



Job Description and Person Specification

Summary

Job title:	Postdoctoral Research Assistant in Applied Sport Science
Area:	Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Reference:	EHR0144-1125
Grade and Salary:	£35608 - £38784 per annum. Grade 7, Points 27 - 30
Contract Type:	Fixed Term for 36 months
Hours:	Full Time (37 hours per week)
Location:	Crystal Palace Football Club Training Ground (BR3 1RJ)
Accountable to:	Head of Department of Sport and Physical Activity
Reporting to:	Senior Lecturer in Applied Sport Science (Project Lead)

About the Role

This is an externally funded position with Crystal Palace Football Club (CPFC), this is an exciting to conduct applied research around the monitoring and modelling of the training process in Premier League football players.

This is a unique opportunity for an enthusiastic, collegial, and high-performing researcher seeking to embed themselves in a high-performance sporting environment. This role offers a rare opportunity to contribute to a long-term strategic research partnership between academia and elite sport. You'll join a growing network of researchers working at the interface of sport performance, health, data science, and innovation, with real-world impact across Crystal Palace FC's teams and departments.

The successful candidate will be embedded within CPFC Men's Senior Team working closely with multidisciplinary CPFC staff and the principal investigator (Dr Dan Weaving). You will conduct applied research across field- and gym-based training and rehabilitation processes in senior and academy male football players. Focus of projects include methods of monitoring training exposure, and their acute and chronic training effects and the influence of the individual characteristics of players on these factors. Therefore, you will engage with the analysis of various wearable technologies and measurement tools within that environment. The projects are interdisciplinary in nature and you will work closely with research active staff at EHU and CPFC to co-design, execute, disseminate and implement findings. This position is part of a significant research investment at CPFC across postgraduate (PhD, MRes) projects spanning sport science, rehabilitation, and computer science domains. These projects engage across CPFC's senior men's, senior women's, and men's academy teams, and you will play a central role in supporting the development of this collaborative research ecosystem. The postholder will be expected to work from CPFC training ground offices with some travel to Edge Hill University Campus, Ormskirk.

Specific duties and responsibilities

The post holder will be expected to:

1. Engage positively in research activity in the broad area of area of the training process of elite team sport athletes under the direction of the project lead/principal investigator.
2. Complete high-quality research in the area of the training process of elite athletes, leading on project management, research design (mainly observational repeated measures), ethical governance, data collection and analysis (quantitative), and dissemination elements of the project, under the direction of the PI.
3. Conduct literature searches and reviews using online and/or library databases and other sources, summarising and reporting relevant information to the PI and project team.
4. Publish research outputs in leading peer-reviewed journals with an international audience, as lead author where appropriate.
5. Effectively disseminate research findings at internal and external scientific meetings and conferences, making research accessible to lay and expert audiences.
6. Engage with relevant academic and professional networks through active membership of societies, associations etc.
7. Contribute to the development of effective applications for research funding from both research councils and other external sources in collaboration with the project lead/principal investigator and others.
8. Explore opportunities for enterprise activity, knowledge exchange income and/or consultancy in this and related areas.
9. Contribute to the delivery of teaching at undergraduate and taught postgraduate level.
10. Assist in the supervision of third year undergraduate dissertation students and taught Masters within the area of research expertise.
11. Ensure that their skills and technical competence are kept under review and enhanced where required to enable them to utilise specialist equipment and software used in the research projects.
12. Assist in the development of the research skills of postgraduate students; for example, as part of a postgraduate supervisory team and/or through the delivery of practical workshops.

13. Contribute to relevant departmental and research group meetings.
14. Undertake additional duties, as required by the project lead/principal investigator or Head of Department.
15. Be an active member of departmental/faculty research committee and working groups associated with particular research projects within the department or faculty.

In addition to the above all Edge Hill University staff are required to: adhere to all University policies and procedures; complete all mandatory training and induction modules, including Equality & Diversity and Health & Safety; engage in appropriate learning and development activities; actively participate in performance review; demonstrate excellent customer care; contribute to an inclusive environment for everyone; respect confidentiality; act in a sustainable and environmentally conscious manner; and proactively consider accessibility in all aspects of your work.

Eligibility

Candidates should note that shortlisting will be based on information provided on the application form with regard to the applicant's ability to meet the criteria outlined in the Person Specification attached.

Internal staff wishing to apply for a fixed term role as a secondment opportunity must discuss this with their existing line manager before applying.

Additional information

Contract Type: Support

Pension Scheme: This post is eligible for the Local Government Pension Scheme.

