



League
Football
Education

lfe.org.uk

University Applications

A guide for players, parents and guardians
For entry in 2023

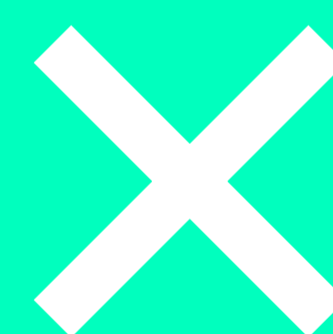


Established by



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Applying for Higher Education

Thinking about studying for a degree?

You may now be starting to think for the first time about developing yourself as more than a footballer. This process in itself is quite daunting but if you are thinking of or considering going to university and making the step into Higher Education, it is important to explore how your studies may fit into your long term personal development and career aims.

Before deciding what degree you are going to study you will also need to check university admissions requirements for the subject or subjects of your choice.

It may be that you need to undertake additional qualifications following your Apprenticeship to secure a place on the course of your choice.

There are a number of reasons why people decide to study for a degree. For some people it is an essential part of professional training for a career in fields such as medicine, engineering and law. Others may have no clearly defined career destination in mind but are motivated by their interest in a particular subject and a desire to improve themselves as people alongside their future career prospects.

Student life offers you the chance to gain:

- academic and vocational knowledge
- extra-curricular experiences
- paid and voluntary work experience
- life management
- greater employability skills
- increased self-awareness
- a broader sense of identity
- social awareness
- motivation and confidence
- resilience



Applying for Higher Education

Key Dates



Application deadline for UCAS Conservatoires music applications.
Check ucas.com/conservatoires for information.



Last date to submit applications before Clearing.



Application deadline for Oxford, Cambridge, and any course in medicine, dentistry or veterinary medicine/ science. (18:00 UK Time)



Last date to apply through Extra.



Application deadline for the majority of courses. (18:00 UK Time)



A-Level results day.



Extra starts: if you've used all five choices and do not hold any options, you can add another choice.



You need to reply to offers by this date, if you received all decisions by 18 May.



Decisions due on applications submitted by 30th June.



Final deadline for applications to 2023 courses (18:00 UK Time).



UNIVERSITY OF BATH
TEAMBATH™

The Student Performance Football Programme at Bath offers the opportunity to play top level football whilst studying at one of the UK's top universities. We are in the world's top 10 for sports degrees.

We also offer a **Foundation Degree** and a **Dual Career Programme** which is designed to support footballers who want to succeed at their sport and in their studies.

We have a long history of developing footballers and creating an environment for high performance football. Southampton Academy (Bath) is based at our £35 million Sports Training Village.

Our university is set in vibrant Bath, which is a world heritage city surrounded by outstanding areas of natural feature.

Want to find out more about Student Performance Football?

Contact: Che Wilson
Head of Football on 01225 383728
C.C.A.Wilson@bath.ac.uk

www.teambath.com



Football
Student Performance

Applying for Higher Education

UCAS Application Flowchart

1 Apply online

UCAS will send your application to the universities and colleges you have chosen.
accounts.ucas.com



2 Wait to hear back

The universities and colleges decide whether or not to make you an offer. They may invite you to an interview, audition or to provide a piece of work. **Three possible outcomes...**



Unconditional offer

Usually means the entry requirements have already been met – but sometimes include non-academic conditions such as health or criminal conviction checks.

Conditional offer

Usually based on exam results.

Unsuccessful

Don't worry, there are more options if you don't have any offers.



Look for more courses

If you have no offers, there are still other options to find a place...



3 Replying to offers

Once there's a decision for all your choices, you will be given a date to reply to them



Not used all five choices
You can add a course

Used all five choices?
Use the 'Extra' service



Go to next page

Applying for Higher Education

UCAS Application Flowchart (continued)

3 Replying to offers

Once there's a decision for all your choices, you will be given a date to reply to them



Unconditional offer

You can keep only one choice; any others must be declined.



Accepted unconditional offer

Accept an unconditional offer as your firm choice and the place is yours!

Conditional offer

You can keep two offers; one firm choice and one (optional) insurance choice; any other offers must be declined.

Note: there's no requirement to have an insurance choice.



4 See if the university or college confirms your place

Check exam results against conditions of your firm and insurance choices.



You met the conditions of the offer

Congratulations!
The place is yours!

YES
<

You nearly met the conditions of the offer

The place may be yours.
Check 'Track'.

NO
>

You didn't meet the conditions of the offer

Don't worry, there is another option...



Offered a place and accept it

Congratulations!
The place is yours!



