



SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Job Description

Job title	Senior Research Fellow in the Law and Governance of Net Zero
Division	Social Sciences
Department	Environmental Change Institute, <i>School of Geography and the Environment</i>
Location	South Parks Road, Oxford
Grade and salary	Grade 9: £48,114 - £55,750 per annum
Hours	Full time
Contract type	Fixed-term (externally funded for 4 years)
Reporting to	Prof Sam Fankhauser*, (line manager) Prof Myles Allen, and Dr Thom Wetzler, Associate Professor of Law and Finance
Vacancy reference	148829
Additional information	<p>While this is a full-time role we can support flexible working arrangements (for instance if you have caring responsibilities) in agreement with the Director.</p> <p>Applications are particularly welcome and encouraged from women candidates and black and minority ethnic candidates who are under-represented in academic posts in Oxford. SoGE and ECI is committed to equality and values diversity.</p>

The role

The Environmental Change Institute (ECI) and Oxford Sustainable Law Programme are seeking to appoint a Senior Research Fellow in the Law and Governance of Net Zero as part of the [Oxford Net Zero initiative](#). We seek an innovative and versatile independent researcher with an entrepreneurial academic mindset and the willingness and capacity to work in multidisciplinary research teams. The post holder will be a recognised authority in their field and display a capacity for impactful engagement with stakeholders in the public, private, and non-profit sectors, as well as an ability to build new partnerships and win significant grant income. The post holder will be expected to help develop the Law and Governance of Net Zero workstream of Oxford Net Zero, work with researchers across the Oxford Net Zero initiative, and to contribute to the development and impact of the Oxford Sustainable Law Programme.



Law and hard governance in achieving net zero: A net-zero-compliant legal architecture provides the institutional backdrop for the effective implementation of net zero targets: it creates enforceable commitments and obligations, provides frameworks for policy action, and creates the incentives that galvanise public and private investment in the necessary infrastructure. This work will evaluate how the law can be used as a tool to accelerate the transition to net zero, with a focus on the adoption and credible implementation of permanent carbon storage. It will also explore the intersections between the multiple layers of governance, and diverse actors, involved in the governance of net zero, in particular the role that the UN Climate regime, and its Paris Agreement, play in triggering the transition to net zero. The work engages a wide range of legal fields (e.g. environmental law, planning law, civil and administrative liability, international environmental law, law of the seas) across different timescales (from allocating responsibility and setting up accountability mechanisms in the short term to the long-term transfer of liabilities and responsibilities for a storage site that is designed to outlast the lifetime of most legal entities) and at different organisational levels (from international treaties and national legislation to the institutional and governance design of specific projects). Effectively managing these issues requires dialogue between regulators, industry, researchers, legal authorities and economic analysts, while technical issues require collaborations between a range of scientists and engineers, including chemists, computer scientists and biologists. This work would therefore be undertaken by a Net Zero Senior Research Fellow, based in the ECI and be affiliated with the Sustainable Law Programme, but working closely with all others engaged with the programme.

The post is available for four years in the first instance. While reporting to the research director of Oxford Net Zero you will work closely with Thom Wetzer, Associate Professor of Law and Finance, and Lavanya Rajamani, Professor of International Environmental Law.

The Oxford New Zero Initiative

Oxford Net Zero is a new initiative drawing on the University's world-leading expertise in climate science and policy. Addressing the critical issue of how to reach global 'net zero' and halt global warming, it brings together leading academics from across the University's disciplines, including Geography, Physics, Economics, Biology, Law and Earth Sciences.

The initiative will provide research and new resources for policymakers and businesses at this critical juncture for international action on climate change. Essential questions that Oxford Net Zero will address include:

- How will carbon dioxide be distributed between the atmosphere, oceans, biosphere and lithosphere?
- Where will it be stored, in what forms, how stable will these storage pools be, who will own them and maintain them over the short, medium and long terms?
- How does net zero policy extend to other greenhouse gases?
- How will the social license to generate, emit, capture, transport, and store carbon dioxide evolve over the coming century?

The Programme is led by director [Professor Myles Allen](#), alongside research director [Professor Sam Fankhauser](#) and executive director [Dr Steve Smith](#). It is supported by a £2.2 million investment from the University's Strategic Research Fund, which aims to develop transformative new research programmes. Further details can be found at; netzeroclimate.org.

