The University of Chester welcomes students to undertake research towards MPhil and PhD in Sport and Exercise Sciences. This is an exciting department with an eager and innovative research base.

The Department of Sport and Exercise Sciences (SES) divides its research into two distinct groups – the Sociology of Sport and Exercise, and Applied Sport and Exercise Science. The combined research output has led to the recent RAE 2008 results identifying a proportion of the Department’s research as “world-leading” and other esteem indicator scores designated 70% of staff as being “internationally excellent” or “world leading”.

The sport science laboratories based at the Chester campus are available throughout the academic year for students’ use. State-of-the-art research resources include:

- BASES accredited Physiology Laboratories (teaching and research) equipped with, breath-by-breath expiratory gas analyzers, blood analysis facilities, hydrostatic weighing tank, BODPOD, non-motorized and motorized treadmills, isokinetic dynamometer and mechanically and electronically-braked cycle ergometers.

- Biomechanics Laboratory which contain underwater cameras, 1000 Hz high speed 2D cameras, 240 Hz 3D motion capture, in-shoe pressure analysis, two force platforms, electromyography and biomechanical analysis software including Quintic, Dartfish and Qualisys Track Manager.

- Performance Analysis Laboratory equipped with twenty-five Apple and Windows operated performance analysis work stations, Black-magic video recorders, Sport AV Hi-cam system, eighteen unit 5 Hz GPS, twenty HD video cameras, HD underwater cameras and performance analysis software including Sports Code, Sports Code Elite, Gamebreaker, Dartfish.

- Sports Psychology laboratory equipped with a range of motor control testing equipment, eye tracker and Dynavision.

Other facilities include: dance studio/gymnasium; 25-metre heated swimming pool; fitness suite; six-badminton court sports hall; two squash courts; floodlit astro turf pitch; rugby, hockey and soccer pitches; floodlit all-weather 3G synthetic grass pitch and floodlit tarmac tennis courts.

The Department provides a resource room and a regular Research Seminar Programme to support postgraduate research students as standard. The Department has well qualified, research-active staff who are committed to nurturing the strong and energetic research culture they have developed over the last decade. In addition the Department of Sport and Exercise Sciences has strong links with many European Universities, being part of a European funded programme with universities in Barcelona and Leida (Spain), Cassino (Italy), Coimbra (Portugal), Hamburg (Germany), and Copenhagen (Denmark), whereby staff and postgraduate students are able to participate in intensive collaborative exchanges should they wish. The Department also has strong research links with several external partners, including Cheshire and Walsall Primary Care Trusts, Sport Cheshire, Warrington Wolves Rugby League Club, St Helens Rugby League Club, England Handball Association, The Rugby Football Union, The English Institute of Sport, GB cycling, GB squash, GB water polo, GB swimming, GB Taekwondo and Port Vale Football Club.

Recent successful research projects in the area have included: the influence of carbohydrate and protein ingestion on recovery of performance following intermittent high intensity running, the effects of exercise-induced muscle damage on endurance performance in trained and untrained individuals, young people, sport and leisure: A sociological study of youth lifestyles, and education and welfare provisions in professional football academies in England and the analysis of movement and physiological match demands of elite rugby league using portable Global Positioning Systems.

More information about the Department and staff profiles are available at www.chester.ac.uk/sport and about the Chester Centre for Research into Sport and Society at www.chester.ac.uk/ccrss

We are particularly keen to hear from students who would like to research any of the following areas: recovery of performance following prolonged intermittent exercise, young people, sport and leisure, sport policy and development, sociology of youth, adulthood and life-transitions, disability sport.

Graduate School admissions enquiries:
Email: gradschool@chester.ac.uk
Telephone: 01244 511101

Enhancing postgraduate research in a thriving environment
MPhil and PhD
The University of Chester offers the opportunity to undertake a programme of research leading to the awards of Master of Philosophy (MPhil) or Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). These awards are assessed on the basis of a thesis reporting individual research conducted over a number of years (typically 2 years full-time study for MPhil and 3 years for PhD, or twice these periods for part-time study). In some subjects (e.g. Fine Art and Performing Arts) it may be possible to undertake a ‘practice-based’ MPhil or PhD, which involves the production of body of artistic work with a shorter thesis setting the work within an academic context.

Studying for the degree of MPhil or PhD is very much an individual activity and research topics vary widely according to personal interests. The University offers access to expert supervision, well equipped laboratory and library facilities, training and seminar programmes and support to prospective students in developing their research proposal. There are currently over 150 postgraduate research students, based in Departments and research centres across the University.

Occasionally, an alternative route to MPhil or PhD is available to members of staff or University of Chester graduates by the submission of a collection of existing published works. Enquiries, including eligibility criteria, should be made to the Graduate School.

Professional Doctorates
The University also offers a number of professional doctorate programmes leading to the degree of Doctor of Business Administration (DBA), Doctor of Education (EdD), Doctor of Ministry (DMin) or Doctor of Professional Studies (DProf). These programmes typically involve a number of taught modules or negotiated studies at masters or doctoral level and a research project at doctoral level leading to the production of an individual thesis.

Admissions
MPhil/PhD programmes are available for either full or part-time study, whilst Professional Doctorates are usually part-time. Applicants should have, or expect to obtain, at least an upper second class honours degree in a discipline which is appropriate to their intended area of research. For some programmes candidates should also normally have a masters degree. Substantial prior research or professional experience, may, in some instances, be acceptable in place of a first degree qualification. Prospective applicants should contact the Graduate School in the first instance to obtain further information, and to establish whether appropriate expertise exists within the University to supervise a specific project. Information on bursaries can also be provided by the Graduate School.

For Graduate School admissions enquiries please contact:
Email: gradschool@chester.ac.uk
Telephone: 01244 511101