



City of Sanctuary

Application for Sanctuary Award

Name and type of organisation:	<i>Somerville College, University of Oxford</i>
Town / City you are based in:	<i>Oxford</i>
Name / position of lead applicant:	<i>Jan Royall, Principal</i> <i>Sara Kalim, Director of Development</i>
Contact (phone no. and e-mail):	Principal@some.ox.ac.uk 01865 270630
Date of application:	27 January 2021

Please put an 'X' this box if you are happy for your application to be shared with other organisations applying for sanctuary awards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Please provide a summary of how your organisation engages with sanctuary seekers:

Somerville is applying to be a University College of Sanctuary in conjunction with Mansfield College, Oxford. Somerville has a student population of over 600 undergraduates and graduates and is one of the 39 constituent colleges within the University of Oxford. The College is interdisciplinary in academic research and teaching and many of its senior academics are world-leaders in their fields. Our faculty also maintain close links across University departments and colleges.

Somerville was founded to include the excluded. It was created for women when universities refused them entry and for people of diverse beliefs when Anglicanism was a rigid norm. This ethos has remained strong as the College has evolved. The College is now co-educational and we have an international student body from many different backgrounds. Many of our alumni have gone on to change the world in healthcare, media, industry, governments, and social justice work. These include Nobel Scientist Professor Dorothy Hodgkin, Civil Rights Activist Lucy Banda-Sichone, Baroness Shirley Williams and Dame Esther Rantzen.

Somerville also has a long history of sheltering academics and students fleeing persecution. In the 1930s-40, Somerville was one of several Oxford colleges to offer life-saving refuge to Jewish refugee academics fleeing the Nazi regime, including Dr K. Bosse, Egyptologist; Dr Herzog Hauser, Classicist; Dr Elise Baumgartel, Egyptologist; and Dr Lotte Labowsky, Classicist. Dr Labowsky became close friends with Somerville Classics tutor, Mildred Hartley, and was protected by Principal Helen Darbishire. Labowsky became a Fellow and her association with Somerville lasted until her death in 1991.

In 1956, Somerville founded the Hungarian Student Scholarship Fund. Its sponsors included Somerville's Principal Janet Vaughan. Vaughan was a pioneering haematologist and pathologist who developed treatments for those suffering from extreme starvation including those imprisoned at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. The committee organising the scholarship included noted philosopher Philippa Foot and Somerville students.

In 1957, JACARI (the Joint Action Committee Against Racial Intolerance) Oxford aimed to raise £2,000 in the University and town and founded a scholarship for a non-white student from the Union of South Africa. Somerville's then Principal, Janet Vaughan, was a trustee of the scholarship. Somerville undergraduates later contributed funds for a scholarship for another South African student in 1969.

In 1966, there was an Appeal for Funds for students from Czechoslovakia: Somerville covered students' tuition fees while its students raised money to cover students' living expenses. In the 1970s, Somerville's undergraduates created a scholarship to assist a Chilean refugee, named to honour Somerville alumna Sheila Cassidy, who practised medicine in Chile and drew attention to the human rights abuses occurring there at the time. It funded an undergraduate at Somerville and even helped secure the release of a political prisoner in Chile in 1979.

As a University College of Sanctuary, we will continue this legacy, strengthened by the association and ability to network with other Universities of Sanctuary as well as Oxford City of Sanctuary. Somerville is working with the University to offer fully funded Sanctuary Scholarships to young people who have been forced to migrate from their home countries and who have the potential to excel at Oxford. Somerville has already secured £75,000 in donations which will cover the living costs for five years of the scholarship. As such, the College's funding for Sanctuary Scholarships is now on long term

sustainable footing. This academic year, the College has welcomed a graduate scholar who has experienced displacement. We intend to extend the scholarship to an undergraduate recipient in future years. We will provide scholarship beneficiaries with the resources they need to develop their skills and full potential. Our approach to both welfare and curricular programming reflects our commitment to making Somerville a place of sanctuary for all and ensures that our students leave Somerville with the opportunity to understand why people are forced to flee their countries and what concrete steps they can take to address the causes of forced displacement.

Using the 3 principles of the sanctuary award, please reflect on how you have achieved these principles attaching evidence to support your answer.

