‘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

We are delighted to introduce the MBA scholars of 2020-21. Our diverse cohort of scholars is comprised of students from a number of different sectors and professional backgrounds from all across the globe.

Our scholars, which you will read about below, have all received funding in recognition of their past successes (both academic and professional), as well as their potential to become future leaders who will create both a positive and tangible impact in the world.

These profiles provide background on our scholars, their motivations for choosing Oxford Said, and their hopes for the future.

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 to read about our Pershing Square Scholars
Scholar Profiles

Mohammad Abuarjah
Said Business School Foundation Scholarship
Country of nationality: Jordan
College: Pembroke College
‘Over the past six years, I have worked with the EY Strategy and Transaction department as a part of the financial due diligence team. I worked on over fifty deals across different sectors spanning eight countries in the Middle East and North Africa. During this time, I also managed to successfully become a holder of both the CFA and the CPA certifications.

Pursuing an MBA at Saïd Business School will expand on my existing experience in finance and will improve my understanding of non-financial matters such as strategy, operations, negotiations, human resources and supply chain management. I am also excited to participate in the Oxford Finance Lab which I know will provide a unique opportunity to work on real life cases led by world class companies and professionals. An MBA from the University of Oxford will ultimately help with my transition to an investment banking or investment related role.

The scholarship news came as a surprise and made me extremely delighted. I am looking forward to starting the MBA year and to give to back to the Oxford community.’

Stephen Akpakwu
Oxford-Weidenfeld and Hoffmann Scholarship
Country of nationality: Nigeria
College: Wolfson College
‘While my career over the past decade has been in the financial services industry, I have taken on several roles in that time, from working as a credit risk technologist to building mission-critical tools for FX trading desks, and finally, to spending the past five years working as a capital markets banker with a focus on Growth Markets.

My decision to pursue an MBA stemmed from an interest in entrepreneurship that I have long harboured - the seed of this interest was planted at an early age through time spent in my family business, and further nurtured later in life in the years spent running my own business in Nigeria after graduating from university in England.

In the time I spent researching MBA programmes, an essential factor for me was the amount of focus placed on entrepreneurship, especially in the context of doing business in Africa - especially considering the challenges and opportunities therein. With established initiatives like the Oxford Africa Business Alliance and Invest Africa at Oxford, as well as a curriculum of valuable electives relevant to aspiring entrepreneurs and leaders, it was no surprise to me that accepting my Oxford offer was an easy decision to make.

In my spare time, I am an adventurous traveller and photographer. I have travelled to 60 countries to date and been the recipient of some photography awards and features.'
I am humbled to have been selected as a Saïd Business School Foundation Scholar with both the opportunity and financial assistance it brings. I believe the coming year will be one of immense personal and professional growth, and I am excited by both the academic benefits to be gained from my time at Oxford and the prospect of building a robust network amongst my class, faculty and the broader University.

Issam Al-Mamlouk
Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship
Countries of nationality: Syria, USA & Canada
College: Green Templeton College

'I join Oxford’s MBA programme having completed five years at J.P. Morgan, most recently as an Investment Banking Associate based in New York. During my last two years at J.P. Morgan, I concurrently completed a Master of Public Administration degree in International Economic Policy at Columbia University where I studied under Jack Lew (who served as U.S. Treasury Secretary under President Obama). I also earned an MS in Finance from Northeastern University and a BS in Managerial Economics from Bentley University.

I decided to pursue my MBA at Oxford to expand my skillset as well as meet inspiring peers to further learn from. I am looking forward to the year ahead and hope to give back during my time at Oxford.'

Anna Apkhazava
Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship
Country of nationality: Georgia
College: St Catherine’s College

‘As my dissertation concerned monetary policy developments, after graduation from the London School of Economics, I started working for the monetary policy division at the National Bank of Georgia (NBG). I was eager to see the policymaking in practice, the tradeoffs, and contains faced by the policymakers in the decision making process. The NBG is a relatively small central bank, allowing its employees to be actively involved in the work in many different directions. Over the last few years, the National Bank of Georgia has implemented a number of reforms to ensure macroeconomic stability and foster growth, providing me an opportunity to be part of this process.

As I am passionate about environmental sustainability, my long-term goal is to contribute to building a sustainable economy in society. However, reaching my goal requires not only continuous learning and pushing the boundaries beyond my comfort zone, but also personal attributes such as leadership, creative thinking, innovation, and understanding the complexity of human interactions. I believe that the MBA programme at Saïd Business School will help me develop these personal attributes and find fulfilment, knowing that the results of my work could make an impact.

I am genuinely grateful to be awarded a Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship. I hope I will be able to contribute to this unique community.'
Itzel Arróliga G.

Alumni Annual Fund Scholarship

Country of nationality: Nicaragua

College: Green Templeton College

‘Although many people wonder where my country is, I do not mind as I know everyone would love it if they came to visit. I am proud to say I was born and raised in Nicaragua; being one of the poorest countries in America, I was lucky to be part of the small statistic that had access to quality education in the country. I realised that from an early age and became deeply aware of the privilege and responsibility it entails.

I majored in Global Business and, while volunteering in non-profit initiatives, I have worked for the past six years in the private sector as I believe it has a key role in driving positive impact. During this time, I have had many challenging and enriching experiences working with different types of organisations and cultures.

Today, I am humbled to be able to join Oxford’s Said Business School MBA. I am certain the programme will better equip us to serve in our fast-evolving society filled with increasingly complex and pressing challenges. I am especially grateful and excited to be able to do this as an Oxford Scholar and I look forward to joining such a diversified community of committed individuals.’

Virginie Astier Kenneally

Forté Fellowship

Country of nationality: France & UK

College: St Benet’s Hall

‘I grew up in the South of France, and graduated from EDHEC Business school with a Bachelor in Business Administration, majoring in Finance. While I was an international exchange student at the University of Dayton, Ohio, I took part in an Investment conference, and my interest in Markets started to grow. Upon graduating, I was offered a position in the coveted Equities Derivatives Sales desk at J.P. Morgan London office.

Being part of a leading global financial institution such as J.P. Morgan gave me exposure to remarkable individuals whom I could learn from and allowed me to deal with different challenges every day. Outside of my sales role covering Hedge Funds clients, I enjoyed taking on a leadership role to attract and retain talent, which led me to launch a new mentoring programme for Associates.

Before starting my MBA, I pivoted my career into Luxury working as a Project Manager at Louis Vuitton UK, Ireland and South Africa. During that time, I created from scratch and ran my own Louis Vuitton Pop-Up store in the heart of Mayfair, London, for the much-celebrated Menswear Creative Director Virgil Abloh. This experience reinforced my interest in Entrepreneurship.

I chose the Oxford MBA for its international student body and its unique focus on entrepreneurship and responsible business. Post-MBA, my goal is to take a leadership role in a tech company that is solving big problems and making a difference in people’s lives. I am truly honoured and grateful to have been awarded a Forté Fellowship, and I look forward to developing my leadership skills and creating a lifelong network.’
Emma Berry

Said Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: Australia

College: Exeter College

‘I am joining the Oxford MBA class after eight years in management consulting where I have advised over 20 organisations undergoing major transformations. This has included the privatisation of public services, the acquisition of a payments business, and the digitisation of a leading telco provider. I am passionate about preparing organisations and their workforces for the future of work, which is of increasing importance in light of the COVID-19 pandemic where we witnessed businesses transforming overnight.

After studying a Bachelor of International Studies at the University of Sydney and a Master of Commerce at the University of New South Wales, I joined Deloitte Consulting in Sydney, Australia. Looking to broaden my international experience, I then moved with Deloitte to Geneva, Switzerland where I have worked for the last three years as a Senior Manager. I have led teams to deliver complex international projects, including M&A, operating model and organisation design. I am particularly committed to developing talent, and established a women’s network and delivered pro bono work for UN Women in Switzerland.

I am grateful to have received a Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship as the Oxford MBA is a once in a lifetime opportunity. I was drawn by Saïd’s focus on social impact, its international cohort and its commitment to increasing women’s influence in the world. I am looking forward to learning from Oxford’s academics, and fellow students. Throughout the year I hope to reflect on the contribution I will make to Australia as a purposeful business leader beyond 2021.’

Vineet Bothra

Alumni Annual Fund Scholarship

Country of nationality: India

College: Mansfield College

‘My ambition is to grow my family’s packaging business beyond the Indian market and steer it away from single-use plastic towards environment-friendly, sustainable solutions.

After graduating from Delhi Technological University, I joined Reliance Industries, India’s largest private conglomerate. At their petrochemical complex, I gained intensive exposure to interdisciplinary domains (electrical, mechanical and chemical) and came to appreciate the upstream segments of packaging and the polymer value chain.

I further wished to explore diverse roles and responsibilities with more client-facing opportunities in order to avoid being siloed in core manufacturing. Ecorys, one of the oldest European infrastructure consulting and economic research firms, provided just that. Working in a setup trying to gain a foothold in South Asia, I got to explore verticals such as business development and project management across such diverse industries as manufacturing, trade, transport and logistics, liaising with clients such as MDBs and National/ State Governments.

I must now develop my financial and entrepreneurial management skills before migrating to an established family business. This is where Oxford comes in. The Oxford MBA has an immaculate balance between structure and flexibility as well as between traditional and modern thinking, allowing me to personalise my experience, build long-lasting relationships, maximise learnings and minimise opportunity costs.

I am incredibly honoured and humbled to have been awarded the Alumni Annual Fund Scholarship and serve as an ambassador alongside such talented and passionate individuals. I am really excited to grow with the Oxford community and give back as much as I can.’
James Buckingham

Said Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: Australia

College: Mansfield College

‘Since completing my undergraduate degree in Construction Management at RMIT University, Melbourne I have worked for global contractor Multiplex Constructions for the past seven years. I have been fortunate to have worked on many large scale challenging projects across a variety of sectors including Residential, Commercial, Education and Health. I progressively rose to the eventual leadership role of Project Manager and prior to Oxford I led a project team in the construction of a £200 million 86-storey Residential skyscraper in the Melbourne CBD.

In recent years I have found my interests shifting away from the technical aspects of building and construction, toward the significant and underpinning items that ultimately dictate the viability and/or success of large Real Estate and Infrastructure investments.

I am very driven and passionate about both Environmental and Social Impact and I believe the Built Environment Industry at large has a tremendous amount of work to do in these spaces to catch up with more progressive industries. Oxford’s focus on Social Impact and its history were the main drivers behind my decision to study here.

Post-MBA, I plan on returning to the Built Environment Industry but in a position more involved in strategy, feasibility and investment where change can most effectively be implemented.

I am extremely grateful and honoured to receive a Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship; it has not only made my MBA intentions a possibility but has reaffirmed the value of my experience to date and also the future transition I am embarking upon.’

Andres Castanos-Mollor

Said Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: Spain

College: St Catherine’s College

‘I graduated from the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid with a degree in Industrial Engineering. I then moved to London to start a career in investment banking at Bank of America Merrill Lynch. M&A advisory work has been a key experience in my career and it has shaped my professional attitude and skillset. I had the opportunity to contribute to some high-profile M&A work and I enjoyed being part of a young, international, dedicated and highly detail-oriented team.

Having left investment banking, I decided to study an MBA in order to develop my long-term career in equities investing. Doing an MBA at Oxford will make me become part of a class of extremely talented people, with diverse and rich professional backgrounds and benefit from access to world class academia. I believe I will contribute to the 2020-2021 MBA class through my personal and professional experience. Being a Saïd Business School Foundation scholar is a huge honour and it encourages me on my journey to a successful career.’
Vimbai Chagonda  
**Said Business School Foundation Scholarship**  
Country of nationality: Zimbabwe  
College: Green Templeton College

'‘I am a strong believer of universal access to healthcare. It is my ambition to contribute significantly to strategic health system initiatives and to support government with policy initiatives aimed at, either unlocking greater efficiency in healthcare delivery or enhancing the impact of healthcare organisations in developing countries.

After graduating with a degree in Finance at the University of Cape Town, I joined KPMG where I trained and qualified as a Chartered Accountant. Working for KPMG afforded me the opportunity to work across three different continents and to obtain a good understanding of financial and business concepts. In 2017, I joined Bupa in London, where I led the capital management and regulatory reporting team and developed a good understanding of the healthcare industry, specifically health insurance regulation.

Working in London has also allowed me to bear witness to the power of private enterprise as a major problem solving instrument. However, in Africa, governments have struggled to implement policies that incentivise the private sector to effectively participate in solving healthcare challenges.

As my career to-date has largely been finance focussed, the MBA will equip me with additional skills on; leadership, strategy and negotiation, which will make me a more rounded leader. Hard skills are a prerequisite for success, however, the importance of a global network and mentors cannot be underestimated. I am excited to be joining Oxford, and to access an international alumni network from which I can leverage and learn from.

Lastly, I am honoured to have been awarded the Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship. I look forward to being part of a diverse group of young individuals, passionate about solving the world’s biggest problems and to actively give back to the SBS community as an ambassador long after I have completed my studies.’

Chido Chigwedere  
**Alumni Annual Fund Scholarship & Said Business School Foundation Scholarship**  
Country of nationality: Zimbabwe  
College: St Catherine’s College

'I studied Economics at Kalamazoo College and the London School of Economics and Political Science, and moved back to Zimbabwe keen to work with organisations that were helping to unlock Zimbabwe’s business potential. I joined a boutique business advisory firm called Advisory K, and channeled my efforts towards developing innovative solutions to the unique challenges Zimbabwe’s context presented. Highlights from my experience include crafting turnaround strategies and developing culture realignment programmes for public and private sector organisations in the SADC region; and contributing to business dialogues on Zimbabwe’s participation in the African Continental Free Trade Agreement.

Seeking to expand my sphere of influence to a global stage, I then joined the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), and worked to support the Ministry of Health and Child Care in developing more relevant and impactful solutions to challenges in TB prevention and management. Later, as a CHAI representative in the Zimbabwe COVID-19 Response Taskforce, I developed tools to help ensure equitable distribution of essential commodities to healthcare facilities nationwide.'
I am committed to establishing and supporting impact-driven organisations that will improve the lives of Zimbabweans and Africans at large; and was drawn to the Oxford Said Business School because of its emphasis on nurturing intellectual vitality and providing students with the tools and resources to become more influential world leaders. I am excited not only because my MBA journey will bring me closer to realising my vision, but also because it holds possibilities that I have not even begun to think of!

