



**THE JENNER
INSTITUTE**
DEVELOPING INNOVATIVE VACCINES



Job title	Research Assistant
Division	Medical Sciences
Department	Nuffield Department of Medicine
Location	The Jenner Institute, Old Road Campus Research Building, Roosevelt Drive, Headington, Oxford, OX3 7DQ
Grade and salary	Grade 6: £32,332 - £38,205 with a discretionary range to £41,732 p.a. (pro rata)
Hours	Full time
Contract type	Fixed-term contract for 18 months Funding is provided by the European Union UltiMalvax project and the Gates Foundation Award
Reporting to	Professor Adrian Hill
Vacancy reference	169798

Additional information	This role meets the eligibility requirements for a Skilled Worker Certificate of Sponsorship or a Global Talent Visa under UK Visas and Immigration legislation. Therefore, the Nuffield Department of Medicine welcomes applications from international applicants who require a visa.
About us	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> University of Oxford - www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation Nuffield Department of Medicine (NDM) - https://www.ndm.ox.ac.uk Unit - https://www.jenner.ac.uk/
What we offer	https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/staff-benefits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An excellent contributory pension scheme 38 days annual leave A comprehensive range of childcare services Family leave schemes Cycle loan scheme Discounted bus travel and Season Ticket travel loans Membership to a variety of social and sports clubs A welcoming and diverse community



**Athena
SWAN**
Silver Award



The role

The Jenner Institute is seeking to appoint a Research Assistant to join the Malaria Group led by Professor Adrian Hill. This role will primarily involve research pertaining to the Malaria Vaccine Programme, but may offer support to other programmes within the Jenner Institute as required.

The research groups at the Jenner Institute are focused on developing innovative vaccine candidates against the malaria parasite, testing them in pre-clinical studies with an aim to progress the most promising candidates to clinical trials. A number of vaccine candidates are currently being tested in Phase I/IIa clinical trials in Oxford. These include vaccines against both *Plasmodium falciparum* and *Plasmodium vivax*. We actively collaborate with a large number of academic and industrial partners. The research group has a strong translational focus, seeking to develop innovative and new concepts in vaccine or antibody-based design and delivery. Over the last 10 years we have translated nine vaccine candidates, including viral vectors and virus-like particle-based vaccines, into Phase Ia and IIa clinical trials in the UK and Africa. A phase III multi-centre trial started recruitment in 2021 for the R21 malaria vaccine which was recently approved by the WHO in October 2023. We aim to foster scientific excellence within a friendly, open and free-thinking environment. There is a strong translational emphasis, with full integration of the clinical and laboratory teams.

The position involves supporting research in the Malaria Vaccine groups within the Jenner Institute for the development and assessment of multi-stage malaria vaccine candidates against *Plasmodium falciparum* and *Plasmodium vivax*. You will provide support in research design, methodological development, and the analysis and reporting of experimental data. You will primarily support the assessment of new target antigens as vaccine candidates for the Malaria Vaccine Programme using the some of the most advanced technologies in some of the following areas: immunology, biochemistry, molecular biology, proteomics, bioinformatics, genomics and other important areas related to vaccine development. The promising vaccine candidates will be expressed using the most suitable vaccine platforms such as viral vector vaccines, recombinant proteins, virus-like particle (VLP), or mRNA. You will assist with the assessment of vaccine candidates for their safety and immunogenicity preclinically in vitro or in animal models.

Responsibilities

You will:

- Participate in the research programme to identify, design and assess new target antigens as vaccine candidates.
- Contribute to the generation and assessment of vaccine candidates using the most suitable platform including: viral vector vaccines, mRNA, recombinant protein or virus-like particle (VLP) vaccines and wider project planning, including ideas for new research projects.
- Determine the most appropriate methodologies to test hypothesis.
- Select, follow, and adapt experimental protocols.
- Gather, analyse, and present scientific data from a variety of sources. Contribute to scientific reports and journal articles and the presentation of data/papers.
- Perform research work to a high standard using techniques such as cell culture, protein expression, purification and analysis, advanced microscopy (e.g. TEM, IFA, Western Blot, and Fluorescence microscopy).
- Support the evaluation of the safety and immunogenicity of vaccine candidates in vitro and animal models.
- Undertake pathogen and cell culture in biosafety category 2 and 3 laboratories as appropriate.
- Assist senior members working on related projects.



