

Student Sport Ireland

Irish Sport HQ, National Sports Campus,
Blanchardstown, Dublin 15

Tel: +353 1 6251173
E: admin@studentsport.ie
W: www.studentsport.ie



Research Officer Job Description

July 2019

Applications

Student Sport Ireland invites applications for the role of Research Officer. Please see below a detailed a job description, an outline of the application process and closing date.

Role and Application Specifications

Organisation	Student Sport Ireland
Title	Research Officer
Work Location	Irish Sport HQ, Sport Ireland Campus, Dublin
Reporting To	Research Committee Chairperson
Line Manager	Development Manager
Salary	€40,000 circa
Post Duration	12 months
Hours of Work¹	9am – 5pm (40hrs)
Days of Work	Monday – Friday
Application Deadline	23 rd August 2019
Shortlisting	Week 26 th August 2019
Interview Date	10 th September 2019 (Sport HQ)
Commencement Date	1 st October 2019 (Provisional)
Qualifications	A Postgraduate Qualification in a relevant discipline

Organisational Overview

Student Sport Ireland is the governing body for third level sport on the island of Ireland with the remit to work in partnership with national and international sports governing bodies to identify pathways for college communities to participate, compete and develop through sport and physical activity. The organisation works closely with Sport Ireland, Sport Northern Ireland, the national governing bodies of sport (NGBs) and its affiliated member colleges in meeting its remit.

Thirty third level Universities and Institutes of Technology are affiliated to SSI representing approximately 200,000 third level students. The SSI office is housed at Irish Sport HQ at the Sport Ireland Campus in Abbotstown, Dublin 15 with eighteen other national governing bodies of sport.

SSI staff coordinate an intensive work programme which includes the delivery of a wide range of programmes and initiatives including the coordination of high-performance student athletes competing at the World University Championships and World University Games, the planning and coordination of intercollegiate leagues, the delivery of the annual staff Networking Event, the annual Event of the Year Award and the annual Student Leadership Award.

The organisation has a well-established research programme (see below) and which informed the current strategic plan “Working for Third Level Sport and Physical Activity”.

¹ On occasion the successful applicant may be required to work outside these hours or on a Saturday

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SSI Research Programme Overview

In 2013 a consultation process with SSI members identified some of the current challenges facing third level sport. These challenges included the difficulty of planning for a very diverse sector, recognition of the varying levels of staffing and resources available in different colleges, and the difficulties for SSI in identifying initiatives and delivering programmes in partnership with other agencies across this diverse sector. In response SSI commissioned research to investigate sport and physical activity participation, preferences and provision at third level, and which surveyed over 9,000 students in 31 third level colleges on the island of Ireland. The research report, entitled the Student Activity and Sport Study Ireland (SASSI) (Murphy et al 2016), was published in 2016.

SSI recently commissioned a follow-up study (SASSI 2) to assess investment and implementation of policies and initiatives, overall and within colleges, in the intervening period and the impact these might have had on student participation in sport and physical activity.

Role Overview

With the support of the SSI Research Committee the Research Officer will play a key and influential role in the oversight and delivery of the SASSI 2 study. The appointee will be the point of contact and conduit of information between the SSI Research Committee, SSI affiliated colleges and the research team appointed to undertake the study. It is envisaged that the appointee will possess the expertise and experience to assist the committee during each phase of the research process including the design of the research instruments; the collection of data; the analysis of the data; and the reporting of the findings.

Reporting: To the SSI Research Committee Chairperson and on a day to day basis the SSI Development Manager (Line Manager).

Location: The Research Officer will be based at Irish Sport HQ at the Sport Ireland Campus in Dublin. The appointee will be required to travel throughout the island during the research project.

Contract: The appointee will be employed on a 12-month specific purpose contract to facilitate the delivery of the SASSI 2 study. The appointment is at all times contingent upon the continuing availability of the funding which supports this post and is terminable by notice.

Qualifications and Experience (all essential):

- A postgraduate qualification in a relevant discipline
- Quantitative data analysis skills and experience
- Knowledge of related physical activity and sport literature research

Personal Specifications (essential unless specified)

- Project management skills and experience
- Experience in large-scale, population study and research project (desirable)
- Understanding of the third level sporting structure and environment
- Skills in the design, management and conduct of research

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- A proven ability to multi-task, work on own initiative, manage time efficiently and meet deadlines
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Ability to deliver results
- Ability to interact with stakeholders from a range of disciplines
- Excellent attention to detail
- Excellent report writing and presentation skills
- Capability of working effectively within a team to achieve results
- A current driving license and access to private transport (desirable)

Role Responsibilities

- To undertake data analysis and report writing
- To coordinate the day-to-day work to support the research project
- To develop and maintain a good working relationship with the research team
- To facilitate collaboration by liaising with third level sports department staff and relevant external contacts
- To support the SSI Research Committee and the research team in securing ethical approval
- To coordinate volunteer training workshops
- To provide specific research skills to support the on-going development of the research project
- To draft and execute an action plan for the role
- To input and support the Research Committee and research team in finalising the research instruments
- To support the research team with the data collection
- To coordinate the launch and publication of the study findings and report.

How to Apply

Applicants are requested to submit an up to date cover letter and CV via email to Ciarán Ó hIarnáin, SSI Development Manager at ciaran@studentsport.ie .

Applicants are requested to set out in their CV the contact details for two referees.

Queries: All queries in relation to the application can be submitted via email to SSI Research Committee Chairperson Dr Maura Coulter at maura.coulter@dcu.ie .

Closing Date: The closing date for applications is the 23rd August 2019.

Interview Date: Interviews will be held on the 10th September. Applicants are requested to set out in their application confirmation of their availability to attend for interview at Sport HQ on the 10th September.