Job title	Departmental Lecturer
Division	Social Sciences Division
Department	Oxford Internet Institute
Location	1 St Giles – OX1 3JS – Oxford
Grade and salary	Grade 7; salary £32,817 - £40,322 per annum
Hours	Full-time
Contract type	Fixed term, 1 October 2020 – 30 September 2021
Reporting to	Director of Graduate Studies
Vacancy reference	146994

The role

The OII seeks a departmental lecturer whose main responsibility will be to lead delivery of statistics teaching for students on the MSc Social Science of the Internet (SSI). Wider methods teaching for SSI or for the MSc in Social Data Science (SDS) may also be required. Master's degrees are the OII are one-year social science programmes that focus on the social implications of technology. The curriculum involves a heavy component of research methods.

All SSI students take a one-term (eight week) course in statistics between October and December. Additionally, a significant minority of students choose to continue with an optional one-term (eight week) programme of more advanced statistics study between January and March. The objectives of statistics education on the degree are
- (i)   to enable students to be sophisticated and critical consumers of statistical research and evidence,
- (ii)   to equip students with the technical competency to design and implement their own rigorous programme of statistical research and produce evidence supported by data, and
- (iii)   to enable students to clearly and precisely communicate statistical concepts and the results of statistical investigations.

Statistics is currently taught using the R language. However, many other courses in the department are taught using Python and the department is open to courses based on alternative software tools.

Ours are among the most competitive taught graduate degrees at Oxford and our students are therefore intelligent, committed, and highly engaged. As a multi-disciplinary department, our students are drawn from a wide variety of fields. Providing a rigorous education in quantitative methods that caters both to the most advanced students and to those with a non-technical

background therefore presents a unique challenge. We seek an educator able to draw on a range of innovative teaching methods and excellent pedagogical practices to overcome this challenge.

Besides teaching, the successful candidate will be expected to contribute to marking and thesis supervision, to make other contributions to education within the department as needed, and to pursue their own research agenda.

Responsibilities

Core Duties

- To lecture MSc courses as required by the department. Most importantly, this will include responsibility for teaching statistical methods for social science students.
- To develop lecture notes, exercises, examples, and other materials necessary in support of course delivery.
- To provide ad hoc guidance to teaching assistants assigned to the course.
- To take responsibility for ensuring the course syllabi and reading lists for specific courses are kept relevant and up to date.
- To engage in assessment and university examining
- To undertake graduate supervision as required by the programme directors.
- To address student questions related to the course via e-mail or in person. Additionally, to provide occasional support on an ad hoc basis for students using quantitative methods throughout their studies.
- To keep the MSc Director informed of any issues concerning students' progress.
- To contribute to the wider teaching operations of the department, including assisting with admissions, acting as second marker where needed.
- In support of the development of courses and as a secondary commitment alongside teaching, manage own academic research activities, conduct independent research, and generate original ideas to build on existing concepts
- Occasionally write research articles for peer-reviewed journals, book chapters, and reviews, and give presentations or talks to disseminate research findings at conferences
- Such other comparable duties as may be required by the head of department and/or line manager.

Selection criteria

Essential

- Hold a relevant postgraduate qualification (preferably a doctorate) in a relevant field.
- Have demonstrable teaching experience, preferably in statistical methods for social science research.
- Sufficient specialist knowledge of statistical methods to teach with expertise and authority.
- A publication record consistent with career stage and familiarity with literature relevant to quantitative social science research methods.
- Familiarity with software tools and procedures used in statistical analysis.
- Ability to communicate technical concepts clearly to an audience with varied disciplinary backgrounds.
- Ability to support students' learning across large-group, small-group, and one-on-one contexts.

- Familiarity with assessment of students' work in higher education.

Desirable

- Ability to teach a course on research design or on one or more qualitative research methods.
- Specific experience of quantitative research on the social implications of technology.
- Ability to teach statistics with Python or R.

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. Income from external research contracts in 2016/17 exceeded £564m and we rank first in the UK for university spin-outs, with more than 130 companies created to date. 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 Oxford Internet Institute

The Oxford Internet Institute has expanded rapidly since its founding in 2001 to become a world-leading centre for the multidisciplinary study of the Internet and society, with activities focusing on research, post-graduate teaching and policy-making and practice.

The OII aims to bring about a greater understanding of the various social factors that are shaping the Internet and their implications for society. Central to this vision is a view of the Internet as a phenomenon that goes far beyond its technical capabilities to encompass all the people, services, information, and technologies that are intertwined in this 'network of networks'. Excellence in research underpins the Institute's collaborative and teaching activities. Wide-ranging collaborative relationships with experts from academia, government, business, and industry in the UK and around the world also play a central role in its strategic drive.

The OII's research strategy has targeted areas critical to the public interest, where the design and use of the Internet and related technologies are likely to contribute to a substantial restructuring of social practice and institutional arrangements. Having developed critical mass in these areas, the OII's strategy for the next five years is geared towards deepening and extending

the range of grant-funded research around each theme and disseminating the outputs in high-quality journals, while ensuring that research helps inform and shape policy and practice.

