

A fully funded PhD studentship in...  
'Basketball players' migratory experiences  
and the implications for transnational  
basketball labour migration'

**Closing date: 23rd May 2012**

**Interview date: 20th June 2012**

**Supervisors**

**Director of Studies:** Dr Gyozo Molnar, Institute of Sport and Exercise Science, University of Worcester, UK

**Other Supervisors:** Dr Geoff Kohe (Institute of Sport and Exercise Science, University of Worcester, UK) and Prof. John Hughson (University of Central Lancashire, UK)

**Context**

Basketball is recognised as a major European sport with 51 countries FIBA Europe members. Through tournaments and promotional activities, FIBA Europe have facilitated basketball's expansion to the extent that the sport now receives significant attention, especially within the Olympic movement. The considerable financial resources being allocated to the sport, along with lucrative media deals with Sky Television for instance, have made basketball in the UK far more attractive to international players.

Against this backdrop, basketball players, like those in other sports, have become commodities; bought, sold, traded, re- and dis-located in order to satisfy a range of economic and political imperatives. Consequently, this research studentship seeks to identify and explore both the personal and structural issues and dimensions of basketball-related migrations within and in relation to the UK as part of the global sport production complex.

## **Qualifications needed**

### **Essential:**

- Applicants should have (or expect to receive) a First or Upper Second Honours Degree or a MA/MSc in Sociology of Sport/Sport Studies or a closely related and relevant discipline;
- Proficiency in oral and written English;
- Computer literacy;
- Ability to take initiative and organise and meet deadlines;
- Good interpersonal skills;
- Ability to work independently and contribute to a team;
- Commitment and an enthusiastic approach to completing a higher research degree;
- Experience in the use of qualitative and quantitative social science research methods;
- Interest in the field of sport labour migrations.

### **Desirable:**

- Education to Masters Degree level in a Sociology-related discipline;
- Experience in conducting interviews;
- Knowledge of general migration literature;
- A keen interest in basketball and a working knowledge of the industry;
- Full UK Driving Licence.

It is an expectation that the successful candidate will participate fully in the activities of the Institute of Sport and Exercise Science and gain additional experience in the teaching and research environment of the University.

**Facilities:** This research studentship is fully funded by the University of Worcester (UK). During your time at Worcester, you will be provided with your own computer and an office space, which you will normally share with other full-time research students. Your office will normally be located in the Graduate Research School or your Institute. Candidates will be expected to have suitable academic qualifications but additional specialised training will be available as required. The Institute of Sport & Exercise Science (<http://www.worcester.ac.uk/departments/657.html>) currently has 25 members of academic staff, 6 sports management staff and is supported by 2 sports technicians and a dedicated sports administration office. In addition, 3 staff work in the Motion & Performance Centre (MPC) which is a centre for Research, Learning and Teaching and Commercial Business. The Sport, Exercise and the Body Research Interest Groups (SEB RIG), the members of which will be supervising this research project, is a novel collaborative research cluster that critically explores social issues associated with Sport, Exercise and the Body; supports research that is interdisciplinary, theoretically sound and embedded in empirical evidence; and aims to increase the appreciation of high quality socio-cultural research. The University of Worcester has an outstanding track record in student basketball as British University Champions on six occasions and enjoys a unique partnership with the Worcester Wolves British Basketball League team. There is a steadily growing number of research students.

**Bursary:** You will receive a tax free bursary of £12,300 for a period of 3 years plus an expenses budget. Fees will be paid in full at the UK/EU rate for home and EU citizens. Applicants from outside the EU are welcome but will need to pay the balance of registration fees for non-EU students. If you are applying and not eligible as an EU student you should make a statement on your application form to confirm you will fund the additional fees (approx £6000 per year).

**The Interview:** The interview will provisionally be held **20<sup>th</sup> June 2012**. All successful, short-listed applicants will be interviewed. You will be asked to make a short 10-minute presentation on **'Macro- and micro-structural issues in sport-related migrations'**. Following which, you will be interviewed by the supervisory team. The overall process normally lasts around 3 hours in total and includes a chance to talk to some of our full-time students and an opportunity to view the campus and Institutional facilities. There is also an opportunity to present the supervisory team with an example of your written work (e.g., an independent study/assignment) at the interview.

**Widening Participation:** As part of its mission statement the University is committed to widening participation for its higher degrees. Although most candidates will have an undergraduate and/or a Masters degree, the University is happy to accept applications from candidates with relevant professional qualifications and work related experience.

**Application forms are available at:** <http://www.worcester.ac.uk/discover/phd-studentships.html>

**For further information** or an informal discussion on this project, please contact Dr Gyozo Molnar [g.molnar@worc.ac.uk](mailto:g.molnar@worc.ac.uk)

If you have any questions regarding the application process, please contact Mrs Helen Tabinor, Graduate Research School Manager (tel: 01905 855012, email: [h.tabinor@worc.ac.uk](mailto:h.tabinor@worc.ac.uk)).

Completed application forms should be sent by email to: [research@worc.ac.uk](mailto:research@worc.ac.uk) or sent to: Graduate Research School, University of Worcester, Henwick Grove, Worcester, WR2 6AJ, UK