Look for more courses in Clearing

Your results haven't met the conditions of the offer - use the 'Clearing' service

Applying for Higher Education

Applying Online

Register

Register for UCAS at www.ucas.com/apply and complete the online application form. Provide the required personal details to receive a username and password.

You should manually type 'League Football Education' as your place of education because it will not be listed and you can tick the box to confirm this.

You will not require a buzzword because you will apply to UCAS with an independent application, please note this will not affect your application.

Log in

Log in to complete filling in information about yourself such as funding options, residential status, any disabilities or special needs and your email address.

Additional information

You can now provide details of your ethnic origin, national identity, any summer schools/taster courses you attended, care and parental education and occupational background.

Student finance

This is not your student finance application but it is an opportunity to speed up the process by sharing your information with the student loans or awards organisation you may apply to.

Course choices

Now you can choose up to five degree courses, there is no preference order and your universities will not see where else you have applied until after you reply to any offers you receive.

Educational history

You should enter all of the qualifications you have a result for (this includes any which were ungraded) as well as any exams you are waiting to take and any qualifications for which you are waiting results.

You may need to send results onto universities directly once you have received them so be sure to check this once you have made your course choices. You should manually type 'League Football Education' as your place of education and click 'Add' because it will not prepopulate.

You will then be asked for League Football Education's centre number, which is **45539**. Finally, when asked whether you are in full time or part time education, select the 'full time education' option.

Employment history

Enter the details of up to five paid full-time or part-time jobs you have had. Include company names, addresses, job descriptions and start/finish dates. Any voluntary work should be mentioned in your personal statement.

Applying for Higher Education

Applying Online (continued)

Personal statement

This is your chance to show universities why you want to study the course and why you'd make a great student.

For advice on how to write your personal statement visit: <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/writing-personal-statement/how-write-personal-statement>

Check it

Double check all sections are accurate and correct then mark your application as complete. Save it and agree to the declaration.

Reference and payment

The cost is £22 for one course or £26.50 for two courses or more, and you will make this payment yourself. You will also need to arrange for a teacher/tutor, adviser or professional who knows you to write a reference for you and you can enter their name and contact details into your application to make this request.

Submitting your application

It is your responsibility to manage each section of your application, however you do have access to guidance from your tutor, club's education or player care officer and LFE. Once you are confident that you have completed your application and have no further information to provide, you will be able to submit your application.

Superstar Student

After being released by Stevenage in 2015, **Fejiri Okenabirhie** pursued an Open University degree in Business & Management to aid his attempts to rise back up the leagues.



Since then, he has climbed from the seventh tier of English football to Sky Bet League One with Cambridge United.

"Education gives you something to fall back on in terms of giving you knowledge and opportunities for life after football, but it can also be beneficial in the present, not just your future."

"As well as obvious transferable skills like self-motivation and time management, it keeps you sharp mentally and gives you something to focus on away from football. It's a way to relax your mind from those pressures, but also provides stimulation as you're learning new information."



Football focused University of Central Lancashire Football Programme

The North West of England has a high concentration of elite football clubs and here at UCLan we aim to support the needs of all scholars and the wider football industry. Our sporting environment allows players to continue to develop their performance alongside an outstanding education. Our substantial scholarships reflect our objectives of being a leading provider of football and higher education. With outstanding links across the UK, we work in strong collaboration with professional football providing excellent opportunities for performance and education.



University of
Central Lancashire
UCLan



Facilities

- Sir Tom Finney Sports Centre
 - Multi-million pound state-of-the-art indoor Sports Centre with two sports halls, gym facilities and studios.
- UCLan Sports Arena
 - Preston's premier multi-sports facility including two FIFA endorsed floodlit 3G pitches and seven grass pitches which is also home to Preston North End FC Academy and Blackburn Rovers Ladies FC.

Research

With our Institute of Coaching and Performance (ICaP) UCLan remains at the forefront of research supporting elite sports performance around the world. We work with professional teams around the UK and beyond publishing high-impact research.

Courses

With a suite of outstanding courses at both undergraduate and postgraduate we have courses to meet your needs:

- Postgraduate - DProf/MProf Elite Performance, MSc Sports Coaching, MSc Football Science and Rehabilitation, MSc Strength and Conditioning.
- Undergraduate - BA Sports Coaching and Performance, BA Sports Coaching and Development, BSc Sports Therapy, BSc Football Studies, BSc Strength and Conditioning.

Scholarships

We offer high-performance sports with scholarships available for outstanding players and students up to £5,000. We are a TASS Dual Career Centre and Women's Football is one of our Focal Sports.

Support Services

As a member of our high-performance football centre, you will receive access to the following:

- Coaching - Qualified professional 'A-license' coaching for our teams.
- Physiotherapy.
- Strength and conditioning.
- External club links - professionals and semi-professional.
- Scholarships.



