

A photograph of a modern building interior. A wide staircase with grey steps and a white metal railing leads upwards. The walls are made of light-colored brick. On the right, there is a large, curved wooden structure that looks like a piece of art or a decorative element. Several people are walking in the hallway. In the foreground, a man in a blue suit is looking at his phone. In the middle ground, a woman in a black dress is carrying a box of colorful items, and a man in a dark suit is walking towards her. In the background, two men with backpacks are walking away from the camera towards a glass entrance.

# MBA Scholar Profiles

2019-20



*'Education is one of the most powerful ways to transform individuals and societies. In these times, it is ever more important to ensure that our Oxford Saïd community maintains its high standards and values, is a model for diversity, and has all parts of the globe adequately represented. Our generous donors, through the provision of the many scholarships offered to our students, not only enhance the lives of the awardees, but the life of the entire School. We are grateful to our devoted friends.'*

**Dean Peter Tufano**

## MBA Scholar Profiles

The MBA class of 2019-20 includes a diverse community of scholars who have received recognition and funding from a variety of Saïd Business School scholarship programmes.

Our scholars not only receive funding to assist with the cost of the MBA programme, but also membership of a strong and diverse scholar community. They have access to a range of exciting and valuable activities and opportunities such as invitation to scholar and donor events and performing the role of ambassador for the School.

These MBA scholar profiles give a brief overview of our scholars' achievements to date and how they hope the MBA programme will shape their future.



91

Scholars



44

Nationalities represented



51%

Female scholars

### Skoll Scholars

The Skoll Scholarships support MBA students who pursue entrepreneurial solutions for urgent social and environmental challenges. The scholarship provides funding for the programme fee and a living expenses stipend. In addition to financial support, the Scholarship provides access to the Skoll Scholar community, a group of leaders who are positively impacting the world through innovation and systems change, as well as exclusive opportunities to meet with world-renowned entrepreneurs, thought leaders and investors.

[Click here to read about our Skoll Scholars](#)

### Oxford-Pershing Square Scholars

The Oxford Pershing Square Scholarship supports up to five outstanding students each year, providing funding for the programme fee and living expenses for both years of study on the 1+1 MBA. Pershing Square Scholars are exceptional individuals who can demonstrate the potential and commitment to finding scalable and sustainable solutions to world-scale social challenges.

[Click here for further information on the Pershing Square Scholarship](#)



# Scholar Profiles

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## **Stephanie Lefe Aboagye**

### **Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship**

Country of nationality: Ghana

College: Exeter College

'I moved back to my home country of Ghana, after my masters' in Actuarial Science, to begin a career in a field that was different from what I had trained for. My time at EY as a transaction advisor was enlightening, it nurtured a passion in me that I was not fully aware of. I was engaged in advising businesses navigate the African business terrain.

Whilst in Ghana, I began my own entrepreneurial journey; I started and invested in a real estate company, a landscaping enterprise, reading room project, and led a partnership process of setting up a business incubator. It afforded me insights into navigating the African business terrain, opportunities for growth, challenges, and how to solve them.

To diversify my experiences and validate my ideas, I went back to Canada to practice as an Actuarial Analyst at Empire Life Insurance, where I spearheaded the redesign and implementation of actuarial models for mortality and lapse studies, asset projections and reinvestment strategies.

My career experiences and education which includes a B.A with first-class honors from the University of Ghana, a Master of Actuarial Science from the University of Waterloo, an Associate of the Society of Actuaries and the Canadian Institute of Actuaries, and success in the first two levels of the CFA exams are part of my dedication to build myself to become a resource of service to enterprises.

Oxford Saïd was an easy choice for me. I knew right from when I made the decision to further develop myself that this was a place where I will be able to learn and build a network of lifelong relationships to effect change in my society.

I am truly honoured to have been awarded a Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship and to be joining the extraordinary cohort of Forté Foundation Fellows.'



## **Naman Ahluwalia**

### **Oxford-Weidenfeld and Hoffmann Scholarship**

Country of nationality: India

College: St Hugh's College

'In my penultimate year of undergraduate college where I studied Computer Engineering, I realised that my passion lies in solving global challenges which affects businesses, communities and the environment. This led me to co-found Clothes Box Foundation (CBF), a social enterprise which provides clean clothes to the less fortunate and up-cycles/recycles leftover fabric into beautiful home furnishings. In the last five years, under my leadership, CBF has provided clean clothes to more than 100,000 individuals across India including

some of the remotest villages, partnered with global corporates and the Indian Army, raised monetary and material donations worth £800K+, and scaled operations across India on a first-of-its-kind model. The impact created by CBF led to us winning the highest civilian youth award in India — the National Youth Award conferred by the Government of India, being honoured in the prestigious Forbes Asia 30 Under 30 List, and being recognised by Mark Zuckerberg.

While the last few years have been enriching, exciting and challenging, I believe that I have a lot to learn, especially business management skills, and that I also need to gain a global perspective. In order to do this, I chose Oxford Saïd because of its focus on solving global challenges, its focus on entrepreneurship and responsible business, and the incredible diversity in the classroom. It is an honour to be a part of the Oxford-Weidenfeld and Hoffmann Scholarship and Leadership programme since it not only provides financial support but it also helps connect with incredible people who have a similar vision to change the world. Additionally, I look forward to developing my leadership skills and creating a lifelong network. Post-MBA I envision myself creating sustainable solutions to problems that affect the environment and business, and at the same time, scale CBF across the world.'

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## **Elizabeth Anthony**

### **Jacobs Foundation Scholarship**

Country of nationality: USA

College: Green Templeton College

'I am passionate about ensuring all children have equal opportunities to succeed. My focus thus far in my career has been on how education and innovation might advance this cause - and I hope to expand my expertise and impact. I have held a number of roles in education throughout my career: I worked with schools across the United States and in the Accra region of Ghana as well as conducted research for the United States' leading think tank studying disruptive innovation in education as an undergraduate student.

After graduating from university, I created and led a school improvement programme for K-8 schools in the United States seeking to use technology to improve student outcomes, as well as a number of other initiatives to catalyse innovation in Catholic schools. I also worked with a non-profit organisation to study and communicate the impact of an early literacy, home-visit programme for children and families.

As an MBA Candidate at Saïd Business School and a Jacobs Foundation Scholar, I aim to develop the skills and network I need to advance a more comprehensive solution to youth poverty. My interests include education, holistic health, public policy, and early childhood. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work with and learn from such a talented and diverse community of Saïd students and Jacobs Fellows this year.'

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## **Maya Basa**

### **Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship**

Country of nationality: Canada & Slovenia

College: Kellogg College

'After graduating with a business degree and a national scholarship that took me into the world of strategy and corporate development for a global technology-consulting firm, I became heavily involved in the social impact space in Toronto, Canada. I spent my days working to develop, track and report back on business unit level strategies, and to conduct research and due diligence on local acquisition targets in the tech space. I would then leave the office and spend my nights learning about social finance; I joined a two-year learning journey that involved each participant creating their own foundation and visiting local community organisations to learn more about their broader community.

As I began researching MBA programmes, an important deciding factor would be the ability to develop both of my interests: taking on more external roles in the consulting world, and further developing my knowledge of the world of social impact and my place in it. With its overall status in the world of MBA programmes, its professors and the research they're doing, and the focus the University has on social impact both inside and outside of the classroom, Oxford was a natural choice.

I am confident that this programme will have a meaningful impact on both my personal and professional development, and am incredibly grateful for both the opportunity and the financial assistance that has been provided to me.'

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## **Carlos Blanco**

### **Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship**

Country of nationality: Australia & Spain

College: Green Templeton College

'My professional career is built upon my commitment to social justice and ambitions for change. For the past five years I have worked with the NFP, government and private sector in Australia to drive systems change. At the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation I spearheaded an innovative programme for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that helped redefine the narrative on Indigenous tertiary education from deficit to excellence.

At Nous Group, one of Australia's leading management consulting firms, I coordinated sector-wide engagement across NSW to redesign the child and family system, with the aim to connect children, young people and families to the right support at the right time. I also worked across the NFP and private sector to develop both impact strategies and impact measurement frameworks.

I completed a BSc, with honours in human geography, and a BA with a minor in history, from the University of Sydney. A professional Rugby Union career, which saw me represent both Spain and Australia at the international level, taught me important lessons on determination, grit and teamwork. All these experiences have led me to the MBA programme at Saïd, whose commitment to tackle world-scale problems and develop purposeful leaders will help me to lead system changes with like-minded people and organisations. I am incredibly honoured to call Oxford home for the next 12 months and forever grateful for the support from the Saïd Business School Foundation.'

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## **Damilola Bolaji**

### **Oxford-Grace Lake Scholarship**

Country of nationality: Nigeria

College: St Benet's Hall

'After graduating with a degree in Agricultural Development, I took up roles in Agribusiness firms in Business Operations, Research, and Project Management. I decided to pursue an MBA to expand my thinking and prepare for the next level of my career. The intellectual stimulation and breadth of new skills the programme offers coupled with its Africa focus made Oxford an irresistible choice. I am confident this will serve as a platform for me to explore my interests around strategic problem solving, social finance, impact investment, and ethical business practices. I am confident that the MBA programme will equip me with tools needed to solve problems in my continent that would impact millions. I look forward to learning, sharing and collaborating with incredible people from more than 60 countries across the world.

Given that I took the first step towards an MBA because a friend received support for his; I am most grateful to receive support. The scholarship brought me closer to achieving my dream, and I am confident that it will spur many others from a similar background to pursue their goals. The financial support made the process less overwhelming, and I look forward to paying it forward in the future.'



## **Aileen Brown Cuevas**

### **Oxford-Weidenfeld and Hoffmann Scholarship**

Country of nationality: Mexico

College: Lady Margaret Hall

'Before joining Oxford, I worked in economics and finance for six years at the intersection between government and the private sector. My last position was Director of Macroeconomic Research at the Ministry of Finance in Mexico, where I was responsible for

conducting economic analysis used to guide public policy decisions. Before that, I held the position of Deputy Director of Investor Relations, where I was the main point of contact with investors, creditors, analysts, rating agencies, international institutions (IMF, OECD, G20, among others) and in general with the financial markets for strategic investment decisions. My office played a key role in investor relations management at particularly turbulent times during the oil price decline in 2014, and the Mexican peso depreciation in 2016.

