

# RESEARCH ASSOCIATE in Weight Management

Job Ref: REQ260264

The **School of Sport Exercise and Health Sciences (SSEHS)** is a multi-disciplinary school committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive academic community. It upholds the highest standards of excellence in research, innovation, and pedagogy across the full spectrum of disciplines within sport, exercise, health and wellbeing.

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 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.

## 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 Research and Innovation theme** utilises several disciplines to understand how sport engages individuals, communities and organisations and supports the enhancement of athletes' performance in competitive sport.
- **Health Research and Innovation theme** brings together research from multiple disciplines with the shared goal of enhancing health, promoting healthy living, and improving wellbeing across all stages of life and all communities.

The school's research and Innovation (R&I) themes articulate with the Universities 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](#)

## Job Description

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

**Job Purpose:** To conduct studies in the area of weight management

The postholder will work in a team exploring weight management in healthcare settings. The post holder will help deliver a feasibility trial of exploring weight management before surgery. Dr Madigan is keen to develop the post holder to apply for future fellowships and there will be lots of opportunities to gain experience and publications in a range of research designs.

## Job Duties

- Develop, organise and conduct studies related to weight management.
- Contribute to the development of research strategies in the School.
- To engage with the CLiMB research group and institutional research theme structure.
- Develop proposals for research which will make a significant impact.
- To secure external research funding with support from senior colleagues.
- Review and synthesise the outcomes of research studies.
- Interpret findings obtained from research projects and develop new insights, expanding, refining and testing hypotheses and ideas.
- Write or contribute to publications, for example for high quality academic journals, and disseminate research findings using other appropriate media, for example in seminars, or presentations at conferences according to the School's research and impact action plans.
- Collaborate actively within and outside the University to lead and complete research projects and advance thinking.
- Participate in and develop external networks, for example to identify sources of funding, generate income, obtain enterprise projects, or build relationships for current and future activities.
- To attend, participate and/or represent the School/University/research project at meetings, seminars, conferences, and public forums.

### 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 outlined in the document.

### Organisational Responsibility

Reports to the: Dr Claire Madigan, Senior Lecturer in Behavioural Medicine / NIHR Advanced Fellow.

### Person Specification

Your application will be assessed based on the essential and desirable criteria listed below.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to explicitly demonstrate how they meet each essential (and desirable) criteria at the application stage. The criteria that you need to demonstrate in your application will be listed as Stage 1 in the table below.

Stages of assessment are as follows:

- 1 – Criteria measured within the Application
- 2 – Criteria measured at Test/Assessment Centre/Presentation
- 3 – Criteria measured at Interview

### Essential Criteria

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	A background in health behaviour/weight management interventions	1,3
	Specialist knowledge and understanding of weight management interventions	1,3
	Experience of working in health-related contexts	1,3
	Experience of collecting data involving weight management interventions	1,3
	Experience of analysing and interpreting 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 in the East and West Midlands 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	1

**Desirable Criteria:** These are skills, experience and competencies that are additional extras that may be used to narrow the pool down if we receive a high volume of applications that meet the essential criteria.

Area	Criteria	Stage
<b>Experience</b>	Experience of public engagement and/or involvement in research	1,3
	Experience of conducting systematic reviews	1,3
	Experience of collecting and analysing qualitative data for research projects	1,3
	Experience of clinical trials	1,3

## Conditions of Service

The appointment will be subject to the [University's Terms and Conditions of Employment](#) relevant to the job grade.

## Shared University Responsibilities

As a member of the Loughborough community, you are expected to:

- Take reasonable care of yourself, others and the environment, and to prevent harm by your acts or omissions. All staff are therefore required to adhere to the University's Health, Safety and Environmental Sustainability Policies & Procedures.
- Uphold and actively contribute to the [University's commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion](#), ensuring that all duties are carried out in alignment with this.

## Our Purpose, Vision, and Values

Our purpose, Vision and Values underpin all that we do and shape how we work together at Loughborough.

We're proud to promote our values: **Adventurous, Collaborative, Creative, Authentic** and **Responsible**. Our people bring these values to life every day, and they are central to the positive and supportive culture that makes Loughborough unique.

If you join us, you'll be encouraged to bring these values to life in your own work and contribute to the positive, supportive culture that makes Loughborough unique.

Read more about our [vision and values](#).

## Our Accreditations



We strive to create a culture that supports equity 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 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 a disability, provided that the essential criteria for the role are met. 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.



We are proud supporters of the [City of Sanctuary movement](#) and delighted to be recognised as a University of Sanctuary. This national network brings together, university staff, lecturers, academics, and students, who together work to make Higher Education institutions places of safety, solidarity and empowerment for people seeking sanctuary.



We are committed to addressing gender inequalities in science and to improving career progression for female academics. The School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences holds a [Silver Athena SWAN award](#) which recognises the importance of support for women at all stages of their career.

**Disclosure and Barring Service Check:** This post is subject to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (Exceptions Order) 1975 and as such it will be necessary for a submission for a Disclosure to be made to the Disclosure and Barring Service (formerly known as CRB) to check for any previous criminal convictions.

**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.**