Appointment of

Director of Sport

Loughborough

Director of Sport

Loughborough University is looking for an outstanding individual to lead our championship winning Loughborough Sport team in our unique multi-sport eco-system. This diverse role includes responsibility for our performance sport (including our Loughborough Lightning Franchises), providing an outstanding student experience, overseeing our sport operations and generating commercial revenues for sport at the university. We present an unrivalled opportunity for the advancement of sport at all levels, from our high-performance training centres, inclusive para and disability sport programmes, and recreational community offers – embedding a winning and successful sports mindset.

The successful postholder will take a central role in working with our key stakeholders to drive continued national and global success, inspired by the incomparable Loughborough spirit. By providing strategic and operational leadership for the University's performance sport and operation of sport, Loughborough Sport is critically important to delivering the University's Sporting Excellence and Opportunity core business objectives as defined by our institutional strategy.

You will engage directly with the Pro Vice-Chancellor for Sport and senior leadership team, and report to the Chief Operating Officer. As an experienced sport professional, your strategic leadership will deliver measurable success in supporting our worldclass ecosystem and partners, continued success in the British University Championships, student-athlete recruitment, driving new business and commercial opportunities, delivering on our professional Loughborough Lightning franchises.

With experience of leading performance sport and at least one of the following additional areas: professional sport or Olympic Sport, university sport, interdisciplinary working, sports science, coaching, or commercial sport revenues. You will encourage and empower the individuals and teams you lead to think strategically, work creatively and collaboratively, and build a supportive, equitable and inclusive workplace culture.

A successful, proven track record in delivering results in the world of sport, and experience of supporting students is highly desirable, but candidates without prior higher education experience, who demonstrate knowledge and affinity for university sport and an awareness of the higher education environment, are encouraged to apply.

We can't wait to meet you.



and remained the top university in the Midlands

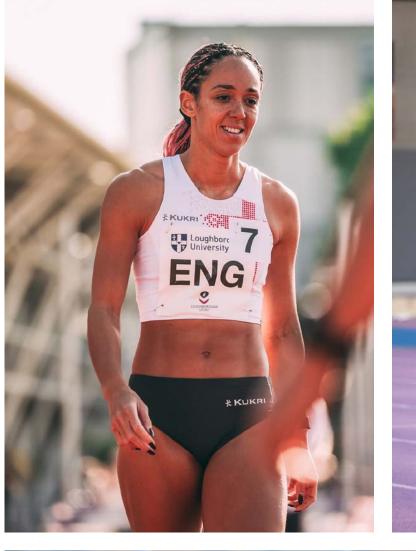


UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR The Times and Sunday Times

Good University Guide 2025 Daily Mail University Guide 2025



Rankings by Subject 2024









Join us. It will be exciting!

Sport at Loughborough University is more than something we do – it is a defining part of our identity, woven into the very fabric of who we are. In a banner year for Loughborough Sport, over 120 Loughborough-linked athletes secured 35 medals at the 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games – placing us 16th on the medals table, if we were a country. This is a remarkable achievement for a university, in part due to our passion for partnership working and collaboration. We also secured our 43rd consecutive British Universities and Colleges Championship title.

We offer the best integrated sports ecosystem in the world with incredible facilities, outstanding performances and world-leading research and education. Our sports-related research and teaching have been ranked the 'Best in the World' by the international QS subject tables every year since the rankings' inception. Our research and innovation has been at the cornerstone of some of the most significant technological sports developments of recent years eg eliminating serious and life-threatening facial injuries in cricket. Our ecosystem of partnerships with National Governing Bodies and leading global organisations places us at the heart of the international sporting infrastructure.

Uniquely, sport is embedded in our core university strategy and is strategically led by a dedicated Pro Vice-Chancellor for Sport – a role that exists at no other UK University. This strategic focus ensures that sport underpins everything we do, across our entire organisation – from academic excellence to elite performance.

Quite simply, sport is in our DNA.

