



MATHEMATICAL INSTITUTE ANDREW WILES BUILDING

Job Description and Selection Criteria

Job title	Postdoctoral Research Associate in Optimal Transport Techniques in the Geometric Analysis of Spaces with Curvature Bounds
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 (12 months)
Reporting to	Professor Andrea Mondino
Vacancy reference	162041
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 six-month probationary period. This post is funded by a research grant from the European Research Council (ERC). (PLEASE NOTE: Applicants are responsible for contacting their referees and making sure that their letters are received by the closing date)

Research topic	Optimal transport techniques in the geometric analysis of spaces with curvature bounds
Principal Investigator / supervisor	Professor Andrea Mondino
Project team	Team of Geometric Analysis & Optimal Transport



Project web site	https://sites.google.com/view/andrea-mondino-math/erc
Funding partner	The funds supporting this research project are provided by the European Research Council (ERC).
Recent publications	 D. Barilari, A. Mondino and L. Rizzi, Unified synthetic Ricci curvature lower bounds for Riemannian and sub-Riemannian structures, Preprint arXiv (2022). A. Mondino and D. Semola, Weak Laplacian bounds and minimal boundaries in non-smooth spaces with Ricci curvature lower bounds. Preprint arXiv (2021). I. Mondello, A. Mondino and R. Perales, An upper bound on the revised first Betti number and a torus stability result for RCD spaces. Preprint arXiv (2021). N. De Ponti and A. Mondino, Entropy-Transport distances between unbalanced metric measure spaces, Preprint arXiv (2020). F. Cavalletti and A. Mondino, Optimal transport in Lorentzian synthetic spaces, synthetic timelike Ricci curvature lower bounds and applications, preprint arXiv (2020). V. Kapovitch and A. Mondino, On the topology and the boundary of N-dimensional RCD(K,N) spaces, Geometry & Topology 25 (2021) 445-495, DOI: 10.2140/gt.2021.25.445, N. De Ponti and A. Mondino, Sharp Cheeger-Buser type inequalities in RCD(K,∞) spaces, J. Geom. Anal., Vol. 31, 2416–2438 (2021). https://doi.org/10.1007/s12220-020-00358-6, A. Mondino and S. Suhr, An optimal transport formulation of the Einstein equations of general relativity, Journ. Europ. Math. Soc. (accepted), preprint arXiv (2018, revised 2021) A. Mondino and D. Semola, Polya-Szego inequality and Dirichlet p-spectral gap for non-smooth spaces with Ricci curvature bounded below, Journal de Mathématiques Pures et Appliquées, Vol.137, (2020), pp 238-274, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.matpur.2019.10.005, F. Cavalletti and A. Mondino, New formulas for the Laplacian of distance functions and applications, Analysis and PDE, 13 (2020) 2091-2147, DOI: 10.2140/apde.2020.13.2091

The role

Professor Andrea Mondino invites interested researchers to apply for a postdoctoral position to work under his supervision on a topic related to his ERC Starting Grant "Optimal transport techniques in the geometric analysis of spaces with curvature bounds". This project focuses on optimal transportation, geometric analysis, geometric and functional inequalities, metric measure spaces with Ricci curvature lower bounds (in the sense of Lott-Sturm-Villani), Lorentzian geometry and general relativity. The members of the team master methods coming from Riemannian geometry, optimal transport, functional analysis, metric geometry and metric analysis. The post holder will contribute to the research climate within the department and to further its international standing by conducting high-quality, relevant, research.

Responsibilities

The successful candidate will be expected to:

- Establish a sound research base in order to pursue and manage individual and collaborative research projects of high quality, and their associated administrative activities, consistent with making a substantial research contribution in line with the departmental objectives of maintaining their world-class research performance;
- 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;
- To attend and present research findings and papers at academic and professional conferences, and to contribute to the external visibility of the department;
- To participate in relevant professional activities, such as departmental research seminars, and in the organisation of research workshops and other events;
- Act as a source of information and advice to other members of the group on methodologies or procedures;
- To work collaboratively with other researchers and senior investigators on the project.