Takura Chimbuya

Said Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: Zimbabwe

College: Green Templeton College

‘Joining Standard Bank, Africa’s largest integrated financial services and credit provider, after completing an engineering degree was certainly not an easy transition. On the surface this transition seemed to be part of my plan, but this was far from the reality brought about the challenges of the immigrant job search. With my transition, I focused on learning, adapting and obtaining new skills. These experiences built my career to become an entrepreneur in Standard Bank’s New Business Ventures and Innovation team where I led a stream in the bank’s first digital agricultural smallholder lending product. Today I understand the behavioral, cultural, and societal influences of low income individuals in rural communities and the process to make decisions, innovate, and deliver products that directly affect these individuals’ livelihoods.

I am eager to start my MBA at Said Business School; a programme which embeds Africa focused initiatives, case studies and business electives whilst committing to ensuring Africa is represented in its learning pedagogy. Said Business School also provides pragmatic business principles and approaches to build financially sustainable enterprises that target the non-consumption markets. Lastly, I aim to draw from a diverse class of individuals and lecturers, focused on creating meaningful, scalable change. I also seek to contribute my knowledge and skills to my MBA class and with them, drive inclusive prosperity and solve the pervasive challenges facing the world.

I am extremely passionate and motivated by the promise that technology and innovation holds in helping millions of Africans leverage their entrepreneurial energy and how business will affect and in turn effect developmental change on the African continent and the world.’

I am thankful and honoured to have been awarded the Said Business School Foundation Scholarship. I am also privileged to join a strong community of scholars and the wider Oxford Community.’

Benjamin Constable

Jacobs Foundation Scholarship & Said Business School Foundation Scholarship

Countries of nationality: New Zealand & UK

College: Lincoln College

‘Originally from Christchurch, New Zealand, I gained a BSc, Sum Cum Laude, in Physics from Gettysburg College before moving to South Africa to pursue a fellowship with PeacePlayers International and to play professional basketball for the Kwa Zulu Natal Marlins. On the completion of my fellowship in 2016, I founded ‘Freshbox,’ a social enterprise that uses a buy-one-give-one model to feed children at-risk of malnutrition. FreshBox currently feeds hundreds of children in Durban and I am undertaking the MBA to learn how to scale proven social business models like FreshBox.’
Michael Sean Covey
Said Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: USA
College: Green Templeton College

‘I feel very grateful to be awarded a Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship and for the chance to join an incredible group of classmates—at a university that uniquely serves the entire world.

After earning a BA in Political Science from Brigham Young University, I joined Cicero Group, a boutique management consulting firm, where I got to consult with all types of clients—from global telecom providers and grocery store chains, to public universities and historic zoos. Throughout our various engagements, I realised that my passion was in building teams and individual lives, not just efficient operations.

In 2017, I left the consulting world to become the Executive Director of Bridle Up Hope, a non-profit organisation whose purpose is to build mental wellness in at-risk youth, through a unique integration of horse training and life-skills development. Originally founded as a small programme in memory of my late sister, Bridle Up Hope has gone on to transform hundreds of lives and expand its programmes in three countries. Now, we have plans to license our curriculum to dozens and then hundreds of satellite locations around the world. Oxford was the natural choice for building on my passion of leveraging business to scale social impact.

At Oxford, I’m excited to learn from my classmates and the broader community, as we together seek to make a meaningful contribution in the world.’

Ayuna Danzanova
Said Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: Russia
College: Green Templeton College

‘I am a Russian of Buryat descent, who was born and raised in Ulan-Ude, a Siberian city in the Far East of Russia. At the age of 17 I moved to Moscow for my undergraduate studies in Finance at one of Russia’s most renowned universities, Financial University under the Government of the Russian Federation, where I graduated with honours.

Following graduation, I remained in Moscow as I commenced my corporate career. My career has since seen me working for two of the largest accounting companies in the world, getting an ACCA charter, enhancing my experience from auditor to consultant in deal advisory, moving up from an associate to a manager and getting a once in a lifetime experience to work in Africa.

Through working at KPMG, I sought a secondment opportunity that led me to Kenya where I lived and worked for six months. The experience saw me explore her unique nature and wildlife, visit small towns and neighbouring Tanzania, build lifelong friendships, undertake impactful work, and help the less fortunate.

In addition to travelling, I have a passion for skincare, beauty and media, which resulted in me becoming an amateur YouTuber and starting my own channel. I started off with a borrowed professional camera and tripod, purchased a microphone, and learnt video editing. Soon afterwards, I began uploading videos in which I shared my personal insights on skincare with the rest of the world.

I am extremely grateful for the support from the Saïd Business School Foundation and honoured to be an ambassador of the School and a Forté Fellow.’
José Afonso Pinheiro  
Said Business School Foundation Scholarship  
Country of nationality: Brazil  
College: St Antony's College  
'I am exceptionally honoured and grateful to be awarded the Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship. To come to Oxford is the realisation of a personal dream and I look forward to actively supporting the Saïd community.

My previous experiences have prepared me to capitalise on this unique opportunity. My desire to acquire leadership skills and promote positive change to Latin America’s business landscape led me to pursue a Business Administration degree at Fundação Getulio Vargas in São Paulo, Brazil. After graduation, I chose to build a career in Investment Banking in order to acquire solid technical skills and to be exposed to different companies and industries.

During my five years at the Japanese bank Nomura, I coordinated projects across a variety of industries including infrastructure, natural resources, consumer goods, and financial services. What I liked most about my job was the opportunity to obtain significant international exposure and experience by partnering with clients and colleagues based abroad on a daily basis. The global perspective prompted me to pursue an international MBA programme and subsequent career path.

The choice of Oxford Saïd came naturally for me as the University provides an environment with diversity of thought that is second to none, and is uniquely committed to tackling global scale issues. I am thrilled about the opportunity of working with, and learning from, inspiring colleagues and faculty, building friendships for life and having unforgettable experiences during my time at Oxford.’

Alexander De Sina  
Said Business School Foundation Scholarship  
Country of nationality: UK, USA & Italy  
College: Christ Church  
'When I was a child, my seventh-grade teacher asked the class to present what we’d each like to do with our life. I replied confidently that I would become both a pianist and an investment banker, despite his derision. Since then, I have built a career as an international classical soloist—designing, financing and performing in a wide range of concerts and media projects across three continents. Along this path, I have crafted a defining artistry and deep theoretical expertise, and I have borne out the economic and managerial experience that brings dreams to reality. I am truly proud that my achievements have led me to be admitted to the MBA at the Saïd Business School of the University of Oxford within the 1+1 Programme, the first-ever in combination with the MSt in Music.

With my undergraduate studies in molecular biology, I feel at home thinking at the intersection of multiple disciplines and styles, and I work especially on how to integrate seemingly disparate assets into a unified harmony. My vision is to pioneer a private equity-based solution to synergise the value derivation of real estate with the musical performances communities create within their spaces—harnessing the increasing valuation of live content after the Great Disruption of the digital market, as elucidated within the Goldman Sachs report "Music in the Air", via the unique liquidity attributes of this asset class. As such, my research at Oxford focuses upon equity valuation and asset management, portfolio theory and quantitative methods of correlation, as well as “Spotify” and the monetisation of digital content following the Great Disruption, and applications of copyright law within the rap industry.'
Cameron Dering
Said Business School Foundation Scholarship
Country of nationality: USA
College: St Cross College
‘Equipped with an undergraduate degree in Journalism and internship experience in marketing and corporate communications for global brands like Heineken and Calvin Klein, I spent the early years of my professional career building a freelance enterprise in television production that spanned New York City and Los Angeles. Working on live national broadcasts like The Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, The Oscars, and three seasons of The Voice, I learned how to thrive in a fast-paced, deadline driven environment and used my connections to encourage more young female professionals and recent graduates to pursue this type of behind-the-scenes work.

In 2015, I pivoted my career from entertainment to financial services and within six months was training commodity traders at the world’s preeminent hedge funds and top-tier banks on how to decrease their trade latency and mitigate their hedging risk using my company’s electronic execution platform and proprietary algorithm tools. During my most recent role in Desktop Sales for Intercontinental Exchange, a global leader in electronic markets and parent company to the New York Stock Exchange, I loved working with senior executives across the largest energy trading and oil brokerage firms to identify and implement creative workflow solutions utilizing our technology. Working in FinTech has also increased my passion for advancing women in business, having established multiple women-in-finance Meetups across New York City and London. In the office, I’ve dedicated time and energy beyond my job responsibilities to promote female empowerment, from mentoring junior staff members and putting them forward for promotions to leading inclusive hiring efforts that resulted in more women employed on my team at a global Fortune 500 company. I feel inspired when elevating fellow females to reach their full potential, knowing we are tipping the balance of power in the workplace, and I’ll continue to help foster strong communities of women-supporting-women throughout business school and beyond.

I am immensely grateful to receive a Said Business School Foundation scholarship, which helps make my dream of improving business acumen and cultivating leadership skills at the University of Oxford a reality. I look forward to getting involved with the Oxford Women’s Leadership Alliance and the Skoll Centre for Social Entrepreneurship’s ‘Leading for Impact’ programme, as well as representing SBS as a Forté Fellow.’

Jacqueline Donohoe
Global Leadership Council Scholarship for Women
Countries of nationality: USA, UK & Ireland
College: Lincoln College
‘I am honoured to receive the Global Leadership Council Scholarship for Women to support my graduate study at the University of Oxford. While an undergraduate at Dartmouth College, I was a visiting student at New College and returned to conduct my senior thesis research, receiving the James B. Reynolds Scholarship to pursue a master’s degree in History at Oxford. Having deferred my graduate studies, I sincerely look forward to now returning to the University.

Currently, I am the VP of Development at Maven Screen Media, a film and television development and production company that I launched, dedicated to increasing representation for women in front of and behind the camera. My prior career experience includes TSG Entertainment, where I managed studio and production partner relationships on films with Twentieth Century Fox, Searchlight Pictures, Chernin Entertainment, and Lightstorm Entertainment, as well as roles at William Morris Endeavor and Goldman Sachs.’
Oliver Doraisamy  
**Said Business School Foundation Scholarship**  
Country of nationality: Australia, UK  
College: Christ Church

‘Driving sustainable approaches to economic development has been a common thread throughout my career, both as an Australian diplomat and foreign service officer, and as Director of a social enterprise supporting education and community businesses in rural Uganda.

Immediately prior to starting the MBA, I spent three years representing Australia at the United Nations and World Trade Organisation in Geneva, leading our engagement in international negotiations and discussions on trade and development, foreign investment and women’s economic empowerment. Prior to that, I led a team of 50 workers and volunteers providing primary education to more than 600 disadvantaged children in Buikwe, Uganda, working with the local community over several years to establish an innovative financial sustainability model.

My career vision is to support sustainable development efforts through enhanced collaboration among the public, private and non-profit sectors, and in particular by maximising the social impact of businesses.

Having obtained a combined Law (First Class Honours)/International Studies degree from the University of Technology Sydney, I am excited about the opportunity to expand my knowledge, skills and networks through the Oxford MBA, and to take advantage of all that the world-class and multi-faceted programme offers. I am extremely grateful for having received a Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship to help me do so.’

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Kevin Eguiluz  
**Said Business School Foundation Scholarship**  
Country of nationality: Mexico & USA  
College: Wolfson College

‘I grew up working for my family’s agribusinesses founded in 1987. My work developed my passion for agriculture, business, and conservation. Eventually my desire to understand various engineering disciplines encouraged me to earn a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from North Carolina State University. My undergraduate years were formative and helped me become more self-aware and globally minded.

Post-graduation I learned from and worked with doyens of agriculture and conservation. I took the time to understand global trends in both sectors while working on for-profit and non-profit initiatives. To date, I have overseen acquisitions, data initiatives, and product and portfolio management across a multitude of organisations and geographies. My intent during my studies is to further specialise in Asset Management, Finance, and Technology.

I chose Oxford because of its inclusive nature, the MBA’s focus on solving global challenges, and the wealth of perspectives from cultures across the globe. I feel grateful to have received the Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship and I look forward to contributing to Oxford’s success.’
Sarah Ehlinger Affotey
Forté Fellowship & Said Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: USA
College: St Hilda’s College

‘With an academic and professional background that bridges the natural and social sciences, I have always felt comfortable in the middle. Speaking the ‘languages’ of geology, health, and development, I led teams in academia, nonprofit, government, and healthcare on a variety of projects from WASH in Ghana and Sierra Leone to nursing education in Tanzania. Being a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar at the University of Ghana further developed my ability to liaise between places and cultures.

In my most recent role as Executive Director of the Milwaukee Global Health Consortium, I became interested in corporate engagement with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Private businesses seem to have been left out of the sustainability conversation, despite having an outsized reach through customers, shareholders, and supply chains in addition to financial resources. The MBA will close my skills gap to ‘speak’ one more language.

I was drawn to Oxford Said for the obvious reasons of its focus on women leaders, social impact, and the African continent, but at a deeper level I was attracted to its embrace of the uncomfortable. As the Dean once said, it is both old and new, fast-paced and contemplative. It acknowledges the paradox in an era where business is too often portrayed as either the problem or the solution instead of one actor among many. With the Forté Fellowship and Said Business School Foundation Scholarship, I know my career will form deeper relationships so that business can be one piece of the progress towards climate action, racial justice, and global health.’

Mareks Erts
MBA Leavers’ Class Scholarship & Said Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: Latvia
College: Lincoln College

‘I grew up in Latvia where I spent the first 18 years of my life. I then moved to the Netherlands where I received my bachelor and master degrees from Tilburg University and Erasmus University Rotterdam respectively. Having graduated, I moved to London where over the past five years I’ve been working at EY Transaction Advisory Services focusing on valuations related to sell-side and buy-side M&A, leveraged buyouts and equity issuance. During this time I have had the privilege to work with some of the largest corporations and private equity houses in the world, which in itself has been an amazing experience.

In my free time I am an avid fan of sports. Since the age of five I have competed in a variety of martial arts sports, including boxing and kick-boxing, a habit I intend to pursue in Oxford as well. In addition, I love travelling. Having visited and lived in the most distant parts of the world has truly opened my mind and changed my perception of the world and my place in it.

I am deeply honoured to receive the MBA Leaver’s Class scholarship and a Said Business School Foundation scholarship; I look forward to being a part of and making a contribution towards Oxford University and its community.’
Nkechi Eze
Standard Bank Africa Chairman’s Scholarship
Nationality: Nigeria
College: Wadham College

‘I graduated from Brown University with a degree in Modern Culture and Media. Soon after, during my career in advertising and digital media at Dell, I came up with AsoEbiBella, a fashion tech company. We connect hundreds of SMEs in the fashion and media space to over 30 million people online every week, leading to significant revenue and recognition for the Nigerian wedding and fashion industries. I have been honoured by the Forbes Africa 30 Under 30 list and spoken on digital media, marketing and the impact of these industries on our economy on CNN and in conferences around the world.