Our distinctiveness rests in our combination of cutting-edge sports research, world-class facilities and an ever-evolving ecosystem that comes together in an interdisciplinary way to shape the experiences of our athletes and students. Our flagship Loughborough Lightning franchise will see the Director of Sport strategically leading professional women's teams competing at the highest level of sport in the country. We want to develop our outstanding franchise teams and grow the commercial and business opportunities that they present.

We present unrivalled opportunities for the advancement of sport at all levels, from our highperformance training centres, inclusive para and disability sport programmes, and recreational student and community offers – we embed a winning sports mindset.

If you're ready to help lead the place *Where History Begins*, we want to hear from you.



Richard Taylor Chief Operating Officer



Jo Maher Pro Vice-Chancellor for Sport



About Loughborough University

Loughborough University is a place for risk-takers. For those with the imagination and creative enthusiasm to face challenge and overcome it. The determination to work hard in pursuit of critical, incremental advances.

It's a mindset that endures long past graduation, and nurtures a worldwide community united by the understanding that better isn't born, it's earned. This makes us stand apart from other institutions. It's why we're the world's number one university for sport-related subjects in the QS World Ranking by Subject 2024. It's why we're consistently ranked in the UK top ten. It's why we regularly walk away with top awards for student experience and facilities.

<u>Creating Better Futures. Together</u> is our bold and ambitious strategy that will guide the University over the next decade. It sets out our purpose, our values, and our aims, recognises the impact of our actions on the world around us, and reflects the challenges we face.

It's a strategy rooted in a heritage that began with our founding in 1909 as a top-level technical college. Today, our global community of 3,800 colleagues and more than 19,000 students continue to harness the power of research, innovation and community to address global challenges. From our 523 acre campus in the East Midlands and our London campus on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, we operate an endeavour with an annual turnover of over £300m.

Our sense of pride is rooted in much more than the excellence of our facilities. We stand apart from other institutions in our commitment to striving to be better, and to make those small, incremental differences – the marginal gains – that improve lives, expand horizons and broaden opportunity and accessibility for all.

Our world-leading, internationally excellent research and innovation offering is testament to this. A degree from Loughborough is more than a superb qualification. It makes every graduate a part of our story, our global community, and our relentless pursuit of better.



Our people

Loughborough University is a place for risktakers. For those with the imagination and creative zeal to face and overcome challenge. The determination to work hard in pursuit of critical, incremental advances. It's a mindset that endures long past graduation, and nurtures a worldwide community united by the understanding that better isn't born, it's earned.

Our students

Student numbers 2023/24 UK/EU and international

Undergraduate	15,200
Postgraduate taught	2,600
Postgraduate research	1,250
Further education	150
Other (including temporary	300
exchange and staff research)	

Our alumni

Loughborough University has a global community of 200,000 graduates.

£6 million has been donated by alumni and friends of the University over the last three years.





applications were made for around 6,000 undergraduate and postgraduate taught places in 2023/24



19,500

students from 130 different countries



3,500

of our students on campus are international

Our staff

Staff numbers (December 2023)

Administrative, management and specialist staff1,400	
Researching, teaching, enterprise, specialist and	1,400
supporting academic staff	
Operational and technical staff	1,000

We have 3,800 members of staff. 20% of whom are international.



3,800

staff, Loughborough's biggest employer



We have received the Race Equality Charter Bronze Award that recognises we are beginning our journey to advance race equality

Our collaborations

The University works with organisations worldwide, exchanging knowledge to drive innovation, boost performance and meet current and future challenges.

Loughborough's strategic partners include:

adidas

volume.lboro.ac.uk/ winning-its-all-about-teamwork

Joseph Rowntree Foundation www.lboro.ac.uk/research/crsp

Caterpillar Innovation and Research Centre www.lboro.ac.uk/caterpillar-irc

Leicester Biomedical Research Centre www.leicesterbrc.nihr.ac.uk

National Centre for Sport and Exercise Medicine www.ncsem-em.org.uk Rolls-Royce University Technology Centre www.lboro.ac.uk/rolls-royce-utc

SportPark www.LUSEP.co.uk/sport-park

The Manufacturing Technology Centre (MTC) www.the-mtc.org

National Football League Academy www.nflacademy.com

West Ham United Women www.whufc.com



tenant partners are based on Loughborough University Science and Enterprise Park (LUSEP)

Our achievements

We successfully combine a world-leading research endeavour with arguably the UK's best student experience. We are home to the world's foremost academic-led elite sport ecosystem, an outstanding estate and longstanding partnerships with enterprise.





