The role

The Department of Economics, in partnership with Nuffield College, offers Postdoctoral Research Fellowship openings for candidates who already hold or are close to completing a PhD in a relevant field. The Fellowships are designed to offer early career researchers the opportunity to develop their research portfolio within one of the world’s leading Economics departments prior to entering the academic job market for tenure-track positions at major universities, including Oxford.

Oxford provides a vibrant environment for postdoctoral researchers: over 15 researchers currently hold postdoctoral positions within the Department. Many previous fellows have moved on to permanent faculty positions at leading universities in the US and Europe.

Fellowships are tenable for a fixed term of three years from September 2021; shorter appointments are considered only in exceptional circumstances. Fellows gain teaching experience via a minimal teaching load which will not exceed 30 hours annually. Consideration will be given to any field of specialization. Fellows have access to a Research Allowance of £2,819 p.a.

Responsibilities

For the Department of Economics

The postholder is required to perform the following duties to the satisfaction of the Head of Department:
• to engage in research of a quality commensurate with publication in leading international economics journals

• to develop and manage their own programme of independent research

• to present their research at international conferences and research workshops

• to play a full role in the intellectual life of the Department including working collaboratively with academic colleagues in areas of shared research interest, and taking part in Department seminars and workshops

• to provide up to 60 units of graduate or undergraduate teaching per annum (60 units is equivalent to 20 hours of lectures or 30 hours of TA-format class teaching) within the areas covered by the Department of Economics, as requested by the Head of Department

• to co-operate in the administration of teaching and research

• to examine as required by the appropriate committee for the nomination of examiners

For Nuffield College

The postholder is required to perform the following duties to the satisfaction of the Warden of Nuffield College:

• to participate in the intellectual life of the College by attending, and where possible by organising, seminars, workshops, conferences, and other academic events

• to act as mentors for graduate students, where appropriate

• to represent the College’s body of postdoctoral research fellows on one of the College’s committees and to take on College officerships, where appropriate.

Pre-employment screening

All offers of employment are made subject to standard pre-employment screening, as applicable to the post.

If you are offered the post, you will be asked to provide proof of your right-to-work, your identity, and 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 so that we can discuss appropriate adjustments with you), and a declaration of any unspent criminal convictions.

We advise all applicants to read the candidate notes on the University’s pre-employment screening procedures, found at: www.ox.ac.uk/about/jobs/preemploymentscreening/.
Selection criteria

Essential selection criteria

1. Hold a PhD in a relevant field or be close to completing a doctoral degree

2. Ability to present research findings effectively to fellow professionals and other informed members of the public

3. Ability to play a major part in developing the department’s and the College’s research programme

4. Ability to innovate and work effectively with colleagues

5. Ability to teach high-achieving graduate students, including doctoral students, to carry out student assessments, and to contribute to the delivery of Economics degree programmes

6. Willingness to contribute more generally to the intellectual life of the Department and the College; and

7. Excellent oral and written communication skills.

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. Income from external research contracts in 2016/17 exceeded £564m and we rank first in the UK for university spinouts, with more than 130 companies created to date. 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.
Department of Economics

The Department of Economics at the University of Oxford is one of the largest and most diverse groups of academic economists in Europe with a permanent faculty of nearly 50 and around 25 early career researchers on fixed-term appointments. Our members include some of the world’s most distinguished academic economists.

We aim to produce first-class research across the range of the discipline, organised within nine Research Groups, covering all the major sub-fields. The Research Groups promote and support high-quality research and interaction, and provide an active and supportive research environment for faculty and research students, including regular seminars/workshops. The Department is also home to several specialised economics research centres, including the world-renowned Centre for the Study of African Economies. In the most recent assessment of the research output of UK universities, REF 2014, Oxford had more research in economics and econometrics graded world-leading in terms of its originality, rigour and significance than any other UK institution.

Members of the Department provide economics teaching for three undergraduate programmes (including Oxford’s flagship Philosophy, Politics and Economics degree) and five graduate programmes including the MPhil and DPhil in Economics, with a total of around 1000 undergraduate and 330 graduate students.

For more information please visit: www.economics.ox.ac.uk.

