



# OXFORD CENTRE FOR HINDU STUDIES

*The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies & You...*  
**Case for Support: Endowment Campaign**



### **Case for Support: Endowment Campaign**

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies builds bridges of understanding between 21st century India – with its unique tradition of thought and culture – and the rest of the modern world.

Society today faces profound challenges: economic, political, environmental, and social. Albert Einstein said, ‘We cannot solve our problems with the same level of thinking that created them.’

The OCHS hopes to invigorate thinking, introducing new perspectives and understandings to current debates by innovative teaching, research, and publishing. Education in Hindu Studies at OCHS is about initiating discussion between cultures, economies, and communities. It is also about engaging traditional principles and values with modernity. Solving global problems will require global thinking.

Society always benefits from education. Education based on scholarly integrity supports good thinking – it builds bridges, promotes understanding, cultivates character, and it develops social cohesion. Central to the culture of the OCHS is the principle of working to improve the communities we serve through education.

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## Mission

The OCHS was founded in 1997 as the world's first academy of its kind for the study of Hindu culture. Since its inception, the Centre has attracted world-class scholars and students, launched pioneering educational projects, and opened up the field of Hindu Studies to a global audience. As a Recognised Independent Centre of Oxford University it is the University's primary source of teaching in Hinduism.

*' Official association provides a platform for the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies and Oxford University to move forward together in teaching, research, and publishing. It also helps students and researchers gain further access to the wonderful Indian resources held in Oxford.'*

*Lord Patten of Barnes  
Chancellor of Oxford University*

The mission of the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies is to develop and promote academic excellence in Hindu Studies by providing a balanced and structured programme of education, research, and publishing.



## Aims

### Academic Excellence

The OCHS aims to meet the highest standards of academic integrity, originality, and excellence exemplified by Oxford University. It aims to create an association of eminent scholars of Hindu Culture and to develop appropriate research facilities.

### Building Bridges

The OCHS aims to bridge the gaps between cultures by promoting greater knowledge and understanding of Hindu culture and by creating opportunities for interaction and co-operation between scholars and communities.

### Accessibility

The OCHS aims to provide global access to the intellectual and cultural heritage of India through teaching, publishing, internet resources, and the media.

### Preservation

The OCHS aims to preserve Hindu heritage – its scriptures, arts, literature, and history through research projects, archives, libraries, and digitisation.

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## Academic Work in Oxford

*'The OCHS has developed a reputation for academic excellence and without the Centre we wouldn't have Hindu Studies at Oxford. Its students do us credit.'*

*Richard Gombrich  
Emeritus Boden Professor of  
Sanskrit, Oxford University*



### What we do

- Students of the Centre are reading for degrees in the faculties of Theology, Oriental Studies, History, and Anthropology. As we employ more academic staff to tutor students we will be able to expand our subject areas.
- The Centre holds regular lectures and seminars, including the named Majewski, Wahlstrom, and Ford lectures.
- Successful conferences and symposia, dealing with Texts, Archaeology, Theology, and Gender Studies have opened up new vistas in the understanding of these topics.
- A partnership with Oxford University Press to produce the Journal of Hindu Studies and a publishing agreement with Routledge to produce the Hindu Studies series of books enables students and Fellows to further their careers by appearing in reputable publications.
- Students of the OCHS have access to more than one hundred libraries in Oxford, including the Bodleian's Indian Institute Library with the largest collection of Sanskrit texts outside India.
- The OCHS provides accommodation tailored to the faith needs of Hindu students.
- The OCHS fosters a collegial atmosphere offering an invaluable opportunity for scholars and students to come together for intellectual discourse and to deepen friendships.
- The OCHS has attracted students from all over the world, including Japan, Belgium, India, France, Germany, USA, England, Croatia, Ireland, Trinidad, Zambia, Israel, and South Africa. This attraction to Oxford and its wonderful resources has helped nurture an extraordinary community of young scholars.
- Since 1998, the Centre has invited internationally renowned scholars to deliver lectures and tutorials at Oxford University. These include recipients of the very successful Shivdasani Fellowship, which helps Indian scholars come to Oxford every term.
- Notable research projects include the British Hinduism Oral History Project and the Digital Shikshapatri Project.
- The OCHS Continuing Education Department (CED) facilitates excellence in Hindu Studies to adults in the UK and online internationally, making a scholarly, educational approach available to a wide audience.

