PLAY-UP Club 2024-25: Coach Learning and Development



Closing date: 1/12/23

Project details:

Applications are invited for a master's scholarship opportunity in Te Huataki Waiora School of Health. This project is part of a larger programme of research exploring the impact of a child rights approach to coaching and developing a coaching support package that foregrounds children's rights, developed in partnership with Sport Waikato and UNICEF.

Coaches are central figures in facilitating positive youth development and opportunities for play for tamariki and rangatahi. However, coaches are often positioned within youth sport programmes as authoritative and expert, placing children as the passive recipient of adult preferences and motivations in sport, and thus contravening their rights. Furthermore, youth sport coaches often lack the training and support to be able to foreground children's rights through learner-initiated pedagogies. Together, these issues have contributed to dwindling rates of participation among tamariki and rangatahi in Aotearoa New Zealand. This project will inform the development of a coach learning support package that is designed to encourage a move towards person-centred pedagogy and practice, in order to facilitate high-quality, lifelong physical activity experiences.

The successful applicant should be eligible to enrol at the University of Waikato. Prior experience in the study and practice of sport coaching would be advantageous.

Supervisory team:

Dr Rob Townsend, Senior Lecturer in Sport Coaching and Pedagogy

Will Roberts, Senior Lecturer in Sport Development and Coaching

Dr Amy Marfell, General Manager, Sport Waikato.

Eligibility and selection criteria:

- A- GPA or international equivalent (e.g., 1st class honours).
- Full-time
- Domestic and International students.

Application documents required:

Please note that candidates who want to be considered for a doctoral scholarship must also submit a complete Application to Enrol.

- Curriculum Vitae
- 2 Academic References
- Link to a three-minute video pitch about the candidate and why this area of research interests you.

| Value and tenure of funding: | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Tenure | Full time for up to 18 months | |
| Stipend | N/A | |
| Fees | Fees only up to the value of \$8000. | |

| Student Services Fee | Included | Not Included | |
|--|--|--------------|--|
| Other | The scholarship includes up to \$1000 for research related costs. | | |
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| Contact and email address for applicants | | | |
| Name | Dr Robert Townsend, Senior Lecturer in Sport Coaching and Pedagogy | | |
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