

## Job description and selection criteria

<b>Job title</b>	Postdoctoral Researcher Data Scientist
<b>Division</b>	Medical Sciences
<b>Department</b>	Paediatrics
<b>Location</b>	John Radcliffe Hospital, Headley Way, Headington, Oxford OX3 9DU, STRONG Offices Level 3 Hybrid working on a 50% basis may be possible.
<b>Grade and salary</b>	Research grade 7: £38,674 - £46,913 per annum (with a discretionary range to £51,059 per annum)
<b>Hours</b>	Full-time Part-time appointments may be considered (minimum 0.9 FTE)
<b>Contract type</b>	Fixed-term for 12 months
<b>Reporting to</b>	Professor Laurent Servais, <i>Professor of Paediatric Neuromuscular Diseases</i>
<b>Vacancy reference</b>	178537
<b>Additional information</b>	<i>Applications are to be made online, please see the advert for the closing date.</i>

<b>Research topic</b>	Innovative Outcome Measures
<b>Principal Investigator / supervisor</b>	Prof. Laurent Servais
<b>Project team</b>	Specialised Translational Research Oxford Neuromuscular Group: STRONG
<b>Project web site</b>	<a href="https://www.paediatrics.ox.ac.uk/research/strong">https://www.paediatrics.ox.ac.uk/research/strong</a>
<b>Funding partner</b>	The funds supporting this research project are provided by CHU of Liege
<b>Recent publications</b>	<a href="https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-024-80177-9">https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-024-80177-9</a>

## The role

This role is an exciting opportunity for a postdoctoral research data scientist to join the fast-growing Specialised Translational Research Oxford Neuromuscular Group (STRONG), based in the department of paediatrics, University of Oxford. STRONG is involved in several innovative trials in neuromuscular disorders and Angelman syndrome and leading ambitious programs in digital biomarker discovery and genetic screening of neonates. These studies are supported by funding from the EU, partners in the pharmaceutical industry, as well as charities such as MDUK, FAST UK, and DMD Hub.

Our team is specialised in innovative outcome measures using magneto-inertial technologies in the rare disease field. We have gathered a significant amount of data in several conditions like Angelman syndrome- and we are gathering more data in other conditions. The role of the research will be to propose new ways of analysing or presenting the data.

The researcher will also be involved in data analysis of trials conducted by our team as sponsor-including the validation of the SAP and the STAT report.

## Flexible working

The postholder will be based at the STRONG offices at the John Radcliffe Hospital. It is expected that the postholder will work on-site at least two days per week to keep a close contact with the rest of the team and the researchers. Hybrid working for two to three days per week may be possible. Part-time appointments may be considered (minimum 0.9 FTE).

## Responsibilities

- Creation, maintenance and implementation of a statistical analysis plan for internal studies. Being a point of contact for any queries relating to data collection during the internal study and being an expert on what is required for analysis
- Following the end of internal studies, the post holder will be responsible for writing of the statistic report and to be involved in writing publications for internal studies
- Propose new methods of data analysis including based on machine learning on Angelman raw data issued from Syde sensor
- Participate to the development of data federation platform for Angelman and Nemaline myopathy projects. Providing expert advice on data analysis
- Manage own academic research and administrative activities. This involves small scale project management, to co-ordinate multiple aspects of work to meet deadlines

## Selection criteria

### Essential

- A DPhil/PhD, or near completion, in a relevant field
- Excellent training in data management and statistic
- Track record of oral and written presentation in English
- Previous hands-on experience with machine-learning based analysis
- Track record of independent work to solve new issues
- Decision-making, problem-solving, planning and organising skills

- Capacity of handling large or heterogenous data set
- High ethical and scientific standard to deal with personal and medical data
- Willingness to occasionally travel outside of the UK for conferences

## **Desirable**

- Experience in the domain of rare disease

## **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. If you have previously worked for the University we will also verify key information such as your dates of employment and reason for leaving your previous role with the department/unit where you worked. 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:

- Lone Working due to possible hybrid working

### **Additional security pre-employment checks**

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

- This role requires an honorary contract. The department will support the successful candidate in obtaining this where required and appropriate
- A satisfactory basic Disclosure and Barring Service check due to the nature of this position due to working with highly sensitive data
- University security screening (e.g. identity 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](http://www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation).