The past few years have been enlightening, but I know the skills I will gain at Saïd, with its mission to make leaders who solve global challenges, will enable me to expand my business and build new ventures rooted in Nigeria and Africa as a whole.

I’m eager to meet my passionate cohort in the beautiful city of Oxford, where the knowledge and local context they will provide in classroom discussions will be as beneficial as what I learn from Oxford’s world-class professors.

Labs and lectures that emphasise social enterprise will definitely be on my agenda, as learning more ways of making an impact alongside profit is very important to me.

I am so grateful for the Standard Bank Africa Chairman’s scholarship, as I will return to Nigeria with a better understanding of the world and how to play an even bigger part in making it a better place.’

Chisom Ezebuka
Said Business School Foundation Scholarship
Nationality: Nigeria
College: St Hugh’s College

‘After graduating with a Master of Arts degree in Advertising (First Class Honours) from University of Nigeria, I began my professional career as a Junior Copywriter at Mullen Lowe and rose to Lead Copywriter. During weekdays, I executed multiple brand campaigns spanning FMCGs and Telecommunications sectors and on the weekends, I volunteered at the local outreach post to assist with the underserved.

I was later appointed as the Personal Assistant (Media) to the Founder/Chairman of Zenith Bank Plc, Nigeria’s largest bank by shareholders fund, where I also worked as the Philanthropy Manager at Jim Ovia Foundation. This meant volunteering four hours every weekday. At Jim Ovia Foundation, I got a larger platform to co-create programmes that affected education and entrepreneurship. We were either signing $2m partnerships to support African STEM scholars, managing 200 scholars annually, organising entrepreneurship development programmes or pitching venture philanthropy ideas to knockout poverty. These spurred my passion for driving growth in my country.

I applied to Oxford Said because I needed an MBA that is not just focused on solving global challenges, but is also able to provide an experience embedded in an environment that nurtures and interrogates one’s values, where skills grow in a framework of responsibility, service and trust. To which Oxford, with its unparalleled history of shaping leaders, will definitely provide.

As an MBA Candidate and Said Business School Foundation scholar, I aim to develop the skills and networks needed to lend strategic solutions to the problems of unemployment and poverty in emerging economies.’
Augusto Manuel Fernandez

Said Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: Argentina & Mexico

College: St Catherine’s College

‘After graduating from the University of Rochester with bachelor degrees in Business, Financial Economics, and Political Science, I began working with Nomura Securities as an Investment Banker. During my time at Nomura, I advised companies in the Latin America region and later on focused on Global Technology, Media & Telecommunications clients. Throughout this experience, I led transactions across Equity & Debt Capital Markets and Mergers & Acquisitions Advisory.

I chose Oxford because of its focus on social impact, its circular economy initiatives, and the diversity of the student body. While pursuing my undergraduate degrees, I developed an interest in the circular economy and recycling practices. I started working on an early-stage recycling platform that received funding and distinction from the likes of the National Science Foundation, NY Business Plan Competition, and App Idea Awards. I am excited to meet like-minded people in the MBA programme and develop the skill set necessary to continue the journey towards a circular society.

I am extremely grateful to be awarded the Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship, which will allow me to broaden my experiences and gain tools that will be crucial for my involvement in circular economic systems across the developing world.’

Nils Fitzian

Said Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: Switzerland

College: Queen’s College

‘I strongly believe that a broad education together with an active interdisciplinary exchange is the very foundation of problem solving and hence sustainable and positive impact in the world. This conviction not only encouraged me to study Business Administration at the University of St. Gallen where multidisciplinary exchange is ingrained in its curriculum structure but also played an essential role in my decision to join McKinsey as a generalist consultant.

My focus within McKinsey lies on supporting Consumer Goods and Retail clients in Switzerland and Europe on sustainably growing their top and bottom line. I’ve also had the privilege to explore (and am still exploring) a range of other industries and functions around the world; including telecommunication, chemicals, automotive, etc.

Ultimately, my strong belief in the power of multidisciplinary exchange is also the main reason why I chose Oxford with its diverse class-profile and underlying college system for my MBA.

I am convinced that my MBA at Saïd Business School will help me with my personal progression in many different ways. First of all, I see the MBA year as a great opportunity and privilege to have time to take a step back and to reflect on my priorities in life and on what I want to achieve going forward. Second, I am looking forward to getting to know people from a diverse set of backgrounds and cultures and am sure that such a diverse environment will have a highly positive impact on my reflections during this time. Third, I believe that this year will help me to further develop and improve my tool-set I need to achieve my future goals.

I feel incredibly honoured and privileged to have been awarded the Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship.’
Humphrey Gibbs

Linbury Scholarship

Country of nationality: UK

College: Lady Margaret Hall

‘After reading French and Spanish at Bristol University, a rich degree that also comprised history, politics and arts modules, I moved into film and television, making mostly scripted drama with Working Title, Heyday Films, the BBC, Ealing Studios and Channel 4. I have been fortunate to be involved in the development and production of several fantastic films and shows, not least the adaptations of War and Peace and Paddington, a high-risk concept that went on to more than quintuple its budget at the box office. I have also made short films, including a drama I wrote, directed and produced in Los Angeles, and I have come to realise that strong voices and teams result in wonderful entertainment; provided the resources are available.

But the independent arm of the industry is now under threat, and I want to make sure that I am in a position to contribute to its revival. I feel incredibly fortunate to have been welcomed on to such a fantastic programme, and Saïd’s brilliant MBA curriculum, lecturers and diverse cohort will help me gain insight, strategy and leadership skills to take back to the industry to help build a platform to filmmakers and audiences. I am especially grateful to the Linbury Trust for awarding me a Linbury Scholarship - a huge honour. This is a time when progressive thought and leadership will be needed more than ever, and I can’t wait to get to Oxford, meet the group and immerse myself in the school and city’s culture.’

Inkeri Hao

Oxford Said Giving Day Scholarship

Country of nationality: China

College: Queen’s College

‘I have been pursuing a career in finance around the field of M&A transactions since graduating from SYSU. I had worked as a financial advisor in IBD of GF Securities for four and a half years in China before I was promoted to be an investment manager in GF Xinde, the PE arm under GF Securities. In this position, I had the chance to be involved in numerous cross-border M&As, including the USD 500 million LBO of an Australian company that my team finalised.

I see the great potential in cross-border M&As between China and other countries, and decided to take it as my career. This also suits my personality and interest to be exposed to the diversity. Through the MBA programme in Oxford, I hope to make more friends with elites from all over the world, further broadening my global perspective and international network.

I’m very grateful for and encouraged by the scholarship that Saïd has provided. I’m so excited to join Oxford and will do my best to contribute to the Oxford community.’
Elie Ibrahim
Said Business School Foundation Scholarship
Country of nationality: UK & Lebanon
College: New College

‘I grew up in Beirut, where I completed my primary and secondary education. At the age of 17, I relocated to London to pursue my bachelor’s in engineering, a humbling experience for me at the time, you think you know a lot of stuff - then you discover how much you can learn through a simple conversation with your peers.

Upon graduating, I joined the Graduate Development Program at Laing O’Rourke, an engineering enterprise with a disruptive innovation approach to the construction industry, where I was fortunate to work on some of London’s landmark projects, namely the “Cheesegrater”

After six years in the highly structured engineering space, I was eager for a new challenge. At the same time, I had always held a passion for the luxury sector since working part-time at Louis Vuitton through university, experiencing what luxury represents at its core: quality craftsmanship, heritage, and selling more than just products - stories and experiences. As a founding member at ROLZO, a luxury mobility service that offers on-demand access to car rentals and chauffeur services globally, I had the opportunity to work closer to this passion while experiencing the fast-paced unstructured environment of entrepreneurship.

I chose the Oxford MBA because of its diverse class profile and its focus on entrepreneurship. My life spanning the Middle East and Europe allowed me to experience first-hand how multicultural openness and interactions can impact one’s growth through shared experiences, and I have always strived to form genuine relationships that go beyond the “labels”. As a Saïd Business School Foundation Scholar, this will continue to be an asset in the diverse SBS community, and I look forward for my time at Oxford University to discover more of my own identity and who I am vis-a-vis the world.’

Funmilayo Ilawole
Said Business School Foundation Scholarship
Country of nationality: Nigeria
College: Green Templeton College

‘I believe economics can clarify the reason behind the systemic poverty in the country, and economic empowerment is a pathway to lifting people out of poverty.

I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Economics from the University of Lagos in 2016 and began my career as a management consultant with Mckinsey & Company. After graduation, I was intentional about choosing a career path where I felt I could contribute both directly or indirectly to the prosperity of private businesses and the improvement of processes in the public sector. I have spent four years as a management consultant executing diverse projects ranging from: the development of a three-year strategy for a leading financial institution, designing performance management systems, creating retail footprint optimisation strategies, managing capability building programmes for a government organisation, designing operations for ventures.

My role as a consultant and adviser fueled my determination to empower and upskill people to improve their standard of living; this has shaped my passion for building strong institutions via human capabilities, technology, and creating economic opportunities for youths in Nigeria.

My intention to obtain an MBA is to gain experience in developing and designing strategies to address practical issues in industries. I am excited about Oxford’s interdisciplinary curriculum, learning from renowned professors, the diverse perspective from my classmates, and adapting to the fun community.

I am proud to be a Saïd Business School Foundation scholar and grateful for the opportunity to represent the Said community and expand the school’s reach and relevance in Africa.’
Chenge Jin

Oxford-Leo Tong Chen Scholarship & Alumni Annual Fund Scholarship

Country of nationality: China

College: St Anne’s College

‘After graduating from School of Economics at Peking University, I joined PwC China as a strategy consultant and focused on automotive industry. In 2017, as China’s burgeoning used car industry exploded, I decided to seize this opportunity and joined Uxin Group, the largest used car e-commerce company in China. During those two years I worked as a strategic project leader right under Chief Strategy Officer, conducting corporate strategy analysis and driving initiatives across the group.

The recent revolution in the auto industry generates great market opportunities for emerging players, and they need advanced management mechanisms to secure their long-term survival. I’m willing to fit in this trend as a general management role and Oxford MBA programme will enhance my business knowledge and leadership. Said Business School will create a diverse environment and everyone dares to speak out while being open to different points of view. These will challenge me to shape a global leadership mindset and seek common ground among the differences.

The Oxford-Leo Tong Chen Scholarship and Alumni Annual Fund Scholarship provide me with not only financial support, but also recognition of my career achievement in a non-traditional industry sector. With more courage, confidence and resource, I definitely hope to contribute my China market insights to the MBA and wider Oxford community, and to promote inspiring communication and discussion across different cultures and countries.’

Vivekraj Kannalagan

Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: Singapore

College: Hertford College

‘I began my career as an engineer in Sembcorp Marine, where I was involved in the construction of various offshore vessels. After which I joined TBH, a consultancy firm that specialises in Project Management. I loved solving the problems my clients faced and the variety of the work at TBH. The last few years at TBH have been exciting and challenging. However, I believe that for me to be successful in my future roles, I must learn about business. I chose Saïd Business School for my MBA because of the school’s drive for responsible business and the global perspective that a diverse cohort will provide me.

It is an honour to receive the Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship, and I am grateful to have the opportunity to learn from my talented classmates and access the world-class academic resources that will develop my skillset to contribute to the organisation that I will be part of.’
Luka Kaprov  
**Said Business School Foundation Scholarship**  
Country of nationality: Ukraine  
College: Christ Church  

‘I hold BSc in Business Management from King’s College London and MSc in Finance and Behavioural Science from Warwick Business School. Although I am UK educated, I have started my corporate career in Vienna, Austria, where I was first working as a management consultant at a boutique firm, then in a deals advisory unit of PwC and at this stage, I am a Senior Associate with UniCredit TMT M&A team.

In 2014 I have also co-founded a Ukrainian e-commerce platform that has reached 3,000 shipments per month in 2020. My passion is to utilise my international corporate experience and apply it in Ukrainian reality. From the start, our main intention was to build a socially responsible business following the examples of leading niche players worldwide.

There are both sentimental and practical reasons for me to choose Oxford Saïd. I remember when I was a small kid in Zaporizhia (an industrial city in the south-east of Ukraine where I was born) I often heard “Oxford” used as a figure of speech indicating the highest possible level of education. I think since then it has been my dream to have part of my education done there.

I can also relate to Oxford and Said Business School because I share a lot of their values. The need to act responsibly is even more apparent if you come from Ukraine where constant political turmoil, economic uncertainty and the ubiquitous corruption is the norm. I want to challenge this norm.

I am extremely grateful to receive the Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship and extremely excited to join the 2020-2021 cohort!’

Rami Karaki  
**Said Business School Foundation Scholarship**  
Country of nationality: Lebanon  
College: New College  

‘I grew up in Lebanon, a small country on the Mediterranean, and have lived there until I graduated from university. After completing my engineering studies, I moved to Dubai to work with JLL, a leading advisory firm focusing on real estate. After two years with the firm, I moved to a boutique consultancy where I focused on Private Equity and M&A mandates.

I spent four years working in the Middle East and was looking to experience a new market in order to have a more international profile.

Going for a top MBA programme was therefore, an obvious choice. I chose Oxford as the programme offers general business education and more technical, focused courses in a variety of fields for those who wish.

Through the Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship, I am privileged to attend the University of Oxford, not only to learn more, but to also have a tangible and meaningful impact in my community.

My post-MBA goal is to join a leading investment bank or fund, in order to become an accomplished investment professional. However in the long term, I would like to set up a VC fund in my native country, Lebanon, in order to help entrepreneurs and start-ups in the region reach their full potential. I believe that my experience to date as well as the time I will spend in Oxford would make me an impactful player in the Lebanese VC scene, which I expect to flourish in the future.’
Réka Kassay-Farkas
Oxford-Weidenfeld and Hoffmann Scholarship
Country of nationality: Hungary
College: Hertford College

‘I was born and raised in Hungary and graduated with a BA degree in International Business, and a double MSc in Finance and International Management from Corvinus University of Budapest and CEMS. Aspiring to work on complex global issues, I started my career at McKinsey and Company in Budapest. As a management consultant I had the chance to work globally in various industries including banking, energy, and the public and social sector. My passion for talent development and education led me to Generation, an education-to-employment non-profit founded by McKinsey, where I leveraged my business experience to improve pricing decisions in the organisation. In order to gain further education sector experience, I joined Nova Pioneer, an independent school network in Kenya and South Africa, where I researched potential expansion areas in the physical and online space.

