


TARGET OXBRIDGE

# Ten Years of Target Oxbridge Impact Report 2022



TARGET OXBRIDGE

A photograph of three graduates in formal attire (two men in tuxedos and one woman in a black dress) standing in front of a large, domed building, likely a university hall. The graduates are smiling and holding their diplomas. The building has a prominent dome and classical architectural features. The sky is overcast.

Our first cohort of Target Oxbridge students, who have now graduated from university.

# Contents

Introduction	4
Ten Years of Impact	6
Target Oxbridge's Reach	12
Programme Updates	13
Alumni	17
Business and Technology	18
Consulting	25
Finance	31
Law	37
Medicine	45
Postgraduate Study	53
Public Sector, Charity and Social Enterprise	59
Sponsors	64

# Introduction

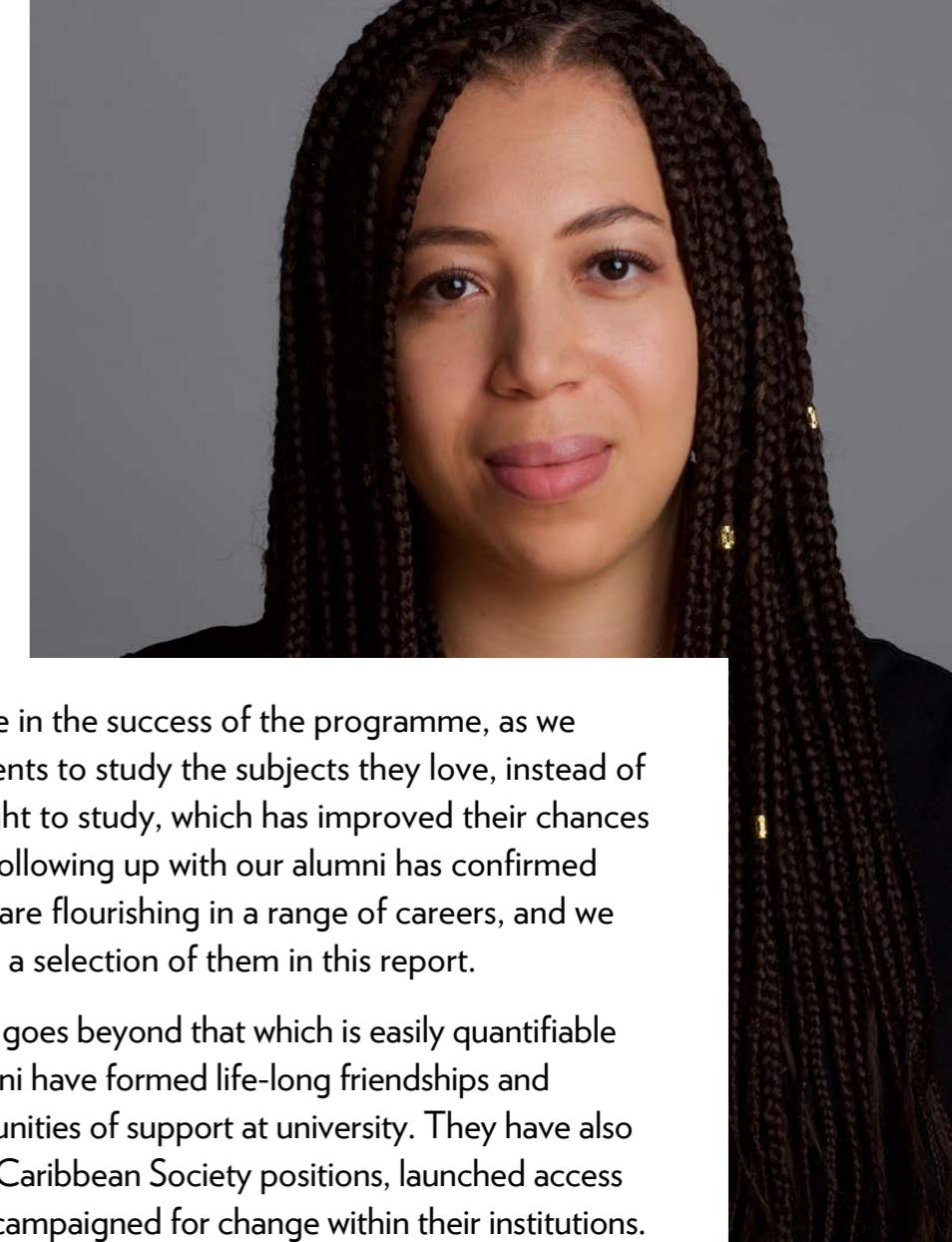
Target Oxbridge was launched by Rare in 2012 to help improve the representation of Black students at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge. At the time the programme launched, Black African and Caribbean students made up around 1% of the UK-based students attending Oxbridge, despite representing 5% of the A Level population.

As Rare had helped large employers in competitive industries such as law and finance diversify their intakes and hire more Black graduates, we decided to apply our expertise to the world of university access. When we launched Target Oxbridge, it was striking to see just how many applications contained the statement: 'I have never met a Black student who has gone to Oxbridge'.

A decade later, Target Oxbridge has worked with thousands of students across Years 10 to 13, with the bulk of our activity being focused on sixth form students. The programme has provided students with access to current Black Oxbridge students, good and honest advice on subject choice decisions, and personalised support at each step of the application process.

As a result, Target Oxbridge has supported over 350 students of Black heritage to secure Oxbridge offers, helping to transform the narrative about who belongs at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge. Data released this year confirms that the number of UK-based students of Black heritage accepted to Oxbridge has quadrupled since 2012. We are pleased to have contributed to such a significant change.

From its inception, Target Oxbridge has combined advice about university subject choice with informed advice about career opportunities. Rare's relationships with top graduate employers, a number of whom have supported and sponsored the programme for many years, have resulted in students understanding that courses outside of the traditional subjects of Medicine, Law and Engineering can help them to secure good career options.



This has played a significant role in the success of the programme, as we have been able to support students to study the subjects they love, instead of the subjects they think they ought to study, which has improved their chances of gaining an Oxbridge offer. Following up with our alumni has confirmed that those who have graduated are flourishing in a range of careers, and we are pleased to be able to profile a selection of them in this report.

The impact of Target Oxbridge goes beyond that which is easily quantifiable however. Target Oxbridge alumni have formed life-long friendships and provided each other with communities of support at university. They have also taken up numerous African and Caribbean Society positions, launched access conferences and initiatives, and campaigned for change within their institutions.

Target Oxbridge alumni have gone on to spread the ethos of the programme beyond its formal limits. As a result, many more Black students now start sixth form knowing that Oxbridge is a possibility for them, and where to get the support they need to apply. A common theme in the applications to Target Oxbridge these days is one of students wanting to pursue an Oxbridge degree so that they can show their wider community what is possible. We look forward to continuing to support students to achieve this with the help of the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, our sponsors, our mentors and our alumni.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Naomi Kellman".