The NEGEM project <https://negemproject.eu> is funded by the EU Horizon 2020 Programme, to assess the realistic potential of Negative Emission Technologies and Practices (NETPs) and their contribution to climate neutrality, as a supplementary strategy to emissions mitigation.

Responsibilities

- Lead and coordinate the research and engagement of the Law and Governance of Net Zero workstream of Oxford Net Zero, and the development of climate research and policy initiatives more broadly at the ECI, the Oxford Sustainable Law Programme, and the wider university.
- Engage in research and publication at the highest level in the field of climate change law and policy, with a particular focus on the law and governance of net zero.
- Initiate, implement and deliver innovative and high-value, legal and interdisciplinary research initiatives with a focus on the law and governance of net zero by developing new avenues of research, concepts and ideas to extend intellectual understanding.
- Work within existing and catalyse new teams and communities in Oxford Net Zero and the Oxford Sustainable Law Programme to generate high quality research outputs within academia and beyond.
- Develop ideas for generating significant research income and promoting the research area by writing funding applications for specific avenues of independent research.
- Support the career development of early career and fixed-term contract researchers acting as the team leader, setting clear task objectives, developing productive working relations and line-managing the other members of the team as the programme grows.
- Provide academic supervision for research students and contribute to lectures and teaching.
- Contribute to developing a vibrant network of Net Zero research fellows, associated academics and students in Oxford, including joining weekly in-person co-working sessions with fellows in other disciplines. Play a key role in representing the Sustainable Law Programme in the Oxford Net Zero initiative, including collaborations with other researchers in the initiative and beyond.
- Contribute to establishing the strategic direction and setting standards for the work of the wider group.
- Contribute to scoping and delivering key initiative-wide outputs for Oxford Net Zero, including assessments of global progress towards net zero, short education courses and programmatic reports.
- Support outreach and engagement as part of the Oxford Net Zero initiative, including the curation of accessible material through <https://netzeroclimate.org>.

Selection criteria

- Hold a relevant PhD/DPhil and a level of experience commensurate to the relevant career stage with significant post-qualification research experience.
- An established reputation as an authority in the field, strong academic publication record, and familiarity with the existing literature and research in the field.

- Evidence of potential for producing further research of world-leading quality in climate change law and policy, particularly the law and governance of net zero, during the tenure of the post.
- Demonstrated expertise across a number of legal fields, including but not exclusively public and commercial law, and the ability to work across multiple jurisdictions (ideally in civil and common law jurisdictions, and in developed and developing country contexts).
- Evidence of a vision for the development of the Oxford Net Zero initiative, and in particular its Law and Governance of Net Zero workstream, and the Oxford Sustainable Law Programme.
- Evidence of effective teamwork in interdisciplinary research contexts and collaborations
- Evidence of effective, high-impact engagement with stakeholders in the public, private, and non-profit sectors.
- A demonstrated ability to secure significant research funding through a track record of successful grant applications.
- Commitment to advancing diversity and inclusion.

Desirable selection criteria

- Experience in working in climate change law and policy practice, including in relevant subfields (including but not limited to deforestation, energy sectors, carbon removal, public finance, international law, multi-level governance).
- Evidence of the ability to effectively communicate research findings to relevant (and high-level) stakeholders and the wider public.
- Evidence of providing academic supervision and delivering teaching.

Pre-employment screening

All offers of employment are made subject to standard pre-employment screening, as applicable to the post.

If you are offered the post, you will be asked to provide proof of your right-to-work, your identity, and we will contact the referees you have nominated. You will also be asked to complete a health declaration (so that you can tell us about any health conditions or disabilities so that we can discuss appropriate adjustments with you), and a declaration of any unspent criminal convictions.

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/.

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 www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation.

School of Geography and the Environment

The School of Geography and the Environment (SoGE) is a dynamic, diverse, interdisciplinary academic department at the University of Oxford combining natural and social science interests and skills, underpinned by Geography's tradition of working across differing cultures. The School is internationally recognized for the quality of its teaching, research and wider engagement across the breadth of human and physical geography and environmental studies.

