

Job description

Job title	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 7: £34,308 - £42,155 per annum
Hours	Full time (part time considered) Part time (≥50% FTE) may be considered
Contract type	Fixed-term – 2 years
Vacancy reference	158634



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 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

HERC wishes to appoint two full-time (part-time considered) researchers to join the existing group. The successful candidates will work on one or more projects and will have the opportunity to contribute to HERC's varied programme of teaching.

The focus across all projects is the use of patient-level data from trials and cohort studies to inform health policy. The projects offer the opportunity for the successful applicants to enhance their skills in advanced health economic methodological approaches. The post-holders will work under the supervision of HERC's senior staff. The postholders 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 who do not yet have a doctorate to study for an NDPH DPhil.

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

Knee Arthroplasty Trial (KAT)

KAT is the largest randomised controlled trial of knee replacement ever undertaken and will soon have 20 years' follow-up. It uses a partial-factorial design to evaluate three different aspects of knee replacement: patella resurfacing, mobile bearings and metal backing. We previously showed that the more complex types of surgery had the potential to be cost-effective, although the long-term survival of the implants is yet not known. The work will involve conducting an economic evaluation alongside 20 years' data from the KAT randomised trial to assess the cost-effectiveness of each aspect of knee replacement under the supervision of Dr Helen Dakin.

Surveillance After Resection of Oesophageal and Gastric cancer (SARONG) trial

At present there is very little evidence as to how oesophageal and gastric cancer patients should be followed up after surgery and whether different methods of follow-up could improve survival. Currently, national and international guidelines do not provide consistency in their recommendations for follow-up after surgery. The SARONG trial will assess whether earlier detection of cancer through more intensive surveillance results in improved survival and health related quality of life for patients with oesophageal or stomach cancer, and whether such surveillance is cost-effective. The work will involve conducting an economic evaluation alongside 3 years' data from the SARONG randomised trial to assess the cost-effectiveness of intensive surveillance versus standard of care under the supervision of Dr Filipa Landeiro.

Psychometric assessment of EQ-5D-5L, EQ-HWB and EQ-5D-Y-5L in rare genetic diseases

Genomic testing is starting to be translated into clinical practice for people with rare genetic diseases. In England, the National Health Service has recently launched a new Genomic Medicine Service. However, data on the outcomes of genomic testing is sparse, and there is uncertainty regarding the appropriate outcome measures to use. Data on the use of both established and new instruments, such as the EQ-5D-5L, EQ-HWB and EQ-5D-Y-5L, would inform more robust health technology assessment decisions in this context. This work will involve assessing the psychometric properties of the EQ-5D-5L, EQ-HWB, and EQ-5D-Y-5L instruments in adult patients and parents of children with lived experience of rare genetic diseases using mixed methods. Recruitment for this study will take place in both England and Australia, in conjunction with collaborators at the University of Melbourne, and supervised by Dr James Buchanan at HERC.

Improving outcomes for Women diagnosed with early breast cancer through adherence to adjuvant Endocrine Therapy (SWEET)

Hormone treatment for breast cancer reduces the risk of recurrence, but 50% of women have poor adherence by five years. The SWEET study will develop an app/website/booklet providing information, reminders and support for women, as well as regular phone calls/texts/emails. The effectiveness, acceptability and cost-effectiveness of this support package will be evaluated in a randomised controlled trial. This will include a within-trial economic evaluation and model-based extrapolation to assess the cost-effectiveness of the support package and its budget impact. This project will be supervised by Dr Helen Dakin and Assoc Prof Jane Wolstenholme.

Economic burden of cardiovascular disease

Aggregate and patient level data from European Society of Cardiology (ESC) will be used to estimate the overall burden of cardiovascular disease across 54 countries member of the ESC. This work will make use of data collected from the ESC ATLAS survey as well as country specific surveys to extract data on resource use volumes and unit costs. Multi-country patient-level data from the EurObservational Research Programme (EORP) registries will also be analysed to estimate the drivers of healthcare costs and outcomes within and between countries. This project will be supervised by Assoc Profs José Leal and Ramón Luengo-Fernández.

Other health economic related projects could also be considered.

Responsibilities

- Work within a team of researchers to ensure that health economics research projects are completed successfully and to a high standard. This may include: reviewing and summarising published literature; contributing to the set-up of international observational studies; preparing case report forms; drafting health economics analysis plans; drafting progress reports; cleaning, formatting and conducting analyses on economic/clinical data from trials and/or large observational datasets; and interpreting findings
- Manage own academic research and administrative activities under supervision from senior researchers. This involves small scale project management, to co-ordinate multiple aspects of work to meet deadlines
- Adapt existing and develop new research methodologies arising during the research projects, in collaboration with other members of the research team
- Analyse quantitative and/or qualitative data from a variety of sources, reviewing and refining theories as appropriate
- Contribute ideas for new research projects
- Develop ideas for generating research income, and present detailed research proposals to senior researchers
- Collaborate in the preparation of research publications, and conference presentations
- Present papers at conferences or public meetings
- Act as a source of information and advice to other members of the group on methodologies or procedures
- Represent the research group at external meetings/seminars, either with other members of the group or alone
- Carry out collaborative projects with clinical collaborators, colleagues in partner institutions, and research groups
- Contribute, 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 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 degree in a subject related to health economics
- Have substantial research experience
- Possess sufficient specialist knowledge of the discipline to work within established research programmes and show evidence of understanding, expression and application of concepts and methods
- Strong data analysis skills, especially in statistical methods within health economics
- Ability to manage own academic research and associated activities
- Ability to work effectively independently and collaboratively in a multidisciplinary team
- Demonstrable ability to organise and prioritise work efficiently whilst delivering results to the required standard and to an agreed schedule
- Previous experience of contributing to reports, presentations and/or publications
- Ability to contribute ideas for new research projects
- Excellent interpersonal communication skills, including the ability to write for publication, present research proposals and results, and represent the research group at meetings

Desirable

- Hold, or be close to completion of, a PhD/DPhil
- Experience of conducting economic evaluations (either alongside clinical trials or using decision models)
- Good statistical programming skills in Stata, R, and/or SAS
- Experience in handling large and complex longitudinal datasets
- Experience of collecting and analysing data commonly-used outcome measures such as the EQ-5D-5L
- Experience of independently managing a discrete area of a research project
- Experience of actively collaborating in the development of research articles for publication

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.