For further information

> [Postgraduate Courses](#)

> [Undergraduate Courses](#)

> [Football Player Development Programme](#)

BUCS and The PFA

BUCS

British Universities & Colleges Sport (BUCS) is the national governing body for Higher Education (HE) sport in the UK. If you are keen to compete at the highest level of university football then choosing an institution attached to a good level of the BUCS competition is something you may wish to consider.

PFA Courses

The PFA currently supports the following courses for all current and former members of The PFA:

- BSc (Hons) Sport: Coaching and Development at Manchester Metropolitan University
- BSc (Hons) Sport Science at Manchester Metropolitan University
- BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy at the University of Salford
- BA (Hons) Sports Writing and Broadcasting at Staffordshire University
- BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy at York St John University

These courses are subject to review and only run if adequate numbers of students register. The times and mode of study is tailored to be as flexible as possible to fit in with the lifestyle of a professional footballer, (with the exception of the York St John course which is a three-year full-time programme aimed at ex-players).

These courses are partly subsidised by The PFA, although a contribution may also be required from each student towards tuition costs for each year.

You may be able to access these courses without applying through UCAS. If you are interested in any of the programmes mentioned, please ensure that you contact Pat Lally (Director of Education) or Oshor Williams (Assistant Director of Education) at PFA Education.

Tel: 0161 236 0637

E-mail: education@thepfa.com

Web: www.thepfa.com/education

PFA Education
11 Oxford Court
Bishopsgate
Manchester
M2 3WQ

Superstar Student

Juan Mata, Spain and Galatasaray - Studies Sports Science and Marketing, translates Spanish poetry into English and donates a percentage of his salary to charity.



"I don't think football and studying are mutually exclusive. I can do both and they both help each other."

What happens to your application?

What UCAS do with your Application

UCAS use the information you have provided on the online application system, and send your application details to each of the universities and colleges that you have selected.

Track

Track is the online system you need to use to monitor the progress of your application.

Log into the UCAS website with your Personal ID to understand what stage your application is at.

You may be asked to provide additional pieces of work or receive an interview invitation, you will need to respond accordingly and timely.

If you are offered a place...

You will receive an email when a university makes a decision, you will need to use UCAS 'Track' to view the full details.

The two types of offers are:

Conditional – a place is reserved for you providing you meet the conditions, these are normally academic grades.

Unconditional – you have already met all the required conditions so the place is offered pending criminal record and health checks.

If you get two or more offers, you can select a 'Firm Acceptance' (first) choice and an 'Insurance Acceptance' (second choice) and then 'Decline' any other offers.

Your deadline for making such decisions depends on when your last offer was received.

If you are not offered a place...

Do not worry if no offers are received, you could apply for more courses using the 'Extra' service. See page 15 for more details.

UCFB



Kick off your career in the sports industry

University Campus of Football Business is a world first in higher education, delivering university degrees from campuses in London and Manchester with Wembley and Etihad Stadiums at their heart.

Students have unique access to our global campuses and hubs including **Miami, New York, Atlanta, Toronto** and **Melbourne** based at inspiring sports stadiums.

UCFB also has football academies, tailored for elite level footballers across the United Kingdom and led by a selection of leading coaches. Delivered at both UK campuses, the academies provide unparalleled opportunities for aspiring professionals to study a university degree alongside their training programme.

University degrees in football and sports **Business, Coaching, Esports, Marketing, Media, Events, Law,** and **Physical Education.**



Over 90% of UCFB graduates find full-time employment within 6 months of graduating and two thirds working in football and sport

We have alumni working in **49 of the 72 EFL clubs**



Get in touch

For more information and how to apply, visit [UCFB.ac.uk/lfe](https://www.ucfb.ac.uk/lfe)

What happens to your application?

Extra

If you are unsuccessful in receiving an offer from all of your five choices or have declined all of your offers then you can use the 'Extra' service.

Extra allows you to apply to universities with place vacancies but you can only apply for one course at a time.

Extra operates from 23rd February to 4th July.

Search for courses with Extra vacancies on the UCAS search tool at digital.ucas.com/search

Clearing

Clearing is a UCAS service that helps you find course vacancies if you are unsuccessful after applying through UCAS and through Extra.

Clearing begins on 5th July but only starts placing students when exam results have been received.

You are eligible if you have received no offers or have not met the requirements for a conditional offer.

UCAS will automatically enter you into Clearing and you start looking for another choice by logging into Track.

If you accept a place through Clearing, UCAS will send you confirmation.

