



**UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS**

## **CANDIDATE BRIEF**

### **Research Assistant in Physically Active Learning**

**School of Psychology, Faculty of Medicine and Health**



**Salary: Grade 6 (£27,511 – £32,817 p.a.)**

**Please note that due to funding limitations it will not be possible to appoint above spine point 26 (£30,046)**

**Reference: MHPSY1061**

**Closing date: 02 February 2020**

**Interview date: 14 February 2020**

**Fixed-term 01 April 2020 until 31 March 2021**



# **Research Assistant in Investigating the Effects of Physically Active Learning in the classroom**

## **School of Psychology, Faculty of Medicine and Health**

**Are you interested in how physical activity affects children's physical and psychological health? Do you have experience of working with children in a research context? Would you like to be part of a team that is evaluating methods for increasing physical activity in the classroom, and assessing whether they have additional benefits on cognition, behaviour and learning too?**

You will play a key role in delivering an innovative Waterloo Foundation funded project, which trials two different methods for increasing children's physical activity during the school day: Physically Active Learning and Classroom Movement Breaks. The study will compare these methods to current educational practice, to evaluate their potential to improve physical activity levels, cognitive function, behaviour and learning within the classroom. You will be involved in: the recruitment of schools and data collection, data entry and dissemination activities.

We are looking for someone who enjoys working with children in a school environment, who is personable and well organised, and who can work well as part of a team to deliver an ambitious research project.

### **What does the role entail?**

As a Research Assistant your main duties will include:

- Working closely with the investigators and temporary research assistants to develop, manage and execute the project;
- Assisting in the design or sourcing of suitable assessments of children's physical activity and attention levels, time-on-task, and mathematical fluency;
- Helping to recruit school, children and their families to the project;
- Assisting in the delivery of in-school physical activity interventions;
- Collecting data in schools and entering data for analysis;
- Contributing to conference presentation and journal articles;
- Assisting in non-academic dissemination to the public and other professionals;
- Helping to maintain a project webpage and social media accounts



These duties provide a framework for the role and should not be regarded as a definitive list. Other reasonable duties may be required consistent with the grade of the post.

You will report to Dr Liam JB Hill (Principal Investigator), Lecturer in Developmental Psychology.

## What will you bring to the role?

As a Research Assistant you will have:

- A BSc in Psychology or a related field (minimum 2:1);
- Knowledge of current research into the effects of physical activity on childhood psychological functioning;
- An enthusiasm for, and prior experience of, working with children;
- Effective communication skills;
- Excellent organisational skills and time management;
- An enthusiastic approach to team working;
- Experience of planning and conducting a quantitative research project
- Experience preparing and analysing quantitative data
- A willingness to travel to schools across West Yorkshire (primarily Bradford and surrounding areas)

You may also have:

- Postgraduate training in Psychology, Sports and Exercise Science or a related field (or be in the course of undertaking such training);
- Experience of conducting a research project with children within a school environment.
- Experience communicating and working with education professionals in mainstream school settings. Ideally involving coordination of multiple teacher's involvement in projects spanning several specific schools
- Experience communicating with parents of children involved in a research project, in-person, by phone and/or in writing;
- Experience using standardised psychometric cognitive tests and/or measures of physical activity through accelerometry



## How to apply

You can apply for this role online; more guidance can be found on our [How to Apply](#) information page. Applications should be submitted by **23.59** (UK time) on the advertised closing date.

## Contact information

To explore the post further or for any queries you may have, please contact:

**Dr Liam JB Hill, Lecturer in Developmental Psychology**

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 5726

Email: [l.j.hill@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:l.j.hill@leeds.ac.uk)

## Additional information

Find out more about the [Faculty of Medicine and Health](#)

Find out more about the [School of Psychology](#)

Find out more about the [Centre for Applied Education Research](#)

Find out more about [Athena Swan](#) in the Faculty

Find out more about the external collaborators you will be working with closely on this project: [Tagtiv8](#), [Born in Bradford](#) and the [Carnegie School of Sport](#)

Find out more about Physically Active Learning and Classroom Movement Breaks in this [review](#) paper, authored by Dr Anly Daly Smith (a Co-investigator on this project)





## **Working at Leeds**

Find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area on our [Working at Leeds](#) information page.

## **Candidates with disabilities**

Information for candidates with disabilities, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found on our [Accessibility](#) information page or by getting in touch with us at [disclosure@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:disclosure@leeds.ac.uk).

## **Criminal record information**

This post requires an enhanced and barred list criminal record check from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), and any equivalent overseas authorities where relevant. The successful candidate will be required to give consent for the University to check their criminal record status. All applicants are required to make a self-declaration where applicable.

**Any offer of appointment will be in accordance with our Criminal Records policy. You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our [Criminal Records](#) information page.**

