



Job Description

Job title	Research Associate (Data Science)
Department/School	Tobacco Control Research Group, Health
Job family	Education and Research
Grade	7
Reporting to	Big Data Research Lead
Responsible for	There may be a requirement for: day to day supervision of other staff e.g. technical staff or, co-supervision of doctoral or undergraduate students
Location	University of Bath premises

Background and context

UNIVERSITY OF BATH

The University of Bath is one of the UK's leading universities with an international reputation for research and teaching at the highest academic standards. It has a distinctive approach that emphasises the education of professional practitioners and the promotion of original inquiry and innovation in partnership with business, the professions, public services and the voluntary sector.

The University of Bath ranks highly in the league tables of UK universities published by a number of national newspapers, including the *Times*, *Independent* and *Guardian*.

The University's buildings are set in an attractive campus about a mile from the centre of Bath. It is a friendly campus with strong student services and good social opportunities. Its sports facilities are first-class, its Sports Training Village, used more than half a million times a year by Olympic athletes and the public alike, was completed in 2004 at a cost of £35 million.

Bath, a World Heritage City, is a spectacularly beautiful city which stands on the River Avon among the hills of England's West Country. It is renowned for its striking architecture and Roman Baths and is surrounded by beautiful countryside.

TOBACCO CONTROL RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BATH

The [Tobacco Control Research Group](#), one of the University of Bath's leading research groups, is a multi-disciplinary group directed by Professor Gilmore. Globally recognised for its research on the tobacco industry, it is a dynamic, multidisciplinary, award-winning research group. It is a growing team with research focussing on three main areas: tobacco policy evaluation, corporate policy influence and harm reduction.

Senior and early career staff alike have received awards for their research and its impacts on policy including from WHO and the Public Health Advocacy Institute. The group is committed to ensuring its work is relevant to policy and practice and has secured impacts from UK to global level. It is part of the UK Centre for Tobacco and Alcohol Studies (UKCTAS), one of five UK Centres for Public Health Excellence, funded by the UK Clinical Research Collaboration (See <https://ukctas.net/> for further details) thus making the group part of a wider and thriving research community.

In 2012, the TCRG established an innovative knowledge exchange platform, www.TobaccoTactics.org which now attracts up to 60,000 page hits per day with users drawn from across the world including politicians, civil servants, journalists and activists.

THE STOP PROJECT

The Stop Tobacco Organisations & Products (STOP) project is an innovative \$15m project funded by [Bloomberg Philanthropies](#), aimed at developing a tobacco industry watchdog to deliver policy change. It is a partnership between the Tobacco Control Research Group at the University of Bath, the Global Center for Good Governance in Tobacco Control, Thailand, the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, Paris, and Vital Strategies, New York.

It brings together the global leaders in tobacco industry monitoring and research, advocacy, accountability and communication. This unique combination will help ensure our research is widely and effectively communicated and maximally impactful.

This new watchdog will build on the successful research of the University of Bath's Tobacco Control Research Group including its [TobaccoTactics](#) website. We will be leading the tobacco industry monitoring and research arm of the work. With a focus on low and middle income countries, we will be extending the scale, geographic reach and responsiveness of our research.

Within the University of Bath, the STOP team will be based within the Tobacco Control Research Group but includes staff from different faculties and departments including:

THE DEPARTMENT FOR HEALTH

The [Department for Health](#), part of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, incorporates two main groups, both encompassing teaching and research activities: lifelong health and wellbeing, and sport, health and exercise science. Research takes place across a number of themes including: a fair and vibrant society, improving human function and lifelong health and wellbeing. The department also provides [research support and capacity building](#) to the local healthcare community.

THE SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

The University of Bath School of Management is one of the UK's leading business schools. It has an outstanding reputation for both research and teaching, and has five-year EQUIS accreditation from the European Foundation for Management Development, which is only achieved by around 1% of business schools worldwide. The School of Management is home to the [Centre for Governance, Regulation and Industrial Strategy](#) (CGR&IS), and the [Centre for Business](#)

[Organisations & Society](#) (CBOS) that collaborate with the Tobacco Control Research group in the area of tobacco companies and tobacco regulation.

SOCIAL AND POLICY SCIENCES

With a reputation for cutting-edge research and innovative teaching, the Department of Social and Policy Sciences at the University of Bath focuses on international development, social policy and sociology. It is home to the [Centre for Development Studies](#), an interdisciplinary collaborative research centre critically engaging with international development policy and practice.