Research at the OII focuses on 8 research clusters:

- **Connectivity, Inclusion & Inequality**: understanding the shifts in the power dynamics caused by information and communication technologies.
- **Digital Knowledge and Culture**: charting the on-going digital transformations of the sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities, and their implications.
- **Digital Politics & Government**: investigating political behaviour, digital government and government-citizen interactions in the age of the internet, social media and big data.
- **Education, Well-Being and Digital Life**: addressing the psychological, social and educational implications of the Internet, for people of all ages, across the full lifespan, with a particular focus on children and young people.
- **Ethics and Philosophy of Information**: investigating the ethical, epistemological, logical and ontological aspects of information, its sciences, phenomena and dynamics.
- **Internet Economics**: understanding the economic and social implications of new business models, new market structures, and new types of economic activity.
- **Information Governance & Security**: analysing the challenges created by the digitisation of information, seeking solutions through new governance rules, processes and institutions, and investigating the relationship between emerging technologies, their design, and information security and privacy.
- **Social Data Science**: seeking a quantitative understanding of how individuals behave and interact in society.

In all its research, the OII aims to operate at the cutting edge in both quantitative and qualitative methodologies that cut across disciplines and topics. Methodological innovation is vital given the changing nature of the Internet and advances in ICTs which both necessitate and facilitate the development of new techniques. OII researchers are developing methodologies such as the embedding of ICTs for real time observation of social phenomenon; webmetric techniques for observing the underlying structure of the web presence of social institutions; artificial intelligence design; experimental research; on-line action research; content analysis; investigation of virtual environments; and online survey research.

The Oxford Internet Institute is committed to a diverse academic community. We view equity, diversity, and inclusion as essential to our research and teaching missions, and we welcome applications from faculty who have demonstrated research, service and training experience in this area. Our intellectual community is enhanced and strengthened by the diversity of our staff, students and alumni, and we are particularly eager to find ways to expand and extend such diversity. Our differences in background, culture, race, national origin, class, religion, sexual orientation, and many domains of personal experience greatly enrich the projects of research and teaching. We are committed to making certain that a wide array of perspectives are heard and that our research is publicly available. Applications are particularly welcome from women and black and minority ethnic candidates, who are under-represented in academic posts in Oxford.

For more information about the Oxford Internet Institute please visit its website.

[Link to the OII website](#)

Social Sciences Division

The Oxford Internet Institute is a department within the Social Sciences Division, one of four academic Divisions in the University, each with considerable devolved budgetary and financial authority, and responsibility for providing a broad strategic focus across its constituent disciplines.

The Social Sciences Division represents the largest grouping of social sciences in the UK. It is home to a number of outstanding departments and to the internationally ranked Law Faculty; all are committed to research to develop a greater understanding of all aspects of society, from the impact of political, legal and economic systems on social and economic welfare to human rights and security. That research is disseminated through innovative graduate programmes and enhances undergraduate courses.

For more information please visit the Social Sciences Division website.
Link to the Social Sciences Division website

How to apply

Before submitting an application, you may find it helpful to read the 'Tips on applying for a job at the University of Oxford' document, at www.ox.ac.uk/about/jobs/supportandtechnical/.

If you would like to apply, 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 provide details of two referees and indicate whether we can contact them now.

You will also 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, and should specifically address your experience of and ability to teach the topics on the current reading list. You may include experience gained in employment, education, or during career breaks (such as time out to care for dependants).

Link to the Digital Ethnography syllabus and reading list

Your application will be judged solely on the basis of how you demonstrate that you meet the selection criteria stated in the job description.

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

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

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 departments.

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)

Should you experience any difficulties using the online application system, please email recruitment.support@admin.ox.ac.uk. Further help and support is available from www.ox.ac.uk/about_the_university/jobs/support/. To return to the online application at any stage, please go to: www.recruit.ox.ac.uk.

Please note that 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.

Important information for candidates

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. We advise all applicants to read the candidate notes on the University's pre-employment screening procedures, found at:

www.ox.ac.uk/about/jobs/preemploymentscreening/.

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: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/councilsec/compliance/gdpr/privacynotices/job/. The University's Policy on Data Protection is available at: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/councilsec/compliance/gdpr/universitypolicyondataprotection/.

The University's policy on retirement

The University operates an Employer Justified Retirement Age (EJRA) for all academic posts and some academic-related posts. From 1 October 2017, 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: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/end/retirement/acrelretire8+/.

For **existing** employees, any employment beyond the retirement age is subject to approval through the procedures: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/end/retirement/acrelretire8+/.

From 1 October 2017, 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

University Club and sports facilities

The University Club provides social, sporting and hospitality facilities. It incorporates a bar, café and sporting facilities, including a gym. 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 www.sport.ox.ac.uk/oxford-university-sports-facilities.

Information for international staff (or those relocating from another part of the UK)

If you are relocating to Oxfordshire from overseas, or elsewhere in the UK, the University's International Staff website includes practical information related to moving to and settling in Oxford such as advice on immigration, relocation, accommodation, or registering with a doctor. See: www.internationalstaffwelcome.admin.ox.ac.uk/

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 to settle into Oxford and to provide them with an opportunity to meet people in the area. See www.newcomers.ox.ac.uk/

Childcare

The University has excellent childcare services with 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 www.admin.ox.ac.uk/childcare.

Family-friendly benefits

The University subscribes to My Family Care (www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/benefits/family/mfc/) and staff are eligible to register for emergency back-up childcare and adultcare services, a 'speak to an expert' phone line and a wide range of guides and webinars through a website called the Work + Family space.

Disabled staff

We are committed to supporting members of staff with disabilities or long-term health conditions. Please visit www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/disab/staff for further details including information about how to make contact, in confidence, with the University's Staff Disability Advisor.

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 www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/inpractice/networks/

Other benefits

Staff can enjoy a range of other benefits such as free visitor access to the University's colleges and the Botanic Gardens as well as a range of discounts.
See www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/benefits