

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE Wheeled Sports and Technology (Peter Harrison Centre for Disability Sport)

Full-time; Fixed-term to 30th September 2024

Job Ref: REQ220557

As part of the University's ongoing commitment to redeployment, please note that this vacancy may be withdrawn at any stage of the recruitment process if a suitable redeployee is identified.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

1. To support the development and translation of using sensor technologies within wheeled sports.
2. To work with members of the PHC on topics related to the wheelchair propulsion/ handcycling in persons with disability that may inform interventions to support training and rehabilitation.
3. To engage in on-going research activities with the aim to improve health and performance in populations with disability. This includes activities such as primary data collection, analysis, write up, publication and dissemination to both research outlets as well as to end-users.

Job Duties:

- To be responsible for the technological and biomechanical based research projects within the PHC, including:
 - i. New sensor technologies for exploring manual wheelchair propulsion (sports and every-day);
 - ii. Ergonomics of sports wheelchair propulsion/ handcycling (over-ground and using the Lode ergometer);
 - iii. Classification issues in Paralympic sport.
- Assist in developing new lines of research and write research proposals and submit at least one grant proposal within an 18-month period.
- Demonstrate specialist knowledge and understanding of the discipline to develop research ideas and progress research activity in line with the objectives of the PHC.
- Assist with laboratory operations and laboratory management and where necessary support research projects at UG, PG and PhD level.
- Write up research papers in high quality academic journals.
- Present research findings and educational resources at seminars and conferences and other forums as required.
- 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.
- To collaborate in research initiatives with colleagues from other UK and PHC international networks and other relevant Para sports bodies.
- 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 other than the involvement in project supervision.

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.

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	Background and understanding of the sport science needs of Paralympic athlete populations	1
	Specialist knowledge and understanding of the biomechanical discipline and use of sensor technologies in wheelchair sport	1,3
	An understanding of testing protocols for disabled populations using the Lode ergometer	1,3
	To have worked across different sporting disability groups	1,3
Skills and abilities	MATLAB experience and competence in excel spreadsheets	1
	Exercise testing in individuals with a disability	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 software packages (SPSS, Mendeley, Office package)	3
	Ability to write project reports and make presentations to lay, industrial, and academic research groups	1,3
	Knowledge of relevant Health & Safety issues	3
Training	Demonstrate evidence of having undertaken further training	1,3
	Knowledge translational understanding for co-produced projects	1,3
Qualifications	PhD (or at the point of completion) in a relevant subject	1
Other	Commitment to observing the University's Equal Opportunities policy at all times	3

DESIRABLE

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Several years' experience of working with Paralympic athlete populations and understanding how to provide feed-back to athletes and coaches	1,3
	Developing proposals for funding from external agencies	1,3
	Working in a high quality academic research environment	1,3
	Experience of teaching and/or supervision of students in relevant areas	1,3
	Some knowledge of the Paralympic Classification System	1,3
Skills and abilities	Competent in new software with limited supervision	1,3
	Competent in VICON or similar biomechanical set-up and software	1,3
Qualifications	Teaching qualification	1
	First Aid certificate	1
Other	Links with international and Para sport research partners	1,3

Conditions of Service

This full-time post is offered on a fixed-term contract for 24-months commencing 1 October 2022, within the *Specialist & Supporting Academic (Research)* job family, Grade 6, £31,406 - £34,304 per annum); starting salary to be confirmed on appointment.

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

Loughborough University is committed to allowing its employees to work dynamically with a combination of working on campus and remotely, where possible. This has been identified as a role that could work dynamically and, if successful, your line manager will discuss these informal arrangements with you. Please note that there is a general expectation that the successful candidate will spend the majority of time working on the Loughborough campus (further information is available [here](#)).

Application

The closing date for receipt of applications is **12 June 2022**.