

Research Associate in clean sport within international 7-a-side football

(Fixed-term for 12-months)

REQ211075

As part of the University's ongoing commitment to redeployment, please note that this vacancy may be withdrawn at any stage of the recruitment process if a suitable redeployee is identified.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

This position offers a unique opportunity to join a world-class multi-disciplinary team within Para Sport within the Peter Harrison Centre at Loughborough University and aligns with our world-leading Para Sport strategy.

Find out more:

Peter Harrison Centre for Disability Sport: <https://www.lboro.ac.uk/research/phc/>

Para Sport: <https://www.lboro.ac.uk/sport/para-sport/>

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

Project Summary:

Funded by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and in collaboration with the International Federation of Cerebral Palsy Football (IFCPF), this research aims to develop an understanding of the role of athlete support personnel in influencing clean sport culture(s) within international cerebral palsy football. A significant threat to fair competition in para-sport is substance-related doping. Accordingly, the role and proximity of an athlete's entourage (e.g., doctors, sport scientists, nutritionists, psychologists), and wider para sport culture are suggested to be critical influences on clean sport behaviours. One global para-sport where an understanding of, and education around clean sport is a current key strategic priority, is that of international cerebral palsy football. This project will (1) explore international cerebral palsy footballers' perspectives of how athlete support personnel influence clean sport behaviours and doping vulnerability and, (2) ascertain the clean sport perspectives and behaviours of international cerebral palsy football athlete support personnel. The research will generate critical information for future researchers and practitioners as well as important insights to guide policy and anti-doping education initiatives for key stakeholders including IFCPF, the International Paralympic Committee, and WADA. In addition, the postholder will also be responsible for the research communication activities for the Peter Harrison Centre for Disability Sport (PHC). This includes managing the Centre's website, knowledge translation, social media presence and to assist with the ongoing research activities of the PHC. **Please note that the accompanying research agreement has not yet been signed off by WADA and the University and so the recruitment is being allowed to proceed at risk.**

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

Job Purpose:

1. To conduct research in the area of clean sport behaviours and cultures in cerebral palsy football.
2. To contribute toward the management and everyday work of the project, and the delivery of project aims.
3. To undertake primary data collection.
4. To engage with external organisations (e.g., IFCPF, WADA) and the public to deliver knowledge translation activities and events.
5. To co-ordinate and update the PHC webpages, translate this knowledge into a dedicated website and booklets, and help develop the research activity within the PHC and with other researchers.

Job Duties:

WADA Project

- Contribute to the development of academic papers suitable for publication in high quality journals.
- Contribute to the development of project reports relevant to external organisations.
- Conduct qualitative focus groups and interviews with athlete support personnel and players in international cerebral palsy football.
- Collate, analyse and manage large amounts of qualitative data.
- Be responsible for conducting the day to day running of the project.
- Formulate detailed plans for the project with guidance from the project team.
- Feed back to the project team on progress, to make recommendations for next steps.
- Attend and contribute to conferences.
- Contribute to project promotion, public communications, and engagement events (e.g., public lectures, webinars, project end event).
- Contribute ideas for new research and enterprise directions.
- Engage in training programmes in the University (or elsewhere) that are consistent with the needs and aspirations of the project and those of the Department.

- Undertake other duties as may be reasonably requested and that are commensurate with the nature and grade of the post.

PHC Activities

- 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.
- To develop and regularly update the PHC web-based material in line with the output of the Centre with co-ordination of all research strands.

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 Jamie Barker, Senior Lecturer in Sport and Exercise Psychology
<https://www.lboro.ac.uk/departments/ssehs/staff/jamie-barker/>

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 project management	1,3
	Experience of conducting qualitative research with diverse stakeholders	1,3
	Authoring original work for academic journal papers, conference papers or technical/project reports	1,3
Skills and abilities	Excellent understanding of qualitative research approaches	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
	Working knowledge of Microsoft software packages	1,3
	Ability to write project reports and make presentations to funders, stakeholders and academic research groups	1,3
	Knowledge of relevant Health & Safety issues	1,3
	Training	Demonstrate evidence of having undertaken further training
Qualifications	PhD in relevant area or close to completion	1
Other	Commitment to observing the University's Equal Opportunities policy at all times.	3

DESIRABLE

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Developing proposals for funding from external agencies	1,3
	Working in a high-quality academic research environment	1,3
Skills and abilities	Good understanding of Paralympic sport and / or the clean sport landscape	1,3
	Experience in Paralympic sport and / or disability	1,3

Conditions of Service

This full-time post is offered on a fixed-term contract for 12-months (1st March 2022 – 28th February 2023), within the *Specialist & Supporting Academic (Research)* job family at Grade 6 (salary £31,406 - £38,587 per annum).

The appointment will be subject to the University's normal Terms and Conditions of Employment for staff employed on Grade 6 and above, 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/>