## The role

The post holder will be working in a small programming team alongside researchers at the University of Oxford, developing open-source software to collect and understand data about meaningful social issues. Through interactive visualizations and exports, you'll help us make that information freely accessible to students, teachers, and the general public.

As our backend-focused developer, you'll especially be working on the heart of the project: our database of global development indicators. By improving the architecture and writing web automation to populate the database, you'll be creating one of the most extensive and accessible collections of cross-country data in the world.

## Responsibilities

- Maintaining the “living database”: a collection of social and economic indicators from many different sources which is regularly updated
● Implementing a new visual exploration tool which gives the public direct access to our database
● Collaborate with other developers, designers, and project managers to ensure that all products function according to design specification and work with technical and front-facing teams across the University and institutions that are relevant to the projects.
● Provide progress updates to project managers by regularly presenting at meetings and contribute to group discussions and decisions with suggestions of new ways to tackle problems and make recommendations on future technology choices for website development.
● Writing and maintaining importers and scrapers which fetch data from external sources e.g. the UN or the World Bank
● Developing new ways for the public to access our data e.g. bulk CSV exports to GitHub
● Work with the research team to improve our internal web tools for data communication and exploration
● Ensure that user requirements are fully documented and lead on their subsequent implementation across the digital portfolio

Selection criteria
● Hold a bachelor’s degree in computer science, software engineering, or have an equivalent qualification/experience
● Experience working on high-uptime, public-facing production websites
● Expert at writing JavaScript in both client and server-side contexts
● Have a good working knowledge at least two different database systems (e.g. Postgres and MongoDB) and understand the good and bad points of each
● Have a functional understanding SQL and relational database architecture
● Able to quickly learn new technologies and assess their suitability for solving a problem
● Demonstrable ability to organise and prioritise work efficiently whilst delivering results to the required standard and to an agreed schedule

Desirable selection criteria
● Familiar with Python
● Familiar with statically-typed languages like TypeScript
● Evidence of contribution to open-source projects in the past or involvement with the community
● Interest in global development and public access to research

About the University of Oxford

The University of Oxford aims 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 2015/16 exceeded £537.4m 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

Oxford Martin School

The Oxford Martin School (www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk) is a research community of over 300 scholars, working across disciplines to address the most pressing challenges of the 21st Century and to harness its opportunities. From the governance of geo-engineering and the possibilities of nanotechnology, to the future of food and the implications of our ageing population, the Oxford Martin School supports Oxford-based research teams to consider some of the biggest questions that concern our future.

The School acts as a central hub in facilitating collaboration and exchange, not just within the University of Oxford, but also through its networks with policy makers, business leaders and other leading experts. The Oxford Martin School was founded 2005 through the vision and generosity of Dr. James Martin (1933-2013), who established the school with the largest benefaction made to Oxford in its history. The Oxford Martin School is a part of the University’s Social Sciences Division.

Our World in Data

Our World in Data is a non-profit, creative commons web publication which makes research about global issues freely available to everyone. We cover topics like extreme poverty, fertility rates, income inequality, polio, and climate change, using data visualization to convey complex information in an accessible way.

The audience includes educators, journalists, policymakers, researchers, and the general public. Our work is accessed by thousands every day and has been cited in research articles in top academic journals and hundreds of media outlets.

For more information please visit www.OurWorldInData.org/about

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. This may include experience gained in employment, education, or during career breaks (such as time out to care for dependants).

Please include a link to a sample of code you have written. This can be in any reasonable format: for example, a GitHub project or a tarball.

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/.

**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