

Professor and Director of the Institute for Sport Business

REQ250365

Loughborough University London

Located on our London campus on the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, the School fosters innovation, creativity, and collaboration across various fields. We are renowned for our international faculty, comprising experts from diverse backgrounds and cultures. With a global reach, we attract students and scholars from around the world, creating a vibrant and dynamic academic community.

As a postgraduate and research-intensive School, we are dedicated to pushing the boundaries of knowledge and addressing complex global challenges. Our five Institutes focus on the areas of: Creative Futures (Design, Media and Communications and Creative Industry), Digital Technologies, Diplomacy and International Affairs, International Management and Entrepreneurship, and Sport Business.

Interdisciplinary in nature, we transcend traditional academic silos, bringing together expertise and fresh thinking from across our discipline areas. Our cross-institute programmes exemplify our commitment to interdisciplinary research and teaching, where we explore innovative solutions to the pressing issues facing current and future generations.

Loughborough University London combines influential thought leaders, pioneering researchers and creative innovators to offer a prestigious education and outstanding research environment. Our passion for delivering the highest quality student experience is reflected in the results of the 2024 Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey where the overall satisfaction agreement was 89%. We pride ourselves on our caring culture for both staff and students and are currently building on our Athena Swan accreditation to move from bronze to silver status, as well as contributing to the University's work in the Race Equality Charter action plan.

Institute for Sport Business

The Institute for Sport Business at Loughborough University London is looking to recruit a Director with a passion and vision for managing a thriving Institute. We are committed to redefining the sport business landscape through world-class research and innovation that has real-world impact in an era of significant economic, social, and technological change. Our research strategy is built on three interlocking pillars that shape the future of sport as an industry, a social institution and an innovation platform across multiple sport business domains. The Institute has specific interests spanning fan engagement and experience, digital technologies and analytics, women's sport, sporting integrity, geopolitics and sustainability in sport.

The Institute for Sport Business also combines an internationally recognised team of academics with research expertise and teaching excellence in the business of sport. Our Sport Business master's degrees incorporate teaching from a broad range of experts in the sport business industry, to empower students with the knowledge and abilities needed to operate across the commercial, not-for-profit and public sport business sectors.

Loughborough University is ranked Number 1 in the world for sport related subjects (QS World University Rankings by Subject 2017-2025) and our research and teaching is done in collaboration with an extensive network of the prominent sport industry leaders and sector leading organisations.

PROFESSOR & INSTITUTE DIRECTOR – Institute for Sport Business

Job Ref: REQ250365

The successful candidate will be part of strengthening and growing an Institute with an established identity and ambitious plans to continue impactful research pursuits, alongside providing high quality student experiences informed by industry collaborations. They will have a track record of research expertise, attracting partnerships and grant funding. They will also have good people skills, take a caring approach to managing staff, and be enthusiastic about providing an excellent student experience. The successful candidate will have an internationally recognised profile and esteem within sport business communities and have a demonstrable and ongoing record of excellence which has contributed to the furtherance of knowledge in a relevant discipline. The candidate will have a successful track record of impactful research, attracting funding, innovation and supervision. They will also demonstrate evidence of significant academic leadership and the ability to manage a team, underpinned by a caring and collegiate culture.

A PhD or commensurate research experience is essential. Candidates holding a Reader/ Associate Professor level position, looking to progress to Professorship or individuals currently not working in academia who meet essential requirements or are also encouraged to apply.

Job Description

Please note this job description is based on Loughborough University's description of the roles and responsibilities of a Professor, with additional responsibilities included for the Institute Director role.

Job Grade

Research, Teaching and Enterprise Grade 9

Job Purpose

As the Director of the Institute for Sport Business, the postholder will lead research, teaching, and innovation activities and will manage a team underpinned by a caring and collegiate culture. The postholder will work with other senior academic staff to ensure the ambitions set out in the University's strategy, Creating Better Futures. Together, are achieved. As a member of the School's Senior Leadership Team, the Institute Director will provide input, guidance and support in School strategic priorities.

To lead the development and implementation of research, teaching and innovation strategy to maintain vitality in the activities of the school/department generally and in the academic area specifically.

To engage personally with those activities, adding to the School's international reputation.

Job Duties

Academic Leadership

- To provide academic leadership for the activities of the Institute for Sport Business specifically, as well as more generally across the School and the University, including membership of the Senior Leadership Team.
- To pursue excellence in research, teaching and innovation and to inspire others to do the same.
- To play a lead role in the development and communication of the strategic vision for the Institute for Sport Business.
- To lead and participate in internal and external networks to foster collaboration and to promote the School and the University, nationally and internationally.
- To monitor the external environment and ensure that the School and University capitalise on emerging opportunities and to review the scope of current academic provision.

Research

- To pursue an 'internationally competitive' personal research programme consistent with the research priorities of the School/Institute that increases the global visibility and reputation of the University.
- To secure external research funding.
- To supervise and manage research projects.
- To publish the outcomes of research in outlets of international standing.
- To attend and contribute to the organisation of major international conferences.
- To supervise postgraduate students at Master's and Doctoral levels.
- To initiate, lead and collaborate in research initiatives with colleagues both within the University and externally.
- To initiate, lead and collaborate in research initiatives with other HEIs and other relevant bodies.

