



University of Oxford Department of Computer Science

Job description and selection criteria

Job title	PA to Professors (maternity cover)
Division	MPLS
Department	Computer Science
Location	Wolfson Building, Parks Road, Oxford.
Grade and salary	Grade 5: Salary £24,057 - £28,695 p.a.
Hours	Full Time
Contract type	Fixed-term for 6 months
Vacancy reference	118383

Introduction

The University

The University of Oxford is a complex and stimulating organisation, which enjoys an international reputation as a world-class centre of excellence in research and teaching. It employs over 11,000 staff and has a student population of over 22,000.

Our annual income in 2013/14 was £1,174.4m. Oxford is one of Europe's most innovative and entrepreneurial universities: income from external research contracts exceeds £478.3m p.a., and more than 80 spin-off companies have been created.

Oxford is a collegiate university, consisting of the central University and colleges. The central University is composed of academic departments and research centres, administrative departments, libraries and museums. There is a highly devolved operational structure, which is split across four academic divisions, Academic Services and University Collections and University Administrative Services. For further information, please see:

www.ox.ac.uk/staff/about_the_university/new_to_the_university/structure_of_university.

For more information please visit <http://www.ox.ac.uk/about>

The Mathematical, Physical, and Life Sciences Division (MPLS)

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. The disciplines within the MPLS Division regularly appear at the highest levels in world rankings. 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. We collaborate closely with colleagues in Oxford across the medical sciences, social sciences and humanities, and with other universities, research organisations and industrial partners across the globe in pursuit of innovative research geared to address critical and fundamental scientific questions.

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 (including Nobel prizes and prestigious titles such as FRS and FR.Eng) and we have a strong tradition of attracting and nurturing the very best early career researchers who regularly secure prestigious fellowships. The Division is also the proud holder of eight Athena Swan Awards (4 Silver and 4 Bronze) illustrating our commitment to ensure good practice and to encourage women in science at all levels in the division.

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 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 major 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 (<http://www.oxfordsparks.net/>) 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 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/>

Department of Computer Science

The Department of Computer Science was established in 1957, making it one of the longest-established Computer Science departments in the country. It is one of the UK's leading Computer Science Departments (ranked first in a number of international rankings). The Research Excellence Framework (REF) in December 2014 resulted in 74 members of the Department having 53% of their research activity ranked in the top category of 4* (world-leading). Overall, we received an average of 3.34 across the department (3* being internationally excellent). A significant majority of the Department are active in externally sponsored research, with both government and industrial funding. At present there are 69 members of academic staff and almost 100 research staff.

The Department has close links with government, industry, and other departments within the University. Among the latter are Mathematics, Engineering, Physics, Statistics and a number of life sciences departments. The Department is housed across multiple sites within the University's South Parks Road Science area, facilitating strong collaborative links with research groups and institutes in closely allied areas (including the Oxford Internet Institute and the Oxford e-Research Centre). This is an essentially inter-disciplinary activity which is at present attracting major funding from a number of sources. At present the Department holds over £50m in external research contracts.

Research in the Department is currently managed in seven themes:

- *Programming Languages and Software Engineering* (led by Professor Jeremy Gibbons, and including Professor Jim Davies) works on a wide variety of areas including model-driven development, functional programming, and static analysis;
- *Security* (led by Professor Bill Roscoe) specialises in cybersecurity (Professor Sadie Creese leads a new Cybersecurity Centre), protocol analysis, trusted computing, networking, and human-centred computing;
- *Automated Verification* (led by Professor Marta Kwiatkowska) covers probabilistic and software model checking (Professor Daniel Kroening), time and concurrency (Professor Joel Ouaknine, Professor James Worrell, and Professors Roscoe and Lowe), and hardware (Professor Tom Melham);
- *Computational Biology* (led by Professor David Gavaghan, and including Professors Kevin Burrage, Helen Byrne, and Blanca Rodriguez) is one of the world's leading groups building computational models of biological systems, and is particularly well-known for its work on the heart;
- *Foundations, Logic and Structures*, (leader Professor Samson Abramsky) which includes groups working on quantum information and computation (Professors Samson Abramsky and Bob Coecke), game semantics and verification (Professor Luke Ong), and constraints (Professor Peter Jeavons);
- *Information Systems* (led by Professor Ian Horrocks, and including Professors Michael Benedikt, Nando de Freitas, Boris Motik, Georg Gottlob, and Michael Wooldridge) has groups working on databases, knowledge representation and reasoning, multi-agent systems, and computational linguistics (Professor Stephen Pulman);
- *Algorithms* (led by Professor Leslie Ann Goldberg, and including Professors Paul Goldberg and Elias Koutsoupias) covering computational complexity, algorithmic game theory, and constraint satisfaction.

