



CHRIST CHURCH
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Career Development Fellowship in Astrophysics

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Job title	Career Development Fellowship in Astrophysics
Location	Christ Church
Hours	Full Time, 37.5 hours
Contract type	Fixed-Term, 5-years to start 1 October 2026
Salary	Grade 8: £49,119 – £58,265 (with a discretionary range up to £63,489) per annum (current rates), according to qualifications and experience. New appointments are usually made at the first point of the scale. An additional fixed-term Studentship allowance of £4,439 is also available.
Application deadline	Noon 13 April 2026
Vacancy reference	HT26_0017

Overview of the post

Christ Church invites applications for a five-year Career Development Fellow (CDF) in Astrophysics from 1 October 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter. The post is funded by Christ Church, but the candidate will also be an associate member of the Hintze Centre for Astrophysical Surveys and faculty of the Department of Physics, University of Oxford.

This Career Development Fellowship is intended for an early- to mid-career scholar who wishes to further their experience of undergraduate teaching in Astrophysics alongside their research. The Governing Body has a policy of fostering academics' career development by means of Career Development Fellowships to achieve a flow-through of appointments so that this policy can, as circumstances permit, be continued into the future for other academics' career development. Therefore, it is an essential feature of this Fellowship that it is time-limited and cannot be renewed, and the appointment carries with it no expectation of permanent employment at Christ Church. Applicants may not have previously held a comparable career development appointment at Oxford or another university.

Further information about the duties of the post, Christ Church, and the terms and conditions of employment are provided below. If you would like to discuss this post and find out more about joining the academic community at Christ Church, please contact academic.recruitment@chch.ox.ac.uk. All enquiries will be treated with strict confidence and will not form part of the selection process.

Christ Church

Christ Church is one of the largest of the Oxford colleges and has evolved over five centuries. Its junior members, both undergraduate (over 469) and graduate students (over 250), cover almost all the major academic disciplines both in the Arts and the Sciences, as

do its senior academic staff (around 60). It aims at academic excellence and individual fulfilment in a friendly, tolerant and mutually supportive environment. More general information about the College may be obtained at www.chch.ox.ac.uk.

In addition, we give a college base to several senior University Professors, and sponsor research, first, by regularly appointing Senior Associate Research Fellows who have achieved distinction in their respective fields; and secondly, each year, by the appointment in open competition, and for a period of three or four years, of two Junior Research Fellows in the Sciences and two in the Arts and Social Sciences.

Physics at Christ Church

Christ Church, Einstein's college in the early 1930s, has a strong tradition in physics. Currently the teaching staff comprises two Tutors, who are assisted by several Lecturers. The Wetton Chair in Astrophysics is attached to the College, and there is a vigorous research community in addition to the teaching activities. Christ Church accepts around 7 undergraduates each year.

Christ Church is a vibrant, diverse, inclusive community with a strong commitment to excellence in research and teaching, and a distinguished record of academic success. For information on academic staff at Christ Church, see: <https://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/research-and-academia/academic-and-research-staff>.

The Christ Church Undergraduate Prospectus can be found in the admissions (Undergraduate) section of the College website: <http://www.chch.ox.ac.uk>.

Prospective applicants who are unfamiliar with the Oxford system may find helpful the discussion of what an Oxford tutorial entails in the following video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLiKh4QY58>.

Duties of the post

The Fellow will be expected to deliver an independent research programme of outstanding quality in Astrophysics. This programme should be within the remit of the Hintze Centre for Astrophysical Surveys in the sub-department of Astrophysics, namely Observational Cosmology, Galaxy Evolution, or the Transient Universe, see <https://www.physics.ox.ac.uk/research/group/hintze-centre-astrophysical-surveys> at a level comparable with that in leading departments worldwide. The Fellow will give high-quality tutorials and classes at undergraduate level and encompass administrative and pastoral duties for Christ Church and the Department.

For Christ Church

- deliver six weighted hours per week of high-quality tutorial teaching, averaged over the three eight-week terms of the academic year, to undergraduates reading Physics. Teaching will include the third-year General Relativity option and other papers of the core first and second year syllabus: http://www2.physics.ox.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2011-06-03/course_pdf_20602.pdf
- Christ Church operate a 'weighted hours' scheme, under which a one-to-one tutorial counts as one stint hour, a double tutorial as 1.25 hours; a triple as 1.5 hours. Tutorials consist of an hour of academic discussion between tutor and students, and tutors are expected to mark written work as part of each tutorial;



CHRIST CHURCH
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

- assist in the management of Physics administration, including the admission of undergraduates to read Physics;
- undertake the normal duties of a college Tutor, which include coordinating, setting and marking College termly exams (Collections), monitoring student progress, writing termly reports on students' work, and organising, where necessary, teaching by specialist colleagues in other colleges;
- assist with the general oversight of the welfare (both academic and social) of the Christ Church undergraduates and graduates reading Physics;
- act as College Adviser for graduate students;
- assist with access and outreach activities (including College Open Days).

For the Department of Physics:

The Fellow may undertake some additional teaching and examining duties listed below following negotiation with the Head of Physics (without exceeding a maximum of 12 contact hours per year or the equivalent for the Department). This work would be paid by the Department in addition to the stipend paid by Christ Church. It might include:

- Contributing to examining if nominated
- Delivering a small number of lectures, under the direction of the Head of Physics.
- Supervising research students if requested
- Contributing to the general organizational work of the department
- Deliver class teaching if requested (for which additional remuneration would be available), particularly for the 4th year Astrophysics options.

