



Job Description and Selection Criteria

Post	Regius Professorship of Mathematics
Department/Faculty	Mathematical Institute
Division	Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences
College	Merton College

Overview of the post

A Regius Professor of Mathematics is due to be appointed by His Majesty the King at the University of Oxford, with effect from 1 October 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter.

The Regius Professor of Mathematics will be a research mathematician of the highest international calibre, contribute to the department's teaching, and exercise broad leadership to influence the department's academic direction and governance generally. This post will become available following the retirement of the inaugural postholder, Professor Sir Andrew Wiles FRS.

You will join Oxford's world leading Mathematical Institute, which in the last two REF (Research Excellence Framework) exercises in 2021 and 2014 has been ranked first in the UK, and which is housed in the stunning Andrew Wiles Building in the heart of the University's new Radcliffe Observatory Quarter. You will, in addition to the departmental appointment, be elected as a Professorial Fellow of Merton College, a vibrant and diverse intellectual community that has been at the forefront of education and research at the University of Oxford since 1264.

If you would like to discuss this post, please contact Professor Jon Chapman, Head of the Mathematical Institute on head-of-department@maths.ox.ac.uk, or Professor Martin Bridson on martin.bridson@maths.ox.ac.uk. Informal queries relating to the college can be directed to the Senior Tutor, Dr Jane Gover, on senior.tutor@merton.ox.ac.uk. All enquiries will be treated in strict confidence and will not form part of the selection decision.

Duties of the post

You will be a member of both the University and College communities. You will be part of a lively and intellectually stimulating research community which performs to the highest international levels in research and publications and will have access to the excellent research facilities which Oxford offers. You will have a role to play in the running of the College as a member of the Governing Body and a trustee of the College.



The main duties of the post are as follows:

Research

- engage in original mathematics research of the highest calibre;
- disseminate research through publication in scholarly journals, participation in international conferences and seminars, and in other ways as appropriate;

Academic Leadership and Funding

- provide research leadership;
- secure research funding and engage in the management of research projects;

Teaching and Examining

- carry out teaching at undergraduate and graduate level, including lectures (which may not be exclusively in your area of research expertise), classes, and project supervision. The requirement will normally be to give not fewer than thirty-six lectures (or equivalent) in each academic year by agreement with the Head of the Mathematical Institute;
- supervise Doctoral and Masters students, and postdoctoral research associates;
- take part in University examining both for undergraduate and graduate students as and when requested to do so;

Pastoral duties

- act as a College Adviser to postgraduate students studying Mathematics at Merton College;

Administration

- participate in the administration of the department as and when requested by the Head of the Mathematical Institute;
- act as Head of the Mathematical Institute if requested to do so by the Divisional Board;
- participate in the administration and governance of the College, which includes exercising the duties of a Trustee, as a member of the Governing Body, attending meetings of the Governing Body (three per term), serving on College Committees, and taking an appropriate share in the administrative work of the College;
- take part in the intellectual life and activities of the College as an academic and research community, for example attending, and on occasion giving, lectures and talks, and attending special dinners.

Headship of Department

Every professor who is employed by the University, unless individually exempted, has an obligation to accept headship of the department or faculty in which their post is held, if invited to do so by the Divisional Board.

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 University is committed to fairness, consistency and transparency in selection decisions. Members of electoral boards (selection committees) will be aware of the principles of equality of opportunity, fair selection and the risks of bias. There will be both female and male board members wherever possible.

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

You will demonstrate the following:

- a proven record of original fundamental mathematics research of the highest quality, as evidenced by, for example, publications in internationally refereed journals;
- the ability to provide research leadership;
- a willingness to engage with users of mathematics outside the core mathematics community, for example in other academic disciplines or industry (desirable but not essential);
- a proven record of securing research funding, and the potential to do so in the future;
- evidence of contributions to research strategy, leadership and direction outside the area of your speciality;
- the ability to communicate and disseminate your research, as evidenced by, for example, invitations to and participation in conferences, seminars and workshops;
- experience of supervising graduate students and directing postdoctoral researchers;
- evidence of effective and innovative teaching, in particular in undergraduate and graduate lectures;
- a commitment to ensuring the Department provides a positive, supportive and inclusive environment for all;
- evidence of the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of people, including students, early-, mid- and established-career academics in mathematics and other subjects, and members of the College;
- experience of academic administration and a willingness to undertake the full range of administrative duties in the department;
- the ability and willingness to contribute positively to the management of the college.