## Specialised Translational Research Oxford Neuromuscular Group: STRONG

Our group aims to conduct and design best clinical trials in neuromuscular diseases; accelerate clinical trial development through innovative outcome measures and newborn screening; understand progress of the disease and apply personalised care; connect with families and act as a strong reference point; assess effectiveness of current treatment therapies; minimise undiagnosed cases and time to targeted intervention.

Our activity covers clinical trials and clinical research- mostly based on newborn screening and natural history studies

## Department of Paediatrics

The Department of Paediatrics is a world leader in child health research and hosts internationally renowned research programmes in drug development, gastroenterology, haematology, HIV, immunology, neuroimaging, neuromuscular diseases and vaccinology. Our work spans from early proof-of concept fundamental science, all the way up to its application in clinical settings.

We continue to shape the landscape of medical science through positively impacting the lives of millions of children from our global research programmes, academic resources, and commitment to success. Our broad research base positions the department in a pivotal role and subsequently a world leader in child health. With research facilitates in the UK and abroad, we work on a global scale, building a paediatric network in the medical science community. We are committed to inform and inspire external audiences worldwide through our public engagement and outreach activities.

In 2021, we successfully administered a grant value of £130,895,28 obtained through 168 projects. Our strong relationship with funding bodies have also been a contributor to the successes and milestones in children's health research. With strong support from the Wellcome Trust, NIH, Cancer Research UK, UKRI, MDUK, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Academy of Medical Sciences and the NIHR, we have employed 360+ staff, researchers, and students. These figures continue to grow as we expand our activities to overcome the multitude of challenges within children's research health.

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

The Department of Paediatrics holds a Gold Athena Swan award to recognise advancement of gender equality: representation, progression and success for all.

## Medical Sciences Division

We are an internationally recognized 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: <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/three 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.

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 at [recruitment@paediatrics.ox.ac.uk](mailto:recruitment@paediatrics.ox.ac.uk) or using the contact details in the online advertisement.

To return to the online application at any stage, please go to: [www.recruit.ox.ac.uk](http://www.recruit.ox.ac.uk).

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 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 70<sup>th</sup> 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 including salary sacrifice schemes for bicycles and electric cars and other discounts. Staff can access a huge range of personal and professional development opportunities. See <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/staff-benefits>.

### Employee Assistance Programme

As part of our wellbeing offering staff get free access to Health Assured, a confidential employee assistance programme, available 24/7 for 365 days a year. Find out more <https://staff.admin.ox.ac.uk/health-assured-eap>.

### 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](http://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 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

We are a family-friendly employer with one of the most generous family leave schemes in the Higher Education sector (see <https://hr.web.ox.ac.uk/family-leave>). Our Childcare Services team provides guidance and support on childcare provision, and offers a range of high-quality childcare options at affordable prices for staff. In addition to 5 University nurseries, we partner with a number of local providers to offer in excess of 450 full time nursery places to our staff. Eligible parents are able to pay for childcare through salary sacrifice, further reducing costs. See <https://childcare.admin.ox.ac.uk/>.

### Supporting disability and health-related issues (inc menopause)

We are committed to supporting members of staff with disabilities or long-term health conditions, including those experiencing negative effects of menopause. Information about the University's Staff Disability Advisor, is at <https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/disability-support>. For information about how we support those going through menopause see <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/menopause-guidance>.

### Staff networks

The University has a number of staff networks including for research staff, BME staff, LGBT+ staff, disabled staff network and those going through menopause. Find out more 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](http://www.newcomers.ox.ac.uk).

## Research staff

The Researcher Hub supports all researchers on fixed-term contracts. They aim to help you settle in comfortably, make connections, grow as a person, extend your research expertise and approach your next career step with confidence. Find out more <https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/support-researchers/researcher-hub>.

Oxford's Research Staff Society is a collective voice for our researchers. They also organise social and professional networking activities for researchers. Find out more <https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/support-researchers/connecting-other-researchers/oxford-research-staff-society>.