LEARN

The University of Oxford undertakes substantial research on issues relating to displacement. The Refugee Studies Centre (RSC) is the university's primary academic hub for this research and is a multidisciplinary global leader in the field of forced migration, containing the world's largest collection of material on the study of refugees and forced migration. Somerville has included RSC faculty such as Alexander Betts and Catherine Briddick at past events and will continue to invite expert speakers within this area for future events. Somerville also admits graduate students who undertake the MSc in Refugee & Forced Migration Studies at the RSC. This MSc introduces students to the issue of forced migration through anthropological, political, and legal perspectives. Additionally, Somerville undergraduate and graduate students have the option to study issues relating to displacement across disciplines from considering legacies of empire in History to the study of postcolonial literature and present-day refugee issues.

As a University College of Sanctuary, Somerville will make the most of research being done by its students and others at the University on aspects of forced displacement and already integrates discussions related to forced displacement into its undergraduate teaching in subjects such as Modern Languages. Through the events we host and the teaching we offer to undergraduates, we aim for students of various disciplines to become more aware of topics such as forced migration and asylum. We will work to ensure that any educational activities of this nature are not tokenistic: we recognise that topics related to forced displacement are embedded within and should be discussed in relation to issues of racism, colonialism/imperialism, and class. To help our students become aware of these intersections, we are interested in exploring ways in which the Alternative Curriculum reading group, in which students from across the university meet each month at Somerville to discuss decolonial and postcolonial theory, can interact with Somerville students more deeply.

As our links with Asylum Welcome and Oxford City of Sanctuary grow, we will foreground learning from experts by experience through our website, events, and Advisory group. We have already learned from students who have experienced insufficient legal counsel and have invited alumni and friends of the College with expertise in this field to join our Advisory group.

Development Programme

Students who come to Somerville on the Sanctuary Scholarship will study in a variety of fields. Somerville's pre-existing academic resources will help these students unlock their full potential while they are at Somerville, and after they leave. As Somervillians, they will be able to take advantage of the opportunities offered by Somerville's Development Programme which offers regular workshops on careers and skills (academic and personal) development as well as one-to-one mentoring delivered by the Director of the Development Programme, Dr Claire Cockcroft.

The Development Programme equip students of all backgrounds at Somerville to pursue professional work aimed at addressing forced displacement. Each year, the Programme delivers seminars on related topics and careers, for example in International Development, drawing on our alumni and networks. The Programme also provides mentoring support within Somerville and, through our College Development Awards, offers financial support for our students to undertake voluntary internships, including with refugee projects across the world. Going forward, the Development Programme will plan to earmark one or more Development Awards for students working on projects that relate to forced displacement.

To raise awareness on issues relating to forced displacement, we are planning to organise activities such as panels and other events at which Somerville students researching different aspects of forced displacement, racism, colonialism, and interrelated topics will present their work to their peers. These discussions can highlight work done by students at the Oxford India Centre which is based at Somerville and takes an interdisciplinary approach to studying the challenges and opportunities posed by sustainable development in India. Our Development Programme staff will work with students to help them present their work at academic conferences and publish their work in relevant publications.

Training – MCR/JCR seminars

Somerville has become the first Oxford college to require an implicit bias training workshop for all College staff. Students in the Junior Common Room (JCR) - the undergraduate student body - and the Middle Common Room (MCR) - the graduate student body - also delivered trainings to their members on implicit bias, diversity, and equity, at the beginning of this academic year.

Community Learning

Somerville has always served as a place of community learning for those living inside and outside the College. As discussed further in the 'Share' section, we plan to continue hosting many more events that explore different aspects of displacement. We will invite people with lived experience to speak and share with us at these events, as we have done in the past. We will also offer Somerville as a space for use by community groups that serve displaced populations.

Engagement with Other Universities of Sanctuary

To learn from the excellent work already being undertaken by Universities of Sanctuary across the UK, we plan to connect with colleagues at these universities, consult them on several topics, and share resources. In particular, we are interested in asking colleagues for their insight on promising practices for developing referral networks for students on Sanctuary Scholarships (discussed further below), and for their advice on how Somerville could successfully encourage other Oxford colleges

to apply for University College of Sanctuary status. This would also extend to encouraging the University of Oxford to pursue university-wide initiatives to make itself more inclusive for students who have experienced forced displacement.

