

Junior Data Scientist

[Home](#) > [About](#) > Jobs

Summary

Deadline to apply: Sunday 17 March 2024 (23:59 London time)

Description: We are looking for a Junior Data Scientist to join our Data and Research team. This team is responsible for the whole chain of collection, transformation, documentation, and dissemination of data on the many topics that we cover on *Our World in Data*.

Contract type: Contractor (full-time, flexible hours)

Compensation: £200–280 per day

Location: Remote. To maximize overlapping working hours with the rest of our team, we will only consider applicants living in Europe/Africa time zones, from UTC+0 to UTC+2.

[See instructions for how to apply](#) →

About this role

Data is at the very heart of all the work we do. Everything in our day-to-day job is tied back to data that allows us to understand the state of the world and how it is changing. As a Junior Data Scientist, you will be part of the team responsible for collecting, transforming, documenting, and disseminating our data on the many topics we cover on *Our World in Data*.

The ideal candidate needs to be passionate about data analysis, data engineering, and data visualization; they should have some skills in these areas with a desire to develop expertise in them; they should be interested in learning about research topics they may not have previously worked on and be capable of understanding academic publications and datasets.

It's not just the technical skills for data analysis and management that are essential; also important is the ability to understand what this data tells us about the world and how to use it to communicate this to our millions of users. The ideal candidate would have a mix of some technical and data interpretation skills that they are looking to develop further in this role.

We typically work with datasets that can be considered small by industry standards. We strongly believe that what is most important is clean, reliable, well-documented data that lets our research team and users generate clear, understandable, and accurate visualizations.

If you are excited to contribute to our mission of making data on the world's largest problems accessible and understandable, you will enjoy this role.

Key responsibilities

Data management

- Writing Python scripts to import, clean, and collate data from many sources and formats.
- Designing and implementing data pipelines to facilitate or automate regular updates of our datasets.
- Writing metadata (title, subtitles, descriptions) for our variables and charts that is understandable, perfectly accurate, and consistent across sources. This includes writing detailed explanations of the data in clear language understandable to non-specialists.
- Implementing and maintaining transparent and clear documentation of sources, including original and transformed data.

Data analysis

- Helping identify new datasets of potential interest and assessing their relevance based on documentation and exploratory data analysis.
- Designing and implementing derived variables in or across datasets, such as per-capita measures, averages, aggregates, and smoothed time series.
- Thoroughly testing newly-created variables to ensure their reliability across geographical locations and time.
- Working with our development team to identify and test improvements to our data exploration tools.

Communications

- Engaging with external data providers on data availability, quality, and what it tells us across the many topics we cover.

About you

Skills and experience we look for

- A minimum of a Bachelor's degree, preferably in a quantitative field.
- Robust skills in data wrangling in Python (pandas).
- Ability to write clear and concise explanations of technical and scientific ideas for non-specialist audiences.
- Excellent spoken and written communication in English.

Skills and experience that will set you apart

- Experience with collaborative version control and bug tracking, preferably on GitHub.
- Knowledge of the Unix shell.
- Knowledge of good practice in data visualization.
- Previous knowledge or interest in global development.

- Experience with academic research and science communication.
- Good understanding of our work at *Our World in Data*.

Personal characteristics we look for

- Commitment to accuracy and attention to detail.
- Ability to think systematically about problems and provide solutions.
- Good judgment in assessing which data is reliable and insightful and which is not.
- Ability and confidence to explain your reasoning and willingness to learn from new evidence and respond positively to feedback.
- Ability to actively seek guidance and learn from expertise across the team.
- Ability to communicate effectively and collaborate as a team, including within remote working environments.
- Curiosity and willingness to work across many different topics.

How to apply

Email us at jobs@ourworldindata.org (subject line must be “Junior Data Scientist” to ensure proper routing) with the following:

- Your CV or equivalent LinkedIn profile.
- In the body of your email, tell us why you want to work for *Our World in Data* and why you think you’re the right person for this job (maximum 500 words).
- Python code for the data analysis exercise described below.
- Your location.
- Where you came across this job ad.

Complete this data analysis exercise

See the instructions for the exercise →

Please also read [our privacy notice](#) regarding the personal data we collect from you during this hiring process.

Feel free to email us any questions about this role or the application process.

Overall process and expected timeline

- We expect the entire process, from the application deadline to making an offer to the successful candidate, to take roughly 6–7 weeks.
- We will start reviewing applications after the deadline and aim to finish that within about 1–2 weeks.
- We will send a take-home data analysis exercise to the shortlisted candidates. This exercise will take a maximum of 4 hours to complete.

- Based on the results of this exercise, we will shortlist candidates for the first of two interview rounds.
- Shortlisted candidates will then be invited to a second and final interview round.
- We would like the successful candidate to start working with us in the second quarter of 2024.

About us

Our World in Data is produced through a close collaboration between academic researchers, data scientists, web developers, and designers.

Research and data are crucial to making progress against the large problems the world is facing and building a better future. At *Our World in Data*, we are building a publishing platform to make research and data on the world's largest problems accessible and understandable.

The world's problems are diverse — global poverty, climate change, child mortality, mental health, and many more. *Our World in Data* readers concerned about these problems should be able to rely on our compilation of research, our database, and our visualizations to understand them clearly and learn how it is possible to make progress against them.

About our team and work environment

- You will work in our Data and Research Team (~8 people) and report to one of our Senior Data Scientists.
- If successful in this position, you may also become part of additional cross-functional working groups.
- You will have flexibility around your hours within a full-time load, but we expect that at least half of your work schedule will overlap with the core hours of our UK staff (10 am to 5 pm London time).
- We organize weekly activities to foster a sense of community across our remote team — from meeting for virtual “tea” to discussing big ideas to playing games together.
- We currently work in 4-week planned cycles, with 25% of our time reserved for self-directed work and discovery projects.
- Our full team meets in person at least once a year.
- The overall team at *Our World In Data* is welcoming, supportive, and high-trust. We're bound together by our common mission and the enjoyment we get from doing excellent work with talented colleagues.

Diversity and inclusion

- Remote work has allowed us to build a team of fascinating individuals from various countries and backgrounds, a diversity we'd like to nurture and encourage.
- We especially welcome applications from candidates whose backgrounds are traditionally underrepresented.
- Our flexible hours make balancing care and other responsibilities easier to manage than many traditional roles.

If you are excited about this role but unsure whether you’re the right fit, we encourage you to apply. We’re also happy to answer any questions by email at jobs@ourworldindata.org.

**Our World in Data is free and accessible for everyone.
Help us do this work by making a donation.**

Donate now

About
Contact
Feedback
Jobs
Funding
How to use
Donate
Privacy policy
Latest work
All charts
Twitter
Facebook
Instagram
Threads
GitHub
RSS Feed





Licenses: All visualizations, data, and articles produced by Our World in Data are open access under the Creative Commons BY license. You have permission to use, distribute, and reproduce these in any medium, provided the source and authors are credited. All the software and code that we write is open source and made available via GitHub under the permissive MIT license. All other material, including data produced by third parties and made available by Our World in Data, is subject to the license terms from the original third-party authors.

Please consult our full legal disclaimer.

Our World In Data is a project of the Global Change Data Lab, a registered charity in England and Wales (Charity Number 1186433).