



Job Description

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| Job title | Postdoctoral Researcher |
| Division | Social Sciences |
| Department | Politics and International Relations |
| Location | Manor Road Building, Manor Road, Oxford, OX1 3UQ |
| Grade and salary | Grade 7: £38,674 - £46,913 per annum, pro rata |
| Hours | Full time (37.5 hours per week) |
| Contract type | Fixed-term |
| Reporting to | Professor Federica Genovese |
| Vacancy reference | 177877 |
| Additional information | Closing date: midday (UK time) on Wednesday 26 February 2025 Interviews will be held in Mid-March. |

The role

The Department of Politics and International Relations is appointing one Postdoctoral Researcher to join the project “Varieties of Climate Vulnerability: Assessing Socio-Economic and Political Risks in the Anthropocene”, headed by Professor Federica Genovese (the Principal Investigator). The project is funded by a Leverhulme Trust Research Leadership Award, 2023-2027. The post-holder will provide research assistance to the Principal Investigator, engage in both collaborative and independent research, prepare research findings for publication and dissemination and engage in the wide scientific community. The post-holder will also support the Principal Investigator in the day-to-day running of the project and have responsibility for specific tasks, such as the preparation of fieldwork, the analysis of data, the delivery of impact or knowledge exchange activities, and the maintenance of the project’s website and social media presence.





The “Varieties of Climate Vulnerability” Leverhulme Trust Research Leadership project in the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Oxford is led by Prof. Federica Genovese.

The aim of the project is to develop a rigorous and comparative understanding of how vulnerable individuals and communities look like in the context of climate change (i.e., the era of the Anthropocene), how their political representatives action the vulnerability perceived and expressed by communities, and how this may matter for climate politics cross-nationally. The project will take an applied approach, and will involve original administrative data collection, quantitative analyses, and fieldwork that will include administrating targeted surveys and conducting qualitative interviews in Global South countries.

Given the nature of the project, the post-holders will have expertise in relevant areas of political science. Additional expertise from bordering disciplines such as economics, sociology, social psychology and law is welcome.

Responsibilities

Key responsibilities:

- To engage in individual and/or collaborative research activity resulting in internationally excellent publications that is in keeping with Research Excellence Framework (REF) criteria.
- To contribute to applications for external research funding appropriate in scale to career stage and subject area norms where appropriate.
- To enhance the scholarly reputation of the Department and the University by contact with the wider academic community and supporting knowledge exchange activity.
- To undertake leadership duties related to research appropriate to career stage and as allocated by the Principal Investigator.
- To contribute expertise and knowledge to departmental and/or institutional initiatives as directed by Principal Investigator.
- To conduct research and engage in the activities discussed in the Context section of this job description



Main duties:

Research

To deliver the research objectives defined by the Leverhulme Trust-funded project led by Professor Federica Genovese.

- To undertake or manage practical elements of research such as setting up and conducting experiments, developing questionnaires and conducting fieldwork, recording data and identifying trends or patterns.
- To produce research outputs for publication at acceptable levels of volume and academic excellence and disseminate the result of research and scholarship through appropriate Knowledge Exchange activities (such as at relevant national and international conferences and scholarly publications not intended for the REF).
- To contribute to the development and maintenance of research resources (examples of which include household surveys, databases, specialist equipment and infrastructure, software packages and computer models) used within the Department or wider user community external to the Department.
- To raise the public profile of the project and increase the visibility and impact of the underlying research, for example by preparing green papers and divulgation pieces and attending impact events.

Additional duties:

As a new starter, you will be expected to complete mandatory training for the department and, if applicable, your role, these include:

- Information security and Data Protection
- Implicit Bias
- Bullying and Harassment training
- Equality and Diversity briefing

Access to these training courses will be provided once in post.



Selection criteria

Essential

- Hold a relevant PhD/DPhil, or be close to completion of this.
- Evidence of a developing research agenda, engagement in high-quality research activity and a developing research profile.
- A developing record of publications in internationally recognised, reputable journals (and other media of similar standing) appropriate to career stage and discipline norms, or evidence of research outputs such as reports and briefings
- Experience of, or the ability to generate income to support research and/or knowledge exchange appropriate to career stage and discipline norms.
- Experience of working with developing and/or maintaining research resources used within a department or wider user community external to the Department (examples include household surveys, databases, specialist equipment and infrastructure, software packages and computer models)
- Experience of contributing to small research programmes or defined areas of larger projects, and of developing research objectives and proposals
- Demonstrable expertise in data collection and data management, including the ability to design, carry out and write up empirical research designs

Desirable

- Demonstrable expertise in quantitative research and large-N data analysis, including the acquired capability to analyse survey data, run experiments, run statistical models
- Demonstrable expertise in qualitative research and qualitative data analysis, including acquired interview skills and practices in the field
- Comprehensive knowledge of the state of the art in the discipline and experience of multidisciplinary collaboration



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 Department of Politics and International Relations (DPIR)

Renowned as a global leader in its field, DPIR is one of the largest departments in the University of Oxford and is active in both undergraduate and graduate teaching. With around 90 academic staff, it is world class in international and national research and teaching; in September 2024, The Guardian ranked us the Number One University in the UK for Politics. We are home to major research projects, a vibrant community of academic visitors, and a strong group of post-doctoral researchers, supported by highly competitive research fellowships, working across a broad range of disciplinary fields.

An experienced Professional Services function supports the department's research and teaching activities. The department's core Professional Service is grouped into teams that provide dedicated support for: Courses, Research, Finance, HR, and Communications & Alumni Relations. The administrative teams work closely with each other as well as with staff in other parts of the University, particularly with the Social Sciences division, Personnel Services, and Research Services, as well as with the University's many colleges.

The Department is in the Social Sciences building at Manor Road, along with the Department of Economics, the Centres for Criminology and Socio-Legal Studies, and the integrated Social Science Library.

For further information, please visit: <https://www.politics.ox.ac.uk>

Social Sciences Division

Oxford is a world-leading centre for research across the disciplines of the social sciences. Characterised by a wide range of methodologies, themes and fields of scholarship, multi-



disciplinary research and innovative ideas thrive in an environment underpinned by excellence across the disciplines of the social sciences.

Our approach to supporting research across the Social Sciences Division has been highly successful in the last ten years, with the volume of research awards continuing to rise and the development of a large number of research centres and groupings. Researchers at Oxford receive significant support and guidance in the development of their research, including career development, research and impact funding, research project design and management, and research outputs from academic and administrative colleagues across the University, division and departments.

More information please visit: www.socsci.ox.ac.uk

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.

For more information, please visit www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation.

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.



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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: vacancies@politics.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/>



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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.