EMBED

Somerville's Governing Body voted to embed its commitment to offering scholarships to students who have experienced forced displacement in the college's five-year strategic plan. Under point 5 of the plan, 'Engage more effectively with local, national, and international communities', Somerville expresses its aspiration to become a University College of Sanctuary and lists creating a refugee scholarship as an action point. This helps ensure that Somerville's commitment to offer sanctuary is unwavering and supported even if there is staff turnover at the college. Somerville's administration, the JCR, MCR, and faculty will work together to uphold this commitment.

Sanctuary Scholarship

The University has waived tuition fees for refugee and asylum-seeker students who benefit from scholarships offered to them by Oxford colleges. This has been written into the University's regulatory framework. Somerville has committed to offering Sanctuary Scholarships at the graduate and undergraduate levels, embodying the College's belief in Principle 1 of Article 26: the right of forced migrants to access higher education. This belief in the right to education for all human beings is represented across the College community as students, alumni, and non-alumni friends of Somerville have donated £75,000 to our Sanctuary Scholarship. This will support the living costs for beneficiaries of the Sanctuary Scholarship for the next 5 years. A graduate student began their studies in autumn 2020 on this scholarship.

In keeping with Principle 4 of Article 26, the Sanctuary Scholarship covers students' costs of accommodation, food, course books, etc. As the Development Office continues to fundraise for this scholarship, we will strive to raise funds for additional support for students. We will support students in the process of securing visas to come to the UK to study and to pursue opportunities abroad, which may be more complicated in some cases than others depending on their legal status. The Development Programme will offer Sanctuary Scholarship recipients, like all Somerville students, support in securing internships, for instance, by referring them to members of Somerville's alumni network. We will also assist Sanctuary Scholars with securing accommodation in Oxford holidays, in case they do not have stable housing elsewhere. If we cannot guarantee students accommodation in the College, or if they do not wish to live on site, we will work with our alumni network and/or organisations such as Refugees at Home and Oxford City of Sanctuary to find this accommodation. All undergraduate students are offered accommodation on campus and we also have graduate provision. Students living on site have access to subsidised meals in the College's dining facilities and there are also cooking facilities in Somerville halls.

For at least the first phase of offering this scholarship, Somerville will choose candidates for the scholarship from a pool of applicants submitted to us by the University's Fees & Funding Office. Going forward, Somerville will advertise the scholarship itself - both to students who are already in the UK and those who are still displaced abroad - by taking advantage of its robust alumni

network, and other resources. The Director of the Development Programme at Somerville will offer advice and support to Sanctuary Scholarship applicants on interview skills and writing their application etc. so as to address additional barriers that applicants whose education has been interrupted often experience. This support is an extension of the work Somerville already does to improve access and provide additional support to students from all backgrounds. We would also hope to learn from the experience of other University of Sanctuary institutions in the most effective ways to reach out to potential refugee students. The College will continue working to remove procedural barriers to refugee students' applications through its ongoing work with access officers, charities, and recent graduates working with refugees.

Efforts to Advance Equality and Diversity

In Michaelmas term of 2020, Somerville's new Equality and Diversity Working Group convened for the first time. It is chaired by two of Somerville's equality champions: Engineering Fellow Noa Zilberman and Senior Research Fellow Patricia Kingori. The group includes other faculty, two members of the MCR, two members of the JCR, and may in the future also include alumni and community members. The group also includes members of staff at the College: Jan Royall (Principal); Sara Kalim (Director of Development); Jo Ockwell (Welfare Support and Policy Officer); and Salome Hughes (Head of Human Resources). To fulfil Somerville's commitment to promoting racial justice, the group's first focus is on pressing issues for BAME students. In due course, it will also address issues related to the LGBTQ+ community and other diversity issues. All these issues directly affect beneficiaries of our Sanctuary Scholarships. The group will determine its mandate and goals by consensus but its co-chairs are already planning to link some of its work to Somerville's pre-existing efforts to make Somerville more accessible to young students of colour and other under-represented groups at Oxford. The E&D group also met in January 2021 to discuss the college's commitment to embedding its sanctuary work from making training available to all staff (in accordance with Principle 10 of Article 26) in order to broaden their understanding of forced migration and the impact on affected students to ideas for the expansion of its advisory group.