**Naomi Kellman**  
Founder, Target Oxbridge

# Ten Years of Impact

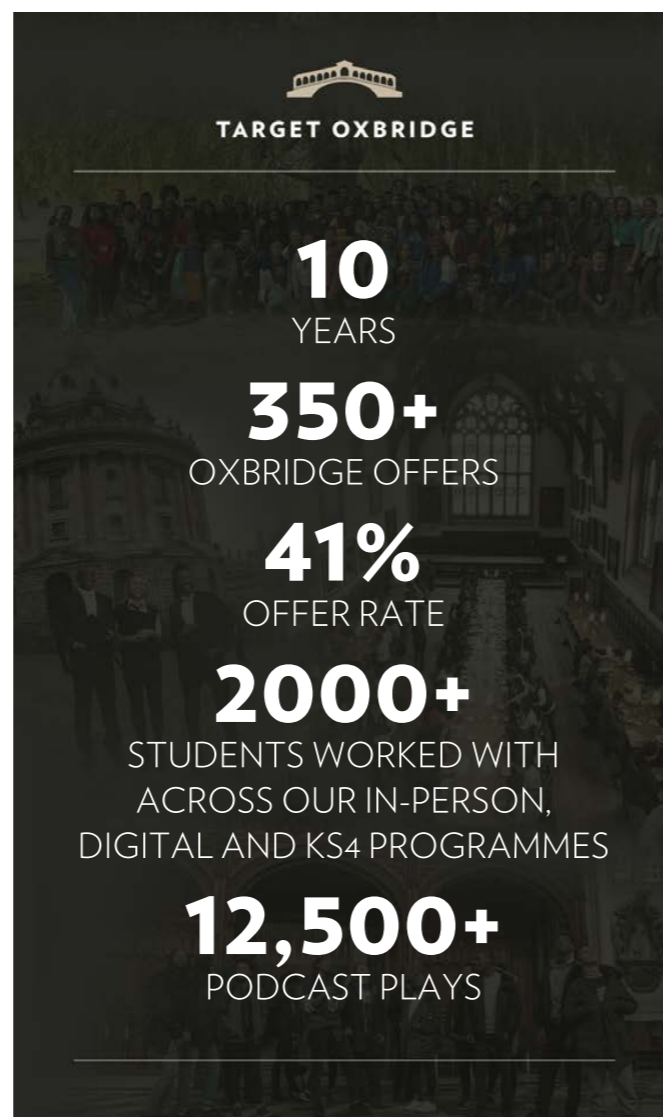
Rare launched Target Oxbridge in 2012 with the aim of increasing the number of Black African and Caribbean students attending the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and contributing to the Oxbridge intake becoming representative of UK society.

Over the past decade we have worked with over 2,000 students across our Target Oxbridge, Target Oxbridge Digital and Target Oxbridge Year 10 programmes.

Over 350 Target Oxbridge students have received Oxbridge offers over the past decade.

Our students have a high chance of receiving an invite to interview, with 71% of our students who have applied over the past decade being invited to interview at either Oxford or Cambridge.

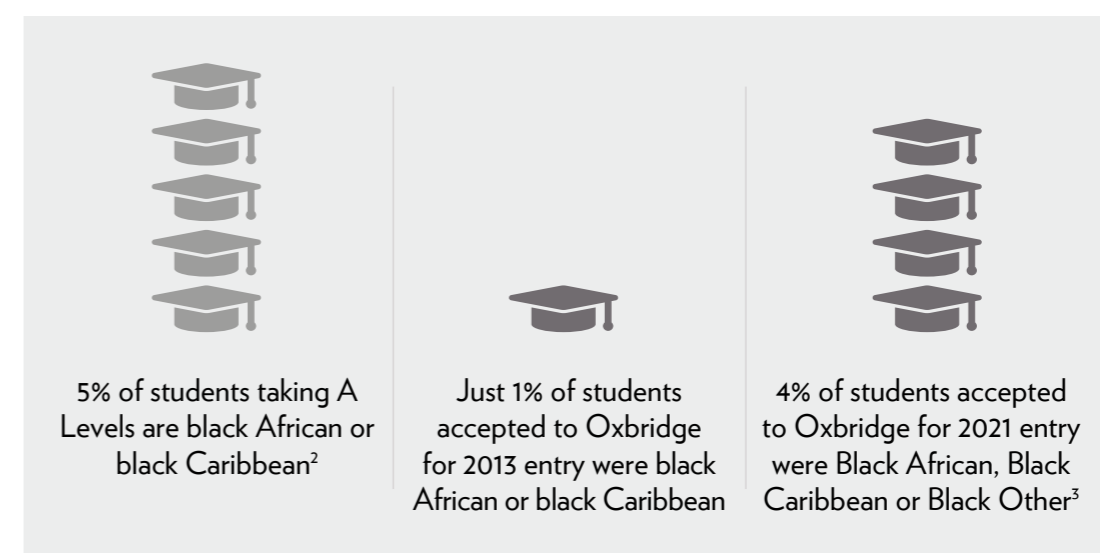
Our students also have a success rate which is double that of the national average, with 41% of Target Oxbridge students who have applied to Oxford and Cambridge over the last ten years receiving an Oxbridge offer.



Black African and Caribbean students make up close to 5% of the A Level population<sup>1</sup>. When Target Oxbridge was launched, just 1% of students accepted to Oxbridge were Black African, Black Caribbean or Black Other, which meant Black students were significantly underrepresented at the UK's top universities.

It is the case that 4% of the UK-domiciled students accepted to Oxbridge for 2021 entry were Black African, Black Caribbean or Black Other. This means the number of Black students admitted to Oxbridge each year has quadrupled since 2012.

In 2021, 24% of the Black students accepted to Oxbridge were Target Oxbridge alumni. We are very happy to have made a significant contribution to the improvement of the representation of Black students at Oxbridge through Target Oxbridge.



<sup>1</sup> 5% of the population who take A levels are of Black heritage. According to HESA data on students starting university in 2019, 2.5% of students achieving three or more A grades at A Level are of Black heritage. Three As at A Level is the minimum offer made by Oxford, with A\*AA being the minimum offer made by Cambridge.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/education-skills-and-training/a-levels-apprenticeships-further-education/students-aged-16-to-18-achieving-3-a-grades-or-better-at-a-level/latest>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxford/AnnualAdmissionsStatisticalReport2022.pdf>; [https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/sites/www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/files/publications/ug\\_admissions\\_statistics\\_2021\\_cycle.pdf](https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/sites/www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/files/publications/ug_admissions_statistics_2021_cycle.pdf)