We worked on improving Mexico's transparency and communication practices in economic and financial information. I designed an investor-focused webpage and led regular conference calls with major stakeholders; actions that contributed to the Institute of International Finance ranking Mexico's Investor Relations Office as one of the best in the world. When I became the first female Director in the Macroeconomic Research Department at the Ministry, I felt responsible to inspire, motivate and support women with one result of this initiative being a sharp increase in women hired into leadership positions.

I am honoured to receive the Weidenfeld-Hoffmann scholarship for rising leaders to further develop the skills necessary to promote economic empowerment, financial inclusion and women's leadership. I am an adventurous traveller, who has backpacked across four continents, and a passionate marathoner.'



## **Rhian Carew-Jones**

### **Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship**

Country of nationality: UK

College: St Hilda's College

'I am joining Saïd Business School from Deloitte, where I have spent the last four years working in the transaction services team, focusing on integrations and separations. I have worked on a series of high-profile mergers and acquisitions throughout my time at Deloitte. This has been a fantastic experience and I have been able to gain an insight into a variety of world leading companies across a range of different sectors.

When I am not at work, I enjoy participating in sports – in particular, equestrian eventing and show jumping, which I hope to continue at Oxford. I am honoured to have been awarded a Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship. I believe that it is incredibly important to fully understand the impact businesses have on the world around them. The Oxford MBA will give me the knowledge needed to achieve this in my future career and will also help me to develop my leadership skills. I am very excited to commence the year ahead and learn as much as I can, both from the world leading academics who teach at the business school and the diverse and talented students that the Oxford MBA attracts.'



## Mac Coddington

### Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: USA

College: Lincoln College

'I graduated from the University of Michigan with a dual degree in Political Science and Organisational Studies. I then worked for Google, both in Mountain View and in Chicago. At Google I assisted companies, ranging from small local businesses to global advertising agencies, with the use of machine learning to improve their digital outreach. Through this experience I realised I want to spend my career working to harness the benefits of artificial intelligence.

I think Oxford is the perfect place for me to study as leveraging AI in business is a global and multidisciplinary challenge. I'm eager to join the very international class at Saïd. The college system at Oxford also provides the perfect setting for learning from peers from various disciplines. In my spare time I like to travel as much as possible. I've backpacked on six continents and am currently plotting on how to make it to Antarctica.'



## Praneeth Dantanarayana

### Oxford-Leo Tong Chen Scholarship

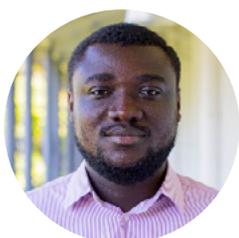
Country of nationality: New Zealand & Sri Lanka

College: Green Templeton College

'My career to date has been at the intersection between finance and strategy, having worked in both the Accounting/Corporate Finance team and the Strategy & Operations Consulting team at Deloitte New Zealand. During this time, I joined a number of technology start-ups as their 'Virtual CFO', helping them to refine their business models and go-to-market strategies, accelerate growth, and raise venture capital.

While sitting next to the entrepreneurs on their rollercoaster ride left me with some bumps and bruises, it also sparked my passion in supporting high-growth companies to be successful and make an impact on the world.

I chose the Oxford MBA because of its diverse class profile, well-rounded programme, and strength in finance. I am immensely humbled and grateful to be awarded an Oxford-Leo Tong Chen Scholarship. I look forward to being a part of Oxford's community of brilliant minds and faculty and being an ambassador for the School.'



## Samuel Darko

### Dean's Africa Scholarship

Country of nationality: Ghana

College: Green Templeton College

'I am a serial entrepreneur, traveler and philanthropist who is deeply passionate about Africa. I have visited more than 20 African countries and spent a large part of my career working on some of the continent's grandest challenges and greatest opportunities. When I decided it was time for business school, I knew it had to be Oxford Saïd. The impressive alums I know, their compelling work, and the School's demonstrable interest in and commitment to Africa, made me confident that Oxford was the place for me.'

Being recognised by Saïd Business School, with the Dean's Africa Scholarship, is as humbling as it is a source of great pride. Before Oxford, I spent the last five years as a member of the inaugural management team of the African Leadership University (ALU). As ALU's Director of Student Recruitment, I served as chief evangelist and led our effort to enroll 1,500+ of Africa's brightest minds from 35 countries. Since 2015, I have been a mentor/judge for the annual \$1M African Entrepreneurship Award. I have also invested in and continue to advise several African start-ups in e-commerce, urban transportation, logistics, and e-payments. In the last ten years, I have led community service clubs and initiatives that have raised nearly \$200,000 for philanthropic projects in education and healthcare.

Post-MBA, I look forward to applying my expertise in marketing, sales, and business development to support organisations looking to increase their footprint and impact in Africa.'

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## **Avichal Dayal**

### **Alumni Annual Fund Scholarship**

Country of nationality: India

College: Green Templeton College

'I was drawn to technology from an early age and consequently decided to pursue a bachelor's degree in Computer Science from India. Later, I joined Walmart as a software engineer in the supply chain department. At Walmart's enormous scale, I not only got interested in technological challenges but also with various strategical business challenges. Hoping to work at the intersection of technology and business, I decided to pursue an MBA to fill a skill gap and improve my network. I chose Oxford because of its international student body and its unique focus on entrepreneurship and responsible business. My immediate goal is to get a strategic leadership position at a high-tech firm.

I am extremely grateful to receive the Alumni Annual Fund scholarship. Not only does it ease the financial burden on me, but it also encourages me to live up to the expectations put

on me by Saïd Business School. I am sure I will find opportunities left and right in the coming year at Oxford. I hope to meet interesting people, exchange diverse ideas and achieve my goals.'

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## **Anike Lawal**

### **Oxford-Adara Foundation Scholarship**

Country of nationality: Nigeria

College: Green Templeton College

'I started my career as a management consultant for KPMG Nigeria after which I worked briefly for a local 'daily deals' e-commerce startup in Nigeria, before starting my platform Mamalette.

Mamalette started as an online community providing content and support to pregnant women and new mothers in Nigeria. Since our inception we have reached over 4 million mothers online and the platform has now evolved into an organisation that inspires and educates experienced mothers to help them improve maternal and infant health outcomes in their communities. Through our programmes within 35 different urban poor communities across three cities in Nigeria, we have provided information support and guidance to 1000+ poor and at-risk pregnant women and new mothers.

I have a bachelor's degree in Business and French from the University of Dublin and a master's degree in Law and Accounting from the London School of Economics.

I am Nigerian born and bred. I am who I am today because of my unique experiences, my hard work and determination and most importantly because of the strength of my character. I have always had the hunger to do work that can positively impact the lives of others and pursuing an MBA at Oxford is the next step towards achieving my goal of building a world class social business.

I am honoured to have been selected as the Oxford-Adara Foundation Scholar. I believe that the opportunities provided by this scholarship will give me the knowledge, skills, network and foundation required to make a significant impact on the African continent and take my place as a young African woman in the world. It is a great privilege for me to study at such a prestigious university such as the University of Oxford.

I am looking forward to learning from my professors, classmates and guest speakers at the Said Business School. I am also looking forward to building networks and partnerships that could further the work that I have started. It is my intention to make the best use of this once in a lifetime opportunity and to apply the knowledge gained to benefit the African continent.'

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## Ahmed Elhamawy

### Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: Egypt & Dominica

College: Kellogg College

'After obtaining my undergraduate degree in Finance from the American University of Sharjah, UAE, I began my career at KPMG in Qatar as an analyst in the Deal Advisory team, where I advised clients on a range of corporate finance advisory engagements. I then joined QNB Capital, the Investment Banking arm of the largest bank in the Middle East and Africa, where I led transactions across Equity and Debt Capital Markets, Mergers & Acquisitions and Strategic Advisory. I am also a CFA charterholder.

I chose to pursue an MBA at Oxford because of its focus on social impact. I want to be in the heart of where thought-leaders debate, prick your conscience and establish the norms of how leaders think and impact their communities. I hope to leverage these ideas to pivot from investment banking into private equity.

I am truly passionate about community outreach, animals and the environment. I am a firm believer that being made aware of the impact of our actions – whether it be our carbon footprint or our kindness to others – results in positive change. The prestigious Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship allows me to embrace this belief. By being an ambassador for the School, I hope to bring Oxford's values of academic freedom, debate and contestation to the Middle East and Africa; to challenge the status quo in literacy and education, environmental habits and the freedom of thought.'

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## Lillian Elsner

### Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: USA

College: Pembroke College

'Both my academic and professional career could be described, in a sense, as grappling with the morality of profit. I attended Wellesley College for my BA, double majoring in Philosophy and Biological Sciences. Upon graduation I decided to plunge into the corporate world as a global M&A business analyst at Shearman & Sterling LLP, a New York-based global law firm. I then took a role for the next two years supporting the Board of Directors in the Corporate Governance Office at Capital One Financial Corporation, a federally chartered bank and major credit card issuer in the US. I then became Interim Chief of Staff for the US credit card business' Analytics and Infrastructure department before taking a pre-MBA internship working the New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc wine harvest at Constellation Brands.

In each role, I have found myself privy to decision making with global impact. I realised that I want to be a lead decision-maker someday and that to get there I need a robust

foundational business background, and resolution to my personal concern over how to conduct morally responsible business. Thus Oxford was a natural choice. From the school's mission and values regarding responsible business to the elite, field-leading faculty, I anticipate that this intensive year will allow me to delve into how I can tackle global governance and shareholder issues, and build a network of similarly concerned professionals to create real change.

As an enthusiastic rower, amateur botanist, keen photographer, museum lover, and Anglican church music aficionado, Oxford also offers a nexus for all of my interests and will allow me to pursue them in close proximity to the business school. My family and I are deeply grateful for this opportunity and the generosity of the Saïd Business School Foundation who have made my presence in this amazing programme possible.'

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## **Gabriel Fernandez**

### **Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship**

Country of nationality: USA & Peru

College: Lady Margaret Hall

'I have spent my professional career working on the economics of healthcare and pharmaceutical products. After graduating with a B.S. in Economics from the George Washington University in Washington DC, I began work as a consultant providing statistical and economic expertise to law firms, pharmaceutical manufacturers, and healthcare companies to address complex questions in fraud, false claims, and intellectual property litigation. My most recent work has focused on the spread of the U.S. opioid crisis and its ties to the pharmaceutical marketing and production.