How to apply

Please visit https://my.corehr.com/pls/uoxrecruit/erg_jobspec_details_form.jobspec?p_id=173845, then 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 refer to the "Terms of Use" in the left hand menu bar for information about privacy and data protection. Please provide details of three referees and indicate whether the University may contact them without seeking your permission. Referees should not write directly to the University, but may be contacted at any stage in the recruitment process if the electoral board requests your references.

You will also be asked to upload a CV and a supporting statement. The supporting statement should explain how you meet the selection criteria for the post using examples of your skills and experience. This may include experience gained in education or employment, or during career breaks (such as time out to care for dependants).

The University of Oxford is committed to equal opportunity, and to being a place where everyone belongs and is supported to succeed. We recognise how the diversity of our community enriches our ability to deliver on our academic mission.

We welcome applications from individuals from all backgrounds, including those under-represented within higher education. No applicant or members of staff shall be unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

Employment with the University and progression within employment will be determined according to personal merit and the application of criteria related to the duties and conditions of the post. In all cases, the primary consideration will be the ability to perform the job.

As stated in the University's Equality Policy and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan, our commitment to equality and diversity goes hand in hand with our commitment to academic freedom and free speech

The University and colleges welcome applications from candidates who have a disability or long-term health condition and is committed to providing long term support. The University's disability advisor can provide support to applicants with a disability, please see <https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/disability-support> for details. Please let us know if you need any adjustments to the recruitment process, including the provision of these documents in large print, audio or other formats. If we invite you for interviews, we will ask whether you require any particular arrangements at the interview. The University Access Guide gives details of physical access to University buildings <https://www.accessguide.ox.ac.uk/>.

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

All applications must be received by **12:00 UK time on Monday 12 January 2026**.

Please email recruitment.support@admin.ox.ac.uk should you experience difficulties using the online application system. 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 log back in and click the "My applications" button on the left hand side of the page.

You will be notified of the progress of your application by automatic emails from our e-recruitment system. **Please check your spam/junk mail** regularly to ensure that you receive all emails.

All applications will be considered by the Advisory Committee as soon as possible after the closing date. The Advisory Committee is free to search for other candidates at this or any subsequent stage in its proceedings. You will be kept informed of the progress of your application at each stage, but in some cases there may be a delay while deliberations are ongoing. All shortlisted candidates will be interviewed and will be asked to give a short presentation to the Advisory Committee as part of the interview. The composition of the Advisory Committee will be published in the University Gazette (<https://gazette.web.ox.ac.uk/>) when it is finalised.

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.

The research activities of the Institute as a whole can be gauged from the web pages of the research groups 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 Department also enjoys several links with prominent researchers in the Department of Statistics.

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 <http://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/about-us>.

Teaching is central to the life of the Mathematical Institute and we have an annual intake of approximately 300 undergraduates, some on courses taught jointly with other departments. We admit 200 students each year across five taught masters' degree courses and have over 250 doctoral students in residence at any one time. Our doctoral programme 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. The Mathematical Institute holds a silver Athena SWAN award. 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 in the Standard Terms and Conditions. Our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee contributes to many aspects of our work, see: <https://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/about-us/equality-diversity-and-inclusion>.

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.

Our web pages (www.maths.ox.ac.uk) provide comprehensive information about all of our activities.

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. Oxford is widely recognised as one of the world's leading science universities and the MPLS Division is home to our non-medical sciences, with 9 academic departments that span the full spectrum of the mathematical, computational, physical, engineering and life sciences, undertaking both fundamental research and cutting-edge applied work. Our research tackles major societal and technological challenges – whether developing new energy solutions or improved cancer treatments, understanding climate change processes, or helping to preserve biodiversity and is increasingly focused on key interdisciplinary issues. We collaborate closely with colleagues in Oxford across the medical sciences, social sciences and humanities, as well as with other universities, research organisations and industrial partners across the globe in pursuit of innovative research geared to address critical and fundamental scientific questions.