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## What we want to do

We are in an excellent position to build on our success if we can resource the following:

### Scholarships

Two full-scholarships and four half-scholarships

### Lectureships and Fellowships

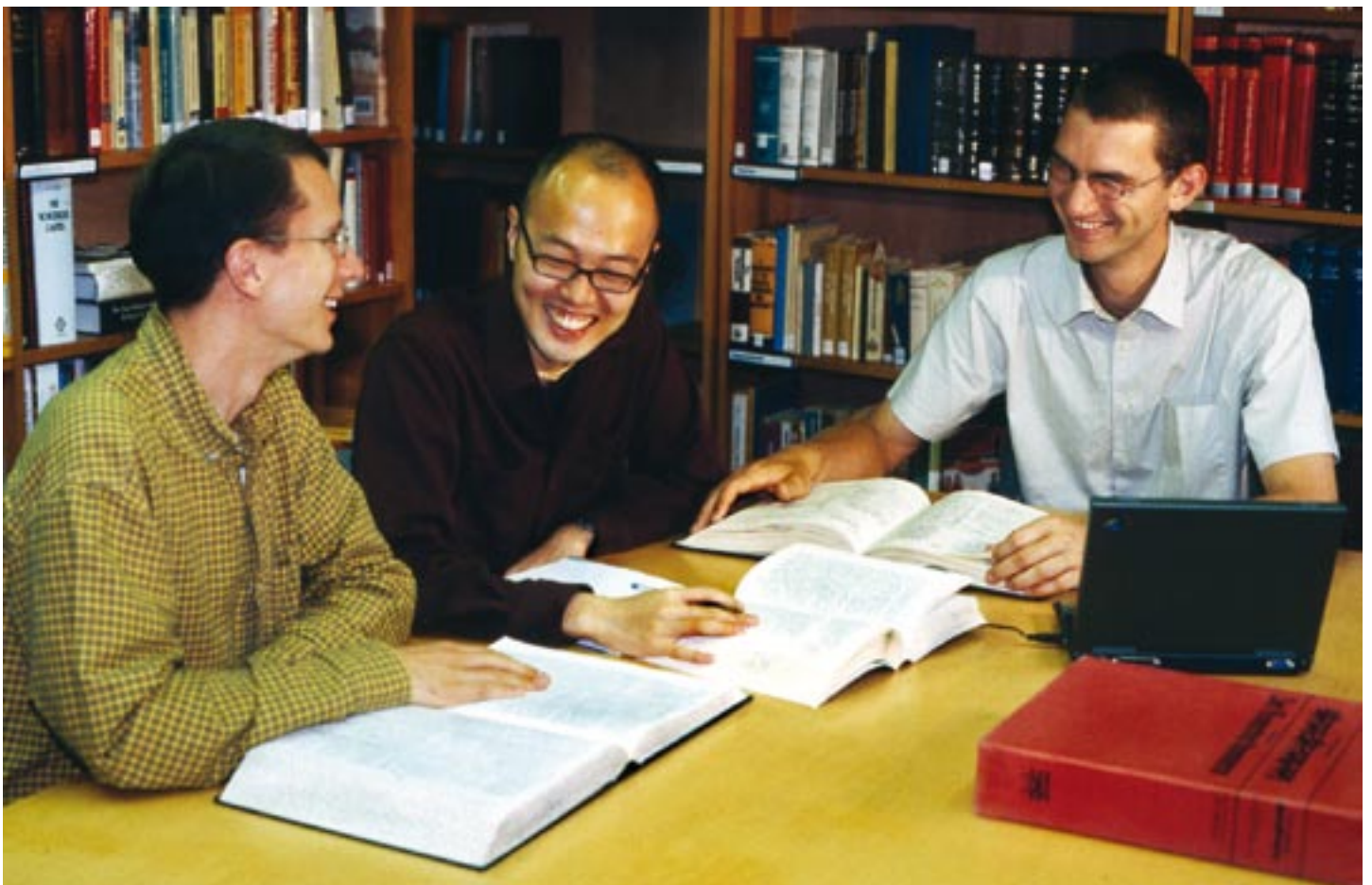
Permanent staff positions allow the OCHS to increase the subject areas we can offer to students and the University. These scholars increase the Centre's value greatly. Particularly useful will be lectureships in Modern Indian Languages (especially Hindi), Art and Culture, and Indian Theology and Philosophy.

### Research Projects

OCHS Research Projects aim to explore the ways that Hindu identities and cultures are developing in today's world. Proposed research projects include 'Hindu Identity' and 'A Survey of Temple Archives'.

### Library

The OCHS library has come to be well-regarded at Oxford. It has the potential to cement a place as one of the best Hindu Studies collections in the world and to work more closely with collections in India.



