

TalentEdu

Professor of Sport Management



LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY
CARNEGIE SCHOOL
OF SPORT



Welcome

Welcome to the Carnegie School of Sport – A World-Leading Hub for Sport Education, Research and Knowledge Exchange.

It is my privilege to lead the Carnegie School of Sport at Leeds Beckett University, an institution renowned for its role as an anchor in the region, delivering high-quality teaching, world-leading research, and forging strong partnerships with industry and employers. This unique combination enables us to connect leadership with innovation, strengthen regional ecosystems, and deliver education that is both practice-relevant and research-informed.

- Our purpose is to provide an inclusive, world-leading education that embraces applied research excellence and delivers meaningful benefits to our cities, communities, industries, and ecosystems.
- Our mission is to be recognised regionally, nationally, and internationally for collaboration with industry; for global engagement; and for excellent student experience.
- Our academics are supported by highly skilled professional services, working closely together to secure significant funded research and knowledge exchange projects, and achieve some of the greatest accolades and awards across our sectors.
- Our research is recognised as world-leading and has direct impact on sports policy and practice, enabled by our values and purpose driven approach.

Our research community is delivering innovative, interdisciplinary work that tackles some of the most pressing challenges in sport and society today. From tackling threats to the integrity of sport, to advancing inclusion, equality, and sustainability, our researchers are committed to making a real difference - locally, nationally, and globally. Research is central to the Carnegie School of Sport's identity and impact. As we look to the future, we are seeking a visionary Professor of Sport Management to build on our world-leading reputation and lead a vibrant, diverse research community.

We are looking for a leader who:

- Is passionate about advancing research and knowledge exchange in sport management
- Excels in their area of expertise and inspires others to achieve excellence and make a meaningful contribution to the field
- Is driven to create impact through collaboration with industry, communities, and global partners.

If you are excited by the opportunity to shape our research and knowledge exchange strategy, drive innovation, and make a significant contribution to our university community, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Peter Mackreth
Dean of School



The Role

The postholder will collaborate with senior academic colleagues to deliver the ambitions set out in the University's Strategy. They will provide academic leadership in the development and implementation of research and knowledge exchange strategies that drive excellence and innovation within the Carnegie School of Sport, with a particular emphasis on Sport Management. This includes undertaking world-leading research that enhances the School's reputation for applied impact and civic engagement, and forging strategic partnerships with sport organisations, governing bodies, and local anchor institutions. The postholder will make a significant personal contribution to the School and University's global profile through research, knowledge exchange, and curriculum development.

Duties and responsibilities:

Leadership

- To provide academic leadership, specifically in the area of Sport Management, to strengthen research excellence and innovation within your subject area, including postgraduate research supervision and research-informed teaching.
- To advance the interests, profile and reputation of the School and University at national and international levels.
- To drive the development of research and postgraduate researcher activity within the School, ensuring alignment with strategic priorities and fostering a vibrant research and knowledge exchange culture.
- To pursue excellence in research, knowledge exchange, and teaching and to enable others to do the same.
- To play an active role in shaping the strategic direction of the School, undertaking leadership and management responsibilities that support its wider aims and objectives.

Research and Knowledge Exchange

- To lead a world-class research agenda by pursuing a competitive and impactful personal research programme aligned with the School's strategic priorities, enhancing the visibility and reputation of Sport Management research across the University and internationally.
- To conduct, publish and disseminate research of at least internationally excellent standing in Sport Management, securing external funding and building collaborative networks to strengthen impact.
- To advance the profile of your research and that of the School through engagement with specialist and mainstream media, conferences, events, and open research practices.
- Support the Director of Research and Knowledge Exchange in preparing for national research assessment exercises.
- Lead, mentor and advise colleagues in progressing and developing their individual research portfolios, and demonstrably advance equality, diversity and inclusion in research.



Teaching and Learning

- To supervise postgraduate researchers to successful completion, fostering a vibrant postgraduate research culture.
- To provide academic leadership in the planning and development of relevant modules and contribute to research informed teaching and curriculum development across Sport Management and the Carnegie School of Sport.
- To deliver research-led and practice-based education in Sport Management at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, inspiring students and enhancing employability (teaching expectations will reflect research commitments).
- To provide academic and pastoral support to undergraduate and postgraduate researchers, promoting diverse methods and techniques in teaching, learning and assessment.
- To develop and sustain a research group of students and/or postdoctoral fellows through external funding opportunities.