Based within the Social Sciences Division, the School incorporates three affiliated research centres: the Environmental Change Institute (ECI), the Smith School of Enterprise and Environment (SSEE), and the Transport Studies Unit (TSU). The School is based within the Oxford University Centre for the Environment (OUCE) building – which has benefited from extensive refurbishment in recent years - in the heart of Oxford's Science Area. The School's physical location enables us to easily connect with many of the academic departments and organisations with whom we collaborate. The School has also been an active participant in fostering the [Oxford University Networks for the Environment](http://www.ox.ac.uk/one) (ONE), which link up over 1000 individuals within the University on the themes of Biodiversity, Climate, Energy, Food and Water.

The School of Geography and the Environment holds an Athena SWAN Bronze Award in recognition of its efforts to introduce organisational and cultural practices that promote gender equality and create a better working environment for both men and women. Further information about Athena SWAN can be found at <http://www.geog.ox.ac.uk/about/equality-diversity/>.

Formed in 1991 through benefaction, the **Environmental Change Institute** works alongside partners in business, academia and the community to understand environmental change and explore possible responses to the risks and opportunities it poses. With an annual research income of over £3.6 million in 2015/16, a portfolio of 60 active projects, 108 academics and

researchers working around the world, the ECI is an active and influential player in environmental change science. The ECI's research is interdisciplinary, both in outlook and approach. ECI has a well-established track record in relation to climate, energy and ecosystems and a growing expertise in relation to food and water. ECI is a leading player in number of large research activities, including: the UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP) which develops new tools to link climate science with stakeholders in business and government in order to create innovative adaptations to the impacts of climate change; the world's largest citizen science climate ensemble with 350,000 individuals running climate simulations in order to better understand regional climate patterns; leaders of major EU consortium programmes including one on the impacts and risks of extreme climate change; and coordinators of a global ecological monitoring programme across remote forest locations in South America, Africa and Asia. The ECI's full portfolio of projects has led to academic papers and citations totalling over 45,000 since 2000. The ECI is also home to the MSc in Environmental Change and Management, the School's first taught postgraduate masters' programme, established in 1994. Through this MSc the ECI have successfully trained over 600 upcoming environmental leaders who comprise a lively and increasingly influential alumni community.

For more information on the ECI please visit: <http://www.eci.ox.ac.uk>

The **School of Geography and the Environment** is an energetic and multi-dimensional hub of geographical and environmental research, teaching and wider engagement. The School's ambition is to play a leading role in shaping the international research agenda through 'world-class' research and teaching across the breadth of the discipline; employing the very best researchers and attracting excellent national and international students; encouraging national, international and interdisciplinary research collaborations; and engaging with others through policy, partnerships, business and social enterprise. The School's cross-cutting [research](#) portfolio totalled £61.9million across more than 80 projects in 2015/16, with projects and collaborations involving over 70 countries across the globe. The School's researchers actively engage in discussion on environment, energy, transport, urban, and rural policies; in advising local, national and international organisations; and in written and oral contributions to government consultations.

The School provides world-class, multidisciplinary teaching. Our [Undergraduate Honour School](#) provides undergraduate students with research-led teaching across the breadth of human and physical geography and environmental studies by internationally recognised academic staff. Two hundred and fifty graduate students from a range of nationalities make our [International Graduate School](#) one of the world's largest and most diverse in the discipline.

For more information the School please visit: <http://www.geog.ox.ac.uk>

The **Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment** (SSEE) was established with a benefaction by the Smith family in 2008 to tackle urgent environmental challenges by bringing public and private enterprise together with world-leading teaching and research.

We seek to apply impactful research with enterprise to shape business practices, government policy and stakeholder engagement. We work with social enterprises, corporations and governments alike. Our goal is to offer innovative solutions to the challenges facing humanity over the coming decades.

SSEE applies expertise in economics, finance and business to tackle environmental and social challenges in six areas: water, climate, energy, biodiversity, food and extractive resources. It has a number of significant external research partnerships and Business Fellows, bringing to the University people from industry, consulting firms, and related

enterprises who have an interest in promoting the goals and objectives of the School. SSEE offers a variety of open enrolment and custom Executive Education programmes that cater to participants from all over the world. We also provide independent research and advice on matters such as environmental strategy, corporate governance, and long-term innovation.

