OXFORD POPULATION HEALTH

Job description

Job title	Senior Epidemiologist and Science Team Lead UK Biobank Epidemiology Group
Division	Medical Sciences Division
Department	Oxford Population Health (Nuffield Department of Population Health, University of Oxford)
Location	Old Road Campus, Headington, Oxford, OX3 7LF Hybrid working available (up to 40% of hours can be worked remotely)
Grade and salary	Grade 8: £49,119 - £58,265 per annum (including Oxford Weighting Allowance)
Hours	Full time (Part time considered)
Contract type	Fixed-term – 2 years
Vacancy reference	189372

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 1000 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) 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**.

UK Biobank Prospective Study

UK Biobank is a large-scale prospective study established to improve the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of a wide range of diseases. It enables researchers to investigate how genetic, environmental, lifestyle and other factors influence and interact to affect health and disease.

Between 2006 and 2010, UK Biobank recruited 500,000 participants aged 40 to 69 who were registered with the National Health Service and lived within travelling distance of one of 22 assessment centres across the United Kingdom. At their baseline assessment, participants provided informed consent, completed detailed questionnaires, underwent a range of physical measurements, and provided blood, urine and saliva samples.The resource is continually enhanced through resurveys (in person and online) and linkage to health-related records. Available data include genome-wide genetic data, biochemical assays, imaging data, physical activity measurements, web-based questionnaire responses, and linked information on deaths, cancer registrations, hospital admissions, primary care and other health outcomes.

UK Biobank is available to approved researchers from academic, commercial, charitable and public-sector organisations for health-related research in the public interest. Access is provided without preferential treatment, subject to UK Biobank's access procedures and the conditions governing the responsible use of participant data.

The role

We are seeking a Senior Epidemiologist to lead the Science Team within the UK Biobank Epidemiology Group. The Science Team is one of three teams within the Epidemiology Group, alongside the Linkage Team and Health Outcomes Team. It provides high-quality scientific support for the review of research applications, project reports and research outputs, helping to ensure that UK Biobank data are used responsibly and in line with the resource's policies.

The postholder will lead the team, oversee its review activities and contribute epidemiological expertise to the continued development and effective use of the UK Biobank resource. Alongside these responsibilities, the postholder will have protected time to develop and lead epidemiological research using UK Biobank's genetic, phenotypic and linked health data. This may include methodological research examining the strengths and limitations of the resource, as well as applied research addressing important questions in population health.

The post is based at the Big Data Institute within the Nuffield Department of Population Health and reports to Associate Professor Ben Lacey, who leads the UK Biobank Epidemiology Group. The Group forms part of the wider UK Biobank Programme within the Department, led by Chief Scientist Professor Naomi Allen. Occasional travel to Manchester and London will be required for meetings, together with some international travel for conferences and workshops.

Responsibilities

- Lead and manage the Science Team, overseeing its review of research applications, annual project reports and publications based on UK Biobank data
- Develop and enhance these review processes to improve their quality, consistency and efficiency
- Lead the development and delivery of a programme of epidemiological research that draws on the breadth of genetic, phenotypic and linked health data available within UK Biobank. This will include supervising and supporting team members in preparing internal reports, peer-reviewed publications and research grant applications
- Where appropriate, conduct methodological and applied research (with support from UK Biobank's data analyst team) to evaluate the strengths and limitations of the UK Biobank resource to inform its continued enhancement
- Regularly write research articles at a national level for peer-reviewed journals, book chapters, and reviews
- Present research findings at conferences and public meetings, and represent UK Biobank nationally and internationally with a range of stakeholders, including researchers, funding bodies and participants
- Promote the scientific use of UK Biobank data and develop collaborations and networks with leading researchers in relevant fields
- Share responsibility for shaping the research group's plans and the writing of group funding applications for new research projects
- Carry out collaborative projects with colleagues in partner institutions, and research groups
- To contribute, as required to the wider academic activities of the Nuffield Department of Population Health (including teaching, student mentoring or supervision, and assessment) 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

- A PhD in epidemiology, statistics or a related subject
- Extensive experience in the design, analysis and interpretation of large-scale cohort studies

- Extensive experience in the formal assessment of research applications within established governance and review frameworks
- Proven ability to gather requirements to streamline/optimise processes, or identify opportunities to optimise services
- Advanced statistical analysis skills, with proficiency in R, SAS or another relevant statistical programming language
- A strong track record of scientific publications and presenting research at conferences, workshops and seminars
- The ability to work independently and as part of an interdisciplinary team
- Experience of independently planning and managing research projects

Desirable

- Experience of formal line management or supervision of staff, students, academic visitors or other members of a department
- Experience of preparing research grant applications
- Previous publications using UK Biobank data