Management and other tasks

- To effectively contribute to the strategic direction of the School, including undertaking leadership and management roles as appropriate.
- To work effectively with the Director of Research and Knowledge Exchange to prepare for future research assessment exercises (in Unit 24, Sport and Exercise Sciences, Leisure and Tourism).
- To work co-operatively and flexibly with colleagues in the School and University in the development of new research and knowledge exchange initiatives related to your area of expertise, making a positive contribution to the University's role as an Anchor Institution in the Leeds City Region.
- To undertake such other duties as may be reasonably requested that are commensurate with the nature and grade of the post.

Equal Opportunities

We are committed to providing a non-discriminatory and harassment-free working environment for our employees. All our employees are expected to have due regard for those policies when carrying out their duties.

Health, Safety and Wellbeing

You will maintain a positive attitude to Safety, Health and Wellbeing in carrying out personal responsibilities and co-operate with policy/local rules/codes of practice.

Physical Conditions

You will be based at the Headingley Campus in the first instance but may be required to work at either City or Headingley campus from time to time.

Relationships

The post holder will work closely with both academic and support staff, and students.



The Person

Qualifications, Skills, Experience & Knowledge

- Possession of a first degree and doctoral qualification in a relevant subject area.
- A significant and sustained track record of high-quality research publications which meet international standards of excellence, including recent publications in the highest quality referred academic journals.
- A proven track record of successfully supervising the projects of postgraduate researchers.
- A sustained and continuing record of securing external research income as a Principal Investigator from research councils and/or similar funding bodies.
- A proven track record of academic leadership, extensive research leadership experience, and management of significant research projects in the area of Sport Management.

Service Delivery

- The ability to plan, lead and sustain a major programme of research to enhance your personal profile and the subject group's research standing within the University and externally.
- The ability to develop and deliver high quality, research-led, undergraduate and postgraduate teaching within the School as required.

Teamwork

- Evidence of initiating and sustaining successful collaborations with peers, other academic institutions, external sports organisations.
- An enthusiasm for all aspects of research, teaching and scholarship, with the ability to coach, mentor, and nurture other staff in achieving their potential.

Communication

- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to engage effectively with students, colleagues, and external stakeholders on a wide range of matters. This includes representing the School and University in the media, collaborating with peer groups and building relationships with external partner organisations.

Terms & Conditions

Terms & Conditions of Service are as determined by the Vice-Chancellor for Academic staff (within a framework set by the Board of Governors) and will have regard to any national recommendations arising from negotiations between the Universities and Colleges Employers Association (UCEA), and the recognised trade unions in so far as these are adopted by the Board / Vice-Chancellor.

Salary is competitive and the annual leave entitlement is 38 days.

Appointment to this position may be subject to a probationary period of up to 12 months, in line with our probationary policy. A copy of our probationary policy is available on our website or on request from Human Resources.

Our University aims to ensure that all employees are placed in a job that is compatible with their health and physical abilities. In accordance with the Equality Act, questions relating to health are asked following an offer of appointment. All offers of appointment are subject to pre-employment health assessment.

In accordance with our pre-employment processes, it is University policy to verify qualifications for successful candidates. We will need evidence of those qualifications required by the employee specification and claimed on the application form.

About the School

The Carnegie School of Sport

We're proud to call ourselves a leading centre of sports education and we are recognised as one of the top 100 institutions in the world for Sports-Related Subjects. Since opening in 1933, we've given people the tools and confidence to deliver more compassionate coaching, and more innovative research. That's influenced the thousands of graduates that have passed through our university.

