

# The Dorothy Hodgkin Project



Among the 71 British Nobel Prize winners for science,  
**Meet the only woman.**

We all need science.  
Science needs women.  
You can help.

[www.dorothyhodgkinproject.com](http://www.dorothyhodgkinproject.com)

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*Women are significantly under-represented at senior levels in science. The Department of Chemistry and Somerville College are working together on the [Dorothy Hodgkin Project](#) to raise awareness and create a new fellowship for an outstanding chemist.*

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[Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin](#), Oxford Chemistry alumna, was a pioneer of x-ray crystallography whose discoveries have fundamentally shaped our understanding of living organisms and supported the growth of modern medicine. In 1964 she won the only Nobel Prize for chemistry ever awarded to a British woman.

More than half a century later, women remain significantly under-represented in the senior echelons of science academia. The retention of women in STEM subjects is an enduring global problem, even though research shows that diverse working environments promote collaboration, risk-taking and effective problem-solving. Although in recent years we have become far more successful in encouraging girls and women to study science, there is a significant drop-off of women in science academia as seniority increases. This means that whilst 44% of doctoral graduates in chemistry are female, only 24% of non-professorial academic staff and 8% of professors in chemistry are

female. Reports constantly cite a key problem: taking a career break. Opportunities for women to return to science academia are rare and in huge demand.

The Department of Chemistry has teamed up with Dorothy Hodgkin's college, [Somerville](#), to take positive action. We hope to create a research fellowship for an outstanding chemist to return to research, as well as to raise awareness about this persistent problem. The newly-launched [Dorothy Hodgkin Project](#) will use crowdfunding to raise initial capital, and social networking to help encourage a shift in culture and policy. Our ultimate aim is to create an endowed fellowship that will enable us to build a lasting pipeline of women returning to science.

[The Dorothy Hodgkin Career Development Fellowship](#) is aimed at scientists returning to research after a career break, and will help set an example of how positions can be constructed to offer viable career paths for women, both within Oxford and for other universities. The Dorothy Hodgkin fellowship post emphasises flexibility, strong mentorship and interdisciplinary science. It will be based in Somerville College and appointed jointly by the Department of Chemistry and another science department varied on the research area of the Hodgkin Fellow, to facilitate interdisciplinary research.

By naming the fellowship after Dorothy Hodgkin, we hope to honour her legacy in perpetuity. Hodgkin was not only an extraordinary scientist, but a teacher who led by example, an advocate for social equality and the first woman to receive a form of maternity pay from the University of Oxford. She also donated some of her Nobel Prize money to set up the first onsite nursery at Oxford.

To find out more, please visit [dorothyhodgkinproject.com](http://dorothyhodgkinproject.com).

Your support can unlock donations and help women stay in science.

If you have any questions, please contact [susan.davis@chem.ox.ac.uk](mailto:susan.davis@chem.ox.ac.uk) or [brett.degaynesford@some.ox.ac.uk](mailto:brett.degaynesford@some.ox.ac.uk).