

Loughborough University Research Academy (LURA) Doctoral Innovation Consultants (DInC)

REQ251076

School/Department Summary

The newly established Loughborough University Research Academy (LURA) will cultivate an inclusive, dynamic, interdisciplinary research environment and culture that develops and empowers researchers and research-enabling colleagues and teams, at all career stages, and builds on our distinctive strengths to create impactful knowledge, drive innovation and address global and societal challenges. The Research Academy will foster a culture of collaboration and curiosity and will celebrate success, inspiring colleagues to push boundaries leading to a healthier, fairer and more sustainable world.

Funded by LURA, we are delighted to support a cohort of Doctoral Innovation Consultants (DInC). DInCs will be employed by LURA as part of the Research and Innovation Office and will work with LUinc. as part of a team with other Doctoral Innovation Consultants to provide support to LUinc. start-up businesses. Doctoral Innovation Consultants (DInC) will be employed by LURA and will work with LUinc. as part of a DInC team to provide support to LUinc. start-up businesses and LUSEP member companies.

Job Description

Job Grade: Administrative Services Grade 5

Job Purpose

This is an exciting opportunity for Loughborough University doctoral researchers, currently in R2 or early R3 stage of their PhD, to become LURA 'Doctoral Innovation Consultants', working as part of a small team to support start-up businesses based in the University's business incubator, [LUinc.](#) and LUSEP Doctoral Innovation Consultants will gain experience of working in a consulting capacity for commercial enterprises, with support and training from LURA and LUinc. team.

Working with LUinc. start-up businesses and LUSEP members on real challenges, the Doctoral Innovation Consultants will develop their commercial awareness, team working, problem solving, time management and customer focus skills. It is the intention that this unique opportunity will be a positive addition to their CV, enhancing their business networking skills and future employability, whether in academia or industry. The scheme further provides postgraduate research students with the opportunity to better understand the challenges faced by start-up companies and to spot potential real-world impacts and commercial applications which could emerge from their postgraduate research and training. Students will have the opportunity to generate direct positive impact for the start-up businesses they work with. During past programmes this has resulted in businesses adopting new technologies to enable their growth, engaging with new potential markets and clients and identifying routes to design new products and services by utilising university expertise and facilities.

The intention is that for the majority of the 16 weeks, the DInC teams will be based 'in person' in a designated space within the LUinc. facility on the Loughborough Midlands Campus or at the Loughborough London campus, depending on the location of the team members.

Candidates should be current Loughborough doctoral research students in active registration and will be required to commit to up to an average of 6 hours a week for a fixed term period of sixteen weeks between March and July 2026.

There will be a selection process whereby candidates will be required to outline why they are a suitable candidate and to provide a written endorsement from their Doctoral supervisory team, confirming that they permit the candidate to take part in the scheme.

Role and Responsibilities

LURA Doctoral Consultants will work as part of a small team to support start-up businesses based in the University's business incubator, [LUinc.](#)

Key responsibilities include:

- To work effectively with the other Doctoral consultants in LUinc. team to provide a consulting service for a small number (up to 6) of start-up businesses from LU Inc.
- To work with the team to deliver on the start-up business challenges, meeting defined milestones according to agreed deadlines. This support could include, but is not limited to, completing market research, strategic or financial planning or stakeholder mapping for business 'clients'.
- To participate in LUinc. induction and training sessions (up to 4 over the 16 weeks period).
- To abide by agreed confidentiality terms stated in a signed non-disclosure agreement.
- To support the Loughborough University Research Academy in capturing the learning from the scheme, including writing a reflective brief and report on experiences and skills developed, and engaging with wider LURA initiatives.
- Doctoral Consultants may be asked to support other relevant Doctoral College Business and Enterprise activities and or business events, as opportunities arise.

Person Specification

Your application will be reviewed against the essential and desirable criteria listed below. Stages of assessment are as follows:

1. Application form
2. Interview

Area	Essential	Desirable	Stage
Experience	Research project management and on time delivery	Basic understanding of and interest in commercial challenges of businesses	1,2
	Stakeholder / Customer management	Experience of working with external partners	1,2
Skills	Excellent Organisational skills		1,2
	Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to develop effective working relationships with peers and project stakeholders		1,2
	Excellent customer focus with the ability to listen and understand requirements		1,2
	Excellent communication skills with the ability to tailor		1,2

	information to suit the relevant target audience		
	A team player who can take instruction and work with others to achieve a common goal		1,2
	A creative problem solver who can adapt experience and skills to different areas		1,2
	Excellent time management: reliable and punctual		1,2
Training	A willingness to undertake further training, as required		1,2
Qualifications	Currently a doctoral researcher (PhD/EngD) at Loughborough University in R2 or R3 (but not R3 extension)		1,2

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.

Conditions of Service

The position is **part-time** (6 hours per week) and **fixed-term** for 16 weeks from March to July 2026. Salary will be on Administrative Services Grade 5 (£29,588 - £34,610 per annum pro-rata) at 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 Grade 1-5 staff, 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 are available at <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/hr/a-z/family-leave-policy-and-procedure---page.html>.

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/>

How to Apply

If you would like to apply for this opportunity, please make a basic application through the portal and in addition, complete an [Expression of Interest form](#). Please direct any queries to m.v.bandulasena@lboro.ac.uk.