As the son of a Peruvian, I spent a lot of time as a child in Peru with my family and have since taken time to travel to many other regions of the world. This has been both a great way for me to exercise my interest in exploring new cultures through the arts and food, and, unexpectedly, to witness healthcare systems and their cross-cultural effects. Now, I look forward to pivoting my career to focus on impact-oriented finance, healthcare and pharmaceutical opportunities. I am also interested in researching ways technology can solve issues related to access of resources, implementation of healthcare policy, and development of scalable impact.

I'm confident that this opportunity to study at the University of Oxford, with the assistance of a Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship, will grow my knowledge-base in impact finance while also presenting me with the new perspectives of an international community and connecting me to a wider cohort of individuals with similar passions.'

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## **Andrea Gaviria Barreto**

### **Oxford-Weidenfeld and Hoffmann Scholarship**

Country of nationality: Colombia

College: Lady Margaret Hall

'I studied Economics and Politics at the University of Sussex. During my studies I completed two internships at the Private Equity Team of Neuberger Berman in London.

After graduation I worked as Advisor to the Minister of Education of Colombia, where I consolidated the strategy to follow-up and support the implementation of the strategic projects led by the Ministry. My experience as Advisor sparked a special interest in Infrastructure of Schools, so I pursued job opportunities in the Infrastructure Fund of the Ministry of Education: Initially as Strategy Advisor to infrastructure projects for the post-conflict period, and most recently as Leader of the first Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Project in Education in Colombia.

I am eager to start my MBA at the University of Oxford's Saïd Business School because acquiring cutting-edge knowledge in Business and Finance is instrumental in my career goals. I feel extremely privileged and grateful to be a recipient of the Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Scholarship and Leadership Programme, and I will honour the opportunity that has been given to me.'

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## **Lorena Godefroy Chumpitazi**

### **Alumni Annual Fund Scholarship**

Country of nationality: Peru

College: Green Templeton College

'I have been working at the intersection of business and social impact for the past five years. After graduating from the University of Lima, as an Industrial Engineer, I worked at a climate change consulting firm providing sustainability services to the private sector in Peru. I then moved to Uganda, where I led projects for SPOUTS of Water, a social start-up that manufactures ceramic water filters for middle- to low-income Ugandans. In the meantime, I co-founded Proa, an NGO that aims to increase social awareness through the massification of volunteering in Peru, having reached 15,000 Peruvians so far.

I believe "business" and "social impact" should become one concept, where doing business means doing good rather than a "one or the other" situation. I aim to keep working on creating a positive impact, using business and technology to do so. I chose Oxford because of its focus on social impact, its history, and because the University attracts talent from different academic disciplines, geographies and cultures which enables collaborative work and constant innovation. I am incredibly honoured to be part of Oxford and to have been selected for the Alumni Annual Fund Scholarship.'

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## **Sarah Goodwin**

### **Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship**

Country of nationality: USA & UK

College: St Hugh's College

'Born in England and raised in San Jose, California, I completed my BS in Business Administration at Colorado State University.

After my undergraduate degree I moved back to Silicon Valley to work in marketing for Aruba, a Wi-Fi company owned by Hewlett Packard Enterprise. Throughout my time at Aruba I progressed to become Communications Manager, leading projects for media and analyst relations, customer references, and event management. I'm now looking forward to pursuing my MBA in order to continue my career within the tech industry and expand into international marketing roles.

I became interested in Oxford Saïd because I was looking for an MBA programme that offered a range of international opportunities, as well as a focus on responsible business. I'm excited for the experiences and challenges of the year ahead and I look forward to learning from the talented and diverse individuals in my class. It's an honour to act as a Forté Fellow and an ambassador for Saïd Business School.'



## **Manu Gupta**

### **Oxford-Intesa Sanpaolo MBA Graduate Scholarship**

Country of nationality: India

College: Green Templeton College

'Being the first woman in my family to work full-time, I greatly value independence and empowerment. I'm grateful to be a part of the Oxford Community and honoured to have received the first Oxford-Intesa Sanpaolo MBA Graduate Scholarship.

After completing a degree in finance from Delhi University, I worked with S&P Global for over two years. Following that, I moved to the Indian Development Sector and joined Teach for India for the opportunity to mentor 120 middle-school students at an all-girls, low-income school in New Delhi. While my work with S&P taught me analytical rigour, immersing myself in vulnerable communities at TFI exposed me to gaps in grassroots systems and drove me to work on areas such as entrepreneurship, fundraising and capacity building.

I'm excited to learn from and bring my experiences to my exceptional cohort of peers at Saïd as I combine my interests in consulting, project management and social impact. Over the next year, I look forward to experimenting with new ideas, collaborating with the incredibly diverse Oxford student body and building meaningful connections with my peers and the global alumni network.



## **Ashleigh Herd**

### **Global Leadership Council Scholarship for Women**

Country of nationality: USA

College: Green Templeton College

'I am honoured to have received the Global Leadership Council Scholarship for Women, which enabled me to join the MBA programme at the University of Oxford. I chose Saïd Business School because I was impressed by the diverse and collaborative nature of the cohort, as well as the focus on responsible business practices. I look forward to working with and learning from my peers, both inside and outside of the classroom. I will enrich the experience with my love of travelling by immersing myself in diverse histories and cultures; learning not only what makes us unique, but also the similarities that bring us together. I am always discovering new avenues to pursue my passion of enriching the development of others through building strong teams and human centred business cultures.

After earning my Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from Kansas State University, I spent six years in manufacturing operations, leading cross functional teams, and executing projects utilising change management principles. The last few months, I have been in training and organisational development, managing learning and development programmes. I plan on leveraging the MBA programme at Saïd Business School, in combination with my technical background and passion for people, to transition into organisational development consulting. I believe through this programme I will develop my business acumen, hone my consulting skills, and better meet the needs of a diverse and global market.'



## Stuart Hillen

### Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: Australia

College: Worcester College

'I am excited by disruption in the energy sector and the business opportunities it creates, in particular finding investments in new technologies that help decarbonise our energy system.

I grew up in Sydney, Australia where I completed undergraduate studies in Civil Engineering and Science (Mathematics) at The University of Sydney. I started my career in strategy and operations consulting at Deloitte, until I discovered a passion for the energy sector and sustainability. A stint as an energy economist, coupled with a specialist master's degree in Energy Systems, led me to the energy investment space and a role at EnergyAustralia, one of Australia's largest vertically integrated energy utilities. I now work in a commercial and business development role where I help identify and assess investment opportunities across the energy ecosystem.

Saïd Business School was a natural choice, given the high priority placed on tackling global challenges and the focus on making positive change. I am looking forward to learning from the diverse Oxford Saïd cohort and embracing some of the unique experiences a year at Oxford University will present.

Post MBA, I hope to take a leadership role in the energy investment landscape. I am very grateful to receive a Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship; the financial support will help me make the most of the opportunities in the year ahead.'



## Daniel Holod

### Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: USA

College: Mansfield College

'I am most passionate and engaged with the food-water-energy nexus in developing countries, and the impact of supply chains and energy demands from developed countries. I have focused my work with US agencies, the UN, and international research organisations trying to understand the impact of climate change in rural communities.

I completed my BA in Economics and Climate Change at Cornell University with high honours. There I wrote my dissertation on analysing the impacts of vertical funding from large businesses to address climate resilience among smallholder farmers. From this work, I published with the FAO and represented Cornell at COP23 in Bonn, Germany. This in turn inspired to me apply to Oxford for a master's in Environmental Change and Management which I was able to attend under the Boardman Scholarship. During my masters I collaborated with the US Department of Agriculture and Tanzania's Ministry of Agriculture on understanding rural communities' ability to adapt to weather shocks in central Tanzania.

From my academic research and work with development projects, I realised the influence the private sector can have on increasing capacities to adapt and mitigate in rural communities, especially those engrained in international supply chains. Through the Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship, I am privileged to join the 1+1 MBA where I look to gain a better understanding of social impact opportunities among the private sector and continue my pursuit on increasing the effectiveness of sustainable supply chains and development projects.

I enjoy rowing and am part of the Oxford Varsity team seeking to beat Cambridge this year. I am also a drummer in an Oxford student band.'



## **Aliya Itzkowitz**

### **Oxford Saïd Giving Day Scholarship**

Country of nationality: UK & USA

College: St Anne's College

' "Where are you from?" has never been an easy question for me to answer. At Oxford, I hope to build an international network to match my international outlook and aspirations. After graduating from Harvard College in 2016, I spent two years on Wall Street. I juggled a growing portfolio of Hedge Fund clients with an international fencing career, maintaining a number one UK ranking. I continued this balancing act in London, competing for Team GB while leading the Research department at a cryptocurrency firm and freelancing as a journalist at Bloomberg News.

Fencing has been a passion since I started competing for the British Team at age 13. At Harvard, I was Varsity captain and a three-time All-American. Since University, despite challenges, I continue to compete, driven by my Olympic ambitions and my belief that sport is the best training ground for life.

After Oxford, I aim to combine my interest in Markets, Media and Blockchain by taking on a strategy role at a Media or Technology company. I chose Oxford because it is an inclusive, empowering community. I feel exceedingly lucky to have received the Oxford Saïd Giving Day Scholarship. As a Scholar, and a Forté Fellow, I aim to recruit more women and minorities as I believe diversity leads to better business outcomes.'



## **Laura Ketteringham**

### **Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship and Trinity Saïd Scholarship**

Country of nationality: UK

College: Trinity College

'I have over eight years of experience in social impact consulting, international development and social enterprise. In my most recent role, I managed a programme exploring the potential for social franchising to support effective scale of innovation in the UK's National Health Service, and led consulting teams supporting clients to build strategies for scale.

Prior to Spring Impact, I led operations in Peru for startup Nisolo during a crucial growth period and managed Agora Partnerships' Accelerator, supporting the growth of over 50 social enterprises creating impact across Latin America. I also have experience in programme design and business development at BRAC, focusing on East and West Africa. I hold a BA in Modern Languages from Durham University and I am passionate about renewable energy and sustainable fashion.

I chose Oxford because of the diversity of the class in terms of nationalities and backgrounds. Following the MBA I am interested in product management or strategy roles with consumer goods companies in emerging markets. I am extremely grateful to receive the

Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship, which plays a major role in making the MBA a possibility for me. I am excited to learn and contribute throughout the year, and form part of a powerful community contributing to a responsible business agenda.'



## **Bárbara Lacourt**

### **Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship**

Country of nationality: Brazil

College: St Anne's College

'I believe life is essentially about living different experiences and building new relationships. This is the mindset that drove me to shift from a solid career as a partner of a well-recognised law firm in Brazil. After ten years of practice as a lawyer focused in infrastructure and public procurement, as well as three post-graduates academic programmes (a Masters in Law and two specialisations; one of them in PPPs), I felt it was time to expand my life horizon.