You can read more about Clearing by visiting www.ucas.com/events/2023-entry-clearing-opens-413116

Superstar Student

"Back home, so many kids aren't able to go to school because their parents can't afford it. I want to set up a football resort where people can stay and play football while getting an education at the same time."



"I think it's really important to try to learn things outside of your normal life. Instead of sitting at home after training, I come to DMU for my classes."

Leicester City star **Wilfred Ndidi** is studying a Business & Management course degree at De Montfort University in order to help his ambitions to make an impact in his home country of Nigeria.

Financing University Life

Going to university costs a lot of money but that shouldn't stop you - there are lots of different options available to make it affordable and realistic.

Tuition Fees

Tuition fees are the amount universities or colleges will charge you each year to study. Currently tuition fees can cost up to £9,250 per year depending on where and what you study.

Student Loans

To cover the costs of studying you can apply for:

A Tuition Fee Loan – a non-income assessed loan to meet the cost of tuition fees. It is payable to the university in three instalments. Payment is made when confirmation is received from university or college that the student is in attendance at the start of each term. The amount of tuition charged is dependent on:

- the country of study and the set maximum tuition fees rate
- the fee set by the university for the chosen degree course

The maximum Tuition Fee Loan available will be the lesser of the above two.

All Tuition Fee Loans are repayable and accrue interest.

Here is a guide to tuition fee loans:

Full-time student	Tuition Fee Loan
Full-time	Up to £9,250
Full-time at a private university or college	Up to £6,935

Part-time student	Tuition Fee Loan
Part-time	Up to £6,935
Part-time at a private university or college	Up to £4,625

Source: www.gov.uk/student-finance
Correct at time of writing.

Superstar Student

Romelu Lukaku is renowned as one of the best strikers in world football, having commanded transfer fees of almost £300million.

However, his talents spread wider than just football, with the Chelsea and Belgium talisman holding a graduate degree in Public Relations, while he also speaks fluently in English, Spanish, Italian, Dutch, French and Congolese.



Financing University Life

Student Loans (continued)

A Maintenance Loan – a loan that you can use for living costs if you are a full-time undergraduate student and those on initial teacher training courses. It comprises a:

- non-financially assessed portion, which all students who are eligible for the loan can receive
- financially assessed portion, which depends on household income

Here is a guide to maintenance loans:

Full-time student	Loan*
Living at home	Up to £7,987
Living away from home, outside London	Up to £9,488
Living away from home, in London	Up to £12,382
You spend a year of a UK course studying abroad	Up to £10,866

Source: www.gov.uk/student-finance

*For courses from the 2023 academic year

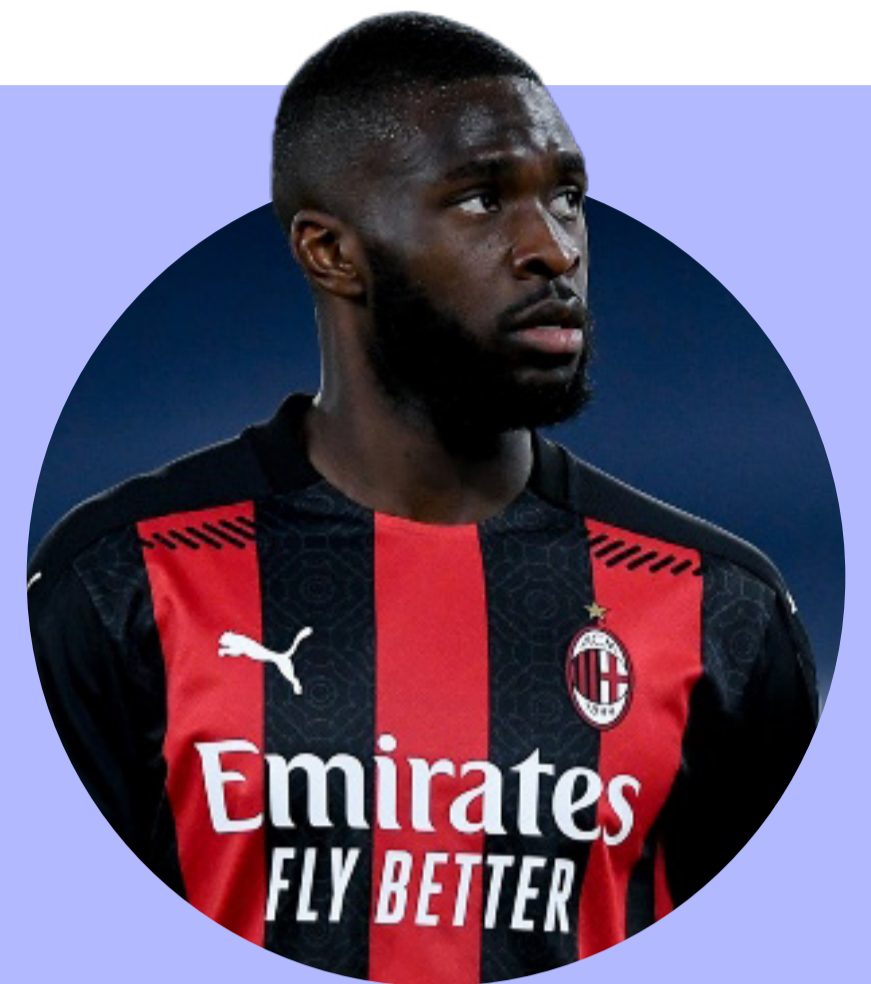
Scholarships and Bursaries – Offered by the university where you plan to study.