TOP 3 FOR STUDENT EXPERIENCE













Our strategic aims

Our marketing operation is informed by our institutional strategy, which establishes clear, ambitious development objectives for the University, and sets out how departments, teams and individuals support achieving these.

A more ambitious research and innovation endeavour

94% of our research is classed as 'world-leading' or 'internationally excellent' in REF2021. We are striving to maintain the quality of our research output as we increase its reach and impact.

Strengthen our leadership position in education and student experience

Awarded Gold overall, in student experience and in student outcomes in the Teaching Excellence Framework 2023, #1 in University Facilities in the WhatUni Student Choice Awards 2024, and top 5 in the UK for Student Experience in the 2023 Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide. Our extraordinary campus environment is enduringly popular with staff and students alike. We want to maintain that standing while expanding and extending our offer and our learning ecosystem into and beyond our local communities.

Build a more diverse, equitable and inclusive community

In any given year, we have over 3,500 international students from across the world join the Loughborough Family. Our vision and purpose is driven by courage, empathy, collaboration, responsibility, challenge and integrity, and our dedicated Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Services team is working to embed these values throughout our institution and in the wider HE sector.

Intensify and extend our international reach and impact

Our international community of more than 18,000 alumni, donors, partners and a growing global network of research and innovation partnerships is a crucible of academic and entrepreneurial excellence that has led to breakthroughs ranging from bringing clean hydrogen energy to off-grid farming communities in Malawi to establishing a transformative global supply chain partnership with MIT.

Leverage our excellence in sport to create new opportunities across our institution

Loughborough has been ranked #1 in the world for sport-related subjects in the QS World Rankings for eight years running, and has been named The Times and Sunday Times Sports University of the Year 2025. We're building on that legacy to embed the values, spirit and insight our sporting heritage provides to support interdisiciplinary research partnerships across all subject areas, while also widening access and participation to ensure our sport offer includes everyone, regardless of ability.

Develop new, meaningful partnerships in the UK and internationally

We are taking our rich network of collaborative partnerships with UK universities, organisations and businesses global. We count the NHS, adidas, MIT, Rolls-Royce, Caterpillar and Toyota among our valued partners.













Sport at Loughborough

Sport at Loughborough University is more than an activity – it is a defining part of our identity, woven into the fabric of who we are and what we do. Quite simply, sport is in our DNA. From world-leading research and innovation, first-class coaching, state-of-the-art facilities to an outstanding student experience, we offer an inclusive experience that has made us global leaders in sport.

National sports partners

Loughborough University's impact lies in the unique integrated ecosystem that has made us the hub for sport in the UK. We are home to the country's largest concentration of governing bodies with Aquatics GB, UK Athletics, British Triathlon, the England and Wales Cricket Board, the Lawn Tennis Association and England Netball all based on our East Midlands campus. Several Paralympic National Governing Bodies (NGBs) base their performance programmes here, including Para-Athletics, Para-Cycling, Para-Swimming and Para-Triathlon. We are also home to the regional hub for the UK Sports Institute. UK Anti-Doping's headquarters are also based on campus and our teams work tirelessly in support of clean sport values and ethical performance. We have over 40 strategic partners in sport and work closely with a range of organisations across public and private sectors, from the Premier League to Paralympics GB, adidas and the NFL.

An inclusive sporting environment

Sport is embedded in the core University strategy, outlined in the <u>Core Sport Plan</u> and driven by a dedicated Pro Vice-Chancellor for Sport – a role that exists at no other UK University. Our commitment to realising the full benefit of sport for our students spans all ability levels and sees our alumni excelling in top roles across the industry. Over 80% of our students participate in sports at least once a week, with opportunities from recreational events to over 60 different Athletic Union sports clubs. We run 53 weekly free-to-access sports and wellbeing activities, while last year, our Coach and Volunteer academy delivered a remarkable 120,000 hours of volunteer work, empowering the next generation of officials and performance experts. We stand for an inclusive sporting experience, working closely with the Loughborough Students' Union, and hosting events such as the annual Black In Sport Summit with the support of Sky, to celebrate the achievements of black people across the sports industry.