My goal is to launch a career that brings me challenges, flexibility to work abroad and wide learning opportunities. Believing that law and consultancy are inextricably related, and that the infrastructure sector will keep having a great demand in the next couple of decades, in the short run I plan to work as a specialist consultant in infrastructure. I decided the first step into this path would be to pursue an MBA, and I chose Oxford Saïd because it will provide me with academic excellence, a great professional network and tailored career directions; besides exposing me to infinite experiences in campus life. In the end, my hope is to become more prepared to deal efficiently and responsibly with large scale problems.

To be given a Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship assured me that my life choices and views make sense. I am grateful that people believed in my potential, and eager to work hard to pass on the School's ideals. What do I expect from the year ahead? No less than being surprised every single day!'



## **Francheska Loza Sanclemente**

### **Oxford-Hoffmann-Saïd/Rosner Scholarship**

Country of nationality: Mexico & Colombia

College: St Catherine's College

'After receiving my bachelor's degree in Government from Harvard University, I joined the fields of international law and human rights. I worked at Foley Hoag LLP as part of a team that represented sovereign states in international disputes in Latin America, Africa and Asia. I then joined the Disruption Strategies team at Polaris, a national anti-human trafficking non-profit, where I led initiatives that identified, engaged, and equipped key stakeholder populations to facilitate the systemic eradication of the different types of trafficking in Latin America and the U.S.

I'm passionate about work that builds partnerships across sectors, such as government and technology, to take innovative approaches to address problems like corruption and gender-based violence in Latin America. I'm half Mexican, half Colombian, and grew up in northern Mexico, so I've always had a special interest in the region, and plan to make it the focus of my work post-MBA. I can't think of a better way to prepare to do this work than surrounding myself with the incredibly inspiring and diverse cohort of students at Saïd Business School, and the wider Oxford community. One of the things I'm most excited about is learning from fellow Oxford Weidenfeld and Hoffmann scholars as we go through the leadership programme together. It's not every day that you get to sync with people working on completely different issues, in different regions. The perspective that we'll gain from that will be invaluable for the work that we do with our respective communities.'



## Anupah Makoond

### Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: Mauritius

College: St Hilda's College

'I am passionate about sustaining peace, both in countries emerging from conflict where peacebuilding is pressing or in stable societies where peace can be taken for granted. For the last five years, I have supported dialogue processes and data initiatives in conflict affected countries, notably in Liberia, East Timor, Guatemala and Burkina Faso. Most recently, I have been working for the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, conducting population perception surveys to inform peacekeeping and humanitarian action in the East of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Before becoming involved in peacebuilding, I led advocacy efforts on drug policies and harm reduction programmes in Mauritius, discovering that beyond all else, I like to work with, and for people. I decided to do the 1+1 MBA to improve my technical and management skills so that I can become more effective and innovative in my line of work.'



## Tom McQuillen

### Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship and Trinity Saïd Scholarship

Country of nationality: Australia

College: Trinity College

'I feel tremendously honoured to be awarded a Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship and to be named a Trinity Saïd Scholar. Without these scholarships I would not have the privilege to attend Oxford. I was drawn to the MBA at Saïd Business School due to its focus on social entrepreneurship and leading businesses with purpose, as well as its integration into the wider Oxford University community.

I've always been passionate about the environment; my first job was as an outdoor education guide. I graduated from Monash University in Melbourne, Australia with a Bachelor in Business Information Systems. After university I spent three years working as a consultant at PwC and Grant Thornton, before moving to Nicaragua to run an environmental social enterprise. I've spent the past few years back in Melbourne at Yume, an amazing startup on a mission to eliminate food waste.

I'm extremely excited about the opportunities available in the year ahead. I can't wait to meet my classmates and faculty, and to explore the many pathways on offer. I'm looking to work at the intersection of technology and the environment with organisations that are implementing sustainable solutions on a global scale.'



## Tobias Meyerding

### Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: Germany

College: Kellogg College

'Since graduating from university in 2013, I have been fascinated by the new digital avenues emerging for film and television, so I started my career at one of Germany's first digital-only video-on-demand platforms. Since then, internet-based platforms have grown dramatically and now threaten to eliminate long-established industry business models. Major media companies and studios must reposition themselves accordingly. As Viacom's lead for digital video distribution in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland, I have the privilege of actively shaping this repositioning process and defining the future of the film and television industry.'

At Oxford Saïd Business School, I will have the once in a lifetime opportunity to develop my core business skills through interaction with a first-class faculty. Furthermore, I look forward to learning from the group of talented and diverse individuals in my class. I feel incredibly honoured and privileged to have been awarded the Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship. It has eased the financial burden of pursuing an MBA degree and will provide me with an international alumni-network which I can leverage to reach my long-term career goals. Also, I hope to be able to largely contribute to this unique community.'

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## **Donguk Moon**

### **Alumni Annual Fund Scholarship**

Country of nationality: South Korea

College: Green Templeton College

'I decided to pursue an MBA while working closely with senior executives at Samsung to oversee its strategic global business. As a Graphics Processing Unit (GPU) architect responsible for top-level design, I led a team of engineers spread across global offices and engaged in numerous critical discussions for the company's future AI business.

Communicating with top executives and collaborating with diverse people made me realise the importance of business and management skills, and my passion for lifelong learning finally led me to Oxford for my MBA.

I chose Oxford because of its excellent reputation, accelerated and rigorous business programme and extraordinary opportunities to expand my global social network into Europe. Before coming to Oxford, I studied at Seoul National University and Stanford University where I earned my BS and MS respectively in Computer and Electrical Engineering and conducted various research studies on digital systems design for AI applications such as computer vision and speech recognition.

During my academic career, I received the Samsung Lee Kun-hee Scholarship given to exceptional students in STEM fields and graduated summa cum laude. My entire career has been data-oriented, and now I aspire to solve business problems with data and set out effective business strategies. I would like to contribute to various industries by combining my strong analytical skills with the business expertise I will gain at Saïd Business School. I am honoured to receive an Alumni Annual Fund Scholarship and incredibly excited to pursue my dream as a member of the Oxford community.'

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## **Carolina Navarro Sarmiento**

### **Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship**

Country of nationality: Colombia

College: Green Templeton College

'I grew up in Bogotá, Colombia. I am the daughter of two lawyers, who instilled in me the values of ethics and discipline. After completing my bachelor's in Industrial Engineering and Economics, I worked in corporate finance for several industries, but it wasn't until I started working in Pharma that I understood the meaning of working beyond self-interest. Two years working in healthcare shaped my life purpose, driving my career aspirations towards a position where I can transform the lives of people with rare diseases.

I decided to pursue my MBA at Saïd because its culture aligns exactly with who I am. Oxford has a tradition of developing purposeful leaders, who acknowledge the value of making ethical decisions to drive change. The opportunity to challenge myself studying at a first-class university, an intellectually stimulating place that brings humanity into business is a dream come true. The Oxford MBA complements my studies in Marketing from UCLA, and in Pharmaceutical Management from Cornell, and I am confident that it will reinforce the skills I need to bring my aspirations to life. I am also very excited to meet and build lifelong relationships with talented and inspiring individuals who share with me the willingness to make the world a better place. I feel extremely honoured and thankful to be awarded the Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship. The opportunity to belong to a strong community of scholars, and all the valuable experiences that come with it, empowers and inspires me to keep working in my commitment to give back to the world.'

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## Joy Nkosi

### Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: Swaziland

College: Merton College

'After graduating with a degree in Engineering from Brown University, USA, I felt strongly that I had not had enough opportunity to explore my interests in economics and business. This search led me to a highly competitive industry, energy consulting; where I could apply the practical quantitative skills and innovative mindset I had worked hard on as an undergraduate. Since then I have been fortunate to work in the energy and engineering sectors creating systems to solve, and advising on, some of the world's greatest problems.

Saïd Business School was an obvious choice for me because of its visible and genuine drive for responsible business that is impactful on a global scale. In addition, at Oxford, I am looking forward to meeting and bonding with global-oriented and like-minded individuals from a variety of backgrounds who also have an excellent work ethic. At Saïd, I am hoping to access the world class academic resources and the entrepreneurially driven environment to build on and solidify my experience working in the intellectually demanding sectors of engineering project management, financial advisory services, and energy.

I am truly honoured to be a Saïd Business School Foundation Scholar and a Forté Fellow. I look forward to being a valuable member of the Oxford Community and I hope that I can add to it as much as I know I will gain from it.'

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## Daiki Odagawa

### Alumni Annual Fund Scholarship

Country of nationality: Japan

College: Green Templeton College

'When I was a kid, I wanted to have friends in every country of the world and that has been the recurring theme in my life. I gained my bachelor's degree from Rikkyo University in Tokyo, majoring in international business with a focus in marketing. As the programme was a pioneer in creating cultured bilingual business leaders, my class had students representing 20+ countries. I also had opportunities to study abroad in the US and UK, which opened my eyes even wider to the world outside of Japan.

To further enrich my understanding of different cultures and backgrounds, I started my career at INTAGE, which is the largest marketing research firm in Japan. As a global marketing researcher, I have worked on various projects such as consumer surveys and focus groups in 30+ countries across a broad range of industries, from cosmetics, food and cars, to electronics and services. Spending a decade at INTAGE, I have accomplished the dream of becoming a businessperson who trots the globe.

Subsequently, I have developed a desire to pursue an MBA because I felt the necessity to gain skills in turning data into actionable insight that informs business decisions. I was strongly drawn to the Oxford MBA because of its international aspect, welcoming students from 60+ countries every year, and its networking opportunities that go beyond the MBA programme. I feel extremely honoured not only to be able to join such a globally reputable programme, but also to have been awarded a scholarship.'

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## **Spencer Patel**

### **Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship**

Country of nationality: USA

College: St Edmund Hall

'I grew up in a rural town in east Texas that had neither a traffic light nor a grocery store. Even moving to the nearest big city, Dallas, seemed like the loftiest of goals. I attended Texas A&M University where I graduated with a degree in finance and ended up moving to that 'big city' for a job with Deloitte Consulting, focusing on operational transformation and innovation. I have been lucky enough to spend the last eight years of my career living in countries like Australia, Japan, Russia, and the United Kingdom due to my role as a management consultant with both Deloitte Consulting and Accenture (turns out, there are many places with traffic lights to see).