Photo by John Cairns

## Applications made to Oxbridge by Black African, Black Caribbean and Black Other students

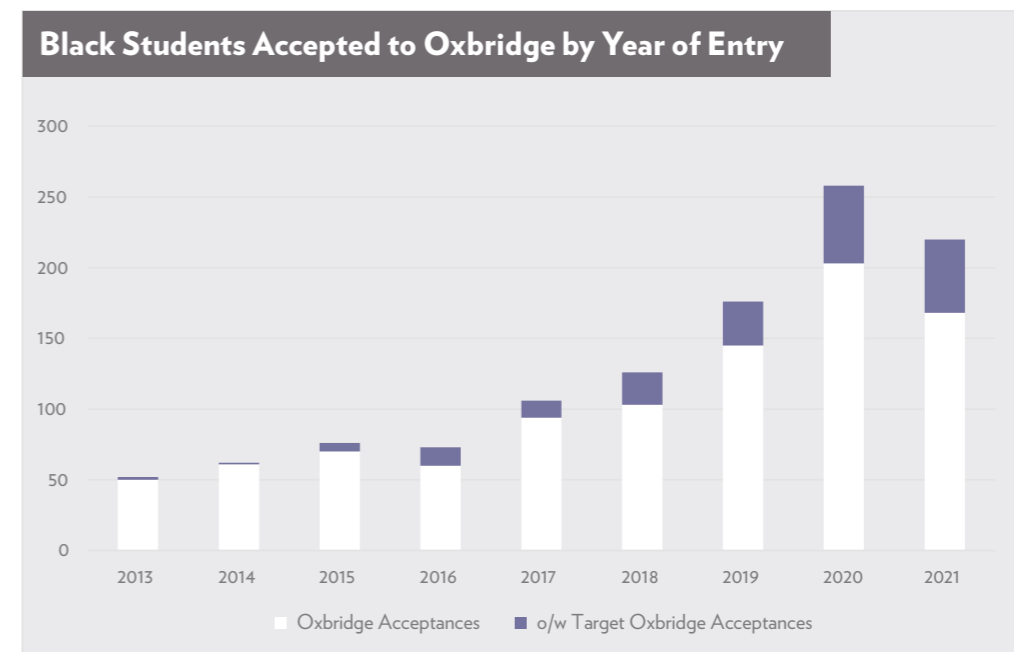
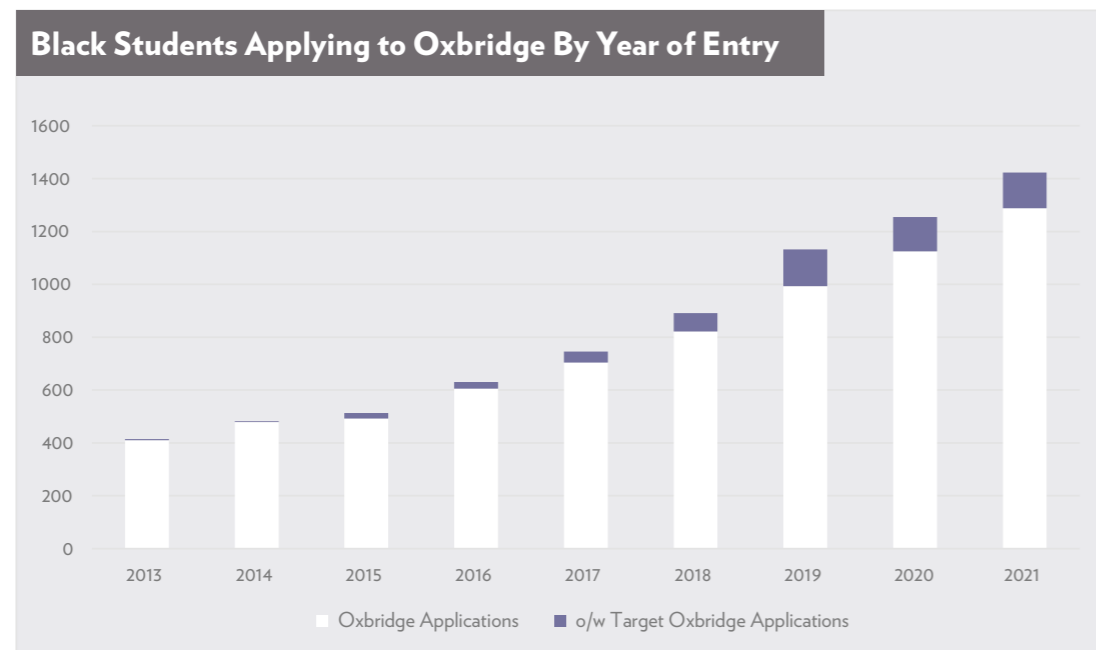
The charts and graphs below provide a more detailed insight into the number of UK-based students of Black heritage applying and gaining entry to Oxford and Cambridge each year between 2013 and 2021.

The data is drawn from the admissions statistics published on the University of Oxford and University of Cambridge websites. The data is based on declared ethnicity, and so actual numbers might be higher. For the purposes of these graphs and tables, Target Oxbridge data relates to Black African, Black Caribbean and Black Other students only. Students of mixed race are not included in these graphs and tables as these students are reported on separately by the universities.

It should be noted that the 2020 Year of Entry was an outlier across the university sector. In response to the pandemic affected A Level grades, many universities took in more students than usual, resulting in acceptance numbers for all groups rising above expected levels. These numbers started to be brought back in line in 2021. The fall in the number of offers made to Black students between 2020 and 2021 is therefore a reflection of a fall in the number of university places offered by Oxford and Cambridge overall. It is not specific to Black students.

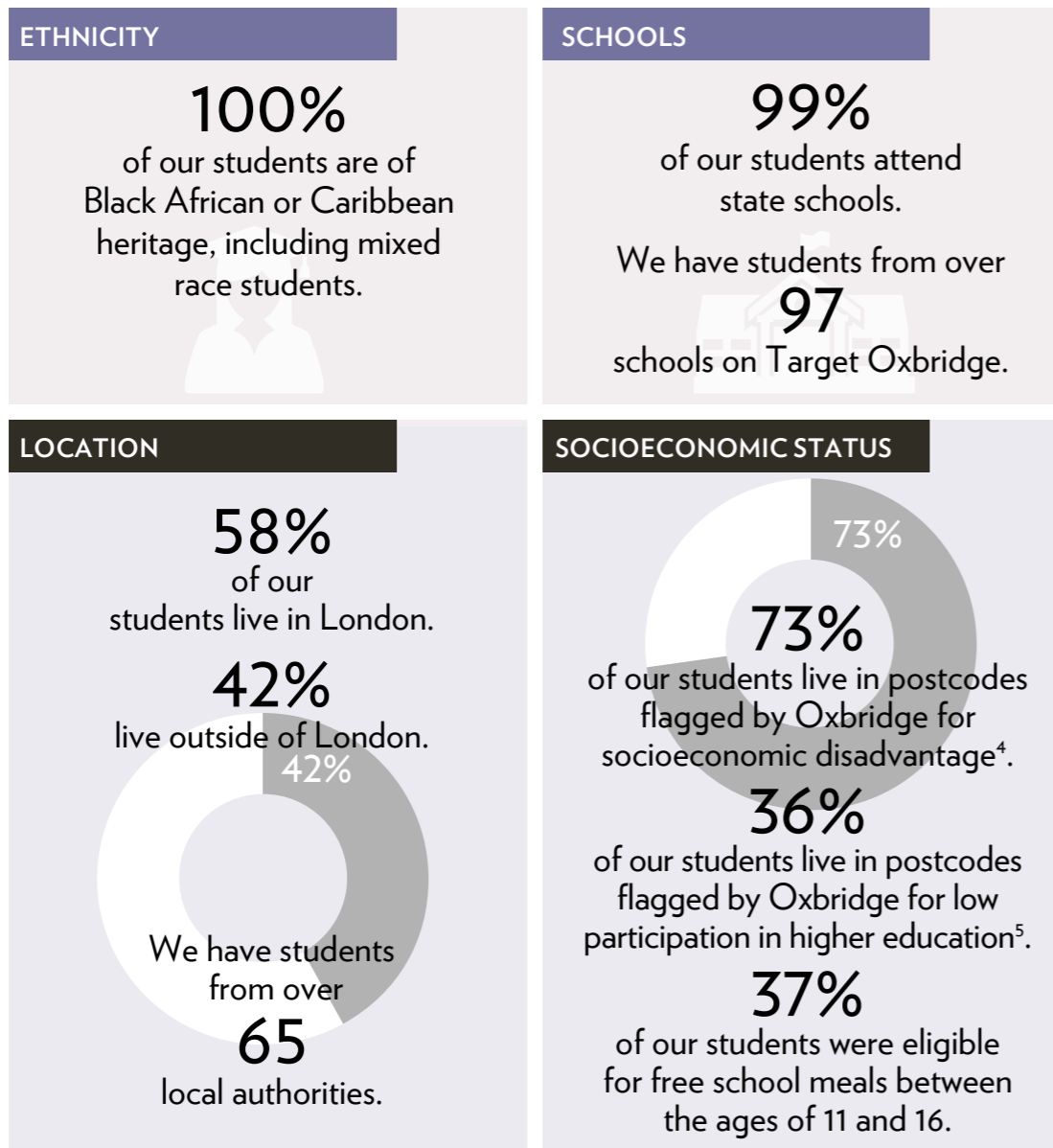
Year of Entry	Oxbridge Applications	o/w Target Oxbridge Applications	Target Oxbridge applications as % of Oxbridge applications
2013	414	4	1%
2014	482	3	1%
2015	513	21	4%
2016	630	25	4%
2017	746	42	6%
2018	891	69	8%
2019	1132	139	12%
2020	1255	130	10%
2021	1423	135	9%

Year of Entry	Oxbridge Acceptances	o/w Target Oxbridge Acceptances	Target Oxbridge applications as % of Oxbridge acceptances
2013	52	2	4%
2014	62	1	2%
2015	76	6	8%
2016	73	13	18%
2017	106	12	11%
2018	126	23	18%
2019	176	31	18%
2020	258	55	21%
2021	220	52	24%



# Target Oxbridge's Reach

Our Target Oxbridge programme for Year 12 students is focused on supporting students of Black heritage to apply to Oxbridge. We recruit a cohort reflective of our wider applicant pool, working closely with the universities to ensure contextual data is considered as part of our application process.



