

Research Associate in Thermal Physiology

Job Ref: REQ250777

Full Time, 3-year fixed-term contract

As part of the University's ongoing commitment to redeployment, please note that this vacancy may be withdrawn at any stage of the recruitment process if a suitable redeployee is identified.

School of Design and Creative Arts – Environmental Ergonomics Research Centre

The Environmental Ergonomics Research Centre in School of Design and Creative Arts studies the interaction of people, whether at work, leisure or in sport with their thermal environment. Heat stress, cold stress, thermal comfort, protective and sports clothing are typical topics of research (www.lboro.ac.uk/EERC)

Project Description

The project is an exciting opportunity featuring four UK Universities (Kent, Brunel, Loughborough and UCL) and seven industry partners. sChOOL YARD is funded by EPSRC and aims to develop a model and guidelines that ensure outdoor spaces in schools provide comfort conditions which reflect children's thermal state, along with preferences and expectations and are resilient to climate change. Loughborough University is responsible for providing thermal physiological data to the project..

Job Description

Job Grade: Specialist and Supporting Academic Grade 6

Job Purpose

This project will investigate the physiological and perceptual responses of children to seasonal changes in thermal environmental conditions for outdoor activity. The data gathered will contribute to a new predictive model for the design of active built environments for schools. This work will include literature reviews, physiological studies in cold, neutral and hot conditions in the climatic chambers with human participants.

Job Duties

- To design and develop the research methodology for determination of physiological and perceptual responses to different thermal environmental conditions of children.
- To apply for relevant ethics approval for this research
- To recruit participants via different channels, in different age and fitness categories
- To execute the developed research paradigm with human participants in the climatic chambers, simulating a range of seasonal environmental conditions.
- To develop different ways for the data analysis in order to extract the core messages for the overall project
- To summarise results of the research, apply statistical analysis and write up research reports for the project management.
- To review and summarise literature relevant to the experimentation and incorporate this in the reports.
- To support, conduct and manage all other ongoing project work including data collection and analysis within the centre if so requested.
- To write up research work in reports and publications as appropriate that disseminate the findings from relevant projects.

- To contribute to the day to day upkeep and running of the laboratory facilities of the EERC
 - To contribute to supervising UG and PG projects in the lab in terms of research content, facility preparation, equipment setup and supervision of Health and Safety aspects
 - To attend project meetings internally and with other project partners/collaborators as required.
 - To comply with internal requirements for administrative procedures and record keeping.
- Travel to attend meetings and make presentations both within the project partners working group and to external stakeholders.
 - To support the project team by enhancing relationships with existing collaborators and by assisting the establishment of relationships with new collaborators.
 - Maintain confidentiality at all times and ensure that intellectual property (IPR) agreements are not violated.
 - 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.

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 Equality & Diversity policy 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 Respecting Diversity and, where appropriate, Recruitment and Selection.

Organisational Responsibility

Reports to Director of the Environmental Ergonomics Research Centre

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 Criteria

Area	Criteria	Stage
Education and Qualifications	An outstanding educational profile up to and including first and Masters degrees in a relevant area, e.g. (Exercise) Physiology, (Human) Biology, Ergonomics, Sports Science.	1
Experience	A detailed understanding of Human (Exercise) Physiology,	1,3
	Experience of analysis and of collecting and reporting qualitative and quantitative data	1,3
	Experience with experimental design	1,3
	Writing and reporting of data collection	1,3
	Experience of working with human test participants and monitoring their safety	1,3
	Experience of scientific report writing	1,3
	Experience with literature reviews	1,3
Skills, Abilities and Knowledge	Excellent written and oral communication skills	1,3
	Self-motivated with ability to meet deadlines	3
	Ability to work independently and as part of a team	3
	Excellent interpersonal, and organisational skills	3
	Excellent IT skills, including MS Office applications	1
Training	Demonstrate evidence of continuing professional development and a willingness to undertake appropriate further training and to adopt new procedures as and when required	3
Equality and Diversity	Evidence a good working knowledge of equal opportunities and understanding of diversity in the workplace	1,3
Other	Knowledge of relevant Health and Safety issues	1,3
	Commitment to maintain confidentiality at all times	3

Desirable Criteria

Area	Criteria	Stage
Education and Qualifications	PhD in a relevant discipline or equivalent professional experience	1
Experience	Relevant post degree experience	3
	Experience of working with children	3

Conditions of Service

The position is FULL TIME and FIXED TERM. Salary will be on Specialist and Supporting Academic, £35,116 - £45,413 per annum, at a starting salary to be confirmed on offer of appointment.

The appointment will be subject to the University's Terms and Conditions of Employment for GRADES 6 AND ABOVE, details of which can be found [here](#).

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

The University offers a wide range of employee benefits which can be found [here](#).

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: <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/hr/a-z/childcare-information---page.html>)

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. For further information on Athena SWAN see <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/hr/athena-swan/>