Famous Oxonians

Throughout its history, Oxford has produced gifted men and women in every sphere of human endeavour who have studied or taught at the University.

Among these are 25 British Prime Ministers; at least 30 international leaders; 47 Nobel Prize winners; six current holders of the Order of Merit; at least 6 kings, 12 saints and 20 Archbishops of Canterbury; some 50 Olympic medal winners; 10 Chief Executive Officers and 9 Chairmen of UK FTSE 100 companies; and the editors of 2 UK national newspapers.

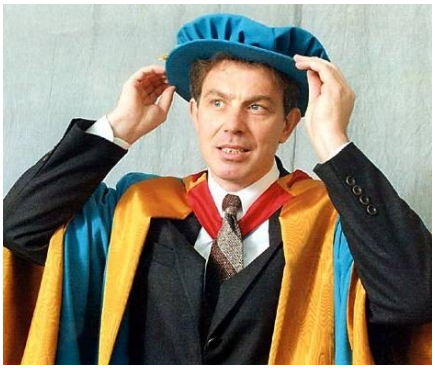
Currently, 107 Oxonians are Members of the UK's House of Commons and more than 140 sit in the House of Lords. Twenty members of the Labour government's front bench team, including the Home Secretary, the Foreign Secretary and five Secretaries of State; 14 members of the Conservative Shadow Cabinet, including the Leader of the Opposition, the Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Shadow Home Secretary and the Shadow Foreign Secretary; and 5 members of the Liberal Democrat Shadow Cabinet including the Shadow Home Secretary and the Shadow Foreign Secretary, are Oxford University graduates.

In addition, at least four members of the US House of Representatives, three members of the US Senate and one US State Governor were educated at Oxford.

20th & 21st Centuries

- King Abdullah of Jordan
- Sir Grantley Adams, Premier of Barbados, 1954-1958; Prime Minister of the West Indies, 1958-1962
- J M G (Tom) Adams, Prime Minister of Barbados 1976-85
- Diran Adebayo, author
- Samira Ahmed, journalist and presenter
- Monica Ali, author
- Tariq Ali, writer
- Rowan Atkinson, comedian
- Kingsley Amis, author

- Lindsay Anderson, film-maker
- W H Auden, poet
- Clement Attlee, UK Prime Minister, 1945-1951
- Zeinab Badawi, journalist and broadcaster
- Ed Balls, Member of Parliament and Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families
- Solomon Bandaranaike, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, 1956-1959
- Sir Roger Bannister, neurologist and athlete
- Dame Josephine Barnes, first female President of the British Medical Association
- Marian Bell, economist
- Tony Benn, politician
- Alan Bennett, playwright
- Sir Lennox Berkeley, composer
- Sir Isaiah Berlin, philosopher
- Sir Tim Berners-Lee, inventor of the World Wide Web



- Sir John Betjeman, poet
- Benazir Bhutto, former Prime Minister of Pakistan (1988-90 & 1993-96)
- Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, former President (1970-73) and Prime Minister (1972-77) of Pakistan
- Tony Blair, former UK Prime Minister (1997-2007)
- Baruch S Blumberg, Nobel Prize-winning scientist
- Edmund Blunden, poet
- Henry Bonsu, journalist and broadcaster
- Dr Ian Bostridge, opera singer
- Sir Adrian Boult, conductor
- James Bowman, counter-tenor
- William Boyd, author

- Lord (Melvyn) Bragg, broadcaster
- Justice Stephen Breyer, Associate Justice, Supreme Court of the United States, 1994-
- Vera Brittain, writer
- Peter Brook, theatre director
- Fiona Bruce, broadcaster
- Dr Kofi Abrefa Busia, Prime Minister of Ghana 1969-72
- Robert Byron, travel writer
- David Cameron, Member of Parliament and Leader of the Conservative Party
- Baroness Barbara Castle, politician
- General Wesley Clark, NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe, 1997-2000
- Bill Clinton, President of the United States, 1992-2000

- Wendy Cope, poet
- Richard Curtis, screenwriter
- Cecil Day Lewis, poet
- Edward de Bono, philosopher
- David Dimbleby, journalist and broadcaster
- Sir John Eccles, scientist, winner of the Nobel Prize for Physiology 1963
- John Edmonds, trade unionist
- T S Eliot, poet
- Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, chef and broadcaster
- Helen Fielding, author
- Dr Amelia Fletcher, Chief Economist, Office of Fair Trading
- Lord Florey, Nobel Prize-winning pathologist
- Michèle Flournoy, US Under Secretary of Defense

