



MERTON COLLEGE
O X F O R D



YOUR LEGACY AT MERTON

Since 1264, Merton has owed its continued existence to the support of benefactors.

The College has been able to survive, and evolve into an exceptional academic institution, thanks in large part to the philanthropy of Mertonians and other members of our community.

We have been fortunate to receive generous legacy gifts, starting with early benefactors such as our Founder Walter de Merton and Margaret Dane, and continuing more recently with legators such as Honorary Fellow and former Merton Society President Sir Maurice Hodgson (1938) and our first female Honorary Fellow Julia de Lacy Mann (who donated a portion of her inheritance to the College).

By leaving a legacy, you will help future-proof the College, allowing us to educate many more generations of students, who will go on to make an impact in a wide range of academic fields and society at large.

WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY GIFT DO?

Recent global financial difficulties have increasingly impacted universities, which face greater demands on them within a challenging funding climate. In this context, we need the generosity of donors and legators to ensure the College's support for students and protect its academic standards.

Merton's income comes from a number of sources including course fees, accommodation and conferences, donations, and the annual return from the endowment. This return represents about half of our total annual income, and the College remains reliant on its other sources of income, which are subject to fluctuation.

By making a bequest and helping to grow the endowment, you will contribute to the future financial security and independence of Merton. This will be key for the preservation of the tutorial system and will enable myriad forms of support for students, many of whom need more financial help than ever before. Legacies will also aid the vital research of our Fellows and graduates, and protect the buildings that make Merton the wonderful environment that it is.



Photo credits: Inigo Jones (cover – the heraldic shield of Walter de Merton in Hall); John Cairns (pages 2-3 top, bottom left, middle – the sundial on sundial lawn, and back – view from the Chapel Tower).

Some examples of how a legacy gift can leave an enduring impact:

- £10,000 will fund a full refurbishment of a student room.
- £80,000 will provide a scholarship to a graduate student, funding living costs for a period of four years.
- £300,000 will endow a package of undergraduate travel awards, helping ten students undertake journeys abroad every year for academic and personal development.
- £1,700,000 will permanently endow a graduate scholarship, providing a fully-funded, transformational place at Merton for generations of talented postgraduates.
- £3,000,000 will endow a Tutorship in perpetuity, fully funding all of the College's costs of this essential academic post and thereby supporting the Tutorial System.

TYPES OF LEGACY

The Development Team are happy to discuss with you the areas of the College's work that you would like to support. It is important to us that we respect your wishes. Nevertheless, we are also grateful for unrestricted gifts, which give the Warden and Fellows discretion as to how best to use your donation. Gifts of this type can contribute to a bedrock of financial security, by helping to grow our endowment and protect it against global instability and inflation.

There are two basic types of legacies:

A Residuary Legacy enables you to gift all of your estate, or a percentage of it after all other beneficiaries have been paid. This type of legacy ensures that the value of your gift is unaffected by inflation and evolves in line with the value of your estate.

A Pecuniary Legacy allows you to leave Merton a fixed sum of money, the value of which may decrease over time.

To preserve the value of pecuniary gifts, we recommend index-linking them to protect against inflation.

If you would like to discuss other types of legacies, please contact the Development Office.

Registered Charity Number: 1139022

Main Charity Name: The Warden and Scholars of the House or College of Scholars of Merton in the University of Oxford

TAX BENEFITS

We recommend that you obtain legal advice if you plan to leave a legacy gift to Merton, and the Development Office can offer additional guidance.

For UK residents, making a bequest to a charitable institution such as Merton could reduce the tax liability of your estate. We suggest consulting the UK Government's website and your solicitor for up-to-date guidance.

For US residents, testamentary bequests may be deductible for estate tax purposes. There could also be tax benefits associated with legacies from other countries. If you live outside the UK, please contact the Development Office to discuss options.



THE FOUNDER'S SOCIETY

The Founder's Society is the College's way of expressing gratitude to all those who choose to remember Merton in their Wills. Membership of the Society is automatically conferred on all who inform us of their intention to leave a legacy.

Members are invited to a lunch event in College every year, receive special recognition in the Annual Report, and are provided with updates on the impact of legacy giving.

We warmly invite all Mertonians and friends of the College to join the Founder's Society. And for substantial legacies, naming opportunities may also be available.