



Job Description

Summary

Job title	Qualitative Researcher
Division	Medical Sciences
Department	Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences
Location	Radcliffe Primary Care Building, Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, Woodstock Road, Oxford, OX2 6GG
Grade and salary	Grade 7: £32,817-£40,322 per annum
Hours	Full time
Contract type	Fixed-term (until 31 August 2022)
Reporting to	Prof Paul Aveyard (Professor of Behavioural Medicine)
Vacancy reference	BZ21057
Additional information	

The role

The role is within the Health Behaviours team (<https://www.phc.ox.ac.uk/research/research-themes/health-behaviours-theme/health-behaviours>) as part of a programme of work funded by the BRC Diet and Obesity theme. The post holder will be supervised by Professor Paul Aveyard and pursue a programme of research about obesity, including but not limited to the wider sociological aspects of supporting weight loss and/or mixed method studies for intervention and development of behavioural interventions to support weight loss. In particular, the post holder will work to test ideas about why clinicians are reluctant to engage in prevention. The post holder will provide support to colleagues in the BRC team who need qualitative research expertise.

The successful applicant will develop embedded qualitative studies as either standalone studies or within trials and develop a research programme of her/his own, leading projects that fit within the BRC theme, which may be primarily qualitative. Responsibilities will include managing projects, developing new research protocols, writing for publication and presentation of research, and supporting colleagues in the team with advice on qualitative research methods.

Our work has shown that it is possible for physicians to engage patients with obesity with a brief 30-second intervention and motivate them to take up weight management and that a range of low intensity interventions can provide ongoing support and that both are cost-saving if implemented. NHS England is now implementing this across England. However, despite the rational case for physicians to engage in this work, physicians remain reluctant to do so. We want to understand this reluctance, how it relates to value systems in medicine, and, in particular, how it may be changed.



The Health Behaviours team is a vibrant and expanding group, principally concentrating on intervention studies that aim to achieve healthier and more sustainable diets, reduce the burden of obesity-related disease, or promote smoking cessation. Post holders will provide guidance to junior members of the research group including research assistants, PhD students, and/or project volunteers.

Responsibilities

- Manage own research and administrative activities. This includes planning and co-ordinating multiple aspects of work to meet deadlines and budgets
- Adapt existing and develop new research methods and materials to meet the needs of groups, including people with mental illness.
- Collect, analyse and synthesise quantitative data from a variety of sources
- Prepare publications for academic audiences and stakeholders, including policymakers and the public
- Present papers at conferences or public meetings
- Act as a source of information and advice to other members of the group on methodology, methods, or procedures
- Contribute ideas for new research projects, and develop ideas for generating research income
- Engage in impact-oriented activity relevant to the project and to the wider work of the research unit.

Selection criteria

Essential selection criteria

- Hold a PhD/DPhil in a relevant field or be about to obtain one in the next few months.
- Strong knowledge of qualitative research methods
- Proven ability to plan and manage own work with demonstrable and strong research outputs commensurate with stage of career
- Excellent communication skills, including the ability to write for publication, for the general public, present at meetings and effectively represent the team
- Willing to occasionally travel to various locations within the UK
- Willingness to work in teams, working alongside and leading others in collaborative projects
- Willingness to work in clinical settings with patients and be willing to undergo the necessary health and criminal record checks.
- Understanding of the place of qualitative research in mixed methods research.

Desirable selection criteria

- Knowledge and understanding of behavioural interventions to improve health
- Experience of public engagement and/or involvement in research

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 a successful outcome of this assessment.

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

- Lone Working
- Driving on University business
- Work in clinical areas with direct contact with patients (NOT administrative roles)

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 is required in order to obtain a Research Passport to carry out clinical research in an NHS setting.

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.

Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences

The top ranked centre for academic primary care in the UK, we lead world-class research and training to rethink the way healthcare is delivered in general practice and other primary care settings, both across the UK and globally. Integrating evidence and innovation, our main research focus is on the prevention, early diagnosis and management of common illness.

