

An introduction

The Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Division is one of four academic divisions at the University of Oxford, representing the non-medical sciences. The divisional office is based at 9 Parks Road opposite the University's Natural History Museum.



MPLS's constituent departments include Chemistry, Computer Science, Earth Sciences, Engineering Science, Materials, the Mathematical Institute, Physics, Plant Sciences, Statistics, Zoology, the Oxford e-Research Centre, and Begbroke Science Park.

Most of these departments are based in the Science Area of the University, on Parks Road and South Parks Road just to the north east of the city centre. Begbroke Science Park, where world-class scientists work alongside entrepreneurs and industry to translate cutting-edge research into commercial opportunities, is located north of Oxford near the town of Woodstock.

Our history

Today's researchers follow in the footsteps of illustrious Oxford scientists including Nobel prize winning chemist Dorothy Hodgkin, geologist and palaeontologist William Buckland, and mathematician and astronomer Edmond Halley.

Their pioneering work is part of a tradition that stretches back to the 1600s, when great minds including Robert Hooke, Robert Boyle, Thomas Willis and Christopher Wren laid the foundations of modern experimental science at the University of Oxford.

Teaching and training

Oxford is an outstanding university at which to study science at undergraduate and graduate level. Nearly 30 per cent of all Oxford undergraduates are studying within an MPLS department.

The Division is home to several interdisciplinary Doctoral Training Centres. These Centres help ensure that graduate students successfully complete their doctorate, while also developing the skills and expertise necessary to become an independent researcher in the future – or pursue careers outside of academia. In 2014/15, 331 Research Council funded studentships were available in MPLS departments.

Research

Oxford has consistently been ranked as one of the world's leading science universities (*Times Higher Education*, *QS World Rankings*). Research in the mathematical, physical and life sciences at Oxford is the best in the country according to the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF) assessment exercise.



We have around 1,400 (FTE) academics and researchers and 1,900 (FTE) graduate students.

Our total research income for 2014/15 was £133m. More than £14m was received in philanthropic donations during 2014/15.

For more information visit www.mpls.ox.ac.uk

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