Research Assistants

The Engagement Team at Oxford Net Zero is looking for three new research assistants to start in February 2023 to support our growing work programme on civil society engagement, net zero policy, and communications. We are looking for energetic, self-motivated and applied professionals who want to help us bridge the gap between the latest academic insights on net zero and best practice.

Deadline for application: Sunday January 15th 11:59pm.

Timeline:

- We will inform you whether or not you have received an invitation to a short interview by COB (UK time) January 18th
- We will conduct short, informal interviews on Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th January (late morning) and will give you an answer by Wednesday 25th January.

Start date: Work will start January 30th for a period of 12 weeks, though we are flexible on start dates for the right candidates.

About Oxford Net Zero

The Oxford Net Zero initiative draws on the University of Oxford's world-leading expertise in climate science and policy, addressing the critical issue of how to reach global 'net zero' in time to halt global warming. Leading academics from across the University's disciplines, including Geography, Physics, Economics, Biology, Law and Earth Sciences, have come together to focus on the long-term questions necessary to achieve equitable, science-based solutions.

Oxford Net Zero aims to transform policies and practices at multiple scales to co-achieve net zero emissions and sustainable development. We will do this through the establishment of the world's leading translational research initiative providing an integrated view of the scientific, ecological, economic and social challenges through sustained engagement with business, civil society and national and international policy makers.

About our team – ONZ's Engagement Team

The Oxford Net Zero Engagement team serves as a bridge between Oxford's research on Achieving Net Zero and policymakers, businesses and civil society. Our work is aimed at improving net zero integrity in society and helping decision-makers advance on their climate journeys. Our impact has been evidenced in recent efforts to draft Net Zero Standards, to drive an agenda towards new net zero policy, and to develop net zero maturity frameworks used by large business networks to evaluate their members progress. By joining this team you will work alongside Kaya Axelsson, Net Zero Policy Engagement Fellow, and Alexis McGivern, Net Zero Standards Manager on strategic research, impact opportunities, convening and stakeholder management, and communications to amplify the impact of our research programme. You will also have the opportunity to discuss your work with the wider ONZ ecosystem at our weekly co-working days, which includes academics from across the University.

Research Assistant for Civil Society Perspectives on Net Zero

Research topic	Civil society engagement with net zero framings
Principal supervisor	Alexis McGivern, Net Zero Standards Manager, Oxford Net Zero Supported by Kaya Axelsson, Policy Engagement Fellow and Dr. Aoife Brophy, Director of the Climate Emergency Programme
Project team	Oxford Net Zero Engagement Team
Project web site	netzeroclimate.org

The role
You would work 15-20 hours a week (depending on the needs of the project and the candidate's availability) to support the research goals of the ONZ Engagement Team. This work will be done remotely, though if based in Oxford you will be able to join us at co-working days and in the office at least 1 other day a week.

As per the Oxford grading scheme, pay ranges from £16-19 per hour depending on experience.

Responsibilities
- Map out key stakeholders within civil society who engage with the framing of net zero (positively or negatively)
- Contribute to academic research on civil society engagement with net zero, by:
    - Setting up interviews and conduct qualitative research with key stakeholders
    - Summarising key academic papers on this subject
- Help to facilitate a "Net Zero Road Show" with key stakeholders i.e., an engagement structure involving learning and listening as well as exchanging Oxford Net Zero's views on net zero
- Provide administrative support to convene meetings with key stakeholders

Selection criteria
- Strong research skills
- Motivated to create bridges between civil society and academia
- Strong organisation and stakeholder management skills, ability to follow up promptly and professionally and build key relationships
- Self-starting, able to work to deadlines, and able to manage own research

How to apply

Submit a CV (preferably one-page) and a one page cover letter to alexis.mcgivern@ouce.ox.ac.uk under the subject line "ONZ Research Assistant Application".

Applicants accepted from within or outside the university. Applicants will need to show UK Citizenship or Right to Work in the UK up to the amount of hours per week agreed by the contract.

