

## BIG DATA INSTITUTE

<b>Job title</b>	Postdoctoral Researcher - Epidemiological Modeller
<b>Division</b>	Medical Sciences
<b>Department</b>	Nuffield Department of Medicine
<b>Location</b>	Big Data Institute, Li Ka Shing Centre for Health Information and Discovery, Old Road Campus, Headington, Oxford, OX3 7LF
<b>Grade and salary</b>	Grade 7: £32,817 - £40,322 p.a.
<b>Hours</b>	Full time
<b>Contract type</b>	Fixed term until 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2021
<b>Reporting to</b>	Group Leader
<b>Vacancy reference</b>	143826
<b>Research topic</b>	HIV prevention
<b>Principal Investigator / supervisor</b>	Christophe Fraser / Lucie Abeler-Dorner

## 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 2016/17 exceeded £564m and we rank first in the UK for





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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](http://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](http://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

The Big Data Institute (BDI) is a state-of-the-art building at Oxford University's Old Road Campus which opened in April 2017. This interdisciplinary research centre focuses on the analysis of large, complex, heterogeneous data sets for research into the causes and consequences, prevention and treatment of disease. To this end, BDI researchers develop, evaluate and deploy efficient methods for acquiring and analyse information for large clinical research studies. These approaches are invaluable in identifying the associations between lifestyle exposures, genetic variants, infections and health outcomes around the globe.

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Research is conducted in four general themes: genomics, population health, infectious disease surveillance, and methodology (including informatics, statistics, and engineering). Big Data methods could transform the scale (breadth, depth and duration) and efficiency (data accumulation, storage, processing and dissemination) of large-scale clinical research. The work of the BDI requires people and projects that span traditional departmental boundaries and scientific disciplines, supported by technical resources to handle the vast quantities of data they generate.

Under the leadership of Professor Gil McVean (Director) and Professor Martin Landray (Deputy Director), the BDI will comprise around 350 researchers (approx. 30 research groups) drawn from a wide range of departments and will form an analytical hub, deeply connected to the wider experimental and clinical community in Oxford and beyond.

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

## Overview of the role

This is an exciting opportunity to join a team dedicated studying how to best reach people living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa that are currently underrepresented in the treatment statistics. The role is a new position on a project linked to the PANGAEA consortium. The post holder will report to Professor Christophe Fraser, and be based in the Pathogen Dynamics group at the new Oxford Big Data Institute.

PANGAEA (Phylogenetics and Networks for Generalised HIV Epidemics in Africa) uses modern molecular epidemiology and phylodynamics of HIV sequences to study transmission dynamics in HIV epidemics in Southern Africa. In recent years, anti-retroviral therapy and preventive therapy has become more readily available in Africa, but tools to assess the efficacy of current interventions and improvements in care are missing. Understanding how and in which groups of a population the virus is spread will not only help to monitor epidemics, but also enable policy makers to design intervention programmes and assess their impact.

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The approach being used is multidisciplinary, combining viral genomics, bioinformatics, statistics, modelling, phylodynamics, and statistical genetics. You will join a multidisciplinary team addressing different aims of this study.

You will be driven by biological and epidemiological aims. HIV-1 genomic data are unusual, with short genomes that are highly variable, both at the population level, but also within each patient; there is thus substantial scope for you to learn new biology and develop novel methods of public health utility.

You will communicate with a wide variety of stakeholders involved in the project.

You will be an integral member of the Pathogen Dynamics group based at Oxford, led by Christophe Fraser. Members of the group study the dynamics of several human infectious diseases using both modelling and pathogen genetics, and the post offers substantial opportunities for career development.

You will provide guidance to less experienced members of the research group, including postdocs, research assistants, and PhD and project students.

You will take part in capacity building in our African partner institutions through face to face teaching and the development of online learning resources.

## Responsibilities/duties

- Develop new and adapt existing analysis methods, simulation methods and computer code for epidemiological analyses.
- Perform analyses, including active management of programs on high performance cluster.
- Test hypotheses and analyse data from a variety of sources, reviewing and refining working hypotheses.
- Contribute to capacity building, including teaching, at our collaborating institutions in Africa.
- Actively manage collaboration with colleagues working on the project, both within the Pathogen Dynamics group at Oxford and more broadly.
- Collaborate in the preparation of scientific reports and journal articles, and present papers and posters at project workshops and international conferences
- Manage own academic research and administrative activities. This involves small scale project management, to co-ordinate multiple aspects of work to meet deadlines.
- Develop ideas for generating research income, and present detailed research proposals to senior researchers
- Contribute ideas for new projects related to epidemiology or modelling.

