THE CORNELIA SORABJI SCHOLARSHIP IN LAW AT SOMERVILLE COLLEGE

University of Oxford

Proposal by Somerville College and the Faculty of Law, University of Oxford

Photos: PA Photocall; Somerville College, University of Oxford; Greg Smolonski
INTRODUCTION

The Faculty of Law and Somerville College are proud to celebrate Cornelia Sorabji and her achievements through the creation of the Cornelia Sorabji Scholarship in Law for outstanding Indian graduate students.

Somerville College’s links with India date back to 1889, with the arrival of Cornelia Sorabji, who was not merely Somerville’s first Indian student, but the first Indian woman to study at any British University. Somerville’s founding Principal, Madeleine Shaw Lefèvre, was among those active in raising funds to enable her to come to England. Upon her return to India, Cornelia Sorabji became the first woman to practice law in India and worked on behalf of women living in purdah. Cornelia Sorabji’s nephew, Professor Sir Richard Sorabji, says: “Cornelia described her happiness studying in Somerville from 1889 in copious letters back home to Pune and would have been proud to endorse the call for a scholarship in memory of the legal work she initiated”.

The study of law has been an integral part of the University of Oxford throughout its 800 year history. Building on this tradition, the Faculty of Law at Oxford is today recognised as one of the best in the world.

LAW IN OXFORD

The Faculty of Law in the University of Oxford is one of the largest in the United Kingdom. The Faculty consists of over one hundred and fifty academics and the diverse and outstanding students are drawn from all over the world.

Oxford is different from any other law school:

- Students for the BA in Jurisprudence are typically taught in pair tutorials. A tutorial is an exercise for which the student writes an essay, so that the focus of the meeting is on the student’s own work on the subject.

- We have the only graduate degrees in the world that are taught in tutorials as well as in classes (the Bachelor of Civil Law (BCL), Master’s in Jurisprudence (MJur), and the new Master’s in Law and Finance).

- We have the largest doctoral programme in Law in the English-speaking world.

Law in Oxford has an international outlook:

- Around half of the Faculty have studied in other countries.
- Undergraduate students are 85% British and 15% overseas.
- The proportions are roughly the reverse among graduate students.

Oxford has become a worldwide centre for legal studies, as the English legal profession has taken the lead in the worldwide legal services industry. The University has trained many of the lawyers who have become partners in global firms. We are an English law school for the whole world.
The annual cost of full sponsorship a Cornelia Sorabji Law Scholar is £36,500. The cost of permanently endowing the Cornelia Sorabji Scholarship in Law is £1.2 million.
RECOGNITION OF BENEFACCTORS

By endowing the Cornelia Sorabji Scholarship in Law, a benefactor will leave a permanent and visible legacy at Oxford. Successive generations of Indian graduate law scholars will benefit from this outstanding generosity.

Somerville College and the University of Oxford are proud to recognise the generosity of donors and we have established ways of honouring major benefactors.

Naming opportunities for scholarships can be offered: a major donor may wish to add his or her name to the Cornelia Sorabji Law Scholarship. This will provide permanent recognition of the benefactor’s generosity for successive generations of students.

Foundation Fellowships are awarded for outstanding service to Somerville College, at the discretion of the Governing Body. Somerville currently has four Foundation Fellows.

The Vice-Chancellor’s Circle recognises individuals, foundations and corporate benefactors who have provided generous support to the collegiate University. Members receive regular communications from the Vice-Chancellor and senior officers, and are invited to an annual members’ event in the spring.

The Chancellor may invite the University’s most significant supporters to become members of the prestigious Chancellor’s Court of Benefactors. The Court meets each autumn in Oxford and offers benefactors the chance to engage with the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor and other senior leaders within the collegiate University. These meetings also allow benefactors to meet other members of the Court and to gain a greater understanding of the life and work of the University and the colleges.

The Chancellor’s Court of Benefactors Fellowship is awarded to honour those members of the Court who have given exceptional support to the University of Oxford. Members of this distinguished group are known as CCB Fellows.

Members of the Chancellor’s Court of Benefactors may have their generosity honoured by having their name engraved on the Clarendon Arch, near the entrance of the historic Bodleian Library.

The highest honour the University can bestow is the Sheldon Medal, which is reserved for an individual benefactor who has made a strategic difference to the life of the University. The medal was first awarded in 2002 and is named after Gilbert Sheldon, one of Oxford’s early benefactors, who graduated in 1620.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT:

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