

Doctiris project:

“Enhancing the employability and employment of active and former elite athletes in the Brussels-Capital Region”

1. Introduction

In light of a research proposal that will be submitted before 15 May 2017 to Doctiris (http://www.innoviris.be/nl/homepage_content/news/reageer-nu-op-de-doctiris-projectoproep-van-2017), the research group Sport Psychology and Mental Support (SPMB) of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel is looking for a PhD Candidate. If the research proposal is accepted, the PhD candidate will be appointed full time from 1 January 2018 onwards. The topic of the Doctiris research proposal is *the employment of active and former elite athletes*. More specifically, the project aims at formulating recommendations to optimise career assistance for active and former elite athletes within the Brussels-Capital Region.

2. Project

Context of the project. As the athletic career can span 15–25 years, athletes concurrently face multilevel challenges (e.g., athletic, psychological, psychosocial, academic, vocational, financial) which influence their vocational development, employability and employment during and after their athletic career. In order to enhance active and former elite athletes’ employability and employment, more empirical data is required on (a) athletes’ required competences; (b) the influence of transitional challenges and athletes’ characteristics during different stages of the athletic and post-athletic career; (c) the quality of career support initiatives; (d) expectations and contributions of five stakeholders within a specific economic region of employment.

Aims of the project. The aim is to conduct empirical studies involving five groups of stakeholders (i.e., active and former elite athletes, the BOIC/BPC, Adecco as career support provider, a selection of employers in Brussels-Capital Region, governmental agencies and policy-makers in the Brussels-Capital Region) in order to formulate (a) recommendations, (b) tools and evidence-based best-practices, and (c) a conceptual framework aimed at enhancing the contributions of the different stakeholders with regard to active and former elite athletes’ employability and employment in the Brussels-Capital Region.

Innovative character of the project. Different perspectives (i.e., a multi-layered, developmental, holistic, competence-based, role, stakeholder, quality, regional, multi-method, conceptual, and applied approach) are used to investigate and optimize the contribution of five groups of stakeholders in Brussels-Capital Region with regard to optimizing active and former elite athletes’ employability and employment.

3. Coordination

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Paul Wylleman.

4. Requirements

He/She should have obtained (at least) a Master degree, with preference for a degree in Psychology or Sport Sciences.

5. Profile

- Dutch and English: fluent speaking and writing; French: basic communication skills.
- Is interested in the world of sport and employment;
- Has knowledge of quantitative and qualitative research methods;
- Has good research and writing skills;
- Is motivated to do and write a PhD;
- Is available to orally present and defend the project when required by Innoviris (probably November 2017);
- Is available to conduct research during evenings and/or weekends.

6. Information and application

- Need more information? Contact drs. Simon Defruyt or dra. Nicky Van Rossem: simon.defruyt@vub.ac.be - nicky.van.rossem@vub.ac.be - 02 629 27 60.
- Please send your CV and motivation letter **before 24 April 2017** to paul.wylleman@vub.be and simon.defruyt@vub.ac.be

Doctiris deadlines

Deadline for the project proposal: 15th of May 2017

Presentation of the project: around November 2017

Starting date PhD candidate (if the project is accepted): January 2018