Nuffield Department of Population Health

Job description and selection criteria

Job title	Researcher in Health Economics
Division	Medical Sciences Division
Department	Nuffield Department of Population Health
Location	Old Road Campus, Headington, Oxford
Grade and salary	Grade 7: £33,309 - £40,927 per annum
Hours	Full time Part time (≥50% FTE) may be considered
Contract type	Fixed term for 12 months in the first instance
Reporting to	Dr Elizabeth Stokes, Senior Researcher in Health Economics
Vacancy reference	154348

Introduction

The Health Economics Research Centre (HERC)

HERC is a thriving group of health economists and analysts, with a varied and innovative research programme. HERC at present consists of around 30 health economists/scientists, ten DPhil students and 3 administrators, plus research associates and senior visiting fellows. HERC has a well-established reputation as a centre of excellence in health economics.

HERC staff are involved in a wide range of methodological and applied research projects, both national and international, that currently emphasise the methodology and application of economic evaluation to health interventions, disease modelling, outcome measurement and valuation, econometric analyses of large and complex longitudinal datasets, assessment of socio-economic driven inequalities in various disease areas, economic assessment of novel genomic technologies, health care decision making, the economics of antimicrobial resistance and COVID-19, and health systems evaluation.

Staff also undertake undergraduate and graduate supervision and teaching. For example, HERC contributes to the Oxford University MSc in Global Health Science and Epidemiology, a one-year, full-time course, which aims to promote in-depth understanding of global health issues by study of a range of disciplines in biomedical and social sciences. Other teaching activities include the successful 'Applied Methods of Cost-effectiveness Analysis' course, which attracts an international enrolment and has been run in Oxford, Australia and Hong Kong. Further information on HERC is available from our website (http://www.herc.ox.ac.uk).

Nuffield Department of Population Health

The Nuffield Department of Population Health (NDPH) provides an excellent environment for multi-disciplinary research and teaching and in the 2014 REF (Research Excellence Framework) was ranked first for research in the area of public health, health services and primary care. NDPH has over 600 staff working in several world-renowned population health research groups, including the Clinical Trial Service Unit and Epidemiological Studies Unit (CTSU), the Cancer Epidemiology Unit (CEU), the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit (NPEU) and other groups working on public health, health economics, ethics, and health record linkage. It is also a key partner in the new Oxford University Big Data Institute.

The wide range of opportunities for research within the department includes access to very large datasets from clinical trials, meta-analyses, and epidemiological cohorts. These research programmes are well supported by scientific teams which include clinicians, epidemiologists, statisticians, analyst programmers and research coordinators, and by excellent computing and laboratory facilities.

In addition to its research activities, the Department is home to the MSc in Global Health Science and Epidemiology, MSc in Clinical Trials, MSc in Precision Cancer Medicine, and PG Certificate in Statistics and Epidemiology. Students also come to undertake research for DPhil degrees. Teaching is provided for undergraduates reading for Medicine and for Public Health doctors in specialist training.

For more information please visit: www.ndph.ox.ac.uk

The Medical Sciences Division

The Medical Sciences Division is an internationally recognised centre of excellence for biomedical and clinical research and teaching, and the largest academic division in the University of Oxford.

World-leading programmes, housed in state-of-the-art facilities, cover the full range of scientific endeavour from the molecule to the population. With our NHS partners we also foster the highest possible standards in patient care.

For more information please visit: http://www.medsci.ox.ac.uk

About the University of Oxford

Welcome to the University of Oxford. We aim to lead the world in research and education for the benefit of society both in the UK and globally. Oxford's researchers engage with academic, commercial, and cultural partners across the world to stimulate high-quality research and enable innovation through a broad range of social, policy and economic impacts.

We believe our strengths lie both in empowering individuals and teams to address fundamental questions of global significance, while providing all our staff with a welcoming and inclusive workplace that enables everyone to develop and do their best work. Recognising that diversity is our strength, vital for innovation and creativity, we aspire to build a truly diverse community which values and respects every individual's unique contribution.