<sup>4</sup> That is deciles 1, 2, 3 or 4 on the Indices of Multiple Deprivation Measure and/or ACORN 4 and 5.

<sup>5</sup> That is, POLAR Quintiles 1 or 2.

# Programme Updates

Target Oxbridge started as a programme focused on supporting Year 12 and Year 13 students to apply to Oxford and Cambridge. This remains Target Oxbridge's main focus, but over the years, the programme has expanded to cover a wider age range, provide more support and make the most of different modes of delivery. A number of Target Oxbridge's new elements came about in response to the pandemic, as the shift to online delivery provided the opportunity to reach a larger number of students.

## Target Oxbridge

The main Target Oxbridge programme now supports 160 students each year. The students apply at the start of Year 12 and are interviewed in the winter. The students selected for a place on the programme are onboarded in February and attend a launch event in late March. All students receive a one-to-one meeting with a dedicated contact at Rare, and have regular catch up calls every two to three weeks to discuss subject choice and university application preparation.

During the Easter holidays, 80 students attend a three-day residential visit to Oxford, and the other 80 attend a three-day residential visit to Cambridge. This is complemented by a series of subject specific webinars run by Rare to provide the students with the chance to hear from Target Oxbridge alumni studying their subject.

Over the summer months, Rare runs the Target Oxbridge Summer Development Programme, a series of academic taster sessions delivered by Oxford and Cambridge tutors in a range of subjects. The students also have the opportunity to visit Oxford or Cambridge for a day.

The team at Rare provides students with personalised personal statement writing support and a subject specific mentor from late August until December, as well as pastoral support throughout the rest of Year 13. Rare supports the students accepted to Oxbridge to prepare for their studies, and all Target Oxbridge students are invited to become Rare candidates to receive free careers support throughout university.

## Target Oxbridge Digital

Target Oxbridge Digital was launched in response to two things – large amounts of demand for Target Oxbridge places, and the Covid-19 pandemic. In 2020, the number of applications to Target Oxbridge passed 1,000. With Rare operating a waiting list of over 200 students, and all activity moving online due to the pandemic, it became clear that there was an opportunity to support more students at a time when support was desperately needed.

We therefore launched Target Oxbridge Digital in response to this need. This programme provides up to 200 additional students with access to events and activities, including an online Target Oxbridge Digital launch event, the Target Oxbridge Easter webinar series, and the Target Oxbridge Summer Development programme.

The students on Target Oxbridge Digital also have the opportunity to attend online events focused on subject choice, college choice and personal statement writing, providing them with an opportunity to ask the Target Oxbridge team questions and receive advice on their specific concerns.



The first two years of this programme were delivered to fill the gap for students who had lost the opportunity to take part in university access activities due to the pandemic. For future years, we will be monitoring and evaluating the impact of Target Oxbridge Digital more closely and refining the programme's offering.

## Target Oxbridge Year 10

In January 2021, Rare launched Target Oxbridge Year 10 alongside Trinity College Cambridge. The programme was designed and developed by Naomi Kellman and Jon Datta, and has supported close to 500 students in both 2021 and 2022. This programme has the aim of providing Black students with access to role models who have studied at Oxbridge at a younger age. It also aims to provide students in Year 10 with high quality advice on how to choose GCSE and A Level subjects in a way that maximises their university course options, whilst also encouraging them to aim high during their GCSEs.

The programme consists of four webinars which introduce the students to life at Oxbridge. The students hear from current Black Oxbridge students about what life at Oxbridge is really like and how they made their course choices throughout their studies. Students are also provided with advice on what Oxford and Cambridge are looking for in applicants, as well as the opportunity to hear from a graduate recruiter about the range of courses that top employers value.

Following the success of the 2021 programme, a further two Year 11 webinars were introduced to provide students with advice on how to begin developing their subject interest for university through supra-curricular activities, and how to develop good revision habits.

The evaluation of the first year of the programme demonstrated that it led to a significant improvement of the students' understanding of how to choose their A Levels, what life at Oxbridge was like and what Oxbridge was looking for in applicants. An article on the programme was featured in the Journal for Widening Participation and Lifelong Learning<sup>6</sup>.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/open/jwpl/2021/00000023/00000003/art00008>





This year's programme has been run alongside Trinity College and St Catharine's College Cambridge, and in 2023 Target Oxbridge Year 10 will be run by Rare with both Oxford and Cambridge.

## Target Oxbridge Podcast

The Target Oxbridge Podcast was also launched in response to the pandemic, in an attempt to provide a wider audience with free content at a time when everyone was at home. Naomi Kellman, the Founder of Target Oxbridge, hosts the podcast. She speaks to a different guest each episode, all of whom are Black Oxbridge students, alumni or staff. The episodes are available on [Apple Podcasts](#) and [Spotify](#).

The podcasts has provided insights into the lives and careers of accomplished Oxbridge alumni such as Matthew Ryder QC, as well as the experiences of Target Oxbridge alumni applying to a range of courses, including Medicine, Law, Engineering and HSPS.

To date, the podcast has been played over 12,500 times. It has also been referenced by a number of current Target Oxbridge students from outside of London as the way they learnt about the programme, demonstrating the value of free online content that can be accessed by students all over the country.

# Alumni

Target Oxbridge has hundreds of alumni who have now graduated from a number of top universities and embarked on a wide range of careers.

The programme was designed with an understanding that progression from university into a secure and fulfilling career was a primary concern for Target Oxbridge students and their parents. It was also informed by Rare's years of experience working to diversify the country's top graduate schemes.

Target Oxbridge students have therefore had the opportunity throughout the years to visit the offices of the employers that sponsor the programme, and to hear from their recruitment teams about what it is they look for when recruiting for internships and graduate schemes. The students have also received clear messaging about the importance of starting career planning at the beginning of university, and the value of engaging with careers activities as early as sixth form, where appropriate and possible.

Over the years, a significant proportion of Target Oxbridge alumni have become Rare candidates and received free careers support and advice to apply to employers within the industries of banking and finance, the Civil Service, consulting and law.

We are very pleased to see so many Target Oxbridge alumni flourishing within a wide range of careers. We have profiled a selection of them here to share their stories and celebrate their successes.



Business and Technology

# Imani Shola

“I’m so grateful I heard about Target Oxbridge when I did. I am 100% confident that their tailored, dedicated support helped me secure my place at Cambridge. Target Oxbridge made a huge difference in helping me get to where I am today and I am grateful to be paying that forward with the ISLA Gift Cambridge.”

Imani Shola is a Senior User Experience (UX) Researcher at the John Lewis Partnership, working within Waitrose’s Digital team. Day to day she helps to design the website, app and mobile experience for Waitrose. She enjoys looking at food all day!

Imani is also the founder of the ISLA Gift, an initiative which secured partnership with Churchill College Cambridge and which provides students of Black heritage with university support via funding and mentorship. Since 2020 the ISLA Gift has supported about 50 students.

