



# Nuffield Department of Population Health

## Job description and selection criteria

<b>Job title</b>	Senior Researcher in Health Economics
<b>Division</b>	Medical Sciences Division
<b>Department</b>	Nuffield Department of Population Health
<b>Location</b>	Old Road Campus, Headington, Oxford
<b>Grade and salary</b>	Grade 8: £40,792 - £48,677 per annum
<b>Hours</b>	Full time Part time (≥50% FTE) could be considered
<b>Contract type</b>	Fixed-term (3 years in the first instance)
<b>Reporting to</b>	Dr Borislava Mihaylova
<b>Vacancy reference</b>	142189

## **Introduction**

### **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 over 20 health economists/scientists, six 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 emphasize the methodology and application of economic evaluation to health interventions, disease modelling, outcome measurement and valuation, economic assessment of novel genomic technologies, health care decision making, 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 500 staff 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 Big Data Institute.

The wide range of opportunities for research within the department includes access to very large data-sets 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](#). 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](http://www.ndph.ox.ac.uk)

### **The Medical Sciences Division**

The Medical Sciences Division is an internationally recognized 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**

The University of Oxford is a complex and stimulating organisation, which enjoys an international reputation as a world-class centre of excellence in research and teaching. It employs nearly 12,000 staff and has a student population of over 22,000.

Oxford is a collegiate university, consisting of the central University and colleges. The central University is composed of academic departments and research centres, administrative departments, libraries and museums. There is a highly devolved operational structure, which is split across four academic divisions, Academic Services and University Collections and University Administrative Services.

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 spin-outs, 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](http://www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation)

## **Overview of the role**

HERC is seeking to appoint a Senior Researcher (08S). The focus of this employment will be the development of evaluative frameworks to facilitate assessment of long term effects of interventions to reduce cardiovascular disease risk, and we are looking for a strong candidate to realise and develop the full potential of this post.

The person appointed will develop a programme of work in the area of economics of chronic disease diagnosis, treatment and management. This is a unique opportunity to work in collaboration with other health economists, clinicians, trialists and other researchers at the University of Oxford and abroad. The programme of work will involve detailed analysis of the data from large individual participant datasets; as well as using these data to develop a disease model that evaluates the long-term survival, quality of life and healthcare costs and enables evaluation of interventions.

## **Responsibilities/duties**

The person appointed would:

- Lead and plan the day-to-day running of research project/s, reporting on progress to the health economics lead/s and larger project staff and ensuring the successful completion of the project/s;
- Supervise junior staff employed on the project/s;

- Develop and implement new and/or existing research methodologies and materials;
- Promote the 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 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;
- Contribute, as required to the wider academic activities of the Nuffield Department of Population Health (including teaching, student mentoring or supervision, and assessment) and participate in appropriate training and quality assurance processes for such roles.

### **Research project area**

The person appointed would be involved in health economic projects focusing on an analysis of large data sets and modelling cardiovascular and/or other chronic disease. The following project/s (or one of them) will be the focus of the post in the first instance:

- Development of the economic analyses of statins for cardiovascular disease prevention in categories of people at increased cardiovascular risk using the individual participant data from large randomised controlled trials of statin interventions. This programme of work would involve developing decision analytic disease models to evaluate the long-term net effects of different statin treatments on survival, health-related quality of life and healthcare costs.
- Development of the economic analyses of cholesterol management interventions aimed at cardiovascular disease prevention in people at increased cardiovascular risk using the individual participant data from large randomised controlled trial (REVEAL or/and other relevant studies). This programme of work would involve developing a decision analytic disease model to evaluate the long-term net effects of intervention/s on survival, health-related quality of life and healthcare costs. The project would involve development and presenting cost-effectiveness analyses and results relevant to more than one country.

Other health economic related projects could also be considered.

## Selection criteria

### Essential

- A strong graduate and/or postgraduate qualification (a PhD / DPhil or equivalent experience is essential) in Economics, Statistics, Mathematics, Epidemiology or other quantitative discipline;
- Substantial track record of previous research experience in the area of health economics, disease modelling, health technology assessment, health outcomes or related research area;
- An established (inter)national reputation and peer review publication record;
- Good programming and strong data analysis skills, especially in decision analytic modelling and/or statistical/econometric methods;
- Substantial previous experience in using R for data management and analyses;
- Experience in handling complex individual participant study databases;
- Prior research experience in the area of health technology assessment, health economics, disease modelling or health outcomes research;
- Ability to independently plan and manage substantive elements of a research project;
- Ability to work effectively in a multidisciplinary team, including trialists, epidemiologists, statisticians, health professionals and policy practitioners;
- A commitment to academic research, teaching and supervision of students;
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.

### Desirable

- Experience with evaluative health-related research
- Experience of working with Stata and/or SAS
- Experience with systematic reviews and evidence synthesis methods.

### How to apply

Before submitting an application, you may find it helpful to read the 'Tips on applying for a job at the University of Oxford' document, at <https://www.ox.ac.uk/about/jobs/research/>

If you would like to apply, click on the **Apply Now** button on the 'Job Details' page and follow the on-screen instructions to register as a new user or log-in if you have applied previously. Please provide details of two referees and indicate whether we can contact them now.

You will also 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 also upload two A4 pages (font size of at least 11) with an example of self-contained and executable on an external machine code in R demonstrating your proficiency in programming/ statistical analysis in R.**

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

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

All applications must be received by **midday** on the closing date stated in the online advertisement. The interviews are likely to take place in the week commencing **xxx** 2019.

### **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)*

Should you experience any difficulties using the online application system, please email [recruitment.support@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:recruitment.support@admin.ox.ac.uk). Further help and support is available from [www.ox.ac.uk/about\\_the\\_university/jobs/support/](http://www.ox.ac.uk/about_the_university/jobs/support/). To return to the online application at any stage, please go to: [www.recruit.ox.ac.uk](http://www.recruit.ox.ac.uk).

Please note that you will be notified of the progress of your application by automatic emails from our e-recruitment system. **Please check your spam/junk mail** regularly to ensure that you receive all emails.

### **Important information for candidates**

#### **Pre-employment screening**

All offers of employment are made subject to standard pre-employment screening, as applicable to the post.

If you are offered the post, you will be asked to provide proof of your right-to-work, your identity, and 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 so that we can discuss appropriate adjustments with you), and a declaration of any unspent criminal convictions.

We advise all applicants to read the candidate notes on the University's pre-employment screening procedures, found at: [www.ox.ac.uk/about/jobs/preemploymentscreening/](http://www.ox.ac.uk/about/jobs/preemploymentscreening/).

#### **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: [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/councilsec/compliance/gdpr/privacynotices/job/](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/councilsec/compliance/gdpr/privacynotices/job/). The University's Policy on Data Protection is available at: [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/councilsec/compliance/gdpr/universitypolicyondataprotection/](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/councilsec/compliance/gdpr/universitypolicyondataprotection/).

#### **The University's policy on retirement**

The University operates an Employer Justified Retirement Age (EJRA) for all academic posts and some academic-related posts. From 1 October 2017, the University has adopted an EJRA of 30 September before the 69<sup>th</sup> birthday for all academic and academic-related staff in posts at **grade 8 and above**. The justification for this is explained at: [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/end/retirement/acrelretire8+/](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/end/retirement/acrelretire8+/).

For **existing** employees, any employment beyond the retirement age is subject to approval through the procedures: [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/end/retirement/acrelretire8+/](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/end/retirement/acrelretire8+/).

From 1 October 2017, 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.