Communications Research Assistant

Research topic	Communications
Principal supervisor	Alexis McGivern, Net Zero Standards Manager, Oxford Net Zero Supported by George Hope, Oxford Net Zero Communications Manager and informed by senior researchers at Oxford Net Zero (see full list on our website).
Project team	Oxford Net Zero Engagement Team
Project web site	netzeroclimate.org

The role
You would work 15-20 hours a week (depending on the needs of the project and the candidate's availability) to support the research goals of the ONZ Engagement Team. This work will be done remotely, though if based in Oxford you will be able to join us at co-working days and in the office at least 1 other day a week.

As per the Oxford grading scheme, pay ranges from £16-19 per hour depending on experience.

Responsibilities
- Translate academic insights from briefing notes prepared by the Engagement Team into digestible communication pieces for social media, including:
    - Infographics
    - Tweets
    - Instagram stories
- Support Engagement Team in creating presentations on work for external partners
- Prepare video scripts for educational videos about Net Zero, following a Net Zero FAQs document prepared by the Engagement Team
- Ghost-write and co-write opinion pieces and editorials and develop a set of position papers on key net zero topics
- Curation and maintenance of the net zero tool library
- Administrative support to convene a net zero roadshow

Selection criteria
- Strong writing communications skills
- Experience with building social media audiences
- Skills in basic graphic design and simple video curation
- Motivation to design & follow a comms plan to grow the reach of ONZ's message
- Basic understanding of the net zero frame and debate (e.g. what makes for good climate targets see the net zero tracker zerotracker.net)
- Passion for clarifying climate concepts for public and stakeholder audiences
- Experience and desire to translate academic insights for public audiences
- Self-starting, able to work to deadlines, manage own programmes and work to KPIs

How to apply

Submit a CV (preferably one-page) and a one page cover letter to alexis.mcgivern@ouce.ox.ac.uk under the subject line "ONZ Research Assistant Application". Applicants accepted from within or outside the university.

Applicants will need to show UK Citizenship or Right to Work in the UK up to the amount of hours per week agreed by the contract.

Research Assistant for Policy Developments in Net Zero

Research topic	Policy developments in the Net Zero landscape
Principal supervisor	Kaya Axelsson, Net Zero Policy Engagement Fellow Advised by a mixed team of Principal Investigators including Professor Thomas Hale at the Blavatnik School of Government and Dr. Aoife Brophy, Director of the Climate Emergency Programme at the Saïd Business School and Samuel Fankhauser, Professor of Climate Economics and Policy and Research Director of Oxford Net Zero.
Project team	Oxford Net Zero Engagement Team
Project web site	netzeroclimate.org

The role

You would work 15-20 hours a week (depending on the needs of the project and the candidate's availability) to support the research goals of the ONZ Engagement Team. This work will be done remotely, though if based in Oxford you will be able to join us at co-working days and in the office at least 1 other day a week.

As per the Oxford grading scheme, pay ranges from £16-19 per hour depending on experience.

Responsibilities

- Support Net Zero Policy Engagement Fellow in mapping the landscape of policy development on net zero, building on existing work previously published in the Pivot Point report (ch.2)
- Prepare weekly briefings on key business and policy changes in the net zero landscape (i.e., new commitments on net zero, new regulation)
- Work with Kaya Axelsson, Policy Engagement Fellow to prepare a research plan to investigate barriers and opportunities in net zero policy adoption.
- Draft literature reviews and analysis of existing research on net zero policy
- Help to facilitate a "Net Zero Road Show" with key stakeholders i.e., an engagement structure involving learning and listening as well as exchanging Oxford Net Zero's views on net zero
- Provide administrative support to convene meetings with key stakeholders

Selection criteria

- Strong qualitative research skills, basic quantitative research skills is an added bonus
- Motivated to create bridges between policy-makers and academia
- Self-starting, able to work to deadlines, and able to manage own research

How to apply

Submit a CV (preferably one-page) and a one page cover letter to kaya.axelsson@ouce.ox.ac.uk under the subject line "ONZ Research Assistant Application". Applicants accepted from within or outside the university.

Applicants will need to show UK Citizenship or Right to Work in the UK up to the amount of hours per week agreed by the contract.