While we have long traditions of scholarship, we are also forward-looking, creative, and cutting-edge. Oxford is one of Europe's most entrepreneurial universities. Income from external research contracts in 2016/17 exceeded £564m and we rank first in the UK for university spinouts, with more than 130 companies created to date. We are also recognised as leaders in support for social enterprise.

Join us and you will find a unique, democratic, and international community, a great range of staff benefits and access to a vibrant array of cultural activities in the beautiful city of Oxford.

For more information, please visit www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation.

Overview of the role

Due to continuing success in attracting research funding, HERC wishes to appoint two full-time (or more if part-time) researchers to join the existing group. The successful candidates will have some research experience and will be attracted to working in the research environment described above. The postholder will work on one or more existing projects and will also be expected to engage in HERC's teaching and other activities.

The posts will be supported by research grants funded principally from the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), the NIHR Oxford Biomedical Research Centre, the Medical Research Council, the UK Department of Health and others on a more ad hoc basis. The people appointed will work for most of their time under the supervision of one or more of the relevant researchers (Assoc Professor Jose Leal, Assoc Prof Jane Wolstenholme, Dr Elizabeth Stokes), but may be asked to assist other Principal Investigators as and when required. We are looking for outstanding candidates with the drive and determination to develop new and existing skills in the health economics, to work successfully as part of a project team, and subsequently to develop and to pursue their own areas of interest.

Responsibilities/duties

Successful applicants will work on a number of research projects involving different diseases and different areas of health economics. The roles will typically involve some or all the following:

- Working with researchers to ensure that health economics research projects are completed successfully and to a high standard. This involves: reviewing and summarising published literature, cleaning, formatting and conducting analyses on economic/clinical data from Randomised Controlled Trials (RCTs) and/or large observational datasets, and interpreting findings, conducting economic evaluation alongside RCTs or analysing large datasets and interpreting findings;
- Developing and implementing new and/or existing research methodologies arising during the research projects;
- Managing their own research on project and administrative activities, co-ordinating multiple aspects of the work to meet deadlines and key milestones in the project(s);
- Acting as a source of information and advice to other members of the research team;
- Liaising with the project teams and clinical collaborators on interpretation of findings;
- Collaborating on the development of new studies or trials;
- Preparing progress reports;
- Writing peer-reviewed publications and conference presentations;
- Contributing, as required, to the wider academic activities of the Nuffield Department of Population Health (including teaching, student mentoring or supervision) and to participate in appropriate training and quality assurance processes for such roles.

The successful candidate will also have the opportunity to contribute to HERC's varied programme of teaching.

Additionally, the projects will offer the opportunity for successful applicants to enhance their skills in advanced health economic methodological approaches. The post holders will be supported in their career progression and will be encouraged to identify and take forward their own research interests, with a view to eventually developing their own portfolios of work. Subject to passing selection criteria, there may be an opportunity for successful applicants to study for an NDPH DPhil.

Research project areas

Examples of the projects that the successful applicants may be required to work on are listed below:

ACL SNNAP study: Comparison of the clinical and cost effectiveness of two management strategies for non-acute Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) injury: rehabilitation versus surgical reconstruction

Funded by NIHR HTA programme (https://www.journalslibrary.nihr.ac.uk/programmes/hta/1414063), the ACL SNNAP study aims to determine the best approach to manage individuals with non-acute Anterior Cruciate Ligament Deficiency (ACLD). Surgical reconstruction and rehabilitation are options for the clinical management of these individuals. However, there is limited and conflicting evidence concerning the efficacy of these management options and a new study is required.

The work involves conducting an economic evaluation alongside a multi-site randomised superiority trial to establish the cost-effectiveness of surgical reconstruction compared to rehabilitation for patients with non-acute ACLD knees under the supervision of Assoc Prof Jose Leal

Trial and non-trial based economic evaluations of cancer-related treatments and interventions.

