

Job Description: Associate Professor (Education)

Post title and post number	Associate Professor in Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy (Education)
College/Budget Centre	LES
School/Department	Sport, Exercise and Rehabilitation Sciences
Full time/Part time	Full time (job share applicants welcome)
Duration of the Post	Permanent
Salary	Grade 9 - £58,225 to £67,468 with potential progression to £87,974
Additional information	
Terms and Conditions	Academic Teaching Staff
Closing Date	
Grade	9

Summary of Role

About you

The School of Sport, Exercise and Rehabilitation Sciences is seeking to grow our team by appointing a full-time Associate Professor in Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy who will provide leadership in education and contribute strategically to a range of education-related and administration activities within the school primarily across our pre and post registration physiotherapy programmes.

As an education-focused associate professor, you will have significant experience of delivering high-quality, engaging and pedagogically informed education, facilitating learning in students of all levels. You will have an in-depth understanding of the UK healthcare context and an extensive background in musculoskeletal physiotherapy and/or sports exercise medicine practice and education with proven specialist clinical skills demonstrated in a relevant healthcare setting. You will demonstrate a strong understanding of person-centred clinical reasoning and evidence-based management strategies in the contemporary musculoskeletal and/or sports physiotherapy context that you are able to communicate and contextualise to support student learning. Your teaching will draw on your own clinical expertise and research evidence to deliver exceptional education and set our graduates up for future success throughout their careers.

You will be looking to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of physiotherapy education, providing leadership in the design, development and enhancement of our programmes to ensure an outstanding and contemporary educational experience for our students. Your enthusiasm for educating future physiotherapists will drive you to advance your own teaching and learning practices and actively support the pedagogic development of colleagues across the School. You will demonstrate engagement with evidence-informed education and a commitment to advancing teaching and learning practice, for example through pedagogic innovation, evaluation, or scholarship in physiotherapy education. You will be a cornerstone in healthcare education, providing unwavering academic and pastoral support to students, ensuring they receive an exceptional learning experience. We would consider job share and part-time options for excellent candidates who wish to retain a clinical post alongside a teaching role within the school.

In our vibrant and inclusive community, you'll champion diversity and uphold values of integration and support for all, regardless of abilities, sexual orientation, ethnicity, race, faith, or gender. Your commitment to these principles will be evident in every aspect of your role.

About the role

As a senior leader within the physiotherapy programme teams, you will lead and make a substantial strategic contribution to the development and delivery of musculoskeletal

physiotherapy and sports exercise medicine education across the school's degree programmes. You will lead and contribute to module teams which plan, prepare and deliver excellent engaging and challenging teaching that inspires students and prepares them for current and future practice and a career in physiotherapy.

You will lead and instigate opportunities to develop the educational experience for our students which may include supporting the development of innovative models of placement education, integrating simulation into the curriculum and using new technology to support teaching, learning and assessment. You will play a key role in strengthening partnerships with clinical providers and enhancing practice-based learning opportunities. In the realm of management and administration, you'll have a track record as a leader and a collaborator with an ability to shape and influence educational and strategic activities within the school and more widely across the University. Your contributions will be substantial, whether through curriculum development, public engagement, widening participation, or outreach initiatives. You'll embody academic citizenship, fostering respectful and supportive relationships with staff and students alike, and providing leadership and mentorship that positively influences colleagues' practice and development.

About the school

The School of Sport, Exercise and Rehabilitation Sciences is a world-leading School that performs cutting-edge and translational research in all aspects of Sport, Exercise and Rehabilitation sciences. This unique platform allows us to address societal challenges from a multidisciplinary perspective and enrich our curricula with a research intensity that ranks us at 8th place in global league tables. The university has a long tradition in physiotherapy education and our school's undergraduate physiotherapy programme is ranked number one in the UK in the Complete University Guide (2023, 2024 and 2025).

In addition to our postgraduate Manipulative Physiotherapy and Sport Exercise Medicine programmes in Edgbaston, we have recently launched these programmes in our Dubai campus, and there are opportunities to be involved in teaching on the Dubai campus as flying faculty.

