

CHINA OXFORD SCHOLARSHIP FUND

中国牛津奖学金基金

Spring 2023

Scholars' Trinity Term Spring Updates



Yan Wang - 2022 China Oxford Scholar

Yan is a first-year DPhil student in Materials at Wolfson College. Yan wasn't able to start her travel to the United Kingdom last year to commence her studies at the start of the Michaelmas Term due to visa issues.

We're pleased she finally was able to arrive in Oxford early this year to start her academic and personal journey at Oxford University. Welcome Yan!

Initially, I faced an unforeseen visa delay problem which lasted for over six months. The COSF community helped me through this difficult period and gave me the warmest welcome upon my arrival in freezing cold winter of January. I am thrilled to share that in this short, three-month period at Oxford University, I have made significant progress towards my degree. In the first month, I quickly became integral to my research group. After my second month, I could independently plan and execute complex experimental processes. Recently, by submitting the abstract using my preliminary results, I have won myself the opportunity to attend PVSAT-17 & Super Solar Conference in June, which would allow me to meet fellow scholars in my field, exchange ideas, and shape my research. This would not have been possible without COSF, and for that, I am truly grateful.

COSF not only provided me with financial support in need and sense of belonging in foreign land, but itself is a remarkable platform to communicate with talented minds in diverse fields. Our community connection is so close that I have already met many outstanding donors and peers through a series of networking events so far within 3 months. These invaluable experiences have inspired me in delving into my research deeper whilst broadening my mindset, which will be an everlasting spur and encouragement to my personal study and growth. I feel honored and privileged to have received the 2022-2023 COSF scholarship and the role of convenor of the 2022 cohort. And I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for all generous COSF donors. Your support enables me to alleviate my financial burden, save my worries, and focus on my academic goals.

Yicong Li - 2022 China Oxford Scholar

Yicong is a first-year DPhil student studying Archaeology. She is attending Wolfson College.

Life at Oxford is fantastic. The University offers me every resource I need to explore the visual world of ancient Gandhāra — a historical region in present-day northeastern Afghanistan and northern Pakistan famous for its Graeco-Roman-influenced Buddhist sculptural art. A series of workshops have been conducted at the Ioannou Centre for scholars to exchange insights about this distinctive artistic tradition and its connectivity with surrounding civilisations. Nearby, the world-class Central Asian art collection housed by the Ashmolean Museum facilitates an in-depth examination of the materiality of Gandhāran artworks.



Apart from participating in all these events, I spend most of my time at the Sackler Library, where I dive into the latest scholarship, and my studio, where I conduct my daily writing tasks. The main topic that my DPhil project aims to investigate is the legacy of Iranian-Kushan royal art in the Buddhist art of pre-Islamic Central Asia and China. This is by no means a simple undertaking. Many thorny problems with terminology and chronology need to be faced. However, I attempt to break down the big issue into small frameworks and have completed three case studies on the transmission of Kushan symbolic motifs of kingship along the ancient Silk Road. I am excited about where these efforts will take me.

Certainly, Oxford, as a charming, multicultural city, also brings me opportunities beyond academia. I joined a local Kathak dance club and have realised my dream of learning classical Indian dance. I have also enjoyed great cuisine in diverse styles with other COSF scholars and college students. It is such a great place to be, and there will always be fresh experiences awaiting me tomorrow.



**Joey Tsz Ying Ho - 2022 Oxford China
Simon Li Scholar and Thomas Wong
Scholar**

Joey is an MSc student in Applied Linguistics and Second Language Acquisition. She is attending Wolfson College.



Far Left Photo: Scholars at Magdalen College formal dinner. L-R Zhiyao Luo, Joey Tsz Ying Ho and Shu Wei

Left Photo: Big Ben in London L-R Yan Wang, Joey Tsz Ying Ho & Xiongjie Deng

I couldn't believe that I am two-thirds into the Master's programme at Oxford. Since October, I have been attending intensive lectures on second language acquisition and research methods for language education, while catching up on very long reading lists. Apart from learning the discipline-specific knowledge, through this research-focused degree, I am gradually developing the ability to critically evaluate the evidence presented in each piece of research and assess how far the evidence can argue for a claim. Reading critically is indeed a challenging skill to master, but I am glad that I am making progress by interacting with my instructors and classmates.

Despite the very busy term-time schedule, I have managed to participate in some teaching programmes. In the last few months, I worked as a voluntary teacher and tutored immigrant children in a local school once a week. During the spring break, I taught a group of Japanese university students who came to Oxford for an immersion programme for two weeks. Both opportunities have allowed me to teach students from different ethnographic backgrounds than all those I had worked with. I have also established networks with people from other disciplinary studies as well as educators who are extremely experienced in teaching EAL students and publishing EAL materials.

As the convenors of this year's COSF cohort, Shu, Yan, and I have organized some get-togethers for fellow scholars. Apart from the two formal gatherings we reported, we have also met on other occasions but with a smaller group of scholars. The most memorable one is a day trip to London after a generous and heart-warming lunch hosted by Xiaodi and her husband Nicholas. I am really looking forward to meeting my fellow scholars for upcoming activities like punting and pubbing. I treasure my time studying at Oxford and being *in* Oxford. During my spare time, I wandered around this historical town with friends and enjoyed a pint of local ale in some age-old pubs, contemplating how I can inspire change in my local community with my training and experience here. I would like to express my gratitude to the generous donors once again. It is your generosity that makes high-quality education and all the unique experiences that come with it accessible to me.

2023 Spring Festival Chinese New Year Pictorial





Previous photo: Trustee Xiaodi Bell and her husband Nicholas hosted a belated Year of the Rabbit with China Oxford Scholars in London where they enjoyed a very hot Szechuan lunch.

L-R Nicholas Bell, Yan Wang, Xiongjie Deng, Joey Tsz Ying Ho and Youzhou Zhou.

Left photo: It was wonderful that China Oxford Alumni James Guowei Tao was able to join in and big thanks to James for helping us take a few snapshots of the gathering too!

After the lunch, James drove the group of Scholars over to Central London to visit Trafalgar Square and the surrounding areas.

L-R Youzhou Zhou and James Guowei Tao.



Scholar Convenors Joey Tsz Ying Ho and Shu Wei organised a grand gathering over the Chinese New Year in January at The Grande Café at No.84 on the High Street in Oxford. There were plenty of hot drinks and cakes to go around at this historic landmark. It's known to be the site of the first coffee house in England according to Samuel Pepys' "Diary" which noted everyday life from 1650 to 1703. Thank you Joey and Shu for organising this gathering.

L-R Ruixuan Zhu, Yan Wang, Youzhou Zhou, Shu Wei, Shuyang Cheng, Joey Tsz Ying Ho and Xiongjie Deng.

Since the winter of 2022, the China Oxford Scholarship Fund Alumni Association (COSF-AA) has been keeping busy organising plenty of activities for its members such as dinners and outings. The COSF-AA even managed to get together with some Oxbridge alumni for some rowing and lots of fun in Shenzhen. The COSF-AA members involved in organising these events were: Jingjing Chen, Huan Wang, Xuemei Zhang, Yihan Zhu, Haiyun Zhao, and Hanyang Ye. Thank you COSF-AA for sharing these wonderful photos with us!