This involves work on a suite of health economic evaluations alongside UK-based clinical trials and non-trial based research programmes that aim to address questions that are important to real-world patients with cancer treated by the NHS. Cancer sites include oropharyngeal, head and neck, prostate, pancreatic and breast. Examples of the therapies under investigation include novel radiotherapy technologies and techniques, new methods of patient follow-up and surveillance, biopsy technologies and medication adherence, under the supervision of Associate Professor Jane Wolstenholme and alongside other HERC staff involved in these research studies.

Cortical Disarray Measurement- A novel and promising tool to predict progression amongst patients presenting with mild cognitive impairment.

Before a person is diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease (AD) dementia, they may be diagnosed with Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI). This is when they start to experience problems with memory, language, thinking and judgment that are worse than expected with normal ageing. However, MCI does not always lead to dementia. Not knowing can cause uncertainty and worry. A new technology 'Cortical Disarray Measurement (CDM) 'uses MRI scans from NHS patients to identify those who have MCI due to AD, and to help predict how quickly their symptoms will get worse. HERC will lead the non-trial based economic evaluation of this new technology. Work on this research project will be under the supervision of Dr Filipa Landeiro and Associate Professor Jane Wolstenholme.

Health Economics Support for NHS Blood and Transplant

NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) manage NHS blood donation services in England and transplant services across the UK. HERC are providing health economic research and educational support to NHSBT. Possible research projects include assessing the costs and benefits of developing new blood products (using decision analytic modelling and budget impact assessment) and new ways of working with transfusion laboratories in hospitals. Educational support is likely to include bespoke health economic training sessions for NHSBT staff, and the development of health economic aspects of online modules to promote research within the transfusion community. This programme of work will be conducted under the supervision of Dr Elizabeth Stokes.

Selection criteria

Essential
- Hold a relevant PhD/DPhil or an MSc with substantial relevant research experience;
- Strong data analysis and programming skills, especially in statistical methods within health economics;
- Ability to work independently, effectively, and collaboratively in a multidisciplinary team;

- Ability to plan and manage workload within tight deadlines and maintain high standards under pressure;
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills;
- Evidence of understanding, expression and application of health economic concepts and methods.

Desirable

- Research experience in conducting economic evaluations alongside RCTs and/or model-based health economic evaluations;
- Good programming skills in Stata, R, and/or SAS;
- Experience in handling large and complex longitudinal datasets;
- Experience of writing reports and manuscripts and a publication record in the field (health) economics
- Experience of teaching or tutoring in higher education

Pre-employment screening

Standard checks

If you are offered the post, the offer will be subject to standard pre-employment checks. You will be asked to provide: proof of your right-to-work in the UK; proof of your identity; and (if we haven't done so already) we will contact the referees you have nominated. You will also be asked to complete a health declaration so that you can tell us about any health conditions or disabilities for which you may need us to make appropriate adjustments.

Please read the candidate notes on the University's pre-employment screening procedures at: https://www.jobs.ox.ac.uk/pre-employment-checks

How to apply

Applications are made through our e-recruitment system and you will find all the information you need about how to apply on our Jobs website https://www.jobs.ox.ac.uk/how-to-apply.

Your application will be judged solely on the basis of how you demonstrate that you meet the selection criteria stated in the job description.

As part of your application you will be asked to provide details of two referees and indicate whether we can contact them now.

You will be asked to upload a CV and a supporting statement. The supporting statement must explain how you meet each of the selection criteria for the post using examples of your skills and experience. This may include experience gained in employment, education, or during career breaks (such as time out to care for dependants)

Please upload all documents as PDF files with your name and the document type in the filename.

All applications must be received by midday UK time on the closing date stated in the online advertisement.

Information for priority candidates

A priority candidate is a University employee who is seeking redeployment because they have been advised that they are at risk of redundancy, or on grounds of ill-health/disability. Priority candidates are issued with a redeployment letter by their employing department(s).

If you are a priority candidate, please ensure that you attach your redeployment letter to your application (or email it to the contact address on the advert if the application form used for the vacancy does not allow attachments).

