

FIRST TEAM PHD STUDENTSHIP x2 (DATA SCIENCE)

About the role

Two unique opportunities have arisen for exceptional candidate(s) to complete a Doctorate within the School of Computer Science and the School of Sport, Exercise and Rehabilitation Sciences at the University of Birmingham in collaboration with Nottingham Forest Football Club related to data science in professional football. In addition to the completion of the academic requirements for this award, the successful candidate will also provide appropriate data science support as part of the First Team Data Insights department. These positions are aimed at providing the successful candidates an opportunity to train to become data scientists within elite professional football.

What will you be doing?

The research project is not set however, investigations should focus on leveraging machine learning and artificial intelligence to investigate on field performance and/or player identification & recruitment. The candidates are expected to have a high level of understanding of how data science techniques can be applied to create real world solutions and have experience of data science methods and tools. They should present their own ideas on the research project during the interview process. The successful candidates will work predominately with the first team but may also assist with specific training tasks as required by the Club.

Who are we looking for?

The successful candidate will hold a postgraduate degree in computer science, mathematics, physics or similar from a recognised university. They will be able to autonomously manage the data science life cycle of hypothesis creation to finding conclusions. In addition, they should have familiarity with different types of football data sources such as event and tracking data, experience with machine learning and be proficient in Python/R&SQL. Knowledge of and experience with other Programming Languages (ideally in the area of web development) is advantageous. Experience in data visualisation is necessary for this role, whether programmatic visualisation or use of a BI tool (Power BI, Tableau etc.). The candidate must be an excellent role model with extremely high levels of motivation. Previous experience within a professional sporting environment is advantageous.

Who should apply?

This is a full time PhD position, working on a 5 out of 7 days arrangement, primarily based at Nottingham Forest Football Clubs Training Ground (West Bridgford, Nottingham) mixed with a remote working arrangement, often working through the week and at weekends. This role will help develop you as a data scientist and researcher within the Data Insights industry in High Performance Sport.

Funding

The position will be for a 3-year period subject to satisfactory progress of the individual in the role. Funding will consist of UK full tuition fees for three years and the award of a living stipend at the UK Research Council rate (£18,622 annum pro-rata into 12 monthly payments). Funding will be subject to satisfactory progress.

How to apply

Please submit a covering letter and current CV for the application before 23:59 on 16th June 2023. For any further information, queries and to apply for the role please email Dr Liam Anderson on L.Anderson.4@bham.ac.uk

- **Closing Date: 16th June 2023**
- **Interviews to be carried out w/c 3rd July 2023**

Nottingham Forest Football Club is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from all suitably qualified persons, regardless of age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, marital / civil partnership status, pregnancy / maternity leave, race, religion/belief, sexual orientation, or any other legally protected characteristic.