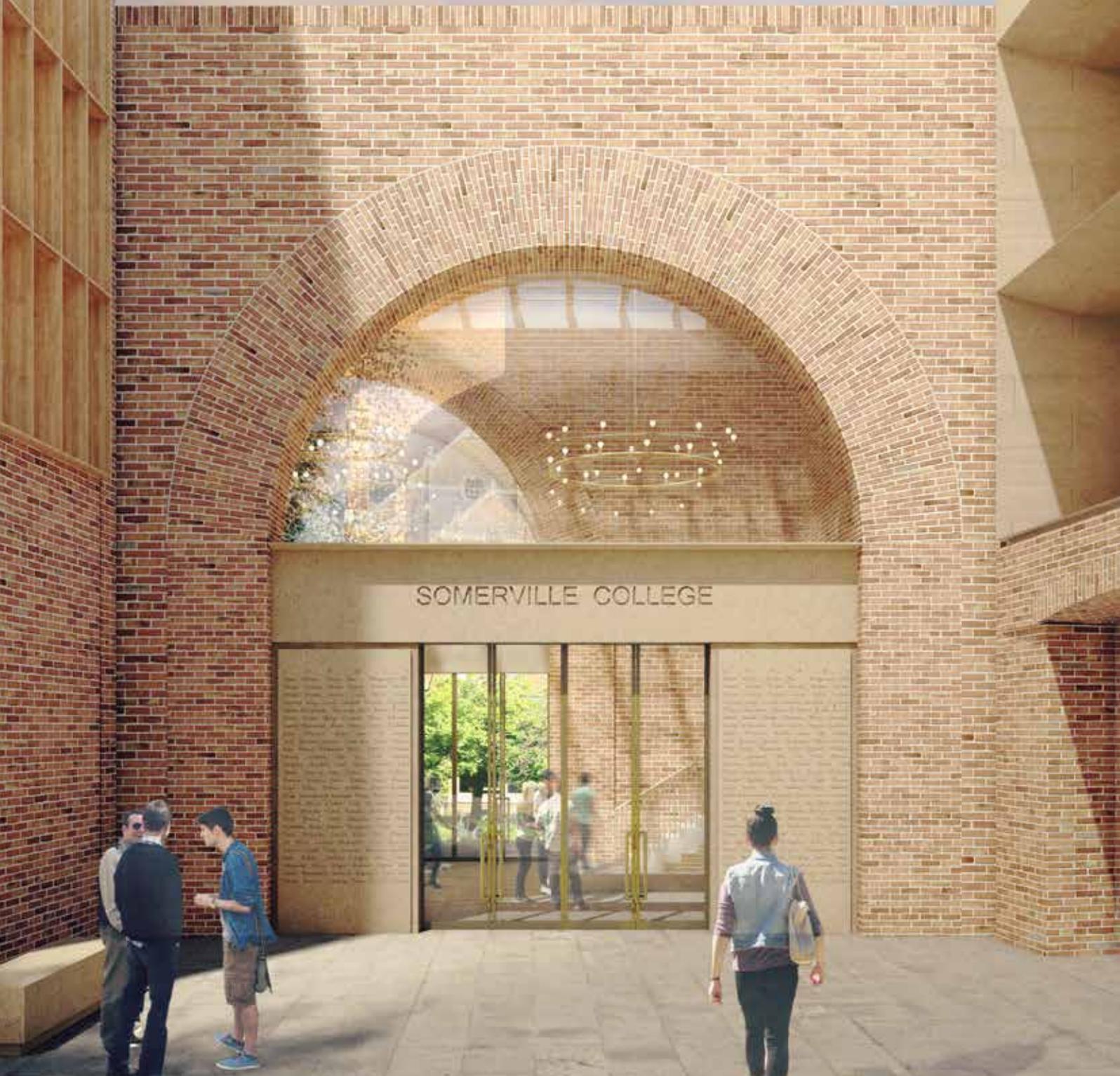




Somerville
College



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD



THE OXFORD INDIA CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

AT SOMERVILLE COLLEGE, OXFORD

The Oxford India Centre for Sustainable Development will help shape the next century of India's growth by educating, connecting and supporting its future leaders in sustainable development and by forging lasting partnerships between Indian institutions and the University of Oxford.

Somerville College, part of the University of Oxford, is establishing the Oxford India Centre for Sustainable Development. The Centre will be located in a new building dedicated to India and to Sustainable Development, which Somerville plans to open in 2017. It will have a transformational impact on future generations of Indian students, who will go on to lead change in India and beyond.

The Centre's aims are ambitious and far-reaching. It will act as an 'incubator' for:

- **Talent development**, providing fully funded scholarships for the best Indian graduate students to study at Oxford and equipping them to return to India to lead change
- **Pioneering research** on issues of urgent global concern
- **New partnerships** between leading academics, practitioners and policy-makers from Oxford, India and beyond in order to reach lasting solutions.

The Centre will be housed in a landmark new building in the heart of Oxford, to be named by the benefactor.

'The Centre will help to prepare the next generation of Indian leaders with the skills and academic training they need to tackle the challenges that India and the world face in sustainable development.'



Dr Alice Prochaska,
Principal of Somerville College

Thanks to a generous grant of £3 million from the Indian Ministry of Human Resource Development, the Centre has begun work with the appointment of its Research Director and the first scholars and research fellows. Somerville College and the University of Oxford are providing matching funding.

We are now seeking visionary philanthropists to make the Centre's mission a reality:

- **A flagship new building** to act as an incubator for world-class research and a showcase for Indian culture
- **Operational funding** to drive the Centre's academic programme e.g. an annual international conference, 'two cultures' seminar series, seed funding for innovative research, visiting research fellowships for Indian academics
- **Scholarships** to train more of the best and brightest Indian graduate students to tackle Sustainable Development problems

Developing India's talent

The Centre will create new opportunities for the best and brightest students from India to pursue their studies in sustainable development. The emphasis will be on inter-disciplinary research, to find practical solutions to the challenges facing India.