In the future I want to work for mission-driven organisations that help improve young people’s access to high quality education and jobs. I chose Said Business School because of its focus on purposeful leadership and social impact. I am excited to learn about social entrepreneurship and impact investing, and discuss the role of different sectors in achieving social change. I am humbled to have received the Oxford-Weidenfeld and Hoffmann Scholarship and excited to join the Leadership Programme that, similarly to the Oxford MBA and Said Scholar programmes, allows me to join a network of inspiring classmates who have different backgrounds and perspectives but share similarly aspirational dreams.’

Nehmat Kaur
Alumni Annual Fund Scholarship
Country of nationality: India
College: St Anne’s College

‘I started working in digital journalism in 2016, immediately after graduating from Swarthmore College, where I majored in Political Science and minored in English Literature. Over the past four years, I’ve worked as an editor and writer at thewire.in, one of the world’s only independently-funded non-profit media organisations. I’ve created and managed a new media product aimed exclusively at young Indians, livewire.thewire.in; and I’ve worked as an audience engagement editor at HuffPost India, where I combined data and editorial insights to expand the brand’s audience and deepen engagement with existing readers.

Through these diverse experiences, it became increasingly clear to me that an MBA will be essential to not only weather the seismic changes that the media industry is facing globally, but also shape the industry’s future. I was especially attracted to Oxford’s programme because of its interdisciplinary approach to the MBA, and its focus on digital economy and culture, along with the opportunity to participate in the ongoing work at the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at Oxford.

I’m grateful for the Alumni Annual Fund Scholarship not only for the opportunities it affords me, but also the validation it has provided me, as someone with an unconventional path to an MBA. I hope to pay it forward in the years to come.’
Qinglin Ke

Oxford-Leo Tong Chen Scholarship

Country of nationality: China

College: Harris Manchester College

‘In the first five years of my career, I wore different hats, from Technical Sales to District Sales Manager, in medical device industry. As I am always thirst of new things and sense of fulfillment, I decided to delve into a new industry, working as director of AI medical department in a healthcare startup. Based on my performance in helping the company secure A-round financing, I was promoted to lead the CHD management department, in charge of the business management and operation, taking more responsibilities and playing more strategic roles.

Oxford Said MBA focuses on social responsibility, which I believe is the core value of healthcare enterprises. And I am thrilled to learn from the diversified cohort at Oxford and start my gorgeous journey.

I am very honoured to be a Leo Tong Chen Scholar as the scholarship not only provides financial help but also offers the opportunity to join the scholar community, where I can meet like-minded people and build lifelong network.’

Modi Kutua

Said Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: Tanzania

College: Green Templeton College

‘As someone who has lived, worked, and travelled across various African countries, I have developed a passion for the continent and a desire to contribute meaningfully to its progress. This passion led me to the investment industry, as I believe that the capital markets can be a strong catalyst for growth and development when used in a socially responsible way.

My professional experience has afforded me the opportunity to work on the expansion of the largest privately owned investment management firm in Africa, Allan Gray, as they entered the Kenyan market. I was involved with the project from initial concept, research and development, all the way through to implementation. In my most recent role as an Investment Specialist at Alexander Forbes Investments, I was the assistant portfolio manager for the South African and pan-African Private Markets Portfolios, with approximately $400 million invested across private equity, private debt, infrastructure and direct property. These experiences have given me a good understanding of the challenges of doing business in Africa, and the nuances of operating across different cultures, languages, political environments and currencies.

My pan-African interest has been a running theme through both my academic and professional career, and the strong Africa focus is a big part of the reason why I am excited to pursue my MBA at Said Business School and why I am honoured to be a Said Business School Foundation Scholar. I am excited to explore the commonality and differences of experiences with my classmates from all over the world, and to develop a global mindset with a broad base of experiences to draw from.’
Aitian Li
Said Business School Foundation Scholarship
Country of nationality: China
College: St Catherine’s College

‘Upon graduating from University of International Business and Economics in China with Honours, I launched my career at PwC as a transaction advisor, providing financial due diligence for top-tier Private Equity and Corporation clients. I witnessed various financial dilemmas faced by companies in their earlier stages, figured out possible solutions for them, and gained insights across a range of different sectors.

Prior to Oxford, I worked at Private Equity department of BOCOM International, an influential integrated platform for securities-related financial services of Bank of Communications (one of China’s five largest state-owned commercial banks) in Hong Kong. I engaged as a financial investor in TMT deals in China, Southeast Asia, and Middle East market. My time at BOCOMI was enlightening, it nurtured my passion post MBA to highly involve myself in operational management of my invested companies to enhance their intrinsic value. Making the right investment decision is only half-way, while assisting and accelerating the growth of its business is the other half.

I feel honoured and grateful to be awarded a Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship. In the year ahead, I look forward to making the most of this opportunity by learning from the diverse cohort and accomplished faculty both within Saïd Business School and across the University.’

Ian Loh
Said Business School Foundation Scholarship
Country of nationality: Singapore
College: Christ Church

‘After attaining my Bachelor of Economics degree from Tsinghua University, I began my professional career in an investment bank in Hong Kong which gave me the opportunity to be deeply involved in Asia’s capital markets through specialising in equity derivatives solutions for Greater China institutional clients. Being passionate about the primary markets in Southeast Asia, my most recent work in Singapore focuses on financial modelling, bank valuation as well as private market transactions.

The Oxford MBA programme’s emphasis on social impact, responsible business and moral leadership made it a truly unique programme for leaders who seek to address global challenges. By studying alongside an international cohort, I look forward to broadening my network of like-minded peers across geographies and industries with similar drive to make a positive impact to the world.

In the long term, I would like to contribute to the Oxford Business Alumni Network through my Asian experience as well as capital markets expertise.'
Julian Geoffrey López

Said Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: UK & Mexico

College: Pembroke College

‘Finding human-centered solutions to tackle issues adversely affecting the world is my passion. For the last few years, I worked at a global development organisation based in Washington, D.C. I sat in my organisation’s Center for Applied Learning and Impact, where I collaborated with a group of technical experts to design, pilot, and evaluate the impact of our initiatives while also providing technical assistance to 400 staff across 50 global projects on an as-needed basis. In addition, I co-led my organisation’s data initiatives to create more effective public and civic institutions by building their capacity to make better evidence-informed decisions, specifically in low-resource environments.

Throughout my career, I have supported over a dozen global development projects that span the globe, by designing effective interventions, creating inclusion frameworks, and facilitating workshops which build leadership skills. While I know that I have made a difference in the lives of the beneficiaries I have supported, I also know that I can make a greater impact by working in the for-profit sector. For this reason, I’m excited to study my MBA at the University of Oxford to gain mobility outside of the nonprofit sector and explore social entrepreneurship to scale market-driven solutions.

I am grateful to be a recipient of the Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship and I’m eager to work alongside changemakers from diverse background and geographies throughout the MBA programme.’

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Halima Mahmood

Said Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: UK

College: Queen’s College

‘I achieved a BSc (hons) in Biochemistry and made the decision not to follow a traditional career path in science. My appreciation of the significant role pharmaceutical companies play in people’s everyday lives led me to pursue a career in the industry’s fast-paced business sector.

Having worked as a business development professional over the past six years, I have been involved in several innovative medical therapies and drug development projects. As I advanced in my role, I became determined to specialise in business at the highest level and accelerate my career progression. This goal intuitively led me to the MBA programme at Oxford’s prestigious Said Business School. With its close association to Oxford’s world-class medical and technology research departments, I had no doubt that Said was an ideal fit for my industry and perfectly aligned to my career goals.

With the world’s focus now on remedying the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the race to develop a successful vaccine is fierce. I therefore believe there is no better time for me to develop myself as a leader and make an impact in the crucial yet rewarding healthcare industry.

Coming from humble beginnings, I am truly honoured and eternally grateful to have been accepted by the University of Oxford as a representative of the Saïd Business School Foundation. It is a dream come true. The invaluable support from the faculty has motivated me further to become an influential leader and advocate of Oxford’s mission of solving global issues through academic excellence.’
Maha Mandal

Oxford-Leo Tong Chen Scholarship & Trinity Saïd Scholarship

Country of nationality: India
College: Trinity College

‘I’m both humbled and honoured to have received the Oxford Leo Tong Chen Scholarship and the Trinity Saïd Scholarship, without which, I would not have been able to realise my dream of attending Oxford Said Business School. I was born and raised in India, and following my BEng in Electronics and Telecommunications, I also worked there for a time as an Analyst at Deloitte. Aspiring to work at the cutting edge of technology, however, I moved to the UK to complete my Masters in Management before joining Dell as a Technology Consultant for large global clients.

Joining the Oxford Said Business School for my MBA is my opportunity to learn about responsible business whilst also immersing myself in Oxford University’s revered society culture, where I plan to advance my knowledge of emerging technologies through debate, discussion and the sharing of ideas with those who share my passion for technology. After my MBA I’m aiming to work at the intersection of technology and business with organisations implementing innovative solutions on a global scale. I can’t wait to meet my diverse and accomplished classmates, and I’m looking forward to learning and growing as a group.’

Dalina Morón

Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: Argentina
College: Green Templeton College

‘Being from a small town in Patagonia Argentina, and growing to have an international career with Google has given me perspective. On one hand, my upbringing gave me the skills to be resilient, find creative solutions and fight for inclusive workspaces. On the other, it gave me empathy that enables me to work with diverse international teams, embrace every opportunity, and an inclination to go the extra mile to solve problems. As well as having a penchant for volunteering whenever I have a chance. I believe that everyone has in their power making this a better world, and that starts on your daily activities.

I attended college in Buenos Aires at Universidad de San Andrés, with a scholarship. I graduated as a Licentiate in Communications and later got a job at a Digital agency. After a couple of years I landed a role at Google Argentina. This was my first step towards having an international career. With Google, I was able to move to Mexico where I worked with all Central and South American countries. Followed by my most recent experience in the US, where I managed accounts from US and Canada (mainly Auto and HPC). I gathered experience managing vendors teams, launching products and working with external agencies and customers. In my free time, I helped new hires ramp up, organised events to integrate my team and shared my experiences with others.

Further understanding data analysis and strategic decision making is what drives me to study an MBA at Oxford, but the end goal is to fully embrace a global managerial career. I am looking forward to keep working on other countries/regions, and learning from others. With almost nine years of working experience in online advertisement, digital measurement and media operations, I am excited for the next step in my career. Moving abroad and working in different cultures (Argentina, Mexico and USA) has made me more conscious of how valuable it is to immerse yourself in other cultures in this globalised era.

This scholarship has opened doors for me, and will help me towards becoming a better leader. I will continue to work to create more inclusive workplaces/classrooms, and help others succeed.’
David Muriuki
Eni-Oxford Africa Scholarship
Country of nationality: Kenya
College: Keble College

‘I’ve spent my entire professional career thus far trying to grow the local capital markets of my home country, Kenya. Strong domestic capital markets are the foundation of a thriving private sector and the key driver for employment and sustainable growth. I count among my greatest achievements developing an investor base that I’ve tapped to raise tens of millions of pounds of local currency funding.

Buoyed by the success of making the local capital markets a viable source of funding for an ever-growing list of firms, I embarked on an entrepreneurial path of my own. I co-founded a boutique advisory firm focused on raising capital for local SMEs. I’m proud that in our first year of operation, we’ve won mandates to raise over fifteen million pounds.

Business school for me was an opportunity to learn with and from the best and be part of a network of students and faculty that shape the world. When it came time to take that step, Oxford was the natural choice for me not only because it is the leading institution of higher learning in the world but also because the business school has a very keen Africa focus. I’m humbled and grateful to have been awarded the Eni-Oxford Africa Scholarship to study at Saïd Business School. I look forward to being an ambassador for the School and embodying the scholarship committee’s aspirations of nurturing high potential Africans who can make a significant contribution to better leadership and governance on the continent.’

Jacob Murphy
Oxford-Leo Tong Chen Scholarship
Country of nationality: Australia
College: Magdalen College

‘My dream is to be a business leader working on major challenges in the world. I believe business is the most powerful vehicle to change the world due to its potential to create systemic and sustainable solutions to issues from the ground up. Business has the power to bring people together to work towards a common goal and I believe these powerful team environments can overcome any challenge.

I decided to study an MBA at Oxford University’s Saïd Business School as I believe it is the best place for me to continue to chase my dream. I am eager to work with and learn from a cohort of future business leaders from all over the world at Oxford as part of a truly international MBA programme embedded in a world leading university.

My journey to Oxford involves a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) from the University of Melbourne before joining AB InBev, the world’s largest brewer, where I progressed through multiple finance and supply chain roles across Asia-Pacific. I worked on implementing a major business integration and led business improvement projects. I then joined PAN Group, a business with the purpose to create environments that empower people with passion to chase their dreams to change the world. PAN invests in start-ups, social enterprises and underperforming businesses. I managed PAN’s active investment in an education technology company working with disadvantaged Australian’s to improve their social inclusion, confidence and skills to ultimately improve their chances of employment.

I am incredibly grateful to receive an Oxford - Leo Tong Chen Scholarship to support my journey at Oxford. This recognition is humbling and means a lot to me and my family. I look forward to making the most of the many opportunities and challenges ahead during my time at Oxford.'
Samuel Musah

Said Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: Nigeria

College: Green Templeton College

‘After graduating with a degree in Business Administration from the University of Lagos, I started my career at Access Bank Plc as an Assets and Liabilities Manager in the Global Markets team. Subsequently, I took on new roles in the Global Market’s Fixed Income Dealing unit and Project & Structured Finance unit, where I executed transactions across Sub-Saharan Africa and Europe. I later joined FSDH Merchant Bank, where I led the Assets and Liabilities Management team. I was responsible for managing the Bank’s interest rate risk and this involved developing and executing interest rate trading strategies, while ensuring the bank’s profitability targets were met.

I am passionate about education and financial literacy. These led me to join the faculty and work group of the Financial Markets Dealers Association of Nigeria and become a volunteer member of the Nigeria Economic Summit Group (NESG) - Financial Inclusion Policy Group. Also, I am a Member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA).

When I decided to pursue an MBA, Saïd Business School came as a natural choice, because of the School’s focus on social impact, commitment to tackling world-scale problems, and diverse network of brilliant minds leading change in various fields across the globe. For the year ahead, I am excited as the MBA programme affords me an opportunity to reinvent myself, learn new skills and gain insights into business from the world class faculty at Saïd Business School. One of my key objectives at Oxford Saïd is to build a network and collaborate with like-minded people, who have a common vision to make lasting impacts in the world.

