



NUFFIELD DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY CARE HEALTH SCIENCES

Job Description

Summary

Job title	Research Assistant
Division	Medical Sciences
Department	Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences
Location	Radcliffe Primary Care Building, Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, Woodstock Road, Oxford, OX2 6GG
Grade and salary	Grade 6: £32,332 to £38,205 per annum
Hours	Full or Part Time (minimum 18.75 hours a week, working pattern negotiable)
Contract type	Fixed-term for two years in the first instance
Reporting to	Dr Rachel Pechey, Associate Professor, Sustainable and Healthy Food Group
Vacancy reference	BZ24028 - 172148

Research topic	Sustainable and Healthy Diets
Principal Investigator / supervisor	Rachel Pechey
Project team	Sustainable and Healthy Food Group, Health Behaviours
Funding partner	The funds supporting this research project are provided by Wellcome Trust and Royal Society (via a Henry Dale fellowship)
Recent publications	<p>Pechey et al (2022). Impact of increasing the relative availability of meat-free options on food selection: two natural field experiments and an online randomised trial. https://doi.org/10.1186/s12966-021-01239-z</p> <p>Pechey et al (2022). Testing the effectiveness of ecolabels to reduce the environmental impact of food purchases in worksite cafeterias: A randomised controlled trial. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.appet.2022.106277.</p> <p>Bandy et al (2022) Changes in the salt content of packaged foods sold in supermarkets between 2015–2020 in the United Kingdom: A repeated cross-sectional study.. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1004114</p>



The role

The role is within the Health Behaviours team (<https://www.phc.ox.ac.uk/research/research-themes/health-behaviours-theme/health-behaviours>). The team works to develop and test population and individual-level interventions to improve diet, tobacco control and obesity-related disease, and supporting studies including systematic reviews and epidemiological analyses. Our team is multidisciplinary, with contributions from nutrition scientists and dietitians, psychologists, general practitioners, epidemiologists, and economists. The team is co-led by Professor Susan Jebb, Professor Peter Scarborough, and Professor Paul Aveyard and the post holder will work within the Sustainable Healthy Food Group (<https://www.phc.ox.ac.uk/research/diet-data-and-interventions-group>).

The post holder will work to support and develop research studies aiming to encourage healthier and more sustainable food purchasing and consumption, primarily supporting projects led by others. The research methods would include routine quantitative data collection, analysis using standards methods, and drafting papers for publication. The post holder would be expected to assist with engaging the public to inform research and disseminating the outcomes to academic audiences and other stakeholders such as policymakers and the public.

The postholder will most likely have a background in nutrition, psychology, public health, epidemiology or behavioural sciences. This post is suitable for those completing, or who have recently completed a master's qualification who are considering further doctoral studies in the future.

The Health Behaviours team is a vibrant and expanding group, principally concentrating on intervention studies that aim to achieve healthier and more sustainable diets, reduce the burden of obesity-related disease, or promote smoking cessation. We believe collaboration is essential to improve our applied science and so are mostly working on site.

Responsibilities

- Manage own research and administrative activities, within guidelines provided by senior colleagues
- Contribute to wider project planning, including ideas for new research projects
- Select, follow, and adapt specialist methodologies to confirm or refute theories
- Contribute to the design of research materials and make arrangements for data gathering
- Gather, analyse, and present qualitative and/or quantitative data from a variety of sources
- If required, undertake comprehensive and systematic literature reviews and write up the results for publication in peer-reviewed journals or for presentation at conferences or public meetings
- Contribute to research publications, book chapters and reviews
- Responsible for the day-to-day administration of the research project
- Represent the research group at external meetings/seminars, either with other members of the group or alone

- Contribute to discussions and share research findings with colleagues in partner institutions, and research groups

Selection criteria

Essential selection criteria

- Hold a relevant master's degree (or be close to completion), or have equivalent work experience
- Evidence of academic attainment such as a good first degree, prizes or publications
- Demonstrate sufficient knowledge (in nutrition, psychology, public health, epidemiology or behavioural sciences) to work within established research programmes
- Evidence of good organisational skills and ability to manage own research and administrative activities
- Excellent communication skills, preferably including experience of writing and/or presenting for both specialist and non-specialist audiences
- Strong quantitative skills, including experience in conducting statistical analyses

Desirable selection criteria

- Experience across all stages of research projects, from ethical approval through to publication and dissemination
- Experience of working in a research team
- Experience in intervention development and/or testing, particularly in field trials

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>

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.

Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences

A top ranked centre for academic primary care in the UK, we lead world-class research and training to rethink the way healthcare is delivered in general practice and other primary care settings, both across the UK and globally. Integrating evidence and innovation, our main research focus is on enhancing prevention, early diagnosis and management of common illness.

Our research is led by internationally renowned scientists, many of whom are practising GPs and primary care clinicians, but many others are psychologists, epidemiologists, sociologists, and public health academics. We cover the broad range of issues that you might expect to address in the community, including cardiovascular and metabolic disease, infectious diseases and childhood illness, diet, smoking and cancer. We also focus on understanding and improving the experiences of patients, rigorously evaluating the effectiveness of treatments and diagnostics, utilising big data, developing digital health interventions and working internationally. We have methodological expertise in novel clinical trial design and implementation, clinical decision making and diagnostics, clinical epidemiology, medical statistics, behavioural science, modelling, qualitative research and the wider application of social science theory and methods to address practical and theoretical challenges in health and care settings.

