Job Description and Selection Criteria

**Job title**
Postdoctoral Research Associate in Pure Mathematics

**Division**
Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences

**Department**
Mathematical Institute

**Location**
Andrew Wiles Building, Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, Woodstock Road, Oxford, OX2 6GG.

**Grade and salary**
Grade 7: £36,386 - £42,155 per annum

**Hours**
Full time

**Contract type**
Fixed-term (24 months)

**Reporting to**
Professor Ben Green

**Vacancy reference**
160999

**Additional information**
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.

This post is subject to a 12-month probationary period.

This post is funded by the Simons Foundation.

(PLEASE NOTE: Applicants are responsible for contacting their referees and making sure that their letters are received by the closing date)

**The role**

We invite applications for a Postdoctoral Research Associate to work with Professor Ben Green at the Mathematical Institute, University of Oxford. This is a fixed-term position, available for 24 months and funded by the Simons Foundation. The department anticipates a starting date in October 2023 or as soon as possible thereafter.
Professor Green has diverse interests including additive combinatorics and parts of analytic number theory, harmonic analysis and combinatorics. Applications from candidates whose interests are in one of these areas and which overlap those of Professor Green are welcome.

The successful candidate is expected to pursue research in one or more of the aforementioned areas, independently and/or collaboratively with other members of the group at Oxford and/or other mathematicians internationally. They are expected to provide informal mentorship of D. Phil students in the group.

**Responsibilities**

The successful candidate will be expected to:

- Perform and manage mathematical research projects in one or more areas of pure mathematics including additive combinatorics and parts of analytic number theory, harmonic analysis and combinatorics, under the supervision of Professor Ben Green;
- Review and refine existing theories, or develop new methods as appropriate;
- Participate actively in the activities of the wider Number Theory research group, for instance by participating in the informal internal seminar series run by Profs Green and Maynard, and act as a source of information and advice to its members, including providing informal mentorship to D. Phil students;
- Write up the results of their work, either singly or with co-authors, for publication in refereed journals and proceedings, acknowledging the support of the Simons Foundation;
- Present the results of their work at seminars and conferences, and attend national and international meetings where relevant;
- Develop ideas for generating new research income.

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.
Selection criteria

Your application will be judged only against the criteria which are set out below. You should ensure that your application shows clearly how your skills and experience meet these criteria.

The Selection Committee for this process is expected to comprise

- Professor Ben Green (Chair)
- Professor James Maynard
- Dr Sarah Peluse (Princeton University)

The University is committed to fairness, consistency and transparency in selection decisions. Members of the selection committee are aware of the principles of equality of opportunity, fair selection and the risks of bias.

If, for any reason, you have taken a career break, parental leave or have had an atypical career and wish to disclose this in your application, the selection committee will take this into account, recognising that the quantity of your experience may be reduced as a result.

Essential selection criteria

Applicants will be expected to

- have, or be close to completing, a PhD in mathematics or a related discipline;
- Possess sufficient specialist knowledge in the discipline to work within established research programmes;
- Have the ability to manage own academic research and associated activities;
- Have previous experience of contributing to publications/presentations;
- Possess the ability to contribute ideas for new research projects;
- Have 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 in one or more of the following areas: additive combinatorics and parts of analytic number theory, harmonic analysis and combinatorics.

Pre-employment screening

If you are offered the post, the offer will be subject to standard pre-employment checks. You will be asked to provide: proof of your right-to-work in the UK; proof of your identity; and (if we haven’t done so already) 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 for which you may need us to make appropriate adjustments.

Please read the candidate notes on the University’s pre-employment screening procedures at: https://www.jobs.ox.ac.uk/pre-employment-checks.
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 and we rank first in the UK for university spin-outs, and in recent years we have spun out 15-20 new companies every year. 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 have twice been ranked first in the UK, in the 2021 and 2014 Research Excellence Framework exercises, 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.

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 laboratory 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 with teaching relief, offer flexible working arrangements, and the department sponsors University nursery places to support the priority allocation of childcare to our staff. Further information about family support can be found below under University Benefits, Terms and Conditions. Our Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Committee contributes to many aspects of our work.

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.

We have a number of family-friendly policies, such as the right to apply for flexible working, hybrid working, and support for staff returning from periods of extended absence. We are committed to ensuring an inclusive interview process and will reimburse up to £250 towards any additional care costs (for a dependent child or adult) incurred as a result of attending an interview for this position, which may not be applicable if the interviews are held remotely.

For more information on the Mathematical Institute, please visit: www.maths.ox.ac.uk

The Mathematical Institute holds a silver Athena Swan award to recognise advancement of
gender equality: representation, progression and success for all.

The Mathematical, Physical, and Life Sciences Division

The Mathematical, Physical, and Life Sciences (MPLS) Division is one of the four academic
divisions of the University. In the results of the six-yearly UK-wide assessment of university
research, REF2014, the MPLS division received the highest overall grade point average (GPA)
and the highest GPA for outputs. We received the highest proportion of 4* outputs, and the
highest proportion of 4* activity overall. More than 50 per cent of MPLS activity was assessed
as world leading.

The MPLS Division’s 10 departments and 3 interdisciplinary units span the full spectrum of the
mathematical, computational, physical, engineering and life sciences, and undertake both
fundamental research and cutting-edge applied work. Our research addresses major societal
and technological challenges and is increasingly focused on key interdisciplinary issues. MPLS
is proud to be the home of some of the most creative and innovative scientific thinkers and
leaders working in academe. We have a strong tradition of attracting and nurturing the very
best early career researchers who regularly secure prestigious fellowships.

We have around 6,000 students and play a major role in training the next generation of leading
scientists. Oxford’s international reputation for excellence in teaching is reflected in its position
at the top of the major league tables and subject assessments.

MPLS is dedicated to bringing the wonder and potential of science to the attention of audiences
far beyond the world of academia. We have a strong commitment to supporting public

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 Silver Award
since 2016.
engagement in science through initiatives including the Oxford Sparks portal (http://www.oxfordsparks.net/) and a large variety of outreach activities. We also endeavour to bring the potential of our scientific efforts forward for practical and beneficial application to the real world and our desire is to link our best scientific minds with industry and public policy makers.

For more information about the MPLS division, please visit: http://www.mpls.ox.ac.uk/

How to Apply

Applications are made through our e-recruitment system and you will find all the information you need about how to apply on our Jobs website https://www.jobs.ox.ac.uk/how-to-apply.

Your application will be judged solely on the basis of how you demonstrate that you meet the selection criteria stated in the job description.

As part of your application you will be asked to provide details of two referees and indicate whether we can contact them now.

You will also be required to upload a curriculum vitae, list of publications, a statement of research interests 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).

Please upload all documents as PDF files with your name and the document type in the filename, quoting vacancy reference 160999.

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

The Recruitment Coordinator (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 160999.

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 Monday 14th November 2022.

Interviews will be taking place on Thursday 8th December 2022.
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-protectionstatement](https://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/members/policies/data-protectionstatement)

Due to the large volume of recruitment that the department administers we are unable to provide feedback to non-shortlisted applicants.

**If you need help**

Help and support is available from: [https://hrsystems.admin.ox.ac.uk/recruitment-support](https://hrsystems.admin.ox.ac.uk/recruitment-support)

If you require any further assistance please email recruitment.support@admin.ox.ac.uk.

To return to the online application at any stage, please go to: [www.recruit.ox.ac.uk](http://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: https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/job-applicant-privacy-policy. The University’s Policy on Data Protection is available at: https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/data-protection-policy.

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

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/

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/disability-support

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.