

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE (SCORES Project)

Full-time (1 FTE, 37 hours per week); Fixed-term for 12 months

Job Ref: REQ250538

As part of the University's ongoing commitment to redeployment, please note that this vacancy may be withdrawn at any stage of the recruitment process if a suitable redeployee is identified.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

We also welcome applications from those 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 nine consecutive years (2017-2025, 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: SCORES Project

The SCORES Project (Screening Cognitive Outcomes after Repetitive Exposure to Sub-threshold Events in Sport) is a sport-related brain health initiative supported by the Professional Footballers' Association. This project investigates the potential long-term neurocognitive consequences of exposure to repetitive head impacts in contact sports, particularly football. The Research Associate will support the collection, organisation, and analysis of cognitive and

behavioural data, contribute to systematic reviews and data synthesis, assist with ethics submissions and report preparation, assist with grant applications, and liaise with collaborators and stakeholders including clinicians and the PFA. This is a desk-based role suitable for remote or hybrid working.

Job Description

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

Job Purpose: To support the study, funded by the Professional Footballer's Association, in accordance with the above requirements.

Job Duties:

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

- To jointly manage all aspects of this project in accordance with the study's principal- and co-investigators.
- Attend and contribute to stakeholder meetings, for example, by presenting and discussing results.
- Develop project materials (information booklets, educational materials, posters, focus group and interview guides, questionnaires, standard operating procedures, etc.).
- Manage a patient and public engagement group.
- Contribute to the writing of funder reports, study updates or other requests.
- Process and analyse all data collected from participants (quantitative and qualitative) and present findings for reports, academic papers, community and professional publications.
- Report research progress and discuss project issues with the Co-Leads, Co-Investigator and external project partners.
- Work with other members of the research team and maintain good working relationships with the research team, the participants, and the research partners.
- Contribute to the writing of scientific research papers and to publish the outcomes of research in high quality journals.
- Collaborate on research initiatives and contribute ideas for new research projects to move forward the area of research.
- Contribute to impact evidence and assist in the preparation of a REF impact case study.
- Uphold high ethical research standards, maintain confidentiality, and ensure that data protection requirements are met at all times.
- Engage in training programmes in the University (or elsewhere) that are consistent with the needs and aspirations of the project and those of the School, including any training relevant to the administration of the proposed project.
- 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 Michael J. Grey, 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 with research in brain health assessment.	1,3
	Experience of recruiting adult participants.	1,3
	Experience with research in longitudinal research.	1,3
	Experience of conducting focus groups and/or interviews.	1,3
	Experience of preparing research for publication in scientific journals.	1,3
Skills and abilities	Ability to effectively communicate with individuals and organisations to aid project development and recruitment.	1,3
	Ability to keep up to date with knowledge and understanding in relevant fields of research.	1,3
	Good time management, organisation, and interpersonal skills.	1,3
	Ability to manage large-scale databases with minimal oversight.	
	Ability to work remotely and flexibly and use initiative to drive projects forward according to their objectives and timelines.	1,3
	Competence in IT skills including data input and data analysis packages for quantitative and qualitative data.	1,3
	Competence in R-programming and statistical analysis.	1,3
	Ability to write research at a level suitable for publication in academic journals.	1,3
	Oral communication skills sufficient to be able to address audiences clearly and effectively.	1,3
	To organise, attend and contribute to relevant meetings.	1,3
	Ability to work as part of a team and to collaborate with others.	1,3
	Willingness to undertake appropriate further training and to adopt new procedures as and when required.	1,3
	Ability or willingness to learn how to effectively communicate/present research questions, ideas, analyses and findings to both scientific and non-scientific audiences.	1,3
Qualifications	PhD (or near completion) in neuroscience, psychology, sport and exercise science, or a related health or biomedical discipline, with a focus on sport-related brain health.	1
Other	Commitment to observing the University's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion policy at all times.	3

DESIRABLE

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Experience working with high-level athletes.	1,3
	Experience of public engagement and/or involvement.	1,3

	Experience in developing behavioural interventions.	1,3
	Experience in managing research projects.	1,3
	Experience of online data collection.	1,3
	Experience working with industry partners or external partners.	1,3
Knowledge	Knowledge of current research frameworks and policy debates surrounding sport-related neurodegeneration, with a particular focus on longitudinal approaches to monitoring cognitive health in athlete populations.	1,3
Skills and abilities	Skills in both qualitative and quantitative data collection / analysis.	1,3

Conditions of Service

This part-time post is offered on a fixed-term contract for 12 months from 1st August 2025, within the *Specialist and Supporting Academic (Research)* job family at Grade 6 (£35,116 per annum). Starting salary to be confirmed on offer of appointment.

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.