

RESEARCH ASSISTANT in Physical Education and Youth Sport

Part-time 0.6 FTE (22.2 hrs per week); Fixed-term until 30th September 2025

Job Ref: REQ240256

As part of the University's ongoing commitment to redeployment, please note that this vacancy may be withdrawn at any stage of the recruitment process if a suitable redeployee is identified.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 have held 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 progression 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 10.00am and 4.00pm (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 Awards which recognise 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.

Project Summary:

We are looking for a Research Assistant to work with Dr Oliver Hooper (PI) and Dr Rachel Sandford, Dr Natalie Pearson and Prof Lauren Sherar (Co-Is) on a project funded by the Youth Sport Trust (YST). The Research Assistant will play a key role in supporting the evaluation of the Generation Charnwood project. Generation Charnwood aims to develop the wellbeing, life chances and employability skills of Charnwood's young people, particularly those in the greatest need. The project will seek to capitalise on Charnwood's globally renowned sporting and educational opportunities and embrace the future for all its young residents through the power of sport, physical activity, and wellbeing. The project will also have a particular focus on helping to overcome the immediate impact of Covid-19 and developing a 'workforce for the future,' through improved access to physical activity, sporting and leadership opportunities.

Job Description

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

Job Purpose:

- To support communication between the research team, local participants and research sites (e.g., schools) and the funder.
- To support data collection activities for the project through various methods (e.g., surveys, interviews/focus groups and observations).
- To contribute to the analysis of data generated as part of the project.
- To support the write-up of the project findings for publication and presentation.
- To support the day-to-day work of the project, and the successful delivery of project aims.

Job Duties:

- Liaise with local participants and research sites (e.g., schools) and the funder.
- Support the facilitation of surveys.
- Conduct interviews/focus groups and observations with various stakeholders (e.g., e.g., young people, educational professionals, athlete mentors).
- Collate, analyse, and manage quantitative and qualitative data.
- Support the write-up of project findings for publication and presentation.
- Provide regular feedback to the PI and Co-Is on progress.
- Contribute to the development of project reports.
- Contribute to the development of academic papers suitable for publication in high quality journals.
- Contribute to project promotion, public communications, and engagement events (e.g., webinars, dissemination events).

Other:

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

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 Dr Oliver Hooper, Lecturer in the School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences.

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 quantitative and qualitative research	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	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 (e.g., education, psychology, sport science)	1
	Postgraduate study in a relevant subject (e.g., education, psychology, sport science)	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 conducting research with young people, particularly within educational and/or community contexts	1,3
	Experience of preparing research reports or manuscripts for publication	1,3
Skills and abilities	Knowledge of research in a higher education context	1,3

Conditions of Service

This part-time post (0.6 FTE) is offered on a fixed-term contract until 30 September 2025, within the Specialist & Supporting Academic (Research) job family at Grade 5; starting salary £27,979 per annum, pro rata.

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

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 an on-campus nursery with subsidised places, subsidised places at local holiday clubs and a childcare voucher scheme (further details are available at: [Childcare Support](#))

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.

Loughborough University is committed to allowing its employees to work *dynamically* with a combination of working on campus and remotely, where possible. This role has been identified as a role that could work dynamically and, if successful, the line manager will discuss these informal arrangements with you. Please note that there is a general expectation that the successful candidate will spend reasonable amounts of time working on the Loughborough campus.