Extra Financial Help – if you have financial hardship, a disability or children or adult dependants you need to support while you study.

Superstar Student

AC Milan defender **Fikayo Tomori** is preparing for life after football by studying for a Business Management degree.

The England international said: "Football won't go on for ever. When I retire or, God forbid, I get an injury, then I have something I'm working towards that can stand me in good stead for the future."





Football

Sports Academy

As a talented footballer you'll have the chance to study, train and play in an environment that's as close as it gets to a professional club. Hartpury has an outstanding track record of developing players as well as preparing them for a career beyond their sport.

We will help you balance your studies and football commitments. You'll have the opportunity to represent Hartpury University FC in the English football pyramid whilst also playing within the college and university academies. You'll also benefit from our extensive links with professional and non-league clubs to gain invaluable playing and work experience to help build your future career.

10 times winner of the ECFA Premier League champions

5 times winners of the English Colleges FA (ECFA) national title

5 times winners of the English Schools FA (ESFA) national title

11 times winner of BUCS Premier South League champions

5 times winner of BUCS national champions



If you're playing sport competitively or you have the talent and drive to do so, you'll want to join one of our Sports Academies. You can pursue a dual pathway, studying for your qualification whilst developing your sporting talent alongside your academic commitments.

Pursue **sporting excellence**

On our specialist sports campus, you'll benefit from the highest quality teaching, coaching and facilities as you become part of our sporting success story. As part of our Sports Academy programmes, you'll have all the support you need to reach your potential, with access to specialist coaching and performance services.

Our Sports Academy staff are among the best in their respective fields. They've competed or worked at professional levels and continue to uphold their standards through strong links with their national governing bodies. You can be confident that you'll learn from some of the best sporting talent at Hartpury.

Access to **performance services**

As a member of our Sports Academy teams, you could have access to:



Tailor-made timetables

Be at your best on and off the pitch



Analysis

Support to strengthen all areas of your game



Strength and conditioning

Improving you physically for competition



Top-level competition

Challenge yourself by playing at the highest levels



Physiotherapy

Keeping you at your physical peak



Lifestyle management

Ensuring you balance your sport, studies and social life



Nutrition

Helping you perform by staying healthy



Sports psychology

Mentally preparing you to be at the top of your game



Club links

Giving you experience outside of playing for Hartpury



Coaching

Forward-thinking coaches who will help you improve



Our state of the art facilities are designed to give you the support you need

Our newest sports development is packed full of the very latest facilities. You'll benefit from new treatment suites, human performance and biomechanics labs, as well as an impressive sports hall. Students will utilise the state of the art football 3G, immaculate grass pitch and state of the art training and conditioning facilities.

Contact us

College students:

✉ Spencer.Hamilton2@hartpury.ac.uk

University students:

✉ christopher.knowles2@hartpury.ac.uk

hartpury.ac.uk/college/why-hartpury/academies/mens-football/

Financing University Life

Outside of England...

If you live in Wales – you can apply for finance through Student Finance Wales.

Find out at the website:

www.studentfinancewales.co.uk

If you live in Scotland – your application for student finance will be dealt with by the Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS).

Find out at the SAAS website:

www.saas.gov.uk

If you live in Northern Ireland – your application for student finance will be dealt with by Student Finance NI. To find out more, visit the Student Finance ni website:

www.studentfinancenl.co.uk

If you live in the Republic of Ireland – you can apply for finance through Student Finance IE.

Find out more at the website:

www.studentfinance.ie

Superstar Student

Mark Roberts is more than just a footballer. He has captained multiple clubs during his career, graduated from Staffordshire University with a sports journalism degree and has now completed his MBA studies. Why? Because he knows that by taking control off the pitch he can empower his performance on it.



For further information, visit:
www.gov.uk/studentfinance

You can also contact the Student Loans Company for advice: www.slco.uk

Financing University Life

Loan Repayments

How much you pay back

You need to pay back Tuition Fee Loans and Maintenance Loans, but not other student finance such as grants and bursaries.