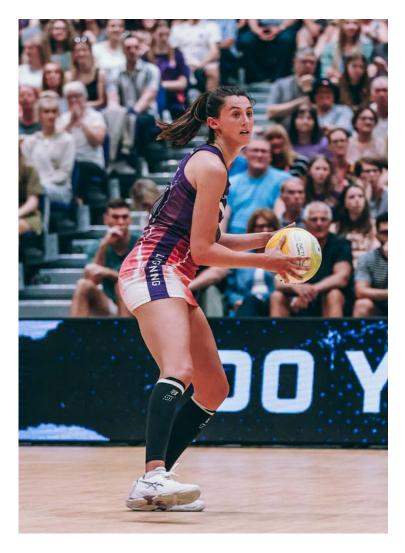
Para and Disability sport

Our vision is to create life-changing opportunities through the development of an inspirational and inclusive offer – and the launch of our Para and Disability Sports Strategy last year, in partnership with Paralympics GB, creates opportunities for disabled students in participation, coaching and elite para-sports. We are home to the powerlifting team of British Weightlifting, and host many para events, including Invictus Games training camps. Our inclusive model sees athletes and students with and without disabilities training alongside each other and benefitting from integrated coaching and support services.

We will continue to nurture the best higher education sporting ecosystem in the world We will use our strengths and be a global influencer in sport We will be progressive and ambitious, placing ourselves at the forefront of sport and exercise related policymaking in the UK We will make a step-change in the paninstitutional coordination of sport to maximise the benefit that sport brings to the whole university We will maximise the commercial opportunities afforded by our excellence in sport

We will use our expertise in sport to advance our institutional themes, for example by: translating our knowledge of sport and exercise into public health improvements and the wellbeing of our own staff and students;

being a beacon for inclusivity in sport, with a sector-leading para-sport offer; playing a lead role in reducing the carbon footprint of sport We will extend the sport ecosystem that underpins our world-leading reputation to include our London presence on the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park





Championing female sport

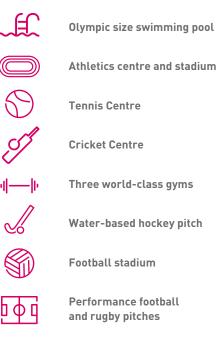
Loughborough University are championing women in sport, from bringing together research excellence to our Loughborough Lightning franchise with its five squads for netball, rugby, football, cycling and wheelchair basketball. Our teams compete in the top tiers of competition, with fixtures regularly covered live on Sky Sports, and our Lightning netball team are back-to-back Netball Super League Champions. Last year, we announced a landmark international partnership with the Global Observatory for Gender Equality and Sport to further elevate women's sport in the UK.

Olympic and Paralympic Games success

In 2024, over 120 Loughborough-linked athletes and staff competed in the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games, bringing home an incredible 35 medals – 17% of Team GB's total result. This means that if Loughborough were a country, we would be ranked 16th on the global medals table. This remarkable achievement was built on similar levels of success in the last Olympics and Paralympics and Commonwealth Games, acting as a banner for the incredible achievements possible through our sporting environment.

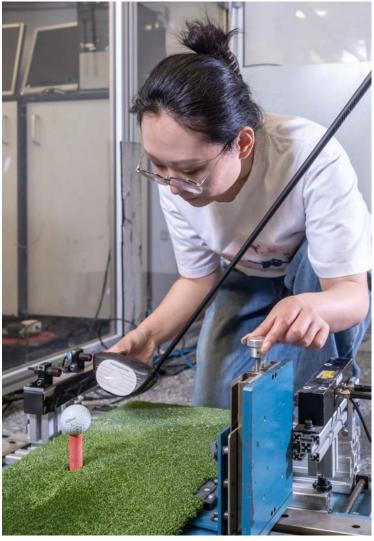
Outstanding facilities

We are home to the country's largest concentration of world-class facilities across a wide range of sports. These include:









Our sport research and innovation

Research

From optimising athlete performance to enhancing engagement with sport and exercise, innovating technology in sporting goods to revolutionising sports medicine, Loughborough University leads the way in sports research and its applications. Covering performance, health and wellbeing and participation, our research supports knowledge advancement and informs the practice of organisations worldwide.

