

FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY

Job title	Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Economics – Global Priorities Institute
Division	Humanities
Department	Faculty of Philosophy
Location	Radcliffe Humanities, Woodstock Road, Oxford, OX2 6GG
Grade and salary	Grade 7: £32,817-£40,322 per annum
Hours	Full time
Contract type	Fixed-term (2 years)
Reporting to	Director of the Global Priorities Institute
Vacancy reference	147732

The role

The Global Priorities Institute (GPI), in partnership with the Department of Economics, offers Research Fellowship openings for postdoctoral researchers. The Fellowships offer early career researchers the opportunity to develop their research portfolio within one of the world's leading Economics departments and so strengthen their future position in the academic job market. We welcome applications from researchers simultaneously applying to tenure track jobs (or equivalent) who might complete a one or two year postdoc at GPI before giving their notice early and taking up a faculty position.

You will conduct advanced research in economics. At least 50% of your time will be spent on topics directly relevant to the Global Priorities Institute's research agenda. The role requires no teaching load and only minor supervision responsibilities, although teaching may be arranged if the fellow would like to do so.

The Global Priorities Institute is an interdisciplinary research centre, which aims to develop and promote rigorous, scientific approaches to the question of how appropriately motivated actors can do good more effectively. GPI formally sits within the Faculty of Philosophy. You will be a member of GPI's economics research team and an Associate Member of the Department of Economics, one of the world's leading Economics departments. GPI is currently located in the Manor Road building but we anticipate moving to a new office elsewhere in central Oxford within the next year. You will have access to open plan desk space in the Economics Manor Road Building in addition to space at GPI's new office. You will be assigned a mentor who is a member of the Sub-Faculty of Economics and you will also have the opportunity to receive mentorship and research advice from more senior economists external to Oxford who work with GPI.



This is a full-time position at the University of Oxford for a fixed term of two years, with a possibility of extension. Successful candidates may also choose to leave the position before the completion of two years at GPI, for example if they accept a faculty position at another university. Visa support is also available for successful applicants from overseas. Subject to UK tax regulations and the availability of funding a relocation allowance may be available to support with a move to Oxford.

We particularly encourage applications from women, black and ethnic minority candidates, as these groups are underrepresented in economics.

Responsibilities

- Prepare research publications for publication in top economics journals, both alone and in collaboration with other group members
- Develop and manage their own programme of academic research and appropriately manage administrative activities
- Participate in internal seminars and discussion groups to develop and refine ideas collaboratively
- Contribute ideas for new research projects at GPI
- Present papers at conferences and external research seminars
- Act as a source of information and advice to other members of the group on research expertise
- Represent the research group at external meetings/seminars, either with other members of the group or alone
- Carry out collaborative projects with colleagues in partner institutions, and research groups
- Assist in developing the economics research group within GPI and building connections with academics from other institutions
- Ad hoc teaching and supervision if and when the opportunity arises, insofar as this is beneficial to the postholder's career development
- Assist in the supervision of pre-doctoral research fellows and visiting graduate students, particularly during Oxford's Trinity term (April – June)
- Contribute as appropriate to engagement with the Research Excellence Framework impact agenda, in liaison with others in GPI and elsewhere in the Department of Economics and Faculty of Philosophy

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/.

Essential selection criteria

- PhD awarded or close to completion either in Economics or in a closely related discipline together with equivalent experience and expertise in Economics
- Outstanding academic ability
- Interest in global priorities research
- Possess sufficient specialist knowledge of and interest in economics to conduct advanced research within the economics research group at GPI

- An excellent record of research suitable for publication in international peer-reviewed economics journals, relative to the applicant's career stage
- Ability to manage own academic research and associated activities
- Proven ability to contribute ideas for new research projects
- Excellent communication skills, including the ability to write for publication, present research proposals and results, and represent the research group at meetings

Desirable selection criteria

- Experience of independently managing a discrete area of a research project
- Experience of actively collaborating in the development of research articles for publication
- Experience of and enthusiasm for interdisciplinary research

The Global Priorities Institute

The Global Priorities Institute is an interdisciplinary research centre conducting foundational research to inform the decision-making of individuals and institutions seeking to do as much good as possible with their limited resources. It prioritises topics which are important, neglected, and tractable, and uses the tools of multiple disciplines, especially philosophy and economics, to explore the issues at stake. It is part of the Faculty of Philosophy. However, you will also have an affiliation with the Department of Economics.