Imani says that the ISLA Gift was in many ways inspired by the selfless help her Target Oxbridge mentors gave her — she wanted to give back and help others in a similar way. Imani was a Target Oxbridge student ahead of securing her place at Cambridge to study Modern and Medieval Languages from 2015 to 19. From the personal statement reviews, to the visits to Oxford, to the lifelong friends she made on the programme - Imani considers Target Oxbridge as key to helping her secure her university place.



Business and Technology

# Tse Uweja

“Target Oxbridge gave me the confidence to take the leap of faith to apply to Cambridge. Even after admission, the Target Oxbridge and wider Rare team continued to encourage and support me to ‘own my experience’ and I’m forever grateful for that.”

Despite initially struggling with imposter syndrome as the only Black girl in her cohort of over 300 students, Tse graduated with a first class in Manufacturing Engineering from St Catharine’s College Cambridge, having been described as ‘a powerhouse of innovation and creativity’.

Tse became President of Impact Through Innovation Cambridge (ITIC) developing engineering technologies to address issues of homelessness in Cambridge, plastic pollution in global coastal communities, and meeting the ventilator demand during the COVID-19 pandemic. She also founded a sustainability start-up, Cascade, building an app to help users cut carbon emissions by up to 30%.

Motivated by her initial experiences of Cambridge, Tse championed access and inclusion work at the University. She became the Diversity Officer for the Engineering Society and the BAME Officer for her College. She led two access initiatives in response to the COVID lockdown. With a team of 80+ volunteers they produced 20 offer-holder subject guides, and an online platform called aim, which demystifies Cambridge life for people from minority ethnic groups and was featured on the BBC.

In 2020 Tse was recognised as one of the Top 10 Undergraduate Students for Social Impact nationally, and in 2021 she was awarded the Vice Chancellor Award for Social Impact. Tse hopes to continue her career in sustainable development, focusing on energy.



Business and Technology

# Eibun Onanuga

“Target Oxbridge was a catalyst to my academic and professional reinvigoration. I was able to meet some incredibly smart and driven people whose passion inspired and continues to inspire me. It was also at this point I started looking ahead at what I wanted to achieve professionally. I haven’t looked back since!”

Eibun Onanuga is a technology developer, first year graduate at Barclays, currently working as a Cloud Engineer utilising AWS in Contact Centre Technology. Other past experiences have seen him working in Retail Technology as a Frontend developer Intern at Tesco.

Eibun is a first-class Computer Science graduate from the University of Warwick with keen interests in areas such as Machine Learning and Cyber Security as keystones to future technological advancements.

In his spare time, you may catch him playing the drums, football, or a video game. Eibun is a budding martial artist practicing karate as a method of improving fitness, body control and mental fortitude.

As a former Target Oxbridge candidate, the act of educating and guiding young prospective academics and professionals is something Eibun holds to a high level of importance.



Consulting

# Michael Bakare

“Target Oxbridge has truly been life-changing for me, it gave me the permission to see myself in an institution that was otherwise shrouded in mystery. The people I met during Target Oxbridge are still some of my closest friends to this day, and the mentors I gained on the programme have continued to support me as I’ve questioned academic and professional decisions.”

Michael Bakare will be joining McKinsey & Company in 2023 as a business analyst, having completed a successful internship at the firm in the summer of 2021.

Born and raised in Enfield, North London, Michael is the middle child of three. His parents were both raised in Nigeria and immigrated to the UK in the 1990s. Michael attended his local comprehensive state school where he was Deputy Head Boy. From there he secured a place to study Philosophy, Politics and Economics at St Hugh’s College, Oxford and graduated in 2022.

Access and social mobility have been key drivers in Michael’s work, in his first year of university he worked as the Junior Access Officer at the African and Caribbean Society. In his second year, he was elected as President of his Junior Common Room. Presiding during the height of the covid-19 pandemic, Michael worked with college leadership to help design the new normal for students returning to an in-person university experience.

Michael has also taken on advisory board positions outside of university, currently, he is a member of the OECD’s youth advisory board (Youthwise), where he seeks to represent the perspectives of young people at internal and ministerial-level meetings.



# Consulting Tobi Olaitan

“Oxford was an incredibly challenging and eye-opening experience for me, but one that I wouldn’t change. Target Oxbridge opened up the door to a world that would have only remained slightly ajar without their support. I’ll always be grateful for that, and for what Rare continue to do for students of colour who may not have the means or access to achieve their potential.”

Tobi grew up in Newham, East London, to first generation Nigerian parents. Having heard about Oxford growing up, it did not seem like a tangible reality until much later.

From a young age, studying became a routine. Every year, Tobi’s Mum would buy him revision guides from the school year above, pushing a study regime every evening. As a teenager, it became apparent that Tobi needed to find a passion for learning himself. He was able to find this in Science when he started his GCSEs.

Tobi applied to Target Oxbridge during his gap year. The team assisted Tobi in interview practice, enabling his admittance to Exeter College, Oxford to study Biochemistry. During his time at Oxford, he enjoyed the support network of his wider cohort, spending most of his social time with the African and Caribbean Society or the University Football XI, simultaneously captaining his college team for the 2019-2020 season.

During his final years at Oxford, Tobi joined Rare’s Consult Programme, where the guidance provided set him up to work as a Health & Life Science Strategy Consultant for a top London firm. Before commencing, Tobi worked as a Candidate Co-ordinator on the Rare Consult Programme where he assisted other candidates in their consulting applications.



Consulting

# Gavra Nwamadi

“Target Oxbridge redefined my vision of success for myself. It broadened my perspective on what was possible for a young Black woman growing up in London, and inspired me to dream big and follow my goals with passion. I will forever be grateful to the Target Oxbridge team for being an integral part of my journey so far, and I look forward to seeing the programme grow and support many more talented young Black students.”

Gavra Nwamadi currently works as a Management Consultant at Bain and Company. Prior to Bain, she studied an MEng in Chemical Engineering at UCL, and next year she will begin her MBA at Harvard Business School, having been selected for the Harvard 2+2 program. During her degree, Gavra completed several Investment Banking internships at firms such as JP Morgan, Morgan Stanley and BNP Paribas.

While she enjoyed her experiences working in Investment Banking, Gavra quickly began to realise that she wanted to start her career in a role where she would be able to develop her business acumen more practically, while also having the opportunity to travel and work on a wide variety of projects across different industries. Now, years later, Gavra has found such a role in Management Consulting.

In her short time as a consultant so far, Gavra has had the opportunity to work in several countries, with a broad set of clients, ranging from Private Equity to Consumer Products. Gavra looks forward to continuing to grow and develop at Bain ahead of starting her MBA program at Harvard next year.



Finance

# Tariq Hammed

“The support I received from Target Oxbridge was life-changing. Not only did it give me the opportunity to study my dream course, but I also made friends for life.”

Tariq Hammed is an Equity Research Analyst within the Global Emerging Markets and Asia Pacific Equities team at J.P. Morgan Asset Management in London. He was the first graduate hired by the team globally in almost a decade after completing a summer internship in the Global Multi-Asset Strategy team within Multi-Asset Solutions.

He grew up in South East London as the youngest of three siblings. With parents from Nigeria, he had an early fascination for the economic challenges faced within Emerging Markets. He went on to study Economics and Management at Wadham College, Oxford and graduated in 2021. At Oxford, he was the Vice President of the Oxford Finance Society and played football for both university and college.

In his spare time, he enjoys videography and recording memories he creates with family and friends. He also loves perfecting his Japanese, collecting limited-edition trainers, playing football and watching Arsenal at the Emirates Stadium.





Finance

# Hannah Tetteh

“Target Oxbridge showed me that I could be part of and thrive in an institution that I thought I would never be comfortable in. Meeting a group of diverse students already at Oxbridge allowed me to see what my life would be like at university, and the programme’s personal statement sessions, Oxbridge visits and interview practice ensured I was well prepared for the application process. I wouldn’t have had the confidence to apply without Target Oxbridge and I’m grateful for everything I’ve gained from being a part of it.”