I knew that education helped to unlock many opportunities for me, and I was eager to help others do the same. So, my brother and I founded an educational scholarship to support students from low socio-economic backgrounds to attend university. This same appreciation for education also drew me towards continuing my own at Oxford University. Oxford's focus on social impact and its international cohort appealed to my desire to help answer the tough questions of global sustainability through the coursework and sharing knowledge among my peers.

I feel very grateful and humbled to have been selected for the Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship among such an accomplished cohort and I am looking forward to giving back to the SBS community.'

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## **Shibao Pek**

### **Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship**

Country of nationality: Singapore

College: Linacre College

'Growing up in a low-income environment in Singapore, one of the world's richest countries, I have always been deeply aware of inequality. Since graduating from Yale University with a BA in Global Affairs, focusing on development economics, I have made it my career goal to leverage business (particularly finance) for social and environmental impact. I view sustainable business not only as a moral imperative, but one of the best tools we have to fight critical problems like global poverty and climate change.

I began my career working as a consultant at Asia Research and Engagement, specialising in environmental, social, and governance (ESG) investment risk research. I next worked as a policy analyst at the Singapore Institute of International Affairs, investigating the environmental impacts of industrial plantations and helping to formulate Singapore's national roadmap for green finance. Most recently, I spent the summer as an Associate at Impact Investment Exchange, helping to structure innovative financial instruments to support women's livelihoods. I am currently finishing up an MSc in Environmental Change and Management, also at Oxford.

With its focus on social impact and tackling world-scale issues, the MBA at Saïd Business School is a natural fit for my skills and interests. I am grateful to have received a scholarship, which has greatly eased the burden of attendance. Ultimately, I hope to use the skills and connections I gain at Oxford to bring about social transformation through equitable, impactful finance.'



## **Kittihat (Kit) Promthaveepong**

### **Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship**

Country of nationality: Thailand

College: St Catherine's College

I studied Chemical Engineering at the National University of Singapore and have always had an interest in sustainable development, particularly in the energy industry. Prior to joining the Oxford MBA programme, I spent four years in Oil & Gas Consulting in Singapore, specialising in the Asian region. There I helped clients make commercial decisions related to the natural gas market, which is a growing market as countries diversify away from coal. Sustainability in the business world is becoming progressively more valued as investors are becoming increasingly concerned about the social and environmental impacts of a business.

Post-MBA, I want to work with companies in Europe to push their sustainability initiatives forward profitably, as well as launch new sustainability initiatives in the energy sector. I am excited to meet like-minded people in the programme and to gain skill sets that will enable me to launch these new initiatives. I chose Oxford University because of Saïd Business School's strong commitment to solving large scale problems with a sustainable business mindset. Saïd pushes forward this agenda via its many programmes, such as the Skoll Centre for Social Entrepreneurship and the Social Impact Lab.

I look forward to the exciting year ahead at Oxford, and I am extremely honoured to be awarded the Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship which has helped make this happen.'



## **Ron Raini**

### **Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship**

Country of nationality: Israel

College: Green Templeton College

'I am a qualified lawyer, holding a bachelor's degree and master's degree in Law (LLB, LLM) from Tel Aviv University as part of an accelerated programme for LLB students with outstanding academic achievements. Over the past few years, I have gained extensive experience practicing in various legal fields, including commercial litigation, M&A transactions and medical malpractice. During these years, I witnessed first-hand just how outdated and inefficient the work methods used by legal professionals are, and how adversely this technology-deprived environment affects the work quality and efficiency of legal professionals, the costs of legal services and, consequently, the accessibility of underserved populations to legal services.

Realising that the legal field is in severe need for a technological overhaul, I developed a strong interest in the emerging field of LegalTech, particularly AI- and NLP-based, and decided to pursue a career in this field, with the aim of finding and developing innovative solutions to the legal field's aforementioned problems. Given its interdisciplinary nature and emphasis on social impact, I believe that Saïd Business School's MBA programme is the perfect place for the next step in my career. I look forward to studying in this exciting academic environment, collaborating with professionals from different fields and complementing my legal background with core business skills, an entrepreneurial toolkit and insights into innovative technological fields. It is an honour to have been awarded the Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship, and I will do my best to justify the trust placed in me.'



## **Pascal Riederer**

### **Alumni Annual Fund Scholarship**

Country of nationality: Germany

College: Mansfield College

'I'm a strong culture builder and growth driver. My home is at the intersection of strategy and creativity. I go wherever innovation calls me. My first startup, 'Partyzan Hats', employed Carpathian hatmakers and taught me the power of authenticity. As a management trainee at WPP owned advertising agency Scholz & Friends, I learned the ABC of selling ideas. My second startup, the brainstorming app 'mindflow', pioneered the ideation workflow in strategic planning.

My latest mission was to reshape the business model of a large-scale event production company as Head of Marketing & Sales. My team was able to increase sales by 900% within four years. Sometime in between, I graduated best in class from Hamburg School of

Business Administration, earning a bachelor's degree in Media Management and founded a non-profit circus academy in Ukraine.

Today I'm 28-years-old and realise that after a decade of making the most of the challenges in front me, I'm now ready to start creating the future. Learning big-picture management expertise at Oxford will enable me to be a more effective global leader — from ideation to strategy and execution. On this journey, the Alumni Annual Fund scholarship gives me momentum as a facilitator of collaboration, driving growth through uniting the heart and mind of business.'



## **Amandine Roche**

### **Forté Fellowship**

Country of nationality: USA and France

College: Balliol College

'I was born in Washington D.C. and spent my childhood between North America, Asia, and Europe. I graduated with a BCom in Accounting and Global Strategic Management from McGill University. Throughout my academic career, I have been selected for several exchange scholarships, including the U.S. State Department-sponsored National Security Language Initiative for Youth in China, Li Ka Shing International Business Programme at Shantou University, and the International Asian Studies Programme at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

I began my professional career interning at the U.S. Treasury Department and U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission where I cultivated my interest in the financial services industry. Prior to starting my MBA, I was an Internal Audit analyst at Goldman Sachs in New York, covering consumer and private bank lending. I volunteered on the women's network junior experience committee and was also a finalist in the GS Gives Analyst Impact Fund competition. I enjoy enriching my community through mentoring and participating in social impact initiatives. I previously mentored at Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC and served as the Nomination and Governance Chair of the non-profit junior board of Girls Inc. of NYC.

I chose to come to Oxford so that I can continue my global education and contribute my perspectives to its multicultural and diverse cohort. Being selected as a Forté Fellow is an honour and in receiving my scholarship, I feel empowered to start my MBA with the resources and support that will fuel my success.'



## Saskia Rotshuizen

### Alumni Annual Fund Scholarship

Country of nationality: France & Netherlands

College: Green Templeton College

'The red thread throughout my career has been a continuous focus on delivering positive impact through my work. I am grateful to have built a very diverse career, from working in a conflict-resolution NGO to being a researcher for an executive social innovation programme, to running inclusive innovation trainings for emerging entrepreneurs in east and west Africa. Those various experiences allowed me to gain valuable perspectives on how meaningful and sustainable impact can be achieved, but also a pragmatic understanding of the challenges we still face in reaching certain goals, such as the Sustainable Development Goals.

I am excited and grateful to be joining the world-class Oxford Saïd MBA programme. From initial conversations with future classmates I can already appreciate how much I will learn from their experiences. Furthermore, I am facing the widespread conundrum of having to choose between a multitude of incredibly inspiring extra-curricular activities, which is quite a fantastic position to find myself in.

I chose Oxford for its willingness to question the status quo. It is truly a privilege to be a scholar at a school that is re-defining how business can be done. I believe the programme as well as the generous scholarship will provide a tremendous springboard for my career and will give me the network and skills to maximise the positive impact I plan to achieve in my next career step, in which I am looking to address the challenges create by climate change.'



## Xavier Roy

### Oxford Saïd-HEC Montréal Scholarship

Country of nationality: Canada

College: St Edmund Hall

'Prior to working as an arts administrator, I trained as a classical singer and cofounded the acappella group QW4RTZ, with whom I performed hundreds of shows in Canada, France and Belgium. Through this experience, which confirmed that I much prefer singing in the shower than on stage, I discovered my passion for entrepreneurship, strategy and marketing. It led me to complete a Master's Degree in Arts Management at HEC Montréal, and since then, I have strived to develop the capacity of the cultural sector to innovate in its marketing and management practices. Recently, I oversaw marketing, communications and customer service at Opéra de Montréal, as Director of Marketing, while contributing to boards of directors and governmental committees in the music industry as an advocate for a more sophisticated use of data by cultural organisations.

I feel honoured and grateful to be the inaugural recipient of Oxford Saïd-HEC Montréal Scholarship funded by alumnus Mr. Jean Chagnon. Without his generous support, I would not have been able to pursue the Oxford MBA, let alone move to England with my wife and our four-year-old daughter. It is truly a privilege to take a step back from our daily lives for a year and to embark on the MBA journey, alongside incredibly inspiring classmates and faculty. To be honest, I have no expectation of what the programme will be like, even less of what could happen after: Oxford's diversity of perspectives and tradition of challenging status-quo will undoubtedly surprise me!'



## **Lauren Sadler**

### **Linbury Scholarship**

Country of nationality: UK & Australia

College: Jesus College

'Having graduated from the University of Sussex with a degree in Music with Italian in 2011 I quickly moved into the world of arts administration, working for organisations such as the Philharmonia Orchestra, Southbank Centre, Brighton Dome and, most recently, Sage Gateshead.

As a Creative Producer I'm lucky to be able to work with some of my musical idols to ensure that they have a finished live product that they can be proud of, whilst also ensuring that commercial events that generate income are able to fund important educational and participatory projects that enrich the communities that arts centres sit within. I'm a huge fan of all genres of music and as such I could pinch myself that I'm able to go to gigs and support artists for work.

A creative academic background means that all of my business knowledge has been gathered on the job and so I'm extremely grateful to both Saïd Business School and the Linbury Trust that I have this opportunity to spend a year gaining knowledge and confidence from the inspiring lecturers at the School and from my peers. The funding and financial climate within the arts in the UK have shifted a lot in the past ten years and having leaders with the kind of skill-set that this MBA offers is going to become more and more important to the industry.'



