Job description and selection criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job title</th>
<th>Postdoctoral Research Scientist – Tumour Immunology</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Division</td>
<td>Medical Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department</td>
<td>Nuffield Department of Medicine (NDM)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Old Road Campus Research Building, Headington, Oxford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade and salary</td>
<td>Grade 7: £31,604 - £38,833 per annum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours</td>
<td>Full time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract type</td>
<td>Fixed-term – 3 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reporting to</td>
<td>Professor Benoît Van den Eynde &amp; Professor Xin Lu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vacancy reference</td>
<td>132205</td>
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The role

We are seeking an exceptional and motivated postdoctoral research scientist with experience in immunology to work with Professors Xin Lu and Benoît Van den Eynde to study the interaction between immune cells and tumour cells.

Professor Benoît Van den Eynde’s research group is active in the field of tumour immunology, with a focus on understanding the mechanisms of tumoural immune resistance and developing new immunotherapy approaches.

Professor Xin Lu’s research group is active in the field of cancer biology, with a focus of the study of molecular mechanisms that control cellular plasticity and suppress tumour growth.

These two research groups are engaged in cutting-edge collaborative projects for which they seek to recruit a skilled postdoctoral scientist to perform innovative research across disciplines.
Responsibilities

- To participate in the Ludwig Institute funded research programme led by Professor Benoît Van den Eynde and Professor Xin Lu in the area of tumour immunology.
- To conduct original research within the context of the group, analysing detailed and complex qualitative and/or quantitative data from a variety of sources, including samples from cancer patients undergoing immunotherapy.
- Manage own academic research and administrative activities. This involves small scale project management, to co-ordinate multiple aspects of work to meet deadlines.
- To supervise and train junior staff in cell/molecular biology/biochemistry.
- To operate laboratory equipment used for all aspects of cell/molecular biology/biochemistry/immunology.
- To interpret results and present them to senior members of the group.
- To be responsible for overseeing the daily housekeeping of the laboratory area and performing any other comparable duties as may be required to ensure the efficient running of the laboratory.
- To be responsible with others for the biological safety of the laboratory.
- To communicate with Professors Benoît Van den Eynde and Xin Lu and other members of the group as required, ensuring that they are kept fully up to date with progress and any difficulties in the research project.
- To participate in and contribute directly to scientific discussions with other members of the research group and collaborators both on the project and contributing ideas for future research projects.
- To assist in dissemination of findings of the research group by authorship of manuscripts, presentation of results at meetings, and contribution to the group website.
- To attend appropriate scientific seminars, training opportunities and meetings in the Institute and University.
- Once trained the post holder’s performance will be continually monitored to ensure that the required standard of accuracy and efficiency is maintained.

Hazard-specific / Safety-critical duties

All employees will have to ensure that their work in the laboratory is conducted safely at all times and, in particular, that work is undertaken following the appropriate health and safety policies and procedures for the particular area, without compromise to their own safety or that of others who may be affected.

This job includes the following hazards or safety-critical activities which will require successful pre-employment health screening through our Occupational Health Service before the successful candidate will be allowed to start work:

- Working with infectious pathogens (hazard group 2/3) - Hazard Group 3 pathogens
- Working with blood, human products and human tissues
Selection criteria

Essential selection criteria

- A Ph.D. degree or equivalent qualification (or be near completion) in Molecular Biology/Immunology.
- Relevant experience of immunology.
- Excellent communication and good interpersonal skills and an ability to work flexibly and supportively as part of a team.
- Self-motivated, technically competent and capable of working independently in a laboratory.
- Ability to research complex issues and interpret, analyse, and present scientific data and write factual reports.
- Well-developed organisation skills and ability to manage multiple projects with competing priorities effectively, delivering high quality results.
- Good publication record in internationally recognised journals.

Desirable selection criteria

- Experience in cellular immunology techniques, including ELISpot and flow cytometry for the evaluation of T cell responses to antigens.
- Experience with standard recombinant DNA techniques.
- Experience of in vivo handling and experimentation.
- Previous experience of supervising and training others.

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 2014/15 exceeded £522.9m 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
Medical Sciences

The Medical Sciences Division is an internationally recognized centre of excellence for biomedical and clinical research and teaching.

We are 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: www.medsci.ox.ac.uk

Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine (NDM)

The Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine (NDM) is one of the largest departments of the University of Oxford and is part of the Medical Sciences Division, with responsibility for a significant part of the teaching of clinical students within the Medical School. The Department also has a substantial research programme which requires high quality administrative management.

NDM has significant financial turnover and complexity, resulting from its diverse research portfolio, its geographical spread and its close links with NHS funding and strategic teams involved in the development and delivery of increasingly integrated clinical research platforms.

...fostering your career in science

For more information please visit: www.ndm.ox.ac.uk/home

The University of Oxford is a member of the Athena SWAN Charter and holds an institutional Bronze Athena SWAN award. The Nuffield Department of Medicine holds a Silver Athena SWAN award to recognise advancement of gender equality: representation, progression and success for all.

For more information please visit: https://www.ndm.ox.ac.uk/working-for-ndm/aboutndmatheneswan/

The Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research (LICR)

Ludwig Cancer Research, Oxford Branch is headed by Professor Xin Lu. Research within the Branch is focused on identifying molecular switches that determine cancer cell heterogeneity, with the aim of sensitising cancer cells to therapy and improving patients’ response to treatment.

To combat tumour heterogeneity, the scientists are researching a wealth of different molecular mechanisms with molecular switches of cell fate being a major theme of their research. One of the main research focuses is the identification of target selectivity of transcription factors in cell growth or death (Professor Xin Lu), stem cells and differentiation (Professor Colin Goding), as well as hypoxia and oxygen sensing (Professor Sir Peter Ratcliffe). This research is complemented by transcriptional networks governing the formation of blood vessels (Dr Sarah De Val), genetic markers that indicate how a cancer cell will respond to therapy (Dr Gareth Bond), epigenetic regulators of cell fate (Dr
The research groups at Ludwig Cancer Research, University of Oxford, have strong overlapping interests yet maintain diversity, enabling the effective sharing of ideas and technologies. By working together the scientists maximise their research potential.

The Oxford Branch currently employs approximately 120 staff at the Old Road Campus Research Building in Headington, Oxford, and has plans for further expansion over the coming 2-3 years.

For more information please visit: [http://www.ludwig.ox.ac.uk/](http://www.ludwig.ox.ac.uk/)

**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 [www.ox.ac.uk/about/jobs/supportandtechnical/](http://www.ox.ac.uk/about/jobs/supportandtechnical/).

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.

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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 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](mailto:recruitment.support@admin.ox.ac.uk). Further help and support is available from [www.ox.ac.uk/about_the_university/jobs/support/](http://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](http://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/.

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/revisedejra/revaim/.

For existing employees, any employment beyond the retirement age is subject to approval through the procedures: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/end/retirement/revisedejra/revproc/

Form 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