Hannah read Economics at Girton College, Cambridge. She was involved with a number of programmes that aimed to improve the diversity of the institution, taking on the role of Liaisons Officer for the Cambridge African and Caribbean Society, working within the University’s Cambassadors outreach programme across the UK as well as the role of Girton College Women’s Netball Captain.

After graduating, Hannah joined Goldman Sachs, an investment bank, where she currently works as a rates trader and is involved in a scheme that channels capital to entrepreneurs from diverse backgrounds.

In her spare time, Hannah works with students to help them improve their financial literacy and provides mentorship to those looking to enter the financial services industry. She also works with people to encourage them to use movement to work towards wellness.



Finance

Sogo

Alkintaro

“I was initially hesitant applying to Cambridge because I didn’t consider myself to fit the ‘typical’ Oxbridge mould; however, Target Oxbridge demystified all aspects of the experience and gave me the confidence to truly be myself throughout the entire journey. I can’t recommend this programme enough!”

Sogo read Economics at Jesus College, Cambridge during 2013-16 with a full scholarship provided by Credit Suisse; he graduated with a First Class and was elected a Jesus College Scholar based on his academic performance.

After graduating, Sogo started his career within Credit Suisse’s leveraged finance department where he advised corporates and private equity firms looking to raise debt financing. He later joined HPS Investment Partners in 2018, a global investment firm, where he is a Vice President within the European Private Credit investment team. He has invested over \$4.5bn of capital directly into companies across a range of industries.



# Law Ope Oreyemi

“Being on Target Oxbridge, encouraged me to see Oxford as a space where I could thrive. The application advice, interview practice and mentorship offered was invaluable. I’m truly thankful for the privilege of being on the programme, and the subsequent opportunities, and friendships that came about as a result.”

Ope Oreyemi was born in East London and is of Nigerian descent. He studied Law at Keble College, Oxford, and was a Senior Access and Outreach Officer of the African and Caribbean Society. He was also on the committee of the Law Society. One of his fondest memories from university was volunteering in rural China for 3 weeks, where he taught English to young students.

After receiving offers from Allen & Overy, White & Case, and Clifford Chance, he is currently undergoing his training contract at Clifford Chance. As part of this, he has spent six months in the firm’s Abu Dhabi office, and is also set to undertake a six-month client secondment at Airbus, in France. He’s also been involved in pro bono work, notably collaborating with the Paralegal Pathways Initiative, which involves speaking to formerly incarcerated individuals in the US about a career in law.

He is a recipient of the Harvard Book Prize, the Future Leaders Award, and participated in a roundtable discussion at 10 Downing Street to discuss social justice initiatives with the Prime Minister’s special advisor.

In his spare time, Ope enjoys playing football and reading, and his favourite book is *Americanah* by Chimamanda Adichie.



# Elizabeth Oladunni

“Target Oxbridge was instrumental in helping me to secure a place at Oxford. Through the programme, I was introduced to mentors from a similar background to me who assisted me through the admissions test and guided me in my interview preparation. The help and support I received throughout the programme was invaluable.”

Elizabeth Oladunni is a fourth seat trainee at Slaughter and May due to qualify into one of the firm’s corporate groups in September 2022. She first applied to Target Oxbridge when she was 17, and with the support of the Target Oxbridge team and many others who invested in her academic progress, she secured a place at Pembroke College, Oxford.

Elizabeth went on to graduate with a first-class degree in History and Politics before commencing the law conversion course and going to law school. Elizabeth began her training contract in September 2020, at the height of the pandemic.

In her spare time, Elizabeth enjoys travelling, reading and listening to live music. She is a Rare alumni and is passionate about mentoring young people, both to help them thrive in their academics and to enter into the legal profession.



# Law Seyi Runsewe

“You go into Target Oxbridge expecting to prepare for university and come out prepared for life. This program completely changed the trajectory of my life, and I am so grateful!”

Seyi Runsewe was a part of the 2017/18 Target Oxbridge cohort. She recently completed a degree in Law, Business and Management (MSc) at the University of Law.

Seyi attended the University of Warwick as an undergraduate, graduating with a First Class in Law. While there, Seyi built on the interest in diversity and inclusion that was created during her time at Target Oxbridge. In 2019 to 2020, she was a part of the award-winning Black Women’s Project. The team won the EY award for Best Women’s Society and the Bright Network award for Best Society.

Between 2020 to 2021, Seyi also led the Decolonise the Curriculum campaign on behalf of Warwick Law School. Her efforts resulted in a wider module selection for students, more intense staff training, the appointment of a D&I officer the implementation of a D&I forum and many more positive changes.

Seyi is currently a freelance writer and a future trainee at Ashurst, the latter an opportunity that was obtained as a result of extensive collaboration with Rare Recruitment.



Law

# Toni Adejuyigbe

“Target Oxbridge was an instrumental part of my journey to Oxford, particularly in the home stretch where I needed guidance as I prepared for my interviews. Although I was a late arrival to the programme, I am grateful to the team at Rare for providing their invaluable expertise and resources when I was going through the Oxford interview process.”

Toni studied Law at St Hilda’s College, Oxford, where he graduated in 2019. After completing his Training Contract at international law firm Latham & Watkins LLP in 2022, he qualified as an Associate in the firm’s Corporate department, which advises a diverse group of clients, including public corporations, private equity funds and emerging companies on a full spectrum of transactions from initial investments through to acquisitions and public listings.

Prior to starting his legal career, Toni was a keen negotiator and took part in several competitions, most notably representing Oxford at the 2018 International Negotiation Competition in India, where he was a runner up in a pool of over 40 law schools from around the globe. Outside of work, Toni is a keen tennis player and lover of all things Oscars-related. On weekends when he’s not running through a park or holed up in an art gallery, Toni can be found in Stamford Bridge, enthusiastically supporting Chelsea FC!



Medicine

# Christine Salami

“Target Oxbridge gave me the confidence to see myself as someone who could not only go to Cambridge, but as someone who could excel there. Put simply, Target Oxbridge has changed my life for the better.”

Christine Salami is a 5th-year medical student at Gonville and Caius College, University of Cambridge. Christine intercalated in her 3rd year, achieving a first-class bachelor's degree in Psychology, and is now in the clinical years of her degree. In the future, Christine hopes to become a paediatrician.

Christine has held various committee positions in her time at university so far, including BME officer and Medicine Access officer at Gonville and Caius College, and Welfare Officer of the Cambridge Black Medics Society. More recently, Christine was elected as a committee member of the Cambridge Paediatrics Society. For her role as BME officer in 2021-22, Christine was awarded the Lock Tankard prize by her college and was named one of the UK's 'Future Leaders' (Powerful Media).

In her free time, Christine competes for the Cambridge University cheerleading team, enjoys climbing and volunteers on the youth team at her church.



Medicine

# Dr Daniel Oluboyede

“Target Oxbridge was a microcosm of my Cambridge experience. I connected with the most amazing people and stimulating minds in both my peers and tutors. The support gained was invaluable. My time at Target Oxbridge remains pivotal in my personal life and professional career.”

Dr Daniel Oluboyede MB BChir, BA was a 2014-2015 Target Oxbridge student. Daniel is a second-generation migrant of Nigerian heritage and grew up in Wandsworth. The first in his family to attend Oxbridge, he graduated from Downing College, University of Cambridge in June 2022.

Daniel has been an avid contributor to diversity, equity, and inclusion during his time at Cambridge. As 2018-2019 Access Officer for Cambridge University African and Caribbean Society (CUACS), he directed the 2018 CUACS Access Conference, which supported over 110 students with Oxbridge admissions. He also created the annual CUACS Offer Holder’s Day, which continues to increase the number of Black students accepting their Oxbridge offers by fostering relationships between them before university.

