



A RECOGNISED INDEPENDENT CENTRE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

# **The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies**

## **Visiting Scholars Handbook**

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## **Introduction**

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies (OCHS) is a Recognised Independent Centre of Oxford University, maintaining the highest standards of academic integrity, originality, and excellence. Through research and advanced study the Centre promotes a more informed understanding of Hinduism and Hindu cultures.

The primary purpose of the OCHS is the academic study of Hindu traditions, their histories, texts, theologies, material culture, and social formation.

With such a broad remit the Centre needs to be multi-disciplinary and so we encourage scholars from a range of disciplines, particularly philological study of texts, hermeneutics, philosophy, theology, religious studies, and anthropology.

## **Visiting Fellowships**

Each term, the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies offers Visiting Fellowships. The intention of the Fellowships is to provide opportunities for scholars who would benefit from a period of independent study at Oxford.

These Fellowships are awarded to recognised scholars and afford the recipient access to the University of Oxford's libraries, the OCHS library, as well as providing a unique environment for the scholar to develop conversation and fellowship with a wide range of likeminded scholars and students at the University and the Centre.

The successful candidate will be expected to participate in the Centre's academic and social activities. The scholar receiving this Fellowship is expected to be in residence for a full term. There are three eight-week terms in Oxford: Michaelmas Term, October–December; Hilary Term, January–March; and Trinity Term, April–June.

Currently the Centre offers two fellowships for visiting scholars; the Shivdasani Visiting Fellowship and the J.P. and Beena Khaitan Fellowship.

### **Shivdasani Visiting Fellowship**

The Shivdasani Visiting Fellowship is provided to the OCHS by a generous benefaction from Mr Azad Shivdasani, businessman and philanthropist.

The Shivdasani Visiting Fellowship is offered to support study in any area of the arts, humanities, or the social sciences relevant to the study of Hinduism.

This Fellowship is awarded to a scholar of Indian nationality (whether resident in India or elsewhere). The applicant needs to be the holder of an academic position in an institute of higher education, in India or elsewhere; and the applicant needs to be working in an area relevant to the concerns and remit of the OCHS.

### **J.P. and Beena Khaitan Fellowship**

The J.P. and Beena Khaitan Fellowship is provided to the OCHS by a generous benefaction from Mr Ajay and Mrs Mandira Khaitan in memory of Mr Khaitan's late parents.

This Fellowship is offered to scholars who further the research, publishing and teaching provided by the Centre. Applicants to this Fellowship must hold an academic position in an institute of higher education and the applicant needs to be working in an area relevant to the concerns and remit of the OCHS.

### **OCHS responsibilities**

The responsibilities of the OCHS towards the Visiting Fellow are:

- to provide one economy return flight from the Fellow's nearest international airport,
- to offer a payment towards the accommodation of the fellow in Oxford,
- to offer a stipend,
- to provide a work place in the Centre,
- to allow access to all OCHS facilities (library, seminars, lectures, Wednesday lunch),

## **Visiting Fellows responsibilities**

The responsibilities of the Visiting Fellows are,

- to give at least one lecture or seminar on their research,
- if requested, to provide tutorials to OCHS students,
- Take full advantage of the opportunity of studying in Oxford and to further their research and publications, to credit OCHS in any publication resulting from research undertaken during their tenure at the OCHS.
- To provide a brief 500 word report on the Fellowship and their experience at the OCHS and Oxford.

## **Library use**

Fellows have full access to the OCHS library. To join the OCHS library contact our Librarian, Dr Rembert Lutjeharms. He will introduce you to the joys of our system for borrowing books from the OCHS library.

The Bodleian library and Indian Institute library are excellent resources for research and can be used by our visiting scholars. There is a small fee to obtain a library card. This can be done with the help of our Librarian.

## **Accommodation**

The OCHS recommends The North Oxford Overseas Centre (NOOC), run by the Oxford Overseas Student Housing Association.

The NOOC has two houses, located on the Banbury Road, about one kilometre from the OCHS and within easy walking distance of the main libraries, laboratories, and most colleges. There are shops, banks, a post office, and several doctors' surgeries within a short walk. The Banbury Road is a principal bus route.

The Oxford Overseas Student Housing Association is a non-profit organisation with charity status. It provides pleasant accommodation at

reasonable rates in a caring community for overseas postgraduate students and academic visitors from all parts of the world.

The Fellowships provide for a payment towards a single-bed accommodation with ensuite bathroom facilities and their own kitchens, which can be especially suitable for vegetarians. NOOC also provides larger rooms but these may have to be subsidised by scholars from their own funds.

There is further information about the NOOC on their website: [www.nooc.org.uk](http://www.nooc.org.uk). **Visiting Fellows, per the rules set out by NOOC, are required to book their own accommodation directly to the NOOC via the application form on their website.**

Applications for accommodation must be made in line with below NOOC terms:

#### *Acceptance of bookings*

Bookings will not be accepted further in advance than the least of the following:

1. No further than 6 months in advance
2. No further in advance than the planned length of stay.

## **Stipend**

A stipend is attached to each Fellowship, which will cover any normal living expenses. Matters relating to the stipend should be referred to the OCHS Accountant.

## **Travel from airports**

Both Heathrow and Gatwick airports have very regular bus services to and from Oxford. Gloucester Green, the main bus station in Oxford, is a five-minute walk from the OCHS. Please see the following sites for information on bus times and fares:

Travel from airports

<https://airline.oxfordbus.co.uk/>

To Gatwick -

<https://airline.oxfordbus.co.uk/gatwick/>

National Express-

<https://www.nationalexpress.com/en/airports/heathrow>

## **OCHS offices**

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### **Computers and internet access**

Computers, printing and photocopying access are available at the OCHS Offices in Magdalen Street. All computers provide broadband and Wifi internet access is available.

### **Kitchen and food consumption**

The kitchen is a source of wonderful dinners and lunches, contributing greatly to the grace of living of the OCHS.

We are a Hindu-friendly space, so please respect the rule of no meat, eggs, fish, onions, garlic, or alcohol on the premises. This helps us retain our five star any-Hindu-can-eat-here status.

### **Security**

Please ensure that the front door closes behind you whenever you leave the building. If no-one else is in the building, please be sure to double-lock the front door.

For insurance reasons all windows and doors must be closed by the last person leaving the building each day. It is also the responsibility of the last person leaving the building to switch off lights, lock the reception door, and double lock the main entrance.

## **Oxford information**

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Below are some useful and informative Oxford links:

[www.oxford.gov.uk/tourism](http://www.oxford.gov.uk/tourism)

[www.ox.ac.uk/aboutoxford](http://www.ox.ac.uk/aboutoxford)

[www.oxfordcity.co.uk](http://www.oxfordcity.co.uk)

<http://www.oxfordcityguide.com/oxford-tourist-information/getting-around-oxford>

## Office directory and Contact Information

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**General enquiries to Nandana**, our Admin Secretary, who will provide any assistance you may need: **+44 (0) 1865 304 300**