Job purpose

We are seeking a highly motivated individual to join the Tobacco Control Research Group. This individual will have significant experience in data science, using digital methods to conduct research on big data. We are looking for someone with experience in research methods such as network analysis, data visualisation, text mining and analysis. Experience in using programming language using applications such as Python and R is essential.

The Team is looking to harness digital methods for exploring big data to answer important research questions on tobacco industry activity. This will involve collecting and analysing large data sets and writing up the findings for peer-reviewed papers, blog pieces and webpages on our TobaccoTactics.org website. Experience in social science research would be a strong advantage. The post holder will support the development of strategy and vision for large data analysis projects in the team involving data acquisition, processing and analysis.

The role holder will also be expected to:

- on occasion work as part of a rapid response team to provide quick turnaround, high impact, research pieces focussing on related 'hot topics' as they arise;
- contribute to a specialist week-long training course in tobacco industry monitoring and research and provide technical support to in-country partners and visiting fellows;
- contribute to the supervision of students working on placements within the research team and to the supervision of PhD students as appropriate.

The role holder must be an excellent communicator, able to work flexibly, have a strong team work ethic, and be able to work under pressure in a fast-paced dynamic environment.

The role will work closely with a complementary role developing and maintaining the software and systems to support the digital, data collection and analysis for the group. As such while training and support will be provided experience in using programming languages such as Python or R is essential.

Special conditions

No previous work for or with the tobacco industry and organisations or individuals financially linked to the tobacco industry. To avoid potential conflicts of interests and to ensure compliance with Article 5.3 of the Framework Convention on

Tobacco Control (FCTC), applicants are therefore asked to declare any current or previous occupational activity with any tobacco company or those receiving financial contributions from the industry, whether gainful or not.

Main duties and responsibilities	
	Responsible to the PI/CI for (as appropriate to discipline):
1	Conduct research projects using digital methods. Contribute to the design and execution of the project e.g. timetabling and meeting project milestones; participating in regular discussions with collaborative partners. Generate, collect and analyse big data related to the project using contemporary digital methods
2	Writing up results of research and contributing to the publication of results in high-quality peer-reviewed academic literature.
3	Disseminating results of research project as appropriate to the discipline through activities such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • overseas research visits • conference presentations • public engagement activities
4	Participate in departmental/group meetings and prepare and deliver presentations/seminars to project team, internal and external stakeholders or funders.
5	Assist with the supervision of postgraduate students and undergraduate project students and the assessment of student knowledge.
6	Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism to inform research activity.
7	Identify sources of funding and provide assistance with preparing bids to funding bodies. Develop ability to secure own funding e.g. travel grants.
8	Contribute to the development of research objectives and proposals for own or joint research projects, with assistance of a mentor, if required.
9	Disseminate knowledge of research advances to inform departmental teaching.
	You will from time to time be required to undertake other duties of a similar nature as reasonably required by your line manager. You are required to follow all University policies and procedures at all times and take account of University guidance.

Person Specification

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications		
A PhD degree (or shortly to be awarded) in subject area of direct relevance (data science, computer science, statistics, social science with strong data component) or equivalent significant relevant experience and professional qualification	√	
Experience/Knowledge		
Post-doctoral experience		√
Demonstrated significant depth and breadth of specialist knowledge of data science to contribute to research programmes and to the development of departmental research activities	√	
Demonstrated awareness of latest developments in the field of big data research and design	√	
Demonstrated potential to publish in high quality, peer reviewed journals	√	
Skills		
Ability to prepare research proposals, to conduct individual research work and to disseminate results		√
Ability to organise and prioritise own workload to meet required deadlines	√	
Ability to write research reports and to effectively disseminate outcomes	√	
Excellent oral, interpersonal and written communication skills	√	
Proficiency in data science methods (network analysis, data visualisation, text mining and analysis)	√	
Proficiency in Python, R and other programming software	√	
Attributes		
Commitment to working within professional and ethical codes of conduct	√	
Innovation and developing creative solutions	√	
Commitment to excellence in research	√	

Enthusiasm and self-motivation	√	
Tenacity – working to achieve own and team objectives and to overcome obstacles	√	
Ability to be an effective team worker	√	
Commitment to safe working practices	√	