Job description and selection criteria

Job title	Postdoctoral Researcher
Division	Medical Sciences
Department	Paediatrics
Location	Department of Paediatrics, Old Road Campus Research Building (ORCRB) Roosevelt Drive, Oxford.
Grade and salary	Research Grade 7: £40,178- £48,700 per annum
Hours	Full-time
Contract type	Fixed-term for two years (extensions are subject to the availability of external funding)
Reporting to	Professor Isidro Cortes-Ciriano, Professor of Paediatric Oncology
Vacancy reference	**189424**
Visa Sponsorship Information	This role may be eligible for sponsorship for Global Talent visa under current UK and Immigration legislation. Further details of the chosen candidate will be required before this can be determined, so advice and assistance will be provided when/if they are chosen for the role.
Additional information	Applications are to be made online, please see the advert for the closing date.

Research topic	Computational genomics and immuno-oncology in paediatric solid tumours (ERC BrokenChromosomes project)
Principal Investigator / supervisor	Professor Isidro Cortes-Ciriano
Project team	Cortes-Ciriano Lab, including graduate students and postdoctoral fellows
Funding partner	European Research Council (ERC)

The role

The Cortes-Ciriano Lab is based at the University of Oxford at the Old Road campus on the Churchill Hospital site. The Lab, led by Prof. Isidro Cortes-Ciriano, works on understanding the molecular underpinnings of paediatric solid tumours, and the mechanisms driving immune escape and relapse. Our work combines large-scale computational analyses and computational methods development, with the design of novel experimental technologies. We work closely with other labs and clinicians across the UK and overseas, and co-lead national initiatives focused on paediatric oncology, such as the Stratified Medicine Paediatrics (SMPaeds) programme.

We are looking for a Postdoctoral Fellow to drive the computational component of the ERC project BrokenChromosomes, led by Prof. Isidro Cortes-Ciriano. The post-holder will work closely with Prof. Cortes-Ciriano and team members, including graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, to coordinate the planning and conductance of experimental and computational work, and meet key project milestones. The post-holder will apply a range of computational techniques for the analysis of genomics and immuno-oncology data sets, including advanced approaches such as single-cell profiling, long-read nanopore sequencing and immunopeptidomics.

The Cortes-Ciriano Lab works closely with families, initiatives, foundations and individuals affected by paediatric cancer. We are looking for an individual who is passionate and intrinsically motivated to advance paediatric oncology research. All members of the lab have a responsibility to promote a positive, supportive, and inclusive environment in which all members of the lab can flourish.

Responsibilities

- Manage own research activities and administrative activities. This involves small scale project management, to co-ordinate multiple aspects of work to meet deadlines
- Adapt existing and develop new scientific techniques and experimental protocols
- Test hypotheses and analyse scientific data from a variety of sources, reviewing and refining working hypotheses as appropriate
- Contribute ideas for new research projects
- Collaborate in the preparation of scientific reports and journal articles and occasionally present papers and posters
- Management and processing of sequencing data using high-performance computing
- Act as a source of information and advice to other members of the group on scientific protocols and experimental techniques
- Represent the research group at external meetings/seminars, either with other members of the group or alone

- Carry out collaborative projects with colleagues in partner institutions, and research groups

Selection criteria

Essential

- Hold a relevant PhD/DPhil (or relevant area)
- Relevant experience
- Demonstrable experience, ability and practical success in biostatistics or bioinformatics
- Possess sufficient specialist knowledge in the discipline to work within established research programmes
- Enthusiasm and interest in the goals of the Lab and paediatric oncology
- Experience in bioinformatics and data analysis
- Proficiency in the use of statistical programming languages
- Proficiency in high-performance computing
- Ability to manage own academic research and associated activities
- Previous experience of contributing to publications/presentations
- Ability to contribute ideas for new research projects
- Excellent communication skills, including the ability to write for publication, present research proposals and results, and represent the research group at meetings
- Demonstrable ability to organise and prioritise work efficiently whilst delivering results to the required standard and to an agreed schedule
- Ability to advise and influence the work of others
- Ability to draft section of manuscripts for publication and present statistical results at conferences
- Meticulous accuracy and attention to detail
- Previous research experience working with interdisciplinary research teams

Desirable

- Experience in paediatric oncology research
- Experience in long read or single-cell sequencing data analysis

Flexible working

Working hours

The successful postholder will be required to work full-time, five days per week unless a formal flexible working request has been submitted and approved.

Work Location

Hybrid working may be possible for this role following initial training and once the line manager has approved this. The successful candidate will need to come on site for a minimum of 4 days a week. Any further remote working would need to be requested through a formal flexible working request.

Information about the University's flexible working policies, including formal flexible working requests and overseas working guidance, is available to current University employees via the staff intranet.

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

Additional security pre-employment checks

This job includes duties that will require additional security pre-employment checks:

- A satisfactory basic Disclosure and Barring Service check due to the nature of this position and working with highly sensitive data
- University security screening (e.g. identity checks)

Department of Paediatrics

The Department of Paediatrics at the University of Oxford is a vibrant and inclusive community at the forefront of child health research and clinical care. Our academics and clinicians work side by side to translate world-leading scientific discoveries into real benefits for children and families locally, nationally, and globally. From pioneering clinical trials to cutting-edge laboratory science, our work spans the full spectrum of paediatric and adolescent health.

The Department has achieved the acclaimed Athena Swan Gold Award, recognising our sector-leading commitment to gender equality, inclusivity, and innovation in supporting our people. We are deeply committed to staff development—offering up to ten paid days each year for professional growth, alongside opportunities to apply for additional training support and funding.

We welcome new colleagues who bring ideas, energy, and a desire to shape the Department's future. Staff wellbeing is central to our culture: in addition to University-wide wellbeing resources, we offer weekly exercise classes (including yoga and bootcamp sessions), a departmental choir, and financial support for visa renewal fees. These initiatives reflect our commitment to a healthy, connected, and supportive working environment.

By joining us, you will become part of a forward-thinking department that values collaboration, clinical impact, and the wellbeing of its staff and students alike.

Please visit our website to learn more about our work and what it is like to work with us.

Medical Sciences Division

We are 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

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 https://www.ox.ac.uk/about.

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/three 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 all documents **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 for 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 department(s).

If you are a priority candidate, please ensure that you attach your redeployment letter to your application (or email it to recruitment@paediatrics.ox.ac.uk 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

Non-technical questions about this job should be addressed to the recruiting department directly at recruitment@paediatrics.ox.ac.uk or using the contact details in the online advertisement.

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