The duties and responsibilities outline are not intended to be an exhaustive list but to provide guidance on the main aspects of the job. The post holder will be required to be flexible in their duties.

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 Andrea Mondino (Chair)
- Professor Qian Wang
- Dr Clemens Sämann

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;
- Have specialist knowledge in the topics of the project (documented by pre-publications), in particular:
 - Synthetic Ricci curvature lower bounds and optimal transport,
 - Sub-Riemannian geometry
 - Geometry and analysis in metric measure spaces
- Ability to initiate, develop and deliver high quality research and to publish in peer reviewed journals;
- Evidence of quality research output from experienced candidates or strong research potential from less experienced candidates;
- Ability to contribute ideas for new research projects and research income generation;
- Good, effective, communication (oral and written), presentation and training skills, including the ability to write for publication, present research proposals and results, and represent the research group at meetings;
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team on research programmes.

Desirable selection criteria

• Ability to initiate, plan, organise, implement and deliver programmes of work to tight deadlines.

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: <u>https://www.jobs.ox.ac.uk/pre-employment-checks</u>.

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 cuttingedge. 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 (<u>www.maths.ox.ac.uk/research</u>). The range of our research interests is well reflected by the profile of our faculty as listed at <u>www.maths.ox.ac.uk/people</u>. Many members of the Institute have received prestigious prizes and other special recognition for their work; some recent examples can be found at <u>www.maths.ox.ac.uk/news</u>.

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 Committee¹ 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 (<u>www.lms.ac.uk/women/good-practice-scheme</u>). We have held an Athena SWAN Silver Award since 2016.

engagement in science through initiatives including the Oxford Sparks portal (<u>http://www.oxfordsparks.net/</u>) 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 online recruitment portal. Information about how to apply is available on our Jobs website <u>https://www.jobs.ox.ac.uk/how-to-apply</u>.

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, if required, at offer of appointment stage. Please note that the department will not contact referees at application stage; it is the applicant's responsibility to contact their referees and ensure that letters are received by the closing date.

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 **162041**.

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: <u>vacancies@maths.ox.ac.uk</u>

by the closing date (a letter by email is sufficient) quoting the vacancy reference 162041.

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 **Tuesday 29th November 2022.**

Interviews are anticipated to take place in the week commencing Monday 5th December 2022.

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.

If you need help

Application FAQs, including technical troubleshooting advice is available at: <u>https://staff.web.ox.ac.uk/recruitment-support-faqs</u>

Non-technical questions about this job should be addressed to the recruiting department directly at <u>vacancies@maths.ox.ac.uk</u>.

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 online recruitment portal 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: <u>https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/job-applicant-privacy-policy</u>. The University's Policy on Data Protection is available at: <u>https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/data-protection-policy</u>.

The University's policy on retirement

The University operates an Employer Justified Retirement Age (EJRA) for very senior research posts at **grade RSIV/D35 and clinical equivalents E62 and E82**, which with effect from 1 October 2023 will be 30 September before the 70th birthday. The justification for this is explained at: <u>https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/the-ejra.</u>

For **existing** employees on these grades, any employment beyond the retirement age is subject to approval through the procedures: <u>https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/the-ejra.</u>

There is no normal or fixed age at which staff in posts at other grades 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 <u>https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/staff-benefits</u>

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 <u>www.club.ox.ac.uk</u> and <u>https://www.sport.ox.ac.uk/</u>.

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 <u>https://welcome.ox.ac.uk/</u> There is also a visa loan scheme to cover the costs of UK visa applications for staff and their dependents. See <u>https://staffimmigration.admin.ox.ac.uk/visa-loan-scheme</u>

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 the Work+Family Space, 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 <u>https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/networks</u>

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 <u>www.newcomers.ox.ac.uk</u>.