

Oxford Laidlaw Scholars 2025-2027

Application Guidance

What is the Oxford Laidlaw Scholars Programme?

The Oxford Laidlaw Scholars Programme enables undergraduate students at the University of Oxford to develop research and leadership skills and work together on local and global projects as part of the SDG Impact Lab.

Who can apply?

The programme lasts 18-months and is open to all first-year undergraduate students.

Why join?

- Acquire research impact skills as a student Fellow of the SDG Impact Lab
- Develop your understanding and practice of good leadership through workshops delivered by the Oxford Character Project
- Work together on local and global impact projects
- Establish global connections as part of the Laidlaw network of Scholars from 17 leading universities
- Receive a stipend of £3,000 (that is, a stipend worth £6,000 for the entire programme)

What does the programme entail?

Year 1:

- Oxford group retreat
- Leadership training sessions on Tuesday evenings during Trinity Term
- A local research impact project in September/October

Year 2:

- Laidlaw International Scholars Conference in October
- Leadership training sessions on Tuesday evenings during Michaelmas Term
- A global impact project to take place abroad during the Summer

*Exact dates will be confirmed closer to the programme start.

Application Process

In your application you will have to answer three questions.

To answer these questions, you will submit:

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- a written application up to a maximum of 600 words in length (no more than 200 words for each question)

Answer three questions:

Question 1: What does leadership mean to you?

Question 2: Please see the Laidlaw Scholar 3C Framework included below.



Please pick one or two values and character attributes that are important to you and explain:

- How will these aid you during the programme?

Please pick one or two of the capacities and explain:

- How will developing these further aid your own personal development?

Question 3: Your contribution

- How will you contribute to the cohort?
- What skills will you bring?
- How will you apply the leadership and research skills you develop beyond the programme?

Evaluation Criteria

Your application will be evaluated using the following three criteria:

- **Engagement:** The three questions centre around the topics of leadership, motivation and contribution. We value reflective answers that show your own unique understanding of leadership.
- **Purpose:** We value answers that show your commitment and motivation to make a meaningful contribution in the world.

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- **Competence:** We value answers that show what skills and competencies you can personally bring to the cohort and explain how you will contribute to the cohort and the collaborative projects. We value answers that connect and build on each other to convey your thoughts about leadership and how to develop, and apply your competency and skills.

What happens next?

Successful applicants will be contacted for a short online interview (10-15 minutes). The interview questions will ask you to expand on your written application, ability to commit to the programme and your contribution to the Year 1 group project. You will not have to prepare a presentation or any further documents. Successful candidates will be invited for interview no later than **17th February 2025**. Online interviews will take place from w/c **24th February 2025**. We will announce our final selection before the end of **Hilary Term 2025**.

Important Dates

- The application deadline is **12noon 3rd February 2025**
- Successful candidates will be invited for interview **no later than 17th February 2025**
- Online interviews will take place **from w/c 24th February 2025**
- **We will announce our final selection before the end of Hilary Term 2025**

Further questions?

If you have any questions at all, do not hesitate to contact us at sdgimpactlab@qeh.ox.ac.uk.

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