

BREAKING: NEW OXFORD STUDENTS DISRUPT MATRICULATIONS FOR GAZA; OTHERS PROTEST OUTSIDE CEREMONY

Oxford's Incoming Class of Students protest the University's Complicity in Genocide

*19 October July 2024; OXFORD, UK -- On Saturday, the University of Oxford will hold its annual matriculation ceremonies for new students at the Sheldonian Theatre. The ceremonies will begin at **9 AM** and last until **3:30 PM** at the Sheldonian Theatre. OA4P will begin disruption at **10:30 AM** both inside and outside the ceremony. Students will unfurl flags and banners at the entrance to the theatre and matriculating students will carry Palestinian flags into the ceremony. During the ceremony, students will interrupt Irene Tracey's introductory speech by calling out the Vice Chancellor for her and the university's complicity in the ongoing genocide. Specifically, the Vice Chancellor has disregarded and denied Oxford's associations with the Israeli government and Israeli weapons manufacturing companies such as Elbit Systems. Most importantly, students will denounce Irene Tracey's refusal to acknowledge Israel's genocidal assault against the Palestinian and Lebanese people, including the deliberate targeting and killing of young academics by the IOF.*

*At **14:30** OA4P will initiate a "die-in" at the entrances to the Sheldonian Theatre. Students in blood-soaked white t-shirts will block entry to the ceremony, with matriculating students having to climb over protestors to gain entry into the building. Other protestors will carry banners and flags to support the action.*

The protest is the first public-facing action staged by OA4P in the new academic year. Despite the Administration's efforts silence the movement for Palestine at Oxford, the students are only growing stronger.

OA4P will take video from inside the ceremonies, which will be uploaded to our [Press Kit](#) at [OxAct4Pal.com](#) immediately following the event.

WHAT: *Incoming Oxford students disrupt matriculation inside; others protest outside theatre*

WHERE: *Oxford Sheldonian Theatre, Broad Street*

WHEN: *9:00am - 3:30 pm (Disruptions at 10:30 and 14:30)*

Abel, a First-Year Student, participated in OA4P's disruption of his matriculation ceremony. He says: *"I had to say something because why would I be silent in front of someone who is meant to lead our University but is actually friends with terrorists. Our fellow students deserve to know this. The entire central management of this University does not care about my Palestinian and Lebanese friends and alumni or their family in the Levant. If they did, they would end the University's complicity in the murder of their people. The only explanation is racism. When they look at black and brown skin, they don't see human value, they see profit from their slaughter."*

For interviews and other enquiries, contact: m: 07784649053; e: oxpalpress@proton.me; @OxAct4Pal on X, Instagram, and TikTok.

Oxford Action for Palestine (OA4P) is a student-led collective joined by faculty, staff, and the wider Oxford community, all of whom are dedicated to the liberation of Palestine. On May 6, OA4P established a Liberated Zone encampment in solidarity with Gaza, calling on the University of Oxford to cut financial and institutional ties with Israeli genocide, occupation, and apartheid. The physical encampment closed on July 7 but OA4P continues to organise on campus. For updates, visit OxAct4Pal.com and find us on Instagram, X, and TikTok on @OxAct4Pal.

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