The research agenda for the Global Priorities Institute is collectively set by the researchers at the centre. It focuses around the question of what we should do with a given unit or resources if our aim is to do the most good. This covers a wide variety of topics in economics, including: growth theory; the economics of climate change and other catastrophic risks; discounting; game theory and mechanism design; estimating indirect effects; forecasting; Bayesian updating; and causal identification and external validity.

GPI is planning to significantly increase its economics capacity in the next few years, and employ multiple researchers at various levels of seniority. Researchers at GPI will have the opportunity to contribute significantly to this growth, and to influence the research direction of the Institute.

More information on the research agenda and the Institute's published work to date is available from the website (<http://globalprioritiesinstitute.org/>). Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to consult this additional information before applying, in order to assess their fit to and interest in the Institute.

As described in our research agenda, GPI currently has a particular focus on "longtermism", and is particularly keen to hire researchers who share this interest and would be enthusiastic to contribute to this research program. However, this focus is not exclusive: candidates whose research skills and/or interests lie in other areas of global priorities research are also strongly encouraged to apply.

About the University of Oxford

Oxford's departments and colleges 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.

Oxford's self-governing community of international scholars includes Professors, Associate Professors, other college tutors, senior and junior research fellows and over 2,500 other University research staff. Research at Oxford combines disciplinary depth with an increasing focus on inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary activities addressing a rich and diverse range of issues.

Oxford's strengths lie both in empowering individuals and teams to address fundamental questions of global significance, and in providing all staff with a welcoming and inclusive workplace that supports everyone to develop and do their best work. Recognising that diversity is a great strength, and vital for innovation and creativity, Oxford aspires to build a truly inclusive community which values and respects every individual's unique contribution.

While Oxford has long traditions of scholarship, it is also forward-looking, creative and cutting-edge. Oxford is one of Europe's most entrepreneurial universities. It consistently has the highest external research income of any university in the UK (the most recent figures are available at www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/finance-and-funding), and is ranked first in the UK for university spin-outs, with more than 130 spin-off companies created to date. Oxford is also recognised as a leading supporter of social enterprise.

Oxford admits undergraduate students with the intellectual potential to benefit fully from the small group learning to which Oxford is deeply committed. Meeting in small groups with their tutor, undergraduates are exposed to rigorous scholarly challenge and learn to develop their critical thinking, their ability to articulate their views with clarity, and their personal and intellectual confidence. They receive a high level of personal attention from leading academics.

Oxford has a strong postgraduate student body which now numbers over 10,000. Postgraduates are attracted to Oxford by the international standing of the faculty, by the rigorous intellectual training on offer, by the excellent research and laboratory facilities available, and by the resources of the museums and libraries, including one of the world's greatest libraries, the Bodleian.

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

Department of Economics

Oxford Economics is one of the largest and most diverse groups of academic economists in Europe with a permanent faculty of nearly 50 including 11 statutory (established) professors, and more than 30 early career researchers on fixed-term appointments of 3 or 4 years. Economics at Oxford is broad-based aiming to produce first-class research across the range of the discipline, rather than specialising in particular sub-fields. The research of the department covers all the major sub-fields with particular strengths in microeconomic theory, including behavioural economics; econometrics, both micro-econometrics and time series; economic history; development and international economics. Our members include some of the world's most distinguished academic economists whose research has made major contributions to modern economic analysis. The current faculty includes 15 Fellows of the Econometric Society, 14 Fellows of the British Academy, four Foreign Honorary Members of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and seven Fellows of the European Economics Association. In the most recent assessment of the research output of UK universities, Oxford had more research in economics and econometrics graded as world-leading in terms of its originality, rigour and significance than did any other institution in the United Kingdom.