I am profoundly grateful and honoured to be a recipient of the Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship. This scholarship has eased the financial pressure associated with attending the programme and ensured my dream becomes a reality.’

Heena Nathoo

Dean’s Africa Scholarship

Country of nationality: South Africa

College: St Hugh’s College

‘In my family, my generation has broken many ‘firsts’; from studying towards a degree, to working full time as a woman. But the opportunity to study at a world class institution, such as Oxford Said, seemed unrealistic.

The School’s and Dean’s commitment to the African continent, provided the platform to make this pipe dream attainable for many African students like myself. Yes, I am truly grateful to be the recipient of the Dean’s African Scholarship but also acknowledge the responsibility to contribute to this powerful initiative.

Prior to Oxford, I was Chief of Staff for the Marsh Advisory Africa team, based in Johannesburg, South Africa. Working closely with the leadership team, I managed a diverse set of strategic initiatives across people, clients and day-to-day operations. My proudest achievement was the development of a tailored advisory graduate programme. Here, I got the opportunity to mentor and empower young talented individuals who pushed the business to be geared for the future.

Through this holistic experience, I’ve realised that “doing good” and business can complement each other, and this potential remains largely untapped.

My ultimate aspiration is to lead a more purposeful and impactful career. At Saïd Business School, where the vision of “tackling world scale problems” and Responsible Business is embedded in the heart of the programme, I believe it is the perfect stepping stone to propel my longer term career goals and to find the perfect integration between impact and business.'
Esther Ninshuti

Oxford-Weidenfeld and Hoffmann Scholarship

Country of nationality: Rwanda

College: Hertford College

‘Prior to joining Oxford, I worked as a project engineer for an architectural and engineering firm for five years. Before that, I worked at Rwanda Housing Authority as a senior engineer where I conducted research to contribute to the legal framework for the Affordable Housing Programme.

I have a BSc and MSc in Civil Engineering from Drexel University. I am Rwandan and I am passionate about the development of all people in my country. I try to find ways to positively impact the community around me. I joined the Global Shapers Community of the World Economic Forum. I also co-founded an association for women engineers where we visited high schools and used different methods to encourage the young girls to pursue careers in STEM.

I am excited to join the MBA class at Oxford University. I applied to Said Business School because of its reputation as a community that emphasises justice in business leadership. As I pursue a career in social impact and equity in infrastructure access for low-income communities, I believe the experiences I will gain at SBS will prepare me for this career shift.

I am privileged and honoured to be a recipient of the Oxford-Weidenfeld and Hoffmann Scholarship. As part of the scholarship’s Leadership Programme, I hope to improve my entrepreneurial skills and practice effective ways to create positive change. This scholarship will allow me to pursue my dreams and help me deepen the impact I can have on my community.’

Olugbemi Oduntan

Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: Nigeria

College: Green Templeton College

‘After obtaining a Law degree from the University of Lagos, I practiced as a commercial attorney, representing clients before superior courts, and providing professional advice to advance their interests. Subsequently, I obtained an LLM in Computer and Communications Law from the University of London after which I joined IBM and spent the last five years guiding enterprise banks and other financial institutions on their technology adoption decisions. I’ve simultaneously been involved in crafting and executing a comprehensive multi-year corporate strategy to improve the company’s wallet and mind shares in West Africa.

My interests span emerging technologies reshaping our world, financial inclusion as an avenue to reduce poverty, and digital skills for African youths to address the continent’s peculiar challenges while being equipped for jobs of the future. I’m equally interested in strategy consulting to help businesses formulate and/or redefine their efforts to create value.

I embarked on this MBA journey to acquire advanced business management skills and Oxford stood out with its well-established reputation as the training ground for world changers. More importantly, the business school’s unique commitment to highlight and contextualise opportunities and challenges of doing business in Africa made the choice an easy one.

I’m therefore looking forward to an enriching and exciting year of experiential learning with a cohort of exceptional and diverse professionals. Becoming a member of Oxford’s vast network, with a generous scholarship from the Saïd Business School Foundation, is truly a privilege of a lifetime.’
Chibugo Okafor  
**Said Business School Foundation Scholarship**  
Country of nationality: UK & Nigeria  
College: New College  

‘As an avid advocate for women and youth development, with over five years professional experience working with communities, governmental and non-governmental organisations, my passion has led to key engagements between the Houses of Parliament, Senate of Nigeria, United Nations and TEDx.

After obtaining my undergraduate degree in Masters of Pharmacy from King’s College London, I decided to move to Nigeria, where I founded ‘The Walk with Women and Children’; an organisation that leverages off of the ‘power of the collective’ to advance the health, social, personal, education and economic rights of women and children. I also double up as the founder of Kendake Honey, a social enterprise that focuses on utilising the apicultural sector to empower over 1200 women through the provision of employment, turning them into sustainable income generators, enforcing food security and in turn wealth creation for the African economy.

Alongside associated initiatives, the business provides technical training sessions, agricultural inputs and subsequently job opportunities for over 2000 youth and women and then access to market by off-taking their harvested products at economically fair prices.

Oxford University Saïd Business School represents the benchmark for developing socially responsible business leaders equipped with the skills to tackle world-scale problems. I am most humbled to be selected as a Saïd Business School Foundation Scholar amongst such an outstanding cohort and I look forward to building networks and partnerships to further develop the social impact that I have commenced.’

Osemhen Okenyi  
**Oxford-Adara Foundation Scholarship**  
Country of nationality: Nigeria  
College: Green Templeton College  

‘I studied Electrical/Electronics Engineering at University of Lagos and completed a leadership programme at Afara Leadership Centre, a centre for female undergraduates, where I learned that leadership is, beyond a title, the courage to step up and solve problems.

At Shell, I held a series of operational excellence and project delivery roles across multiple hydrocarbon facilities. In such hazardous locations, mistakes can be fatal, cause environmental devastation and wreak damage to billion-dollar assets. And so, as a young engineer (who was often the only woman in the room), I learned to challenge others, and defend my tough decisions to prioritise safety.

Working in the Niger Delta, I saw first-hand the impact business/government collaborations had in providing infrastructure, developing human capital, and funding scholarships and small businesses. This convinced me that businesses must catalyse progress in host communities; businesses cannot succeed in societies that fail.

The Oxford MBA, with its themes of sustainability, responsible enterprise and doing business in Africa is a natural next step in growing as a business leader. I can’t wait to learn from world-class teachers, explore Oxford, build lifelong friendships and develop mental models on using purpose-driven business to address gaps in Nigeria’s energy access and infrastructure development.

I am honoured to receive the Oxford-Adara Foundation Scholarship and I look forward to, in turn, sponsoring scholarships for young women.

Outside work, I founded Blazers & Baby, a community of career women mentoring each other to thrive at home and achieve gender parity in the African workplace.’
Johannes Olschner-Wood
Said Business School Foundation Scholarship
Country of nationality: UK & Germany
College: Kellogg College

‘My career to date has taken me from working in the UK’s Parliament to establishing an investment advisory business in Sierra Leone via the NGO and corporate sectors. In my diverse career I’ve had the privilege to contribute to a political party’s foreign policy platform, lobby for a global arms trade treaty, and advise investors on risks in emerging markets.

While working in West Africa over the past five years, I’ve been fortunate to support bold entrepreneurs with the ambition to develop innovative business models and work alongside investors with the imagination to back overlooked ventures. This sparked an enduring interest in the ability of entrepreneurs and impact investors to tackle issues that have previously been the preserve of public policy.

Given my interests, I was immediately drawn to Oxford’s MBA programme. The Said Business School’s focus on social impact and the co-curricular activities on offer are hugely attractive, as is its emphasis on wrestling with large-scale global problems. The wider University of Oxford was an additional draw, in particular the prospect of attending events at the Oxford Martin School, singing in a choir and joining the oldest UK university chess society.

When I was offered a place, I was ecstatic; when I was offered a scholarship, I was dumbstruck. The news took a few days to sink in. I’m incredibly excited about starting this MBA journey and making the most of everything Said Business School has to offer before continuing my career in impact investing.’

Oluwatofunmi Onaolapo
Oxford-Grace Lake Scholarship, Alumni Annual Fund and Chevening Scholarship
Country of nationality: Nigeria
College: Linacre College

‘I started my career as a Management Consultant, after completing a Bachelor’s degree in Management Information System from Covenant University, Nigeria. Living and working in Nigeria exposed me to the growth challenges businesses face, and developed my passion to solve business problems and help businesses grow. This passion led me to pursue an MBA, from which I hope to gain the knowledge, skills and network required to transform businesses in Africa.

Outside of work, I have a keen interest in gender equality and women’s representation in leadership. Over the past few years, I have conducted advocacy and hosted conferences and mentorship sessions to push forward this cause. After my MBA, I plan to establish a social enterprise that will work to increase women’s representation in leadership across Africa and the world.

The Oxford MBA was the perfect choice for me. The curriculum’s strong focus on social impact will equip me to be a purposeful leader that will contribute to Africa’s economic development – particularly through developing strategies to help small- and medium-sized businesses scale, and implementing interventions to significantly increase women’s representation in leadership.

I feel incredibly honoured to pursue my MBA as an Oxford and Chevening Scholar. This is more than a personal achievement for me; it is also an achievement for my community. It is my desire that this achievement will inspire other young Nigerians to pursue their dreams.’
Miguel Pastor Melgar
Said Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: Honduras
College: St Cross College

‘My name is Miguel Pastor Melgar, and I am from Honduras. My country has the characteristic of richness of kindness and mellow hearts in its people, as well as a vastness of natural resources. I am honoured to be able to represent my country in such a prestigious institution as is the University of Oxford and to be able to continue to develop my academic and personal preparation for life and the professional setting.

I come from a family that has embedded in my heart the importance of humility and empathy with people, in addition to the fundamental principle of serving the people, especially the people from my beloved country. Every step I take, I take it with the certainty that my biggest satisfaction is to honour my God, my family, and my country, and be able to lead through example. I support my acts upon my moral values, but in addition, I always carry with me the following thought: “It is vital to understand the importance between aptitude and attitude. One can have the aptitude to be involved in a certain study programme or professional task, yet, if the proper attitude is not present, then the efficiency of the outcome will be poor. Attitude should always be present, and attitude is always the motor of success. Attitude is by far greater than aptitude.”

Efua Amoba Payida
Jacobs Foundation Scholarship

College: Green Templeton College

‘I’m Efua Payida, a Ghanaian and proud mother of two young daughters, Xara and Sauda. After completing my degree in Political Science at the University of Ghana, I worked in the Human Resource Department at Saiwest Limited and Heliconia EAS Ghana as the Office Manager; both companies in the oil and gas industry.

Two years ago I set up a start-up restaurant, Just Grills that serves tasty charcoal grills to customers. As an advocate for the development of the agricultural value chain in Ghana, all restaurant supplies are sourced locally. This goes a long way in ensuring that local smallholder farmers have a reliable source of income and ready market for their yield thereby, reducing their post-harvest losses. After my Oxford MBA, I hope to scale my business into a national brand, explore impact investing to improve agricultural supply chains in Africa, and further pursue my interest in international relations and diplomacy aimed towards improving early childhood education and maternal health reform.

Outside of work, I enjoy horseback riding with my family; and hopefully will find ways to continue riding at Oxford!

I am grateful to have been selected as a Jacobs Foundation Scholar and look forward to learning and sharing with the great and driven minds of the Oxford community.

Ayekoo to the Jacobs Foundation!

*Ayeekoo means ‘Well done’ in my local language, Akan.*
Tom Perfrement
Said Business School Foundation Scholarship
Country of nationality: Australia
College: Lincoln College
‘As a member of the 2020-21 MBA class at Oxford's Said Business School, I am excited to leverage my management consulting experience to learn more about how purposeful business can solve world scale challenges. As a Senior Associate Consultant in the Sydney office of L.E.K. Consulting, a leading global management consulting firm, I consulted across a range of industries including technology, not for profit, government, retail, private equity, healthcare, transport, innovation and entertainment, within Australia and New Zealand.

I completed a Bachelor of Chemical Engineering from the University of New South Wales with 1st class honours and received the Lyceum Club Prize for 1st placed thesis. As the Co-Founder and Director of the Good Data Institute (GDI), I am a passionate advocate for the power of data and analytics, specifically its ability to empower transformation in the social sector. I am currently an Ambassador for Opportunity International and have supported The Hunger Project via the Great Wall of China Trek challenge. In my spare time, I love playing competitive tennis and am currently ranked in the top 450 in Australia.

All of these experiences have led me to the MBA programme at Said, whose commitment to tackle world scale problems and develop purposeful leaders will help me to embark on the next stage of my career. I am incredibly honoured to call Oxford home for the next 12 months and eternally grateful to receive a Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship.’

Viviana PK
Said Business School Foundation Scholarship
Country of nationality: Italy & Germany
‘As a consultant and psychologist, I am keen to develop innovative "green” business models, which help mitigate the climate crisis, by using an interdisciplinary approach that integrates human behaviour, business strategy and sustainability.

During my psychology degree I focused on social psychology, change management and consumer research - e.g. in my master thesis I investigated the possibility to nudge consumers towards a sustainable product choice by applying a psychological influence technique. After having worked for three years in management consulting, I have now been engaged as a consultant for system change, sustainability, and circular economy. I advise pioneers across industries, such as plastic, mining, and fashion, on the development and implementation of low carbon and circular business models that disrupt today’s linear “take-make-waste” system and instead benefit our planet. Further, I have been working to establish the psychological foundation of “system change leadership” to train these skills in current and future business leaders.

With its commitment to tackle world-scale problems and to develop purposeful leaders, the Oxford MBA was a natural choice for me. Over the next 12 months, I seek to further develop my business knowledge, professional skills, and network to become an even more effective system change leader after graduation. I am deeply thankful for the opportunity to work with and learn from such talented individuals at Said Business School and extremely honoured to have been awarded a Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship.’
Sanya Rajpal
Said Business School Foundation Scholarship
Country of nationality: UK & India
College: St Benet’s Hall

‘My professional career is built on a personal conviction that, with the right circumstances, resources and training, anyone has the potential for excellence and has the ability to have a unique impact on their community. This, and my belief that the only way to improve anything in the world is to first improve and challenge myself, is the cornerstone of who I am.

