

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Tele-rehabilitation in Stroke Care (TELSTAR)

(Part- or Full-time (0.6 – 1.0 FTE, 22.2 – 37 hours per week); Fixed-term for 12 months)

Job Ref: REQ250136

As part of the University's ongoing commitment to redeployment, please note that this vacancy may be withdrawn at any stage of the recruitment process if a suitable redeployee is identified.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

This role is fixed term for 12 months and will start in May 2025. This is a full-time position, but we are open to considering part-time or job sharing arrangements.

[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

Project: Understanding how & when stroke telerehabilitation works to inform recommendations for practice

The purpose of this role will be to work on [TELSTAR](#), a Stroke Association funded study on stroke tele-rehabilitation. This study aims to explore how tele-rehabilitation could support the provision of evidence-based rehabilitation for stroke survivors at home. We are using a realist methodology to review the evidence and capture the experiences and opinions of clinicians, stroke survivors and family carers. What we find will help us understand the factors influencing the implementation of telerehabilitation in clinical practice and identify training and information needs. Our findings will inform the development of recommendations and resources to support clinicians and stroke survivors in this new way of working.

The post holder will be responsible for the day-to-day co-ordination and delivery of the study in partnership with the principal investigator. They will lead on the analysis and synthesis of qualitative research data and will be responsible for writing up their work for publication. They will also support the team in organising co-design workshops with staff participants and people affected by stroke. The person appointed will have the opportunity to use their initiative and creativity to identify areas for future research, contribute to bid writing and extend their research portfolio.

Job Description

Job Family & Grade: Specialist and Supporting Academic (Research) Grade 6

Job Purpose: To deliver this research project, funded by the Stroke Association, in accordance with the above requirements.

Job Duties:

To work closely with the Principal Investigator, other co-investigators, and our partner organisation to ensure the successful management and delivery of the project, including the following:

- Conduct and oversee research in stroke rehabilitation and telerehabilitation.
- Process and analyse qualitative data from interviews and focus groups.
- Synthesise evidence from the literature and primary data collection as part of a realist synthesis approach.
- Interpret research findings and develop new insights, expanding, refining and testing hypotheses and ideas.
- Oversee the project timeline and ensure activities are conducted on time and within resources.
- Discuss research progress with principal investigator and wider research team and contribute to the writing of funder reports and study updates.
- Work collaboratively with the principal investigator and the wider research team to arrange co-design workshops with healthcare professionals and stroke survivors.
- Contribute to the writing and publication of scientific research papers in high quality journals, and support networking and dissemination activities with relevant stakeholders.
- Identify opportunities and assist in writing bids for research grant applications.
- Develop internal and external networks and foster collaborations with key stakeholders, including other researchers in the field, rehabilitation professionals, people affected by stroke, and third sector organisations.

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 Niki Chouliara, Principal Investigator

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	Experience in qualitative research methods and synthesis of multi-method datasets.	1,2,3
	Experience of conducting rehabilitation or health-related research	1,2,3
	Research experience (or willingness to develop) in e-health and rehabilitation technologies.	1,2,3
	Experience coordinating research activities, ensuring they adhere to governance procedures.	1,3
	Experience writing for academic audiences, with a peer-reviewed publication record commensurate with career stage.	1,3
Skills and abilities	Excellent analytical skills and ability to interpret reports, evaluate and criticise texts and bring new insights.	1,2,3
	Excellent written, verbal and interpersonal communication skills, including the ability to write and present for academic, community, and professional stakeholders.	1,2,3
	Ability to work as part of a team and collaborate with others	1,3
	Ability to work independently when required.	1,3
	Excellent organisational and time-management skills.	1,3
	Relevant IT skills, including the use of specialised software for qualitative data analysis (e.g.NVivo).	1,3
Training	Willingness to undertake appropriate further training and to adopt new procedures as and when required	1,3
Qualifications	PhD (or at the point of completion) in a relevant area.	1
Other	Commitment to observing the University's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion policy at all times.	3

DESIRABLE

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Experience in stroke or neuro-rehabilitation research.	1,3
	Experience collaborating with healthcare professionals.	1,3
	Experience in realist methodology.	1,3
	Experience of public engagement and/or involvement.	1,3
	Experience in managing externally funded research projects.	1,3
Knowledge	Understanding of participatory and co-design research approaches.	1,3
	Understanding of the process of applying for external research funding.	1,3

Conditions of Service

This full-time post is offered on a fixed-term contract for 12 months, within the *Specialist and Supporting Academic (Research)* job family at Grade 6 (from £35,116 per annum pro rata). Starting salary to be confirmed on offer of appointment. We are open to considering part-time or job-sharing arrangements.

The appointment will be subject to the University's normal [Terms and Conditions of Employment](#) for staff on Grade 6 and above.

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

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 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 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 Loughborough campus.