Pre-employment screening

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. If you have previously worked for the University we will also verify key information such as your dates of employment and reason for leaving your previous role with the department/unit where you worked. 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 at: **https://www.ox.ac.uk/about/jobs/explore-our-careers/applications-process/pre-employment-screening**

How to apply

Applications are made through our online recruitment portal. Information about how to apply is available on our Jobs website **https://www.ox.ac.uk/about/jobs/explore-our-careers/applications-process/how-to-apply**

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 internal candidates

If you currently work at the University please note that:

- as part of the referencing process, we will contact your current department to confirm basic employment details including reason for leaving and information about your performance.
- although employees may hold multiple part-time posts, they may not hold more than the equivalent of a full time post. If you are offered this post, and accepting it would take you over the equivalent of full-time hours, you will be expected to resign from, or reduce hours in, your other posts(s) before starting work in the new post.

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

Application FAQs, including technical troubleshooting advice is available at:
https://www.ox.ac.uk/about/jobs/explore-our-careers/applications-process/support-with-online-applications

If you require any further assistance please **email the Recruitment Support team**.

To return to the online application at any stage, please go to:
https://www.ox.ac.uk/about/jobs/explore-our-careers/applications-process/how-to-apply

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 at: **https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/job-applicant-privacy-policy**. The University's Policy on Data Protection is available at: **https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/data-protection-policy**.

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** of 30 September before the 70th birthday.

For **existing** employees on these grades, any employment beyond the retirement age is subject to approval through the procedures: **https://unioxfordnexus.sharepoint.com/sites/OXINTRANET-working-here/SitePages/the-ejra.aspx**

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

The University of Oxford is committed to equal opportunity, and to being a place where everyone belongs and is supported to succeed. We recognise how the diversity of our community enriches our ability to deliver on our academic mission.

We welcome applications from individuals from all backgrounds, including those under-represented within higher education. No applicant or members of staff shall be unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

Employment with the University and progression within employment will be determined according to personal merit and the application of criteria related to the duties and conditions of the post. In all cases, the primary consideration will be the ability to perform the job.

As stated in the University’s Equality Policy and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan, our commitment to equality and diversity goes hand in hand with our commitment to academic freedom and free speech.

Benefits of working at the University

Employee benefits

University employees enjoy 38 days' paid holiday, generous pension schemes, flexible working options, support for sustainable travel and other discounts. Staff can also access a huge range of personal and professional development opportunities. See https://www.ox.ac.uk/about/jobs/working-here .

Employee Assistance Programme

As part of our wellbeing offering staff get free access to a confidential employee assistance programme, available 24/7 for 365 days a year. Find out more at https://www.ox.ac.uk/about/jobs/life-in-oxford/healthcare-and-wellbeing

University Club and sports facilities

Membership of the University Club is free for University staff. It 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. See www.club.ox.ac.uk and https://www.sport.ox.ac.uk/.

Information for staff new to Oxford

Please see our Life in Oxford webpage for information on relocating to and settling into the Oxford area. The website offers valuable guidance, including information on where to find more details about housing, transportation, finances, healthcare, and other key aspects of living in Oxford and the surrounding region. See https://www.ox.ac.uk/about/jobs/life-in-oxford

There is also a visa loan scheme to cover the costs of UK visa applications for staff and their dependants. See https://www.ox.ac.uk/about/jobs/explore-our-careers/applications-process/visas-and-immigration

Family-friendly benefits

We are a family-friendly employer with one of the most generous family leave schemes in the Higher Education sector (see https://www.ox.ac.uk/about/jobs/explore-our-careers/applications-process/terms-and-conditions-of-employment Our Childcare Services team provides guidance and support on childcare provision, and offers a range of high-quality childcare options at affordable prices for staff. In addition to 5 University nurseries, we partner with a number of local providers to offer in excess of 450 full time nursery places to our staff. Eligible parents are able to pay for childcare through salary sacrifice, further reducing costs. See https://www.ox.ac.uk/about/jobs/life-in-oxford/childcare-and-schooling/childcare

Supporting disability and health-related issues

We are committed to supporting members of staff with disabilities or long-term health conditions, including those experiencing negative effects of menopause. Information about the University's Staff Disability Advisor, is at https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/support-for-disabled-staff. The Staff Disability Advisor can be contacted at staffdisability@admin.ox.ac.uk

The University of Oxford Newcomers' Club

The University of Oxford Newcomers' Club is 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. See www.newcomers.ox.ac.uk

Research staff

The Researcher Hub supports all researchers on fixed-term contracts. They aim to help you settle in comfortably, make connections, grow as a person, extend your research expertise and approach your next career step with confidence. Find out more https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/support/researcher-hub/about