You will be joining a thriving community of physiotherapists, health psychologists, physiologists, and sports scientists with access to excellent research and teaching facilities. The school is based in a purpose-built building with a range of teaching spaces and practical labs including simulation capture system. We work closely with clinical centres of excellence and are excited to extend our research and impact for the communities we serve via a new state-of-the art Exercise and Rehabilitation Facility, The Centre for Movement and Wellbeing, which opened in March 2024 and includes a physiotherapy clinic. Future developments include a new Clinical Skills Building with simulation spaces for including ward, clinic and home environments.

Having been awarded Athena SWAN Silver status, the school is committed to promoting equality, diversity, and inclusivity, and therefore welcomes applicants from diverse backgrounds to join our global community. The University of Birmingham holds Advance HE Race Equality Charter and Athena Swan Charter bronze awards and is a Stonewall Global Diversity Champion. Further information about working at the University of Birmingham, including information about employee benefits and childcare provision is at <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/index.aspx>

Main Duties / Responsibilities

Education

To contribute at a senior level and on a sustained basis to the strategic leadership, development, and delivery of musculoskeletal physiotherapy and/or sports exercise medicine education on our Edgbaston campus. Where appropriate, this will include:

- Undertaking a broad range of teaching activities;

- Teaching and assessing courses at a range of levels
- Planning and reviewing your own teaching approaches and providing leadership in the development of colleagues' teaching practice
- Designing contemporary, inclusive, engaging and academically challenging curriculum content
- Leading on collaborations with colleagues within the school and more widely across the university and clinical networks to design and deliver teaching, learning and assessment
- Develop and innovate around digital resources/environments to effectively support learning and assessment
- Where appropriate, undertaking and developing the full range of responsibilities in relation to supervision, marking and examining
- Devising and supervising projects, student dissertations and practical work
- Providing academic support to students and leading and supporting colleagues in delivering high-quality student support
- Frequently updating your subject expertise, and undertaking personal professional development in teaching, including self-reflection on own teaching, using student and peer review feedback, to enhance own teaching and learning processes and encouraging a culture of continuous enhancement across teaching teams
- Making a significant contribution to the knowledge base of the subject to advance teaching through the enhancement of practice, the development of teaching resources and/or through pedagogic scholarship or practice-based education research
- Leading on curriculum design at module and programme level to ensure it is contemporary, inclusive, engaging, academically challenging, and aligned with current professional, regulatory and sector expectations
- Leading the co-ordination of programmes or equivalent activities across the school
- Developing programme proposals and making substantial contributions to the design of teaching programmes more widely in the school
- Actively engaging students in curriculum design and sharing evidence of "what works" and supporting other staff to collaborate effectively with students
- Ensuring that your teaching practice is informed by discipline-based research and educational evidence, through participating in the research culture of the school
- Developing an external profile evidenced through engaging in external quality assurance activities related to teaching, e.g., external examining and engaging with/supporting education in other institutions or national professional, statutory and regulatory bodies where appropriate.
- Playing an important and sustained role in the recruitment and admission of students
- Leading the development of teaching, learning and assessment approaches, policies and strategies within the school and contributing to College or University level educational initiatives where appropriate
- Leading substantial and sustained high value impact activity in knowledge transfer and enterprise in physiotherapy that enhances the student experience and/or employability

Management/administration

Lead activities in the school and represent the School on College/University committees or working groups. Where appropriate to the discipline, this is likely to include some, but not all the responsibilities listed below:

- Making a substantial and sustained contribution to the development and running of the Department or School, for example, leading and significantly influencing activity on teaching and assessment
- Leading a successful international engagement at School or College level
- Developing and managing staff and resources in support of major education-focused initiatives and/or programmes
- Influencing the development of the school's learning and teaching strategy

- Contributing significantly to the development and delivery of knowledge transfer, enterprise, business engagement and public engagement activities with sustained high value impact of manifest benefit to the College and the University
- Promoting a culture (including policies and procedures) that embeds equality and values diversity and inclusion
- Leading, serving on, and assisting the work of committees and task and finish groups beyond School/ Research Institute, e.g., Senate, Council, University Education or Research Committee etc.
- Leading external committees, e.g., those associated with public/professional bodies or delivery of activities for an external body at an appropriate level, e.g., chairing sub committees associated with large elements of work
- Leading/project managing a team to devise and implement a new and/or revised process (e.g., a new research initiative, or a recruitment drive)
- Making a sustained contribution to widening participation, Schools' outreach and/or public understanding of the discipline
- Contributing to administrative activities within the University (e.g., appeals panels, working groups)

