

FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY

Job title	Pre-doctoral 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 6: £29,176 - £34,804 per annum
Hours	Full time
Contract type	Fixed-term (1 or 2 years depending on candidate preference)
Reporting to	Rossa O’Keeffe O’Donovan, Assistant Director of the Global Priorities Institute
Vacancy reference	147733

The role

Reporting to the Assistant Director of the Global Priorities Institute (GPI), you will have responsibility for pursuing and producing global priorities research in economics, for helping to shape the economics research agenda within the Institute, and for providing research assistance to GPI researchers and faculty in the Department of Economics. For research assistance, we will try to match the successful candidate with a faculty member at the Department of Economics at Oxford with related research interests, or with another economist affiliated with GPI.

We expect the successful candidates to split their time roughly equally between: (a) research assistance work; (b) independent research directly related to GPI's research agenda; and (c) contributing to the planning of GPI's research and the organisational development of our research group. Work related to (c) would include writing literature reviews or conducting 'exploration research' on a topic that we think is promising to write a paper on.

The Global Priorities Institute is an interdisciplinary research centre which aims to determine how we can use our resources to do the most good. GPI formally sits within the Faculty of Philosophy. You will be a member of GPI's growing economics research team. GPI is located in a new office in central Oxford; you will have access to open plan desk space in the Department of Economics, one of the world's leading economics departments, in addition to workspace at GPI. You will also have the opportunity to attend seminars in economics, and to enrol in an Economics MPhil graduate option class, subject to approval. The role offers an opportunity for those considering working towards a doctorate in Economics to build invaluable experience in research at a world leading Institution.

This is a full-time position at the University of Oxford for a fixed term of one or two years, depending on the successful candidate's preference. Subject to UK tax regulations and the availability of funding, a



relocation allowance may be available to support with a move to Oxford. Applications are particularly welcome from women, black and ethnic minority candidates, as these groups are underrepresented in economics.

Responsibilities

- Manage own research and administrative activities, within guidelines provided by the Assistant Director of the Institute
- Contribute to the planning of the Global Priorities Institute's economics research, including ideas for new research projects
- Provide research assistance to GPI researchers and faculty in the Department of Economics
- Gather, analyse, and present qualitative and/or quantitative data from a variety of sources
- Undertake comprehensive and systematic literature reviews
- Contribute to research publications and reviews, including the provision of research assistance to other GPI researchers.
- Represent GPI at external meetings/seminars, either with other members of the group or alone and disseminate research outputs to advance knowledge in this area
- Contribute to discussions and share research findings with colleagues in partner institutions, and research groups
- Support the organisational development of the economics research group within GPI and develop connections with academics from other institutions
- Carry out other projects or tasks as directed by the Assistant Director of the Institute.

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

- Hold a first degree in economics or a closely related discipline, together with some relevant experience (students in the final year of their undergraduate degree are welcome to apply)
- Interest in pursuing research in economics at the doctorate level
- Outstanding academic ability
- Interest in and sufficient specialist knowledge of economics and global priorities research
- Ability to manage own research and administrative activities
- Excellent communication skills, including the ability to write text that can be published, present research at conferences, and represent the research group at meetings

Desirable selection criteria

- Experience of contributing to research publications
- Experience of working in a research team and contributing ideas for new research projects

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 Global Priorities Institute shares an office with and works closely with the Future of Humanity Institute (www.fhi.ox.ac.uk), which is part of the Faculty of Philosophy, and the Centre for Effective Altruism (<https://www.centreforeffectivealtruism.org/>) which is an independent charity. This provides a stimulating environment where researchers have the opportunity to collaborate with world-leading academics from many different disciplines (including mathematics, computer science, philosophy, engineering, and neuroscience) and to ensure their work translates into impact, whether through philanthropy or policy making.

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 of 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. The Faculty's research culture is further enhanced by its three large research centres: the Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics; the Future of Humanity Institute; and the Global Priorities Institute.

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, Philosophy of Physics and Practical Ethics, 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>.

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 following faculties: Classics; English; History; Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics; Medieval and Modern Languages; Music; Oriental Studies; Philosophy; Theology and Religion; the Ruskin School of Art. The Division has over 500 members of academic staff, approximately 4,100 undergraduates (more than a third of the total undergraduate population of the University), 1,000 postgraduate research students and 720 students on postgraduate taught courses.

The Division offers world-class teaching and research, backed by the superb resources of the University's libraries and museums, including the famous Bodleian Libraries, with their 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. Our 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.

The Humanities Division has embarked on a major building project on the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, following the recent announcement of the £150 million gift to create the [Stephen A. Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities](#).

The Schwarzman Centre will serve as a dynamic hub dedicated to the Humanities. The building will bring together seven Humanities faculties, the Humanities Divisional Office, a new library and significant cultural and public engagement spaces in a space designed to encourage experiential learning and bold experimentation through cross-disciplinary and collaborative study. The Faculty of Philosophy will move to the Schwarzman Centre upon the completion of the project.

For more information please visit: 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 a supporting statement or cover letter. The supporting statement / cover letter should be 300-400 words in length, including at least 100 words that demonstrate your knowledge of and interest in global priorities research.. 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 writing sample of your best, most polished work in economics or a related discipline, that demonstrates your research ability. A single-authored piece of research (for example a thesis, dissertation or other research paper or proposal) is preferred, but this may also be co-authored research, an essay or other piece of academic writing that demonstrates academic ability. It is less 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.
- The names and addresses of two referees. **Candidates should also ask their referees to send their references directly to gpi-office@philosophy.ox.ac.uk including the job title in their email by the closing date for this post.** Academic references are preferred but not required. 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.
- An academic transcript for your undergraduate degree, and any subsequent degrees.

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; and
- To participate in an interview by video link (around 30 minutes in length)

We aim to notify longlisted candidates within three weeks of the closing date for applications, and to further notify shortlisted candidates within one week of the oral questionnaire. We anticipate holding final interviews in late January.

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.