## **Saadia Saeed**

### **Alumni Annual Fund Scholarship**

Country of nationality: Pakistan

College: St Anne's College

'I graduated from Mount Holyoke College, a small liberal arts institution in the US, with a double major in Economics and Politics. Working as a management consultant in the payments industry in New York City, I gained an appreciation for working in a fast-paced, constantly evolving work environment. Deciding to put my quantitative skills to further use, I moved back home to Pakistan and pursued a data-oriented career in the public health sector.

My global and diverse experiences have now led me to pursue my MBA at Saïd Business School. I chose this programme specifically for its emphasis on social impact, and international cohort. I am looking forward to strengthening my leadership skills, and collaborating with resources across the wider Oxford community.

I eventually want to launch my own social impact organisation in Pakistan, and I believe that the coming year will place me in a good position to accomplish my goals.'



## **Nils Jacob Sand**

### **Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship**

Country of nationality: Norway

College: Merton College

'I have dreamed of doing an MBA for the last seven years, taking a bit of an unconventional path to get here. I started my career in the Norwegian Military, earning the rank of Sergeant, while working in reconnaissance and as a tank commander. I always wanted to be an engineer, so after my service, I completed my MSc in Nanoelectronics from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, specialising in laser physics, condensed matter and quantum mechanics.

After my degree, I then started working for GE's Oil & Gas Division and brought this knowledge with me when I next joined a startup in the energy sector. We developed new subsea technology for a major oil & gas operating company, and I quickly found myself collaborating and negotiating with some of the largest companies in the world, realising that an MBA would be the natural step in my career.

I have always had an interest in combining engineering and business, so it was important for me to find an MBA programme that incorporated both. Oxford's scientific community and Saïd's MBA combine the art of succeeding in business with the intricacy of bringing forth new technology. It is a dream of any entrepreneur with an engineering background.

I am looking forward to working with talented individuals from around the world with a common goal – to learn. At my interview in Oxford I met people from all around the world, but no one with the same story. I feel fortunate to be accepted into such a prestigious programme and even more fortunate to be awarded a Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship.'



## **Momodou Sey**

### **Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship**

Country of nationality: The Gambia

College: Mansfield College

'Few people from my generation are proud of the economic condition of our people. The collective experiences of the majority poor Africans are represented in me and in other Africans living in better circumstances. Ultimately, I believe it is the obligation of emerging African leaders to move the needle toward economic and financial prosperity of our communities.

I have a BA in Business Economics and BA in Political Science from the State University of New York at Cortland, and an MA in Public Administration from Cornell University. The Oxford MBA, along with the Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship, will provide me with the opportunity to help the development of private enterprise in Africa whilst leveraging the influence of government.

As a Fragile & Conflict Situations (FCS) coordinator for the World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC) in The Gambia, I had some influence on the development of policy and advisory projects for the private sector, influenced government regulations, and organised private sector development institutions to formulate a national business reform agenda. My primary role however, is with the IFC investment team. I successfully completed a business development exercise interviewing 500 companies in FCS economies, resulting in access to critically needed investment capital.

I am honoured to join and learn from fellow scholars, and other members of the class of 2020. Oxford Saïd has the unique capacity to bring together young professionals of substantive and diverse backgrounds and I hope the enduring lessons from my stint at Oxford would be those learned outside the classroom as much as inside.'



## **Gohar Shakhparyan**

### **Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship**

Country of nationality: Armenia

College: Wolfson College

'My choice of education and career has initially been shaped by the desire to have personal and professional involvements in rapid changes taking place in Armenia and beyond its physical borders. BA in Theory of Economics and MSc in Economics (majoring in Management Information Systems) at Yerevan State University have provided me with a solid academic background in various fields of study, furnishing me with a strong theoretical basis for understanding economic aspects of both transitional and developing economies and the challenges they might pose.

My broad work experience in Sales Management, Retail Distribution, Customer Service, Marketing, Brand Management, and Market Research has equipped me with the skills of leading and teaching teams, elaborating creative sales techniques and building strong partnerships with customers and suppliers. Through my work experience, I have reached the point where I am ready and willing to set bigger goals. But I do understand that however motivated and broad-minded I am as a professional I still need improvements in professional skills and education. Improvements that will help me develop a multinational outlook in this globalised and highly competitive world of business, take benefits of advanced technologies and design smartly worked-out marketing and financing strategies.

I deeply believe that an MBA at Oxford Saïd Business School is the path I should walk and experience to succeed in my career goals. I am honoured to have been awarded both a Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship and a Chevening Scholarship. I do consider these scholarships investments in me that will one day take the form of crucial social initiatives and changes and return to society.'



## **Pratik Shetty**

### **Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship**

Country of nationality: India

College: Hertford College

'I'm an engineer whose passion lies in leveraging insights from data and novel technology to solve fundamental societal problems at scale. Prior to Oxford, I worked as a Data Scientist, consulting for clients across the private and public sectors for almost seven years. Most recently, I worked with governments across Asia and Africa, helping them drive efficiency and financial sustainability in their healthcare supply chains.

Post-MBA, armed with a more holistic understanding of business and broadened cultural perspectives, I wish to work as a strategy consultant in the social impact space. I chose Oxford because of its incredibly rich history and proven track record of molding leaders.

In the year to come, I greatly look forward to getting to know and learning from my diverse peer group and accomplished faculty from both within Saïd Business School and across the University.

On a lighter note, I'm a sports buff and a die-hard Manchester United fan. Having the opportunity to play and also watch football live is an added bonus of studying in the UK! I'm extremely grateful to the Saïd Business School Foundation for the generous scholarship. Not only does the scholarship significantly ease the financial burden of pursuing an MBA but it also opens up several other opportunities for personal and professional growth.'



## Nicholas Shipley

### Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: UK & Ireland

College: Keble College

'I graduated from Oxford as part of the first Modern Chinese Studies MSc class in 2009. Almost exactly 10 years later, I am humbled and grateful to have received the Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship that has enabled me to return to Oxford for the MBA.

I spent a number of years working in China for the British Foreign Office immediately after graduating, but my career since has been in consumer-centric Marketing and Insight roles at multinational FMCG companies. Fundamentally, I enjoy trying to understand what people want! I believe that business can be a force for good and I plan to return to global industry after getting my MBA to help companies deliver the changes that people really want to see in society. I was therefore drawn to Oxford Saïd because of the School's commitment to cultivating responsible leaders capable of taking on the greatest challenges of our time.

It is an incredible honour to join such an accomplished and diverse MBA class. As a Scholar, I hope to prove myself as a worthy ambassador of the Saïd community and I am excited about us growing together as a cohort during the intensive year ahead.'



## Hannah Sibanda

### Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: Zimbabwe

College: Linacre College

'After having graduated from the University of the Witwatersrand with degrees in Actuarial Science and Mathematical Statistics, I joined Barclays Africa Group in Johannesburg. For the two years I was with the organisation my work focused on traded market risk across all of Barclays' Africa entities.

In 2016, I moved to Washington D.C. to join the International Finance Corporation, the private sector sister organisation of the World Bank. As a financial analyst in the Treasury, I worked on a wide range of projects; from finding financing solutions for small and medium enterprises in some of the poorest countries in the world, to raising funds for large infrastructure projects in emerging markets. Oxford's focus on Africa, socially responsible business and training global leaders who can make a positive impact in the world were influential in my decision to join the programme.

I am excited to pursue my MBA at Saïd Business School because I believe it aligns well with my long-term goals and passions. It is an honour to be a scholar at Oxford Saïd; not only do I get financial support for my academic training, I also get to be part of a group of creative and passionate young people who are eager to tackle the challenges that our world faces'.



## Onkarpreet Singh

### Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: USA

College: Hertford College

'I have always dreamed of being an entrepreneur. After unofficially starting my first business in elementary school, I understood the value of being proficient in both the sciences and humanities. Consequently, I studied economics and pre-med at the University of Denver. During and after university, I undertook several leadership roles in local organisations and councils.

After graduating, I managed all aspects of real estate development for a small company in Colorado, overseeing multiple multimillion-dollar projects from conception to completion. I then founded and operated a successful retail business, through which I realised that entrepreneurship is not a zero-sum game and presents great opportunity for social impact. Therefore, I aspire to effect positive social, economic, and environmental change through real estate development, and only the Oxford MBA, with its sustained atmosphere of excellence, diverse, international students, and emphasis on impact-driven leadership, can provide the high-level, analytical management and finance tools to bridge gaps in my skillset and experience in one year.

I am utterly grateful to be awarded the Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship, which will increase my access to vital resources, networking opportunities, and unique perspectives. It will accelerate my unwavering dedication to transform unjust and unsatisfactory systems and ensure goodness will reign for the global community. I look forward to forging new lifelong relationships, exploring the history of Oxford, and embracing the rigorous programme to develop both professionally and personally.'



## Elie Slama

### Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: Israel & France

College: Green Templeton College

'After years of experience in the Israeli NGO sector, I started the MPhil in Development Studies at the University of Oxford, where I researched the impact of urban development policies in Brazil. After graduating, I relocated to Liberia, during the aftermath of the Ebola epidemic, and promoted an affordable housing initiative with the local government. This led to my recruitment to Vital Capital Fund, an impact investment group that undertakes large-scale development projects in Sub-Saharan Africa. As the Fund's representative in Ghana, I managed the Fund's joint-venture with the Ashanti Kingship. Together, we developed a central residential community in Kumasi.

As part of my work there, I also initiated several other development projects, including designing a nation-wide agricultural infrastructure rehabilitation initiative, negotiating an affordable housing scheme with the local university and leading a public-private collaboration to connect remote villages to Kumasi. I feel immensely fortunate to be part of such impactful activities so early in my career. My aim is to eventually return to Israel and adapt these modules in service of advancing peaceful and productive regional socioeconomic relations.

I chose SBS because its MBA programme uniquely emphasises a beyond-profit approach that sees business as a central vehicle to driving positive social impact. I especially look forward to partaking in dialogue with its diverse and driven cohort of scholars, during this year. The support of the Saïd Foundation enabled this participation. It is an invigorating vote of confidence in me and in the ideas of impact investment that I've set out to promote.'



## Sunny Soarabh

### Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: India

College: Christ Church College

'Born and raised in India, I graduated from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Director's List and obtained my B.Tech in 2015 before undertaking an engineering manager role in Tata Steel, one of the largest integrated metals and mining firms in the world. Since then I have worked across various roles in the company. Over the last few years, I worked as a Supply Chain Manager, Data Scientist and Strategy & Operations Consultant. I worked mainly in the business performance enhancement division working closely with the supply chain and digital & analytics team, while having the opportunity to develop my passion for technology and business transformation.

