What is the Oxford Seed Fund?

The University of Oxford's student-and-alumni led venture capital fund, investing up to £100,000 cheques into Oxford-affiliated startups i.e. where a current student, alumni or researcher sits on the founding team. This is an initiative to uplift innovation connected to Oxford, and we hope any founders applying think of it as their own, founder-friendly fund.

The Oxford Seed Fund is powered by the Oxford Saïd Entrepreneurship Centre, housed in Saïd Business School, and backed by Oxford Science Enterprises and the University of Oxford itself.

What is the investment process?

You may apply by simply emailing your pitch deck to seedfund@sbs.ox.ac.uk or by going through our application form linked here. We always aim for a transparent process with a fast turnaround, and otherwise run a traditional VC process (founder pitch, due diligence and investment committee).

When is the deadline?

We receive pitches and evaluate them on a rolling basis throughout the academic year. If you are ready to fundraise and meet our basic criteria, please submit your pitch on the link on the Oxford Seed Fund website.

What are the base requirements to be eligible?

To be eligible to apply, you will need:

- **An Oxford connection:** Either a current student, alumni or researcher from the University of Oxford on the founding team.
- **Venture-backable technology:** We invest in high-potential, technology-enabled startups that can provide venture-scale returns.
- **Company registration:** We require that you have (or intend to have) a registered company in a country with secure governance.

What types of companies do you typically invest into?

In terms of stage, we invest either as the very first cheque, or at pre-seed and seed-stage alongside angels and other VC funds. We highly encourage founders to get in touch at the earliest stage of their fundraising journey, even if you feel you may be too early.

In terms of sector, we are sector agnostic and encourage applications from all types of ventures. Common themes include health, climate, finance, AI, deeptech, amongst others.

What are the terms of the investment?

We favour using founder-friendly terms such as SAFEs (Simple Agreement for Future Equity) or ASAs (Advanced Subscription Agreements). We may also participate in priced rounds via direct equity subscription agreements.

What happens after I receive an investment commitment?

The Oxford Seed Fund team will look to support you with your fundraise and in building your startup. We can make connections via the University of Oxford's network, help with hiring talent, link with potential advisors and customers, and so much more.

What if I haven't yet incorporated my startup?

We encourage all startups to apply, even if you are pre-incorporation. However, should you be selected you will need to incorporate your company before you can receive the funds.

What if I have any other questions?

Please feel free to message any of the team members or email seedfund@sbs.ox.ac.uk.