This passion for increasing access and provide education started early, when, at 14, I started volunteering with children of refugees. This led to years of youth advocacy, for which I was invited to speak at the British Parliament. Continuing throughout my Law Degree, I ran a city-wide Legal Aid Community Outreach Programme and sat as a trustee for a major charity. This transformed into starting my own company in my final year of Undergraduate, to provide policy consultancy, programme development and training for governmental bodies, companies and entrepreneurs around the world. All of this has led to my current job, working at UNCTAD in Geneva, a UN agency specialised in Trade and Development. I am tasked with strategic-level work for the UNCTAD Youth Network and to help manage and scale work being done at 40 national hubs. Additionally, I am aiding the expansion of a programme that trains entrepreneurs across Africa and Asia and am drafting policy papers to foster digitally-driven business in developing countries.

Being born in India, brought up in the UK, and having lived across the world, I am acutely aware of the diversity of opportunity and outcomes available to different people. Therefore I do not take the opportunity to join the Oxford MBA lightly. In my view, Business exists to solve problems. To learn from Oxford’s community of highly diverse and intelligent scholars as to what those needs and problems are, and how to address them, is a privilege. I am convinced of SBS’s profound commitment to impact and know that the skills I will learn, and the people I will meet, will allow me to lead change throughout my life.’

Alexander Rickett
Said Business School Foundation Scholarship
Country of nationality: UK & USA
College: Worcester College

‘A lifetime in highly competitive sport has taught me the paramount value of teamwork. At its core, I believe that effectively working with others is the fundamental principle of business. I chose Oxford because of its proven track record of molding leaders. I am honoured to be selected as an MBA scholar and consider it a great privilege to be part of an inspirational group of students and faculty eager to tackle important challenges.

Prior to joining the Oxford MBA programme, I studied Economics at both The University of Maine and The University of Illinois. I have led a diverse international career spanning across the healthcare, insurance, education, and commercial real estate sectors. Although my experience covers a range of industries, my work has been consistently focused on data strategy and business intelligence. After my MBA, I plan to continue working in global industry at the intersections of business, technology, and data analytics.’
Samantha Roblin  
Said Business School Foundation Scholarship  
Country of nationality: Canada  
College: Lady Margaret Hall  

‘My passion for social impact initially motivated me to attend law school in pursuit of a career in international human rights law. However, after working for a legal aid clinic in Nairobi, Kenya, I quickly learned that my eagerness for results and desire to drive efficiencies were better suited for businesses with an immediate and sustainable impact. I have since devoted the last six years to helping low-income populations access affordable, life-changing goods through e-commerce start-ups across both East and West Africa. I’ve managed teams of over 45 full time employees, grown revenue more than 200x and driven a business to profitability.

Said Business School’s entrepreneurial focus, passion for responsible business and support for doing business in Africa made it a natural choice for me. I’m excited to develop new skills in this context that can be applied to further helping innovative and impactful businesses navigate and scale across the African market.

I am incredibly grateful for the Said Business School Foundation Scholarship as it has helped make this year at Oxford a reality for me. I look forward to the intensive year ahead and giving back to the SBS community along the way.’

Valerie Rogers Muigai  
Oxford-Intesa Sanpaolo MBA Scholarship  
Country of nationality: USA  
College: Green Templeton College  

‘My path to business school has not been a conventional one. I received a BS in Biology from the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill (US) and an MA in Theology from Africa International University in Nairobi, Kenya. After graduating, I pursued a career in international development which led to various development jobs in South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania and most recently Uganda, where I worked as the Co-Country Director for Mennonite Central Committee.

While working in the development field, I came to realise the power of business to create jobs, build the local economy, and bring about lasting impact. In 2014, I launched a social business called Kijani Uganda Ltd. Kijani ethically manufactures high quality, affordable cloth diapers to create well paid jobs for women while making diapers affordable and accessible for Ugandan families. In the past several years I have secured impact investment funding for Kijani and expanded the market into Kenya, North America, and Europe.

I am thrilled and honoured to be an Oxford-Intesa Sanpaolo Scholar and to join the Oxford Said community. Oxford’s emphasis on social entrepreneurship, focus on business in Africa, and diverse, international student body are the elements that drew me to Oxford Said. I plan to use the skills, networks and experience I obtain with my MBA to become a more effective leader in scaling Kijani to create greater impact.’
**Maria Rotilu**  
**Eni-Oxford Africa Scholarship**  
**Country of nationality: Nigeria**  
**College: Wolfson College**

‘In my professional journey, I have shaped the corporate strategy for global organisations as a management consultant at Deloitte. I’ve also helped technology startups like Uber and Branch. co scale in Africa. Branch is a fin-tech startup that uses data science on smartphone data to credit score and offer financial services. Under my leadership as GM of Branch West Africa, the business grew and became profitable, from $50k to ~$100m in loan disbursements, to over 2.7 million users.

I’m a Chartered Accountant who holds a BSc. in Computer Science from Covenant University. The MBA expands my business knowledge to a more global perspective. It is an opportunity to transition to a path that supports entrepreneurs in emerging markets, starting with Africa and helping them to build scalable and impactful businesses. I believe the combination of technology, entrepreneurship, and access to finance is a potent catalyst for Africa’s sustainable economic growth through job creation. Gender representation across the board is also critical to thriving economies and is one of the reasons I mentor women-led businesses through the Cherie Blair Mentorship programme.

Said Business School is intentional about including Africa. Its programmes build and support entrepreneurial ventures and foster gender representation in leadership. I found this trio to be an exact match for my goals. It also helps that my husband and I will both be students at SBS.

I’m honoured and grateful for the support of the Eni-Oxford Africa Scholarship and excited to be joining a diverse cohort of leaders.’

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**Jide Rotilu**  
**Said Business School Foundation Scholarship**  
**Country of nationality: Nigeria**  
**College: Wolfson College**

‘My life has been multidisciplinary, spanning technology, cybersecurity, media, and more. I was a Cybersecurity Consultant at Deloitte & Touche, and prior I worked in Deloitte’s Financial Audit unit. Through my work at Deloitte, I helped organisations chart their technology strategy, and assess cyber risk. I resigned from Deloitte to pursue entrepreneurship and launched my technology startup; a digital talent marketplace.

I trained as an Engineer from Covenant University in Nigeria and completed an MSc. in Telecommunications and Business from Queen Mary University of London. My dissertation was on a key interest of mine; Video On Demand in Nigeria, which exposed me to media distribution and financing in Sub-Saharan Africa. In the MBA, I want to nurture and build on this interest in media and gain a deeper understanding of global business and production finance.

I’ve written, produced, and directed projects that have gained public support, including winning an MTV Africa Music Award in 2008. I plan to gain professional experience in media finance focusing on Africa, and structure financing for players in the movie ecosystem from development to distribution.

Oxford’s world-leading status was a big push, and Said Business School (SBS) was a logical choice. SBS was genuinely interested in African talent and the inclusion of the continent in global conversations. My wife and I are both scholars admitted to SBS and that’s an interesting dynamic I look forward to. The Said Business School Foundation has given us more freedom to take entrepreneurial risks upon graduation and I am grateful for the support.’
Rodney Rousseau  
**Alumni Annual Fund Scholarship**  
Country of nationality: Canada  
College: Wadham College

'I thrive in environments where I can apply critical thought to find solutions to real-world problems. During my PhD in Immunology at the University of Toronto I managed clinical studies aimed at improving the lives of people living with HIV, and I worked concurrently as an advisor to Canada’s Federal Minister of Health and as a Board Executive at the Ontario HIV Treatment Network, a multi-million-dollar HIV research funding organisation.

I am a member of the LGBTIQ+ community and have a growing interest in advancing social and health equity, and I wish to pursue a career that will allow me to be part of a team that shares these core interests as an element of either the work or the culture; interests that also happen to make great business sense in an increasingly connected world.

My hope is that the MBA programme at Saïd Business School will allow me to build on my academic expertise, providing integral skills to effectively transition into a career that challenges me and that is focused on solutions. I chose the Oxford MBA because I believe in the impact-focused lens of the programme and because I believe that the academic strength and the breadth of diversity of the student cohort will provide the greatest-possible opportunity to engage in thoughtful peer-to-peer dialogue that challenges me with new perspectives.

Receiving a Saïd Business School Alumni Annual Fund Scholarship is an honour – I am grateful to the many supporters and donors who have made this award possible.’

John Saba  
**Said Business School Foundation Scholarship**  
Country of nationality: Lebanon  
College: Green Templeton College

‘Growing up in Dubai, constant growth was a common theme for many years. This continuous focus on expanding infrastructure and services gave me an innate passion for engineering. After pursuing a BE in Civil Engineering in Beirut, I moved back to the UAE and worked in many different facets of the construction business. I got involved in everything from logistics and construction methodology to purchasing and budgeting. With the current skills gained, I feel it is the perfect time to pivot into a new field of interest.

As years passed, the city evolved, and its priorities changed as well. I now clearly see that the construction industry is no longer the main focus. I have set my eyes on improving communities and cities to be more sustainable and less impactful on the environment. Finding a way to increase the efficiency of resource use and improving our infrastructure is a newfound commitment, be it within the engineering field or beyond.

I plan to use the MBA at Oxford Said Business School to improve my skills, enabling me to understand better how to navigate businesses with a focus on sustainability and profitability. The School’s high emphasis on global impact is the reason I am especially pleased to join such a fantastic network of like-minded talent. To be awarded a Scholarship by this world-class institution is a humbling event, and I plan to make use of every opportunity available.’
Simon Sakhai  
Said Business School Foundation Scholarship & Alumni Annual Fund Scholarship  
Country of nationality: USA, Iran, UK  
College: St Antony’s College  

‘My career so far has been focused within the creative industries: I’ve run a contemporary gallery, launched a social enterprise, The Moving Museum, and advised cultural organisations and arts councils from Dubai to Argentina, London to Istanbul. I’m certainly no artist myself, but I’ve been lucky to work with some of the most talented and boundary pushing thinkers and practitioners. Art is conceptual-entrepreneurship, and working closely with artists has challenged and rebuilt my intellectual paradigms and deeply enriched my entrepreneurial approach.

I’ve come to appreciate creativity as the most important human faculty. Whether you’re an artist or butcher, the ability to invent and imagine sets us apart and gives us agency. But the principal challenge of the cultural industries is creating ‘industry’ out of ideas. How do you monetize art with no intrinsic value? How do you create sustainable enterprise that supports the production of ideas? These questions brought me to the MBA at Oxford. Having ideas is great, but a business toolkit gives them life. I feel deeply privileged to receive the endorsement of the school, the Alumni Annual Fund and the Saïd Foundation to help investigate these issues.

I’ve always seen industry as a force of collective energy that expands our individual capacity to shape the world. I chose Oxford because of its multidisciplinary perspective, seeing business as a means to something greater than just wealth. As a serial entrepreneur, I have no shortage of post-MBA plans, and I feel at home in a place that will foster the connection between industry and humanity, encouraging me to apply my unique experience to new sectors and challenges.’

Dhruv Sarin  
Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship  
Country of nationality: India  
College: Green Templeton College  

‘Having built a social venture focused on alleviating voter apathy in India while in college, I was immediately attracted to Saïd Business School’s emphasis on building responsible businesses and social entrepreneurship. I believe that such a purpose-driven approach is increasingly important today as the world recovers from the on-going pandemic and sees large paradigm shifts. I am excited to be part of such a diverse class and grateful to have received the Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship.

For the past five years, I have worked as a financial economist at NERA Economic Consulting in New York, where I conducted quantitative analyses to assist experts testify in securities litigation matters on behalf of leading corporations, banks, and regulators. My most recent projects have focused on market manipulation and the asset management industry. Prior to NERA, I spent two years working as an internal consultant for the Sales and Trading division at Goldman Sachs in Bengaluru, India.

Outside of work, I am passionate about entrepreneurship and giving back to the community. Since 2017, I have volunteered as a business coach and mentor with Defy Ventures, a non-profit organisation that provides support to formerly incarcerated individuals to launch their own business. Post-MBA, I look forward to combining my background in finance with my passion for entrepreneurship to transition into a career in Fintech, Venture Capital, or Impact Investing.’
Jasmine Schembri
Said Business School Foundation Scholarship
Country of nationality: UK, Armenia & Malta
College: Pembroke College

‘As a first-generation university student and the eldest of my siblings and cousins, I’ve always
strived to set the bar high; by accepting a place at Said Business School, I feel the bar has
reached new heights! I am humbled and honoured to receive a Said Business School Foundation
Scholarship, which provides a huge additional opportunity for me over the coming years.

After completing my undergraduate degree in Law and Business, I spent five years working at
Deloitte in consulting, within Human Capital, Strategy and Operations teams. In the lead up to my
MBA, I started my entrepreneurial journey by launching my own consulting brand. I worked with a
blend of large FTSE 100 clients, scale-ups and start-ups, collaborating with their leadership teams
to deliver strategic and people-oriented projects.

I’m excited by the future prospect of working for a high growth company in a strategic capacity and
building my own business in the future; the MBA will be a great platform for learning new skills,
triailling new ideas and meeting future business partners.

My Armenian and Maltese heritage was a major factor in choosing SBS, a truly international and
diverse business school. The focus on driving social impact, entrepreneurship and innovation
amongst its students aligns with my ambition to champion progress in the countries that have made
me who I am. I can’t wait to get involved in the wealth of extra-curricular offerings that the school
provides and I look forward to building lasting relationships with my cohort.’

Catalina Serrano Moreau de la Meuse
Alumni Annual Fund Scholarship
Country of nationality: Chile, USA & France
College: Green Templeton College

‘I am passionate about making things happen, and being part of teams that design and implement
innovative solutions that lead to improvement and sustainable change.

I have been working with low-income communities since I was in high school, where I started
building houses and mentoring kids. Early on I knew that I found fulfilment in being part of a greater
purpose, so I joined Teach for Chile to pursue a career in reducing social inequalities in education.
Since then, I have co-founded two successful and sustainable education NGOs that have impacted
more than 500,000 Chilean students.

I co-founded Impulso Docente, which provides professional development sessions for teachers,
mentors, and school administrators and supports schools developing a culture of observation and
feedback. I later co-founded Genera Foundation, an organisation that helps school administrators,
teachers, and parents incorporate a gender perspective in their curriculum and addresses
LGBTI+ diversity.

I have also worked in consulting, my learnings in this area helped me develop a strategic map and
business plan for my NGOs, allowing them to grow and achieve sustainability through sales. This
ultimately ended our dependence on donations and grants. My work as a consultant has given me
the possibility to leverage my abilities and improve process and operations in different companies.