The disciplines within the MPLS Division regularly appear at the highest levels in rankings, including the Times Higher Education and QS world rankings. Nationally, the quality of the Division's research outputs and environment, and the resulting impact, was recognised through strong performances in the UK Research Excellence Framework in both 2014 and 2021.

MPLS is proud to be the home of some of the most creative and innovative scientific thinkers and leaders working in academe. Our senior researchers have been awarded some of the most significant scientific honours and we have a strong tradition of attracting and nurturing the very best early career researchers who regularly secure prestigious fellowships and faculty positions. All departments in the Division also hold Athena Swan Awards, illustrating our commitment to ensure good practice and to encourage women in science at all levels.

We have around 6,000 full and part-time students (including approximately 2000 graduate 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 academics educate students of high academic merit and potential from all over the world. Through a mixture of lectures, practical work and the distinctive college tutorial system, students develop their ability to solve diverse mathematical, scientific and engineering problems.

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 engagement in science through initiatives including the Oxford Sparks portal (www.oxfordsparks.ox.ac.uk/) and a large variety of outreach activities; these are crucial activities given so many societal and technological issues demand an understanding of the science that underpins them. We also 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: www.mpls.ox.ac.uk.

Merton College

There are 39 self-governing and independent colleges at Oxford, giving both academic staff and students the benefits of belonging to a small, interdisciplinary community as well as to a large, internationally-renowned institution. The collegiate system fosters a strong sense of community, bringing together leading academics and students across subjects, and from different cultures and countries.

Merton College was founded in 1264 by Walter de Merton, and is one of the oldest colleges within the University of Oxford. It was the first fully self-governing college in the University and was originally founded for twenty fellows, with undergraduates being formally admitted in the early 1380s. Over the centuries, many eminent scholars and cultural leaders have called Merton home including four Nobel Prize winners and an Abel Prize winner. Merton College has a strong commitment to excellence in teaching and research across a range of subjects in the Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities. The College community currently comprises around 620 students (320 undergraduates and 300 postgraduates), some 70 Fellows, 50 other academic staff and over 100 members of support staff. The College strives to create a diverse, welcoming, inclusive and supportive community in which its students can thrive.

Further information about the College can be obtained from <http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk>.

The postholder will have the opportunity to participate in a thriving and energetic intellectual community, and to interact productively with Fellows at Merton. The College has two Tutorial Fellows in Pure Mathematics (Professor Alex Scott and Professor James Newton) and one Tutorial Fellow in Applied Mathematics (Professor Radek Erban). Professor Ehud Hrushovski, Professor Andrew Wiles (the current Regius Professor of Mathematics) and Professor Ulrike Tillmann are also Fellows of the College. The College also employs a Lecturer in Statistics and one of its current Early Career Researchers, Dr Raz Slutsky, is also a mathematician. Other Fellows of the College work in disciplines that connect with Mathematics including Tutors in Computer Science (Professor Standa Zivny), Physics (Professors Simon Hooker, Alan Barr and Alex Schekochihin) and Philosophy (Professor Samuel Fletcher).

Merton is firmly committed to supporting its Fellows' research by means of research funding and generous Visiting Research Fellow and Visiting Scholar schemes. Merton is a family-friendly employer.

Mathematics at Merton College

Mathematics has a long and strong tradition at Merton which includes such figures as Thomas Bradwardine (c. 1321), Henry Savile (d. 1622) and Professor Sir Andrew Wiles, Regius Professor in Mathematics. Undergraduate performance in public examinations typically exceeds the University average. The post therefore offers the opportunity to interact with some of the best mathematics students in Oxford.

Merton College typically admits 6 undergraduates per year for the Mathematics / Mathematics & Statistics degree, and a further 4 for joint degrees with Mathematics (Mathematics & Computer Science and Mathematics & Philosophy). Most undergraduate students choose to take the 4-year versions of the degrees which include an integrated Masters year. The College has a sizeable community of postgraduates, which currently includes 18 students studying Mathematics, most of who are undertaking doctorates.

For information on Fellows of Merton, see: <https://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/fellows>.

Merton's mathematical community hosts a variety of academic and social events through the year, including talks, teas and a subject dinner organised by the active student-run Mathematical Society.