Selection Criteria

The successful candidate will demonstrate the following, taking account of the particular stage reached in the candidate's career:

Essential Criteria

- completed doctorate in Physics, Astrophysics or other relevant discipline.
- the ability to teach the courses set out under 'Duties of the post.'
- a record of peer-reviewed publication commensurate with post-doctoral academic experience and evidence of continuing research activity to build a distinguished research record.
- the ability to demonstrate the skills necessary for successful tutorial and class teaching and teaching in formal lectures, including the ability to explain problems and ideas lucidly, to listen to students' questions and views sympathetically, and to enthuse and inspire them.
- the ability to demonstrate communication, interpersonal, time management and the organizational skills necessary to undertake pastoral responsibilities and college administration.
- good oral and written communication skills – ability to present research findings effectively to fellow professionals or other informed members of the public.
- good team-working including a willingness to participate in and assist in College life and governance as well as the wider activities of the Hintze Centre and sub-department of Astrophysics.
- the ability to innovate and work effectively with colleagues and contribute effectively to the administration of the Department and the College.
- evidence of having successfully taught students from a range of backgrounds and/or evidence of participation in outreach activities.



CHRIST CHURCH

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Desirable criteria

- Higher education teaching experience.
- Independent research funding, or a track record of securing research grants.

The appointment will be subject to provision of proof of the right to work in the UK. If you require a visa, we have a dedicated Staff Immigration Team to support successful applicants through the immigration process from job offer through to arrival in the UK. This is subject to the eligibility criteria being met for the respective visa routes.

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:

Employee Benefits

- Grade 8: £49,119 – £58,265 (with a discretionary range up to £63,489) per annum (current rates), according to qualifications and experience. New appointments are usually made at the first point of the scale.
- Career Development Fellows receive a Fixed Term Allowance of £4,439 p.a. (current rates).
- Use of teaching room in Christ Church.
- Membership of the Senior Common Room (SCR).
- SCR lunches and Common Table dinners (free of charge) during periods for which these are available.
- Christ Church will appoint a mentor for the post holder.
- There is a scheme for the purchase of books for the personal use of the Career Development Fellow up to a current maximum of £707 p.a., and entertainment of academic guests is subsidised up to a current maximum of £408 p.a. Grants are available, at the discretion of the Governing Body, towards certain research and conference expenses.
- Eligible staff may join or remain a member of the Universities Superannuation Scheme. Details are available on the website at <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/finance/pensions/uss/>.
- Employee Assistance Programme alongside access to dedicated support both within the college and wider University for your personal and career development.
- A health care scheme at a substantial discount on normal rates paid.
- The opportunity to participate in tax-free bicycle hire/purchase salary sacrifice scheme.

How to Apply

Please apply using the online application form available at:

https://fas.chch.ox.ac.uk/fas_live/chchcdfastro/ no later than the deadline of **Noon 13 April 2026**. Applications received after this time will not be considered.

Application documents should include:

- A letter of application, of no more than two pages, stating your interest in the post, and explaining how you meet the criteria set out above using examples of your skills and experience.
- CV, including details of your teaching experience (maximum 3 pages).
- A publication list (no page limit)

- Research statement, of no more than 1,000 words, summarizing the past, current and future direction of your research, highlighting how your research has evolved and your key achievements, and how your research aligns with the Hintze Centre for Astrophysical Surveys and the broader research themes within astrophysics at Oxford.
- Provide the names and contact details of two referees. Referees will need to upload their letters of recommendation to the online application system by the closing date.

Further information about references process can be found below. Applications will be judged only against the criteria which are set out in the job description, and applicants should ensure that their applications explain how they meet each of the selection criteria for the post using examples of their skills and experience. This may include experience gained in employment, education, or during career breaks (such as time out to care for dependents).

Interviews

It is expected that interviews will take place week commencing **4 May 2026**.

Christ Church is committed to fairness, consistency and transparency in selection decisions. Members of selection committees will be aware of the principles of equality of opportunity, fair selection and the risks of bias. Applications are particularly welcome and encouraged from women, black, and minority ethnic candidates, who are currently under-represented in academic posts.

Christ Church welcomes applications from candidates who have a disability or long-term health condition and is committed to providing long term support. Please let us know if you need any adjustments to the recruitment process, including the provision of these documents in large print, audio or other formats. If we invite you for interviews, we will ask whether you require any particular arrangements at the interview.

References

Two references are required for this post. Candidates are responsible for requesting references from their referees. Referees should submit references online by the closing date of **13 April 2026**. Once applicants have provided their details in their online application, referees will be sent an email containing a link to do this. Candidates should therefore give referees enough time to write in their support.

Pre-employment screening

Standard checks: If you are offered the post, the offer will be subject to standard pre-employment checks. You will be asked to provide proof of your right to work in the UK; and proof of your identity. You will also be asked to complete a health declaration so that you can tell us about any health conditions or disabilities for which you may need us to make appropriate adjustments.

If you need help

If you have any questions regarding the application process, please contact recruitment@chch.ox.ac.uk. All enquiries will be treated with strict confidence and will not form part of the selection decision.



CHRIST CHURCH

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Please note that you will receive an automated email from our e-recruitment system to confirm receipt of your application. Please check your spam/junk mail if you do not receive this email.

Important information for candidates

Data Privacy

Please note that any personal data submitted to Christ Church as part of the job application process will be used only for the purposes of determining suitability for the post and processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and related UK data protection legislation. For further information, please see the Christ Church Privacy Notice available at: <https://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/privacy-policy>. Anonymized data may be retained for the purposes of overall data analysis.

Due to the large volume of recruitment that Christ Church administers we are unable to provide feedback to non-shortlisted applicants.

Equality of opportunity

Entry into employment with Christ Church 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.