Most LFE students will be on repayment Plan 2 and the earliest you start repaying is when your income is over £524 a week or £2,274 a month (before tax and other deductions) and it's either the:

- first April after you leave your course
- April four years after the course started, if you're studying part-time

Your repayments are linked to your income. When you start repaying your loan and what you pay depend on which repayment plan you're on.

Each year you pay back 9% of any income over the minimum amount of each plan.

Your income per year	Monthly repayments
£27,287 and under	£0
£30,000	£20
£35,000	£58
£40,000	£95
£50,000	£133
£60,000	£170

Interest on your Student Loan

You pay interest from the time your first payment is made until you pay your loan back in full.

While you're studying, interest is inflation plus 3%.

Income	Interest rate
£27,288 or less	Inflation
£27,288 to £47,835	Inflation plus up to 3%
Over £47,835	Inflation plus 3%

Source: www.gov.uk/repaying-your-student-loan

Superstar Student

England international **Nathaniel Chalobah** used a lengthy injury lay-off to widen his knowledge of the game by pursuing an online Certificate in Football Business Management.



"The learning benefits you as an individual regardless of what your plans are when you finish playing football.

"As footballers we focus on playing the game and doing our job, however, this programme makes you a more complete professional as you understand more about the industry in which you work in."

Financing University Life



Bursaries

Bursaries and scholarships offer extra funding that you don't have to pay back. This extra funding, which is available through universities includes:

- bursaries to help with your living cost if you get the maximum loan available through the Maintenance Grant or Special Support Grant
- scholarships if you meet conditions set by your university or college, based on your academic ability, home situation or subject of study. These scholarships differ from university to university. Many universities will offer scholarships or bursaries based purely on your sporting ability.

Bursaries and scholarships are paid in addition to your student loans and grants. They can be paid in cash or in another form - such as a discount on accommodation or books.

PFA Charity Grants

The PFA provide grant aid for a variety of courses to help all members and ex-members prepare for a second career. At the time of writing, members studying full time towards an undergraduate degree can apply for a bursary of £1250 each year.

Contact The PFA using the details below to find out more and how to apply:

Tel: 0161 236 0637

E-mail: education@thepfa.com

Web: www.thepfa.com/education

PFA Education
11 Oxford Court
Bishopsgate
Manchester
M2 3WQ

University of
South Wales
Prifysgol
De Cymru

PLAY TOWARDS A BETTER TOMORROW



A better tomorrow is possible if we train for it today. Our sporting background, excellent reputation and impressive facilities make us a top choice for aspiring sport students and qualified football coaches.

Our full-size indoor 3G pitch is built to FIFA Pro and World Rugby 22 standard. The pitch will be your classroom for three years and guarantees training all year round. From grass roots to elite level, we have exclusive partnerships with the Football Association Wales Trust and English Football League Trust.

**To view our full range
of courses, visit:**
www.southwales.ac.uk/football



 @USWSport

The University of South Wales is a registered charity. Registration No. 1140312

Qualification Grades

Extended Certificate

360 GLH	
Grade	Points threshold
U	0
Pass	36
Merit	52
Distinction	74
Distinction*	90

Diploma

720 GLH	
Grade	Points threshold
U	0
PP	72
MP	88
MM	104
DM*	124
DD	144
D*D	162
D*D	180

Extended Diploma

1080 GLH	
Grade	Points threshold
U	0
PPP	108
MPP	124
MMP	140
MMM*	156
DMM	176
DDM	196
DDD	216
D*DD	234
D*D*D	252
D*D*D*	270

UCAS Tariff Table

Pearson BTEC Extended Diploma (QCF)

Grade	Tariff points
PPP	108
MPP	124
MMP	140
MMM*	156
DMM	176
DDM	196
DDD	216
D*DD	234
D*D*D	252
D*D*D*	270

Size band: 4+4+4=12 | Grade bands: 4-14

Pearson BTEC Diploma (QCF)

Grade	Tariff points
PP	72
MP	88
MM	104
DM*	124
DD	144
D*D	162
D*D*	180

Size band: 4+4+4=8 | Grade bands: 4-14

Pearson 90 Credit Diploma (QCF)

Grade	Tariff points
PP	24
MP	36
MM	48
DM	60
DD	72
D*D	78
D*D*	84

Size band: 3+3=6 | Grade bands: 4-14

Pearson BTEC Extended Certificate

Grade	Tariff points
P	36
M	52
D	74
D*	90

Size band: 4 | Grade bands: 4-14

UCAS Tariff Table

A-Level and Advanced VCE
Official title: Advanced GCE and Advanced VCE

Grade	Tariff points
A*	56
A	48
B	40
C	32
D	24
E	16

AS and AS VCE
Official title: Advanced Subsidiary GCE and Advanced Subsidiary VCE

