

RESEARCH ASSISTANT Rehabilitation Sciences

Full-time 1.0 FTE (37 hours per week); Fixed-term for 12 months

Job Ref: REQ231524

As part of the University's ongoing commitment to redeployment, please note that this vacancy may be withdrawn at any stage of the recruitment process if a suitable redeployee is identified.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, StemLab and within 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 staff who are looking to work part-time.

[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.

More information about the World Leading Para Sport research and Para Sport within the Sports Development Centre at Loughborough University can be found here:

[Peter Harrison Centre for Disability Sport](#); [Para Sport](#)

Job Description

Job Family & Grade: Specialist & Supporting Academic (Research) Grade 5

Job Purpose: We are looking for a Research Assistant to join the Peter Harrison Centre's team within the School of Sport, Exercise & Health Sciences and contribute towards our research and translational activities in 2024 with key Para Sport and clinical stakeholders.

Job Duties:

- To undertake primary data collection in a study examining the use of Garmin/Apple watches for the assessment of wheeled mobility.
- To network with colleagues in the Netherlands.
- Assist with data analysis and write up.
- Contribute to the development of academic papers suitable for publication in high quality journals.
- To provide support to the School's Marketing Team for the promotion of PHC research and enterprise activities to a range of stakeholders through:
 - the production and uploading of website content;
 - the creation and publishing of social media content;
 - the transformation existing material into an accessible format (e.g., fit for life materials in conjunction with the British Paralympic Association).
- Work with appropriate PHC team members to organise webinars, including liaising with staff/key partners for booking venues and catering, collating and preparing educational resources and materials.
- Maintain relationships and outreach with rehabilitation partners in SCI (e.g., Matt Hampson Foundation, Activity Alliance, Sheffield SCI centre etc.).
- 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 (e.g., assist in the PHC lab with supporting other staff and PhD students with Para athlete testing).

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 Equity, Diversity and Inclusion policy and procedures at all times. Duties must be carried out in accordance with relevant Equity, Diversity and Inclusion legislation and University policies/procedures.

Successful completion of probation will be dependent on attendance at the University's mandatory courses which include Belonging and Inclusion and, where appropriate, Recruitment and Selection.

Organisational Responsibility:

Reports to Prof Vicky Tolfrey, Professor in Applied 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	Experience of conducting research and supervising data collection of studies of related to persons with a spinal cord injury	1,3
	A good knowledge of the current PHC website and structure	1,3
Skills and abilities	Excellent communication and interpersonal skills	1,3
	Ability to work methodically	1,3
	Good time management	1,3
	Ability to work independently when required	1,3
	Competence in IT skills including data input packages (Terminal Four training) and layout of the current PHC webpages	1,3
	Ability to work as part of a team and to collaborate with others	1,3
Training	A willingness to undertake further training as appropriate and to adopt new procedures as and when required	1
Qualifications	A good undergraduate degree in a relevant subject	1
	Postgraduate study in a relevant subject (including exercise physiology/nutrition, Musculoskeletal Sport Science and Health)	1
Other	A commitment to observing the University's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion policy at all times.	3

DESIRABLE

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Experience of preparing research reports	1,3
Skills and abilities	Knowledge of spinal cord injury related research Contacts within rehabilitation SCI sciences	1,3
	Experience and or interest in disability sport, musculoskeletal health	1,3

Conditions of Service

This full-time (1.0 FTE) post is offered on a fixed-term contract for 12 months, within the Specialist & Supporting Academic (Research) job family at Grade 5 (salary £27,979 - 32,982 per annum, pro rata); starting salary to be confirmed upon offer of appointment.

The appointment will be subject to the University's normal Terms and [Conditions of Employment](#) for staff employed on Grade 5 and below.

The University is committed to enabling staff to maintain a healthy work-home balance and has a number of [family-friendly policies](#).

The University offers a wide range of [employee benefits](#).

We also offer [support for childcare](#) in the form of an on-campus nursery with subsidised places, subsidised places at local holiday clubs and a childcare voucher scheme.

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.