OXFORD POPULATION HEALTH

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Job description

Job title	Senior Researcher in Health Economics
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 8: £43,414 - £51,805 p.a.
Hours	Full time (part-time considered)
Contract type	Fixed-term – 2 years
Vacancy reference	162575

The Health Economics Research Centre

HERC is a thriving group of health economists, 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. A key focus of HERC has been on economics of diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

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. Research in HERC have pioneered the development of both diabetes simulation models such as the UKPDS Outcomes Model and developed comprehensive methods for assessing costs and outcomes from both diabetes related complications and cardiovascular events.

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).

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 750 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

Due to continuing success in attracting research funding, HERC is seeking to appoint a Senior Researcher to work on economic issues related to health and social care for dementia. The successful candidate will be based at HERC and will be affiliated to the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) Applied Research Collaboration (ARC) Oxford and Thames Valley (OxTV) (**https://www.arc-oxtv.nihr.ac.uk/**). HERC and ARC OxTV

researchers are active in conducting applied health and social care research on the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, community support, and palliative care for dementia.

The successful candidate will be strongly committed to developing a long-term career in dementia-related research from a health economics perspective. They will become part of a wider community of researchers in other Departments of the University of Oxford (e.g. the Nuffield Department of Primary Health Care Sciences, Department of Psychiatry) as well as in other NIHR ARCs across the UK who are contributing to the NIHR ARCs Dementia Capacity Building scheme. The successful candidate will also be encouraged to participate in across-ARCs events that will be coordinated by the Wessex ARC (**https://www.arc-wx.nihr.ac.uk/about-us/**) as part of the national programme on Ageing, Dementia, and Frailty. This will include activities that promote development and advance of Chief Investigator skills to support the next generation of dementia researchers. Research collaborations across ARCs that vary in population characteristics and needs and their research priorities will be also encouraged. The ARC OxTV will additionally offer placements to early career researchers from other ARCs to work in Oxford with the appointed post holder. This will facilitate dementia research collaboration across research priority areas and disciplines.

The successful candidate will have considerable experience in dementia-related applied research and/or in cognate areas with a vision to translate their research skills to the dementia context from a health economics perspective. They will develop a programme of work on "reducing inequities in dementia prevention services". Advanced statistical and econometric analyses are expected to be performed using large health databases to investigate factors associated with inequities in dementia care and estimate the associated costs to the NHS and the overall society as well as health outcomes. Potential databases for analysis include Oxford's prospective studies (e.g. UK Biobank, Million Women Study), electronic health record databases (e.g. Clinical Practice Research Datalink, QResearch, Hospital Episode Statistics, OpenSAFELY, ORCHID), and publicly available datasets (e.g. the English Longitudinal Study Of Ageing). The post holder will have the opportunity to develop and lead the programme of work under the guidance of HERC's and ARC OxTV's senior staff and support from patient and public involvement (PPI) groups.

Other health economic related projects could also be considered.

Responsibilities

- Develop a programme of work in collaboration with senior HERC and ARC OxTV staff;
- Conduct the necessary data management and analysis for the programme of work;
- Lead and plan the day-to-day running of research project/s, reporting on progress to the health economics lead/s and ensuring the successful completion of the project/s;
- Agree clear task objectives, organise, and delegate work to other members of the team and provide support to other members of the group on specialist methodologies or procedures;
- Develop and implement new and/or apply existing research methodologies and materials;
- Promote the ARC Dementia programme nationally and internationally, and disseminate the work and research findings by means of peer-reviewed publications, conference presentations and seminars;

- Play a part in maintaining and expanding the current activities of the ARC Dementia programme and in building collaborations with relevant research centres and units within Oxford and externally;

- Develop networks and links with collaborators, external contacts and leading thinkers in the research field;

- Raise further research funding and write funding applications to develop the programme of research in the longer term;

- Share responsibility for shaping the research group's plans and taking leadership in more specialised publications;

- Contribute, as required to the wider academic activities of the Nuffield Department of Population Health and to HERC (including teaching, student mentoring or supervision, and assessment) and participate in appropriate training and quality assurance processes for such roles.

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 relevant Ph.D/D.Phil in Economics, Statistics, Mathematics, Epidemiology or other quantitative discipline;

- Experience of working with Stata and/or R or similar statistical software;

- Substantial research experience in the area of health economics, statistical and econometric analysis of complex observational datasets and electronic health record databases, health outcomes, health technology assessment, or related research area;

- An established (inter)national reputation and peer review publication record;

- Good programming and strong data analysis skills, especially in statistical/econometric methods;

- Experience in cleaning and analysing complex individual participant study databases;

- A strong commitment to developing a long-term career in dementia-related research from a health economics perspective;

- Ability to independently plan and manage substantive elements of a research project;

- A commitment to academic research, teaching and supervision of students;

- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.

Desirable

- Experience of working with panel data methods and survival analysis;

- Interest in and experience of working in health inequality research;

- Experience with undertaking cost-effectiveness analysis alongside clinical trials and/or using decision models;

- Experience with systematic reviews and evidence synthesis methods;

- Experience of managing a research budget;
- Experience of supervising staff;
- Experience of making grant applications and raising research funds.

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.

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 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.

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.