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- Act as a source of information and advice to other members of the group.
- Represent the research group at external meetings/seminars, either with other members of the group or alone.
- 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.

## Hazard-specific / Safety-critical duties

This job includes hazards or safety-critical activities. If you are offered the post, you will be asked to complete a health questionnaire which will be assessed by our Occupational Health Service (OHS), and the offer of employment will be subject a successful outcome of this assessment.

The hazards or safety-critical duties involved are as follows:

- Travel outside of Europe or North America on University Business

## Selection criteria

### Essential

- Hold or be close to completion of a PhD in applied mathematics, statistics, epidemiology, public health or another relevant and related subject.
- Training in mathematics and epidemiology, at BSc or MSc level
- Sufficient specialist knowledge in genetics, modelling and pathogen dynamics to work within established research programmes
- Experience in working at or with academic institutions in Africa
- Ability to manage own academic research and associated activities, and to work to deadlines
- Excellent communication skills, including the ability to write for publication, present research proposals and results, and represent the research group at meetings
- Previous experience of contributing to scientific publications or presentations
- Teaching experience
- Experience of coding, including in R

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### Desirable

- Experience of coding in python, C++, MATLAB and OpenBugs
- Proven interest in HIV and/or epidemiology, or other infectious diseases
- Ability to work in a collaborative project with multiple investigators and overlapping research strands
- Willingness to travel to stakeholder meetings and conferences
- Experience of working in a multidisciplinary team
- Excellent publication record

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

#### 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.*



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*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 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: [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/councilsec/compliance/gdpr/privacynotices/job/](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/councilsec/compliance/gdpr/privacynotices/job/). The University's Policy on Data Protection is available at: [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/councilsec/compliance/gdpr/universitypolicyondataprotection/](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/councilsec/compliance/gdpr/universitypolicyondataprotection/).

### The University's policy on retirement

The University operates an Employer Justified Retirement Age (EJRA) for all academic posts and some academic-related posts. The University has adopted an EJRA of 30 September before the 69<sup>th</sup> 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/acrelretire8+/](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/end/retirement/acrelretire8+/).

For **existing** employees, any employment beyond the retirement age is subject to approval through the procedures: [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/end/retirement/acrelretire8+/](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/end/retirement/acrelretire8+/).

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

### Employee benefits

University employees enjoy 38 days' paid holiday, generous pension schemes, travel discounts, and a variety of professional development opportunities. Our range of other employee benefits and discounts also includes free entry to the Botanic Gardens and University colleges, and discounts at University museums. See

[www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/benefits](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/benefits).

### University Club and sports facilities

Membership of the University Club is free for all University staff. The University Club 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](http://www.club.ox.ac.uk) and [www.sport.ox.ac.uk/oxford-university-sports-facilities](http://www.sport.ox.ac.uk/oxford-university-sports-facilities).

### Information for staff new to Oxford

If you are relocating to Oxfordshire from overseas or elsewhere in the UK, the University's Welcome Service website includes practical information about settling in the area, including advice on relocation, accommodation, and local schools. See [www.welcome.ox.ac.uk](http://www.welcome.ox.ac.uk). There is also a visa loan scheme to cover the costs of UK visa applications for staff and their dependents. See [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/permits/reimburse&loanscheme/](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/permits/reimburse&loanscheme/).

### Family-friendly benefits

With one of the most generous family leave schemes in the Higher Education sector, and a range of flexible working options, Oxford aims to be a family-friendly employer. We also subscribe to My Family Care, a service that provides practical advice and support for employees who have caring responsibilities. The service offers a free telephone advice line, and the ability to book emergency back-up care for children, adult dependents and elderly relatives. See [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/benefits/family/mfc/](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/benefits/family/mfc/).

### Childcare

The University has excellent childcare services, including 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/](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/childcare/).

### Disabled staff

We are committed to supporting members of staff with disabilities or long-term health conditions. For further details, including information about how to make contact, in confidence, with the University's Staff Disability Advisor, see

[www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/disab/staff](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/disab/staff).

### 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/](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/inpractice/networks/).



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## **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 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](http://www.newcomers.ox.ac.uk).

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