For more information please visit: <http://www.cs.ox.ac.uk/>

Summary of the University's Equal Opportunities Policy

The policy and practice of the University of Oxford require that all staff are afforded equal opportunities within employment. 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. Subject to statutory provisions, no applicant or member of staff will be treated less favourably than another because of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

Job description

Overview of the role

Currently the Department is divided into different themes, and each of the Professors maintain their own research groups. We are seeking to appoint a Personal Assistant to assist some of the senior Professors.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

1. The Personal Assistant will provide support to the senior academic staff involving tasks such as: maintaining their diaries; dealing with telephone enquiries and correspondence, including confidential material; preparing replies where necessary; dealing with urgent matters in their absence; arranging meetings; liaising with people at all levels both within the University and outside.
2. Manage travel, e.g., arranging flights, trains, hotels, dealing with expense claims, providing travel itineraries.
3. Maintaining electronic/hardcopy filing systems to support professorial research and management duties.
4. Providing general secretarial support for any of the academic's research group who request this service
5. Providing the administrative support to organisers of conferences, seminars, meetings, etc., held by the academics and groups within the department. This includes booking of rooms, liaising with other departments of the University and external organisations, organising refreshments, arranging accommodation and travel if appropriate. Assisting the PA to the Head of Department with full administration of conferences and workshops as required.
6. Preparation and updating of specified pages for publication on either the department's or group's web-site.
7. Conference bookings and workshop registrations for students and staff within the groups as required.
8. Assisting the PA to the Head of Department on projects such as collecting information for the Research Excellence Framework exercise as required.

9. Preparation of technical (mathematical) papers for publication and the production of camera-ready copy using LaTeX and/or MS Word. Training in LaTeX will be provided if required.
10. Any other secretarial duties as requested by the Department Administrator or the PA to the Head of Department to ensure the smooth running of the Department.

Key Tasks

- Managing the diaries of the Professors
- Acting as the main point of contact for the professors; scheduling meetings, organising itineraries and managing local projects
- Ensuring that documents, letters, reports etc are produced against deadlines
- Preparing meeting preparation notes and reports as required
- The post holder may assist with the oversight of the research projects budgets
- Facilitating actions and interactions among senior members of staff, ensuring urgent or high priority issues are quickly communicated and fast-tracked between all parties
- Supporting the work of the PA to the Head of department, including assisting with arranging and coordinating meetings;
- Carrying out any other duties which are requested and are commensurate with the grade of this post

Key Relationships

The post holder will relate to a diverse group of people. S/he will have regular contact with:

- Professors
- Their research groups
- Head of Department
- Departmental Administrator
- PA to the Head of Department

Selection Criteria

Essential

Experience and knowledge:

A good general level of education including

- Experience of working in an academic environment
- Good communication skills, both oral and written.

Skills and abilities:

- The ability to prioritise work for maximum efficiency is essential
- Proven ability to develop good working relationships with academics, university leaders, and administrators
- High levels of professionalism, self-motivation, and organisation, and tact and

- discretion in dealing with confidential or sensitive matters
- Good standard of literacy and ability to draft correspondence
 - Ability to work on a variety of tasks at the same time, and to organise and prioritise own work, including coping with unpredictable volumes of work and busy periods reorienting at short notice to handle urgent matters
 - The ability to absorb substantial detail and keep track of a range of diverse activities and to make connections between them
 - Proven ability of working as part of a team and liaising with colleagues where work interests overlap
 - Excellent telephone manner and interpersonal skills, and the ability to deal with highly influential external contacts
 - Excellent skills in office IT systems, including Microsoft Outlook (both email communications function and the calendar management function), Microsoft Power point (able to quickly create professional presentations), Word, Excel and share site technology

Attitudes

- The candidate must be flexible and prepared to work out of regular hours from time-to-time
- Self motivation, resilience, appreciation of customer service and a 'can do' approach

Pre-employment screening

Please note that the appointment of the successful candidate will be subject to standard pre-employment screening, as applicable to the post. This will include right-to-work, proof of identity and references. All applicants must read the candidate notes on the University's pre-employment screening procedures, found at:

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/about/jobs/preemploymentscreening/>.

Working at the University of Oxford

For further information about working at Oxford, please see:

http://www.ox.ac.uk/about_the_university/jobs/supportandtechnical

Salary and Benefits

The post, which is a full-time appointment, is fixed-term for 6 months, and has a salary on the University grade 05S scale (currently £24,057 to £28,695 p.a.). This includes membership of the OSPS and has an annual leave entitlement of 38 days per year (inclusive of all public holidays and university closed periods).

How to apply

If you consider that you meet the selection criteria, click on the **Apply Now** button on the 'Job Details' page and follow the on-screen instructions to register as a user. You will then be required to complete a number of screens with your application details, relating to your skills and experience. When prompted, please provide details of two referees and indicate whether we can contact them at this stage. You will also be required to upload a CV and

supporting statement. The supporting statement should describe what you have been doing over at least the last 10 years. This may have been employment, education, or you may have taken time away from these activities in order to raise a family, care for a dependant, or travel for example. Your application will be judged solely on the basis of how you demonstrate that that you meet the selection criteria outlined above and we are happy to consider evidence of transferable skills or experience which you may have gained outside the context of paid employment or education.

Please save all uploaded documents to show your name and the document type.

All applications must be received by **midday** on the closing date stated in the online advertisement.

Should you experience any difficulties using the online application system, please email recruitment.support@admin.ox.ac.uk

To return to the online application at any stage, please click on the following link www.recruit.ox.ac.uk

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