- Emilia Fox, actress
- Antonia Fraser, novelist and historian
- Malcolm Fraser, Prime Minister of Australia, 1975-83
- William Fulbright, politician, founder of the Fulbright Scholarships
- Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India, 1966-77 & 1980-84
- Dr Frene Ginwala, former Speaker of the South African National Assembly
- William Golding, Nobel Prize-winning novelist
- Hugh Grant, actor

- Robert Graves, poet
- Graham Greene, author
- Mark Haddon, author
- J B S Haldane, geneticist
- Professor Stuart Hall, sociologist
- Harald V, King of Norway since 1991
- Bob Hawke, Prime Minister of Australia, 1983-91
- Professor Stephen Hawking, physicist
- Joseph Heller, author
- Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck, Oscar-winning film-maker
- Sir Cyril Hinshelwood, Nobel Prize-winning chemist
- Dorothy Hodgkin, Nobel Prize-winning chemist
- Edwin Hubble, astronomer
- Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, 1976-99
- Aldous Huxley, author
- Armando Iannucci, writer and comedian
- Lord (Roy) Jenkins, former Home Secretary and Chancellor of the University
- Bobby Jindal, Governor of Louisiana, former US Congressman
- Luke Johnson, businessman, Chairman of Channel 4

- Lakshman Kadirgamar, former Sri Lankan Foreign Minister
- Natasha Kaplinsky, television presenter
- Imran Khan, Pakistani politician and former international cricketer
- Liaquat Ali Khan, first Prime Minister of Pakistan
- Soweto Kinch, jazz musician, saxophonist
- Dame Emma Kirkby, soprano
- John Kufuor, President of Ghana 2001-2009
- Haruhiko Kuroda, President of the Asian Development Bank
- Martha Lane Fox, businesswoman, co-founder of lastminute.com
- Philip Larkin, poet
- T E Lawrence, Lawrence of Arabia
- Nigella Lawson, chef and broadcaster
- John Le Carre, author
- C S Lewis, writer and scholar
- Ken Loach, film-maker
- Alain Locke, philosopher and architect of the Harlem Renaissance
- Richard G Lugar, United States Senator
- Val McDermid, crime writer
- Neil MacGregor, Director of the British Museum
- Harold Macmillan, UK Prime Minister, 1957-63
- Norman Manley, Leader of Jamaica, 1955-62
- Chief Justice Mrs Sujata Vasant Manohar, Judge of the Supreme Court of India 1994-99
- Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, first Prime Minister (and later President) of Fiji
- Sir Peter Medawar, scientist, winner of the Nobel Prize for Physiology 1960
- Ved Mehta, author
- Roland Michener, Governor-General of Canada 1967-74
- David Miliband, Member of Parliament and Foreign Secretary

- Dame Barbara Mills, first female Director of Public Prosecutions
- Dom Mintoff, Prime Minister of Malta, 1955-1958 & 1971-1984
- Dudley Moore, actor, comedian, musician
- Dom Moraes, poet
- Dame Iris Murdoch, philosopher and author
- Rupert Murdoch, Director, News International plc
- Arthur Mutambara, Deputy Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, 2009-
- Mylo, DJ
- V S Naipaul, Nobel Prize-winning author
- Crown Prince Naruhito of Japan
- Rageh Omaar, journalist
- Viktor Orbán, Prime Minister of Hungary 1998-2002, leader of the *Fidesz* political party
- George Osborne, Member of Parliament and Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer
- Michael Palin, actor and writer
- Lester B Pearson, Prime Minister of Canada, 1963-1968, and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize
- Robert Penn Warren, American poet laureate
- Rosamund Pike, actress
- Matthew Pinsent, four times Olympic Gold Medal-winning rower
- Dennis Potter, playwright
- Philip Pullman, author
- Hugh Quarshie, actor
- Dr Olli Rehn, EU Commissioner for Enlargement
- Susan Rice, US Ambassador to the United Nations
- Rachel Riley, co-host on Channel 4's Countdown
- Nick Robinson, journalist
- Hon Raymond Robinson, President of Trinidad and Tobago, 1997-2003