Citizenship

- Identifying well-being and wider staff and student support issues within the School/College/University and developing appropriate solutions to address these
- Taking collective ownership of challenges faced by the School or College and working with colleagues to develop solutions
- Mentoring and coaching colleagues, particularly those in the early stages of their career.
- Leading and managing a team to devise and implement a new and/or revised process (e.g., new programme or a recruitment drive)
- Advising on personal development of colleagues and students
- Making a major and sustained contribution to some administrative activities within the University (e.g., appeals panels, working groups)
- Managing enterprise, business development, and public engagement activities
- Developing and making substantial contributions to knowledge transfer, enterprise, business engagement, public engagement, widening participation, Schools' outreach
- Actively leading and promoting equality, diversity and inclusion through monitoring and evaluation and actively challenging unacceptable behaviour.

Person Specification

- Qualified physiotherapist holding current HCPC registration.
- Normally, a higher Degree relevant to the discipline area (usually PhD) or equivalent qualifications
- Postgraduate qualification (MSc/MRes or higher) relevant to musculoskeletal physiotherapy or sports exercise medicine.
- Postgraduate teaching qualification and/or Fellow or Senior Fellow of the HEA
- Experience working at Advanced Clinical Practitioner (Musculoskeletal) level, or equivalent senior academic/professional level, with demonstrable contribution across the four pillars of advanced practice: clinical practice, leadership, education, and research.
- Significant clinical or equivalent senior academic/professional level experience in a relevant area of musculoskeletal physiotherapy or sports exercise medicine.
- In depth understanding of health care delivery in the UK context.
- Extensive teaching experience, achievement and scholarship within physiotherapy higher education.
- A commitment to quality enhancement in physiotherapy practice and/or sports exercise medicine.

- Proven ability to devise, advise on and manage learning and administration, including leadership of programmes, modules, or key educational initiatives.
- Demonstrated excellence in education, with competence in management and administration, and evidence of leadership and influence at programme, School or wider institutional level.

Education requirements

An excellent teaching profile and performance in terms of both impact and quality. The teaching quality demonstrated to be informed by an appropriate level of scholarship and engagement with evidence-informed pedagogical practice.

Where appropriate, evidence of success under the following headings:

- Established national reputation for the development of teaching and learning excellence within the discipline
- Successful and sustained use of a range of appropriate teaching methods, and assessment strategies that promote high quality learning, including learning that is flexible, distinctive, and current and stimulates learners' natural curiosity
- Significant and sustained contribution to one or more of the following: strategic leadership and development of new programmes; approaches to learning; the development of learning resources
- High quality and sustained contributions to fostering excellence in teaching activities more widely, i.e., in the Department/School or College and/or externally
- Track record of substantial and sustained high value impact on the enhancement of the student experience, and/or employability
- Mentoring and expert advice which develops the skills of colleagues in teaching and in fostering learning, including evidence of leading or shaping the pedagogic practice of others
- Engagement in pedagogic scholarship, innovation, or evaluation that enhances physiotherapy or healthcare education practice

Management and administration-related requirements

Demonstrated significant achievement in management and administration-related activities, which may include leadership of activities/initiatives. Evidence of success under the following headings

- Successful and sustained performance in significant leadership roles (e.g., programme lead, pathway lead, exams officer)
- Significant and sustained high quality innovative contributions to the management/administration of the Department/School/College or University
- Successful and sustained contribution to the corporate life of the School/College/University, displaying willingness to contribute actively to committees, collaborative teaching, and administrative tasks
- Actively promotes equality and diversity to internal and external stakeholders
- Able to use data to identify equality and diversity issues
- Experience of developing interventions to address equality and diversity issues
- Evidence of influencing policy, practice, or strategic developments within education or the profession
- Experience of working with external partners (e.g., NHS, professional bodies, clinical networks) to enhance education, student outcomes, or professional practice