Teaching

- To lead colleagues in the School in delivering an exceptional learning environment for students.
- To teach and inspire postgraduate students, and to conduct associated assessments.
- To provide academic and pastoral support to postgraduate students.
- To promote the use of a range of methods and techniques in teaching, learning and assessment.
- To engage in the evaluation and development of modules for which you have responsibility, in terms of content, delivery and assessment.
- To be responsible for the design and content of specific areas of teaching and learning within the School's postgraduate programmes.
- To lead colleagues in the continuous review and development of the School's taught programmes and the curriculum.

Innovation

- To initiate and lead engagement with business, public and voluntary organisations through knowledge exchange activities such as student projects and placements, research collaboration, consultancy and specialist training.
- To create social, cultural and economic impacts from academic, especially research activity.
- To secure external funding in support of these activities.
- To seek opportunities for the commercialisation of research and the formation of social enterprises.

Related Activities and Functions

- Line management for staff within the Institute.
- To appraise and advise staff on personal and career development plans.
- To work effectively with relevant administrative, technical and academic staff in the School and across the University.
- To carry out specific administrative roles and functions as may be reasonably required.
- To take part in and, on occasion, act as chair of one or more of the School's committees.
- To engage in training programmes in the University (e.g. through Staff Development) which are consistent with your needs and aspirations and those of the School.
- To undertake such other duties as may be reasonably requested and that are commensurate with the nature and grade of the post.
- To conduct the annual Performance and Development Review (PDR) process for colleagues in the Institute.

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.

We encourage applications from underrepresented groups, particularly from those who identify as female and / or from a minority ethnic group. Additionally, if you don't meet all the criteria in the job description, however, if

you believe you would be a valuable addition to Loughborough University London please still consider applying.

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 policies and procedures at all times. Duties must be carried out in accordance with relevant Equality & Diversity 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.

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 – Interview

Essential Criteria

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Significant leadership experience gained within university or business settings which may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• project management• leading collaborations• managing professional staff (academic or otherwise) within a team.• managing budgets	1,2
	Evidence of research and/or academic activity in a subject/discipline consistent with the needs of the School.	1
	A sustained and continuing record of excellence which has contributed to the furtherance of knowledge in an academic area, and is recognised by an established and high profile international reputation in that area.	1, 2
	Experience of leading and participating in projects in an internationally recognised academic research including sustained experience at a senior level.	1
	Evidence of authoring a substantial body of original work, in the highest quality refereed academic journals as judged against international norms.	1
	Extended experience of successfully supervising the projects of taught and research students or company staff at equivalent levels.	1,2
	Experience of presenting research work at international scientific conferences.	1

	Experience of teaching and assessment at postgraduate level and of curriculum development.	1,2
	Experience of work in or in collaboration with other businesses	1
	Candidates from outside of academia must be able to demonstrate the ability to make the transition to becoming a top academic	1,2
Skills and Abilities	Demonstrated ability to develop a major original research programme on your own initiative and to persuade others of its importance orally and on paper.	2
	Demonstrated ability to secure substantial research funding and/or enterprise funds from external / company sources on a regular basis.	1,2
	Demonstrated ability to create social / cultural / economic impacts from professional activity.	2
	Ability to stimulate and inspire others as reflected in academic leadership and influence beyond own discipline/institution.	2
	Excellent communication and interpersonal skills which give you the ability to engage with students, colleagues, business and other agencies on a wide variety of matters.	1,2
	Experience of leading a team.	2
	Excellent IT skills.	1
Training	Commitment to and evidence of continuing professional development.	1,2
Qualifications	Relevant PhD or equivalent research experience.	1
Other	Commitment to observing the University's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion policies at all times.	1,2
	Fellow of the Higher Education Academy or equivalent	1

Desirable Criteria

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Experience at research group head or equivalent level including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic planning and delivery. Promoting your organisation. 	1,2
	Experience in commercial exploitation of products / services or formation of social enterprises.	1,2
Skills and abilities	A sound understanding of the structure of universities and issues facing the UK higher education sector, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research funding opportunities in UK HE. The challenges faced in recruiting students to UK HE. 	2 1

Conditions of Service

Salary will be on Research, Teaching and Enterprise Grade 9, minimum £74,865 per annum, at a starting salary to be confirmed on offer of appointment, which is subject to annual pay review.

The appointment will be subject to the University's normal Terms and Conditions of Employment for Academic and Related staff, details of which can be found [here](#).

Applications

The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 30th May 2025.

For an informal discussion of this role, please contact:

Professor Aidan McGarry, Dean, Loughborough University London, a.mcgarry@lboro.ac.uk or
Dr Eddie Mighten, Interim Director, Institute for Sport Business. e.mighten@lboro.ac.uk

Our Purpose, Vision, and Values

Our purpose, Vision and Values underpin all that we do and the way we work at Loughborough. The University promotes the values of being **Adventurous**, **Collaborative**, **Creative**, **Authentic** and being **Responsible**. All employees are expected to demonstrate these values in the workplace.

For more information, please refer to our [vision and values](#).

Our Accreditations



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.



We are proud to be a [Race Equality Charter Member](#). The Charter aims to improve the representation, progression and success of all minority ethnic staff and students within higher education and address issues of racism within higher education institutions (HEIs).



We are proud to be a Disability Confident Employer and have adopted a proactive approach to employing disabled people and to creating a more diverse workforce. We ensure that our recruitment processes are inclusive and accessible. We guarantee to offer an interview to all applicants who have declared themselves with a disability, provided they meet the essential criteria for a role. We proactively anticipate and provide reasonable adjustments and support existing employees who acquire a disability or long-term condition to thrive in the workplace.



We are a real living wage employer, and our Living Wage Employer Mark shows our commitment to paying our staff according to the cost of living.

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.