- General Sir Michael Rose, former UN Commander in Bosnia
- Michael Rosen, children's novelist and poet
- Lord (Robert) Runcie, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1980-1991
- Sir Martin Ryle, Nobel Prize-winning physicist
- Dr Jonathan Sacks, Chief Rabbi
- Dame Cicely Saunders, founder of the modern hospice movement
- Dorothy L Sayers, author
- Ernst Schumacher, economist
- Pixley Seme, founder of the African National Congress
- Vikram Seth, author
- Dr Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India, 2004-
- Jacqui Smith, Member of Parliament, first female UK Home Secretary
- Professor Oliver Smithies, winner of the 2007 Nobel Prize for Medicine
- Laura Solon, comedian
- Cornelia Sorabji, India's first female lawyer
- John Spratt, United States Congressman
- Rick Stein, chef and broadcaster
- Lord (Nicholas) Stern, economist, author of the Stern Review into the Economics of Climate Change, 2006
- Aung San Suu Kyi, leader, Burmese National League for Democracy and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize
- A J P Taylor, historian
- Baroness (Margaret) Thatcher, UK Prime Minister, 1979-90
- Sir Wilfred Thesiger, explorer and anthropologist
- Mark Thompson, Director-General of the BBC
- Lester Thurow, economist

- J R R Tolkien, author and academic
- Margaret Turner-Warwick, first woman President of the Royal College of Physicians
- Revd Chad Varah, founder of the Samaritans
- Abhisit Vejjajiva, Prime Minister of Thailand from December 2008
- David Vitter, United States Congressman
- Baroness (Mary) Warnock, philosopher
- Evelyn Waugh, author
- Sir Andrew Wiles, mathematician
- Dr Eric Williams, historian and politician, Chief Minister of Trinidad and Tobago 1956-1959, Premier 1959-1962, Prime Minister 1962-1981
- Ivy Williams, first female barrister in the UK
- Dr Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury since 2002
- Baroness Shirley Williams, politician
- Dr Heather Wilson, United States Congresswoman
- Michael Winterbottom, film-maker
- Jeanette Winterson, author
- Qian Zhongsu, Chinese academic and writer

19th Century

- Matthew Arnold, poet
- H H Asquith, British Prime Minister
- Sir Thomas Beecham, conductor and composer
- Sir Max Beerbohm, author and cartoonist
- Gertrude Bell, explorer and archaeologist
- Hilaire Belloc, author
- William Beveridge, social reformer and economist
- John Buchan, author
- Sir Richard Burton, explorer

- Edward Burne-Jones, artist
- Lewis Carroll (Charles Dodgson), author and academic
- Thomas de Quincey, author
- C B Fry, cricketer
- William Ewart Gladstone, British Prime Minister
- Eglantyne Jebb, founder of the Save the Children Fund
- John Keble, theologian
- Gerard Manley Hopkins, poet
- William Morris, artist
- Cardinal John Henry Newman, theologian
- Sir Robert Peel, British Prime Minister
- Edward Pusey, theologian
- Eleanor Rathbone, politician and social reformer
- Cecil Rhodes, colonial pioneer, founder of the Rhodes Scholarships
- John Ruskin, author, artist and social reformer
- Percy Bysshe Shelley, poet
- Frederick Soddy, Nobel Prize-winning chemist
- Arnold Toynbee, social philosopher and economist
- Oscar Wilde, playwright, poet and author

17th & 18th Centuries

- William Henry Drayton, American revolutionary
- John Ford, playwright
- Edward Gibbon, historian
- Edmund Halley, astronomer
- William Harvey, scientist who discovered the circulation of the blood
- Thomas Hobbes, philosopher
- Robert Hooke, scientist
- Dr Samuel Johnson, lexicographer

- John Locke, philosopher
- Sir Richard Lovelace, poet
- James Oglethorpe, founder of Georgia
- William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania
- Adam Smith, political economist
- James Smithson, scientist, founder of the Smithsonian Institution
- Robert Southey, poet
- Jonathan Swift, author and satirist
- Jethro Tull, agriculturalist and inventor
- John Wesley, founder of Methodism
- John Wilmot, second Earl of Rochester, poet and courtier
- Sir Christopher Wren, architect

15th & 16th Centuries

- Cardinal William Allen
- John Donne, poet
- Erasmus, scholar
- Jerome of Prague, Czech religious reformer
- Sir Thomas More, Lord Chancellor and martyr
- Sir Walter Raleigh, explorer
- Sir Philip Sidney, poet
- William Tyndale, translator of the Bible
- Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, Lord Chancellor and churchman, founder of Christ Church

13th & 14th Centuries

- Roger Bacon, scholar
- Thomas Bradwardine, Archbishop of Canterbury
- Simon Bredon, mathematician
- William of Ockham, philosopher and theologian
- Duns Scotus, philosopher and theologian

- John Wyclif (Wycliffe), religious reformer