Nuffield College

Nuffield College is a graduate college within the University of Oxford which was founded in 1937 and specialises in the Social Sciences, particularly Economics, Politics, and Sociology. It aims to be one of the world’s outstanding social science institutions, providing a stimulating research-orientated environment for postgraduate students, research fellows, and senior academics and promoting, according to its Charter, “the study by co-operation between academic and non-academic persons of social (including economic and political) problems”. About 30 students are admitted each year to undertake both taught masters courses and doctoral research for all of whom College either provides or underwrites financial support in the form of studentships. In total there are about 100 students enrolled at any one time, many of whom either live in College or have offices in College.

Postdoctoral Fellows are an integral part of the College and its academic activity. In 2020-21 there are 49 Research Fellows in College of whom 14 are College-funded, 7 are funded jointly with the Economics Department, and the remainder are funded by external awards or by the Departments of Politics and International Relations; Sociology; Social Policy and Intervention, and the Blavatnik School of Government.

The College has in addition to its academic faculty, 28 non-academic Visiting Fellows drawn from the worlds of business, industry, politics and administration; and a number of Research Officers working on research projects run by the College’s Fellows. The College enjoys strong links with the University’s social science departments and works closely with the Social Sciences Division.

Nuffield College has been – and continues to be – the source of some of the major research developments in social science. These include the British Election Studies and the major programme of research on Social Mobility in Britain. It was the birthplace of the “Oxford School” of Industrial Relations; it pioneered the development of cost benefit analysis for developing
countries; and it has made a major contribution to the methodology of econometrics. At the moment the College hosts five research centres: the Centre for Experimental Social Sciences (CESS); the Centre for Social Investigation (CSI); the Nuffield Politics Research Centre; the Nuffield Centre for Applied Macro Policy (NuCAMP); and the Climate Econometrics project. See https://www.nuffield.ox.ac.uk/our-research/research-centres/

The Economics Group within Nuffield

The College is organised around three broad disciplinary groupings (Economics, Politics, and Sociology). Further information about the work of the Economics Group at Nuffield can be found here: https://www.nuffield.ox.ac.uk/our-research/economics/

The current permanent members of the group, with their main areas of research, are as follows:

**Klaus Adam**  Monetary economics and dynamic macroeconomics; learning and expectations formation; and the economics of information and uncertainty.

**Steve Bond**  Applied microeconometrics, particularly the investment and financial behaviour of firms.

**Stephen Broadberry**  Economic history, particularly the development of the world economy from 1000 AD to the present, sectoral aspects of comparative growth and productivity performance during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and wars and economic performance.

**Ian Crawford**  Applied microeconomics; consumer theory; index numbers.

**Martin Ellison**  Macroeconomics; monetary economics and macro-finance.

**Ian Jewitt**  Microeconomic theory; incentives in organisations; information and decision theory; auction theory.

**Paul Klemperer**  Industrial economics; auctions; economic policy.

**Hamish Low**  Life-cycle behaviour, including savings, consumption and working patterns of households.

**Margaret Meyer**  Microeconomic theory; theory of the firm; internal organization of firms and their behaviour in product and labour markets; theoretical industrial economics; the economics of information and incentives.

**Bent Nielsen**  Econometric and statistical theory; model selection; cohort analysis; reserving in general insurance.

**Barbara Petrongolo**  Applied labour economics; performance of labour markets with job search frictions; welfare policy and interdependencies across local labour markets.

**Martin Weidner (from January 2021)**  Econometrics, with a focus on Panel Data Models; Social Networks; Factor Models; High-dimensional Inference.

**Frank Windmeijer**  Econometric and statistical theory; Dynamic panel/longitudinal data estimation methods; Causal inference; Instrumental variables estimation, weak/invalid instruments; Mendelian randomisation.
There are also a number of Senior Research Fellows working in economics at Nuffield. David Hendry has research interests in econometrics particularly forecasting, econometric modelling, theory and methodology, and the modelling of economic time series. John Muellbauer works on macroeconomics, consumption, housing and structural change. Kevin Roberts has research interests in microeconomic theory with an emphasis on welfare economics and on foundational issues connected with market economies. Peyton Young researches social norms and institutions, game theory, and learning in strategic environments.