National Rehabilitation Centre

According to the World Health Organisation, an estimated 2.4 billion people around the world live with a health condition that benefits from rehabilitation. The National Rehabilitation Centre, a £100m development on the outskirts of Loughborough, will transform outcomes for people who have suffered potentially life-changing injury, trauma or illness, by fully integrating research, innovation, education and training with clinical practice.

The activity will be delivered by the NRC Clinical and Academic Partnership, led by the universities of Loughborough and Nottingham. Research in action from the centre includes projects to investigate how eye-tracking technologies can be used to measure cognitive deficits in incidences of pitch-side concussion and the therapeutic potential of heat, cold and hypoxia in rehabilitation or as part of athletes' performance preparations.

National Rehabilitation Centre

Centre for Lifestyle Medicine and Behaviour (CLiMB)

CLiMB's remit is to develop innovative interventions to help prevent and treat chronic diseases. The Centre's experts work with partners worldwide as well as the general public to provide policymakers and organisations with robust research evidence on population health and wellbeing. <u>Centre for Lifestyle Medicine and Behaviour</u>

National Centre for Sport and Exercise Medicine

Loughborough University is both home to, and a key partner of, this world-class hub applying academic and clinical expertise to policies and practices to benefit the health and wellbeing of the nation. National Centre for Sport and Exercise Medicine

Peter Harrison Centre for Disability Sport

An internationally renowned Disability Sport Research Centre focusing on sport performance, health and wellbeing, and providing sport science support to a number of GB squads, in addition to working closely with both national and international partners. <u>Peter Harrison Centre for Disability Sport</u>

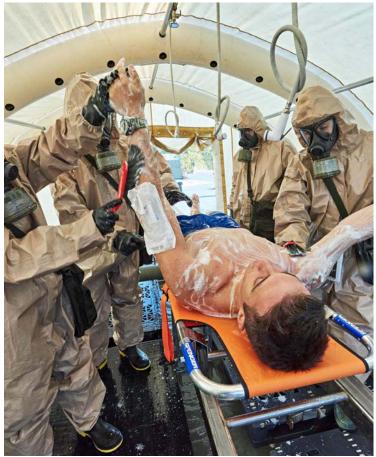
Sports Technology Institute

One of the world's leading research groups of its kind, and the largest in the UK, the Sports Technology Institute has a global reputation for its work with blue-chip brands on the design, simulation, testing and manufacture of sporting goods. <u>Sports Technology Institute</u>











What we offer

A distinctive international reputation for excellence

The relevance of our research to real-life issues places us at the forefront internationally, increasing significantly the global visibility and reputation of the University. Our contribution, at the very highest levels, to new knowledge and understanding boosts our links with some of the best universities in the world and expands our breadth of well-established partnerships with leading international companies.

A life-shaping student experience

We provide our students with an exceptional learning environment that offers outstanding, innovative teaching, opportunities to contribute to pioneering research, and options to maximise their business potential, coupled with wideranging personal support. We engage with our students to ensure we deliver the best possible academic experience. There is high demand for our programmes and we deliver outstanding levels of student satisfaction.

Working in partnership with Loughborough Students' Union, we offer the best possible allround experience, providing our students with a wide range of opportunities that enable them to achieve their full potential, professionally and personally as well as academically.

Outstanding partnerships to deliver social, economic and cultural prosperity

We pursue the commercial potential of our research and forge productive, collaborative links with partners across all sectors. We will meet their requirements and our activities helps support economic development and drive innovation and performance locally, nationally and internationally. We work closely with local partners to enhance the social, cultural and economic wellbeing of the communities and regions in which we reside. We embed sustainability and social responsibility into all of our processes, operations and developments.

