OXFORD POPULATION HEALTH

Job description

Job title	Senior Teaching and Research Fellow in Statistics and Epidemiology
Division	Medical Sciences Division
Department	Oxford Population Health (Nuffield Department of Population Health, University of Oxford)
Location	Old Road Campus, Headington, Oxford, OX3 7LF (Some hybrid working may be available)
Grade and salary	Grade 8: £50,067 - £59,396 per annum (including Oxford Weighting Allowance)
Hours	Full-time (part-time considered)
Contract type	Fixed-term for two years in the first instance
Reporting to	Sarah Lewington, Professor of Epidemiology and Medical Statistics
Vacancy reference	189822
Additional information	The postholder will be expected to attend in person for all scheduled teaching, tutorials, student support activities and other teaching-related commitments within their modules. Some flexibility for remote working may be available, subject to operational requirements and agreement with the line manager.

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 to **three master's courses**, 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 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

The post-holder's primary responsibility will be for the statistics modules on the **MSc in Global Health Science and Epidemiology** and the **MPH in Public Health Research**. The statistics modules aim to develop students' understanding of the key underlying statistical principles used in population and public health research, so that students can conduct their own statistical analyses independently. The curricula cover the key statistical principles employed in epidemiological research, including basic regression modelling techniques used to conduct independent research in practice. The MSc will also cover more advanced techniques in the second term.

The post holder will take responsibility for the ongoing development, revision and delivery of both courses and will be expected to contribute to the development of appropriate materials and support in liaison with the Course Directors. As a Statistics module lead, they will be responsible for overseeing the entire curriculum, and for supporting associated teaching in the other modules (eg, epidemiology and data science). The post holder is also expected to support individual MSc students as necessary. They will have experience of postgraduate teaching. The post holder will work under the supervision of the Course Directors.

All teaching at the University of Oxford is research-driven, so the post-holder will also undertake research within the Global Population Studies Group, led by Professor Sarah Lewington**,** investigating the role of lifestyle factors (eg, smoking, alcohol and adiposity) and plasma and genetic markers as major causes of disease and premature mortality. The post-holder will be expected to undertake supervison of MSc, MPH and DPhil students.

The postholder will be expected to attend in person for all scheduled teaching, tutorials, student support activities and other teaching-related commitments within their modules. Some flexibility for remote working may be available, subject to operational requirements and agreement with the line manager.

For further information about departmental teaching, please visit our website: **https://www.ndph.ox.ac.uk/study-with-us**.

Responsibilities

- Organise and lead the statistics curriculum as Statistics Module Lead. This will include coordinating the teaching staff (co-leads, lecturers and practical assistants) and developing

and managing the academic content of the relevant modules, including developing formative and summative assessments and ensuring the content is cohesive across the year.

- Develop and deliver statistics lectures and associated data analysis (currently using R) practical sessions.
- Responsible for the organisation and effective delivery of the data analysis practicals, in conjunction with lecturers and practical assistants. This includes developing the material for the practicals, recruiting and communicating with staff to assist with their execution, and overseeing the performance of staff to ensure the students successfully engage with the material as intended.
- Supervise the performance, plan and create the academic material, and coordinate tutors in statistics that will be assisting with small group tutorials.
- Set, mark and provide feedback on the formative and summative assessments.
- Tutor and support MSc students experiencing difficulties with statistics, data science, epidemiology and other quantitative aspects of their course.
- Act as an Academic Placement Supervisor, providing in-depth guidance and support for student dissertations, alongside broader academic and pastoral care for all students writing up their dissertations, including statistical, data science and epidemiological advice.
- Develop and deliver short courses in statistics and health data science.
- Develop research questions, conduct individual research, analyse detailed and complex qualitative and/or quantitative data from a variety of sources, and generate original ideas by building on existing concepts.
- Strategically plan for short- and long-term research goals, including specific publication and analysis plans.
- Regularly write research articles for peer-reviewed journals, book chapters, and reviews. Present papers at national conferences, and lead seminars to disseminate research findings.
- To contribute, as required, to the wider academic activities of the Nuffield Department of Population Health 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 PhD / DPhil in statistics or quantitative epidemiology.
- Experience in all aspects of teaching at the graduate level, including course management, management of teaching at postgraduate level, curriculum design and setting assessments.
- Strong expertise with statistical software, including R (using tidyverse), with extensive demonstrable experience of performing statistical analyses by programming in a statistical language such as R or Python.
- Competent in advanced statistical and machine learning techniques, and in the use of AI tools for data analysis.

- Strong understanding of epidemiological studies and methods, with previous experience in the design, conduct and analysis of large-scale epidemiological studies of population health.
- Strong understanding of common statistical methods used in epidemiological and public health research and of the programming approaches needed to implement these techniques.
- Substantial practical experience in the analysis of high-dimensional biomedical datasets, including molecular ('omics) or imaging-derived measurements.
- An established research reputation, supported by a publication record commensurate with career stage.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a multi-disciplinary team.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.

Desirable

- Relevant qualification, learning and/or training in Higher Education.
- Experience using AI tools to develop and deliver teaching.
- Experience of leading teaching activities, for example as a module lead.
- Experience supporting and supervising early career researchers and post-graduate students.
- Proficiency in other statistical software packages, such as Stata or SAS.

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: **Pre-employment screening**

How to apply

Applications are made through our online recruitment portal. Information about how to apply is available on our **Jobs webpages**.

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 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 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.
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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 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: **Support with Online Applications**

Non-technical questions about this job should be addressed to the recruiting department directly

To return to the online application at any stage, please go to: **Applications Process**

Please note that you will receive an automated email from our online recruitment portal 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 at: **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: **The ERJA**

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 **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 **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 **University Club** and **University Sports Centre**.

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 **Life in Oxford**.

There is also a visa loan scheme to cover the costs of UK visa applications for staff and their dependants. See **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 **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 **Childcare**.

Supporting disability and health-related issues (inc menopause)

We are committed to supporting members of staff with disabilities or long-term health conditions, including those experiencing negative effects of menopause. **Contact the University's Staff Disability Advisor** for further information.

Staff networks

The University has a number of staff networks including for research staff, BME staff, LGBT+ staff, disabled staff network and those going through menopause.

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 **Oxford University Newcomers' Club**.

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.