The selection process will be rigorous. Scholars will learn from leading experts in their fields and will have access to Oxford's world class research facilities. As well as their in-depth academic studies, they will receive training in leadership and social entrepreneurship. They will benefit from taking part in fieldwork in India, through research, volunteering and internship opportunities. At the conclusion of their studies, scholars will return to India to put their expertise into practice.

The Centre will create a thriving community of alumni in India who will train the next generation of students. They will have lifelong access to a global network of leaders in the field of Sustainable Development.

Pioneering research

India's Sustainable Development challenges:

- 500 million people without reliable access to electricity
- 250 million people without safe drinking water
- 42% of Indian children are undernourished
- increasing imbalance between the numbers of male and female children
- India is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change
- 45% of Indian land is degraded
- millions of rural poor exposed to rising food prices and changing climate conditions
- rapidly growing middle class, pushing up demands on natural resources
- increasing inequality between rich and poor
- relatively small investment in research and development
- relatively small number of PhDs
- no Indian universities in the Top 200 world ranking: Oxford is in the Top 5

Sources: NESTA (Our Frugal Future: Lessons from India's Innovation System), Stern Review, World Bank, 2005, India's 2011 Census, Gov of India, 2009, McKinsey Global Institute, WWF and CII (India)

'Breakthroughs happen where traditional academic disciplines collide. India's Sustainable Development challenges cannot be solved in isolation from each other. The Centre will convene experts from across all the relevant fields to develop comprehensive, lasting solutions to fundamental problems'



Dr Alfred Gathorne-Hardy, Research Director

The Centre will be an incubator for inter-disciplinary research, connecting experts from different fields. It will focus on a series of Impact Themes, each one pivotal for Sustainable Development and India.

Impact Themes:

- food and water security
- energy
- environmental conservation
- medical research
- healthcare, using cutting-edge technology
- law
- governance
- gender e.g. empowerment of women



The first Indian graduate scholars to become part of the Centre

Creating new partnerships

Creating lasting solutions to global challenges requires working across traditional academic boundaries, developing in-depth understanding of complex problems and making new connections.

The Centre will identify gaps in knowledge, make new connections between ideas and people and disseminate findings widely through policy workshops, conferences and publications.

By building new partnerships with Indian institutions - universities, research centres, NGOs, government agencies and businesses – the Centre will more quickly translate research into impact on the ground.

Example of inter-disciplinary research and partnership working: food security

Problem: 42% of Indian children are undernourished.

Cause: a mix of social, physical and economic factors e.g. corruption, poor infrastructure, poverty.

The Centre's approach:

- in-depth analysis by experts from different fields, from environmental sciences to governance
- academics, policymakers, NGOs, industry and others devising solutions together
- influencing policy through reports and publications, networks and the Centre's scholars



Partnerships will create more opportunities for student internships, fieldwork and employment with top Indian organisations. Those organisations will themselves benefit by being able to recruit from a pool of highly trained and motivated graduates.

By creating new partnerships between academics and decision-makers and between Oxford and India, the Centre will bring real value and impact back to India. It will be a catalyst for lasting change.

A new landmark facility for India at Oxford

The new building, located at the heart of the University and the city in the new Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, will house the Centre. It will be a vital academic resource and a vibrant public space.

The Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, a 10-acre site in central Oxford, is one of the most significant development projects the University of Oxford has undertaken for more than a century.

The new building will be a hub for activity relating to India and Sustainable Development. Providing accommodation, teaching and conference facilities, it will bring together academics, students, practitioners and policy makers from Oxford, India and beyond to develop interdisciplinary solutions to the challenges that India and the world face.

On current plans the new building will include a 200-seat auditorium, high-tech conference facilities, seminar rooms, an exhibition space and space for performances and rehearsals. It will host major events involving global leaders. Thousands of people will be able to use the building each year.

The building will be named in accordance with the wishes of the benefactor.



The new building on the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter site

Somerville's enduring links to India

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 Lefevre, was among those active in raising funds to enable her to come to England.

Since then, Somerville has welcomed many generations of Indian students, most notably Indira Gandhi, who entered Somerville in October 1937 to read Modern History. Indira Gandhi's time at Somerville is recorded in the College archives, in her own published letters to her father, and in the affectionate memories of her College contemporaries, who grieved when she was obliged by illness to leave at the end of her first year. Several of them, together with her former tutors, Dame Lucy Sutherland, and Professor May McKisack, were present in Somerville to greet her when, as Prime Minister of India and an Honorary Fellow of the College, she came to Oxford in 1971 to receive an honorary Doctorate of Civil Law.



Cornelia Sorabji, the first Indian student at Somerville College, and the first Indian woman admitted to a British university

With some exceptions – like Soonu Kochar, who entered the Indian Diplomatic Service and represented her country as Ambassador to Holland, Argentina and France – students coming to Somerville from India in more recent times have tended to be destined for academic careers, their choices of specialisation often reflecting the continuity of values and concerns with which the College has always been associated. Shobhita Jain and Utsa Patnaik for example, both postgraduate students at Somerville in the late 1960s, became respectively Professor of Women's Studies and Development and Economic Studies at the Indira Gandhi National Open University, Maidan Garhi, and Professor of Economics at the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi.

Historic links between Somerville and India



From left: Catherine and Bamba Duleep Singh (1890), Shanta Sukhtankar (1931), Bharati Sarabhai (1933), Mrs Gandhi greeting Somerville scholar Shobhita Jain during her visit to Oxford in 1971

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