

RESEARCH ASSISTANT in Elite Cricket, Gambling and Mental Health

Part-time 0.6 FTE (22.2 hrs per week); Fixed-term until 31st July 2025

Job Ref: REQ240683

As part of the University's ongoing commitment to redeployment, please note that this vacancy may be withdrawn at any stage of the recruitment process if a suitable redeployee is identified.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 Carolyn Plateau (PI) and Dr Jamie Barker (Co-I) on a project funded by Gamble Aware, via the Bristol Hub for Gambling Harms Research. The Research Assistant will play a key role in supporting the empirical data collection to explore the role of group dynamics (e.g., social and peer influences) on gambling attitudes, behaviours and consequences within elite and professional cricket. We aim to investigate the experiences and perspectives on gambling among elite cricketers and athlete support personnel within the cricket context, and to explore links between gambling attitudes and behaviours with mental health outcomes. The project will help to inform the development of future interventions to reduce gambling harms in cricket and broader sport.

Job Description

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

Job Purpose:

- To support communication between the research team, participants and research sites (e.g., cricket clubs and organisations) and the funder.
- To support data collection activities for the project through various methods (e.g., surveys, interviews).
- 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 participants and research sites (e.g., cricket clubs and organisations) and the funder.
- Support the facilitation of surveys.
- Conduct interviews with various stakeholders (e.g., athletes, athlete support personnel).
- 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-I 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 Carolyn Plateau, Senior Lecturer in Psychology, 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., psychology, sport science)	1
	Postgraduate study in a relevant subject (e.g., sport and exercise psychology)	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 within the elite sport context	1,3
	Experience of preparing research reports or manuscripts for publication	1,3
	Applied experience of working in and around elite cricket	1, 3
	Knowledge and understanding of the cricket context	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 31st July 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.