

Job description

Job title	Midwifery Researcher – UKMidSS/PRU - MNHC
Division	Medical Sciences Division
Department	Oxford Population Health (Nuffield Department of Population Health, University of Oxford)
Location	Old Road Campus, Headington, Oxford, OX3 7LF
Grade and salary	Grade 7: £36,024 - £44,263
Hours	Part time 60% FTE
Contract type	Fixed term (2 years)
Reporting to	Rachel Rowe
Vacancy reference	172886



About Oxford Population Health

Oxford Population Health (the Nuffield Department of Population Health) provides an excellent environment for multi-disciplinary research and teaching and for professional and support staff. We work together to answer some of the most important questions about the causes, prevention and treatment of disease.

The Department has around 900 staff, students and academic visitors working in a number of world-renowned population health research groups, including the Clinical Trial Service Unit and Epidemiological Studies Unit (CTSU), the Cancer Epidemiology Unit (CEU), the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit (NPEU) and other groups working on public health, health economics, ethics and health record linkage. It is also a key partner in the Oxford University's Big Data Institute.

In the 2021 Research Excellence Framework (REF), 96% of the research submitted to Unit of Assessment 2: Public Health, Health Services and Primary Care, was ranked either 4* (world-leading in terms of originality, significance and rigour) or 3* (internationally excellent in terms of originality, significance and rigour). This comprised research from Oxford Population Health and research from the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences. We scored particularly well for having an environment that is conducive to producing research of world-leading quality and enabling outstanding impact, in terms of its vitality and sustainability.

In addition to its research activities, the Department is home to the [MSc in Global Health Science and Epidemiology](#), the [MSc in Clinical Trials](#), and a variety of short courses. Students also come to undertake research for [DPhil degrees](#). Teaching is provided for undergraduates reading for Medicine and for public health doctors in specialist training.

For more information please visit the [Oxford Population Health website](#)

About the Medical Sciences Division

The Medical Sciences Division is an internationally recognised centre of excellence for biomedical and clinical research and teaching, and 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 the [Medical Sciences Division website](#).

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 the [Oxford University website](#).

National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit

The NPEU is an internationally recognised, multi-disciplinary research unit based within the Nuffield Department of Population Health at the University of Oxford, Old Road Campus in Headington, Oxford. The Unit undertakes research about pregnancy, childbirth and newborn babies. This is reflected in the backgrounds of the people working in the Unit (obstetrics, midwifery, paediatrics, epidemiology, social science, economics, statistics, programming, plus administrative and clerical staff). Funding is provided by grants from a variety of sources including the Department of Health Policy Research Programme, the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), other funding agencies and medical research charities.

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

The Policy Research Unit in Maternal and Neonatal Health and Care (PRU-MNHC) has been based in the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit (NPEU) at the University of Oxford for the past 13 years. We are a team of experts in the fields of maternal and newborn health research, with team members also based in the Universities of Birmingham, Leicester, Manchester, Open University and Cardiff, as well as Imperial College and University College, London. Our mission is to produce high quality research to improve the care provided by the NHS to women, babies and families during pregnancy, birth and early childhood. We aim to reduce deaths and severe illness, and improve women's and families' health and experiences, through working in partnership with parents, policymakers, doctors and midwives. Our new programme of work began in January 2024, funded by the Policy Research Programme at the Department of Health and Social Care (England) via the National Institute for Health and Care Research. For more information please visit <https://www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/pru-mnhc>

The role

This is an exciting opportunity for an experienced midwifery researcher to join a team working on studies carried out using the UK Midwifery Study System (UKMidSS), funded through the NIHR Policy Research Unit in Maternal and Neonatal Health and Care (PRU-MNHC). UKMidSS is a UK-wide infrastructure which enables national studies and surveys of practice in alongside and freestanding midwifery units across the UK.

The post-holder will be based in the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit (NPEU) and will be part of a team of researchers working on other PRU-MNHC projects. The role requires an experienced and self-motivated current or past midwife with significant quantitative research and organisational skills and experience. The post-holder will have responsibility for the day-to-day management of UKMidSS data collection helping to ensure that UKMidSS studies run smoothly. This will require excellent communication skills and good attention to detail.

Responsibilities

- Work with the Head of UKMidSS and the wider team to support the design and conduct of UKMidSS studies and surveys, develop research questions, data collection forms and to ensure the successful administration of UKMidSS studies.
- Co-ordinate and manage UKMidSS data collection to ensure the smooth running of the studies and streamline these, or develop additional systems/procedures, as required.
- Manage and resolve data queries efficiently and code freetext data.
- Conduct data management, cleaning, and analysis of quantitative data for UKMidSS studies (e.g. descriptive analysis, univariable and multivariable regression).
- Be the 'first point of contact' for midwives reporting data and contacting us with queries.
- Draft research papers, reports and other outputs, including infographics and conference papers.
- Maintain and apply for necessary approvals (e.g. research ethics) and compile research ethics reports as required.
- Arrange meetings of the UKMidSS Steering Group (in person and online), including planning the agenda and preparing materials, and take minutes at these meetings.
- Contribute to the planning and organising of UKMidSS Study Days.
- Represent UKMidSS and the PRU-MNHC at conferences, meetings and internal NPEU meetings as necessary.
- Ensure that UKMidSS reporters and other stakeholders are kept up-to-date with the progress of studies, by drafting newsletters and material for the project website and other communications as required.
- Contribute ideas for new research projects.
- To contribute, as required to the wider academic activities of the Nuffield Department of Population Health (including teaching, student mentoring or supervision, and assessment) and to participate in appropriate training and quality assurance processes for such roles.

The above list is not exhaustive and the role-holder is required to undertake such duties as may reasonably be requested within the scope of the post. All staff are required to act in a professional, cooperative and flexible manner, in line with the requirements of the post.

Selection criteria

Essential

- A Masters degree including a substantial component of research methods
- Substantial relevant research experience
- Current or past registration as a midwife on the UK NMC register
- Experience of managing quantitative data collection for research and analysing data using univariable regression or similar
- Experience of designing, conducting and analysing surveys
- Ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously while effectively meeting deadlines
- Familiarity with STATA or other statistical analysis packages (e.g. SPSS, SAS)
- Excellent communication skills, verbal and written, with good attention to detail
- Evidence of preparing documents for publication and drafting manuscripts and other written material
- Ability to work independently and to work effectively and collaboratively in a multi-disciplinary team

Desirable

- A PhD in a health-related science
- Experience of clinical practice in a midwifery-led birth setting
- Experience in the development of new research projects

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 have not 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.

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](#).

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 your CV and supporting statement **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 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).

If you need help

Help and support is available from the [HR Systems Recruitment support webpage](#). If you require any further assistance please [email the Recruitment Support team](#).

To return to the online application at any stage, please go to the [University's recruitment website](#). 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](#). The University's Policy on Data Protection is available on the [University's Compliance webpages](#).

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 69th birthday for all academic and academic-related staff in posts at grade 8 and above. The justification for this is explained at: <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/the-ejra>

For existing employees, 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 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.

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.

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. There is also a [visa loan scheme](#) to cover the costs of UK visa applications for staff and their dependents.

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.

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 the [Childcare Services webpages](#).

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 the [Disability Support webpages](#).

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 on the [Equality and Diversity at Oxford webpages](#).

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.