



**THE JENNER
INSTITUTE**
DEVELOPING INNOVATIVE VACCINES



Job title	Research Assistant
Division	Medical Sciences
Department	Nuffield Department of Medicine
Location	Jenner Institute, Old Road Campus Research Building, Headington, Oxford, OX3 7DQ
Grade and salary	Research Grade 6: Salary in range £34,982 - £40,855 per annum. This is inclusive of a pensionable Oxford University Weighting of £1,500 per year.
Hours	Full time
Contract type	Fixed-term contract until 31 December 2026 Funding is provided by the UltiMalVax Fund and Calleva Funds
Reporting to	Cesar Lopez-Camacho - mRNA Technology Programme Leader
Vacancy reference	178320

Additional information	This role meets the eligibility requirements for a Skilled Worker Certificate of Sponsorship or may be eligible for Global Talent Visa under UK Visas and Immigration legislation.
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 - 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 pensionable Oxford University Weighting allowance of £1,500 per annum (pro rata) 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

We are seeking a skilled Research Assistant to support the mRNA technology programme and the Pre-erythrocytic Malaria Group at the Jenner Institute.

The position involves contributing to research focused on the development and assessment of multi-stage malaria vaccine candidates targeting *Plasmodium falciparum* and *Plasmodium vivax*. You will provide support in research design, methodological development, data analysis, and reporting of experimental findings.

Your primary role will be to assist in evaluating new target antigens as potential vaccine candidates for the Malaria Vaccine Programme, utilising some of the most advanced technologies in the following areas: immunology, biochemistry, molecular biology, proteomics, bioinformatics, and genomics, among other fields relevant to vaccine development.

Promising vaccine candidates will be expressed using the most suitable vaccine platforms, including viral vector vaccines, recombinant proteins, virus-like particles (VLPs), or mRNA. Additionally, you will assist in assessing the safety and immunogenicity of vaccine candidates through preclinical in vitro studies and in vivo models.

Responsibilities

You will:

- Participate in research to identify, design, and evaluate new target antigens as vaccine candidates.
- Contribute to vaccine development, including the generation and assessment of candidates using viral vector, mRNA, recombinant protein, or virus-like particle (VLP) platforms, while also supporting broader project planning and proposing new research directions.
- Determine appropriate methodologies to test hypotheses effectively.
- Select, follow, and adapt experimental protocols as needed.
- Collect, analyse, and present scientific data from various sources.
- Contribute to scientific reports and presentations for conferences and publications.
- Conduct high-quality research using techniques such as cell culture, protein expression, purification, and advanced microscopy (e.g., TEM, IFA, Western Blot, Fluorescence Microscopy).
- Support the assessment of vaccine safety and immunogenicity in in vitro and in vivo models.
- Work in biosafety level 2 and 3 laboratories, conducting pathogen and cell culture experiments as required.
- Assist senior researchers in related projects and collaborations.
- Participate in and support the public engagement and widening access activities of the Department and the University. This is anticipated to be not more than 2 days per year.
- Undertake mandatory training as required by the University, Division and Department. The specific list of training courses may change from time-to-time, in response to both legal and internal University requirements.



Selection criteria

Essential

- A degree in a relevant biological field (or equivalent).
- A strong interest in malaria and the immunology of infectious diseases.
- Proficiency in practical immunological assays, including ELISA, ELISpot, Flow Cytometry, and Immuno-Fluorescence Assay (IFA).
- Highly independent and detail-oriented, with strong technical skills, high-quality sample processing, and the ability to manage multiple projects efficiently.
- Excellent analytical and communication skills, with expertise in data interpretation, reporting, and scientific writing.

Desirable

- Experience in preclinical work with high competence in animal welfare and handling techniques, different procedures and injection routes.
- PIL Licence
- Experience with basic microscopy techniques
- Experience with or knowledge of malaria parasites and other infectious and cancerous diseases.



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 to a successful outcome of this assessment.

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

- Lone Working
- Work in hot or cold environments
- Regular manual handling
- Working with infectious pathogens (hazard group 2/3) - Hazard Group 3 pathogens
- 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:



- Travel outside of Europe or North America on University Business

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.

If you currently work for the University please note that:

- As part of the referencing process, we will contact your current department to confirm basic employment details including reason for leaving.
- Although employees may hold multiple part-time posts, they may not hold more than the equivalent of a full time post. If you are offered this post, and accepting it would take you over the equivalent of full-time hours, you will be expected to resign from, or reduce hours in, your other posts(s) before starting work in the new post.

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.

