

Your Majesty,

On this auspicious occasion, I have the honour to convey to Your Majesty the respectful greetings of the Chancellor, Masters and Scholars of the University of Oxford.

Today we celebrate the establishment of a new post in Moroccan and Mediterranean Studies at the Middle East Centre of St Antony's College in that University.

It is, for us in Oxford, a particular honour that the new Fellowship bears Your Majesty's name and will do so in perpetuity. The Kingdoms of Morocco and Great Britain have enjoyed close diplomatic relations for more than 400 years. That long friendship is a secure foundation which enables us to work together to create new bonds between our two countries.

The new Fellowship is an example of this. It enables us to turn our universities into gateways for the exchange of knowledge and understanding between our societies.

As the Chancellor of Oxford University, I am confident that the work of the King Mohammed VI Fellow and the good offices of the Moroccan British Society will foster intellectual exchange with the scholars and universities of Morocco and its Mediterranean neighbours and bring benefits to us all.

And as the European Commissioner for External Relations, I particularly welcome this example of cooperation between members of the European Union and their neighbours on the other side of the Mediterranean.

For all these reasons, I re-affirm our gratitude to Your Majesty for making this possible.

Chris Patten,
Chancellor of the University of Oxford.