If you need help

Help and support is available from: https://hrsystems.admin.ox.ac.uk/recruitment-support

If you require any further assistance please email recruitment.support@admin.ox.ac.uk.

To return to the online application at any stage, please go to: www.recruit.ox.ac.uk.

Please note that you will receive an automated email from our e-recruitment system to confirm receipt of your application. Please check your spam/junk mail if you do not receive this email.

Important information for candidates

Data Privacy

Please note that any personal data submitted to the University as part of the job application process will be processed in accordance with the GDPR and related UK data protection legislation. For further information, please see the University's Privacy Notice for Job Applicants at: https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/job-applicant-privacy-policy. The University's Policy on Data Protection is available at: https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/data-protection-policy.

The University's policy on retirement

The University operates an Employer Justified Retirement Age (EJRA) for all academic posts and some academic-related posts. The University has adopted an EJRA of 30 September before the 69th birthday for all academic and academic-related staff in posts at grade 8 and above. The justification for this is explained at: https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/the-ejra

For existing employees, any employment beyond the retirement age is subject to approval through the procedures: https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/the-ejra

There is no normal or fixed age at which staff in posts at grades 1–7 have to retire. Staff at these grades may elect to retire in accordance with the rules of the applicable pension scheme, as may be amended from time to time.

Equality of opportunity

Entry into employment with the University and progression within employment will be determined only by personal merit and the application of criteria which are related to the duties of each particular post and the relevant salary structure. In all cases, ability to perform the job will be the primary consideration. No applicant or member of staff shall be

discriminated against because of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

The University of Oxford is a member of the Athena SWAN Charter and holds an institutional Bronze Athena SWAN award. The Nuffield Department of Population Health holds a departmental Silver Athena award in recognition of its efforts to introduce organisational and cultural practices that promote gender equality in SET and create a better working environment for both men and women.

Benefits of working at the University

Employee benefits

University employees enjoy 38 days' paid holiday, generous pension schemes, travel discounts, and a variety of professional development opportunities. Our range of other employee benefits and discounts also includes free entry to the Botanic Gardens and University colleges, and discounts at University museums. See www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/benefits.

University Club and sports facilities

Membership of the University Club is free for all University staff. The University Club offers social, sporting, and hospitality facilities. Staff can also use the University Sports Centre on Iffley Road at discounted rates, including a fitness centre, powerlifting room, and swimming pool. See www.club.ox.ac.uk and www.sport.ox.ac.uk/oxford-university-sports-facilities.

Information for staff new to Oxford

If you are relocating to Oxfordshire from overseas or elsewhere in the UK, the University's Welcome Service website includes practical information about settling in the area, including advice on relocation, accommodation, and local schools. See www.welcome.ox.ac.uk. There is also a visa loan scheme to cover the costs of UK visa applications for staff and their dependents. See www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/permits/reimburse&loanscheme/.

Family-friendly benefits

With one of the most generous family leave schemes in the Higher Education sector, and a range of flexible working options, Oxford aims to be a family-friendly employer. We also subscribe to My Family Care, a service that provides practical advice and support for employees who have caring responsibilities. The service offers a free telephone advice line, and the ability to book emergency back-up care for children, adult dependents, and elderly relatives. See www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/benefits/family/mfc/.

Childcare

The University has excellent childcare services, including five University nurseries as well as University-supported places at many other private nurseries.
For full details, including how to apply and the costs, see www.admin.ox.ac.uk/childcare/.

Disabled staff

We are committed to supporting members of staff with disabilities or long-term health conditions. For further details, including information about how to make contact, in confidence, with the University's Staff Disability Advisor, see www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/disab/staff.

Staff networks

The University has several staff networks including the Oxford Research Staff Society, BME staff network, LGBT+ staff network and a disabled staff network. You can find more information at www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/inpractice/networks/.

The University of Oxford Newcomers' Club

The University of Oxford Newcomers' Club is an organisation run by volunteers that aims to assist the partners of new staff settle into Oxford and provides them with an opportunity to meet people and make connections in the local area. See www.newcomers.ox.ac.uk.