About the University of Oxford

Oxford's departments and colleges 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.

Oxford's self-governing community of international scholars includes Professors, Associate Professors, other college tutors, senior and junior research fellows and over 2,500 other University research staff. Research at Oxford combines disciplinary depth with an increasing focus on inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary activities addressing a rich and diverse range of issues. The current strategic plan can be found at <http://www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/strategic-plan-2018-23>.

Oxford's strengths lie both in empowering individuals and teams to address fundamental questions of global significance, and in providing all staff with a welcoming and inclusive workplace that supports everyone to develop and do their best work. Recognising that diversity is a great strength, and vital for innovation and creativity, Oxford aspires to build a truly inclusive community which values and respects every individual's unique contribution.

While Oxford has long traditions of scholarship, it is also forward-looking, creative and cutting-edge. Oxford is one of Europe's most entrepreneurial universities. It consistently has the highest external research income of any university in the UK (the most recent figures are available at www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/finance-and-funding), and is ranked first in the UK for university spin-outs, with more than 130 spin-off companies created to date. Oxford is also recognised as a leading supporter of social enterprise.

Oxford admits undergraduate students with the intellectual potential to benefit fully from the small group learning to which Oxford is deeply committed. Meeting in small groups with their tutor, undergraduates are exposed to rigorous scholarly challenge and learn to develop their critical thinking, their ability to articulate their views with clarity, and their personal and intellectual confidence. They receive a high level of personal attention from leading academics.

Oxford has a strong postgraduate student body which now numbers over 10,000. Postgraduates are attracted to Oxford by the international standing of the faculty, by the rigorous intellectual training on offer, by the excellent research and laboratory facilities available, and by the resources of the museums and libraries, including one of the world's greatest libraries, the Bodleian.

For more information please visit www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation.

University Benefits, Terms and Conditions

Details of University policy in the following areas can be found at the links provided.

Salary

<https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/academic-staff-pay>

Pension

<https://finance.admin.ox.ac.uk/uss>

Sabbatical leave

<https://governance.admin.ox.ac.uk/legislation/council-regulations-4-of-2004>

Outside commitments

<https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/holding-outside-appointments>

Intellectual Property

<https://governance.admin.ox.ac.uk/legislation/council-regulations-7-of-2002>

Managing conflicts of interest

<https://researchsupport.admin.ox.ac.uk/governance/integrity>

Membership of Congregation

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/governance>

<https://governance.admin.ox.ac.uk/legislation/statute-iv-congregation>

Family support

<https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/family-leave-for-academic-staff>

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

<https://www.newcomers.ox.ac.uk/>

International Staff

<https://jobs.web.ox.ac.uk/lifeinoxford>

<https://staffimmigration.admin.ox.ac.uk/>

Relocation

<https://finance.admin.ox.ac.uk/relocation-scheme-arrangements-guide-for-new-starters>

Equality and Diversity

<https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/home>

Other benefits and discounts for University employees

<https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/discounts>

Pre-employment screening

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

Length of appointment

<https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/academic-posts-at-oxford#collapse1532056>

Retirement

The University operates an employer justified retirement age for academic posts of 30 September immediately preceding the 70th birthday. See <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/the-ejra>

Data Privacy

<https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/job-applicant-privacy-policy>.

<https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/data-protection-policy>

College Benefits

As a Professorial Fellow of Merton College, you will be entitled to the following:

- free meals at the Common Table of the College when the College Kitchen is open.
- full membership of the Senior Common Room (for which a small monthly subscription is payable).
- The College provides private medical insurance free of charge for Fellows, cohabiting partners, and dependent children under the age of 21. The premium is assessed as a taxable benefit.
- to apply for up to £3,800 p.a. (current rate) of qualifying research expenses.
- to receive a taxable entertainment allowance of £200 p.a. in respect of the College Adviser role.
- to put forward proposals for Visiting Research Fellows, of which two are elected for each term. These positions enjoy free accommodation and meals. In addition, the College reserves a flat in central Oxford for occupation by a scholar working with a Fellow, which may be booked for long or short periods depending on availability.
- to book Merton's conference facilities at preferential rates (<http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/conferences>).