



Professorship of Bioinformatics

Department of Statistics, University of Oxford
in association with University College



Summer 2026



Introduction

Oxford's Department of Statistics is among the UK's leading centres for statistical research and education, driving innovation across statistical theory, biomedical applications, data science, artificial intelligence and machine learning.

We are looking for a Professor of Bioinformatics with an outstanding research profile, strategic vision, and academic leadership to help shape the future of research at the interface of statistics, computational biology, genomics and data science at Oxford and beyond.

You will join a vibrant interdisciplinary community with substantial freedom to develop your research programme. You will mentor doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers, build collaborations across disciplines, and contribute actively to undergraduate and postgraduate teaching.

Based in a modern, purpose-built building in central Oxford, you will benefit from excellent research facilities, professional support, and strong interdisciplinary connections across the Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Division, the Medical Sciences Division, and the wider University.

The University of Oxford has a long-established tradition of academic excellence and pioneering work across emerging areas of research. The Department of Statistics is at the forefront of developments in machine learning, data science, and computational methods for understanding complex biological systems, integrating these approaches into both its research and teaching.

This professorship includes a Fellowship at University College, where you will participate in college governance and become part of one of Oxford's most historic and intellectually diverse academic communities.





The role

As Professor of Bioinformatics, you will take on a leading role in shaping the department's research direction and strategic priorities at the interface of statistics, computational biology, genomics, and data science. This is a senior academic appointment with a strong focus on research leadership, interdisciplinary collaboration, and academic community building.

We are looking for someone who combines scholarly distinction with a collaborative and ambitious approach to research. You will develop and lead a world-class research programme in bioinformatics, helping to strengthen Oxford's position in areas such as statistical genomics, computational biology, machine learning for biological data, engineering biology, systems biology, and biomedical data science.

Alongside your own research, you will help create an environment in which others can thrive. You will support the development of doctoral students, postdoctoral researchers, and early-career academics, while fostering productive collaborations across departments, divisions, and disciplines. A key aspect of the role will be building connections across the Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Division, the Medical Sciences Division, and the University's wider research community.

You will contribute to our teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate level, delivering lectures, supervising student projects, and supporting graduate research students. You will also play a visible part in the wider academic life of the University and the discipline through examining, administration, leadership, and external engagement.

At University College, you will be a member of the Governing Body and fulfil the responsibilities of a College Trustee. You will also act as College Advisor to a small number of postgraduate students and become part of a vibrant interdisciplinary community that values scholarship, intellectual curiosity, and academic excellence.



Your objectives and responsibilities

This role offers significant scope to shape the future of bioinformatics and quantitative biology. You will have the opportunity to lead a research programme with international impact, develop innovative methodological approaches, and help strengthen Oxford's position at the forefront of research in biological and biomedical data science.

You will conduct and publish original research at the interface of statistics, computational biology, genomics, and data science that will advance the development of statistical and computational methods for understanding complex biological systems and large-scale biological and biomedical datasets. Your work will be disseminated through leading publications, conferences, seminars, and wider engagement with the international research community.

Research leadership is central to this role. We will expect you to secure and manage substantial external research funding, lead multidisciplinary research teams, and develop effective partnerships across departments, institutes, and disciplines. Building collaborations across the Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Division, the Medical Sciences Division, and the wider University will be an important part of sustaining Oxford's leadership in this rapidly evolving field.

You will contribute actively to our teaching portfolio, delivering lectures and supervising students at undergraduate and postgraduate level. Supporting doctoral students, master's students, postdoctoral researchers, and early-career colleagues is a core aspect of the role, and we are looking for someone who brings an inclusive and supportive approach to mentorship.

This is also a post with significant leadership opportunities. You will contribute to the department's strategic planning, help shape its research priorities, and undertake appropriate administrative responsibilities as agreed with the Head of Department. You will be expected to play a visible role within the wider academic community, contributing to the advancement of the discipline through leadership, collaboration, and professional service.

As a Professorial Fellow of University College, you will contribute to the College's academic community and support postgraduate students through the College Advisor system.



About you

You will be a researcher with an international reputation in bioinformatics, with a strong record of producing influential research at the interface of statistics, computational biology, genomics, and data science. We are looking for someone whose work advances the field, whether through methodological innovation, biological discovery, or the development of new approaches to understanding complex biological and biomedical data.

You will bring experience of shaping research strategy, building productive collaborations, and exercising academic leadership. We are looking for someone who can inspire and support colleagues, foster interdisciplinary partnerships, and contribute to a research environment in which individuals at all career stages are able to thrive.

We value the breadth of approaches that contribute to modern bioinformatics. Your research may focus on statistical genomics, computational biology, machine learning for biological data, engineering biology, biomedical data science, or related areas. Whatever your particular focus, you will understand how quantitative and computational methods can be applied to important biological and biomedical questions, and how collaboration across disciplines can generate new insights and opportunities.

You will have a strong track record of securing research funding and of communicating your work through leading publications, conferences, seminars, and other forms of scholarly engagement. You will also be an engaged and effective educator, with experience of teaching and supervising students and researchers at different career stages, and a commitment to helping them realise their potential.

We are looking for you to contribute to departmental, university, and college life with the same energy you bring to your research: through leadership, administration, mentoring, and everyday collegiality.

