Job title	Postdoctoral Research Fellow - Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker (OxCGRT)
Division	Social Sciences
Department	Blavatnik School of Government
Location	Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, Woodstock Road, Oxford, OX2 6GG
Grade and salary	Grade 7: £32,817 - £36,914 per annum
Hours	Full time
Contract type	Fixed-term for 12 months.
Reporting to	Executive Director, Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker (OxCGRT)
Vacancy reference	147534
Additional information	The closing date for applications is 12 noon (UK time) on 9 October

The role

The Blavatnik School of Government is looking for a talented Postdoctoral Research Fellow to join the Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker (OxCGRT) project team. This is an exciting role at the centre of a globally-important project – an opportunity to make an impact.

Launched in March 2020, the OxCGRT is a pioneering tool that tracks and compares how governments have responded to the coronavirus outbreak around the world. The tracker systematically collects information on several different policy indicators such as school closures, testing, stay-at-home requirements, and travel restrictions. Drawing on the data, the core team are regularly engaged in advising governments and international organizations, including the UN OHCA, the World Health Organization, the UK Cabinet Office, Department of Health and Social Care, and the Prime Minister's office. The OxCGRT dataset is used by governments, researchers, journalists, and NGOs around the world.

Reporting to the Executive Director, the post holder will be an independent researcher with the willingness and ability to undertake research on policy responses to COVID-19. The postholder's will be expected to develop ideas for new avenues of exploration, contribute to the development of indicators and indices that comprise the OxCGRT,

and oversee projects within the OxCGRT. They will also be required to assist with workflow management for a wide range of analytic outputs, maintain an internal database of relevant literature, and contribute to outreach and engagement with other COVID-19 researchers.

A successful candidate will have a track record of internationally excellent publications, commensurate with the candidate's career stage; the ability to innovate and take initiative in developing new projects and methodologies; and a background in applied research. They should have strong quantitative data analysis skills, an understanding of statistical methods, and experience in manipulating large datasets; and excellent communications skills, with the ability to work with a diverse team. A PhD (or near completion) in a related field is essential.

Responsibilities

The successful applicant will report to the Executive Director of the OxCGRT, and will conduct research under the guidance of the PI, and will be tasked with a combination of:

- Undertake original, world-class research on policy responses to COVID-19, for publication in leading academic journals or books.
- Develop ideas for new avenues of exploration, as well as ideas for generating research income.
- Assist the PI in managing workflow for a wide range of analytic outputs related to OxCGRT.
- Plan and organise a biweekly analysis seminar with users of the OxCGRT dataset, and more broadly, undertake other activities to foster an academic community around the OxCGRT.
- Play a role in developing and refining the set of indicators and indices that comprise the OxCGRT.
- Manage projects within the OxCGRT, which will often include managing research assistants or contributions from external collaborators.
- Maintain an internal database of relevant literature, and contribute to outreach and engagement with other COVID-19 researchers.
- Contribute to the School's programme of seminars and conferences, including events aimed at non-academic audiences.
- Engage directly with, and prepare content for, non-expert audiences, communicating our findings as well as the general "state of the field" to policymakers and journalists.

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/.

Hazard-specific / Safety-critical duties

This job may include 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 (OHS), and the offer of employment may be subject a successful outcome of this assessment.

The hazards or safety-critical duties involved are as follows:
- Travel outside of Europe or North America on University Business

Selection criteria

Essential selection criteria

- Hold a PhD in a field relevant to the OxCGRT, such as political science, economics, or public health. Candidates nearing completion of their doctoral dissertation may also be considered.
- A track record of internationally excellent publications, commensurate with the candidate's career stage.
- Ability to innovate and take initiative in developing new projects and methodologies.
- Quantitative data analysis skills, understanding of statistical methods, and experience in manipulating large datasets (for example, fluency with Stata, R, MATLAB, or python).
- A background in applied research, which has the potential to have impact on public policy and practice.
- Excellent communication skills, including both working with a diverse (and remote) team, as well as the ability to use good, clear writing to synthesise complex issues.

Desirable selection criteria

- A clear interest in the unfolding COVID-19 pandemic, and an ability to think critically about the role of policy.
- Experience conducting analysis with (or collecting data for) large cross-country social science datasets.
- Experience in team-based research and project management, including coordinating groups of authors around a common endeavour.
- Demonstrated experience in applying for research funding.
- Experience working in policymaking or a related field with a global reach (such as international development, or global philanthropy).
- An understanding of the OxCGRT project, its main outputs, and its strengths and weaknesses as a research tool.

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. Income from external research contracts in 2016/17 exceeded £564m and we rank first in the UK for university spin-outs, with more than 130 companies created to date. 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.

The Blavatnik School of Government

Our vision is of a world better led, a world better served and a world better governed. We are a global school committed to improving the quality of government and public policymaking worldwide, through three routes: teaching current and future leaders; applied research; and engagement with government and practitioners.

The School was founded in 2010. We accept around 120 MPP (Master of Public Policy) students and five doctoral students a year.

The Blavatnik School of Government holds a bronze Athena Swan award to recognise advancement of gender equality: representation, progression and success for all.

For more information please visit: www.bsg.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. Please provide details of two referees and indicate whether we can contact them now.

You will also be asked to upload a CV, two sole authored, writing samples 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.

Please upload all documents **as PDF files** with your name and the document type in the filename.

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 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).

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 https://hrsystems.admin.ox.ac.uk/recruitment-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. 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 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 https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/my-family-care

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 https://childcare.admin.ox.ac.uk/home

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/disabled-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 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.