From using advanced analytics and machine learning in order to solve complex business problems to driving diagnostic studies for the strategic business acquisition of the company, I played an instrumental role in generating significant EBITDA value for the company.

After my MBA, I plan to continue working at the intersection of business and data analytics. During my academic career, I always looked out to broaden my horizon to cultivate new skills in leadership and innovation. I published scientific papers, established projects for Asia and international relations, founded social impact ventures and led student chapters for mining and metallurgy across India.

Looking forward to the coming year, I am excited towards learning from the wider university experience and enriching my strategic thinking, management and analytical skills. I chose to join Oxford Saïd's MBA Programme because of the diversity of the class both in terms of nationality and the career paths.

As a Scholar, I hope to be an ambassador for the School hoping to give back what I have been given. I am thrilled to receive a Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship and feel honoured for being chosen amongst such a diverse cohort of highly skilled professionals. The scholarship has made attending Oxford a possibility and reduced the burden on my family to make this dream a reality.'



## Josh Starkey

### Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: UK

College: Pembroke College

'I was born and raised in the UK, but I have spent most of my working and academic life in New Zealand. I am passionate about the finance industry and have most recently worked as a Team Leader at BNZ, one of New Zealand's largest banks. My focus, throughout my time at BNZ, was toward commercial banking, specifically supporting the growth of New Zealand's SMEs. Whilst working at BNZ, I completed a Master of Finance at Massey University; my undergraduate degree was attained at The University of Waikato. Saïd Business School was an easy choice for me, not only for the diversity of the cohort but also for the focus on finance that the school has.

Post-MBA, I aim to return to banking and hope to be a part of changing the way banks currently operate. I believe that the experiences I will gain at Oxford will greatly enhance my ability to achieve my long-term career and life goals. I look forward to learning from well-distinguished professionals and having the chance to immerse myself in all the opportunities the school and university has to offer. Having a strong background in sport, particularly athletics, I look forward to not only studying at Oxford but also training on a track where history was made.

Receiving the Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship has given me confidence that my aspirations will become a reality. I am honoured to be a recipient, and I look forward to representing the school as an ambassador.'



## Zouhair Tabbaa

### Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: Syria

College: Mansfield College

'I consider myself one of the luckiest Syrians who had to relocate from their home due to the devastating war. Although my journey was filled with challenges: seeing my country collapsing and my people suffering, I was fortunate enough to live in the comfort and safety of Dubai, work at one of the biggest multinational corporations, and gain the opportunity to study at the University of Oxford.

I'm looking forward to further developing the world-class foundation I built with KPMG Advisory and growing with the Oxford MBA. I'm also excited to build a robust network with the MBA cohort and the wider Oxford community with whom I can learn, share and collaborate. I'm confident that this experience will equip me with leading business practices, innovative problem-solving techniques and advanced leadership qualities to make positive changes in the future.

I'm grateful to my family, mentors and friends for the continuous motivation and unlimited support to be at Oxford Saïd, and I'm truly honoured to be an Oxford Saïd scholar and ambassador, which brings me yet another great range of opportunities that I will embrace and not take for granted.'



## Ai Lin Tan

### Oxford-Leo Tong Chen Scholarship

Country of nationality: Australia

College: Exeter College

'I graduated as a dentist from the University of Melbourne with honours. Throughout my clinical career, I often sought 'unconventional side-hustles', such as leading the TEDxMelbourne marketing team. On reflection I was, and still am, keenly interested in scaling my impact beyond the 10-12 patients I'm physically limited to helping per day. I have recently served as a manager and senior dentist within the Australian public dental sector, where I achieved a 70% reduction in waiting time for dental services.

My experience working with the peak Victorian dental funding body to plan then implement programmes aimed at achieving sustainable health outcomes led me to recognise the need for strategic healthcare transformations that addresses the challenges and economic drivers within the sector. Pursuing an MBA at Saïd Business School is the key catalyst I need to drive sustainable change at scale. Specifically, I am spurred to secure strategic planning roles in healthcare, where I would be uniquely positioned to combine my technical frontline insights with world-class business acumen, bridging the gap between management and healthcare professionals.

I'm thrilled to be accepted into such a renowned MBA programme and to receive an Oxford-Leo Tong Chen Scholarship. In line with the School's values, I look forward to cultivating a lifelong spirit of curiosity and cross-disciplinary collaboration to tackle complex world-scale challenges. The School's support and confidence in me to succeed, despite my non-traditional background, emboldens me to be an ambassador for other clinicians who dream of driving change beyond the clinic.'



## Shi-Xian (Dennis) Tay

### Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: Singapore

College: Christ Church College

'I moved from Singapore to the UK for my undergraduate studies in Actuarial Science at the London School of Economics and Political Science where I graduated with First Class Honours. Prior to the MBA, I worked as a qualified Actuary at AIG in the London office. I have experience spanning most major product classes in General Insurance where my roles involved utilising increasingly advanced analytics to inform and drive business decisions. Working in London- which has one of the most developed insurance markets and diverse workforce- has been an enriching experience that has shaped my professional career.

My motivation for pursuing an MBA at Saïd Business School stems from the School's strong reputation and vision of developing innovative leaders capable of tackling global issues. The programme offers the flexibility to build on my current expertise while exploring new subjects to broaden my exposure and enhance my leadership capabilities. I am grateful to have been selected as a Saïd Business School Foundation scholar. I look forward to making the most of this opportunity by engaging the diverse community and being involved in activities across the University.'



## Sehr Tejpar

### Jacobs Foundation Scholarship and Alumni Annual Fund Scholarship

Country of nationality: Canada

College: Oriel College

'I am a Canadian with Burmese and Indian heritage, a background in development and a passion for business for social change. I obtained my undergraduate degree in Canada and a master's in City Design and Social Science at the London School of Economics in the UK. Prior to the MBA, I worked for seven years in global development. I started first in education and development in Kenya and most recently I have worked for the Aga Khan Foundation head office in Switzerland leading initiatives in education, partnerships and general management for 20 countries across Asia and Africa.

For me, the promise of business for social good has always been a driver to pursue the MBA at Oxford. I am most passionate about unlocking greater private sector funding to help meet the SDGs for 2030 and I am excited to use my time at Oxford to think creatively about how to increase both impact and investment as we respond to the most pressing challenges of our times.

It is an honour to be awarded these scholarships and to be a part of a growing community of talented, likeminded and passionate individuals at Saïd. These awards have made it possible for me to stretch myself further and to return to the global development sector with greater tools for success. I am inspired by the opportunities in the year ahead and look forward to meeting an amazing group of people with whom I know I will be challenged to reach new horizons.'



## Victoria Udom

### Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: Nigeria

College: Wadham College

'I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Wellesley College, and began my career on Wall Street, as an Investment Analyst at J.P. Morgan. I subsequently transitioned to Private Equity, working for an emerging markets-focused PE firm out of New York, before moving back home to Nigeria, to serve as an Adviser to Nigeria's Minister of Industry, Trade, and Investment.

I am deeply passionate about Nigeria's economic development - with private sector partnership and good governance being the bedrock of sustained growth - and exploring the roles that education, social entrepreneurship and gender inclusion can play in unlocking Africa's potential and equipping its next generation of leaders.

I've been fortunate to set this vision in motion by gaining relevant experience in private and public sector, and have worked with incredible teams to co-found a social impact initiative that empowers social entrepreneurs, launch a pan-African education startup, create a professional development programme for young women in Business and participate in children's programmes that focus on instilling the right values in the next generation. The Oxford MBA is especially appealing to me because of its international focus, entrepreneurial spirit and its innovative global approach to business and leadership.

Having lived in six countries, I am excited to join one of the world's most diverse MBA classes and become immersed in a global programme taught by leading faculty. I look forward to exploring Saïd's extensive curriculum, learning from my classmates and being a part of the larger Oxford community with its rich and exciting traditions! I'm extremely grateful to the Saïd Foundation for the opportunity to be a Scholar and a Forté Fellow, and hope to give back during my time at Oxford and beyond.'



## Sarel van Baalen

### Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: South Africa

College: Green Templeton College

'My mission is to help unlock Africa's potential by improving the continent's public infrastructure. After obtaining my bachelor's and master's degree in civil engineering, I joined one of Africa's leading infrastructure firms, where for the past six years I have worked as an engineer and project manager on projects in the water, energy, transport, and real estate sectors. I particularly enjoy working with a spectrum of stakeholders to achieve the technical and commercial viability of complex infrastructure projects. During this time, I also served on the advisory board of Engineers Without Borders and completed my part-time studies towards a bachelor's degree in commerce.

I believe that I can make a far larger contribution to Africa's infrastructure challenge by building and leading infrastructure enterprises. To achieve this in the long run, I will join an infrastructure investment team in an Africa-focused development finance corporation upon graduation. Through this, I will not only gain expertise and credibility but also develop my network and understanding of African markets. The Oxford MBA is the perfect mechanism to achieve both my short and long-term career goals; it will give me the skills to be effective, the confidence to take charge, the perspectives to think differently and the inspiration to make an impact.

Studying at the University of Oxford is an honour and I am humbled to have been awarded a Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship. I look forward to being an ambassador for Oxford and in the future giving others the opportunity to do the same.'



## **Mattias Wagerman**

### **Alumni Annual Fund Scholarship**

Country of nationality: Sweden

College: Balliol College

'Growing up in Sweden, I was keen on living abroad. As a result, I left Sweden for Italy and Bocconi University to pursue a double degree in management and law, after which I earned a master's degree in Management from London Business School. Post academia I worked in finance at a top investment bank and later also in a global strategy consulting firm's M&A division. I also continued to pursue my passion for volunteer work through various projects in Sweden, Italy and India.

Oxford's MBA was my first choice as the legacy of the university and the focus on global issues resonates with me. In addition, I am certain that Oxford provides the opportunity for interesting discussions with talented classmates, faculty and other students. I am honoured and grateful to have been awarded the Alumni Annual Fund Scholarship. It serves as a strong encouragement to pursue my ambition of becoming a business leader.'



## **Haoqi Wang**

### **Oxford-Creat Graduate Scholarship**

Country of nationality: China

College: Green Templeton College

'After graduating from Mathematics and Statistics at University College London and the University of Chicago, I joined CITIC Securities, the largest investment bank in China, focusing on quantitative credit risk management.

