



University of Oxford

Department of Politics and International Relations and Corpus Christi College

The Renato Morelli Corpus Christi College Graduate Scholarship in Politics 2026-27

Corpus Christi College and the Department of Politics and International Relations (DPIR) at the University of Oxford invite applications for the Renato Morelli Corpus Christi College Graduate (DPhil) Scholarship, for entry in the 2026–2027 academic year.

The scholarship honors the life and work of Renato Morelli, an Italian liberal politician, jurist, and civil servant who was a central figure in the Italian Liberal Party and played an important role in Italy's reconstruction after World War II.

The Morelli Scholarship provides funding of USD 20,000 per year for four years (approximately GBP 15,000 at current exchange rates) towards the costs of the DPhil degree. Subject to funding availability, the DPIR may supplement this award to cover University course fees and a living stipend.

The scholarship is open to citizens of European Union member states who intend to pursue doctoral research related to liberal democracy. Candidates from disadvantaged backgrounds are especially encouraged to apply. The successful candidate will be a member of Corpus Christi College and conduct their research under the supervision of Professor Giovanni Capoccia, Fellow in Politics at Corpus Christi College and Professor of Comparative Politics in the DPIR. Proposals focusing on democratic backsliding, strategies of democratic defence, or the rise of illiberalism will be given particular consideration in this selection round.

How to apply

Candidates should apply through the normal University of Oxford application process for the DPhil in Politics, naming Professor Giovanni Capoccia as a proposed supervisor in their application form. Details of the application procedure are available on the University's website: <https://www.politics.ox.ac.uk/how-apply-graduate-admissions?utm>

Eligible applicants will be automatically considered for the Morelli Scholarship. Consideration for this Scholarship does not preclude eligibility for other sources of funding.