

Summary

Job title	Novo Nordisk Postdoctoral Research Fellow (5 Posts)
Division	Medical Sciences Division
Department	Radcliffe Department of Medicine, University of Oxford
Location	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics (DPAG) 2. Department of Pharmacology 3. Nuffield Department of Clinical Neuroscience (NDCN) 4. Nuffield Division of Clinical Laboratory Sciences which is part of the Radcliffe Department of Medicine (NDCLS, RDM) 5. Department of Chemistry 6. Nuffield Department of Population Health (NDPH) 7. Department of Psychiatry 8. Oxford Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism which is part of the Radcliffe Department of Medicine (OCDEM, RDM) 9. Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, which is part of the Radcliffe Department of Medicine (CVM, RDM) 10. Novo Nordisk Research Centre Oxford (NNRCO)
Grade and salary	Grade 7: £33,309 - £40,927 per annum
Hours	Full time
Contract type	Fixed-term (3 years)
Reporting to	To be confirmed on appointment, dependent upon project selected.
Vacancy reference	156692
Additional information	Interviews will be held on Monday 4 July 2022.

Research topic	Diabetes and other cardiometabolic diseases
Principal Investigator / supervisor	A list of principal investigators and the projects that are available are listed below
Project team	N/A
Project web site	www.rdm.ox.ac.uk/novo-nordisk-fellowships



Funding partner	The funds supporting this research project are provided by Novo Nordisk.
Recent publications	See above website.

The role

Novo Nordisk is funding a prestigious fellowship programme at the University of Oxford for basic science postdoctoral researchers. The fellowship programme is coordinated by the Radcliffe Department of Medicine but encompasses all researchers in Oxford with a focus in diabetes and other cardiometabolic diseases. It aims to support the development of a new generation of exceptional early career researchers, who will become future leaders in the field, while further developing scientific excellence and ultimately improving the lives of patients. As part of this programme, we are looking to recruit five outstanding postdoctoral researchers.

In Oxford, world class research in diabetes and other cardiometabolic diseases is conducted across the spectrum of population, clinical and basic science and the projects on offer span this spectrum.

Depending on the project selected, fellows will be based in:

1. Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics (DPAG, www.dpag.ox.ac.uk);
2. Department of Pharmacology (www.pharm.ox.ac.uk);
3. Nuffield Department of Clinical Neuroscience (NDCN, www.ndcn.ox.ac.uk);
4. Nuffield Division of Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NDCLS, www.ndcls.ox.ac.uk), which is part of the Radcliffe Department of Medicine;
5. Department of Chemistry (www.chem.ox.ac.uk);
6. Nuffield Department of Population Health (NDPH, www.ndph.ox.ac.uk);
7. Department of Psychiatry (www.psych.ox.ac.uk);
8. Oxford Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism (OCDEM, www.ocdem.ox.ac.uk), which is part of the Radcliffe Department of Medicine;
9. Division of Cardiovascular Medicine (CVM, www.cardiov.ox.ac.uk), which is part of the Radcliffe Department of Medicine.

Fellows that are jointly supervised by University of Oxford researchers and scientists from the new Novo Nordisk Research Centre Oxford (NNRCO) will also spend part of their time in the NNRCO facilities. For more information on NNRCO, please visit: www.novonordisk.com/science-and-technology/research-and-technology-centres/oxford-research-centre.html

Based in Oxford, fellows will get to undertake a cutting-edge research project, supervised by world-leading researchers. In addition, each fellow will be given a mentor in Novo Nordisk. It is anticipated that in the course of the fellowship, fellows will get to spend some time in the labs of Novo Nordisk in Copenhagen. There may also be the option to form a collaboration with the new Novo Nordisk Research Centre Oxford (NNRCO), if the fellow is not already directly supervised by scientists from NNRCO. Thus fellows will get an insight into research in both academia and industry. In order to increase coherence around the fellowship programme, a number of events will be held throughout the year such as gatherings, symposia, etc. which the fellows will attend, in both Oxford and Denmark.

It is our intention that the Postdoctoral Research Fellowships will start in the autumn of 2022, though some flexibility with the start date might be possible.

