



## PhD Scholarship: Talent Identification in Sport NSW Institute of Sport and University of Canberra PhD Talent Identification Project

The NSW Institute of Sport (NSWIS) and the University of Canberra Research Institute for Sport and Exercise (UCRISE) are looking for a candidate to undertake a PhD program titled “Optimising Talent Identification: Integrating Coach Ratings, Psychometrics and Perceptual Neuroscience.”

NSWIS contributes to elite athletes’ performance at a national and international level by providing evidence-based and innovative sports science and medicine support to Australian high-performance athletes. UCRISE is a research and innovation institute, which brings together staff from a wide variety of academic disciplines based in the University of Canberra’s faculties and research centres around the central unifying theme of sport and exercise. UCRISE actively seeks to support the University’s aspiration to be regarded as Australia’s leading university for sport education and research. More information can be found at: <http://www.canberra.edu.au/research/institutes/ucrise>

### How will it work?

The project will analyse the potential for perceptual neuroscience measures to increase the success rates of talent identification programs at the NSWIS. This will be achieved by undertaking the first prospective longitudinal data collection and evaluation of perceptual psychophysical measures in NSWIS pathway athletes. Measures will include perceptual psychophysical measures, psychometric measures, coach rating scales, performance rankings for the relevant sport and Athlete Management System data where available.

You will have the opportunity to work with talent identification staff and coaches in both the domestic and international daily training and competition environments as well as undertake research that is deeply relevant to the development of Australia’s sporting talent. The successful applicant will be embedded within the NSWIS Coaching, Regional and Talent unit, led by Director Andrew Logan, at the NSWIS Olympic Park Sydney and will involve travel domestically and working closely with coaching and high-performance staff. Regular visits to the University of Canberra also be undertaken to ensure the candidate benefits from university academic and institutional support. The PhD program will comprise both a comprehensive literature analysis as well as a research component. The aims will be to:

- i) understand current practices relating to talent identification.
- ii) investigate and identify aspects of perceptual neuroscience and psychophysical testing that influence human performance ability, that are not age determined, and have not been utilised previously in talent identification.
- iii) investigate the efficacy of these strategies in the talent pathway.

### Are you eligible?

To be eligible for this opportunity you must possess as a minimum a bachelor’s degree recognised in Australia and satisfy Visa requirements if you are not an Australian or New Zealand citizen. You must also be able to demonstrate relevant experience and a passion for working with athletes and coaches and high-level communication skills, both written and verbal are required. Applicants with high-level sporting experience and First-Class Honours (or equivalent) or research Master’s degree are preferred. Current students who will graduate by the end of 2022 are eligible to apply.

The PhD is funded by a NSWIS/UCRISE scholarship grant (AUD\$40,000 p.a tax free) and a travel and consumable budget for four years.

**NSWIS Project Lead:** Andrew Logan, Director NSWIS Coaching, Regional and Talent unit

**Supervisors:** The team comprises a highly experienced group of applied sport scientists.

Dr Rebecca Dowse (Strength and Conditioning Coach, NSWIS)

Assoc/Prof Stephen Cobley (University of Sydney)

Assoc/Prof Phil Newman (University of Canberra Research Institute for Sport and Exercise)

Assoc/Prof Jeremy Witchalls (University of Canberra Research Institute for Sport and Exercise)

Professor Gordon Waddington (University of Canberra Research Institute for Sport and Exercise)

### Enquiries:

Please direct all enquiries to:

Prof Gordon Waddington

[gordon.waddington@canberra.edu.au](mailto:gordon.waddington@canberra.edu.au)

### How to Apply:

Send your CV and an expression of interest letter (2 sides, A4 maximum) to: [ucrise@canberra.edu.au](mailto:ucrise@canberra.edu.au)

Closing Date: 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022.