



RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS

SPORTS SCIENCE: FULLY FUNDED EPSRC AND OSPREYS RUGBY PHD SCHOLARSHIP: THE APPLICATION OF ADVANCED DATA ANALYTICS TO PREDICT RUGBY MATCH OUTCOME IN THE PRO14 LEAGUE

Key Information

This scholarship is funded by the EPSRC and Ospreys Rugby.

Start date: July 2021

Subject areas: Engineering, sport science, data sciences, physics, mathematics

Project supervisors:

Dr Rowan Brown (m.r.brown@swansea.ac.uk)

Dr Mark Waldron (mark.waldron@swansea.ac.uk)

Professor Liam Kilduff (l.kilduff@swansea.ac.uk)

Dr Neil Bezodis (N.E.Bezodis@Swansea.ac.uk)

Project description:

The aim of this PhD project is to investigate whether match performance indicators (PIs) are effective at predicting match outcomes at the elite rugby union level in the PRO14.

The candidate will review current match performance indicators and apply these to legacy data from our project partner, Ospreys Rugby, to retrospectively establish their efficacy in match prediction. The legacy data comprises individual athlete, team, strategy and wellness information. This data will be augmented over the duration of the PhD by the inclusion of head impact loading data, collected by the student, allowing a new generation of PIs to be established and verified across PRO14 seasons 21-22 and 22-23.

The candidate will be embedded in a professional rugby environment and will be expected to adhere to strict non-interference rules. They will be responsible for collecting multi-channel data from a range of micro-technology devices that assess performance and monitor training load and ultimately will oversee data quality, provenance and curation within a standardised database.

Ospreys Rugby Ltd
Liberty Stadium, Landore
Swansea, SA1 2FA

T 01792 616500
E info@ospreysrugby.com
www.ospreysrugby.com

REGISTRATION NO. 4730479
VAT REGISTRATION NO. 8107857 27





Available resources/facilities: A-STEM labs (biomechanics and exercise physiology)/Ospreys load monitoring equipment

Eligibility

Candidates should hold a minimum of an upper second class (2:1) honours degree (or its equivalent) in Sports Science, Computer Science, Physics, Mathematics, Engineering or a subject area related to the project.

Programming skills (MATLAB, PYTHON, SPSS) are required.

We would normally expect the academic and English Language requirements (IELTS 6.5 overall with 5.5+ in each component) to be met by point of application. For details on the University's English Language entry requirements, please visit – <http://www.swansea.ac.uk/admissions/english-language-requirements/>

Due to funding restrictions, this scholarship is open to UK/EU candidates only. Full stipend available for UK students and EU students that have been residing in the UK for 3 years or more. All other EU Students will qualify for the fees to be covered only.

NB: If you are holding a non-UK degree, please see Swansea University degree comparisons to find out if you meet the eligibility.

If you have any questions regarding your academic eligibility based on the above comparison, please email pgrscholarships@swansea.ac.uk with the web-link to the scholarship(s) you are interested in.

Funding

This scholarship covers the full cost of UK tuition fees and an annual stipend of £15,285.

How to Apply

To apply, please complete and submit the following documents to engscholarships@swansea.ac.uk, and address the email for your application as 'The application of advanced data analytics to predict rugby match outcome in the PRO14 league – Dr Rowan Brown':

- Research Scholarship Application Form 2021
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Monitoring Form
- Two-page CV
- Degree certificates and transcripts

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- A cover letter including a 'Supplementary Personal Statement' to explain why the position particularly matches your skills and experience and how you choose to develop the project.
- Contact details of two references (academic or previous employer)

Informal enquiries are welcome, please contact Dr Rowan Brown (m.r.brown@swansea.ac.uk) and Professor Liam Kilduff (l.kilduff@swansea.ac.uk).

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