

PhD Studentship: The Determinants of Bat Speed in Women Cricketers

Funding: The studentship is for three years (full-time) and provides a tax-free UKRI standard stipend (£22,780 per annum in 2025/2026), plus full tuition fees at the UK rate. Funding is available for home (UK) applicants only.

Start Date: October 2025

Location: Finchley, London, UK

About the Partners

This PhD is a collaboration between Middlesex County Cricket Club and the University of Essex. Middlesex Cricket has recently been awarded Tier 2 status under the ECB's restructured women's domestic system, reflecting the Club's commitment to developing the women and girls' pathway and offering elite opportunities for female players.

The research will take place within a dynamic and evolving performance environment, supporting the growth and professionalisation of women's cricket in England. As one of the Tier 2 counties, Middlesex will be central to competition in both 50-over and T20 formats, while also contributing to wider strategic objectives across the women's game.

Academic supervision will be led by Dr Jamie Tallent and Dr Louis Howe from the University of Essex, with professional support led by James Flemming, Head of Athletic Performance at Middlesex Cricket.

About the Project

Bat speed is widely regarded as a key determinant of performance in cricket batting, influencing shot execution, scoring potential, and timing. However, the specific physical and technical determinants of bat speed, particularly in women's cricket - remain poorly understood.

This project aims to:

- Identify key biomechanical, physical and neuromuscular contributors to bat speed in female cricketers.
- Explore the role of Bat Speed as a monitoring tool in women's cricket.
- Contribute to evidence-based guidelines for improving bat speed in the female game through targeted S&C and skill development strategies.

Additional Responsibilities

Alongside their research project, the successful candidate will contribute to the broader performance programme at Middlesex County Cricket Club, including:

- Supporting strength and conditioning delivery to women's performance squads.
- Assisting with athlete monitoring, performance profiling, and physical testing.
- Liaising with coaching and support staff to align research insights with applied training practice.
- Attending operational and performance meetings to integrate the PhD with daily training environments.

- Supporting the development of individualised programmes based on performance data and scientific evidence.

Eligibility

Applicants should:

- Hold at least a 2:1 Honours degree in sport science, strength and conditioning, or a related discipline. A relevant masters degree is desirable.
- Have experience working with athletes in a performance sport setting, ideally within a team sport context.
- Demonstrate strong data handling and analytical skills (e.g., Excel, R, or Python).
- Hold (or be working towards) UKSCA accreditation or equivalent.

How to Apply

Application closing date: Friday 25th July 2025 at 17:00.

You can apply for this postgraduate research opportunity [here](#). If you have any problems with the application process please contact jamie.tallent@essex.ac.uk.

Applications MUST include the following documents to be uploaded:

- A research proposal (max 600 words) outlining your ideas. Please ensure you use the title: **The Determinants of Bat Speed in Women Cricketers.**
- CV
- Covering letter
- Transcripts of any undergraduate or masters qualifications.

Shortlisted candidates will be likely be invited to interview the week commencing the 4th August 2025.

For an informal discussion, please contact Dr Jamie Tallent: jamie.tallent@essex.ac.uk

Studentship is offered subject to final funding confirmation