I am immensely grateful at the opportunity given to me by the Alumni Annual Fund Scholarship to
pursue an MBA at Oxford. This scholarship will allow me to continue developing my toolset and
carry on my work impacting growth and productivity of organisations that improve the lives of the
people of Latin America.’
Aybars Sezgen
Said Business School Foundation Scholarship
Country of nationality: Turkey
College: Linacre College
‘I am joining the Said Business School from Deutsche Bank, where I was Vice President of the Emerging Markets Debt Trading Division.

I previously graduated from Bogazici University in Turkey with a BSc in Management Information Systems and went on to work as a proprietary trader at international banks in Istanbul and Dubai. Post-MBA, I plan to join a global asset management company as an investment manager with an emphasis on emerging markets.

The MBA will supplement my background in financial markets by increasing my technical knowledge in various asset classes. The programme will give me essential training in alternative investments and help me develop into a versatile portfolio manager. It will also enable me to delve into the trends now shaping the financial services, such as Fintech innovations and responsible investing.

The Oxford MBA programme offers me an ideal combination of resources. Saïd Business School provides a unique financial training, the Finance Lab, and an extensive range of finance electives taught by a world-leading faculty. Oxford’s collegiate system will extend my learning journey outside the classroom by granting me the opportunity to meet with students from a diverse range of academic disciplines and with different perspectives.

I’m truly honoured to have been awarded a Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship. As a global citizen who has lived in four countries across three continents, I hope to meaningfully contribute to the programme with my international managerial experience and enrich Said Business School’s dynamic community as a student and throughout my career.’

Anna Shelton Agar
Said Business School Foundation Scholarship
Country of nationality: New Zealand & Australia
College: Queen’s College
‘I graduated with an Arts/Law degree from the University of Sydney, was admitted to the Supreme Court of the ACT, and began my career advising businesses on consumer law, privacy and intellectual property at a global law firm. I moved to London in 2013 with the aim of bringing my professional services skills in-house and working in a fast growing consumer focused business with products I believed in.

For the last seven years I have worked in leadership roles for female-owned founder-led businesses. First as Senior Legal Counsel for Notonthehighstreet.com, a platform for thousands of small businesses; and most recently as the General Manager for Global Retail Strategy, Operations and Sales at Monica Vinader, a brand focused on making luxury accessible, empowering women, and championing sustainable manufacture.

I enrolled at Saïd Business School to augment my ‘on the job’ knowledge with an education in business fundamentals. I am drawn to Oxford’s focus on impact and motivated by the intensive nature of the one year programme, which will allow me to quickly translate learning and reflection into real world action.

I am passionate about delivering value for customers ethically and fascinated by the intersection of technology, product development, and regulation. Post MBA, I want to focus on driving commercial success for products that make the world better and help customers in their everyday lives. I am enormously grateful to be a recipient of the Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship, and look forward to being an ambassador for Oxford.’
Zhe (Elaine) Shi
Said Business School Foundation Scholarship
Country of nationality: China
College: Keble College

‘Upon graduating from the University of Miami, I launched my career in investment from New York, where I started to realise how capital could impact social challenges. I subsequently transitioned to fundraise and invest with social needs, working for Tsinghua University in China, before joining National Economy Capital. With a commitment to impact investing, I’m deeply passionate about the world’s sustainable development, and exploring the roles that public-private partnership, education and social media could play in speeding up the process of achieving the UN’s SDGs in China and other developing economies.

The Oxford MBA is especially appealing to me because of its impact orientation, international focus and its innovative approach to business and leadership. I am honoured to receive the Said Business School Foundation Scholarship, and I look forward to being a part of this community and giving back during my time at Oxford and beyond.’

Cindy Smart
Said Business School Foundation Scholarship
Country of nationality: New Zealand
College: Lincoln College

‘I obtained my undergraduate degrees in Economics and Geography from the University of Auckland in New Zealand, where I grew up, and then moved across to Sydney, Australia to start my career in Management Consulting at BCG. I have spent the last four years at BCG exploring a range of industries from mining to consumer goods, and a range of business challenges from transformations to blue sky strategy projects. I have also been fortunate to experience and learn from many different cultures, from working in incredibly international teams, and travelling to many different places (28 countries and counting) for both work and leisure.

Through the breadth of these experiences, I discovered my passion for people: how they think, feel and interact with the world around them. People, as customers or employees, are at the heart of every business, and it is my desire to use business as a mechanism to create a positive impact on people’s lives that drew me to an MBA at Said Business School.

I am very honoured and grateful to have been awarded a Said Business School Foundation Scholarship. I am looking forward to the challenges this year will bring, and am excited to meet and learn from the diverse and international MBA community.’
May (Xinmei) Sun
Oxford-Creat Group Graduate Scholarship
Country of nationality: China
College: Green Templeton College

‘After graduating from Robins School of Business, University of Richmond, USA as outstanding senior of the class with a BSBA in marketing and international business, I have worked in a listed Chinese company incorporating R&D, Production, sales, and services of Digital head-end devices. My final role is board member and the head of supply chain and productions. During these years I have brought about innovations and encountered many changes with my company, from which I have learned an important lesson that changes happen overnight, and a business leader has to actively see ahead and have the company well prepared.

I decided it’s time to grow beyond my early knowledge and experience. I want to gain new perspectives, meet other excellent professionals to learn from and work with them to tackle important business challenges. Also, I would like to be involved in and support the research and discussions of female role in management of organisations. It is my goal to put better options and opportunities in front of others by being a strong leader and innovator. I believe the business world needs to see more diversity and access.

I feel honoured and very much encouraged to be endowed the Oxford-Creat Group Graduate Scholarship. I promise I will explore the most out of my MBA journey in Oxford and make sure I will be a responsible and innovative problem solver for organisations. Encouraged by the Oxford-Creat Group, I will also continuously contribute to help other aspirational business professionals.’

Azhra Syed
Said Business School Foundation Scholarship
Country of nationality: India
College: Green Templeton College

‘Improving access to healthcare has always been at the core of my career – as a clinician, researcher and public health consultant. I started out as a dental surgeon at a public facility in India. After completing my Masters in Public Health at Harvard University, I undertook a period of research into the burden of non-communicable diseases and its correlation to poverty levels. I then returned to the “real world” to work on strengthening the cancer care ecosystem in India. These experiences have showed me the ground we need to cover before we can bring healthcare to everyone. I decided to pursue the MBA to expand my perspectives on how we can tackle this challenge.

The Oxford MBA’s focus on responsible business and impact as a part of business aligned with what I was looking for. Choosing to do this MBA during a pandemic year, I expect to bond with and learn from a resilient and forward thinking cohort – eager to build back better. I believe Oxford will be the best place to be to weather this storm with an eye on the future. This scholarship serves as one more motivation and also significantly eases the financial burden of the programme, especially since I’m moving with my family. I’m honoured to be a recipient and cannot wait to get started with putting it to good use.’
Stephen Teasdale
Said Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: UK
College: Kellogg College

‘After studying Political Economy at the University of Birmingham I began my career as an Investment Manager in the City of London, before going on to complete a Postgraduate Diploma in Economics at the University of Cambridge. While there, I decided I wanted a more “hands-on” business experience and subsequently joined a company operating in the rapidly growing UK health and social care sector.

Serving some of the most vulnerable in society, I became interested in healthcare innovation and how to think about health: how we might change perspectives on living well rather than just tackling the symptoms of disease, and how we can promote individual choices today that lead to better outcomes tomorrow. As Development Director for the company, I drove expansion through M&A and the development of new sites; growth recognised for consecutive years in the London Stock Exchange’s ‘1000 Companies to Inspire Britain’ reports. Entrepreneurial at heart, I then started a Real Estate company that now provides accommodation for students and key healthcare workers.

In considering where to do an MBA, I wanted a school environment that would inspire and provide a launchpad for my own future business ventures. Oxford Said matched this aspiration with its reputation for excellence, and its ability to bring together talented and likeminded people concerned with the social impact of business. I am privileged to be awarded a Said Business School Foundation Scholarship and look forward to learning with an incredibly diverse cohort of students.’

Tobechukwu Susan Uba
Said Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: Nigeria
College: Green Templeton College

‘Growing up in the less-affluent neighbourhoods of Africa meant certain struggles, a well-rehearsed narrative; but I was lucky. My parents ensured that I continuously strove for excellence in a patriarchal society that looked down on the girl-child. Against all odds, I went on to become a lawyer and upon graduation, joined PwC Nigeria as a tax/regulatory consultant. At PwC, I had the opportunity to spearhead key business initiatives, providing content for the Doing Business in Nigeria Guide, which delivered insights to foreign investors looking to do business in Nigeria.

Subsequently, I joined Vetiva, a pan-African financial services group, after completing Masters’ degree in Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation. At Vetiva, I built the compliance department from scratch, and served on industry groups which crafted progressive policies for the development of the Nigerian Capital Market, including a 10-Year master plan (2015 – 2025) for the Nigerian Capital Market.

There is this African proverb that has always resonated with me: “If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together”. Looking back on this quote today, it truly reinforces that it was not just luck that brought me this far, but also the sacrifices of a close support group.

Having benefited from a lot of help and support, I am passionate about using business as a force for good, which makes Oxford MBA a natural choice. I am excited about the journey that lies ahead, which has been made possible by the Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship.’
Amalia Veerabahu
Said Business School Foundation Scholarship
Country of nationality: UK
College: Linacre College

‘I graduated from King’s College London with a BSc (Hons) in Biochemistry, and then started my career in Investment Banking. Within Investment Banking, I was focused on the Healthcare sector, advising clients across the MedTech, Healthcare Services and Pharma industries.

Following my MBA, I would like to move into a more entrepreneurial role, capitalising on my Investment Banking experience and passion for Healthcare, with a focus on investing in the Healthcare sector. Through my role as a Healthcare Investment Banker, I have come to appreciate the incredible importance and complexity of the Healthcare sector. In particular, I have seen how proper capital allocation towards the best ideas can have a large impact on society, for example through the development of novel medicines/treatments and increased efficiency of healthcare service provision.

I am incredibly grateful to be a recipient of the Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship and am thrilled to have the opportunity to attend this world-class university. One of the factors I find very appealing about the Oxford MBA is belonging to a diverse, multidisciplinary and multi-cultural community and I admire how the business school is able to foster a collaborative, lively and inclusive culture. It is a privilege for me to join and contribute to such an extraordinary network.’

Bianca Vermooten
Said Business School Foundation Scholarship
Country of nationality: South Africa
College: Pembroke College

‘I have dreamt of making films since I was a child; telling stories that resonate with the deepest parts of people and moving them to a response. My experience spans the chain of production including production managing international feature films and producing a variety of my own projects.

Throughout my career in the film industry, I have been intentional to ensure that the projects I produce are not only high quality entertainment, but also have a direct social impact. From seeing a spike in organ donor registrations to putting a football team through high school, my projects have had a direct impact in the lives of people attached to them. I have followed stories to different corners of the globe, creating award-winning documentaries that showcase stories of young people overcoming all odds and inspiring the audiences that watch them.

Oxford was an easy choice for me; their commitment to the African continent, their focus on social impact and their intentionality for diversity were all attributes that resonated with me. I am excited that for the next 12 months I will never be the smartest person in the room; I will be surrounded by lecturers and a cohort with fascinating careers and experience. What a privilege to be counted among them.

As a Saïd Scholar, I am truly grateful for the financial assistance in making my MBA dream possible. I know that this opportunity will only enhance my career and I cannot wait to see what the future holds.’
Adriana Vitagliano

Forté Fellowship and Said Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: USA & Venezuela

College: Wadham College

‘After graduating cum laude from Princeton University with a BA in International Affairs and Public Policy in 2016, I started my career in consulting with PwC’s M&A practice in New York City, where I focused on integrating data analytics and digital solutions into our Deals offerings. I enjoy engaging with my community through social impact initiatives, leading corporate responsibility initiatives focused on financial literacy and career mentoring for low-income schools in Manhattan and serving as the Microfinance Partnership liaison for the NYC chapter of Acumen, a non-profit impact investment fund.

During this time, I developed a strong interest in the intersection of impact investing and tech as a means of addressing development goals, particularly in Latin America. I was inspired to continue my academic research as related to development studies and comparative political economy at Oxford, and was awarded the School of Global and Area Studies Scholarship to pursue an MSc in Latin American Studies. I recently graduated with a distinction and presented my dissertation on the political and economic impact of remittances at the 30th annual ASCE conference. While pursuing my MSc, I also worked as a business strategy analyst at an Oxford-based AI start-up, where I have continued to strengthen my knowledge of DevOps and product management.

I was initially drawn to the 1+1 MBA programme due to Said’s focus on social impact and commitment to integrating into the broader Oxford community. I am honoured to be awarded the Said Business School Foundation Scholarship and Forté Fellowship Scholarship, which have enabled me to join the 1+1 MBA programme. Over the next year, I look forward to deepening my understanding of development opportunities within the private sector in Latin America, particularly within the venture capital space, in order to contribute to a more positive and equitable future for all.

Lokeshwar Nath Vohra

Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: India

College: Mansfield College

‘I believe that the fortunate members of my generation have the luxury of cherry picking any of the world’s multiple challenges and viewing them through the lens of opportunity; and the brave have the responsibility of working towards the delivery of our global development goals. This belief helped identify my long-term aspiration, which is to help build a world that thrives on a low-carbon, inclusive and resilient economy.

Prior to the MBA, I was working towards my objectives by consulting on projects centred around the decarbonisation of energy. As a Senior Consultant I provided technical and strategic advice to energy companies such as National Grid, property developers such as Derwent London, philanthropic organisations such as Bloomberg Philanthropies, investment funds such as Downing LLP, international development agencies such as C40 Cities and government bodies such as the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. Although I am based out of London, I have worked on projects in five different geographies and in over 20 distinct cities. Through this experience, I realised that risk and return, both social and economic, are interdependent. Therefore, moving forward, I would like my next role to be one where I can take calculated risk and in turn, realise equitable societal return.

In many ways, an MBA was the missing piece between my experience, existing knowledge and future aspirations. I chose the Oxford MBA because I value Said Business School’s ideology and commitment to empowering future leaders that have the potential to help shape a better world.

I am grateful to the School for considering my previous professional achievements and awarding me with the Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship.’
Prerna Wadikar  
**Oxford-Weidenfeld and Hoffmann Scholarship**

Country of nationality: India  
College: Lincoln College

‘At a time when ‘inclusion’ was not a popular concept in India, I was assigned the task of driving BIPBOP (Business Investment Plan at Base of Pyramid) - a visionary initiative by Schneider Electric to provide energy access to rural households simultaneously creating employment opportunities.