Additionally, all Somerville faculty, staff and students were required to undergo online bias training at the beginning of the 2020 academic year. Somerville is the first Oxford college to require this.

Sanctuary Advisory Group

In addition to the working group described above, Somerville also plans to convene an Advisory Group that will provide insight, resources, and referrals on issues that relate to the unique challenges faced by students who have experienced forced displacement. It will also monitor Somerville's work as a University College of Sanctuary and provide guidance and feedback regarding Somerville's future efforts to reapply for certification as a University College of Sanctuary.

Somerville and Mansfield College, which is also looking to become a University College of Sanctuary and is making its application in tandem with Somerville, are interested in collaborating to form this Advisory Group which would include alumni of both colleges who work in the field of forced displacement, such as human rights lawyers and humanitarian experts. It could also incorporate Oxford students and alumni who are experts by experience. Nominations for the advisory group will include any current Sanctuary Scholars ex officio. Somerville's first Sanctuary Scholar has already accepted this invitation. Somerville would also like to nominate Jo Moffett-Levy (Open Door); David

Skinner and Libby Ancrum (who have worked in Bangladesh with Rohingya refugees); Jodie Spencer (Action for Education, working with asylum seekers in Vathi RIC, Samos); and Councillor Hosnieh Djafari-Marbini (Oxford City Council's first Migration Champion).

Many students involved in complex immigration proceedings can find themselves in difficulty during their education and are unable to afford high-quality legal assistance. We have spoken to students who have ended up with legal counsel that provides insufficient or inaccurate advice and who know others with similar experiences. Other students with direct experience of forced displacement may require or want to pursue trauma counselling or other forms of counselling. If students on our Sanctuary Scholarships find themselves in these or other situations, we will ask our Advisory Group to connect students with networks that can support them – e.g., with securing *pro bono* legal assistance, specialised counselling, etc. Beyond this group Somerville is also compiling an internal database of alumni and other contacts working in the field.

This Advisory Group will meet on an ad hoc basis either online or face to face when possible to hear reports and offer feedback on our University College of Sanctuary programming, the resources we are providing to Sanctuary Scholars, and efforts to make Somerville inclusive for all students.

Welfare

Sanctuary Scholars, like all Somerville students, will have access to Somerville's Welfare team. Every Somerville student is assigned a personal tutor with whom they meet at least once each term and who offers advice on academic questions and concerns. A counsellor from the University's Counselling Service comes to Somerville and holds appointments one day a week though students can also go to the Service directly if they prefer. The Welfare Officer, Jo Ockwell, coordinates student welfare support and is available for frontline support, as are the JCR's student Welfare Officers, Junior Deans, and Peer Supporters - a team of students trained by the University Counselling Service who provide confidential support. Sanctuary Scholars will be offered regular check-ins with this team, as well as with the Principal. This provision of welfare support is extended to all students at Somerville and, in keeping with Principle 3 of Article 26, the College would at all times respect the right to privacy of each Sanctuary Scholar and the confidentiality of students' immigration status.

Student Initiatives

Student leaders in the JCR and MCR, along with our staff, are well-placed to be ambassadors for Somerville's College of Sanctuary mission. Student leaders organise academic and social events and programmes for undergraduate and graduate students. They are ideally placed to work to welcome beneficiaries of Sanctuary Scholarships and to educate their peers on what it means for Somerville to be a University College of Sanctuary.

JCR (Undergraduate Student Body)

The Somerville JCR has already committed to contributing to Somerville's efforts to further fundraise for the Sanctuary Scholarships. Members of the Somerville JCR have traditionally had a termly charge added onto their College bill entitled 'charity battels': the amount raised goes to charities the JCR chooses to support. In the summer of 2020, JCR students voted overwhelmingly in favour of increasing the contribution of each student per term, with the extra money to be solely used to

support refugee causes and charities. Half of the funds raised each term - which will amount to £1,275, approximately - will go towards Somerville's Sanctuary Scholarships.

The JCR also plans to support or run the following programmes in order to help make the transition to living in the UK easier for refugees. The dedicated funds raised from charity battels will also provide ongoing financial support for the [Oxford Hub's FELLOW Programme](#), which provides free English classes to a wide range of Oxford residents - from refugees to visiting students - to ensure they can integrate into the local community by improving their language skills.

