti, to name a few.

Over the next five years Nuffield will further strengthen its position as the centre of the social sciences in Oxford, and be a reference point for research in these disciplines in the UK and beyond. Our commitment is to maintain the vibrant and close-knit community of 90 students and 40 Fellows from all over the world and to attract the very brightest and best young researchers globally.

We invite you to read about how our new development programme can help us achieve these goals.

Our goal is to become the first-ever higher education institution in the UK to fully fund every student who is admitted at Nuffield. Many institutions speak of this as an aspiration. We believe that we can make it a reality.

We start from a position of strength. Nuffield’s solid financial footing has given it the flexibility to invest across all areas of the social sciences to make the College the stimulating research environment that it is today. We are now ready for the next step: to build our level of endowment so that we can cover the fees and living costs of all of our 90 students, permanently. By recruiting the best talent from around the world, and creating an environment for them to work alongside some of the best academics, we will make it possible to influence more policies in more countries to improve people’s lives.

Supporting the best students is therefore the means to a greater end: to generate ideas that change the world. That is why we will work hard to become the College of choice for the very best post-graduates in our core subjects. If a student is offered a place at Oxford but also at a top US university together with a generous financial aid package, we are at a competitive disadvantage. Recently, we have lost out not only to America’s best resourced universities, but also to UK and European institutions that wish to make a statement of aspiration. Our new development programme will reverse this trend.
Nuffield’s endowment has been extremely carefully managed over many years, and has allowed investment in high quality academic staff and the development of first class facilities on our beautiful site. We have calculated that a further £35m would establish Nuffield as the very first academic institution in the UK funding its entire student population. Within that significant sum there will be opportunities to endow individual scholarships and other projects.

We have not set this goal to make the College richer out of a misplaced sense of grandiosity. We believe that the best students will also be a magnet for the brightest Fellows worldwide. Our aim is to attract the most promising researchers and best scholars globally to apply for every opportunity at Nuffield. In creating this community we believe that we can use the social sciences to further understand the world, and with that understanding comes the chance to make better policy choices. Simply, our aim is to grow ‘social sciences that matter’.

Alumni and close friends may want to give to Nuffield – first and foremost – from a sense of affection and gratitude. But fostering rigorous and relevant academic work might just be another good reason to support Nuffield. We welcome individual and corporate donors with a specific interest within the social sciences who may wish to contribute to cutting-edge thinking in that area.

This is a perfect time to support Nuffield for another reason. For a limited time, until 2017, Oxford University has set aside funds to match private donations in the field of postgraduate studentships. Nuffield may also top-up specific philanthropic gifts made during this period to affirm our own commitment to this cause. Together with the tax efficiency of giving through Gift Aid this is an unprecedented opportunity to permanently endow a scholarship at the highest level for a fraction of the full cost. Endowment of a scholarship can be achieved at a cost to a UK higher rate taxpayer of just £16,000 per year or £372,000 in perpetuity. Nuffield’s exceptional record of managing its endowment will ensure that the real value of benefactions will be maintained permanently.

We want to build lasting personal relationships with all who support Nuffield. Those who endow scholarships will have a chance to meet and learn about the work of the talented people they are supporting. For those who prefer to support our broader academic agenda, Nuffield aspires to build a small cadre of outstanding post-doctoral early career researchers around every Fellow as a way of driving forward original research activities. We also aim to work in partnership with the Social Sciences Division at Oxford to fund new initiatives that will maintain Oxford’s world leading position in the field.

We welcome a dialogue with all who share our vision of shaping the world using the power of the social sciences.

Thank you.