A culture of delivering excellence in all that we do

Through the integration of influential research, a vibrant enterprising culture and outstanding learning opportunities, we enhance our ability to drive forward solutions to contemporary global challenges.

We support staff to attain the highest standards, and our international profile attracts the very best in their fields.

We have cemented our position as the UK's premier university for sport and are recognised globally for our unique ability to shape sport and exercise policy and practice both nationally and internationally.

One outstanding university: two vibrant campuses

Our distinctive ability to integrate research, teaching and enterprise has strengthened the activities in which we excel and created new capacity in areas of excellence.

Our international ambitions are being enhanced through a thriving postgraduate campus on the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London, complementing our outstanding green-field campus in Loughborough and creating distinct campus communities, that share a common ethos, purpose and values.

University governance

The University Senate

The University Senate is responsible for the academic work of the University, including programmes, examinations, teaching and research quality. Its membership is drawn from the University.

Senate & Council structure

Innovation

Loughborough

Sport

Student Services

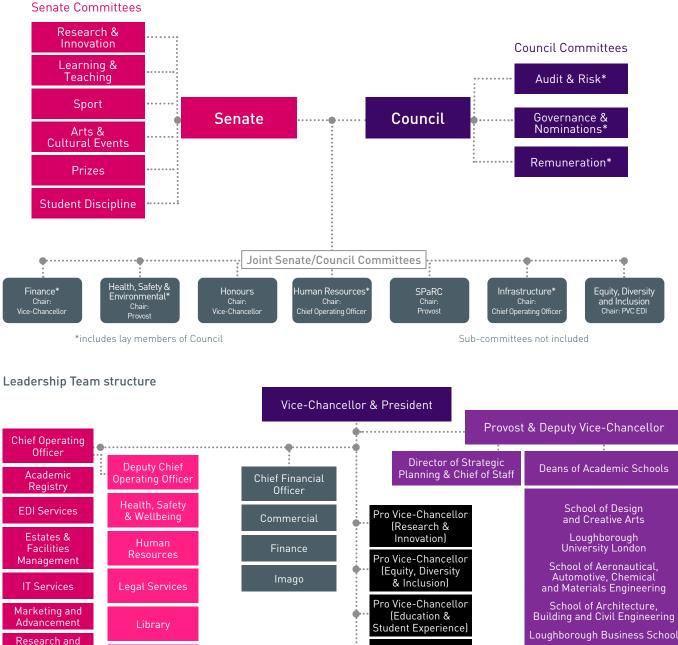
Vice-Chancellors Office Organisational

Development &

Change

The University Council

The University Council is the governing body, responsible for the University's finances, buildings and land. It is the official employer of all staff and meets several times a year. Its Chair is the Senior Pro Chancellor, Christine Hodgson CBE.



Pro Vice-Chancellor

(Sport)

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School of Science

School of Social Sciences and Humanities

School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences

Wolfson School of Mechanical, Electrical and Manufacturing Engineering



The role

Job Purpose

- Lead the strategic development of Loughborough Sport, driving forward performance sport and its business and commercial operations.
- Deliver a world-class service and environment for our strategic partners and optimise the environment for students to thrive in.
- Support the development and success of our Loughborough Lightning franchises.
- Work with others, in particular the Pro Vice-Chancellor for Sport and Dean of the School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences, to optimise the benefits of sport to the wider University.

Job Duties

- Lead the strategy of Loughborough Sport to realise the University's aspirations for sporting excellence and opportunity, working within the framework of the core plan for sport and the University strategy.
- Be responsible for the effective and safe operations of Loughborough Sport and its facilities including all performance, development, communications and commercial activity related to Loughborough Sport.
- Work closely with internal stakeholders and services to enhance commercial relationships, whilst being responsible for the technical aspects and delivery of these.
- Develop and deploy an outstanding and broad sporting offer for our students, staff, athletes and partners.
- Appropriately balance the priorities of sport performance, participation, environment, commercial and academic development.
- Collaborate with relevant academic schools to enhance the research and teaching opportunities within the Loughborough Sport ecosystem.
- Operate at a national and international level, working with partners to enhance the University's reputation and operations in sport.
- Champion equity, diversity and inclusion, and safeguarding and athlete wellbeing, within sport and the University.

