**2018-2019 MSD BA/LEVERHULME STUDENTSHIP**

Applications are invited for an exciting opportunity to undertake a funded (fees only) Master of Science by Dissertation (MSD) at the University of Essex starting in January 2019. You will work with a team of experienced supervisors including Dr John Mills and Dr Ben Jones from the School of Sport, Rehabilitation and Exercise Sciences and Dr Ian Boardley at the University of Birmingham.

**Deadline: Friday 14th December 2018**

**FUNDING AMOUNT**

Equivalent to Home/EU fees (£4,410)

The MSD is available to Home and EU students who apply to the University of Essex no later than **14th December 2018**. As a requirement of this studentship the student will carry out a research project entitled**:**

**Under the radar: Examining Sub-National-level athlete’s attitudes towards prohibited forms of performance enhancement**

Doping prevalence rates in elite sport are well documented. However, little is known about athlete attitudes towards, and reported use of prohibited forms of performance enhancement below this level. This lack of research is particularly problematic at a Sub-National-level, where athletes are competing outside of tested competitions, often exposed to a range of new social influences, and experiencing an insecure career environment. Together, these factors may do little to deter athletes from doping. Through your involvement in this project it is hoped that we may illuminate the antecedent cognitive processes that underpin doping attitudes, while also examining the scale of reported use.

The University of Essex is a top-twenty rated University in England for research intensity (REF2014) and hold a Gold standard rating in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF). In choosing Essex for your research, you’ll work alongside academics who are leaders in their field. You will benefit from comprehensive support and guidance including tailored careers advice, to help you succeed in your research and future career.

**ELIGIBILITY**

Applicants will be able to:

* Demonstrate the ability to write and communicate ideas for an academic audience evidenced by holding at least a 2:1 degree (or equivalent) in Sports Science and/or (Sport) Psychology
* Evidence their reasons for being interested in the research topic, preferably linking with previous experience of working in this or related areas.
* Demonstrate the ability to work under pressure and manage their own time effectively.
* Have excellent interpersonal skills and be able to form strong relationships with different research stakeholders to facilitate recruitment and data collection

An understanding of the demands placed on athletes is desirable as is an interest in conducting and producing open and reproducible science.

**2018-2019 School of Sport, Rehabilitation & Exercise Sciences studentship terms & conditions**

Please read the full terms and conditions before applying or accepting a scholarship, bursary or studentship. They will contain important information about eligibility, how you will receive your funding and whether this award can be combined with others or not. These can be found at: <https://www.essex.ac.uk/departments/sport-rehabilitation-and-exercise-sciences/scholarships-and-funding>

**HOW TO APPLY**

You should apply for a place on the [MSD](https://www.essex.ac.uk/postgraduate-research-degrees) no later than **14 December 2018**. You must include under the section ‘Postgraduate Research Details’ on the application form the title of the research **“Under the radar: Examining Sub-National-level athlete’s attitudes towards prohibited forms of performance enhancement”**

In addition to the required application documents, you should upload a CV and a one page covering letter detailing how you are best positioned for this studentship.

Applications should be submitted electronically; please see <https://www1.essex.ac.uk/pgapply/login.aspx> for details.

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