



Mansfield College, University of Oxford, announces new Kofi Annan Scholarships

From the academic year 2020-21, Mansfield College will be partnering with the University of Oxford's prestigious Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Scholarships and Leadership Programme to offer 7 new fully funded Kofi Annan Scholars of the 'Weidenfeld-Hoffmann' graduate programme per academic year, for the next 5 years.

The new Scholarships at Mansfield have been named for the former Secretary General of the United Nations and Nobel Peace Prize winner, Kofi Annan (1938-2018), who was welcomed at the College in June 2018 to officially open the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights. It was Mansfield's privilege to welcome Kofi Annan to the College two years ago, and the College's aim is to reflect and respect that memory in naming this Scholarship in his honour.

The aim of the Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Scholarships and Leadership Programme is to provide outstanding university graduates and professionals from developing and emerging economies with the opportunity to pursue study at the University of Oxford. In addition to their studies, the graduates participate in a tailor-made Leadership programme to give them additional practical skills and opportunities. It is expected that many of the students will come from countries and backgrounds that mean that the scholarship is particularly life changing, both for the Scholar themselves and in terms of the potential impact of their work after their studies are completed.

In order to be eligible, Scholars should intend to return to their country of ordinary residence once their course is completed. They need to demonstrate a connection between their subject of study and their longer-term career objectives, explaining how they see their professional work contributing to the improvement of public life in their country of origin or at a wider regional or international level.

The 7 Scholarships at Mansfield are a new partnership between the University of Oxford's Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Scholarships and Leadership Programme and the College. The Kofi Annan Scholars of the Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Programme at Mansfield have been made possible thanks to the generosity of Mansfield alumnus, Mr Jan Fischer, of Germany. We are delighted that the Kofi Annan Foundation has granted us permission to name this endeavour in honour of Kofi Annan.

The Kofi Annan Scholarships Programme at Mansfield College is announced at a time when globally inequalities in society are deepening. We believe that Universities can help redress this, by helping people from a broad range of backgrounds to develop their talents and to make a positive contribution to the world.

"At Mansfield we aim to educate, equip, and empower our students to realise their ambitions, ask questions, and make a positive impact on the world around them. We wanted these new scholarships at Mansfield to be named for a figure whose name provides inspiration and honour to those in receipt of them, and to reflect the intended purpose of the scholarships in educating people to make the world a better place. With Kofi Annan's deep commitment to education for the benefit of international peace, collaboration and development, and our proud link with him, we could think of no better name to achieve that intention."

Helen Mountfield QC
Principal, Mansfield College

“Striving for the best should not be only for the elite in society. I believe that talent is widely distributed, and I am delighted to support these inspiring new scholarships at Mansfield College for truly talented students from across the globe, dedicated to making the world a better place.”

Jan Fischer
PPE, Mansfield College, 1989

Notes to Editors:

[Mansfield College](#)

Mansfield opened in Oxford in 1886. Its original purpose was to provide further education and theological training for nonconformist ministers. Today Mansfield offers a wide range of subjects and its population is made up of 240 undergraduates, 180 graduates, 40 visiting students. In recent years, over 90% of Mansfield's UK undergraduates have been from the state sector - the highest percentage of any Oxford college. Mansfield has always been proud to welcome to Oxford people traditionally excluded from excellent higher education, and – in conjunction with the [Bonavero Institute of Human Rights](#) – to stand up for equal dignity, respect and rights for all.

[Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Scholarships and Leadership Programme](#)

The Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Scholarships and Leadership Programme provides up to 30 fully funded graduate scholarships per year at the University of Oxford, 7 of which will now be based at Mansfield College.

The Oxford-Weidenfeld and Hoffmann Scholarships and Leadership Programme was established in 2015 thanks to generous donations from multiple donors to mark the 95th birthday of Lord Weidenfeld. In June 2017, Chairman André Hoffmann pledged an additional donation of £9m to the Trust which, thanks to matched funding of £6m from Oxford University, will double the size of the Oxford-Weidenfeld and Hoffmann Scholarships and Leadership Programme.

This scholarship is part of the Oxford Graduate Scholarships, which were established through a ground-breaking new matched funding initiative to enable the creation of fully-funded scholarships for graduate students of the highest calibre from across the world. The University contributes 40% of the funds for these scholarships, together with 60% from generous donations provided by supporters of the [Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Trust](#), including Fondation Hoffmann. Fondation Hoffmann is a Swiss-based grant making institution supporting the emergence and expansion of concrete projects which address global problems in today's societies.

The Leadership Programme is a unique part of the scholarship and aims to help develop future leaders through a range of seminars, skills training, forums and networking opportunities.

[Principal Helen Mountfield QC](#)

Helen Mountfield joined Mansfield College in September 2018 to become the third consecutive female Principal. Helen is an experienced and award-winning barrister, with 26 years' expertise in constitutional law, human rights and equality law, including particular experience of the higher education sector. She has appeared in many cases in the Supreme Court, European Court of Justice and European Court of Human Rights, and recently featured on the 'First Hundred Years' website, which celebrates the history of women in law. Helen is a founder member of [Matrix Chambers](#), an accredited mediator, a Master of the Bench of Gray's Inn, a Recorder and a deputy High Court Judge.

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