- Create a positive culture in which sport and well-being thrive. Role model the positive behaviours expected of our students and athletes.
- Manage and deploy the Loughborough Sport budget, being accountable for the tangible outcomes.
- Manage and lead the colleagues of Loughborough Sport.
- Be a member of the University's Leadership Group and Professional Services Leadership Team, providing broad leadership across the University to a range of initiatives

 many of which will be beyond the immediate structural remit of the postholder.

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 and Procedures.
- All staff should hold a duty and commitment to observing the <u>University's commitment to Equity</u>, <u>Diversity and Inclusion</u> and duties must be carried out in accordance with this.
- 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 Chief Operating Officer with strategic accountabilities to the Pro Vice-Chancellor for Sport.

Person specification

AREA	ESSENTIAL CRITERIA	DESIRABLE CRITERIA
Experience	Significant experience in leadership, at a senior level, ideally within a professional sports organisation or governing body. Active involvement in sport at national and/or international level; this may be through very senior performance, coaching or executive roles. Experience of working within large complex organisations with significant responsibility for financial and staff resources. Experience of working with multiple partners to achieve success.	Demonstrable marketing and public relations capability. Experience in sports environments that are world class and exposure to elite youth athletes. Experience of developing facilities and capital projects. Experience of the operation of sport within a higher education environment, including familiarity with how university teaching and research operates.
Skills and abilities	 Proven ability to devise and deliver strategic initiatives. Proven track record of effective working with partner organisations. Excellent commercial, business development, organisational and planning skills. Excellent influencing, negotiation and conflict management skills. Excellent interpersonal, communication and presentation skills. Demonstrable capability in leadership and vision. Successful record of raising finance from a variety of sources and with financial management experience. Equally comfortable and competent with both strategic planning and operational delivery. The ability to work creatively with a very wide range of partners, both inside and outside the University. Planning, systemic and analytical view, with respect to delivery of business opportunities. Knowledge of safeguarding and athlete well-being issues in sport and ability to manage them effectively. 	Demonstrable track record in delivering athletes to national and international success, including the comprehensive development cycle (talent identification, championing of training curricula, competition planning, incentive programs and sports career mentoring and monitoring).
Training	Evidence of commitment to continuous professional development.	
Qualifications	Educated to degree level, or equivalent.	Post-graduate management qualification at Masters Level.
Other	Ability to work flexible hours and travel nationally and internationally. Commitment to, and evidence of being able to operate in a way consistent with the University's EDI principles Affinity with a 'sport for all' approach.	



Conditions of service

The position is full time and open ended. Salary will be on Management and Specialist Grade 9, and a competitive salary will be confirmed on offer of appointment.

The University offers a substantial benefits package, including a pension scheme.

The appointment will be subject to the University's normal Terms and Conditions of Employment for Academic and Related staff/Operational and Administrative staff, details of which can be found by visiting <u>HERE</u>.

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 <u>HERE</u>.

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 <u>HERE</u>). In addition, the University is supportive, where operational needs allow, of flexible working arrangements.

We also strive to create a culture that supports equity 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. More information on Athena SWAN can be found <u>HERE</u>.

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 and Procedures.

Staff should hold a duty and commitment to observing the University's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion values, vision and purpose at all times. Duties must be carried out in accordance with relevant Equality and Diversity legislation and University policies/procedures.

Application and interview

To apply or find out more information please visit: <u>lboro.ac.uk/director-sport</u>

Informal enquiries should be made in the first instance to Megan Cox, Recruitment and Resourcing Manager; M.Cox@lboro.ac.uk.

The closing date for applications is midnight on Sunday 16th Febuary.

Shortlisting will take place week commencing 17th February, and interviews will be held on 11th March.



This publication is available in other formats. Please contact Visual.Identity@lboro.ac.uk with your requirements quoting document reference 87880.



CONSISTENTLY RANKED AS A UK TOP TEN UNIVERSITY THE COMPLETE UNIVERSITY GUIDE 2017-25