Since then, I have been fortunate to have worked in the remotest parts of 25 states in India and six countries with some of the most impactful organisations at leadership roles – as Associate Vice President of Strategy at RuralShores, world’s largest impact sourcing organisation; Head of Anti-trafficking resource cell at Prajwala, largest rehabilitation center for victims of sex trafficking. I have also worked with the Government of India with the Department of Women and Child Development on health and nutrition in geographies affected by left-wing extremism and with the Ministry of Justice in Ethiopia on policies for liberalisation of civil society organisations.

I am a Lok Capital Fellow, Best out-going student of Engineering College and a Post-Graduate in Public Policy from Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore.

Global challenges warrant global interventions. Saïd Business School with its gender parity, its commitment to African business and its vision of creating responsible business leaders through the MBA programme was the obvious choice of B-school aligned to my passion.

To be selected by the Weidenfeld Hoffmann Trust for the scholarship is extremely humbling and has underscored my commitment to inclusion and sustainability, now more than ever before, when the global pandemic has unleashed a crisis reversing decades worth of progress in development.’

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Henry Wakefield  
**Oxford-Leo Tong Chen Scholarship**

Country of nationality: New Zealand  
College: New College

‘I am joining Oxford having spent the last six years in the New Zealand construction and property sectors. Following the completion of the civil engineering honours degree from the University of Canterbury I begun my career working at the coal face of large infrastructure projects. I later transitioned into client-side project management where I led the planning and delivery of multi-million-dollar housing and retirement developments for both private and institutional clients.

I chose the Oxford MBA for its diverse international cohort, a programme which allows me to explore beyond the standard core courses and the unique opportunity to be embedded into the greater Oxford community. I am extremely humbled and grateful to be a recipient of the Oxford Leo Tong Chen Scholarship and it serves as a strong encouragement to keep developing myself personally and professionally.

Outside of work I enjoy and am actively involved in a wide range of sports and activities, such as hiking, skiing or multi-sport. I am also an active volunteer rugby referee at a senior club level.’
Chenxi Wang  
**Oxford-Ideality Scholarship**  
Country of nationality: China  
College: Keble College

‘After studying in mainland China, Hong Kong and Spain, I embarked on my career at one of largest overseas energy investment company in China, working closely with governments, financial institutions and private enterprises in 12 countries across five continents to spur private and public sector investment into energy-efficient and renewable-energy markets. After developing my track records in several complex cross-border M&A projects, I gained a deep insight into the new energy industry’s development, financing challenges and opportunities in emerging countries and was thrilled to see my work exert a social significance on a global level through impact investments that went beyond pure finance.

Working as an investment manager in new energy sector across Asia and Europe for five years, I have been heavily confirmed to progress my career to impact investment. I am eager to gain more practical business skill sets and a different vantage point that I believe will enhance my social entrepreneurship to cope with more complex world level problems confronted by a development investor. I can not imagine there is a better place matching my career goal than here at Oxford, given its storied history in philosophy and its commitment to responsible business integrative modules. What really appeals to me is that Said is a business school that engages the global issues from an ethical level, which explores both the philosophical design of the institution in society and the ethical decision-making of business leaders.

I am honoured to have been awarded the Oxford-Ideality Scholarship. I am really grateful to have access to leverage on the research and collaborate with experts as well as students from Oxford!’

Elizabeth Wesche  
**Oxford-Intesa Sanpaolo MBA Graduate Scholarship**  
Country of nationality: USA  
College: Green Templeton College

‘I spent my childhood overseas as the child of a US diplomat before returning to the US as an early teen. After graduating from Princeton University in 2012, I built my career in social impact consulting, focusing on the intersections between philanthropy, technology, and human-centered design. I’ve worked for clients such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Gates Ventures to help philanthropists understand the challenges and opportunities presented by changing technological landscapes. I’m also a semi-professional musician, writing, recording, and touring with my modern folk group March to May.

I’m very grateful to be a recipient of the Oxford-Intesa Sanpaolo MBA Graduate Scholarship. At this point, I’ve lived in six different countries and worked in the private sector, for nonprofits, for think tanks, and for international NGOs. I’ve seen many different approaches to getting a job done, and have learned that problem-solving is a matter of logistics, but it’s also a matter of emotions, values, and motivations. To change a system, you have to understand why there’s a problem in the first place, why it hasn’t changed yet, and what other changes need to support it. I can’t think of a better place to deepen that understanding than at Oxford.

I’m looking forward to having my skills and perspectives broadened and challenged in the year ahead alongside a world-class group of thinkers from diverse backgrounds and disciplines. I hope to use my degree to continue to advance thoughtful, sustainable, and actionable approaches to improving livelihoods in communities around the world.’
Theresa Wiendl  
**Said Business School Foundation Scholarship**  
Country of nationality: Germany  
College: Wolfson College

‘After graduating from the University of Passau in Germany with a bachelor degree in International Cultural and Business Studies, I started my career in Transaction Risk Management at Amazon, where I discovered my passion for acting as a “digital translator” and using story-telling to help business professionals better understand the hidden possibilities of their data. I subsequently worked as a consultant at KPMG’s Centre of Excellence for data-driven technologies in Frankfurt, executing operational roles as well as organising and facilitating strategy workshops for industry leaders.

I am eager to start my MBA at Said Business School as it will not only refine my business acumen but also challenge me to continuously question my own beliefs and leadership style by engaging with an exceedingly diverse cohort. After Oxford, I aim to take on a role that combines my interest in technology and social transformation through equitable business strategies.

I am incredibly honoured to have been awarded the Said Business School Foundation Scholarship and look forward to joining a powerful community of purposeful leaders. As a Scholar and Forté Fellow I will do my best to embody the School’s emphasis on promoting responsible business and supporting minorities as we tackle the world’s challenges.’

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Bayly Winder  
**Said Business School Foundation Scholarship**  
Country of nationality: USA & UK  
College: Balliol College

‘After graduating from Johns Hopkins University with a political science degree, I spent a year in Kuwait as a Fulbright scholar researching local political institutions. Upon returning to the U.S., I worked at Madeleine Albright’s consulting firm then joined the Iran policy team at the State Department. Most recently, I worked at Deloitte in Washington DC on a PPP project with a tech industry focus and major policy implications. My interests include U.S.-Gulf relations, Middle East finance, and global tech operations.

I am excited to join Oxford’s academic community and honoured to be the recipient of a Said Business School Foundation Scholarship. I look forward to studying alongside such diverse and accomplished classmates, and taking advantage of the unique resources available at the university. During the MBA programme, I am excited to better understand the intersection of the business and policy spaces, and expand my intellectual horizons.’
Hongyu Wu
Said Business School Foundation Scholarship
Country of nationality: China
College: Green Templeton College

‘Born and raised in China, I graduated from North China Electric Power University in 2008 for my bachelor’s and North Carolina State University in 2014 for my master’s, respectively. After spending another six years’ professional career in the energy industry, I decided to go back to college life again to pursue my MBA degree. I feel tremendously humbled and grateful to the Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship that has empowered me to start my new chapter of life at Oxford University.

With the dream of reshaping the world’s energy profile, I started my career as a graduate researcher at NSF FREEDM Center under the Obama Administration’s Clean Energy Initiative, focusing on the next-generation residential PV solution. In 2014, I accepted a new position at a boutique engineering consulting firm to provide advisory services. That was the beginning of my six years of professional consulting journey, where I spent the most recent three years working as a project manager / technical lead at Accenture Consulting. I feel blessed to have the opportunity to help some of the world’s largest power utilities solve their unique problems, from system implementation to product roadmap revamp. I believe now is the prime time to pursue an MBA, and the prestigious programme from Oxford will fulfill my passion for combining technology innovation, business acumen, and social responsibility.

I look forward to joining the incredibly talented and diverse cohort. Together, we can apply what we learn at Oxford to live our purpose and change the world.’

Xiangyi (Fiona) Xi
Alumni Annual Fund Scholarship
Country of nationality: China
College: St Benet’s Hall

‘I aspire to be a global citizen and feel responsible for making contributions to solving the global environmental and educational problems.

After completing my Bachelor degree in Economics at Northeastern University in China, I pursued a Master degree in Finance at University of Maryland in the USA.

After graduation, I spent one year working at Morgan Stanley and three years working at the World Bank Group’s International Finance Corporation (IFC). As a financial analyst at Treasury in IFC, I managed the currency and interest rate exposure of IFC’s balance sheet, thought through methodology combination of fundamental finance, and conducted various hedges with market counterparts to reduce the overall portfolio risk.

I believe that the MBA programme at Oxford is the perfect place for me and the scholarship makes this journey possible. Here at Said, students are challenged to care, to think about, and to solve world-scale problems that are influencing the business community today. I believe that I will be able to broaden my thinking, strengthen my critical thinking skills and learn from the greatest students and professors in the world.’
Zhilin Xiao
Oxford-Wanakaset Women’s Scholarship
Country of nationality: China
College: Exeter College

‘Build bridges, not walls. That’s my mission.

Born and raised in Mainland China, I moved to Hong Kong as a Soong Ching-Ling Foundation Scholar and graduated with a bachelor degree in Business and Global Studies from the University of Hong Kong. Then I moved to Geneva to work at the United Nations Environment Finance Initiative and the Economic Adviser’s Office of ICRC, the world’s largest humanitarian organisation. These experiences have given me a valuable global perspective on how to deal with complex societal issues through inter-governmental cooperation and cross-sector partnerships, inspired me to pursue a master degree in Public Policy at UCL, and helped me launch an international career to become a leader with purpose.

Oxford is a natural choice for me with its ambition to solve world-scale problems and its unique emphasis on social impact, entrepreneurship, and finance. Delivering public health services in Ghana and earthquake relief in Nepal have taught me how to mobilize resources and drive impacts on the ground. Founding a non-profit organisation that connected and empowered around 300 change-makers across disciplines and incubated 10 social-impact initiatives in Hong Kong, have taught me how to create and scale positive changes. Representing young women’s voices at international platforms including UN Climate Action Week, Women’s Forum, and G20-Girls Summit, have made me determined in bringing more women and girls onto the decision-making table to create a more inclusive and sustainable future together.

Incredibly grateful and honoured to be awarded the Oxford-Wanakaset Women’s Scholarship and to become a Forté Fellow, I am keen to expand my skillsets and apply my learnings to an impactful career. I will always be aware of the privileges I enjoyed, and help others rise.

I am an adventurist that solo-travelled in five continents, a newly certified yoga instructor, and a Sherlock Holmes fan.’

Yizhuo Zhang
Oxford-Leo Tong Chen Scholarship
Country of nationality: China
College: St Hugh’s College

‘I was born in China and educated in UK and France. I graduated with a Bachelor and Master of Science in Geophysics, and began my career as an exploration geophysicist back in China. I subsequently transitioned to a new technology focused venture capital in China by self-studying CFA and FRM programmes. In my new position, I can combine my quantitative skills in financial valuation and science-based education background to inspect investment targets. So that our early stage investment accurately flows to talented entrepreneurs in the hope of helping the business succeed.

In the coming year in Oxford, I am eager to embrace a wider university atmosphere, to enrich my strategic thinking, management, and analytic skills.

My motivation of pursuing an MBA degree at Said Business School stems from the School’s strong reputation in cultivating business leaders with the acumen of international visions. I believe a diversified and resourceful group of peer MBA are priceless assets. That is why I am deeply honoured to be awarded an Oxford-Leo Tong Chen Scholarship and thrilled to be part of the Saïd Business School cohort. I look forward to being an ambassador for the School and being able to help others doing the same.’
Chen Zhao
Said Business School Foundation Scholarship

Country of nationality: France
College: Harris Manchester College

‘Born and raised in China, I came to France at the age of 20 to pursue my studies and graduated with a Bachelor degree in Economics from the University of Paris II and a Master degree in Finance with distinction from London School of Economics and Political Science. Over the last six years, I have been working as a portfolio manager at Barclays Wealth Management in Paris, managing over 500 million Euros of financial assets for private banking clients and financial institutions. I was appointed deputy CEO of the asset management company in 2019 after it was acquired by Anacap. As a senior executive, I spent most of my time providing expert advice to the board, nurturing effective relationships with internal and external stakeholders and most importantly leading the organisation in operational and structural transformations. CFA, FRM and CAIA Charterholder, I commit myself to the highest professional and ethical standards in the industry with the aim of providing best in class investment solutions to our clients.

The decision to quit my C-level position for an MBA was considered a very bold move by people around me. But only I know that never staying in the comfort zone and constantly seeking new challenges out of status quo is the key to my previous career ascension. I truly believe that Oxford Said can provide a unique experience of MBA study with its focus on responsible leadership and global rules of game, principles to which I profoundly adhere. I feel deeply honoured to be awarded the Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship and I cannot wait to meet the incredible cohort of inspiring and talented MBA fellows.’

Jie Zhou
Oxford-Ideality Scholarship

Country of nationality: China
College: Worcester College

‘I see the one-year MBA programme at Oxford Said as a valuable opportunity to start a new career in the financial sector. I graduated from the University of Liverpool with a bachelor degree in Architecture. My choice in architecture was driven by my curiosity to explore the world, and to gain an in-depth understanding of different cities, cultures, histories, and people. However, my journey with architecture ended when I realised I was more gifted in dealing with numbers, and decided to take on a trader’s role at Sinosteel Investment Shanghai. Over the past four years, I have witnessed the ever-changing nature of the market through trading, acquired sufficient financial knowledge through CFA courses, and enhanced both teamwork and communication skills through my engagement with different teams in the company.

As one of the leading business schools worldwide, Oxford Said enjoys excellent cohorts and top academics, who are dedicated to solving world-scale problems. I am both thrilled and honoured to have been awarded an Oxford-Ideality Scholarship, which gives me the chance to work with and learn from such a talented and diverse community at Oxford Saïd. The programme will undoubtedly help me develop the leadership skills I need, incorporate my knowledge and experience, and build a promising career in the financial sector post-MBA. I am looking forward to the exciting year ahead at Saïd, and being a valuable member of a larger Oxford Community.’
Said 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.

‘I wish to express my sincere thanks for the generosity that allowed me to feasibly attend the MBA. It has allowed me the ability to choose my path, and make informed decisions towards higher impact, without student debt looming. The MBA has allowed me to explore fields I didn’t even know existed, especially due to gendered barriers. I hope to be a part of the cohort of women who chip further away at the glass ceiling, particularly in the entrepreneurship sphere. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity and the support and investment shown by the donors.’

Said Business School MBA Scholar (2019-20)

‘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.’

Said 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 Said Business School, please contact Tom Childs.

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