

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE in Behavioural Medicine and Cancer Care (iCAN)

Full-time (37 hours per week); Fixed-term to 30th November 2028

Job Ref: REQ250846

As part of the University's ongoing commitment to redeployment, please note that this vacancy may be withdrawn at any stage of the recruitment process if a suitable redeployee is identified.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 hold 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 progress 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 10am and 4pm (as per our Silver Action Plan).
- Monthly coffee mornings which provide opportunities for networking and developing a sense of community within the School.

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 and Innovation (R&I) themes articulate with the University's core strategic themes: Sport, Health and Wellbeing; Vibrant and Inclusive Communities; and Climate Change and Net Zero [Strategic themes | Creating Better Futures. Together | Loughborough University](#)

Project Summary

Integration of physical activity into routine breast cancer care.

It is estimated that 1 in 2 people will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime. Evidence suggests that being physically active during and beyond treatment for breast cancer can help to manage treatment related side effects

and reduce the risk of cancer returning. However, not all patients and health care professionals are aware of this evidence. This suggests that we need to find innovative ways of informing patients and health care professionals of the benefits of physical activity during and beyond treatment for cancer so that it is part of routine cancer care. The aim of this research is to (1) develop innovative resources to support participation in physical activity (2) assess the feasibility and accessibility of the integration of physical activity in the breast cancer care pathway.

Job Description

Job Family & Grade: Specialist and Supporting Academic Grade 6

Job Purpose: To conduct a series of studies to test the feasibility and acceptability of the integration of physical activity in routine breast cancer care.

Job Duties:

- Develop, organise and conduct co-development workshops for patients living with and breast cancer
- Conduct interviews and focus groups with healthcare professionals
- Process and analyse data collected from co-design workshops, interviews and focus groups
- Assist with the development and modifications of digital resources
- Conduct and oversee an experimental study to assess the feasibility and acceptability of the integration of physical activity into routine breast cancer care
- Conduct qualitative interviews with patients and healthcare professionals about their participation in the study
- Liaise with oncology clinics in secondary care relating to the conduct of the proposed research.
- Complete any administrative tasks related to the research (e.g. data input, contacting and liaising with clinics)
- Produce a written report of the study findings
- Demonstrate specialist knowledge and understanding of the discipline to feed into the conduct of the research
- Contribute to the writing of scientific research papers and to publish the outcomes of research in high quality journals
- Ensure good working relationships with all research partners
- Collaborate on research initiatives with colleagues to move forward the area of research
- Provide guidance to the co-investigators regarding the direction of the next steps of the research based on the findings of the research
- Manage own academic and administrative activities
- Contribute ideas for new research projects
- 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
- 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, if appropriate, Recruitment and Selection.

Organisational Responsibility:

Reports to Dr Kajal Gokal (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	A background in lifestyle interventions and experience of conducting mixed methods research	1,3
	Specialist knowledge and understanding of physical activity and sedentary behaviour interventions	1,3
	Experience of working in health-related contexts	1,3
	Experience of collecting data involving behavioural interventions	1,3
	Experience of analysing and interpreting qualitative and quantitative data	1,3
	Experience of presenting research work at conferences	1,3
	Experience of working as part of a team	1,3
Skills and abilities	Excellent communication skills and interpersonal skills	1,3
	Ability to work methodically	1,3
	Good time management	1,3
	Ability to work independently when required	1,3
	Competence in IT skills including data input packages	1,3
	Ability to work as part of a team and to collaborate with others	1,3
	Good track record in research publications	1,3
	Willing to travel to various locations to undertake data collection and/or for collaboration purposes	1,3
Training	Demonstrate evidence of having undertaken further training	1,3
Qualifications	PhD (or at the point of completion) in a relevant area or MSc in a relevant area combined with research experience equivalent to PhD study in an appropriate area.	1
Other	Commitment to observing the University's Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity policy at all times	3

DESIRABLE

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Experience of public engagement and/or involvement in research	1,3
	Experience of working in secondary care	1,3
	Experience of conducting research with vulnerable populations	1,3

Conditions of Service

This full-time post is offered on a fixed-term contract from 1st December 2025 to 30th November 2028 within the *Specialist & Supporting Academic (Research)* job family at Grade 6 spinal point 27, £35,608.

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.