Research Projects

The following eleven projects are available:

Principal Investigators	Project Title
Associate Prof Mathilda Mommersteeg and Prof Robin Choudhury	A unique angle to discover novel mechanisms in cardiovascular protection
Associate Prof Ming Lei, Prof Hugh Watkins, Dr Yingjie Wang, Dr Ghazaleh Fatemifar*, Dr Wei Gan* and Dr Joanna Howson*	An integrative genetic and experimental study of hypertrophic heart disease
Associate Prof Zameel Cader and Dr Robert Kitchen*	Brain intercellular signalling in diabetic neuropathology: integrating single cell 'omics with human iPSC neuro-vascular models to reveal therapeutic opportunities
Dr Susie Shapiro, Prof Robin Choudhury and Prof Adam Mead	Clinical utility and biological impact of clonal haematopoiesis in cardiovascular disease
Prof Angela Russell and Dr Max Ruby*	Elucidating the molecular basis of PPAR γ transcriptional plasticity by ligand dependent microenvironment mapping
Prof Zhengming Chen and Dr Joanna Howson*	Genomic approaches to improve understanding of T2D molecular phenotypes, mechanisms, and development of major complications in diverse populations
Associate Prof Alejo Nevado-Holgado, Dr Joanna Howson*, Dr Sile Hu* and Dr Robert Kitchen*	Integrating genetics and deep neural networks to identify future drug targets for cardiometabolic disease
Prof David Hodson and Dr Carina Ämmälä*	Leveraging the cell cytoskeleton to produce GLP1R agonists with improved efficacy for beta cell preservation, non-alcoholic steatohepatitis resolution and gene therapy
Associate Prof Lisa Heather, Prof Angela Russell and Dr Tom Durrant*	Metabolic control of hypoxia sensing in the diabetic heart
Associate Prof Ladislav Valkovič, Associate Prof Oliver Rider and Prof Damian Tyler	Muscle like muscle? Uncovering the links between impairment in cardiac and skeletal muscle metabolism in heart failure using <i>in vivo</i> magnetic resonance
Associate Prof Gillian Douglas, Dr Sarah De Val, Dr Anuj Goel, Prof Keith Channon and Dr Joanna Howson*	Targeting novel coronary artery disease-related genes for therapeutic intervention

*supervisor from the Novo Nordisk Research Centre Oxford.

Full details on each project can be found at: www.rdm.ox.ac.uk/research-projects

As part of your application you must select up to three of the projects, ranking them in order of preference. You should indicate your preferences in your supporting statement, giving reasons for your particular selections. If your application is successful, we will aim to assign you your first choice of project, but this cannot be guaranteed.

Responsibilities

- Plan, manage and conduct an agreed academic research project and associated activities; taking direction from the Principal Investigator and other colleagues in the laboratory as appropriate.
- Test hypotheses and analyse scientific data from a variety of sources, reviewing and refining working hypotheses as appropriate.
- Develop research questions, analyse detailed and complex qualitative and/or quantitative data from a variety of sources, and contribute original ideas for new research projects.
- Coordinate multiple aspects of work to deliver novel research data in accordance with established timelines set between you and the Principal Investigator.
- Develop ideas for generating research income, and present detailed research proposals to senior researchers.
- Adapt existing and develop new scientific techniques and experimental protocols to support research.
- Regularly contribute to or write research articles at an international level for peer-reviewed journals, book chapters and reviews.
- Formally present your research and represent the research group at internal, national and international conferences and meetings; either with other members of the team or alone.
- Informally present your research to the group at established meetings.
- Input scientifically into the research group both at meetings and practically where requested or appropriate.
- Carry out collaborative projects with colleagues in partner institutions, and research groups, in accordance with the Principal Investigator's requirements.
- Act as a source of information and advice to other members of the group on scientific protocols and experimental techniques.
- Take on other tasks or duties assigned by the Principal Investigator as required.

Selection criteria

Essential selection criteria

- A PhD/DPhil (completed or close to completion) in a biomedical subject, or other relevant subject, together with skills and experience relevant to biomedical research.
- Will typically have no more than three or four years postdoctoral experience at the start of the fellowship (Autumn 2022). This condition will be relaxed proportionately for applicants who have had a career break. Please contact us if you would like to discuss your eligibility.
- A strong CV demonstrating competence and success in the thesis research area (and postdoctoral work if appropriate), e.g. with publications (or papers accepted) in peer reviewed journals, presentations at international meetings, and receiving academic awards/prizes. Evidence will be sought of a deep understanding of the applicant's previous fields of research and evidence of independent intellectual and practical contributions to previous research projects.
- Ability to contribute ideas for new research projects and research income generation.
- Evidence of excellent interpersonal skills and leadership, with the ability to communicate research ideas and results in a clear and logical way and the ability to confidently and effectively interact with colleagues and the broader research community.
- An enthusiastic interest in the research projects selected.
- The ability to manage your own academic research and associated activities.

- Ability to work with meticulous attention to detail.
- Communicate well in English in writing and in oral and visual presentations.
- A conscientious and enthusiastic working approach.

Desirable selection criteria

- Previous experience of research related to the remit of the fellowship programme.