- Contribute to discussions and share research findings with colleagues in local pre-clinical and clinical teams, partner institutions, research groups and funders.

Further Responsibilities

- Act at all times in the interests of the Institute to ensure good clinical practice.
- Be accountable for personal professional conduct within the project.
- Undertake such other duties as may be required from time to time that are commensurate with the grade and responsibilities of this post.
- Ensure that work in the laboratory is conducted safely and, in particular, that work is undertaken using appropriate safety procedures and in the dedicated areas.
- Be continually monitored after being trained to ensure that the required standard of accuracy and efficiency is maintained.
- Accord due regard to the University Equal Opportunities and Data Protection policies.

Selection criteria

Essential

- A first degree in a relevant biological subject (or equivalent) with a keen interest in malaria and immunology of infectious diseases.
- Knowledge and understanding of immunology and vaccinology.
- Knowledge of practical immunological assays (e.g. ELISA, ELISpot, Flow Cytometry, Immuno-Fluorescence staining Assay (IFA), etc.).
- Self-motivated, technically competent and capable of working independently in a laboratory.
- Keen attention to detail and able to process samples to a consistently high standard.
- Excellent organisational skills and ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously.
- Experience of or desire to learn pathogen and cell culture techniques.
- Excellent communication skills, including the ability to write text that can be published, present data at conferences, and represent the research group at meetings. Good computer skills – primarily using Microsoft Office platforms such as Excel and Word.

Desirable

- Experience of *in vivo* work with high competence in animal welfare and handling techniques, different procedures and injection routes.
- Interest to perform *in vivo* work.
- Experience with basic microscopy techniques
- Experience with or knowledge of malaria parasites and other infectious and cancerous diseases.
- Experience of aseptic techniques, particularly mammalian cell culture.



Pre-employment screening

Standard checks

If you are offered the post, the offer will be subject to standard pre-employment checks. You will be asked to provide: proof of your right-to-work in the UK; proof of your identity; and (if we haven't done so already) 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 for which you may need us to make appropriate adjustments.

Please read the candidate notes on the University's pre-employment screening procedures at: <https://www.jobs.ox.ac.uk/pre-employment-checks>

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, and the offer of employment will be subject a successful outcome of this assessment.

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

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



- Standard Manual handling

Additional security pre-employment checks

This job includes duties that will require additional security pre-employment checks:

- A satisfactory basic Disclosure and Barring Service check
- University security screening (eg identity checks)

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>.

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.

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). 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. Please note using a long file name may prevent you from uploading your documents.

- http://www.ox.ac.uk/about_the_university/jobs/research/

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

Application FAQs, including technical troubleshooting advice is available at: <https://staff.web.ox.ac.uk/recruitment-support-faqs>. Non-technical questions about this job should be addressed to the recruiting department directly recruitment@ndm.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 online recruitment portal 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: <https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/job-applicant-privacy-policy>. The University's Policy on Data Protection is available at: <https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/data-protection-policy>.



The University's policy on retirement

The University operates an Employer Justified Retirement Age (EJRA) for very senior research posts at **grade RSIV/D35 and clinical equivalents E62 and E82**, which with effect from 1 October 2023 will be 30 September before the 70th birthday. The justification for this is explained at: <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/the-ejra>.

For **existing** employees on these grades, any employment beyond the retirement age is subject to approval through the procedures: <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/the-ejra>.

There is no normal or fixed age at which staff in posts at other grades 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.