Grade	Tariff points
A	20
B	16
C	12
D	10
E	6

Size band: 2 | Grade bands: 3-10

A space for your sums

Nottingham Trent University Announce Partnership with Lincoln City Football Club



NTU Sport



The programme allows players to:

- Play a high level of football in the BUCS Championship, whilst completing a degree level qualification.
- Receive a financial bursary from NTU
- Train weekly with Lincoln City U23 Development Squad
- Access on-site Strength & Conditioning, Physiotherapy, Nutritional and Psychological support
- Play for an external club in step 3 of non-league
- Access to a 1/1 lifestyle mentor

For more Information about the programme and how to apply contact NTU Head of Football : Tom.shaw@ntu.ac.uk

Case Studies

Dan Murray

Former Club: Wolverhampton Wanderers

Now: BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy Student



"Obviously I still had aspirations to be a footballer but then it was always in my mind that being a physio was a good job that I'd be interested in."

When Dan Murray was sat on the treatment table at Wolverhampton Wanderers he could not have imagined that it would lead directly down another path.

As a young player, football is all about being given breaks. Opportunities to impress and develop and show that you merit a professional contract.

So for midfielder Dan, who moved out of his family home in Stockport to live in digs in the Black Country, a broken leg and long period of rehabilitation was exactly the sort of impediment that every youngster fears.

While five of his peers signed professional deals at Molineux, a decision was delayed on Murray. Hope remained temporarily but he had lost too much ground and was eventually released.

Three years on, none of Murray's five former teammates remain at Wolves. However, his experiences at the club did spark an interest in another area and he is now midway through a BSc (Hons) in Physiotherapy at Salford University.

"I spent close to a year with the physios and it was just picking things up and looking at everyone else's injuries that caught my interest. I got talking to the physios and it just triggered from there," he said.

"You need that other interest because if you have a bad day at football it can take your mind off it. Obviously I still had aspirations to be a footballer but then it was always in my mind that being a physio was a good job that I'd be interested in."

Case Studies

The course at Salford is one that proves popular with footballers due to its long established link with the Professional Footballers' Association.

Last summer's graduates included the former West Bromwich Albion and QPR striker Rob Hulse and one-time Manchester City and Burnley left-back Stephen Jordan.

Murray, who did an A Level in Biology ahead of joining the student ranks, stressed that while it has been an academic "step-up", many of the traits he identified with professional football have enabled him to settle quickly and enjoy his new surroundings.

"There probably is a gap between the education programme at Wolves and coming to University but if you're willing to put your mind to it and work hard you can bridge that quite easily," he added. "It's one of those subjects where you think, 'I'm going to have to treat patients in the future', it's really important that I don't just scrape through but aim to be the best physio possible."

"I've made some great friends here. At football everything is quite competitive, there is a certain self-interest battling for a professional contract.

But this is a nice environment to come into.

You're pitched together with other students, people are prepared to stay behind and help each other, you're working together for the same thing, we do a lot of group work, we go out socially and it's a really nice vibe.

"I started doing this from a sporting background, thinking treating ankle and knee injuries is what physiotherapy is about and then you learn about other things, particularly on placements to hospitals. I recently had to give a 30-minute talk to 20 members of NHS staff on frailty which is something from a sporting interest I'd had not much interest in but when you're in a hospital it's different and it changed my perspective."

Case Studies

Joel Bonner

Former Club: Shrewsbury Town

Now: Loughborough University - Sport and Exercise Psychology

The 22-year-old was part of Liverpool's academy as a schoolboy, playing alongside current first-team superstar Trent Alexander-Arnold, until he was released at the age of 16.

And while Bonner's dream of playing for his boyhood club did not materialise, the former Shrewsbury Town apprentice rejoined the reigning Premier League champions in a different capacity in November, working as an Under-16s Analyst and Individual Coach.

The Merseysider's rapid progression into full-time employment has been facilitated by his decision to study Sport and Exercise Psychology at Loughborough University. Bonner secured a year-long placement opportunity at Manchester United in July 2019, which gave him the chance to develop many skills in a working environment, while also bolstering his CV.

"I worked with the academy department, mostly with the Under-12s to Under-16s, helping to deliver the educational aspect of psychology, teaching the lads about a variety of different components, like motivation, goal setting and self-reflection," he continued."



"The opportunity to go to university was something that excited me, and I received plenty of help with submitting my UCAS application, which meant it wasn't such a stressful situation when I did get released."