In our large Department, research activity is focused within smaller, specialized, research groups. Research groups share the objectives of promoting and supporting high-quality research, and of providing an active and supportive research environment for faculty and research students in their field. Each group has one or more senior members of the Department as convenor with responsibility for coordinating activities, including regular seminars/workshops. Emphasis is placed on providing a supportive environment in which less experienced researchers, research students and postdoctoral research fellows are able to present their research and obtain valuable feedback. Each group holds regular workshops where research by faculty and graduate students is presented and discussed; many distinguished researchers from outside Oxford also visit us to present their work at seminars.

Alongside the research groups, the Department is home to a number of specialized economics research centres, including the world's leading research Centre for the Study of African Economies (CSAE), the Oxford Centre for the Analysis of Resource-Rich Economies (OxCarre) and the International Growth Centre (IGC). The Oxford-Man Institute and the Institute for New Economic Thinking at the Oxford Martin School are interdisciplinary initiatives across the University, and include researchers from the Departments of Economics.

Members of the Department are involved in teaching for the Economics graduate and undergraduate degree courses. There are about 200 graduates and 850 undergraduates studying economics. There is no undergraduate degree in economics alone, but joint honours programmes with economics are: Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE); History and Economics; and Economics and Management. The postgraduate degrees are the MPhil in Economics; the MSc degree in Financial Economics (joint with the Saïd Business School); the MSc in Economics for Development; and, the DPhil which is a degree by dissertation.

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

Social Sciences Division

The Social Sciences Division, one of four academic divisions in the University, each with considerable devolved budgetary and financial authority; and responsibility for providing a broad strategic focus across its constituent disciplines. Thirteen departments, one faculty, and two cross-divisional research units come under the aegis of the division, which spans the full range of social science disciplines with links into the humanities and physical sciences. There are over 900 academic and research staff, and approximately 3,500 graduate students (postgraduate taught and postgraduate research), and 2,000 undergraduates working and studying in the division.

The division is established as a world-leading centre for research in the social sciences and regularly sits at the highest levels of international league tables of one form or another. It is the largest grouping of social science disciplines in the UK and it is also home to several of Oxford's most widely recognised teaching programmes, such as PPE, the BCL, the MPhils in International Relations, in Economics, and in Development Studies, and the nationally regarded PGCE. We believe that excellence in teaching and research is synergistic and remain committed to sustaining and developing the high quality of our activities in both these areas. Our departments are committed to research which develops a greater understanding of all aspects of society, from the impact of political, legal and economic systems on social and economic welfare to human rights and security. That research is disseminated through innovative graduate programmes and enhances undergraduate courses.

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

Faculty of Philosophy

The Oxford Philosophy Faculty has over 150 academic members, all of whom are undertaking teaching and/or research in Philosophy at Oxford. Of these, around 60 hold permanent posts within the Faculty or the colleges; many distinguished philosophers hold posts elsewhere in the University. Oxford thus contains the largest group of philosophers in the UK, and one of the largest in the world. It has a vigorous research culture: Oxford's Faculty of Philosophy performed outstandingly in the 2014 REF, with 51% of overall research activity assessed at the top grade of 4*, ahead of all other UK philosophy departments. Each year, many distinguished philosophers from around the world visit Oxford to give lectures and seminars. There are over one thousand students studying Philosophy at undergraduate level, always in combination with at least one other subject, and around 100 graduate students, about half of whom are studying for the BPhil or the specialist MSt courses in Ancient Philosophy and Philosophy of Physics, and the rest for the DPhil. A list of current Faculty members and their research interests can be found on the Philosophy Faculty website at: <http://www.philosophy.ox.ac.uk/faculty-members>.