The JCR's financial contribution will prove invaluable in providing educational resources to be used by volunteers. The JCR is also looking to develop closer ties with the FELLOW Programme to create a partnership whereby Somerville students act as volunteers specifically for refugees wishing to learn or improve their English language skills.

In Spring 2020, the JCR - in conjunction with Somerville's Principal, Jan Royall - had planned to host a formal dinner that would raise money and awareness for refugee causes. The formal event was postponed because of the ongoing pandemic but the JCR plans to hold Somerville's first annual refugee event at the first opportunity where it is safe to do so, ideally in spring 2021, and to make the formal an annual event, going forward.

MCR (Graduate Student Body)

The MCR's leadership team has organised significant recent programming on diversity and equity and plans to continue this programming in the coming school year. During lockdown, the MCR organised a weekly podcast in which students from different cultures and backgrounds shared their stories and described their work to other MCR members. Beginning in autumn 2020, the MCR also started the 'Friend at Somerville' programme, through which incoming Somerville students, including beneficiaries of the Sanctuary Scholarship, will be matched with veteran Somerville students to introduce them to the College and University.

The MCR and Development Programme plan to invite graduate students on the MSc in Refugee & Forced Migration Studies and MSc in Migration Studies, as well as other students in other disciplines, who are working on issues related to forced displacement to speak on their dissertations at a knowledge-exchange forum in Somerville.

The MCR also plans to deliver programming on issues relating to displacement, equity, and racism throughout the year beginning with Freshers' Week - the induction week at Oxford - to contribute to Somerville's efforts to be a place of sanctuary for all. Last year, the MCR began offering workshops on consent and sexual harassment and violence. This year, the MCR plans to offer diversity and equity trainings remotely, to comply with COVID-19 regulations, and in-person, if possible. One objective of these trainings will be to make Somerville students aware of the multiple, intersecting barriers that students of colour and financially disadvantaged students face in accessing and navigating higher education. During Freshers' Week, the MCR also planned to raise funds and in-kind donations for local refugee charities.

Webpage

The College has created a Sanctuary Scholarships webpage on its [official website](#). This page will be updated to reflect previous Refugee events and other resources pertinent to the College's sanctuary activities. This webpage is currently being redrafted alongside an [additional webpage](#) on the College website which contains further information about the Sanctuary Scholarship and how to apply. These webpages will be honed and worked on in the coming months to coincide with a relaunch of the College's overall website and to express Somerville's commitment to the Sanctuary charter. Further to this, our communications team will engage with Universities of Sanctuary and Mansfield College on social media to promote shared events and interests.

SHARE

As a University College of Sanctuary, Somerville will continue to host events open to members of Somerville and the public on issues related to forced displacement and, as much as is possible with evolving COVID-19 regulations, Somerville will offer the use of its spaces to local community groups. For instance, Somerville now has a dedicated space for community events in one of our refurbished buildings, Bedford House, and in 2019 and 2020, the Programme Director delivered several events for Oxford's interdisciplinary Science & Ideas Festival. This festival forum, which attracts a diverse audience, is an excellent forum in which to engage society in dialogue about wide ranging issues. We plan to make Bedford House available to community groups to use once social distancing is no longer required.

Events

Over the last several years, the Principal of Somerville College has hosted five events focusing on refugees in the UK, featuring discussions and presentations from members of the refugee community and those working in charities and in local government on refugee issues. The events have been well attended; guests have included families, children, students, and members of the local Oxford and University community.

The first of these events focused on unique issues facing women refugees in the UK. The panel consisted of Councillor Peymana Assa (Harrow) and Councillor Shaista Aziz (Oxford), as well as Fatou Ceesay from Refugee Resource.

The second was the inaugural 'Mary Somerville Lecture' in 2018. The College was delighted to welcome Dame Stephanie Shirley CH, a child refugee, software engineer, autism advocate and philanthropist. In her talk, 'Excluding the Excluded,' Dame Stephanie spoke of her life journey, which included creating a hugely successful software company of women, for women.