Pre-employment screening

Standard checks

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>

Hazard-specific / Safety-critical duties

This job includes hazards or safety-critical activities. If you are offered the post, you will be asked to complete a health questionnaire which will be assessed by our Occupational Health Service, and the offer of employment will be subject a successful outcome of this assessment.

The hazards or safety-critical duties involved are as follows:

- Night working (11pm-6am)
- Lone Working
- Working with Ionising Radiation
- Working with category 3b or 4 lasers (laser safety class)
- Working with infectious pathogens (hazard group 2/3) - Hazard Group 3 pathogens
- Working with blood, human products and human tissues
- Work with allergens, Eg laboratory animals, pollen, dust, fish or insects etc.
- Work with any substance which has any of the following pictograms on their MSDS:



- Travel outside of Europe or North America on University Business

Additional security pre-employment checks

This job includes duties that will require additional security pre-employment checks:

- A satisfactory basic Disclosure and Barring Service check or University overseas security check, due to working in a research environment where the postholder may have knowledge or information concerning animal research and/or other knowledge of pathogens and toxins.
- University security screening (identity check)

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.

Radcliffe Department of Medicine

The Radcliffe Department of Medicine (RDM) within the Medical Sciences Division is one of the largest departments in the University of Oxford. Headed by Professor Keith Channon, RDM is a multi-disciplinary department which aims to tackle some of the world's biggest health challenges by integrating innovative basic biology with cutting edge clinical research. The department was formed in 2012 and comprises:

- The Division of Cardiovascular Medicine (CVM)
- The Investigative Medicine Division (IMD)
- The Nuffield Division of Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NDCLS)
- The Oxford Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism (OCDEM)
- The majority of research groups from the MRC Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine (WIMM)

The department has internationally renowned programmes in a range of areas, including cardiovascular sciences, diabetes and endocrinology, immunology, haematology and pathology. Our work is underpinned by excellence in molecular medicine, stem cell biology, genomics and clinical laboratory science.

The department employs in the region of 570 staff, has around 140 postgraduate research students and has an annual turnover of around £59m of which £39m is externally funded grants and contracts.

RDM supports a culture that is inclusive and supportive of all members, including those with caring responsibilities and those who work flexibly for other reasons. We are proud to be a family friendly department, and are committed to creating a working environment that offers opportunities for working parents/carers to achieve their professional goals and develop their careers without having a detrimental effect on family life. To support this, we have a range of family friendly policies and practices including maternity, paternity and adoption leave, shared parental leave and unpaid parental

leave, flexible/part-time working and scheduling meetings within core hours (9.30am - 2.30pm). Many of our staff work flexibly, with arrangements managed informally or formally.

The University of Oxford is a member of the Athena SWAN Charter and holds an institutional Bronze Athena SWAN award. RDM holds a departmental Silver Athena SWAN award in recognition of our efforts to introduce organisational and cultural practices that promote gender equality in SET to create a better working environment for both men and women.

For more information on the department please visit: www.rdm.ox.ac.uk

Novo Nordisk

Novo Nordisk is a global healthcare company, founded in 1923 and headquartered just outside Copenhagen, Denmark.



Our purpose is to drive change to defeat diabetes and other serious chronic diseases such as obesity, and rare blood and rare endocrine diseases.

We do so by pioneering scientific breakthroughs, expanding access to our medicines and working to prevent and ultimately cure the diseases we treat.

We employ more than 47,000 people in 80 offices around the world, and market our products in 168 countries.

For more information, please visit: www.novonordisk.com.

The Medical Sciences Division

The Medical Sciences Division is an internationally recognized centre of excellence for biomedical and clinical research and teaching. We are the largest academic division in the University of Oxford.

World-leading programmes, housed in state-of-the-art facilities, cover the full range of scientific endeavour from the molecule to the population. With our NHS partners we also foster the highest possible standards in patient care.

For more information, please visit: www.medsci.ox.ac.uk.

Informal enquiries

Informal enquiries about the position should be directed to nn.fellowships@rdm.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 on the basis of how you demonstrate that you meet the selection criteria stated in the job description and your interest/suitability for the selected research projects.

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 be asked to upload a CV 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). **It should also contain your ranking of up to three projects that you are interested in, giving reasons for your particular selections.**

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

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

Interviews will be held on Monday 4 July 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 and email a copy to felicity.green@rdm.ox.ac.uk to notify us of your priority status.

If you need help

Help and support is available from: <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.

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>.

Please note that as part of the shortlisting process, your application may be shared with Novo Nordisk. Novo Nordisk will only retain the applications of successful applicants solely for the duration of their fellowship projects; applications of unsuccessful applicants will be deleted promptly following selection of the new fellows.

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 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 <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.