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## Contributing Globally

*'The OCHS is unique in that it studies all traditions of Hinduism, in all periods, and in all parts of the world. The critical scholarly approach to these traditions is a basis for excellent education and informed debate. It gave me the perspectives I needed to launch my career.'*

*Ravi Gupta, Lecturer in Eastern Religions, Centre College, USA*



### What we do

- Short executive training courses based on Hindu texts introducing business people to new ways of thinking, negotiating, and leadership.
- The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies lead the project that provided the academic basis for the Dow Jones Dharma Index, an Index based on Hindu and Buddhist values designed to attract ethical investors.
- Courses formulated by our Continuing Education Department are being delivered online.
- Short introductory books on Hindu themes for a wide audience are being published.
- Public Space: The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies encourages its members to engage in discussion of relevant topics in the public sphere. Faculty and students have contributed to BBC, New York Times, Washington Post, Newsweek, and other media outlets, as well as holding public lectures and talks and participating in consultative groups for a variety of projects and events.



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## **What we want to do**

### **Library and Archives in India**

The Matsya Project: There is a need to develop a library and archive in India that is organised and run to the highest professional archival standards. Many collections in India are being damaged due to poor conditions or are being broken up with the consequent risk of being lost. As well as accepting manuscripts and books, the Matsya Project can work to digitise other collections.

### **Research and Graduate Centre in India**

There are no dedicated Hindu Studies centres in India. An OCHS Research and Graduate Centre will enable many young scholars to engage in this field at an international level in India and prepare them to apply for top-level universities worldwide.

### **Text Translation Projects**

More than eighty percent of Indian historical texts have never been translated into modern languages. This includes a wide range of priceless religious, philosophical, ritual, poetic, and prose texts. In conjunction with the Matsya Project, the OCHS is well-placed to begin this work in co-operation with other institutions in India.

### **Infrastructure**

A long-standing institution needs its own building. The OCHS offices currently house the library, student facilities, scholars' offices, administrative offices, a kitchen/dining room, and lecture space. The success of the OCHS guarantees that the present premises will be outgrown within the next five years. A dedicated building will give the Centre room to accommodate more students and scholars, facilitate conferences, and develop our archive collection. Another infrastructural need is for a permanent hall of residence for OCHS students.

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## Endowment Campaign

*'There is no cause in Indian culture more noble than the pursuit of knowledge. By facilitating education in this field we open up Hindu culture to the global community.'*

*Lord Dholakia OBE DL*



The OCHS is independent of British Government or general University funds. It has achieved financial stability with the sole support of private benefactions and donations. With the help of Friends and Benefactors, the OCHS can continue to expand the kind of education and opportunities for which it has become renowned.

Endowments are the key to any educational institution's long-term viability. The OCHS Endowment Campaign is addressing the future of Hindu Studies in Oxford and its global outreach.

### Corpus Account

Donations of less than £25,000 will go into the OCHS Corpus Account. The Corpus Account will be used to cover core expenditure as well as a Lectureship in Hindu Studies, a Bursar, and student grants.

### Short Term Endowments

Donations of £30,000 or more can be used to fund three- to ten-year endowments. For example: five annual named conferences can be sponsored for £50,000; a full three-year scholarship can be funded for £55,000; or a five-year research fellowship can be funded for £150,000. All of these add greatly to the value of the OCHS.

### Perpetual Endowments

The long term future of any significant educational institution depends on endowments – for lectureships, fellowships, scholarships, library development, research, publishing, and property. The endowment opportunities listed at right can be discussed with the Director.

As with all sponsorships, endowments can be named in honour of individuals, families, or organisations.

## 1. Short Term Endowments

### Full Scholarship

Two at £55,000 for three years

### Half Scholarship

Four at £30,000 for three years

### Conferences and Lecture Series

One Named Conference per year for five years £50,000

Ten Annual Lectures £30,000

### Lectureships & Fellowships

Three-year Lectureship £180,000

Five-year Lectureship £300,000

Three-year Visiting Fellowship  
£36,000

Five-year Visiting Fellowship £60,000

Three-year Post-Doctoral Fellowship  
£36,000

Five-year Post-Doctoral Fellowship  
£60,000

Three-year Research Fellowship  
£90,000

Five-year Research Fellowship  
£150,000

### Library

Library Collection £30,000

**Total: 1,252,000**

## 2. Property

Hall of Residence for OCHS Students  
£800,000

Permanent OCHS Building  
15,000,000

Research Centre, and Library in India  
£5,000,000

**Total: £20,800,000**

## 3. Perpetual endowments

Library and archive in India  
(Operations) £1,000,000

Research Centre in India (Operations)  
£1,000,000

Scholarship Endowment £1,250,000

Lectureship in Hindu Studies  
£1,500,000

Lectureship in Modern Indian  
Language £1,500,000

Arts and Culture Lectureship  
£1,500,000

Post-Doctoral Fellowship £750,000

Visiting Fellowship from Abroad  
£750,000

Research Fellowship £1,500,000

Named Library Endowment  
£1,500,000

**Total: £12,250,000**

## Governance & Staff

**Director**

Mr Shaunaka Rishi Das

**Academic Director**

Professor Gavin Flood

**Finance Administrator**

Mr Upendra Kalan

**Academic Administrator**

Dr Jessica Frazier

**Development Administrator**

Mr Lal Krishna

**Administrative Secretary**

Miss Judit Bajusz

**Domestic Bursar**

Meru Ostlund

**Book keeping**

Syama dasi

**Fellows**

Dr Gillian Evison  
 Professor Gavin Flood  
 Dr Jessica Frazier  
 Dr Sanjukta Gupta  
 Rembert Lutjeharms (Librarian)  
 Peggy Morgan  
 Dr Kenneth Valpey