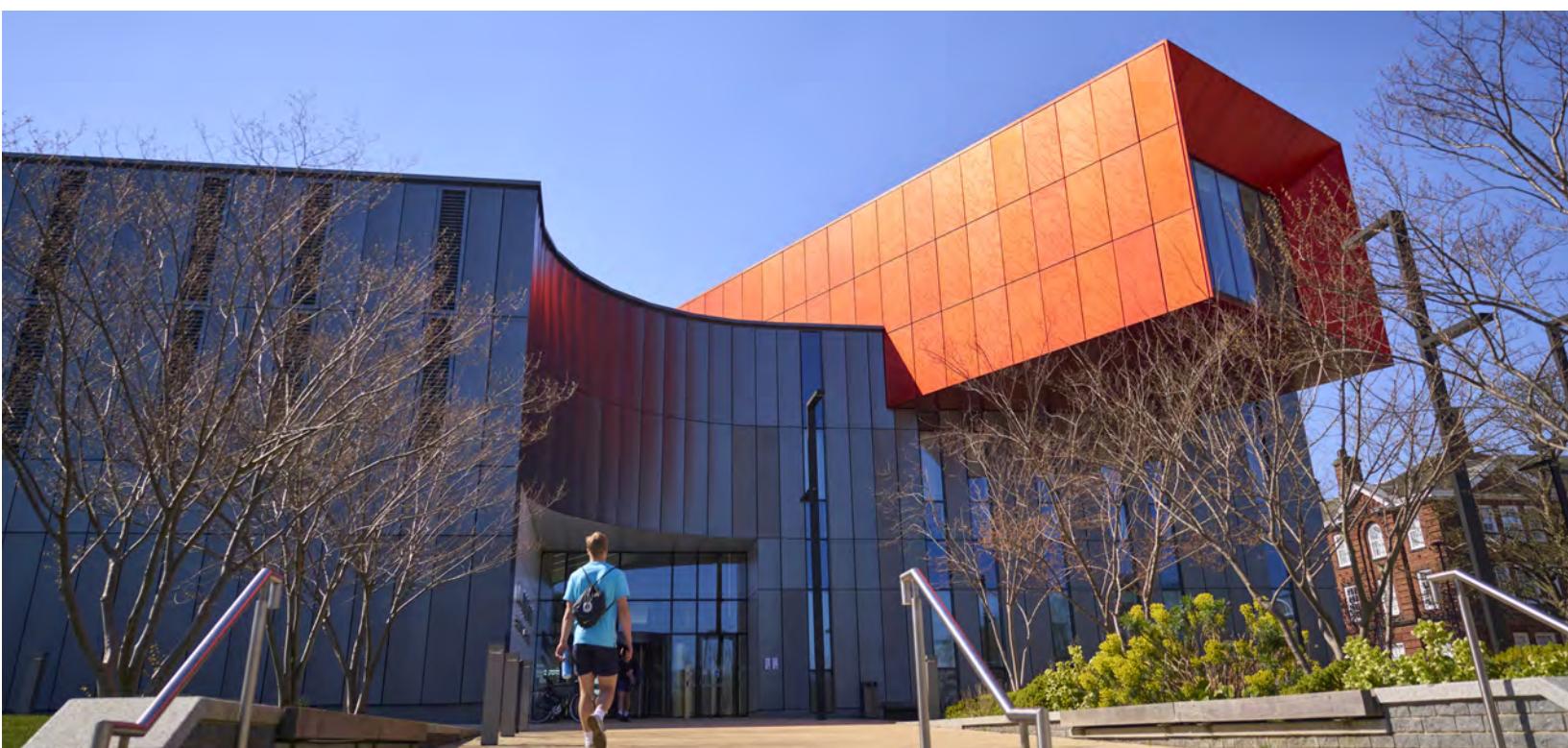
We also understand that learning involves listening. We work across disciplines to find new angles on established problems. And we've nurtured partnerships with a variety of local, national and international organisations, working together to understand and address issues that affect performance, sport business and even society itself.

The School consists of five subject areas:

- Sport Management
- Events, Tourism and Hospitality Management
- Sport Coaching
- Physical Education
- Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences

Our School has a community of around 3000 students and 240 colleagues. Our student employability, continuation and progression have continued to improve yearly.

