<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Job title</strong></th>
<th>Research Assistant</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Division</strong></td>
<td>Medical Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Department</strong></td>
<td>Nuffield Department of Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Location</strong></td>
<td>Big Data Institute, Li Ka Shing Centre for Health Information and Discovery, Old Road Campus, Oxford, OX3 7LF</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Grade and salary</strong></td>
<td>Grade 6: £28,098 - £33,518 p.a.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hours</strong></td>
<td>Full time</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Contract type</strong></td>
<td>Fixed term for 1 year in the first instance</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reporting to</strong></td>
<td>Mike Thorn, Malaria Atlas Project Programme Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Vacancy reference</strong></td>
<td>133539</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Additional information</strong></td>
<td>Funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation</td>
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</table>

**Research topic** | The geospatial mapping of incidence and prevalence of malaria |

**Principal Investigator / supervisor** | Professor Peter Gething |

**Project team** | Malaria Atlas Project |

**Project web site** | [www.map.ox.ac.uk](http://www.map.ox.ac.uk) |

**Funding partner** | The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation |

Introduction

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 2015/16 exceeded £537.4m and we rank first in the UK for university spinouts, 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)… fostering your career in science

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.

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

The Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine has been presented with a Departmental Athena SWAN Silver award in recognition of the commitment made to promote gender equality through our organisational and cultural practices and our efforts to improve
the working environment for both men and women. For more information please see our Departmental Athena SWAN pages: https://www.ndm.ox.ac.uk/working-for-ndm/aboutndmatheneswan/

Oxford Big Data Institute (BDI)

The Big Data Institute (BDI), is a newly opened, interdisciplinary research centre located within the University of Oxford’s Old Road Campus. The Institute will combine researchers from genomics, epidemiology and infectious disease alongside those from computer science, statistics and engineering to develop the field of big data as applied to biomedical research. Scientists working in the Institute will form an analytical hub, deeply connected to the wider experimental and clinical community in Oxford and beyond, working to solve some of the major challenges in medical research. The BDI aims to develop, evaluate and deploy efficient methods for acquiring and analysing information at scale and for exploiting the opportunities presented by large-scale studies. The Institute will provide core facilities in high-performance computing and high-capacity data management. When fully occupied it will house over 350 researchers.

For more information please visit: http://www.bdi.ox.ac.uk

The role

The Malaria Atlas Project (MAP) brings together researchers based around the world with expertise in a wide range of disciplines from public health to mathematics, geography, and epidemiology. We work together to generate new and innovative methods of mapping malaria risk. Ultimately our goal is to produce a comprehensive range of maps and estimates that will support effective planning of malaria control at national and international scales.

MAP’s research focus includes the modelling of malaria prevalence, incidence, and mortality through space and time using innovative statistical methodologies. Subcomponents of this research agenda are the creation of ancillary datasets that support the modelling of disease, which are typically derived through the use of remotely sensed imagery and GIS software.

The primary role of this position will be to assist core MAP researchers in the preparation of model inputs, implementation of workflows, and dissemination of results, including assisting writing papers for peer reviewed publication and presenting results. In addition, this role will provide support for our engagement with collaborators such as the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at The University of Washington.

As such, we view this position as a potential springboard towards an academic career and thus we’re seeking ambitious applicants who are eager to contribute to high-level research.

Responsibilities/duties

You will;

- Obtain, manage, and conduct preliminary processing and analysis on a variety of tabular datasets.
- Find and read academic papers and reports to extract needed metrics for malaria modelling
• Contribute text and figures for publications, to be credited via co-authorships

• Utilize software including Excel, ArcGIS, and R to examine, manipulate, and process data.

• Select, follow, and adapt data extraction and manipulation protocols.

• Understand and engage with the processes around MAP’s collaboration with IHME, including uploading and downloading datasets, creating visualisations of results, and assisting with trouble-shooting activities.

• Be responsible with others for general IT housekeeping, including maintenance of back-ups, documentation of protocols, and review of procedures.

• Contribute to discussions and share research findings with colleagues and collaborators in partner institutions.

• Maintain the confidentiality of unpublished research data.

• 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.

**Selection criteria**

**Essential**

• A first class or upper second class undergraduate degree in a relevant scientific or mathematical subject

• Some knowledge of the basics of infectious disease epidemiology

• Strong data manipulation skills using a variety of software platforms

• Excellent levels of numeracy as evidenced by either a maths A-level, a degree with mathematical content, or work experience requiring strong numeracy skills

• Evidence of proficiency in scientific writing, with proper use of the English language, grammar, and punctuation

• Evidence of being willing to take advice and constructive criticism, and a demonstrated ability to work well with other members of a team

• A responsible nature with clear evidence for strong skills in decision-making, problem-solving, planning and organising

• A high attention to detail and willingness to diligently self-scrutinize deliverables

**Desirable**

• Experience analysing and/or manipulating spatial data

• Experience in mapping methodologies and Geographical Information Systems
• Experience of programming in any language
• Experience of R or similar statistical packages

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_the_university/jobs/research/

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.

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
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