Job Description and Selection Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job title</th>
<th>Postdoctoral Research Assistant in Rough Path Theory for Applications (Mental Health)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Division</td>
<td>Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department</td>
<td>Mathematical Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Andrew Wiles Building, Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, Woodstock Road, Oxford, OX2 6GG.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade and salary</td>
<td>Grade 7: salary in the range £32,236 - £39,609</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hours</td>
<td>Full time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract type</td>
<td>4 years fixed term</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reporting to</td>
<td>Professor Terry Lyons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vacancy reference</td>
<td>142324</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional information</td>
<td>This is a full-time position that cannot be held concurrently with any other substantive post without the explicit permission of the Head of Department.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>This position is subject to a 9 month probationary period.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(PLEASE NOTE: Applicants are responsible for contacting their referees and making sure that their letters are received by the closing date)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The Role

Applications are invited for a Postdoctoral Research Assistant at the Mathematical Institute, University of Oxford. The position is funded by the EPSRC as part of the Programme Grant Unparameterised multi-modal data, high order signatures, and the mathematics of data science (DATASIG) and will be part of a multi-university research group (Imperial College London, University College London and University of Oxford) with a hub at the Alan Turing Institute. Through collaboration between leading mathematicians and leading domain scientists, the Programme will create a powerful and generic set of mathematical and computational tools for the analysis of complex multimodal data streams and to establish their effective use in four applied challenges (ACs): Mental Health, Radio Astronomy, Human
Machine Interfaces and Computer Vision. Each area will be supported by at least one PDRA.

This post supports the Mental Health direction, and particularly, the successful applicant will build on the collaboration with Kate Saunders, John Geddes and their team in the Psychiatry Department, University of Oxford. The core objective of this line in the programme is to create a ground shift in the availability and effective use of passively captured, de-identified, high frequency personal data (evolving mood, stress levels, CRIS,...) to create informed longer term feedback on the well-being of patients. We want to produce informed analysis that can be used by the individual patient and their clinicians to give better oversite.

The capture and analysis of this data generate distinct challenges. These datasets are small, sequential, and multi-modal with many complexities and will generate many new benchmarks and challenges for the wider programme. The individual appointed to this post is expected, in collaboration with domain scientists, to make significant contributions to shaping mathematical foundations and also play an active part in the wider development of the project, interacting creatively with the PDRAs associated to the other challenges.

The project will involve working closely with the PI, Professor Terry Lyons FRS, and the CO-I’s to create a ground shift in the availability and effective use of passively captured, de-identified, high frequency personal data (evolving mood, stress levels, CRIS,...) to create informed longer term feedback on the well-being of patients. They will also work to develop signature methods and rough path techniques as systematic tools for understanding the types of complex multimodal data arising in the mental health context.

The successful candidate will work closely with the other investigators: Thomas Cass (Co-I, Imperial), Hao Ni (Co-I, UCL) and Harald Oberhauser (Co-I, Oxford), with the other PDRAs in the wider DATASIG Team, with the software engineer, and particularly with our project partners in health and mental health.

The post-holder will be based in Mathematics departments, spend 25% of their time in the Psychiatry department in Oxford, and two days a week at the Alan Turing Institute in London (in particular to attend the liaison meetings of the team); they will actively engage with the investigators and generally be an enthusiastic and committed full time postdoctoral researcher in the team.

**Responsibilities**

The successful candidate will be expected to:

- To contribute towards the programme’s aims and objectives by actively engaging with the broader programme team
- Manage their own academic research and administrative activities. This involves small scale project management, to co-ordinate multiple aspects of work to meet deadlines
- Adapt existing and develop new research methodologies and materials
- Prepare working theories and analyse qualitative and/or quantitative data from a variety of sources, reviewing and refining theories as appropriate
- Contribute ideas for new research projects
• Develop ideas for generating research income, and present detailed research proposals to senior researchers

• Collaborate in the preparation of research publications, and book chapters

• Present papers at conferences or public meetings

• Act as a source of information and advice to other members of the group on methodologies or procedures

• Represent the research group at external meetings/seminars

• Carry out collaborative projects with colleagues in partner institutions, and research groups

It is the policy of the Mathematical Institute to give all PDRAs the opportunity to teach, where the conditions of the grant allow this, and to require teaching if there is a departmental need. Such teaching, if undertaken, will not exceed 3 hours per week for 24 weeks of the year and additional remuneration will be paid. It will normally be delivered as classes, but it might also involve giving lectures or college tutorials.

**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 and your identity. 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. The successful candidate will need to successfully complete security clearance to satisfy the ATI’s usual screening policy; this will include a Criminal Records Check.

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/](http://www.ox.ac.uk/about/jobs/preemploymentscreening/).

**Selection criteria**

**Essential selection criteria**

• Willingness and ability to work effectively with a team of researchers and across disciplines to contribute towards the programme’s aims and objectives by actively engaging with the broader programme team

• to have, or be close to completing, a PhD (or equivalent) in Mathematics or a field related to the Programme

• successful research in complex data streams, rough path theory, or NLP, particularly applied to mental health, mathematicians with background in analysis, rough paths and computation without the wider experience can also apply

• clear evidence of outstanding promise and originality in research, with a good publication record, commensurate with career stage

• excellent written communication skills, including the ability to write clearly and succinctly for publication, present research proposals and results, and represent the research group at meetings
• strong computational skills
• Ability to identify, develop and apply concepts, techniques and methods in new contexts, with an awareness of external issues and constraints (such as ethics)
• Ability to exercise initiative and judgement in carrying out research tasks and to organise own work independently and prioritise own work in response to deadlines while keeping accurate records of research results and activity, help with reporting