Case Studies

Bonner will now complete his degree course in 2022, in order to accommodate his additional work commitments.

Reflecting on his transition from football apprentice to university student, the centre-back believes he was well prepared thanks to the help of staff at Shrewsbury and LFE.

“The apprenticeship is well designed in terms of encouraging us to balance education alongside football,” he said. “The opportunity to go to university was something that excited me, and I received plenty of help with submitting my UCAS application, which meant it wasn’t such a stressful situation when I did get released.

There is a lot of support available to every apprentice, but you’ve also got to take ownership of your own pathway. The information I received was the catalyst for me to then research my options in depth. Being proactive and taking the initiative to sort out your own future is very important.

“The lure of Loughborough is the sporting pedigree. They have a full-time football programme that you can be involved with alongside studying your degree, and that’s something I was already well prepared for having been an apprentice.”

Several former academy players earn places at Loughborough every year, studying a range of different subjects, while contributing to their substantial games programme, which includes fixtures in the BUCS League and Step 5 of Non-League, entry into the FA Cup, FA Vase and a handful of County Cups, as well as profile friendlies against Category One academies.

Bonner, who shared his insight as a speaker on a Premier League Academy Player Support webinar for Under-16 players and parents a few months ago, believes that apprentices are well suited to pursuing the higher education route.

He said: “University is an experience that’s not just about studying for a degree. It’s living away from home and learning life skills, meeting new people and socialising with different cultures, trying new experiences and finding new interests, plus there is a football aspect to it as well.

There are essential life skills that you learn at university that have certainly helped me develop as a person. It’s important to consider it as an all-round experience and a wider package than just solely studying a degree.”

Case Studies

Tyler Guy

Former Club: Notts County

Now: Graduate in Law



"From working in a club and in the industry on a daily basis you begin to understand that there are so many things going on around football and sport in the UK."

Tyler Guy may not have ventured far since leaving Meadow Lane in the summer of 2013, but he has already covered significant ground on his journey towards a new career.

The former Notts County defender is now in his fourth year at Nottingham Trent University, which is located less than a couple of miles away from the club he served as an apprentice.

After graduating with an Upper Second-Class Honours (2:1) degree in Law in the summer, Guy turned his attention to the next phase of his training to become a solicitor and embarked on a postgraduate, Legal Practice Course.

This covers topics like Taxation, Accounting and Litigation while enhancing skills developed on his degree in areas like drafting documentation, advocacy and interviewing to support his next career goal.

"I'm looking to pursue a career as a solicitor specialising in Sports Law," Guy told LFE. "When I was playing football that was the goal. That was all that was initially in my mind but when I started the second year of my apprenticeship I decided that I would apply for university."

"I've always been really interested in the legal side of Sport and it's a growing area with intermediaries, player's contracts and the finance now in football."

Case Studies

“When I first started playing football I was under the impression that a club consisted of the manager, coaches and playing staff and that was it. From working in a club and in the industry on a daily basis you begin to understand that there are so many things going on around football and sport in the UK.

“It opened my eyes to think that there are loads more things that I can do in Sport apart from playing.

“A lot of lads in football think they are going to be footballers so why plan for anything else but I thought it was important to have another avenue.

“It’s not to say I wasn’t fully focused on football but it was good to keep my options open.

“I can’t begin to explain how quickly three years has gone. I’m in my fourth year at university and it seems two minutes since I was starting a scholarship.

“Everyone is in the same boat when you get to university. You fit in straight away. It’s a week of getting to know everyone and then off you go.”

Thriving on the student lifestyle and social life that surrounds Higher Education, Guy has nevertheless also admitted that he has been pleasantly surprised by the standard and level of interest in university football.

“My football experience got better when I came to university,” he added.

“It’s a really solid level of football and there are a lot of lads in the same position as me who have been at professional clubs.

“I had the best football experience I’ve ever had playing in the Varsity match against the University of Nottingham in front of a crowd of around 6,000 people at the end of the year. It was amazing.”



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Universities and Colleges Admissions Service

www.ucas.ac.uk

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Student Finance Wales

www.studentfinancewales.co.uk

The Student Awards Agency for Scotland

www.saas.gov.uk

Student Finance Northern Ireland

www.studentfinancenir.co.uk

National Union of Students

www.nus.org.uk

The Professional Footballers Association

www.thepfa.com/players/education

Discover Uni - Compare UK Universities and Colleges

discoveruni.gov.uk

British Universities & Colleges Sport (BUCS)

www.bucs.org.uk

Student Finance Ireland

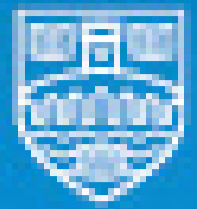
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