

RESEARCH ASSISTANT & PART-TIME PHD (Peter Harrison Centre for Disability Sport)

Job Ref: REQ17496

As part of the University's ongoing commitment to redeployment, please note that this vacancy may be withdrawn at any stage of the recruitment process if a suitable redeployee is identified.

Loughborough University is internationally recognised for its contribution to the study of sport, exercise and health, the School has wide-ranging expertise, encompassing such diverse areas as biomechanics, medicine, molecular and cellular biology, nutrition, pedagogy, psychology, physiology, sociology, economics and sport management.

Research with the School of Sport, Exercise & Health Sciences

Research within the School is characterised by excellence and breadth, and its quality was recognised by the 2014 Research Excellence Framework audit. A broad range of social and natural sciences contribute to the School's research activity which is organised within three overlapping themes:

- **Sport performance**, which aims to understand and enhance sport and exercise performance across the ability range by investigating the factors influencing, and methods for improving, human performance in sport and exercise;
- **Lifestyle for health and well-being**, which aims to improve human health and wellbeing throughout the lifespan by considering the social, behavioural and biological determinants and consequences of human lifestyles with specific emphases on physical activity, nutrition and chronic disease; and
- **Participation in sport and exercise**, which aims to analyse the sociological, economic, psychological, political, organisational and behavioural factors which inhibit and facilitate community participation in sport and exercise.

Work of the Peter Harrison Centre for Disability Sport fits within all these aforementioned research themes and we are proud to be working with many Paralympic athletes and their coaches and other key other academics world-wide.

Further information about the PHC's research can be found at: <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/research/phc/>

Job Description

Job Grade: Specialist & Supporting Academic Grade 5

Job Purpose: To be responsible for the research communication activities for the Peter Harrison Centre for Disability Sport (PHC). This includes managing the Centre's website, newsletter, knowledge translation, social media presence and to assist with the ongoing research activities of the PHC. There will be an opportunity for the post-holder to undertake a funded part-time PhD in an agreed research area with GB Wheelchair Rugby.

Job Duties:

- To co-ordinate job duties with the chosen part-time PhD studies.
- To provide physiological support to wheelchair rugby players as part of athlete screening and to support the pathways of wheelchair rugby in the UK alongside the National Development Director.
- To co-ordinate and update the disability, physical activity, and sport research webpages, translate this knowledge into a dedicated website and booklets, and help develop the research activity within the PHC and with other researchers on this topic area.
- Actively participate as a member of the PHC research team on Centre-led projects and where appropriate, assist with the supervision of student project work in this area.

- Contribute to the production of research reports and translate this information by producing applied research articles via the PHC website and newsletters.
- To develop, maintain and implement the information strategy of the PHC, and regularly update the PHC web-based material in line with the output of the Centre with co-ordination of all research strands.
- Present research findings and educational resources at seminars and conferences and other forums as required.
- Prepare reports and notes from meetings, as needed, for PHC activities.

Points to Note:

The purpose of this job description is to indicate the general level of duties and responsibility of the post. The detailed duties may vary from time to time without changing the general character or level of responsibility entailed.

Special Conditions:

All staff have a statutory responsibility to take reasonable care of themselves, others and the environment and to prevent harm by their acts or omissions. All staff are therefore required to adhere to the University's Health, Safety and Environmental Policy & Procedures.

All staff should hold a duty and commitment to observing the University's Equality & Diversity policy and procedures at all times. Duties must be carried out in accordance with relevant Equality & Diversity legislation and University policies/procedures.

Successful completion of probation will be dependent on attendance at the University's mandatory courses which include Respecting Diversity and, where appropriate, Recruitment and Selection.

Organisational Responsibility:

Reports to: Professor Vicky Tolfrey, Director of the Peter Harrison Centre for Disability Sport
Responsible for: None

Person Specification

Your application will be reviewed against the essential and desirable criteria listed below. Applicants are strongly advised to explicitly state and evidence how they meet each of the essential (and desirable) criteria in their application. Stages of assessment are as follows:

- 1 – Application
- 2 – Test/Assessment Centre/Presentation
- 3 – Interview

ESSENTIAL

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Experience of conducting research	1,3
	Experience of undertaking physiological fitness testing	1,3
Skills and abilities	Excellent communication and interpersonal skills	1,3
	Ability to work methodically	1,3
	Good time management	1,3
	Ability to work independently when required	1,3
	Ability to work as part of a team and to collaborate with others	1,3
	Ability to undertake physiological testing of wheelchair athletes	1,3
Training	A willingness to undertake further training as appropriate and to adopt new procedures as and when required	1
Qualifications	A good undergraduate degree in Sport and Exercise Science, or a related subject (minimum 2:1)	1
	Postgraduate study to MSc level to the chosen field of PhD study	1,3
Other	A commitment to observing the University's Equal Opportunities policy at all times	3

DESIRABLE

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Experience of preparing and writing research reports	1,3
Skills and abilities	Experience of working with coaches	1,3
	An understanding of key aspects of disability sports performance	1,3
	Some knowledge of the Paralympic Classification System	1,3
	Knowledge in web-design	1,3
	Social media skills	1,3
	Competence in IT skills, including data input packages	1,3
Other	Ability to undertake a part-time PhD	1,3

Conditions of Service

This position is offered on a full-time, fixed-term contract for 3-years' in the first instance (with the possibility of a further 1-year extension), commencing 1st October 2017 within the *Specialist & Supporting Academic* job family Grade 5; starting salary £23,879 per annum. Please note that the available funds will only cover the cost of home (EU) PhD student registration.

The appointment will be subject to the University's normal Terms and Conditions of Employment for Academic and Related staff/Operational and Administrative staff, details of which can be found [here](#).

The University is committed to enabling staff to maintain a healthy work-home balance and has a number of family-friendly policies which are available at <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/hr/a-z/family-leave-policy-and-procedure---page.html>.

We also offer an on-campus nursery with subsidised places, subsidised places at local holiday clubs and a childcare voucher scheme (further details are available at: <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/hr/a-z/childcare-information---page.html>)

In addition, the University is supportive, wherever possible, of flexible working arrangements. We also strive to create a culture that supports equality and celebrates diversity throughout the campus. The University holds a Bronze Athena SWAN award which recognises the importance of support for women at all stages of their academic career. For further information on Athena SWAN see <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/hr/athena-swan/>

Informal Enquiries

Informal enquiries should be made to Professor Vicky Tolfrey, Professor of Applied Disability Sport and Director of the Peter Harrison Centre for Disability Sport, by email to V.L.Tolfrey@lboro.ac.uk or by telephone +44(0)1509 226386

Application

The closing date for receipt of applications is **Sunday 25 June 2017**.
Interviews will be held during **W/C 10 July 2017**.