The department was established in October 1998 (as the Department of Primary Health Care) with the appointment of a foundation chair in general practice, and was made a free-standing department in 2011 with the first Oxford statutory chair in primary care. We provide a strong multi-disciplinary training environment, a full programme of academic support and good IT facilities. Our ability to collaborate with other epidemiological and community based research groups across the University and with GP surgeries locally and nationally enables us to utilise a broad range of relevant expertise into our teaching and research.

Our main research themes coalesce around cardiovascular disease and diabetes, infection, cancer, health behaviours, and digital health, with several cross-cutting themes, including disease prevention, early diagnosis, and patient self-management, big data and new clinical themes. We place inclusivity and diversity at the forefront of our approach to research from design and conduct through to the dissemination of our findings.

The department has exceptional infrastructure, including the long-established Primary Care Clinical Trials Unit, one of the most expert CTU's for trials conducted in community settings. We also host the Oxford Institute for Digital Health, the Bennett Institute for Applied Data Science, the Oxford Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine; the Interdisciplinary Research in Health Sciences research group (which uses both quantitative and qualitative methods to examine the human, organisational and societal issues relating to the delivery of healthcare and the improvement of health services) and the Medical Sociology and Health Experiences Research Group (MS&HERG), which is a centre of excellence in qualitative research methods and conducts studies of experiences of health and illness, digital health and organisation and delivery of care. The department is a founding member of the National Institute for Health Care Research (NIHR) School of Primary Care Research, houses both the NIHR Applied Research Collaboration (ARC), Oxford Thames Valley and the NIHR MedTech and In Vitro Diagnostics Co-operative (MIC), and leads several themes of the Oxford University Hospital and Oxford Health BRCs. In terms of methodologies, as well as our critical mass of social scientists and computer/information scientists, the department supports one of the largest groups of medical statisticians in medical sciences and a growing team of health economists.

Clinicians in our department teach a number of threads in the undergraduate course in Medicine and we place students in GP practices as part of their training. We run a very successful, well established MSc programme in Evidence Based Health Care, and a new MSc in Translational Health Science with the Department of Continuing Education. In 2023 we will accept students to a new MSc in Applied Digital Health and to an MSc in Global Health Care Leadership run in partnership with the Said Business School.

The University of Oxford is a member of the Athena Swan Charter to promote women in Science, Engineering, Technology and Medicine and holds an Athena Swan Silver award at institutional level. The Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences holds a departmental Gold Athena Swan award (awarded in March 2023 and the first Gold in the University of Oxford) to recognise advancement of gender equality: representation, progression and success for all.

The Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences currently holds a Gold National Union of Students (NUS) Green Impact award. Green Impact is an environmental accreditation scheme championed by the National Union of Students and is designed to support environmentally and socially sustainable practice. The department supports sustainability initiatives in the following areas: supporting and leading change; energy; water; materials and waste; sustainable travel; biodiversity and nature; and food.

Our staff are mostly located in the superbly renovated Grade II listed Radcliffe Primary Care Building on the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter (ROQ), the University's most prestigious development site for a generation, and close to the city centre (see <http://www.ox.ac.uk/roq/> for more information). Some staff are located nearby in the Gibson Building at the ROQ and some, including clinical teachers are based in Eagle House nearby off Walton Street.

Car parking is very restricted at both sites with only a small percentage of staff being granted an annual parking permit and priority being given to those with access needs. Bus Pass, Train Pass, bicycle loans and Season Ticket Loan Schemes are all in operation for staff.

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

Medical Sciences Division

The Medical Sciences Division is an internationally recognised 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: <http://www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/>

How to apply

Applications are made through our online recruitment portal. Information about how to apply is available 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)

If you are applying for a research post and you have had periods of working part-time, please indicate this on your CV or in your supporting statement. This will ensure that any outputs such as publications are fairly judged when considered alongside the expected outputs of full-time workers.

Where posts are advertised full-time, we **may** be able to consider part-time working or job share arrangements depending on the requirements of the role. If you want to work part-time and this option is not expressly stated in the advert or job information, please email hr@phc.ox.ac.uk to enquire whether the role you are applying for might be available on a part-time basis.

Please upload all documents **as PDF files** with your name and the document type in the filename.

Please do not upload full published papers or certificates as part of your supporting documents.

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@phc.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** of 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.

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 dependants. 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 the Work+Family Space, 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.

Oxford Research Staff Society (OxRSS)

A society run by and for Oxford University research staff. It offers researchers a range of social and professional networking opportunities. Membership is free, and all researchers employed by Oxford University are welcome to join. Subscribe at researchstaff-subscribe@maillist.ox.ac.uk to join the mailing list to find out about upcoming events and other information for researchers, or contact the committee on committee@oxrss.ox.ac.uk. For more information, see www.ox.ac.uk/oxrss, Twitter @ResStaffOxford, and Facebook www.facebook.com/oxrss.