

The Stephen A Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities

Securing another 900 years of excellence at Oxford





Introduction

The Stephen A Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities will transform the way Oxford teaches, researches and shares humanities with the world.

For the first time in the University's history, programmes in English, history, linguistics, philology and phonetics, medieval and modern languages, music, philosophy, and theology and religion will be housed together in a space designed to encourage experiential learning and bold experimentation through cross-disciplinary and collaborative study.

The Schwarzman Centre will also be home to Oxford's new Institute for Ethics in AI, which will build on the University's exceptional capabilities in the humanities to lead the study of the ethical implications of artificial intelligence and other computing technologies.

The building will include performing arts and exhibition venues designed to engage the Oxford community and the public at large, and bring new audiences to the University through the innovative Humanities Cultural Programme.

Modern amenities and digital resources will allow Oxford to share the full breadth of its unparalleled collections and research in the humanities.

The Schwarzman Centre

Bringing together academia and performance, the centre will be situated in the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter in the heart of the city. Outstanding music, performance and community facilities will include a 500-seat concert hall, a large exhibition area, plus practice and ensemble rooms and studios. The centre will also be home to a dedicated humanities library. An exponential increase in academic creativity will be facilitated through cross-disciplinary collaboration and interdisciplinary research. Development of global partnerships will flourish alongside greater public engagement, in-depth debate and the ever-wider dissemination of knowledge.

The Humanities Cultural Programme

The Humanities Cultural Programme shares research with, and learns from, as wide an audience as possible. It will use facilities in the Schwarzman Centre to put on exhibitions, theatrical performances, film screenings and musical events.

The cultural programme is already connecting humanities research to new audiences. State-of-the-art performance spaces will engage the Oxford community and the public at large, including visitors to Oxford from around the world.



Students are a key focus of the cultural programme. They will meet, learn from and collaborate with leading figures in the arts. They will put on plays, exhibitions and performances. They will work with academics across Oxford and the wider world to discuss how the humanities can contribute to key issues such as the environment.

The new humanities library

This outstanding facility will marry Oxford's expertise in the establishment and curation of specialist academic libraries with modern day requirements and technologies.

At its heart, the library will bring together seven collections previously held separately – English language and literature, film studies, history of medicine, music, philosophy, theology and religion, and internet studies – thereby enabling greater interdisciplinary study and research collaboration.

Supporting teaching and research at the highest level, the library will be home to a range of different working environments with study carrels, hot desks and private rooms for group work. Cutting-edge technology will ensure that students and academics can exploit the latest developments in the digital humanities for their research.

Faculty of Music and the Bate Collection

The Schwarzman Centre will serve as a dynamic hub where music is brought to life through study, hands on experience and vibrant collaborations to attract diverse local and international audiences.

Embedded within the Faculty of Music, the Bate Collection is one of the most magnificent collections of musical instruments held anywhere in the world.

The collection has over 2,000 instruments from the Western orchestral traditions and spans four centuries of instrumental evolution providing unique opportunities for learning and training. The collection's new home in the centre will provide a secure place for the proper display and preservation of the instruments to be enjoyed and studied by visitors.

The Ethics in AI Institute

The Institute for Ethics in AI is a dynamic and disruptive new hub that will lead research into, and the debate around, the ethical implications of artificial intelligence and other computing technologies. The institute will bring researchers working in the humanities and scholars across the University's disciplines together with technical developers and users of AI in academia, business and government to make a positive impact on the lives of current and future generations.

Just as the humanities helped guide the debate on medical ethics 30 years ago, they will be even more essential in providing an ethical framework for developing machine intelligence, for responding to the increasing automation of work, and for considering how and if machines develop skills such as reasoning and creativity.

