

Hartpury University x Bristol Rovers FC Master's in Research (MRes)

Studentship Overview

In partnership with Hartpury University, Bristol Rovers FC are pleased to advertise a **fully fees paid studentship** to undertake a Master's by Research (MRes) with the club during the 2025-2026 season. The successful student will support the strength and conditioning and sport science services at the club (approx. 15-18 hours per week), while concurrently conducting their research. Therefore, this provides an exciting opportunity for the successful candidate to develop both their applied practice and research skills, while working in a professional football club.

Project Overview

Quantifying the locomotor demands in soccer is important to mitigate injury risk (Tiernan et al. 2022), guide training decisions (Malone et al. 2020) and tailor activities to the individual player (Nosek et al. 2021). Therefore, the aim of the research project is to assess sprinting, high-speed running and explosive actions during both match play and training throughout the season to better understand the physical preparedness of players. The project will require routine collection, analysis and interpretation of training data collected from GPS measures. The successful candidate will undertake the project as part of the MRes Sport and Exercise course at Hartpury University which will include several taught modules to facilitate the completion of the project.

Club Contact: Andrew Proctor – Head of Medical @ Bristol Rovers FC.

1st Supervisor: Dr Ben Drury – Senior Lecturer @ Hartpury University.

Hartpury University is renowned for its high teaching quality, ranking 6th in the UK (*The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2025*) and 4th in the UK for Sports Science (*Guardian University Guide 2025*). Research submitted as part of the *Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021* process was recognised as 'world-leading' and 'internationally excellent'. The Sports Academies at Hartpury have developed over 200 international athletes during the last 10 years and overseen multiple BUCS-winning squads for rugby and football, as well as being home to the historic three-peat Gloucester-Hartpury women's rugby team.

The successful candidate must be able to evidence the following:

- Minimum of a 2:1 or higher in a relevant undergraduate sport science degree.
- Completed an independent research project as part of their previous studies.
- Experience of delivering strength & conditioning support to athletes.
- Knowledge and understanding of using GPS to quantify training load in athletes.
- Highly organised, independent, and curious learner.

Club Responsibilities

- Analyse GPS data daily, providing insight into metrics and load.
- Produce individual and specific drill breakdown sheets to allow management of load.
- Produce daily, weekly and monthly spreadsheets analysing GPS data and load.
- Support and lead gym-based and pitch-based drills (warm ups, conditioning etc).

To support the success of your studentship, regular meetings with both academic and club staff will occur. Staff will work together to develop your timetable to ensure engagement and completion of applied and academic work is to the highest of standard. To further aid in your development and experience, you will also be able to access:

- ✓ Bursary to support the completion or dissemination of your project at the University.
- ✓ Access to the universities' academic and career development services.
- ✓ Club kit to be provided and worn during on-site training sessions.
- ✓ Club breakfast and lunch during on-site training ground days.
- ✓ 2 x Free tickets to 1st team home matches.
- ✓ Potential to support some 1st team home matches in a working capacity.

Guide to Application

As part of your application, please provide a CV including two referees (one academic and one applied) and a cover letter of no more than 1 page outlining your suitability for the role.

Email the documentation above to both AndrewProctor@bristolrovers.co.uk and RKE.Administrator@hartpury.ac.uk. These email addresses can also be used to ask any further questions about the role.

The deadline for applications is midnight on **Friday 20th June 2025**.

Interviews will take place on the week beginning **Monday 7th July 2025**.

Expected start date is **September 2025**. However, there is potential for the successful candidate to support pre-season training if desired.

If you are applying from outside the UK, it is important that you are aware of the entry and additional fee requirements. Before you apply, please contact colleagues in our Hartpury Postgraduate Department (postgraduate@hartpury.ac.uk) for further information, to discuss the requirements and your application.