Collectively and purposefully driven by a focus on making a "positive and decisive difference to people, communities and organisations" we deploy innovative, high-quality research that impacts on local, national and international policy and practice. Pursuing an inclusive and ambitious research agenda, we cross the broad spectrum of the sciences, social sciences, and humanities. Our research culture is founded upon a genuine commitment and capacity to work with others on real-world applied interdisciplinary problems, to achieve impact beyond academia, for the benefit of wider society. The Carnegie School of Sport are known for having an excellent working relationship with industry, professional bodies, and the local communities. Our students are at the centre of our teaching and learning, and applied research is at the centre of our research and knowledge exchange activities.



A distinctive feature of CSS and its strategic direction is the influence of collaboration with national and international agencies on our environment. Collaborative partnerships provide crucial opportunities for staff and PGR students to work in policy and practice contexts; undertaking applied and embedded research to understand the problems and issues as they are faced on the ground. Many of the challenges our researchers examine are underpinned by complex behaviours (e.g., obesity, physical inactivity, social injustices in sport, doping and corruption) and to address them requires a connected researcher-practitioner-beneficiary-policymaker community, that links a range of methodologies and disciplines, deploying them for specific and well-focussed investigations.

We value:

- **Relationships:** We are a community of committed colleagues and students who are passionate about making a difference.
- **Industry Collaboration:** We work with industries and practitioners in our disciplines to meet their industry and professional needs.
- **Career Development:** We support our students in every way to have employment that they desire and their aspiration for lifelong learning.
- **Transformational Research:** We undertake applied research that has applications at local, national, and international levels and contribute to government policy development.
- **Celebration:** We celebrate our students and staff achievements through various avenues thereby creating an environment and culture that supports positive mental health and wellbeing.
- **Student Engagement and Support:** We fully support our students through pastoral support, mental health wellbeing, professional certified and accredited curriculum, enhanced student experiences and professional development.



World Leading School of Sport

Sport Business Management and Sport Marketing are included in the following categories:

LBU - The Times UK University Rankings 2026 5th for Hospitality, Leisure, Recreation and Tourism

LBU - The Guardian University Guide 2026 7th for Hospitality, event management and tourism

The Complete University Guide 2026 - 6th for Tourism, Transport, Travel & Heritage Studies



Key results for Carnegie School of Sport in REF 2021:

Overall quality: 89% of the research was rated 4* (world-leading) or 3* (internationally excellent).

Research impact: 100% of the impact case studies were rated as either outstanding (4*) or very considerable (3*).

Research environment: 100% of the research environment was rated 4* or 3*.

Comparison to previous REF: The quality profile of 89% was a substantial increase from 59% in REF 2014.

Hall of Fame - Celebrating our Inspirational Alumni in Sport

The Leeds Beckett Sport Hall of Fame shines a spotlight on our alumni who have made an exceptional impact on sport and society, as world-class performers, innovative practitioners and inspirational leaders. Our Hall of Fame acknowledges not only individual achievements but celebrates the pride we have in the inspirational people who have shaped the sporting landscape regionally, nationally and internationally. Their legacy inspires future generations of Leeds Beckett students to aim higher and strive for excellence.



About the University

Leeds Beckett is a modern, professional university with a dedicated and diverse community. Our vision is clear - to be an excellent, accessible, globally engaged university contributing positively to a thriving northern economy. Our mission is to harness our knowledge and resources to make a positive and decisive difference to people, communities and organisations.

We are a community of around 24,000 students from over 140 countries and 2,400 staff. We are also an institution with a rich heritage, dating back to the founding of Leeds Mechanics Institute in 1824. We are also a major regional organisation contributing approximately £500m to the economy each year.

Leeds Beckett has:

- A bold, industrious spirit: We foster innovative thinking to create great graduates, exceptional employees, dynamic citizens and enterprising leaders.
- An environment enriched by research: Our world-leading and internationally excellent research informs our curriculum and our students' experience in all areas.
- A community dedicated to success: Our community is made up of people from a diverse mix of cultural and social backgrounds, brought together in a world-class environment.
- Excellent corporate services: Students and colleagues can access a range of professional services within our University, specifically designed to support the effective delivery of our academic provision.
- Safe and supportive networks: Our network of colleague and student groups provides safe and supportive environments in which to discuss issues relating to equality and inclusion.

Leeds is a vibrant, modern city with a rich industrial past and on the doorstep of natural beauty. It is the cultural, financial and commercial heart of West Yorkshire and has one of the most diverse economies of all the UK's employment centres. Leeds is, and always will be, open for business and talent.



