Job description and selection criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job title</th>
<th>Postdoctoral Immunologist – Pre-erythrocytic malaria and outbreak pathogen clinical trials</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Division</td>
<td>Medical Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department</td>
<td>Nuffield Department of Medicine (NDM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Jenner Institute, Old Road Campus Research Building, Headington, Oxford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade and salary</td>
<td>Grade 7: Salary in the range £31,604 - £33,518 p.a.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours</td>
<td>Full time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract type</td>
<td>Fixed-term (externally funded post, initially for 24 months; extension may be offered subject to further funding)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reporting to</td>
<td>Professor Katie Ewer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacancy reference</td>
<td>133032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional information</td>
<td>This post will require security screening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research topic</td>
<td>Pre-erythrocytic malaria and outbreak pathogen vaccine development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal Investigator / supervisor</td>
<td>Professor Katie Ewer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project team</td>
<td>Pre-erythrocytic malaria and outbreak pathogen clinical trials, Jenner Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project web site</td>
<td><a href="http://www.jenner.ac.uk/pre-erythrocytic-vaccines">http://www.jenner.ac.uk/pre-erythrocytic-vaccines</a> <a href="http://www.jenner.ac.uk/ebola-2">http://www.jenner.ac.uk/ebola-2</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding partner</td>
<td>The funds supporting this research project are provided by Innovate UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recent publications</td>
<td>See website.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical skills</td>
<td>Human immunology, including ELISPOT, flow cytometry, antibody response profiling including ELISA. Statistical analysis.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The role

Professor Adrian Hill’s group has developed several new candidate vaccines for malaria. For the last fourteen years we have been conducting phase I and II clinical trials to evaluate the safety and immunogenicity of these vaccines in healthy volunteer subjects in the UK, including experimental malaria challenge studies to test vaccine efficacy. Parallel studies evaluating the safety and immunogenicity in malaria endemic areas (The Gambia, Burkina Faso and Kenya) are also underway. During the 2014/15 Ebola outbreak, we also developed and evaluated novel Ebola vaccines. Following on from this work, we have been awarded a number of grants to produce and perform Phase I clinical trials of vaccines against several outbreak pathogens. We require a Research Assistant to perform immunological assays to measure responses induced by such vaccines in Phase I and IIa vaccine trials in Oxford. Although most vaccines studied are designed and developed within the University, vaccines under development by industrial and other collaborators are also under evaluated periodically.

A postdoctoral scientist is required to join Professor Adrian Hill’s pre-erythrocytic (PE) malaria and outbreak pathogens vaccine development group at the Jenner Institute, University of Oxford. The research programme focuses on pre-clinical and clinical testing of novel vectored vaccines. You will be part of the clinical trials team and will work on the evaluation of candidate vaccines in clinical trials.

The position is to support the general program of immunology within the human PE malaria and outbreak pathogens vaccine trials and occasionally other vaccine trials as necessary. This includes undertaking and developing assays for evaluation of vaccine candidates in human clinical trials, analysing and presenting data, contributing to manuscripts for publication and training and supervising junior staff. In addition to clinical trials in Oxford, we have an extensive network of partnership institutions in East and West Africa. Liasing and interacting effectively with teams at these sites to train and support clinical trials will be an important aspect of this role and some travel to field sites may be required.

You will have good interpersonal skills and be able to interact productively and accurately with other team members. The ability to prepare data for publication including statistical analysis, ensuring the quality of scientific data and the ability to work as part of a team are essential. The research involves cellular immunology techniques carried out with human blood samples including ELISPOT, ELISA, and sterile cell culture. Experience of working to GCP would be an advantage.