Above all, we are looking for someone who shares our values of intellectual curiosity, academic excellence, scholarly integrity, and a commitment to fostering a positive, supportive, and inclusive environment for all.



A photograph of the University College building in Oxford, featuring a large stone archway, a statue in a niche, and a crenellated roofline, set against a blue sky with light clouds. The building is made of light-colored stone and has several windows with arched tops. A large green lawn is in the foreground, and some trees and bushes are visible on the right side of the building.

University College

Founded in 1249, University College has a claim to be the oldest of Oxford's colleges. Today, the College is at the forefront of promoting excellence and diversity in Oxford, fostering a friendly and inclusive community based around its town-centre quadrangles.

Today, the College is home to approximately 450 undergraduate students, 250 graduate students, and 100 members of academic staff. Like all Oxford colleges, it is both an academic institution and a social and residential community, bringing together students and academics from a wide range of disciplines, backgrounds, and countries.

University College is committed to maintaining a vibrant and internationally excellent environment for teaching and research. The College actively encourages interdisciplinary and cross-divisional engagement and values the contributions that Fellows make to both academic life and the student experience.

The College has a long-standing commitment to the Mathematical Sciences and is home to leading academics working across mathematics, computer science, and bioinformatics. Current Fellows of the College include Professors Peter Howell (applied mathematics), Nikolay Nikolov (group theory), and Andrew Ker (computer science and pure mathematics), together with other senior academics in Computer Science and Bioinformatics. The College also appoints Research Fellows and College Lecturers in mathematics and related subjects on a rolling basis.

University College offers a welcoming and intellectually diverse environment in which scholarship, collaboration, and academic excellence are highly valued.

For more information about University College, please visit:
www.univ.ox.ac.uk

The Department

The University of Oxford's Department of Statistics is based in central Oxford, with state-of-the-art facilities that support collaboration and integration across diverse research groups. You will be joining a leading centre for statistical theory and methodology, with applications spanning science, medicine, policy, and industry.

Our success in the UK's Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021 reflects the quality of our research environment – 78% of our joint submission with the Mathematical Institute received the highest grading. Between the two most recent REF exercises, our research output grew from 21 to 32 submitted researchers, reflecting our continued expansion and strength.

Research in the department is structured around seven overlapping themes: Statistical Theory and Methodology; Computational Statistics and Machine Learning; the Oxford Protein Informatics Group; Probability; Statistical Genetics and Epidemiology; Econometrics and Population Statistics; and Computational Biology and Bioinformatics.

This work is supported by over £14 million in research funding from sources including UKRI, the Wellcome Trust, the European Commission, NIH, and a wide range of industry partners.



As a member of the department, you will benefit from strong links with leading centres such as the Big Data Institute and the Pandemic Sciences Institute. Many of our faculty members are affiliated with the Alan Turing Institute, and our strategic partnership with the Ellison Institute of Technology connects our researchers and students with scientists and entrepreneurs from around the world who are based at the Institute's new Oxford campus. Our academic staff are permitted to hold outside appointments, including consultancies, subject to approval.

We offer undergraduate degrees in Mathematics and Statistics and taught postgraduate degrees including the MSc in Statistical Science and the joint MSc in Mathematical Sciences. You will join a thriving postgraduate research community, with opportunities to participate in multiple Centres for Doctoral Training, as well as in the National Academy for PhD Training in Statistics.

The department holds a Silver Athena Swan award in recognition of our commitment to advancing gender equality and fostering an inclusive academic culture.

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



The University of Oxford

Oxford is a world-leading university with a reputation for scholarly excellence, innovation, and global impact. You will be joining a community of more than 24,000 students and 14,000 staff, consistently ranked among the top universities internationally.

Our research spans every major academic discipline, with growing emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration and real-world application. We attract substantial external funding and are the UK's leading university for spinout companies and social enterprises.

As a collegiate university, we bring together the intellectual focus of departments with the community and continuity of college life. This unique structure enables both individual scholarship and cross-disciplinary exchange.

At Oxford, you will be part of the Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Division, which includes more than 650 faculty and 1,200 postdoctoral researchers and teaching staff. The division is a diverse and active research community working across mathematics, computing, physical sciences, life sciences, and engineering.

For more information about the University, please visit: www.ox.ac.uk





Applying for the role

To apply, visit https://my.corehr.com/pls/uoxrecruit/erq_jobspec_details_form.jobspec?p_id=180055 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.

Application deadline: 12 noon (UK time), Monday 21 September 2026.

Full job description and particulars

The complete job description and selection criteria are available at the application link above. This provides detailed information about the duties and responsibilities of the post and the selection criteria that will be used to assess applications.

Informal discussions

If you would like to discuss this post, please contact:

- Professor Frank Windmeijer, Head of Department: frank.windmeijer@stats.ox.ac.uk
- Dr Andrew Bell, Senior Tutor, University College: andrew.bell@univ.ox.ac.uk

All enquiries will be treated in strict confidence and will not form part of the selection decision.

Selection process

All applications will be considered by the electoral board as soon as possible after the closing date. The electoral board 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, although 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 electoral board as part of the interview. The composition of the electoral board will be published in the University Gazette once it is finalised.



For further information about
this role, please contact:

Professor Frank Windmeijer (Head of Department,
Department of Statistics)

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