



Nuffield Department of Population Health

Job description and selection criteria

Job title	Senior Researcher /Researcher in Health Economics
Division	Medical Sciences Division
Department	Nuffield Department of Population Health
Location	Old Road Campus, Headington, Oxford
Grade and salary	Grade 8: £39,992- £47,722 per annum (If no suitable applicant is forthcoming at grade 8, an appointment on the grade 7 scale (with appropriate adjustment of duties) may be considered. Grade 7: £31,604 - £38,833)
Hours	Full-time (Part-time possible)
Contract type	Fixed-term – 2 years in the first instance
Reporting to	Dr Sarah Wordsworth
Vacancy reference	136150

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, 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 emphasise 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 University of Oxford MSc in Global Health Science, 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 new University of Oxford 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](#). 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 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

Overview of the role

HERC is seeking to appoint a Senior Researcher (08S) (or a Researcher (07S)) depending on relevant qualifications and experience in the area of health economics. We are looking for a strong candidate with the drive and determination to develop new and existing methodologies in health economics. The person appointed will be expected to support two programmes of work in the areas of the economics of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and precision medicine and obesity.

This is a unique opportunity to work in collaboration with other health economists, clinicians, microbiologists, obesity experts, clinicians, statisticians, health psychologists and other researchers at the University of Oxford, and elsewhere in the UK, to progress the health economic element of research in the areas of antimicrobial resistance and precision medicine and obesity.

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 other project team members, and ensure the successful completion of the project/s (Grade 8);

- Manage own research activities or small project (Grade 7)
- Supervise junior staff employed on projects (Grade 8);
- Develop and implement new and/or existing research methodologies and materials (Grade 7/8);
- Promote the programme of work nationally and internationally, and disseminate the work and research findings by means of peer-reviewed publications, conference presentations and leading seminars (Grade 7/8);
- Develop networks and links with collaborators, external contacts and leading thinkers in the research field (Grade 7/8);
- Raise further research funding and write funding applications to develop the programme of research in the longer term (Grade 8);
- 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 (Grade 7/8);
- 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 (Grade 7/8).

Research project areas

The following projects will be the focus of the post in the first instance, with further projects to be considered.

Health Economic Analysis of Antimicrobial resistance

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is increasingly recognised as a threat to modern healthcare. An important challenge encountered when trying to solve this threat is that the main benefits of antibiotic use are experienced now, for treated patients, while costs lie mainly in the future. In contrast, the costs of interventions are mainly now, while benefits will be experienced mainly in the future for society as a whole.

This work will require developing health economic models that include predictions of AMR. In addition, the work will include an exploration of alternative health technology assessment mechanisms for evaluating the cost-effectiveness of interventions intended to reduce antibiotic use. Finally, discounting is used to incorporate social time-preferences. However, using standard rates leads to intergenerational inequity. This work will explore the use of alternative discount rates that are potentially fairer to future generations. This programme of work is funded by several grants from the UK National Institute for Health Research and the UK Economic and Social Research Council.

Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of Bariatric Surgery For Severe and Complex Obesity

Severe and complex obesity refers to a BMI ≥ 40 kg/m² or between 35 and 40 kg/m² with comorbidities (such as diabetes) that could be improved by weight loss. Bariatric surgery can lead to effective weight loss, remission of comorbidities and may improve health-related quality of life. Three of the most common types of bariatric surgery operations are the adjustable gastric band ('Band'), the Roux-en-Y gastric bypass ('Bypass'), and the gastric sleeve ('Sleeve'). However, little is known about the relative effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of these alternative surgeries. The By-Band-Sleeve study is a randomised

controlled trial aiming to compare the three different types of operations to find out which is the most effective and cost-effective surgery. The health economic component will include a within-trial cost-effectiveness analysis, combining cost and outcome data such as weight loss and quality of life. The By-Band-Sleeve study is funded by the UK National Institute for Health Research.

Selection criteria

Essential

- Hold relevant PhD / DPhil or equivalent experience) in Health Economics, Economics, Epidemiology, Statistics, Mathematics, or other quantitative discipline (Grade 7/8).
- Substantial track record of previous research experience in the area of health economics, health technology assessment, health outcomes or a related health care area (Grade 8).
- Strong decision analytic and mathematical modelling skills (Grade 7/8).
- Ability to undertake systematic reviews (Grade 7/8).
- An established reputation and peer review publication record (Grade 7/8).
- Experience of performing within trial economic evaluations (Grade 7/8).
- Ability to independently plan and manage substantive elements of a research project (Grade 8) or ability to manage effectively own academic research (Grade 7)
- Ability to work effectively in a multidisciplinary team, including clinicians, scientists, statisticians, health professionals, and policy practitioners (Grade 7/8).
- Ability to raise research funds through writing grant applications (Grade 8).
- A clear commitment to academic research (Grade 7/8).
- Experience of statistical software packages (Grade 7/8).
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills (Grade 7/8).

Desirable

- Experience with the development and implementation of clinical/health studies (Grade 7/8).
- Evidence of publishing in high-ranking journals (Grade 8).
- Understanding of antimicrobial resistance and/or obesity research (Grade 7/8).
- Experience with incorporating long-term effects into cost-effectiveness evaluations (Grade 7/8)
- Experience of working with Excel, Stata or R (Grade 7/8).
- Experience with evidence synthesis methods (Grade 7/8).
- Experience of teaching and supervision of students (Grade 7/8).

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).

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.

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. Further help and support is available from 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.

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

Please note that the appointment of the successful candidate will be subject to standard pre-employment screening, as applicable to the post. This will include right-to-work, proof of identity and references. 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/.

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/. The

University's Policy on Data Protection is available at:
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 69th 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+/.

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+/.

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.



Benefits of working at the University

University Club and sports facilities

The University Club provides social, sporting and hospitality facilities. It incorporates a bar, café and sporting facilities, including a gym. 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 international staff (or those relocating from another part of the UK)

If you are relocating to Oxfordshire from overseas, or elsewhere in the UK, the University's International Staff website includes practical information related to moving to and settling in Oxford such as advice on immigration, relocation, accommodation, or registering with a doctor.

See: www.internationalstaffwelcome.admin.ox.ac.uk/

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 to settle into Oxford and to provide them with an opportunity to meet people in the area. See www.newcomers.ox.ac.uk/

Childcare

The University has excellent childcare services with 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.

Family-friendly benefits

The University subscribes to My Family Care (www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/benefits/family/mfc/) and staff are eligible to register for emergency back-up childcare and adultcare services, a 'speak to an expert' phone line and a wide range of guides and webinars through a website called the Work + Family space.

Disabled staff

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

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 at www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/inpractice/networks/

Other benefits

Staff can enjoy a range of other benefits such as free visitor access to the University's colleges and the Botanic Gardens as well as a range of discounts.

See www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/benefits