Education

Working in partnership with our students and the Students' Union, we have transformed our undergraduate student experience and our students' learning through exceptional and innovative academic practice and personalised support to our large and diverse student community.

Our teaching activity is organised into eight Schools creating communities of committed staff and students who are passionate about their subject areas. Our courses feature collaborative, creative and practical learning in modern facilities that enable our students to develop themselves as enterprising citizens whose future contribution has a positive impact.

Research and Knowledge Exchange

Our institutes and centres sustain outstanding research and knowledge exchange which informs our curriculum and our students' experience in all areas. This research provides an enriched environment for an excellent research and teaching culture for all aspects of our students' learning.

The REF 2021 results showed that 53% of the university's submission was rated 3* and 4* and therefore considered internationally excellent or world-leading. Results were particularly strong in sport and exercise science, leisure and tourism where 89% of the submission was rated 4* or 3*. In the allied health and nursing unit, 80% of the submission was rated 4* and 3*. The results reflect the breadth of our research in these areas which includes improving gender equality in sports coaching, tackling obesity, supporting women with cancer with fertility decisions and improving the training of people working with those suffering from dementia. Our REF 2021 submission included 352 research staff across 15 units of assessment, double the number of staff included in REF 2014.

Our values

Our university values have a direct impact on everybody in our community, from colleagues with decades of service, to students having their first thoughts about studying here. Our values shape our culture, they give us clarity, consistency, and a common purpose. Our values are:

- Inclusive
- Pragmatism
- Teamwork
- Ambition
- Integrity
- Purposeful

If you want to find out more about our commitment, vision and values, visit our ways of working web page at <https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/peopledevelopment/values/>



Our campuses

We provide creative and contemporary learning environments packed with the latest technology, creating a focal point for new and innovative thinking.

City Campus is in the heart of Leeds, ideally placed to connect with hundreds of businesses and organisations that offer work placements and employment opportunities to many of our students. The City Campus puts students and staff at the centre of a dynamic business community in a city with a thriving job market. We have a number of award-winning buildings located at the City Campus, including the Rose Bowl, Broadcasting Place, and Leeds School of Arts.

Headingley campus, about two miles away from the city centre, is set in 100 acres of beautiful parkland with historic buildings dating from 1752. The rich history and parkland setting coexists with modern sport science laboratories, animation and music studios and the latest computing labs. Our main sports facilities are based in Headingley alongside our iconic Carnegie School of Sport.

Our Schools

- School of Built Environment, Engineering and Computing
- Leeds Law School
- Leeds School of Arts
- Leeds Business School
- School of Humanities and Social Sciences
- Carnegie School of Education
- School of Health
- Carnegie School of Sport



Living in Leeds

Leeds boasts of a multi-cultural community, all fiercely proud of Yorkshire and everything it has to offer. Leeds is a bustling city surrounded by beautiful countryside and is a great place to live and work. Leeds is well connected to the rest of the country, with rail services from the main train station taking you to London in around 2 hours and 15 minutes, Edinburgh in around 3 hours and Manchester in just under an hour. The city is also home to Leeds Bradford International Airport, which offers flights to destinations across Europe.

Equality and inclusion

Equality and inclusion are essential to our academic and business strengths. We ensure our University community is a place where everyone feels respected, valued and supported to achieve excellence. We are committed to providing a vibrant, ethical and sustainable working and learning environment that values equality and inclusion and recognises the contribution everyone brings to our University community. Our network of colleague and student groups help us to help others get the information and support they need. These groups provide a safe and supportive environment in which to discuss issues relating to equality and inclusion, as well as provide support and networking and share best practice.

How to apply

We now invite applications for the position of Professor of Sport Management. Applications should consist of a full CV (Curriculum Vitae) and a covering letter of no more than 2 sides of A4 outlining how you meet the essential criteria for this role.

To find out more about this exciting opportunity, and to apply, please contact our retained Search Partners TalentEdu, at MHolleran@TalentEdu.com or on +44 20 3290 2907.

Appointment Timetable

Closing date: Sunday 15th February 2026

Formal interviews to take place in March 2026

