

# THE SCHWARZMAN CENTRE, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD



Image credit: Proposed design for the north exterior of the Schwarzman Centre © Hopkins Architects / University of Oxford. Available at University of Oxford News 10 March 2022

## Transforming the humanities landscape: Operational planning for the boundary-breaking Schwarzman Centre at the University of Oxford

### OVERVIEW

The c£300m Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities at the University of Oxford is an exciting development that will bring seven humanities faculties under one roof. The Centre aims to become a hub of creative innovation in the UK with state-of-the-art academic, exhibition, and performance spaces. Featuring teaching and learning facilities as well as a 500-seat concert hall, labs, studios, a gallery and the Oxford Internet Institute, the Centre will drive performance-led research, provide access to cutting-edge technologies for arts businesses, and offer training programs for creative skills and career pathways – at the same time as enhancing accommodation for a range of humanities disciplines at the University. Opening in 2025, it promises to transform the humanities landscape.

### BRIEF

Positive Solutions is supporting [Human Economics](#), who have been engaged by the University of Oxford to advise on the “building in use” workstream of the Schwarzman Centre project. The brief is to ensure that full consideration has been given to operational planning prior to the opening of the Centre, and to ensure its success. The work has started with a scoping exercise to identify any gaps in planning that remain now that the construction and fit-out process has begun.

A distinctive challenge and opportunity for the Centre is management of the interface between academic, commercial, and public-facing aspects, and overall governance, financial planning and strategic planning for the Centre.

### APPROACH

The Human Economics team reviewed all available prior documentation and interviewed key stakeholders and project leaders. This led into a combined consultant-client workshop, and the generation of a gap analysis which informs the scope of further operational planning which needs to be addressed in the remaining period prior to opening.

### RESULT

The project is ongoing.

### SEE ALSO:

- > [Concept Planning and Governance for the Home Affairs Bureau Hong Kong](#)
- > [West Kowloon Cultural District Concept Development](#)
- > [Creative Victoria – Precinct Facilities Audit and Governance](#)
- > [Geelong Performing Arts Centre](#)