College Research Facilities

The College Library is one of the finest in the social sciences. It functions as a research library reflecting the academic interests of the Fellows. The Library is open shelf and accessible 24 hours a day. Fellows also have access to all the facilities of the Bodleian Library, including full-text access to nearly all journals in the social sciences.

The College has an Information Systems Department to serve the computing needs of Fellows.

The College provides facilities and grants for Fellows to invite academic visitors to the College to enable them to carry out collaborative work.

For further information about the College see: www.nuffield.ox.ac.uk.

Social Sciences Division

The University’s academic departments and faculties are organised into four large groups, known as Academic Divisions (Social Sciences, Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences (MPLS), Medical Sciences, and Humanities). The divisions are responsible for academic oversight of the teaching and research of their constituent departments and faculties, for strategic and operational planning, and for personnel and resource management. The Head of the Social Sciences Division is Professor Sarah Whatmore, who is a member of the University’s Council.

The Social Sciences Division is a world-leading centre of research and education in the social sciences, with activity spanning fourteen departments and faculties and one cross-divisional unit, and strong interdisciplinary links within and beyond the university. The results of REF 2014 confirmed Oxford as the UK powerhouse in the social sciences, with more world-leading (4*) research than any other institution.

Academic and research staff and research students are engaged in world-leading research, challenging current ideas and theories and tackling major challenges facing humanity, such as sustainable resource management, migration, governance, poverty and development, and justice. Researchers engage actively in many spheres from innovation in public policymaking to practitioner communities such as law, business, education, social welfare and NGOs. The division has an extensive portfolio of external funders and collaborators, with competitively-awarded external research income exceeding £40million per year.

The division delivers an exceptional range of high quality educational programmes (undergraduate, postgraduate taught and postgraduate research), underpinned by the innovative research being undertaken by our academics. Programmes range from widely recognised undergraduate degrees such as Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE), and graduate programmes providing rigorously academic research training, through to professionally-oriented graduate provision in areas such as business, law and education.

For more information please visit: http://www.socsci.ox.ac.uk/
How to apply

To complete your application for a Fellowship, please submit a full online application on Econjobmarket via the following link https://econjobmarket.org/positions/6604. Follow the on-screen instructions to register as a new user or log-in if you have applied previously. You will be asked to upload the following:

1. CV
2. A supporting statement
   Candidates are asked to describe their specific interest in postdoctoral positions at Oxford and to note any current Oxford faculty or postdocs who have closely related research interests.
3. Job-market paper
4. Provide details of two referees who will then be able to upload letters of recommendation, please alert your referees to prepare to submit their references before or as soon as possible after the closing date to avoid delaying the shortlisting process
5. Supplementary research papers you may also upload a file of supplementary materials such as other available research papers if you wish.

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.

All applications must be received by midday on the closing date stated in the online advertisement.

Applications will be considered by a selection committee containing representatives from the Department of Economics and Nuffield College. The selection committee is responsible for conducting all aspects of the recruitment and selection process.

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).

Should you experience any difficulties using the online application system, in the first instance please get in touch with Econjobmarket’s support team using their online web form. For any queries about your application and the role, please contact personnel@economics.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.

Interviews

Candidates called for interview will be required to deliver a research seminar. Additionally, a programme of informal meetings with members of the department will be arranged. Due to risks
arising from Covid 19, the research seminar and meetings will be held remotely. (Details to follow).

First round offers will be made soon after the interview date, and acceptances will be required shortly thereafter.

A second round of applications may be considered in early 2021 if some posts remain unfilled.
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: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/councilsec/compliance/gdpr/privacynotices/job/. The University’s Policy on Data Protection is available at: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/councilsec/compliance/gdpr/universitypolicyondataprotection/.

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: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/end/retirement/acrelretire8+/

For existing employees, any employment beyond the retirement age is subject to approval through the procedures: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/end/retirement/acrelretire8+/

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. See www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/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 www.sport.ox.ac.uk/oxford-university-sports-facilities.

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 www.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 www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/permits/reimburseloanscheme/.

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 My Family Care, 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 www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/benefits/family/mfc/.

Childcare

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 www.admin.ox.ac.uk/childcare/.

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 www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/disab/staff.

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 www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/inpractice/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.