The post is initially funded for two years. We will be applying for further funding to support longer-term continuation of this post. Alternatively, we would also be keen to hear from suitably-qualified applicants who wish to use this post to develop towards an independent research career by means of assembling an application for a post-doctoral fellowship. Informal enquiries about this post can be addressed to: Katie.ewer@ndm.ox.ac.uk

The position will be based at the Jenner Institute Laboratories, at the university’s Old Road Campus in Headington.
Responsibilities

- Participate in the research programme led by Professors Adrian Hill and Katie Ewer to develop novel malaria and outbreak pathogen vaccines.
- Help supervise students and other members of the group, as required.
- Assist with the management of laboratory work within the group.
- Liaise and coordinate with industrial and/or academic collaborators, where required.
- Contribute immunology/vaccine expertise, as requested, to other Jenner Institute programmes and collaborating Institutes.
- Operate laboratory equipment used for all aspects of immunology/vaccine development.
- Interpret results and to present to members of the group, and the Jenner Institute.
- Contribute to the efficient running, cleanliness and tidiness of the laboratory.
- Participate in and support the public engagement and widening access activities of the Department and the University. This is anticipated to be not more than 2 days per year.

Communication

- Communicate with Professor Katie Ewer and other members of the group as required, ensuring that they are kept fully up to date with progress in the research project.
- Help prepare scientific papers for publication, present the research at scientific conferences and contribute to the Jenner website.
- Participate in and contribute directly to scientific discussions with other members of the research group and collaborators on Jenner Institute projects.
- Maintain confidentiality regarding research data when interacting with non-collaborating researchers.

Education and training

- Attend appropriate scientific seminars, training opportunities and meetings in the Jenner Institute and University.
- Participate in the education and training of other staff as necessary and appropriate.
- Continuously broaden, deepen and consolidate technical knowledge and skill.
- Maintain accuracy and efficiency to a high standard.

Other General Responsibilities

- Act at all times in the interests of the Institute to ensure good laboratory practice.
- Accountable for personal professional conduct within the project.
- To undertake such other duties as may be required from time to time that are commensurate with the grade and responsibilities of this post.
- To accord due regard to the University Equal Opportunities and Data Protection policies.
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.

Hazard-specific / Safety-critical duties
See: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/recruit/preempcheck/compulsorychecks/medical

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:

- Lone Working
- Working with infectious pathogens (hazard group 2/3) - Hazard Group 3 pathogens
- Work with allergens, e.g. laboratory animals, pollen, dust, fish or insects etc.
- Work with any substance which has any of the following pictograms on their MSDS:

  ![Pictograms](image)

Additional security pre-employment checks
- A satisfactory Disclosure Scotland check
- University security screening (eg identity checks)

Selection criteria

Essential selection criteria

- A doctoral degree (or be near completion) in a subject relevant to immunology/vaccine development.
- Self-motivated, technically competent and capable of working independently in a laboratory.
- A keen interest in vaccine development and human immunology.
- Excellent communication, and interpersonal skills, and ability to work effectively with others.
- Good documentation and computer skills (Excel, Powerpoint and Word).
- Ability to research complex issues and interpret, analyse, and present scientific data and write factual reports.
- Experience of human immunology.
- Well-developed organisation skills to be able to manage multiple projects with competing priorities effectively.

Desirable selection criteria

- Previous experience of supervising and training others.
- Experience of working to GCP
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, and in providing all of our staff with a welcoming and inclusive workplace that supports everyone to develop and do their best work. Recognising that diversity is a great strength, and 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 ranked first in the UK for university spin-outs, with more than 130 spin-off 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: www.ndm.ox.ac.uk/athena-swan

The Jenner Institute

The Jenner Institute was founded in November 2005 to develop innovative vaccines against major global diseases. Uniquely it focuses both on diseases of humans and livestock and tests new vaccine approaches in parallel in different species. A major theme is translational research involving the rapid early-stage development and assessment of new vaccines in clinical trials.

For more information please visit: department website http://www.jenner.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/.

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 should explain how you meet 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. (Customise this statement to confirm the document(s) you would like the applicant to attach, but make sure that you keep the reference to PDF. See section 1.4 of QRG REC01 Creating a Vacancy (Recruitment and Personnel) for guidance on selecting the appropriate application form).

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/preemployscreening/.

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