Magdalen College proposes to appoint a postdoctoral research associate in its Calleva Research Centre to work on the project Changing Lives: childhood experience, cumulative risk, and supportive environments across the life course. The post will commence as soon as possible and will be for three years.

The Calleva Centre at Magdalen College

Magdalen College, one of thirty-eight colleges within the University of Oxford, carries out research and teaching in the full range of science, social science and humanities subjects. It has several Fellows in Psychology, in English and in Classics. For further information on the College see www.magd.ox.ac.uk.

The College’s Calleva Research Centre for Evolution and Human Science was inaugurated in October 2010. Its aims are to investigate key questions about the origins, development, causes and functions of human behaviour by bridging the humanities, social, cognitive, and biological sciences within a broad evolutionary framework. The Centre’s work is embodied through successive three-year interdisciplinary research programmes that draw on unique collaborations between Magdalen Fellows working in these diverse fields.

Details of the research programme

Adverse childhood experiences including maltreatment and bullying are associated with multiple forms of psychopathology, including depression, and post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), in addition to poor physical health, social and educational outcomes. Importantly, not all children who experience adversity go on to develop such difficulties. Some ‘resilient’ children function at least as well as the average, non-exposed child in terms of psychological well-being and relationships with peers. Important research questions are: why are some children more resilient to the effects of adversity than others? What factors help to protect at-risk children, and how do these operate?

‘Changing Lives’ is an interdisciplinary project, led by Dr Lucy Bowes and Dr Siân Pooley, that innovatively brings together the complementary strengths of research from medical sciences and
humanities to ask new questions about how experience affects the unfolding of lives. The research has two main aims: 1) to chart life course psychological, social and health outcomes and their comorbidity for children exposed to various forms of adversity, and 2) to understand mechanisms that account for variability in later functioning.

_The post_

We are seeking a qualified and highly motivated individual for a postdoctoral research associate post investigating the impact of childhood adversity across the life-course. The applicant will join a stimulating, interdisciplinary research environment with the opportunity to attend seminars, colloquia, and other regularly scheduled research activities at the Department of Experimental Psychology and Magdalen College, Oxford, as well as receive training in cutting edge epidemiological methods.

The candidate will be conducting epidemiological analysis examining the impact of childhood adversity on adult health, social and psychiatric outcomes, primarily using secondary data from large birth cohorts. The postdoctoral research associate will be responsible for research activities such as developing analysis proposals, conducting data analyses, and writing manuscripts. In addition, the postdoctoral research associate will participate in grant writing and the development of new projects.

_Responsibilities and duties_

- Manage own academic research and administrative activities related to the project, including small-scale project management, to co-ordinate multiple aspects of work to meet deadlines.
- Ability to generate and test hypotheses using data from a variety of sources, including psychological and genetic physiological measures, reviewing and refining hypotheses as appropriate and making sure that all analysis plans and revisions are made available on the Open Science Framework.
- Work collaboratively with colleagues from other disciplines.
- Travel to Newcastle to access data relevant to the project.
- Organise team meetings, and help organise seminars and workshops relating to the project.
- Contribute ideas for new research projects, and develop ideas for generating research income.
Communication
- Contributing to the preparation of scientific manuscripts based on research for publication in peer-reviewed journals.
- Participating in and contributing to didactic activities in the lab (journal clubs and discussion groups).
- Produce and present posters and oral presentations to the local and broad scientific community and non-academic audiences, including social media activities related to the projects.
- Represent the research group at external meetings/seminars, either with other members of the group or alone.

Education and training
- Opportunities for training in cutting edge epidemiological methods will be provided.
- Attending appropriate scientific seminars and meetings.
  Act as a source of information and advice to other members of the lab on statistical analyses.

Other General Responsibilities
- Undertaking such other duties as may be required from time to time that are commensurate with the grade and responsibilities of this post, such as project group administration.
- Conducting themselves with due regard to the University Equal Opportunities and Data Protection policies.

