

Job description

Job title	Researcher in Health Choice Modelling
Division	Medical Sciences Division
Department	Oxford Population Health (Nuffield Department of Population Health, University of Oxford)
Location	Old Road Campus, Headington, Oxford, OX3 7LF
Grade and salary	Grade 6: £32,332 – £38,205 per annum
Hours	Full time (part time considered)
Contract type	Fixed-term – 2 years
Vacancy reference	169603



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 more than 30 health economists (staff and DPhil students), plus administrators, research associates, virtual visitors 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 teaching on three University of Oxford MSc courses. The distance learning [MSc in Clinical Trials](#) provides in-depth training in the principles and practice of conducting large-scale, randomised clinical trials. The [MSc in Global Health Science and Epidemiology](#), a one-year, face-to-face full-time course, aims to promote in-depth understanding of global health issues by study of a range of disciplines in biomedical and social sciences. The [MSc in Precision Cancer Medicine](#) is a two year, part-time, online course that provides students with the multidisciplinary skillset and knowledge required to design, conduct and lead precision medicine research. 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>).

About Oxford Population Health

Oxford Population Health (the Nuffield Department of Population Health) provides an excellent environment for multi-disciplinary research and teaching and for professional and support staff. We work together to answer some of the most important questions about the causes, prevention and treatment of disease.

The Department has around 900 staff, students and academic visitors working in a number of 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 Oxford University's Big Data Institute.

In the 2021 Research Excellence Framework (REF), 96% of the research submitted to Unit of Assessment 2: Public Health, Health Services and Primary Care, was ranked either 4* (world-leading in terms of originality, significance and rigour) or 3* (internationally excellent in terms of originality, significance and rigour). This comprised research from Oxford Population Health and research from the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences. We scored particularly well for having an environment that is conducive to producing research of world-leading quality and enabling outstanding impact, in terms of its vitality and sustainability.

In addition to its research activities, the Department is home to the [MSc in Global Health Science and Epidemiology](#), the [MSc in Clinical Trials](#), and a variety of short courses. 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 the [Oxford Population Health website](#).

About 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 the [Medical Sciences Division website](#).

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 and we rank first in the UK for university spin-outs, and in recent years we have spun out 15-20 new companies every year. 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 the [Oxford University website](#).

The role

We are looking for a candidate with a keen interest to work with models of human choice behaviour in health settings. The postholder will work on a programme of work, including designing experiments and collecting real-world data, aimed at conducting applied and methodological modelling work, with a particular focus in participation in clinical trials. Other subject areas include cancer screening choices, genomics, and antimicrobial resistance.

The main project is a collaboration with trialists at the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit (NPEU) at the University of Oxford. We are seeking to understand trial participation (i.e. choice behaviour) in underserved populations. We will conduct discrete choice experiments (DCEs) and gather observational data from the real world. We will build choice models using both of these data in order to better understand why some people do and some people do not participate in trials. The postholder will also have opportunities to contribute to qualitative work in the design of experiments.

This is a unique opportunity to work in collaboration with health economists, clinicians, statisticians and other researchers at the University of Oxford and elsewhere in the UK, to improve our understanding of modelling health choice behaviours. The post will be supported by an Oxford Population Health Senior Fellowship, recently awarded to Dr John Buckell.

Responsibilities

- Manage own research and administrative activities, within guidelines provided by senior colleagues
- Contribute to wider project planning, including ideas for new research projects
- Select, follow, and adapt specialist methodologies to confirm or refute theories, and identify suitable alternatives where information or research material is restricted
- Contribute to the design of research materials and make arrangements for data gathering
- Gather, analyse, and present quantitative data from a variety of sources
- Undertake comprehensive and systematic literature reviews and write up the results for publication in peer-reviewed journals or for presentation at conferences or public meetings
- Contribute to research publications, book chapters and reviews
- Responsible for the day-to-day administration of the research project
- Represent the research group at external meetings/seminars, either with other members of the group or alone
- Contribute to discussions and share research findings with colleagues in partner institutions, and research groups
- Assist in the planning of discrete choice experiments for the research project

The above list is not exhaustive and the role-holder is required to undertake such duties as may reasonably be requested within the scope of the post. All staff are required to act in a professional, cooperative and flexible manner, in line with the requirements of the post.

Selection criteria

Essential

- Hold a masters level degree
- Demonstrate relevant experience
- Possess sufficient specialist knowledge in the discipline to work within established research programmes
- Ability to manage own research and administrative activities
- Excellent communication skills, including the ability to write text that can be published, present data at conferences, and represent the research group at meetings
- Experience of following and adapting methodologies

Desirable

- Experience of contributing to research publications
- Experience of working in a research team and contributing ideas for new research projects
- Experience of choice models in health
- Experience of discrete choice experiments

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](#).

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 your CV and supporting statement **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 departments.

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 the [HR Systems Recruitment support webpage](#). If you require any further assistance please [email the Recruitment Support team](#).

To return to the online application at any stage, please go to the [University's recruitment website](#). 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](#). The University's Policy on Data Protection is available on the [University's Compliance webpages](#).

The University's policy on retirement

The University operates an Employer Justified Retirement Age (EJRA) for very senior research posts at grade RSIV/D35 and clinical equivalents E62 and E82, which with effect from 1 October 2023 will be 30 September before the 70th birthday. The justification for this is explained at: <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/the-ejra>.

For existing employees on these grades, 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 other grades 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.

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.

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.

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. There is also a [visa loan scheme](#) to cover the costs of UK visa applications for staff and their dependents.

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 the [Work+Family Space](#), 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.

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 the [Childcare Services webpages](#).

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 the [Disability Support webpages](#).

Staff networks

The University has a number of staff networks including the Oxford Research Staff Society, BME staff network, LGBT+ staff network and a disabled staff network. You can find more information on the [Equality and Diversity at Oxford webpages](#).

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.