The third event in this series was titled '[Displaced Voices](#)'. The panel consisted of Caroline Beatty, who has a background in equality work, and the Reverend Jo Moffett-Levy, who has been involved in refugee projects in Oxford for around 25 years. Following this event, refugees and migrants who moved to Oxford as children and who were also members of Oxford Spires Academy performed original poetry. They were accompanied by the Orchestra of St John's, conducted by Cayenna Ponchione, a Junior Research Fellow at Somerville at the time, who played excerpts of the newly

composed *Displaced Voices Song Set*. Leading up to the concert, Cayenna and other Somerville staff had worked with the student poets on the settings of their poems.

When the pandemic began, we moved our events online. During International Refugee Week, in an effort to help raise awareness about the refugee crisis and unique challenges that displaced people have been facing during the COVID-19 pandemic, Somerville hosted [two webinars](#) for students, alumni, and other members of the Somerville community. The first event, entitled, 'Dignity, Safety and Survival: The Rights of Refugees in a Lockdown,' took place on June 19 2020. The event was moderated by human rights barrister and Somerville alumna Sam Knights QC and featured Alexander Betts, a professor at the Refugee Studies Centre, and barrister Alison Harvey of No 5 Chambers, who practices on subjects related to refugees, human trafficking, and other human rights issues. Both Betts and Harvey discussed domestic laws in the UK that impede refugees' access to the asylum system and about the impact of the pandemic lockdown on refugees' livelihoods and wellbeing, such as efforts several governments have taken to use public health restrictions as a tool to further crack down on the movement of refugees and other populations.

On June 24 2020, Somerville and Mansfield College co-hosted a web-based event called 'Speaking Out for Refugees' to provide more information on the refugee crisis and on both colleges' campaigns to create refugee scholarships. The event was moderated by broadcaster Natasha Kaplinsky OBE and featured Lord Alf Dubs, who came to the UK through the Kindertransport programme during World War II and has advocated for the rights of refugees throughout his political career - for instance, by authoring the celebrated Dubs Amendment, which sought to amend the UK Immigration Act to guarantee safe passage to unaccompanied children during the migration crisis of 2015 and 2016. Lord Dubs criticised the UK government's failure to take in a significant number of refugees and stressed that during the COVID-19 pandemic and as Brexit moves forward, it is more important than ever to spread awareness about the refugee crises to unsympathetic audiences and welcome more refugees to Britain.

We plan to respond to Lord Dubs' call to action. We will make meeting rooms in Somerville available for free to organisations in Oxford that work on refugee issues for them to host speakers, fundraising events, and have regular programming such as language classes and planning meetings. We also plan to host more events on different issues affecting forcibly displaced peoples that are not as frequently discussed elsewhere in the university.

We intend to continue co-hosting at least one event each year with Mansfield College, which also has numerous associations with experts in the field of forced displacement through its alumni and academic networks. For instance, Mansfield hosts the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights, which conducts research and organises events on various human rights issues. The Institute's Advisory Council includes many prominent human rights practitioners, including Lady Arden, Alejandra Ancheita, Lord John Dyson, and Dame Linda Dobbs. Helen Mountfield QC, the Principal of Mansfield, is a barrister with decades of experience in human rights law.

Please identify how sanctuary seekers have been involved in helping you achieve these principles.

In the process of developing our University College of Sanctuary application, two Somerville students who recently graduated from the MSc in Refugee & Forced Migration Studies consulted with students and faculty at Oxford and other UK institutions of higher education who have direct experience of forced displacement. Those whom they consulted chose to offer anonymised feedback on their experiences in their departments, their colleges or other residential spaces, their interactions with administrators, staff, and welfare officers, etc. They described their views on priorities that Somerville should follow as it becomes a University College of Sanctuary, such as investing resources in anti-racist trainings and programming and ensuring that Sanctuary Scholars have a clear sense of the staff who can assist them with different kinds of issues that might arise during their education. Somerville graduate students incorporated their feedback into our application and reported back other feedback into our internal processes for our University College of Sanctuary initiatives.