Prior to Oxford, I got started with risk management in PE/VC investment. The Chinese market has got through its extensive development stage in the PE/VC field, the future start-ups investment process will definitely become more professional and technical. I would like to expect that quantitative methods in risk management, which have already been widely used in financing and trading activities in investment banks, could be applied in PE/VC investment to benefit the investors, and to provide better value guidance to the start-ups as well. I believe that the excellent MBA programme at Oxford Saïd will equip me to deal with the industry change. It is such a precious chance to share my specialties, interests and industrial views with the global elites at Oxford.

Thanks to the Oxford-Creat Group Graduate Scholarship, I can concentrate more on the research and explore with no worry about the expenses, and hope the scholarship could help more promising candidates to achieve their goals here in the future.'



## **Zhihao Wu**

### **Oxford-Leo Tong Chen Scholarship**

Country of nationality: China

College: Regent's Park College

'It has always been a dream of mine to study at the University of Oxford: to immerse myself in the rich history of the world's most prestigious university and be inspired by the incredibly talented and diverse individuals of the Oxford community. Subsequent to earning an engineering degree in Electronic Science, I started my career in traditional industries and joined GE as a Commercial Leadership Programme trainee, working in various commercial roles across marketing, strategy, sales and business development.

During the past few years, I've realised the nature of business in traditional industries is shifting fundamentally with innovations and technologies at a breath-taking pace. What attracted me to Saïd Business School was Dean Peter Tufano's commitment to cultivating socially responsible global leaders capable of tackling world-scale problems. It is my expectation that the Oxford experience will equip me with a set of new skills and global network needed to leverage cutting-edge technologies to transform the business in traditional industries.

I am grateful to be part of the Oxford community, privileged to be awarded the scholarship and honoured to serve as an ambassador for Saïd Business School. I am excited for the experiences and challenges of the year ahead and I look forward to learning, sharing, and collaborating with the great minds of Oxford's community.'

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## Jasmine Xu

### Oxford-Ideality Scholarship and Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: China

College: Keble College

'Upon graduating with a degree in finance from London School of Economics with distinction, I was fortunate to launch my career at China's most renowned long-term investment conglomerate in my hometown Shanghai, whereby our team leads its global layout in energy, environment and industrial sectors, primarily through strategic buyout and vertical integration. Frequent collaborations with both our investment and industry professionals along with in-depth exchanges with a number of world leaders and hidden champions has allowed me to develop valuable industry acumen on utility and energy, environmental technology, smart manufacturing and aerospace, with extensive M&A initiatives, clubbing efforts and business alliance across China, Europe and the Middle East. Personally, I am also an investor in food and beverage start-ups, as you would expect that a person like me who generally embarks on gas and rocket would sometimes look for a different taste of sweets.

Having both studied and worked in the UK, I recognised the unparalleled quality of an Oxford education, and felt extremely privileged to be awarded with two prestigious scholarships and to represent the school as an ambassador. I am also thrilled to take the ideas and experience with the distinguished group of MBA fellows into my social interactions, my workplace and all aspects of my life.'

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## Qian Yang

### Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: China

College: Magdalen College

'I previously worked as an investment manager in the field of venture capital and M&A, especially for high-tech industry. I earned my undergraduate degree at Peking University in China and graduate degree at USC in the United States. When I was applying for MBA programmes, I decided that I needed to go somewhere where I could be exposed to innovative ideas, immersed in rich culture and a place where I could interact with fantastic people. Based on this, I knew Oxford was right for me. In fact, I only applied to Oxford.

Confidently, I know that technologies will bring positive changes to society, so I would like to contribute to the progress of technologies by working in the financial investment industry or doing business with the right people at the right time. I know the MBA programme here will provide me with the opportunities to achieve my dream.

For my personal interests, I love classic poems, music, hiking and climbing. I am also very interested in exploring different cultures. I used to volunteer in Africa, taught children in earthquake-struck villages in China, studied in America, and worked in southern-east Asia. I want to keep open-minded, stay “foolish and hungry”, and learn from the wisdom both in nature and society. I am so grateful and honoured to have been awarded with the Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship. The scholarship not only provides me with financial support, but also with valuable opportunities for career development. It links me with global professional women and makes me feel stronger and even more determined to pursue my path.’

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## Lingzhi Yi

### Oxford-Leo Tong Chen Scholarship

Country of nationality: China

College: St Catherine's College

‘I experienced lots of move-rounds during childhood and born as the daughter of an art teacher and a mathematics teacher, I was driven by the curiosity to explore the world and seek solutions to fix problems. This trait led me to the road less travelled. After graduating from City University of Hong Kong at the age of 20, I started my career as an investor in an Israeli VC. Witnessing how a noodle shop owner representing the backbones of Chinese economy is systematically discriminated in the credit market, I co-founded a fintech for inclusion startup to provide SaaS and data services to financial inclusion institutions. Realising the complexity of fintech for inclusion, I dived deeper into client investigation and policy making leading the think tank in a fintech media startup.

I produce my own reports and work with international organisations on financial inclusion projects. From fancy offices to field sites talking to low-income population, I humbled myself and gained strength. I've realised that it's my life-long passion to build people up financially through technology and entrepreneurship. With that vision, Oxford Saïd is the perfect place for me. The interdisciplinary nature and the training of social entrepreneurship is exactly what I need. Not to mention the School's diversified community with classmates holding the same value of “purpose”. I'm honoured to be selected as an MBA scholar, it's an encouragement for me to carry on what I believe both financially and spiritually. I'm ready for this journey.’

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## Susana Zabarskaya

### Forté Fellowship

Country of nationality: USA

College: Exeter College

‘I graduated from Boston University with a BSc in Business Administration and concentrations in Operations & Technology Management and Organisational Behaviour. I believe these fields complement one another, as a business must have effective processes in place for managing both their work streams and their work environment in order to be successful. Upon graduating, I joined Wayfair, a furniture retailer, where I developed a passion for e-commerce and technology. I held various roles over my five years with the company, most recently launching a new team within the organisation aimed at improving the customer experience.

I am thrilled to join the Oxford community, where the unique focus on tackling global challenges and creating impact, coupled with a diverse peer group, will create an energising and intellectually stimulating environment. I am honoured to do so as a Forté Fellow, which provides an opportunity to be part of an additional community working to increase diversity in business.’



## **Laura Zaccagnino**

### **Alumni Annual Fund Scholarship**

Country of nationality: USA

College: St Cross College

'I received my BA degree in Political Science from Amherst College where I studied international political economy. Since graduating, I spent the past six years working in Washington DC for education policy and international development think tanks and more recently, at a market research firm specialising in higher education. In between, I spent seven months teaching English in Chile. In my prior position, I managed research agendas for universities in the US, UK, and Australia. In fact, I first heard about Oxford Saïd from a UK client who requested a project on social-sector oriented business schools, citing the Skoll Centre as an innovator in this area.

The Skoll Centre and the intensely global nature of the MBA were what initially attracted me to Oxford. The alumni I met during the application process convinced me I belonged here. They spoke about the programme with such great nostalgia for the 'Oxford experience' as well as the character of their classmates, whose diversity of experience and passion for doing good in the world would surely change my own perspectives.

I am honoured to be included among such an accomplished group of individuals and am grateful for the opportunity to serve as an ambassador to the school. Through the support of the Alumni Annual Fund Scholarship, I am confident I will be able to achieve my goal to work in social sector consulting with an aim to make the world a bit more equal.'



## **Xintan Zhang**

### **Oxford-Ideality Scholarship**

Country of nationality: China

College: Kellogg College

'After graduating from University of Michigan in 2013 with a bachelor's degree in business, I joined Ernst & Young in the transfer pricing practice and had the opportunity to work in the Detroit office, San Jose office, and the Beijing office, mainly focusing on the technology industry. As someone who went through business school training, I knew exactly what I wanted from an MBA degree when I decided to pursue an advanced degree.

Oxford Saïd's top-notch reputation and its commitment to finding solutions to world-scale challenges helped me make my decision to come to Oxford for an awarding experience. I look forward to joining a diverse pool of fellow students who come from different backgrounds, strengthening my technical skills and getting transformed into the global leader I aspire to be. I am truly honoured to have been awarded the Oxford-Ideality Scholarship and to become a Forté Fellow. I will embrace the challenges and opportunities that come with the honour and contribute back to the Saïd community.'



## **Ye Zhang**

### **Oxford-Creat Graduate Scholarship**

Country of nationality: China

College: Green Templeton College

'After earning my bachelor's in international banking, I decided to study for the MSF programme at Hong Kong Polytechnic University. After graduation, as an up and coming prospect with the Bank of China, I have worked my way from bank teller to Deputy Manager. I have been engaged in a vast array of different types of deals from small business loans to cross border acquisitions.

My career showcases the work ethic and the professional excellence embodied by MBA students at Saïd Business School. My Oxford Saïd MBA will empower me to break into the field of mergers and acquisitions. I am interested in applied finance and real corporate strategy. I firmly believe that as the Chinese market matures, consolidation opportunities will be abundant, enabling M&A experts to flourish.

Inspired by the CREAT Group's success, I am stimulated to leverage my previous experience and my obtained knowledge by MBA study to make a positive impact on the development of China's economy.'



Saïd Business School at the University of Oxford blends the best of new and old. We are a vibrant and innovative business school, but yet deeply embedded in an 800-year-old world-class university. We create programmes and ideas that have global impact. We educate people for successful business careers, and as a community seek to tackle world-scale problems. We deliver cutting-edge programmes and ground-breaking research that transform individuals, organisations, business practice, and society. We seek to be a world-class business school community, embedded in a world-class university, tackling world-scale problems.

*'The scholarship I received was absolutely crucial to my being able to attend the MBA at Saïd Business School and I am deeply grateful to the Saïd Foundation for granting it to me. This year has been one of the most extraordinary learning experiences of my life – professionally and personally – and I have grown in far too many ways to succinctly describe. I leave this experience confident in my ability, clear in my purpose and with a resolve to use the gifts I have received this year to have a positive impact on society and planet.'*

#### **Saïd Business School MBA scholar (2018-19)**

*'For students from developing countries, the scholarship plays a very significant role when choosing MBA programmes since there is no affordable loans in these countries. The scholarship allows many ambitious students from around the globe to receive a world class education at Oxford University enabling them to drive major positive societal changes in many parts of the world over the years to come.'*

#### **Saïd Business School MBA scholar (2018-19)**

#### **Your support**

We are dedicated to inspiring the next generation of business leaders and entrepreneurs. To help us achieve this, we need your support. If you are interested in funding a scholarship at Saïd Business School, please contact Tom Childs.

#### **Tom Childs**

Senior Development Executive

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