

PhD studentship - Irish Rugby Injury Surveillance

Location: University of Limerick, Ireland

Deadline: 17.00 Irish time (GMT+1) 21st of October 2022

Interview date: Monday 7th of November 2022

Start date: January 2023

Duration: Four years full-time (structured PhD)

Description:

Applications are invited for a PhD studentship funded by the Irish Rugby Football Union to start in January 2023. The project will be based in the Department of Physical Education and Sport Sciences at the University of Limerick. The successful candidate will be supervised by Dr. Tom Comyns, Prof. Ian Kenny and Dr Roisin Cahalan from the University of Limerick, in collaboration with the Irish Rugby Football Union Medical Department. The aims of the PhD will be:

- Support the research programme team to maintain implementation of their injury surveillance system (IRISweb) for the amateur club game in Ireland which allows for the collection, tracking and trend analysis of injury patterns (incidence, nature and severity), in order to identify possible injury casual factors and prevention strategies.
- To explore the women's game and the potential risk factors for injury.
- To enhance the health and welfare of Rugby Union players across the clubs' game in Ireland by providing information on injury patterns that can impact on IRFU policy regarding injury prevention measures and by researching the impact of injury prevention strategies on the injury profile of Irish club players.

The research will involve working with clubs and medical teams to survey and measure the incidence, nature, severity and prevention of injury within the female and male amateur game, and conduct on-going monitoring of injury trends. The research will in particular focus on the women's game and will examine the injury profile within the women's game and the association between injury and various factors, such as training load, lifestyle, and physical capacity.

The University of Limerick (UL) with close to 16,500 students, including 2,000 international students and 1,300 staff is an energetic and enterprising institution with a proud record of innovation and excellence in education, research and scholarship. The dynamic, entrepreneurial and pioneering values which drive UL's mission and strategy ensures that we capitalise on local, national and international engagement and connectivity. The reference to UL as 'Ireland's Sporting Campus' is very much as a consequence of the University's strategy to create a world class sporting infrastructure. The building infrastructure is complimented by leading research facilities and staff from all aspects of sport and exercise sciences, and clinicians from UL's Health Research Institute (HRI). Sport and Exercise Sciences within UL is ranked in the World's top 100 by academic discipline.

Requirements:

- Students will normally need to hold at least a 2:1 degree (or equivalent) in Sports Science, Physiotherapy or a related discipline. A relevant Master's degree will be an advantage, as will experience in completion of a major research project.

- Proven research experience and involvement in the Rugby industry will be an advantage.
- The PhD candidate will be required to travel independently to Rugby clubs both locally and country-wide.
- The candidate must possess excellent written, verbal and presentation skills for both specialist and non-specialist audiences; excellent interpersonal skills; ability and experience in collaborating effectively in teams; familiarity with advanced statistics; an ability to work independently and with initiative at a high level of self-motivation; high level attentiveness to detail.

For informal enquiries about the project, please contact Dr. Tom Comyns tom.comyns@ul.ie or Prof. Ian Kenny ian.kenny@ul.ie

Application:

To apply, please send applications directly to the following e-mail address:

rugby.surveillance@ul.ie

The application must comprise two documents:

1. One-page cover letter briefly outlining applicant suitability and motivation for the PhD research topic, and education, employment and research experience.
2. Curriculum Vitae (CV) including names and contact details of at least two referees.

General information about the Department of Physical Education and Sports Sciences, the University of Limerick and the IRIS project can be found at

<https://www.ul.ie/pess/research> , <https://www.ul.ie/> and

<https://www.ul.ie/pess/content/welcome-irish-rugby-injury-surveillance> respectively

Package:

Tax free stipend of euro €18,000 per annum plus tuition fees at the EU rate. International (non-EU) students may apply but will need to self-finance the balance of the non-EU fees. Funded by the Irish Rugby Football Union.