

SENIOR RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Behavioural Medicine

(Full-time/Part-time; fixed-term for 2-years)

Job Ref: REQ230235

As part of the University's ongoing commitment to redeployment, please note that this vacancy may be withdrawn at any stage of the recruitment process if a suitable redeployee is identified.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

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 and Innovation

Research and Innovation within the School is characterised by excellence and breadth, and its quality was recognised in the 2021 Research Excellence Framework where Loughborough University ranked top for research power (GPA x volume) in Sport and Exercise Sciences, Leisure and Tourism. Loughborough University has also placed Number 1 in the QS world ranking for sport-related subjects for six consecutive years (2017-2022, every year since the category was introduced). A broad range of social and natural sciences contribute to the School's research and innovation activity which is organised within three overlapping themes:

- **Sport performance**, understanding and supporting the enhancement of athletes' performance in competitive sport;
- **Lifestyle for health and well-being**, encompassing research across several disciplines with the common goal of facilitating healthy living and ageing across the lifespan; and
- **Sport, Business and Society**, exploring how individuals, communities and organisations engage with and facilitate sport and exercise opportunities.

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 7

Job Purpose: To lead, manage and conduct studies in the areas of physical activity and health and/or weight management in primary care, community health or public health settings.

Job Duties:

Research

- Contribute to the development of research strategies in the School.
- Define research objectives and questions and contribute generally to the development of thought and practice in the field.
- To engage with the relevant school research group and institutional research themes structure.
- Develop proposals for research and enterprise projects which will make a significant impact.
- To secure external research funding. Take responsibility in ensuring research income is at a level that can sustain the post and seek funding for wider research activities, with support from senior colleagues.
- Act as Principal Investigator on research projects, leading teams or groups and forming collaborations.
- Use research methodologies and techniques appropriate to the type of research.
- Review and synthesise the outcomes of research studies.
- Interpret findings obtained from research projects and develop new insights, expanding, refining and testing hypotheses and ideas.
- Extend, transform and apply knowledge acquired from scholarship to research and appropriate external activities.
- Write or contribute to publications, eg. for high quality academic journals, and disseminate research findings using other appropriate media, eg. in seminars, or presentations at conferences according to the School's research and impact action plans.
- Collaborate actively within and outside the University to lead and complete research projects and advance thinking.
- Participate in and develop external networks, for example to identify sources of funding, generate income, obtain enterprise projects, or build relationships for current and future activities.
- To attend, participate and/or represent the School/University/research project at meetings, seminars, conferences and public forums.
- Manage and monitor research budgets.
- Lead and develop internal networks
- Lead and develop external networks, for example with other active researchers and leading thinkers in the field.
- Develop links with external contacts such as other educational and research bodies, employers, professional bodies and other providers of funding and research initiatives to foster collaboration and generate income.
- To monitor and report on all Health, Safety and Environmental aspects of the research activities of the project(s) within their portfolio.
- Contribute to the research culture and management within the School and, where appropriate, across the University.

Teaching

- Where appropriate and as requested, to supervise undergraduate, MSc and PhD students and to manage other research staff.
- Where appropriate, to develop and deliver lecture, tutorial and workshop sessions to students.

Other Related Activities and Functions

- To work effectively with relevant administrative, research and academic staff in the School and across the University.
- To engage in training programmes in the University (eg. through Staff Development) which are consistent with your needs and aspirations and those of the School.

- To undertake such other duties as may be reasonably requested and that are commensurate with the nature and grade of the post.
- Willingness to travel and speak in substantial public forums.

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 Amanda Daley, Professor in Behavioural Medicine.

Person Specification

Your application will be reviewed with respect to meeting the essential and desirable criteria listed below. 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	Substantial original research that has been published in high quality journals	1,2,3	
	Project planning and management experience	1,3	
	Extensive experience of selecting and implementing appropriate research methods	1,2,3	
	Experience of gathering and analysing research data	1,2,3	
	Experienced IT/ Internet user	1	
	Experience of securing funding	1,2,3	
	Experience of managing research projects and teams	1,3	
	Experience of appropriate research reporting, documentation and dissemination activities	1,3	
	Experience of conducting research within ethical and regulatory procedures	1,3	
	Leadership experience	1,3	
	Experience of working with public bodies, professional institutions and stakeholders from industry and other fields	1,3	
	Skills and abilities	Demonstrate excellent technical ability relevant to the discipline	1,3
		Excellent inter-personal and communication skills - both written and oral	1,2,3
Excellent team-working team-motivating skills		3	
Excellent research paper or report writing skills		1,3	
Highly-motivated with the ability to set and meet deadlines for themselves and others appropriate to the progress of the projects		1,3	
Ability to supervise and teach undergraduate and postgraduate students		1,3	
Strong track record in originating and developing new ideas		1,2,3	
Training	Demonstrate evidence of having undertaken further training	1,3	
Qualifications	A PhD in a relevant subject <u>OR</u> extensive equivalent experience in an intensive advanced research environment, and working towards a PhD in a relevant area	1	
Equality & Diversity	Evidence a good working knowledge of equal opportunities and understanding of diversity in the workplace	3	
Other	Willingness to travel	3	

DESIRABLE

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Experience of conducting translational research	1,2,3
	Experience of conducting systematic reviews	1,2,3

	Experience of gaining research income as Principal Investigator	1,3
	Experience of working with large data sets	1,3
Skills and abilities	Ability to undertake a range of School roles, as appropriate	1,3
Other	The ability to travel to sites not accessible by public transport	3

Conditions of Service

This full-time or part-time post is offered on a fixed-term contract for 2-years starting 5 June 2023, within the *Specialist and Supporting Academic (Research)* job family at Grade 7 (£43,414 - £47,423 per annum); 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 staff employed at 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/>

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 University campus (further information is available [here](#)).