- Annual Leave: As a support staff member your annual leave entitlement is 25 days per annum, pro rata if part time. Please note, support staff annual leave entitlement increases in line with post grade and length of continuous service.

It is important to note that this job description is a guide to the work you will be required to undertake. It may be changed from time to time to meet changing circumstances. It does not form part of your contract of employment.

It is expected that the post-holder will work flexibly according to the on-going demands of the job.

Person Specification

Please note that applications will be assessed against the Person Specification using the following criteria, therefore, applicants should provide evidence of their ability to meet all criteria. Where a supporting statement is indicated you will be asked to provide a statement of how you meet this criterion within the application form.

Qualifications

Criteria	Essential or Desirable Criteria	Method of Assessment
PhD in applied sport science or related disciplines (e.g., physiology, biomechanics, sports performance)	Desirable	Application

Experience and Knowledge

Criteria	Essential or Desirable Criteria	Method of Assessment
Excellent understanding of the physiology and/or biomechanics of the training process in team sport athletes.	Essential	Supporting Statement, Presentation, Interview
Experience of conducting applied research in sport organisations, with clear and demonstrable approaches to translating research findings into practice.	Essential	Supporting Statement, Presentation, Interview
Experience of publishing high quality academic peer reviewed articles	Essential	Supporting Statement, Interview
Experience of working in the Higher Education sector	Desirable	Application
Experience of working in multi-disciplinary research	Desirable	Supporting Statement, Interview
Knowledge of the processes involved in preparing and submitting research funding proposals	Desirable	Supporting Statement, Interview
Experience of teaching undergraduates and postgraduates, including supervising research projects	Desirable	Supporting Statement, Interview

Experience and knowledge in the processing of wearable technology data (e.g., GPS, IMU, force plate, video-derived data) using relevant analysis tools (e.g., R Studio, Python, MATLAB). This will included statistical analysis relevant to observational repeated measures designs.	Essential	Supporting Statement, Presentation, Interview
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Abilities and Skills

Criteria	Essential or Desirable Criteria	Method of Assessment
Able to communicate new and complex information effectively, both verbally and in writing, engaging the interest and enthusiasm of the target audience (both lay and expert)	Essential	Supporting Statement, Presentation, Interview
Able to present research results at department meetings and conferences	Essential	Interview, Presentation
Able to work on own initiative, organising and prioritising work effectively to meet deadlines	Essential	Supporting Statement, Interview
A self-starter, able to work independently and without supervision as well as part of a team	Essential	Supporting Statement, Interview
Ability to operate flexibly and reliably, adapting to change as required	Essential	Supporting Statement, Interview
Able to develop and maintain effective working relationships at all levels	Essential	Supporting Statement, Interview
Able to work within ethical guidelines and maintain high levels of research integrity at all times.	Essential	Supporting Statement, Interview

Candidate Guidance and How to Apply

At Edge Hill University we value the benefits a rich and diverse workforce brings to our community and therefore welcome applications from all sections of society.

For informal enquiries about this vacancy, you may wish to contact: Dr Daniel Weaving, Senior Lecturer in Applied Sport Science at Weavind@edgehill.ac.uk

When you are ready to start the formal application process, please [visit our Current Vacancies website](#), search for the role you wish to apply for, and select the 'Apply Online' button at the bottom of the job advert. The online application form can be completed in stages and can be revisited at any time. The form automatically saves as you enter your information, and you can move backwards and forwards between individual form sections at any time prior to application submission. Help is available at each stage to guide you through the form. Before final submission, you can preview your application and can then choose to refine or submit the form.

As part of your application, you will be asked to provide details of two referees. Please see our application form for guidance on how to nominate your referees.

Please refer to the advert for the closing date for this vacancy, all applications must be submitted by 11:59pm on this date. Please note that you will receive an automated email from our online recruitment portal to confirm receipt of your application. Please check your spam/junk mail if you do not receive this email.

Following the closing date, we will contact you by email to let you know whether or not you have been shortlisted to participate in the next stage of the selection process. We try our best to inform all applicants within two working weeks following the closing date.

If you are offered the post, the offer will be subject to pre-employment clearance. You will be asked to provide: proof of your right-to-work in the UK; proof of your identity and evidence of your qualifications and professional memberships as referenced as essential or desirable in the person specification for this role. You will also be asked to complete onboarding forms including a pre-employment health questionnaire to support the University make appropriate adjustments to support you in the role. The University will also contact the referees you have nominated. Please note that you may be asked for alternative or additional referees as we seek references that cover your previous three years of employment history. Following successful completion of pre-employment clearances (including an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check, as relevant, please see job advert) a start date will then be arranged with you.