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Summary

Job title	Research Assistant
Division	Social Sciences Division
Department	Oxford Internet Institute
Location	1 St Giles – Oxford - OX1 3JS
Grade and salary	Grade 6:7 £38,205 per annum pro rata
Hours	Variable Hours
Contract type	Fixed-term for 11 weeks
Reporting to	Dr Lulu Shi & Dr Fabian Stephany
Vacancy reference	173448
Additional Information	This role will not attract sufficient points to obtain a sponsored Skilled Worker visa under the UK Visa & Immigration points based system. Applications are welcome from candidates who do not currently have the right to work in the UK, but who can demonstrate they will be eligible to obtain a valid work visa via another route.

Research topic	Augmented Learning or Automated Control? Revealing the Functions, Features, and Skills Affected by AI-based EdTech
Principal Investigator / supervisor	Dr Lulu Shi & Dr Fabian Stephany
Project web site	https://www.oii.ox.ac.uk/research/projects/augmented-learning-or-automated-control/
Funding partner	The funds supporting this research project are provided by The Dieter Schwarz Foundation

The role

The post holder will report to Dr Lulu Shi and will be a member of a research group with responsibility for the provision of research support for data collection and analysis. The post holder will work on a project "Augmented Learning or Automated Control? Revealing the Functions, Features, and Skills Affected by AI-based EdTech". This project investigates which tasks and skills are affected by the use of AI technologies in the education sector across OECD countries.

To do this the team will use download, reviews, and ratings data of education related apps from the Google Play Store and Apple App Store. The post holder will work on data scraping and data to gain an understanding of which aspects in the education sector is currently being digitalised and automated.

Responsibilities

- Manage own research within guidelines provided by senior colleagues
- Contribute to the design of research materials and make arrangements for data gathering
- Gather, analyse, and present quantitative data from online sources
- Contribute to research publications

Selection criteria

Essential selection criteria

The post holder should possess sufficient specialist knowledge and skills in the following areas:

1. Strong proficiency in Python and related libraries such as BeautifulSoup and Selenium
2. Experience in web scraping using Python and related libraries
3. Proficiency in working with R
4. Proficiency in working with databases (SQL, NoSQL) and Docker
5. Understanding of HTTP requests and responses, web page structure, and HTML/CSS
6. Knowledge of Git and version control systems
7. Experience with Natural Language Processing in either R or Python (e.g., Zero Shot Model for language analysis).
8. Experience in regression and time series analysis, hierarchical and k-means clustering
9. Experience with building dashboards and data visualisation

Desirable selection criteria

1. Knowledge in social sciences
2. Knowledge on how to visualise data
3. Experience of contributing to research publications
4. Experience of working in a research team and contributing ideas for 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 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.

The Oxford Internet Institute (OII)

The Oxford Internet Institute – founded in 2001 - is a multidisciplinary research and teaching department of the University of Oxford, dedicated to the social science of the Internet. Digital connections are now embedded in almost every aspect of our daily lives, and research on individual and collective behaviour online is crucial to understanding our social, economic, and political world.

Research: We have unprecedented access to a huge volume of rich social data, and are developing new theories, concepts and methods to analyse it.

Teaching: Our Masters and doctoral programmes bring students from all over the world, to work with our faculty at the cutting edge of their fields.

Policy: We provide the empirical data and conceptual analysis that is so needed to design policy solutions to societal problems.

Our academic faculty and graduate students are drawn from many different disciplines: we believe this combined approach is essential to tackle society's 'big questions'. Together, we aim to positively shape the development of our digital world for the public good.

The OII aims to operate at the cutting edge in both quantitative and qualitative methodologies that cut across disciplines and topics. The core of our activity is to develop rigorous peer-reviewed research and disseminate the outputs in high-quality journals, while ensuring that research helps inform and shape policy and practice.

Our research focuses on areas critical to the public interest and has already delivered significant impact. Our faculty were among the first to draw the world's attention to "fake news" and defined the concept of "big data". They have undertaken ground-breaking research into technology and wellbeing using real-time industry data and persuaded major global firms to adopt a new methods and practices. And OII researchers have developed the first global ratings system for firms operating in the gig economy and had a significant role in influencing the online harms debate in the UK.

Our four teaching programmes graduate around 80 students a year across our two MSc programmes in addition to around five doctoral students. Many of our talented alumni go on to perform important roles and achieve significant accomplishments in the world of policymaking, technology development, civil society and academia.

In 2025, the OII is expected to take up residence in the new Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities, moving from our current location across three sites on St Giles.

For more information about the Oxford Internet Institute please visit https://www.oii.ox.ac.uk/.

Social Sciences Division

The Oxford Internet Institute is a department within the Social Sciences Division, one of four academic Divisions in the University, each with considerable devolved budgetary and financial authority, and responsibility for providing a broad strategic focus across its constituent disciplines.

The Social Sciences Division represents the largest grouping of social sciences in the UK. It is home to outstanding departments and to the internationally ranked Law Faculty; all are committed to research to develop a greater understanding of all aspects of society, from the impact of political, legal and economic systems on social and economic welfare to human rights and security. That research is disseminated through innovative graduate programmes and enhances undergraduate courses.

For more information please visit http://www.socsci.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)

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

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 OII *Recruitment recruit@oii.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.

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 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.