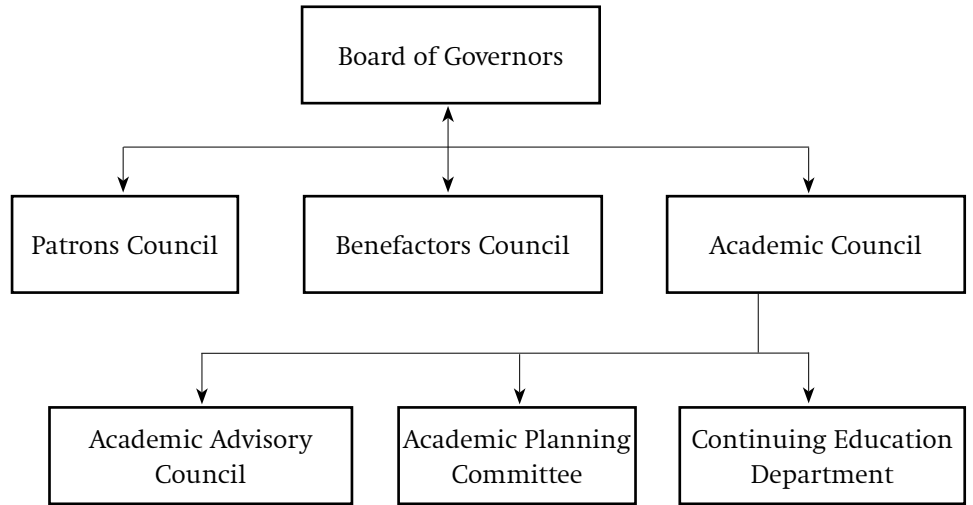
**Continuing Education Department**

Dr Nicholas Sutton  
 Anuradha Dooney

**Senior Associate Fellows**

Professor Francis X. Clooney, SJ  
 Professor Thomas Hopkins  
 Professor Joseph O’Connell  
 Professor M. N. Narasimhachary

**OCHS Organisation Structure**



**Board of Governors**

Mr Shaunaka Rishi Das  
 Lord Dholakia OBE DL  
 Dr S. Bhattacharya-Ford  
 Professor Richard Gombrich  
 Professor Martin Goodman FBA  
 Peggy Morgan  
 Dr John Muddiman  
 Mr Harish I. K. Patel  
 Mrs Neerja Sethi  
 Mr Pramod Thakkar  
 Professor Keith Ward FBA

**Patrons Council**

HE The Indian High Commissioner  
 Baroness Prasher CBE  
 The Maharaja of Jodhpur  
 The Maharaja of Puri  
 Mr Ranjit Sondhi CBE

**Academic Council**

Professor Gavin Flood (Chair)  
 Dr Gillian Evison  
 Dr Jessica Frazier  
 Rembert Lutjeharms  
 Peggy Morgan  
 Professor Polly O’Hanlon  
 Professor George Pattison  
 Mr Shaunaka Rishi Das  
 Dr David Washbrook

**Academic Advisory Council**

Dr N. J. Allen  
 Dr Rohit Barot  
 Professor John Brockington  
 Professor Judith Brown  
 Professor F. X. Clooney  
 Dr Gillian Evison  
 Professor Bob Jackson  
 Dr Dermot Killingley  
 Professor Ursula King  
 Professor Kim Knott  
 Professor Julius Lipner  
 Dr Eleanor Nesbitt  
 Professor Malory Nye  
 Professor Ceri Peach  
 Professor Lord Bikhu Parekh  
 Dr Chakravarthi Ram-Prasad  
 Dr David Smith  
 Dr David Washbrook

**Fund Management Committee**

Dr Arnab K. Banerji  
 Mr Upendra Kalan  
 Mr Akbar Moawalla  
 Dr Prashun Papat  
 Mr Ramesh Venkataraman

**Friends of OCHS Inc (USA)**

Mr Shaunaka Rishi Das  
 Dr S. Bhattacharya-Ford  
 Mr Todd Wahlstrom

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**Contact: Shaunaka Rishi Das**

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