



Accelerating Growth



Supporting your business
to develop and succeed

Developing your business



The early years of a new business can be the most challenging in its founder's life. There is not just your idea or product to think about – you will also be considering how you create and grow a team to help you deliver your vision, how you secure financial backing and how (and when) you prepare to scale-up.

If your company is based in, or supported by, an accelerator programme, one of the key questions will be where do you locate your new enterprise? Your burgeoning science or tech business may well require proper designated office space and there are many factors in making this important choice. If Oxford is your preferred location, The Oxford Trust could help.

Our expertise

Entrepreneurs Sir Martin and Lady Wood started The Oxford Trust in 1985 and our mission is to encourage the pursuit of science and enterprise.

The experience of starting their own business – Oxford Instruments – meant the Woods understood the challenges faced by start-ups when trying to get their feet on the commercial ladder; for example, finding affordable and flexible office space in Oxford and having access to office support and business advice that enabled them to focus on successfully growing their business.

The Woods founded the Trust to help and we have been helping for the past 35 years – giving high-tech start-ups the opportunity to take those first important steps by providing an escalator model of affordable office accommodation support.

We have helped hundreds of tech companies to develop and flourish thanks to the time they spent at one of our innovation centres, including local companies Mirada Medical, Perspectum Diagnostics, Navenio, Natural Motion and Oxford Computer Consultants.



Our innovation centres

Companies transitioning from accelerator and incubator programmes find service support highly valuable as it allows them to plan and grow in a flexible way without any long term commitments.

We have a gateway policy to ensure only eligible businesses take up space in one of our innovation centres but once you're in, there's a great programme of networking opportunities to ensure you get to know your neighbours. So where to go?



Oxford Centre for Innovation (OCFI)



Located in the heart of Oxford, OCFI is a five-minute walk from the main rail and bus transport hubs, making connectivity easy.

It is also a short walk to many of the University of Oxford's physical sciences facilities, the Said Business School and social entrepreneurship centres.

OCFI is predominantly aimed at tech companies in their very earliest stage of development and so has many different accommodation options, as well as virtual office support and conference/meeting room facilities. It's currently home to 26 businesses employing over 200 people.

OCFI is also home to our Make Oxford digital fabrication facility – a fully kitted-out and technician-operated maker hub that supports companies and individuals who want to prototype physical product ideas.



Wood Centre for Innovation (WCFI)



WCFI is our new innovation centre, situated on a unique 18-acre woodland site in Headington.

Like the OCFI, the new centre

(which opens in April 2019) provides innovation space for entrepreneurs and start-ups, but it also has bigger grow-on spaces for companies looking to expand. WCFI capitalises on its close proximity to Oxford's rapidly-developing health and data sciences quarter centre around Old Road Campus, clinical research facilities at local hospitals and Oxford Brookes University, positioning the centre's high-tech business residents at the core of transformational research and discovery.

WCFI has self-contained facilities – 120 seater auditorium, on-site café, meeting and conference rooms – but is still within an easy walk or bike ride to pubs, shops and transport links into the city centre and London.

Business support

The Trust offers eligible start-up companies financial support through its own 'escalator' model, providing discounted rates on office space in those crucial early years – helping you focus resources on growing your business.

Oxford Innovation (OI), a spin-out of the Trust, manages our innovation centres and has a wealth of experience in understanding the needs of young businesses. OI provides a wide array of support to businesses, from financial advice and access to angel investment networks to business grant help and a range of events that help young companies learn more about operational management and strategies.



About The Oxford Trust

The Oxford Trust is an independent charitable trust that was founded in 1985 by entrepreneurs Sir Martin and Lady Audrey Wood, co-founders of Oxford Instruments. Its mission is to encourage the pursuit of science and enterprise.

We run activities across three connected programmes:

Enterprise

supporting economic growth by encouraging innovation

Education

inspiring young people about science, technology, engineering and maths

Engagement

encouraging people of all ages to engage with how science impacts their lives.

While the Trust focuses on the enterprise strategy, our education and engagement programmes are delivered through our Science Oxford team.



Get in touch

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