For more information on the SSEE please visit: <http://www.smithschool.ox.ac.uk>

Since 1973 the **Transport Studies Unit** has established an international research reputation in the fields of transport policy analysis, the development of new methodologies and behavioural studies. The TSU seeks to maintain and enhance this reputation for excellence in research and to extend it into teaching, leadership courses and international collaborative programmes of education and learning. To this end, it aims to be at the leading edge in national and international transport developments. Particular emphasis is placed on understanding the social, economic and environmental implications of transport and mobility over both time and space. The TSU's work ranges in geographic scale from the local to the global, and the full spectrum of quantitative and qualitative research techniques is deployed. The research conducted at the TSU addresses transport and mobility from different thematic and methodological perspectives. Four broad themes can be identified: Energy and Environment; Governance and Public Policy; Culture and Society; and Health and Wellbeing. Most TSU staff are full-time researchers working on specific externally funded projects within these research themes. In addition to the core staff, it also hosts a number of academic visitors working more independently on cross-cutting issues. There is also an active group of international DPhil students working with individual staff. The TSU often works directly with international agencies, transport policymakers, local authorities, businesses and industry, employers, non-governmental organisations, and localities.

For more information on the TSU please visit: <http://www.tsu.ox.ac.uk>

Social Science Division

The University's academic departments and faculties are organised into four large groups, known as Academic Divisions (Social Sciences, Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences (MPLS), Medical Sciences, and Humanities). The academic divisions are responsible for academic oversight of the teaching and research of their constituent departments and faculties, for strategic and operational planning, and for personnel and resource management. The Head of the Social Sciences Division is Professor Sarah Whatmore, who is a member of the University's Council. The Social Sciences Division is a world-leading centre of research and education in the social sciences. The social sciences at Oxford are distinctive for both their depth and breadth, with activity spanning fourteen departments and faculties and one cross-divisional unit. (These are as follows: Law, the Saïd Business School, Economics, Politics and International Relations, the Blavatnik School of Government, the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography, International Development, Sociology, Social Policy and Intervention, the Oxford Internet Institute, Archaeology, the School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies, Education, the School of Geography and the Environment and the Oxford Martin School.) Interdisciplinary links within and beyond the university are strong, extending to the humanities, natural sciences, and medical sciences.

Academic and research staff and research students are engaged in world-leading research that challenges current ideas and theories and is tackling some of the major challenges facing humanity, such as sustainable resource management, migration, governance, poverty and development, and justice. REF 2014 confirmed Oxford as the UK powerhouse for research in the social sciences, where Oxford accounted for more world-leading (4*) research than any other institution, across the social sciences units of assessment to which

it made submissions. The division has an extensive portfolio of external funders and collaborators, with competitively-awarded external research income exceeding £40million per year. Researchers in the division engage actively beyond academia and their research has influence in many spheres from innovation in public policymaking to practitioner communities such as law, business, education, social welfare and NGOs.

The division also delivers an exceptional range of high quality educational programmes (undergraduate, postgraduate taught and postgraduate research), all of which are underpinned by the innovative research being undertaken by our academics. Programmes range from those at the interface of the natural sciences, through to professionally-oriented provision in areas such as business, law and education. The division is home to several of Oxford's most widely recognised teaching programmes, such as Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE); the BCL; the MPhils in International Relations, in Economics, and in Development Studies; the MBA and EMBA; and the nationally regarded PGCE.

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

How to apply

Applications are made through our e-recruitment system and you will find all the information you need about how to apply on our Jobs website <https://www.jobs.ox.ac.uk/how-to-apply>.

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 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

Help and support is available from: <https://hrsystems.admin.ox.ac.uk/recruitment-support>

If you require any further assistance please email recruitment.support@admin.ox.ac.uk.

To return to the online application at any stage, please go to: 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.

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 <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/staff-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 and <https://www.sport.ox.ac.uk/>.

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 <https://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 <https://staffimmigration.admin.ox.ac.uk/visa-loan-scheme>

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 <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/my-family-care>

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 <https://childcare.admin.ox.ac.uk/>

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 <https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/disability-support>

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 <https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/networks>

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.