Daniel co-founded and was Vice President of the Cambridge University Black Medics Society (CBMS) 2020-2021, which was established to address the unique experiences of Black medical students at Cambridge. He was also a part of the Cambridge University American Football team and the University’s Amateur Boxing Club.

Daniel is an ambassador of the NHS Blood and Transplant team, which works to address the blood donation rates in the African-Caribbean community.

Daniel will be starting as a junior doctor in August 2022 and aims for a career that balances his medical and business acumen.





Medicine

# Dr Divine Adegbie

“My time at Target Oxbridge was incredibly grounding. I was deeply affirmed at every step of my application process and assured that I belonged. I was also given the practical tools to attain my goals and challenged to think in a new way. I will be forever grateful for the time and care I was given by my mentors and the Target Oxbridge team who were always willing to help and available to respond to me. It was an invaluable experience, one that has left an indelible mark on my life and story.”

Dr Divine Adegbie, a junior doctor within the NHS, graduated from University College London Medical School with a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery degree and Bachelor of Science degree in Anatomy.

Divine has received several awards during her medical journey in recognition of her outstanding academic achievement and leadership skills, including a Dean’s merit award, HSBC’s Future Leader award, The Akindolie Medical Scholarship. She was also shortlisted as a Rising Star in Healthcare.

Divine is dedicated to teaching and has taught at almost every stage of her career so far with a desire to make the Medicine pathway simpler and more accessible to all.

Passionate about research, she has undertaken research in a wide range of topics from Stem cell research to Cardiology, Surgery, and Education, and has been able to present her research at several national conferences.

Divine is a pianist and song writer. In her spare time, she is actively engaged with her community, having led community initiatives for young girls and young people, organising events on self-worth, identity and other essential life tools.



Medicine

# Phoenix Guwa

“I am forever in debt to the tireless work of Target Oxbridge. For the courage, belief and confidence its hardworking staff and ambassadors have instilled within me, to the passion and desire to be the best person I can possibly be, I am grateful.”

Phoenix Guwa is a fifth year Medical Student at Green Templeton College, Oxford. As a young Black comprehensive school student from a single parent household, Phoenix initially thought some opportunities were closed to him. He realised the range of his possibilities after attending the Target Oxbridge residential in Spring 2017 however, and says the experience changed his life in a way he would never have expected.

Phoenix has completed his first three years of pre-clinical studies, attaining a Bachelor of Arts in Medical Sciences. He is now in the penultimate year of what has been a very long degree. At Oxford, Phoenix has not only been able to further explore his academic interests, but also interact with a variety of people from different backgrounds and have a variety of experiences which have changed his life for the better.

Most importantly to him, Phoenix has been able to get involved in a number of access initiatives at both a student society and university level, with the hope of inspiring students and supporting them to make better informed decisions about their future, in the way that Target Oxbridge helped him.



Postgraduate Study

# Isaiah Wellington-Lynn

“Target Oxbridge opened up a world of possibilities for me. It introduced me to a community of people audacious enough to think they could change the narrative about who belongs at Oxford. That community inspired me to not only dream courageously but also consider that, maybe just maybe, my dreams could one day materialise. And, they have. I am living my wildest dreams. Thank you, Josh and Naomi, for helping to unlock that potential!”

Isaiah grew up in Newham with his mum. He aspires to tell stories about people, products and problem-solving in ways that foster shared compassion. He is a DPhil Candidate in Anthropology at the University of Oxford, where he researches how British people cultivate a sense of belonging.

Alongside his DPhil, Isaiah is a Founding Faculty member at the London Interdisciplinary School, the world’s first completely interdisciplinary university. He leads on Coaching, Integration and teaches how Anthropology and Design Thinking can help us tackle societal problems such as inequality and sustainability. He is also an ‘Anthropologist in Residence’ at TwentyFirstCenturyBrand, advising tech companies and foundations such as Depop and Prince Harry and Meghan’s Archewell Foundation.

Isaiah did his undergraduate degree at UCL and Harvard and has worked in London, New York and San Francisco at companies such as Airbnb, J.P. Morgan, Garden Court Chambers, LocalGlobe and NYU. Since matriculating at Oxford in 2021, Isaiah has given a keynote speech at the University of Cambridge about the future of education, and had roundtable discussions with HRH Prince Charles. He is an Amos Bursary alum, Black Heart Foundation Scholar, Project Access Board Member, and received the ESRC and Black Academic Futures scholarships to fund his PhD at Oxford.



Postgraduate Study

# Tosin Sorunke

“I’m extremely glad I applied to be on the pilot programme for Target Oxbridge. Interacting with Oxbridge alumni, students and working with my mentor through the programme, helped affirm my belief that I deserved to be in the spaces I am now thriving in.”

From having attained one of the best A-level results in his sixth form cohort, Tosin has since gone on to complete internships for top employers such as Charge Cars, Royal Dutch Shell, and Meggitt.

Tosin puts his achievements down to consistency, and a strong work ethic. He is particularly fond of the bible verse Ecclesiastes 9 v 10a, which states that “whatever your hands find to do, do it with all your might”. He applies this philosophy religiously in all areas of his life. One such area is higher education: Tosin is currently undertaking a PhD in Engineering at the University of Warwick. This is after having successfully secured a full scholarship to fund his studies.

Tosin’s PhD research focuses on energy storage, a topic he is deeply passionate about, especially after having scored 93% in the relevant master’s module (second best in a class of over 50), at Warwick University.



Postgraduate Study

# Ellie Lathbridge

“To me, Target Oxbridge is all about opportunity, confidence and genuine support. It’s been over half a decade since I took part in the programme and I’m certain that it’s been helping me with my academic confidence to this very day. I can’t wait to see what the next ten years have in store.”

Ellie Lathbridge is a Target Oxbridge 2014-2016 alumna. After double-majoring in Hispanic Studies and Classics at the University of Birmingham, she went on to study MSt Latin and Greek Languages and Literature at University College, Oxford as their Loughman Scholar.

During her time at Oxford, Ellie has been providing postgraduate application advice to Target Oxbridge alumni considering postgraduate study, while also researching into the barriers that members of the African diaspora face when pursuing Classics in Higher Education.

Though leaving academia and entering into the young professional world, Ellie hopes to contribute to conferences on Neurodiversity in Classics and continue her ongoing translation project of adapting the Catullan corpus into a vibrant hip-hop EP.



Public Sector, Charity and Social Enterprise

# Conrad Kunadu

“Growing up, I struggled to internalise the idea that you could both be authentically black and brazenly ambitious - and Target Oxbridge was an important part of my journey of self-discovery. I met so many inspiring, fun, and proud people that it changed the way I saw myself. I wouldn't be who I am today without this experience and remain grateful at the privilege to have been a part of Target Oxbridge.”

Conrad has long been committed to having the most impact he can. As a child, the first three careers he aspired to were scientist, philosopher, and human rights lawyer. Growing up, Conrad was particularly passionate about politics and he expected to work in policy for the rest of his life.

Conrad graduated from Oxford University with a First Class in Philosophy, Politics and Economics. Over the course of his degree, he won a number of academic and essay prizes. At Oxford, he was involved in student politics, international development, and work on access to higher education for ethnic minority students. However, late into his university experience, Conrad discovered the effective altruism movement.

As Conrad became more involved with effective altruism, he eventually became deeply inspired by the movement. Having started work at an EdTech startup, Conrad quickly sought to instead work on safeguarding and improving humanity's long-term future (longtermism).

Having since joined Longview Philanthropy as a Special Projects Associate, Conrad is currently working on building a coworking space for longtermist organisations and individuals. He is now passionate about building impactful projects that benefit humanity - present and future - and hopes to spend the rest of his career doing precisely this.