In August 2012, the Philosophy Faculty moved to the refurbished Radcliffe Infirmary building on the Woodstock Road, now known as Radcliffe Humanities. As well as housing the Philosophy Faculty, the Grade II* listed building also contains a combined Philosophy and Theology Library and the administrative offices of the Humanities Division. The move – which amongst other things enhances the quality and quantity of space available for the Faculty's graduate students – means that Philosophy became the first academic unit to be located within the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, the site on which the integrated Humanities Centre (including new space for the Faculty) may be established in due course.

Further information about the Faculty can be found on its website at:

<http://www.philosophy.ox.ac.uk>.

Humanities Division

The Humanities Division is one of four academic divisions in the University of Oxford, bringing together the faculties of Classics; English; History; Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics; Medieval and Modern Languages; Music; Oriental Studies; Philosophy; and Theology, as well as the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art. The division has responsibility for over 500 members of academic staff, for over 4,000 undergraduates (more than a third of the total undergraduate population of the University), and for about 1600 postgraduate students.

The Division offers world-class teaching and research, backed by the superb resources of the University's libraries and museums, including the famous Bodleian Library, with its 11 million volumes and priceless early book and manuscript collections, and the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology. Such historic resources are linked to cutting-edge agendas in research and teaching, with an increasing emphasis on interdisciplinary study.

The Division's faculties are among the largest in the world, enabling Oxford to offer an education in Arts and Humanities unparalleled in its range of subjects, from music and fine art to ancient and modern languages.

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

How to apply

Before submitting an application, you may find it helpful to read the 'Tips on applying for a job at the University of Oxford' document, at www.ox.ac.uk/about/jobs/supportandtechnical/.

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.

Applications must include:

- A CV and supporting statement. The supporting statement must include a description (and ideally evidence) of your knowledge of and interest in global priorities research of 100 words or more. You should also explain briefly how you meet 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).
- A web link (URL) to a research paper of your best, most polished work in economics, typically a job market paper, that is suitable for us to use to assess your academic ability. It is not important that the topic of the writing sample be relevant to the Institute's research agenda, provided that sufficient evidence of your fit to the Institute is provided elsewhere in your application. If you don't have a link to your paper, please email it to gpi-office@philosophy.ox.ac.uk.
- The names and addresses of three referees. **Candidates should also ask their referees to send their references directly to gpi-office@philosophy.ox.ac.uk by the closing date for this post.** Candidates should supply each referee with a copy of these further particulars. *The Faculty of Philosophy wish to take this opportunity to thank in advance those referees who write on behalf of applicants.*

Details on the selection process

Longlisted candidates will be invited to complete a 20 minute oral questionnaire via video link, concerning the nature of their interest in effective altruism and global priorities research. These questionnaires will be recorded, to be passed on to the selection committee alongside the other application materials.

Shortlisted candidates will then be invited:

- To submit a research proposal (of no more than 1,000 words) prior to interview;
- To participate in a short work task (of about an hour, with no more than a few hours of preparation required); and
- To participate in an interview (around 45 minutes in length), and
- To give a presentation on their job market paper

We aim to notify longlisted candidates within one week of the closing date for applications, and to further notify shortlisted candidates within two weeks of the closing date. We anticipate holding final interviews in early December. We will update our website with timings for the selection process:

<https://globalprioritiesinstitute.org/opportunities/>

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, for example "Surname_CV.pdf".

All applications must be received by **midday** 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 departments.

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, please email recruitment.support@admin.ox.ac.uk. Further help and support is available from [www.ox.ac.uk/about the university/jobs/support/](http://www.ox.ac.uk/about_the_university/jobs/support/). 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: 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. From 1 October 2017, 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/revisedejra/revaim/.

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

From 1 October 2017, 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/reimburse&loanscheme/.

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.