Our research is led by internationally renowned scientists; many of whom are practising GPs, but we also have academics from a range of non-medical disciplines including the social sciences and humanities. We cover the broad range of issues that you might expect to consult your GP about including cardiovascular and metabolic disease, infectious diseases and childhood illness, diet, smoking and cancer. We also focus on understanding and improving

the experiences of patients, utilising big data, developing digital health interventions and working internationally. We have methodological expertise in clinical decision making and diagnostics, clinical epidemiology, medical statistics, modelling, qualitative research and the wider application of social science theory and methods to address practical and theoretical challenges in health and care settings. We also have a dedicated in-house Primary Care Clinical Trials Unit.

The department was established in October 1998 (as the Department of Primary Health Care) with the appointment of a foundation chair in general practice. We provide a strong multi-disciplinary training environment, a full programme of academic support and good IT facilities. Our ability to collaborate with other epidemiological and community-based research groups across the University and with GP surgeries locally and nationally enables us to utilise a broad range of relevant expertise into our teaching and research.

The department has recently developed a new stream of clinical research which seeks to improve the conceptual understanding and use of monitoring in a number of chronic diseases. We have an international reputation for developing research methodologies to ensure that research findings have a positive impact on clinical practice.

We are home to the Oxford Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine; the international Cochrane Tobacco Addiction Group which collates and summarises research evidence from across the world to underpin governmental health policies on smoking; the Interdisciplinary Research in Health Sciences research group (which uses both quantitative and qualitative methods to examine the human, organisational and societal issues relating to the delivery of healthcare and the improvement of health services). We also host the Medical Sciences and Health Experiences Research Group (MS&HERG), which undertakes qualitative research into the patient experience, published on www.healthtalk.org through a close working experience with the charity DIPEX. The Department is a founding member of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) School of Primary Care Research, houses both the NIHR Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care Oxford and the NIHR Community Healthcare MedTech and In Vitro Diagnostics Co-operative, and leads 3 Themes of the Oxford BRC.

The Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences holds a departmental Silver Athena SWAN award to recognise advancement of gender equality: representation, progression and success for all.

Our staff are mostly located in the superbly renovated Grade II listed Radcliffe Primary Care Building on the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter (ROQ), the University's most prestigious development site for a generation, and close to the city centre (see <http://www.ox.ac.uk/roq/> for more information). Some staff are located nearby in the Gibson Building at the ROQ and at Eagle House, off Walton Street.

Car parking is very restricted at both sites with only a small percentage of staff being granted an annual parking permit. Bus Pass, Train Pass, bicycle loans and Season Ticket Loan Schemes are all in operation for staff.

The Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences currently holds a Gold NUS Green Impact award. Green Impact is an environmental accreditation scheme championed by the National Union of Students and is designed to support environmentally and socially sustainable practice. The department supports sustainability initiatives in the following areas: supporting and leading change; energy; water; materials and waste; sustainable travel; biodiversity and nature; and food.

For more information on the department please visit: <http://www.phc.ox.ac.uk>

Medical Sciences Division

The Medical Sciences Division is an internationally recognised centre of excellence for biomedical and clinical research and teaching. We are 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 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>.

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)

Your application will be judged solely on the basis of how you demonstrate that you meet the selection criteria stated in the job description.

If you are applying for a research post and you have had periods of working part-time, please indicate this on your CV or in your supporting statement. This will ensure that any outputs such as publications are fairly judged when considered alongside the expected outputs of full-time workers.

Where posts are advertised full-time, we may be able to consider part-time working or job share arrangements depending on the requirements of the role. If you want to work part-time and this option is not expressly stated in the advert or job information, please email hr@phc.ox.ac.uk to enquire whether the role you are applying for might be available on a part-time basis.

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.

Only in exceptional circumstances and with prior agreement can we consider applications submitted via methods other than the on-line recruitment system.

Please note that you will be notified of the progress of your application by automatic e-mails from our e-recruitment system. **Please check your spam/junk mail** regularly to ensure that you receive all e-mails. **We contact all candidates, whether shortlisted for interview or not, so if you have not heard from us, please check your spam/junk folder and then contact us if you have not received a response.**

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

Help and support is available from: <https://hrsystems.admin.ox.ac.uk/recruitment-support>

If you require any further assistance please email recruitment.support@admin.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 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 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. 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.