

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Exercise, Inflammation and Chronic Disease (Biomedical Research Centre Lifestyle theme)

Job Ref: REQ17737

As part of the University's ongoing commitment to redeployment, please note that this vacancy may be withdrawn at any stage of the recruitment process if a suitable redeployee is identified.

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.

The School has an active and ambitious plan to grow capacity and influence through developments as part of the National Centre for Sport and Exercise Medicine, Loughborough in London, and StemLab.

The School is extremely proud to hold an Athena Swan Silver Award, recognising the commitment and work of the School in addressing issues of equality in Science.

Research

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.

The School's research themes articulate with four of the University's six Research Challenges, most closely with the 'Health and Wellbeing' challenge, but also significantly with 'Communication, Culture and Citizenship', 'Enabling Technologies', and 'Secure and Resilient Societies'.

Further information about the School's research themes can be found at:

<http://www.lboro.ac.uk/departments/ssehs/research/> and about the University's Research Challenges at: <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/research/challenges/>

Job Description

Job Family & Grade:

Job Purpose: To co-ordinate and support research projects associated with the Loughborough-based Lifestyle theme for the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Leicester Biomedical Research Centre (BRC)

Job Duties:

- To perform independent research activity investigating the impact of exercise on immune function, inflammation and its link with chronic disease risk markers

- To perform biochemical/analytical work to support this work across the BRC
- To develop new laboratory analytical techniques to further understanding of the role of exercise on immune function and inflammation.
- To supervise and support student research working in the area of exercise, immune function and inflammation.
- To contribute to the writing of research grants submitted for external funding.
- To contribute, and where appropriate, lead the writing of research papers for publication in peer-reviewed journals.
- To prepare NHS and University ethics applications for BRC-associated research projects.
- Be involved in teaching and the assessment of student knowledge and supervision of projects.
- Assist in the development of student research skills.

Other:

- Required to work outside of standard hours to meet the demands of subject recruitment.
- Required to divide their time between multiple sites in Loughborough and Leicester, and therefore the ability to travel between sites (approx. 15 miles) is paramount.

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 Dr Nicolette (Lettie) Bishop

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 leading a laboratory research project, including time and resource management	1
	Evidence of work with human subjects or samples	1
	Experience of publishing research papers in peer-reviewed journals	1
Skills and abilities	Write in a logical and coherent manner	1,3
	Excellent ability to manage and analyse data sets using standard quantitative statistical procedures	1
	Work using their own initiative to prioritise work and meet deadlines	1,3
	Ability to keep up to date with knowledge and understanding in the fields of exercise immunology, inflammation and chronic disease risk	1,3
	Oral communication skills sufficient to be able to address audiences clearly and effectively	3
	Excellent organisational and time management skills	1,3
	Ability to work as part of a team	1,3
	Basic blood biochemistry techniques including ELISA	1,3
	Demonstrate evidence of continuing professional development and willingness to undertake appropriate further training and to adopt new procedures as and when required	1,3
Qualifications	PhD in a discipline related to human biology, exercise physiology with a specific focus on immunology, inflammation and/or chronic disease risk markers	1
Other	Evidence a good working knowledge of equal opportunities and understanding of diversity in the workplace	1,3

DESIRABLE

Experience	Evidence of having prepared grant applications	1,3
	Experience with conducting exercise testing	1,3
	Experience of analysing samples by flow cytometry would be an advantage	1,3
Skills and Abilities	Venepuncture and cannulation skills	1
	Ability to travel independently	1
Qualifications	PhD in a relevant discipline	1

Conditions of Service

This position is offered on a full-time, fixed-term contract to 31st July 2021 within the *Specialist & Supporting Academic* job family, Grade 6 - (£29,301 - £32,004 per annum, pro rata); subject to annual pay award, starting salary to be confirmed on offer of appointment.

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 Dr Nicolette (Lettie) Bishop, Reader in Exercise Immunology, by email to N.C.Bishop@lboro.ac.uk or telephone +44 (0)1509 226385

Application

The closing date for receipt of applications is **Thursday 7th September 2017**. Interviews will be held during w/c 25th September [date to be confirmed].