Selection criteria

Required
- Hold or be close to completing a relevant PhD/DPhil in epidemiology, biostatistics, public health, social and behavioural sciences (e.g. psychology or criminology) or a related discipline.
- Experience conducting longitudinal data analyses with large databases using STATA, R or SPSS.
- Knowledge of or demonstrated interest in childhood adversity, and/or mental health across the lifecourse.
- Evidence of ability to write for publication for academic audiences.
- Experience of independently managing a discrete area of a research project. The post holder will be expected to operate largely unsupervised in the day-to-day running of the research and administrative aspects of the project; good attention to detail and excellent organisation skills are essential.
Within the research group the applicant should work in a collaborative and supportive fashion. Good inter-personal skills with an ability to work co-operatively in a multidisciplinary setting.

- An ability and willingness to travel to Newcastle
- Ability to contribute ideas for new research projects and research income generation
- Excellent communication skills, including the ability to present research proposals and results, and represent the research group at meetings.

The location of the job will be in Oxford, with occasional travel to Newcastle.

**Salary and benefits**

The appointment will be made on grade 7 of University Salary Scale, currently £31,604 -£38,833 p.a.

The post carries an entitlement to join, or to remain a member of, the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS). The postholder will be entitled to free meals in college, and may participate in the College’s contributory Healthcare scheme.

The College provides for maternity leave on a basis that exceeds the statutory provisions. Provided that they have at least 26 weeks’ service with the College at the 15th week before the expected week of birth, women are eligible for 26 weeks’ maternity leave on full pay, followed by 13 weeks of leave on Statutory Maternity Pay (SMP) and 13 weeks of unpaid maternity leave. Magdalen has a priority claim on three places in the University nurseries. Arrangements are available for paternity leave.

**Application procedure**

Applications must include the completed application form (available from www.magd.ox.ac.uk /job-vacancies/). Candidates should also submit a detailed (no more than one page) covering letter outlining their suitability for the post. The covering letter and completed application form should be emailed to human.resources@magd.ox.ac.uk by 12 noon (UK time) on Friday 24th August 2018.

Candidates should request two referees to send references directly to the same email address by the same date. The College will NOT contact referees and it is each candidate’s responsibility to ensure that the College receives all his/her references by the closing date.

We expect to notify short-listed candidates within the week.

The appointment will be subject to satisfactory completion of a medical questionnaire and the provision of proof of the right to work in the UK. Applicants who would need a work visa if appointed to the post are asked to note that under the UK’s points-based migration system they will need to demonstrate that they have sufficient points, and in particular that (i) they have
sufficient English language skills (evidenced by (a) passing an approved English Language test with at least CEFR level B1 in reading, writing, speaking, and listening, or (b) having an academic qualification that was taught in English and is recognised by UK NARIC as being equivalent to a UK bachelor’s degree, master’s degree, or PhD, or (c) being a national of a majority English-speaking country); and (ii) that they have sufficient funds to maintain themselves and any dependants until they receive their first salary payment. Further information is available at: www.gov.uk/tier-2-general/overview.

Recruitment Monitoring

A Magdalen College Recruitment Monitoring Form will be found at the following page on the Magdalen College web site: http://www.magd.ox.ac.uk/job-vacancies/ Applicants are requested to complete the form and return it to Human Resources, Magdalen College, Oxford OX1 4AU (or by email to human.resources@magd.ox.ac.uk). Please note that the form is anonymous and is used only to monitor and ensure equality of opportunity for all candidates: it is not part of the selection process and will not be seen by any member of the selection committee.

Data protection

All data supplied by applicants will be used only for the purposes of determining their suitability for the post¹ and will be held in accordance with the principles of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the College’s Data Protection Policy with can be found at http://www.magd.ox.ac.uk/other-policies/data-protection/.

¹ But NB if the person appointed to the post is a migrant sponsored under the UK’s new points-based migration system, we are required to retain the applications for all shortlisted candidates until six months after the College has ceased sponsoring the migrant.