Somerville College and Mansfield College have consulted with Asylum Welcome (AW), an Oxford Charity whose mission is to tackle 'suffering and isolation among asylum seekers, refugees and detainees who have fled persecution and danger in their own countries and seek refuge in Oxford and Oxfordshire'. Asylum Welcome has provided feedback on the application. As such, Somerville and Mansfield will be working with the charity to build up initiatives over time, exploring aspects of community outreach and assisting and engaging with local refugee groups or individuals over and above the offer of the use of our premises. There will also be further exploration of the respective colleges' students being encouraged to be active volunteers, fundraisers, and campaigners in partnership with Oxford City of Sanctuary and other local refugee organisations. Somerville College and Mansfield are now in discussion with AW to organise a small group of AW staff, clients and some relevant community members to begin to explore the community elements further. In this regard, we are mindful of the excellent work done by Oxford City of Sanctuary and will make use of their expertise and experience, for example if our Sanctuary Scholars wish to find accommodation off-site. We look forward to building our relationship with Oxford City of Sanctuary and engaging with events such as Oxford Refugee Week.

How does your organisation intend to build on your achievements over the next 3 years in order that your award is renewed?

Somerville is committed to building on its achievements over the next 3 years, by firmly embedding these initiatives into the annual calendar of activities, including those led by the student JCR and MCR. The principles of the Sanctuary Scholarship have also been embedded into the College's five-year strategy under the Equality and Diversity working group. The strategy has been ratified by the College's Governing Body. Somerville will look to further build on its relationship with the Oxford community. This will include working with Oxford local schools and communities, helping to support pupils from refugee or asylum seeker backgrounds who are keen to pursue further education at University level, particularly at Oxbridge. This will be an additional strand to our ongoing Access and Outreach initiatives.

- Somerville is committed to continuing its ethos of inclusivity and diversity. It has always been a College which has 'included the excluded' and as such we are committed to exploring ways Somerville could: offer further work experience and mentoring

opportunities to scholars on the Sanctuary Scholarship and members of the student community seeking sanctuary

- Fundraise to expand the Sanctuary Scholarship programme
- Fundraise for discretionary funds to support Sanctuary Scholars beyond the scholarship programme. This might include language courses, laptops and mobile phone provision
- Develop the Diversity and Equality training offered to staff, students and academics
- Develop further links with local Oxford organisations supporting sanctuary seekers either through the student body or through larger-scale College initiatives
- Provide further space for international staff and students to discuss barriers they might face while working and studying at the College
- Work with other universities of sanctuary to share best practice through one-on-one conversations, roundtables, etc.
- Offer a space for sanctuary students to voice their stories and highlight issues faced by refugee communities in the UK and abroad for example at events, panel discussions, and via the website. Bedford House will also be available as a community space.
- Strengthen relations with Mansfield College to promote the University of Sanctuary initiative to encourage more Oxford Colleges to participate in the scheme. This could involve co-hosting an event between Somerville, Mansfield, and University of Sanctuary.
- Expand the Sanctuary Advisory Committee in order to offer further support sanctuary students
- Identify more local and international partners through which to promote the Sanctuary Scholarships and knowledge exchange, in addition to the [Oxford India Centre for Sustainable Development](#), located at Somerville.

To be completed by the recognition team

Have the following criteria been met across the whole portfolio of evidence?

Criteria	Criteria met?
Staff involvement / awareness Were all staff, including support staff, made aware of what Sanctuary means? Were staff involved in work towards the different principles? Has staff awareness of the issues surrounding sanctuary increased?	
Public involvement Would any of the activities engage the public in wider sanctuary issues and/or understanding of these issues?	
Future commitment Has the applicant demonstrated a sustainable commitment to sanctuary? What evidence is there that this commitment will continue after the award is granted? (e.g. embedded in mission, strategic planning, policies and procedures)	
Active refugee voice Were refugees involved in any evaluation/monitoring or delivery of activities for each of the principles?	
Self-evaluation Do staff and others involved feel that the organisation has met the principles?	
Feedback from others involved Has feedback from the public or the refugee support sector been taken into account? Have there been any changes or actions arising from the activities?	
Feedback from refugee involvement Comments from an asylum seeker or refugee who has engaged with an aspect of the organisation's work.	

Signed by the lead applicant:	
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At least one member of the recognition team to be a sanctuary seeker or refugee.

Recognition team member 1:	
Recognition team member 2:	
Recognition team member 3:	

Any recommendations?	
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Date of appraisal:	
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Date for recognition to be publicised:	
Date renewal due:	