A portrait of Alexandra Otubanjo, a young Black woman with long, straight brown hair, smiling warmly. She is wearing a white, high-collared top with intricate beaded detailing. The background is a solid, vibrant pink color.

Public Sector, Charity and Social Enterprise

# Alexandra Otubanjo

“Thanks to the wise words of my aunt for encouraging me to apply to Target Oxbridge in the first place, having the opportunity to participate in it was truly life changing and transformative. Target Oxbridge strengthened the belief I had in myself and made me truly realise that I can, and deserve to, occupy these well sought-after spaces in higher education.”

Alex Otubanjo is currently a Community Manager at One Young World, the global community for young leaders. Alex is an alumnus of Warwick University and University College London, graduating with a first class in BA Politics and International Studies and a Merit in MSc Global Governance and Ethics respectively. During her Master’s, Alex undertook a Summer Internship at the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, where she wrote a policy paper, assessing and outlining key preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE) trends in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Her passion for youth mentorship led her to becoming a Student Ambassador at Warwick, engaging with thousands of students across London and the West Midlands. Between 2017-2019, Alex was the Deputy Chair of the Ernst & Young (EY) Foundation’s National Youth Panel for the School to Work campaign – a role centred around helping young peoples’ transition from school to the workplace.

Alex was named one of the Top 150 Future Leaders in the United Kingdom of African and Caribbean descent for 2019/2020, having been recognised for her work in Widening Participation and youth mentorship. Additionally, Alex is also a spoken word poet and has performed in places including the British Museum and Chatham House.



Public Sector, Charity and Social Enterprise

# Elsie Aluko

“Target Oxbridge provided me with the confidence that I could achieve highly without compromising on who I really am. It was reassuring to meet students with similar backgrounds and goals to me and it was inspiring to add such people to my network. Everyone at Target Oxbridge was so invested in our development, and supporting us on our journey so it is absolutely an opportunity which I would highly recommend!”

At school Elsie would often complain that Physics was difficult and boring until her teacher pulled her aside and gave her a proper talking to! Elsie took her teacher’s advice, started to dedicate more time to grasping the concepts she had struggled with and really fell in love with Physics. It quickly became her favourite subject and Elsie went on to study it at the University of Bristol.

Alongside her degree Elsie successfully applied for the Lloyd’s scholarship scheme through which she completed two summer internships with Lloyd’s banking group. She also completed a 10-week internship at the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and was offered a place on the graduate scheme. Elsie was the President and Founder of the AfroLit society. This is something she is incredibly proud of as it provided her and others with an outlet to immerse themselves in the love of literature – something she couldn’t do with Physics!

Elsie graduated in 2021 and is now 10 months into her graduate scheme. She is currently working in the Specialist Supervision Directorate at the FCA and loving it. Elsie most enjoys completing work she knows directly leads to positive outcomes for consumers, as well as the fact that she is learning new things every day.



# Target Oxbridge's Sponsors

## University Sponsors

### University of Cambridge

The University of Cambridge is one of the world's leading universities.

Rare has been working in collaboration with the University on Target Oxbridge since 2017.

The University of Cambridge has financially contributed to increase the number of places on the Target Oxbridge programme to 160 in 2018. The University and its colleges annually provide a three day residential for up to 80 students as part of the programme, followed by a second visit in the summer. In addition, the University offers support throughout the Target Oxbridge Summer Development Programme.

Target Oxbridge plays a key role in the University's Widening Participation strategy. Please visit [www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk](http://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk) to learn more about the admissions process and our programme of events and projects for prospective applicants.



### University of Oxford

The University of Oxford is one of the leading universities in the world.

Rare has been working in collaboration with the University on Target Oxbridge since 2016.

The University of Oxford has financially contributed to the increase of the number of places on the Target Oxbridge programme to 160 in 2018. The University and its colleges annually provide a three day residential for up to 80 students as part of the programme, followed by a second visit in the summer. In addition, the University offers support throughout the Target Oxbridge Summer Development Programme.

Target Oxbridge plays a key role within the University's Widening Access and Participation recruitment programme for undergraduate admissions. Please visit [www.ox.ac.uk/study](http://www.ox.ac.uk/study) to learn more about the Oxford undergraduate admissions process, student life at Oxford and outreach events.



# Corporate Sponsors

## Clifford Chance

Clifford Chance became a sponsor of Target Oxbridge in 2018. It will host a series of Target Oxbridge events, including Summer Development Programme seminars and classes, and the programme's launch event and summer conference.

Clifford Chance takes an integrated, full service approach which spans continents, cultures and time zones, jurisdictions, practice areas and industry sectors.

Its 'one firm' approach and partnership ethos have allowed Clifford Chance to provide commercially focused legal advice of the highest quality that consistently exceeds clients' expectations.

As a non-franchise law firm with an impressive breadth and depth of expertise across Europe, Asia, the Americas and the Middle East, Clifford Chance recruits only the best people at all levels of the business and places huge importance on teamwork. Clifford Chance expects its people to be flexible and creative and to have the desire and drive to embrace new experiences and challenges.

[More information on Clifford Chance](#)  
[More information on Clifford Chance careers](#)

CLIFFORD  
CHANCE

## Herbert Smith Freehills

Herbert Smith Freehills became a sponsor of Target Oxbridge in 2021. It will host a series of Target Oxbridge events, including Summer Development Programme seminars.

Our dispute resolution practice is recognised as number one globally and this includes our leading international arbitration practice and award-winning in-house advocacy unit. We have a market-leading corporate practice; we have advised on the most public takeovers above £1billion in the UK over the last nine years. We also specialise in finance, competition, regulation and trade, intellectual property, real estate and more.

We recognise and appreciate all the differences that make each of us unique. Our culture of inclusion that fosters these differences is fundamental to our business and the diverse clients and communities we work with. Embracing a diversity of backgrounds and views means we attract and retain the best talent and continue to do the pioneering work that offers our clients the most considered and effective advice.

To find out more [click here](#)



## Latham & Watkins

Latham & Watkins became the founding sponsor of Target Oxbridge in 2016, offering insight day and work experience opportunities to a number of Target Oxbridge students. It also hosts a series of Target Oxbridge events, including Summer Development Programme seminars and classes.

Latham & Watkins is a leading international law firm with offices in the world's major financial, business and regulatory centres and internationally recognised practices across a wide spectrum of transactional, litigation, corporate and regulatory areas. Many of the firm's practice groups are award-winning industry leaders, as are many of the firm's partners.

Please visit [www.lw.com/londongraduates](http://www.lw.com/londongraduates) for application deadlines and eligibility requirements, as well as for further information regarding other recruitment opportunities and events.

LATHAM & WATKINS

## Linklaters

Linklaters became a new sponsor of Rare Target Oxbridge in 2018 and will host a series of Target Oxbridge events, including Summer Development Programme seminars and classes.

At Linklaters we're proud of our 178 year history, a leading global law firm with a reputation for consistent excellence. Our people go further to support our clients, with market-leading legal insight and innovation. And we go further for each other, too. We're people you want to work with, generous with our time and ready to help. So no matter what the future holds, with us you'll be one step ahead.

We develop exceptional talent as they work on high profile projects on a global scale. We welcome diversity and individuality. Along with highly competitive rewards, we'll provide the very best training and the flexibility you need to steer your own career.

To find out more about Linklaters, visit: [careers.linklaters.com/en/early-careers](http://careers.linklaters.com/en/early-careers).

Linklaters

Icons: www.flaticon.com



**TARGET OXBRIDGE**

**[www.targetoxbridge.co.uk](http://www.targetoxbridge.co.uk)**

Twitter: @TargetOxbridge

Instagram: @targetoxbridge