RESEARCH MANAGER

HEO GRADE

Job Purpose

Sport Ireland's research work has made an important contribution to the understanding of the dynamics of sport in Ireland. This knowledge informs the policy agenda, the actions of Government and feeds directly into the delivery of effective sport strategies and programmes. In 2021 Sport Ireland published the Sport Ireland Research Strategy which aims to lead the generation and mobilisation of knowledge. To that end, Sport Ireland are committed to expanding the Research Programme as it is a vital resource in the progressive development of sport in Ireland.

The Research Manager will be responsible for managing the delivery and continued development of Sport Ireland's research programme, in line with the Sport Ireland Research Strategy and current organisational priorities. This will include the expansion and modernisation of Sport Ireland's Research projects across participation, performance and high performance sport. The Research Manager will need to coordinate and support research projects and data analytics across all Sport Ireland units and the broader sports sector of LSPs, NGBs and relevant academic institutions. The Research Manager will work with the other members of the Research and Innovation Unit of Sport Ireland, reporting to the Research and Innovation Director. The Research Manager will work closely with the Innovation Manager and Evaluation Manager in the unit as well as managers of other Sport Ireland units to ensure the effective translation of knowledge and insights into tangible actions and investments in the sports sector.

Reporting To: Director of Research and Innovation

Key Duties and Responsibilities

- Manage the delivery of the Sport Ireland's Research Strategy actions.
- Work closely with Sport Ireland Business Units and the Irish Sports Sector to develop a strong and expanding programme of research to provide an empirical basis for progressive development of sport practice and policy in Ireland.
- Provide support to Sport Ireland business units and the Irish Sports Sector in the identification and generation of pertinent research questions and the delivery of relevant research projects.
- Contribute to building the skills and capacity of the Irish sports sector to commission and deliver research projects.
- Assist in the coordination of an increasing number of research projects across the Irish Sports sector through the NGBs and LSPs.
- Disseminate, promote and activate research insights to help foster a culture of evidence based decision making throughout Sport in Ireland.

- Support the modernisation of the Irish Sports sector through the effective combination of information systems, data analysis and communication of robust research informed insights.
- Manage the delivery of key Sport Ireland's research projects, including the Irish Sports Monitor.
- Manage Sport Ireland's research repository, in the form of a data lake and associated data models, statistical analysis and visualisations.
- Manage the commissioning and delivery of data mining, rapid reviews, systematic reviews and meta-analysis to answer specific research questions and to inform policy and practice decisions.
- Manage the delivery of conferences, webinars, workshops, training modules and tutorials to translate research knowledge and insights into practice.
- Recruit academic partners and source applicable funding opportunities to support the delivery of key sports research projects.
- Oversee the delivery and evaluation of the Sport Ireland Research Grant Scheme.
- Support the development of structured relationships between the practice and research communities and support the coordination of Sport Irelands work with the third level sector.
- Attend sport related conferences, events, symposiums and webinars and successfully translate knowledge to build the capacity of the relevant Sport Ireland Units.
- Carry out any other tasks to support the Research and Evaluation work of the Research & Innovation Unit.

This is not an exhaustive list and the role will include any duties required by Sport Ireland from time to time which are appropriate for the position and the needs of the organisation.

Person Specification:

Essential: Qualifications, Experience, Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

- Must have a relevant third level qualification.
- Must have at least 3 years' prior professional experience working in a research role.
- Must have relevant prior professional experience in managing research programmes.
- Must have demonstrated knowledge and experience of quantitative and/or qualitative research design, data analysis and the interpretation of research findings.
- Must have excellent interpersonal skills, both written and verbal, demonstrating an ability to communicate effectively and build strong relationships inside and outside the organisation.
- Must have direct work experience in project management and stakeholder engagement.
- Must have leadership skills and effective people management ability.
- Must have strong IT skills and knowledge of MS Office suite especially word, powerpoint and excel. Must have experience and knowledge of using qualitative and quantitative data analysis software such as SPSS.
- Must be capable and comfortable managing a busy workload, prioritising tasks effectively and meeting tight deadlines.
- Must be organised and flexible.

- Must have a proven ability to work effectively and constructively as part of a team and on own initiative when required.
- Must be enthusiastic, curious and highly motivated, relishing the challenge of working with an ambitious team in a dynamic and busy work environment.

Desirable: Qualifications, Experience, Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

- Knowledge and experience of delivering training courses or workshops to a wide range of stakeholders, online and in person.
- Knowledge and experience of Data Modelling and Visualisation e.g. SQL databases, Python, R, Tableau, Microsoft Power BI or Microsoft Azure
- Knowledge and understanding of public Sports Policy in Ireland and knowledge of the Irish Sports landscape.
- Knowledge of best practice, emerging trends and new technologies in research.
- Capable of bringing innovation and experience/expertise from previous projects to bear on existing issues, making proposals for improvements and efficiencies where appropriate.
- Ability to be discreet and effectively handle sensitive, confidential issues as required.

Additional Information:

Contract: Full-time, permanent

Salary Scale: HEO Standard Scale (inclusive of two long service increments). The appointment will be made on this scale at a point in line with current Government Pay Policy. New entrants to the public sector commence on the first point of scale.

Location: Sport Ireland National Sports Campus, Snugborough Road, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15

If you would like to apply for this position, please send your CV in confidence to Current Sport Ireland Opportunity - Orange Recruitment. Closing date for applications is Wednesday 18th November 2026, 5pm.

Sport Ireland is an equal opportunities employer.