

## RESEARCH ASSOCIATE (Physical Activity and Health)

Job Ref: REQ180188

**As part of the University's ongoing commitment to redeployment, please note that this vacancy may be withdrawn at any stage of the recruitment process if a suitable redeployee is identified.**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** since 2013, recognising the commitment and work of the School in addressing gender inequalities in Science and to improving career progress for female academics. The School is committed to ensuring that female students and staff are able to achieve their full potential; and provides a flexible and open working culture to enable staff to maintain a work-life balance.

We support our Athena SWAN initiatives by investing in:

- Bespoke leadership programmes to encourage and build confidence in women to take leadership roles.
- Working lunches where needed to enable meetings to be held between 10am and 4pm (as per our Silver Action Plan).
- Monthly coffee mornings which provide opportunities for networking and developing a sense of community within the School.
- Extra mile award which recognises the above and beyond contributions of staff from all job families and research students.

We also welcome applications from those looking to work part-time.

Further information about Athena SWAN and the School's commitment to uphold the Silver Award can be found at: <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/departments/ssehs/about/athena-swan/>

### **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 in particular with the Sport and Exercise Beacon and the Health and Wellbeing Global Challenge which are key elements of the University's CALIBRE (Collective Ambition at Loughborough for Building Research Excellence) framework.

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 CALIBRE framework at: <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/research/calibre/>

## Job Description

**Job Family & Grade:** Specialist & Supporting Academic (Research) Grade 6

**Job Purpose:** To co-ordinate and conduct the evaluation and additional insight of a nationwide physical activity and health programme.

### Job Duties:

To undertake research and evaluation activities for a physical activity and health promotion programme, with responsibility for the following tasks:

- Manage and co-ordinate all aspects of the day-to-day running of the project ensuring this meets funder's evaluation requirements.
- Co-ordinate all aspects of the development of data collection instruments.
- Work with project delivery partners to develop and set up methods for the collection of data.
- Pilot test evaluation protocols, instruments and processes prior to projects commencing.
- Collect, track, process and analyse quantitative data.
- Organise and conduct interviews and focus groups with project delivery partners and participants.
- Process and analyse qualitative data.
- Organise, conduct and analyse objective measures of physical performance.
- Feed back to the project team regularly on progress, and make recommendations for next steps.
- With the support of the research team, write interim and final evaluation reports for the project funders, as required
- Present evaluation findings at meetings, seminars and conferences and other forums, as required.
- Lead and contribute to the writing of scientific research papers for publication in high quality academic journals.
- Continually update knowledge and understanding in this specialism and translate knowledge of advances in the subject area into evaluation activities.
- To contribute to project promotion and public engagement events.
- Link and collaborate with the other members of the evaluation team and members of staff in the School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences.

### Other:

- A willingness to travel to participating workplaces to conduct evaluation activities, including focus groups and interviews. This may require overnight stays.
- To engage in training programmes in the University which are consistent with the needs and aspirations of the research and evaluation focus of the School.
- To undertake other duties as may be reasonably requested and that are commensurate with the nature and grade of the post.

### Teaching:

There are no specific teaching responsibilities for this position.

### 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 Florence Kinnafick, Lecturer in Psychology (Principal Investigator)

## 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	
<b>Experience</b>	Practical experience of designing and conducting research/evaluation projects related to sport, physical activity and health.	1,3	
	Experience of project management skills and ability to work to tight deadlines.	1,3	
	Experience of working on research/evaluation projects with a range of partners.	1,3	
	Experience of summarising and interpreting evaluation results for professionals and practitioners	1,3	
<b>Skills and abilities</b>	Competence in the design and use of qualitative research methods (including conducting interviews and focus groups)	1,3	
	Competence in the use of quantitative research methods including survey design	1,3	
	Competent in the analysis of qualitative and quantitative data	1,3	
	Excellent written and oral communication skills	1,3	
	Self-motivated with ability to meet deadlines	1,3	
	Excellent interpersonal, and organisational skills	1,3	
	Proficiency in a range of computing skills including word processing, spread sheets, statistical analysis packages, database packages.	1,3	
	Ability to write project reports and make technical presentations to industrial and academic research groups	1,3	
	Ability to work as part of a team and to collaborate with others.	3	
	<b>Training</b>	A willingness to undertake further training as appropriate and to adopt new procedures as and when required.	3
	<b>Qualifications</b>	Post-graduate degree in physical activity and health, public health, health promotion or a related subject.	1
		PhD (or near completion) in a relevant area	1
<b>Other</b>	Commitment to observing the University's Equal Opportunities policy at all times.	3	

### DESIRABLE

Area	Criteria	Stage
<b>Experience</b>	Implementing existing physical activity evaluation guidance and how to use this in practice.	1,3
	Working in a high quality academic research environment	1,3
<b>Skills and abilities</b>	Competent in the use of different objective physical performance measures for older adults	1,3
	Knowledge of current evidence relating to the delivery and effectiveness of physical activity and health promotion programmes	3

## Conditions of Service

This part-time post (0.2 fte) is offered on a fixed-term contract commencing 4<sup>th</sup> April 2018 and finishing 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021 within the *Specialist & Supporting Academic (Research)* job family at Grade 6 (£29,799 - £35,550 per annum pro rata); starting salary to be agreed 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 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 Florence Kinnafick by email to [f.e.kinnafick@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:f.e.kinnafick@lboro.ac.uk) or by telephone on 01509 226364.

## Application & Interview

The closing date for receipt of applications is **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2018**.

Interviews will be held during the **week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018**.