Desirable selection criteria
• Ability to assess resource requirements and deploy them effectively
• Willingness and ability to report and present work to a wider community

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 Mathematical Institute

The Mathematical Institute, as Oxford’s Department of Mathematics is known, is one of the leading mathematics departments in the world. Our mathematical research, impact and environment were all ranked first in the UK in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework exercise, a government review of research in all UK universities. The Mathematical Institute is the focus of research into both fundamental mathematics and its applications, and our inclusive nature and overall size are key factors in the provision of an outstanding research environment for our members. The large number of faculty, postdocs and students in the Mathematical Institute, all supported by excellent facilities, allows us to maintain a critical mass in research groups encompassing a wide spectrum of mathematics, while our integrated nature fosters collaboration between fields. We also host a large number of
academic visitors. Our web pages (www.maths.ox.ac.uk) provide comprehensive information about all of our activities.

The research activities of the Institute as a whole can be gauged from the web pages of the research groups and centres within the Institute (www.maths.ox.ac.uk/research). The range of our research interests is well reflected by the profile of our faculty as listed at www.maths.ox.ac.uk/people. Many members of the Institute have received prestigious prizes and other special recognition for their work; some recent examples can be found at www.maths.ox.ac.uk/news/awards-and-prizes.

The Mathematical Institute moved into the purpose-built Andrew Wiles Building in the University’s Radcliffe Observatory Quarter in September 2013. As well as providing offices for all staff and graduate students, it houses a range of other facilities available to members of the department, including the Whitehead Library, a large range of meeting rooms, teaching spaces, lecture rooms, and social spaces, and a small facility for carrying out table-top experiments. For more information, see www.maths.ox.ac.uk/about-us.

Teaching is central to the life of the Mathematical Institute and we have around 900 undergraduates on course, some on joint courses with other departments. We teach around 250 students each year across five taught master’s degree courses, and have over 250 doctoral students in residence at any one time. Our doctoral programme always attracts the best research students from across the world, and we have a broad mentoring and training programme.

The Mathematical Institute strives to ensure that all staff and students are given the opportunities and support they need to achieve their potential. We are committed to equality of opportunities and to advancing women’s careers. We support staff returning from long-term absence and provide flexible arrangements for staff with parental responsibilities. Further information about family support can be found in the Standard Terms and Conditions. Our Good Practice Committee contributes to many aspects of our work, see www.maths.ox.ac.uk/members/good-practice.

As part of the department’s commitment to openness, inclusivity and transparency, we strongly encourage applications from all who consider they meet the requirements of the post, and particularly from women and ethnic minorities.

**MPLS Division**

The university’s Division of Mathematical Physical and Life Sciences contains departments that span the full spectrum of the mathematical, computational, physical, engineering and life sciences. Between them, they undertake a huge range of fundamental research and develop application that respond to the great societal and technological challenges of our time. Research across the Division is increasingly interdisciplinary in nature.

MPLS’s scientists collaborate closely with colleagues in other Divisions across Oxford, with other universities, research organisations and industrial partners across the globe.

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1 The Mathematical Institute was a founding supporter of the London Mathematical Society’s Good Practice Scheme (www.lms.ac.uk/women/good-practice-scheme). We have held an Athena SWAN Bronze Award since 2013, upgraded to Silver in 2017.
Our senior researchers have been awarded some of the most significant scientific honours (including Nobel prizes and prestigious titles such as FRS and FREng). The Division is equally proud of its tradition of attracting and nurturing the very best early career researchers, many of whom regularly secure prestigious fellowships.

The Division holds ten Athena Swan Awards (three silver and seven bronze) illustrating its commitment to encouraging women in science research and careers.

For more information visit http://www.mpls.ox.ac.uk/about/about-mpls-division

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 https://www.ox.ac.uk/about/jobs/research/

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.

You will also be required to upload a curriculum vitae, list of publications, a statement of research interests and supporting statement. The supporting statement should describe how you meet the selection criteria outlined in the job description. Please upload all documents as PDF files with your name and the document type in the filename.

Please also provide details of two referees, one should include the applicant’s current or most recent employer, whenever possible and indicate whether we can contact them now.

Applicants should ask their referees to send their letters of reference DIRECTLY to

The Recruitment Administrator (Vacancies)
Mathematical Institute, Andrew Wiles Building, Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, Woodstock Road, Oxford, OX2 6GG. Tel: 01865 273525: Email: vacancies@maths.ox.ac.uk

by the closing date (a letter by email is sufficient) quoting the vacancy reference 141969. Referees should preferably not, all be from the same institution and whenever possible one should be the applicant’s current, or most recent, supervisor. NOTE: reference letters must be received from your referees by the closing date for your application to be complete.

All applications must be received by 12:00 noon UK time on Friday 6th September 2019

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).

DATA PROTECTION: All data supplied by applicants will be used only for the purposes of determining their suitability for the post, and will be held in accordance with the principles of the Data Protection Act 1998 and the department’s data protection policy. https://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/members/policies/data-protection/statement
Due to the large volume of recruitment that the department administers we are unable to provide feedback to non-shortlisted applicants.

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/. 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: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/end/retirement/acrelretire8+/

For existing employees, any employment beyond the retirement age is subject to approval through the procedures: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/end/retirement/acrelretire8+/

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](http://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](http://www.club.ox.ac.uk) and [www.sport.ox.ac.uk/oxford-university-sports-facilities](http://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](http://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/](http://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/](http://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/](http://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](http://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/](http://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](http://www.newcomers.ox.ac.uk).