UNIVERSITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON

Course Specification

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Core Information

Awarding Body / Institution:	University of Wolverhampton		
School / Institute:	School of Health and Wellbeing		
Course Code(s):	SR051H01UW SR051H31UW	Full-time Part-time	3 Years 6 Years
UCAS Code:	C626		
Course Title:	BSc (Hons) Football Coaching and Performance		
Hierarchy of Awards:	Bachelor of Science with Honours Football Coaching and Performance Bachelor of Science Football Coaching and Performance Diploma of Higher Education Football Coaching and Performance Certificate of Higher Education Football Coaching and Performance		
Language of Study:	English		
Date of first cohort:	14/Sep/2026		
Specification valid from:	2025/6		

Academic Staff

Course Leader:	Martin Harrison
Head of Department:	

Course Information

Location of Delivery:	University of Wolverhampton
Category of Partnership:	Standard Provision (Not delivered in partnership)
Teaching Institution:	University of Wolverhampton
Open / Closed Course:	This course is open to all suitably qualified candidates.

Entry Requirements:

Entry requirements are subject to regular review. The entry requirements applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website (and externally as appropriate e.g. UCAS

Typical entry requirement: 96 UCAS points.

- A Levels - grades CCC.
- BTEC L3 Extended Diploma or OCR Cambridge L3 Technical Extended Diploma - grades MMM.
- BTEC L3 Diploma - grades DD.
- Access to HE Diploma (60 credits) of which a minimum of 45 must be at Level 3 (96 UCAS point equivalence, minimum 45 credits at merit).
- 1st4sport Level 3 Diploma in Sport and Physical Activities or 1st4sport Level 3 Diploma in Sports Performance and Excellence - grade Distinction.

Use the UCAS Tariff calculator to check your qualifications and points.

- If you've got other qualifications or relevant experience, please contact The Gateway for further advice before applying.
- International entry requirements and application guidance can be found at http://www.wlv.ac.uk/international/apply
- Successful completion of the International Foundation Year in Education, Health and Wellbeing

Other Requirements

Entry to this course requires a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check and an Occupational Health Check.

Free Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and Occupational Health Check

Due to the professional nature of some of our courses you may also be required to complete a Declaration of Health and Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check. We will coordinate both of these non-academic conditions with you should your course require this and you receive an offer from us.

There will be no cost for the DBS this is free to applicants who have secured an offer and have chosen to study at the University of Wolverhampton.

Students must usually have studied for a minimum of two years post GCSE level. However, we will consider applications from mature students who do not have two years of post-16 study, where they have relevant work experience. Please see http://wlv.ac.uk/mature for further information.

Distinctive Features of the Course:

This degree transforms your passion for football into professional expertise through a unique blend of practical coaching, academic rigor, and industry immersion. Unlike traditional degrees, we place you on the pitch from day one, developing your coaching identity while building the analytical, strategic, and leadership skills demanded by modern football careers.

What makes this course stand out:

- **Course-Long Practical Development**: Our innovative approach combines academic transition with sustained coaching practice throughout your first year.
- **Personal Philosophy Integration**: You'll develop and articulate your own coaching philosophy across multiple modules; a distinctive approach that helps you stand out in the competitive coaching market and shapes your entire professional practice.
- **Industry-Embedded Learning**: Progress from grassroots coaching to specialised practice with diverse populations, building genuine industry connections and a comprehensive portfolio of evidence.
- **Event Management Expertise**: Unique module combining football coaching with sports event organisation, opening career pathways beyond traditional coaching roles into tournament management, facility operations and sports development.
- **Problem-Based Pitch Practice**: Real-time problem-solving with diverse populations including disability football and the women's game, developing adaptability and inclusive coaching competencies increasingly valued by employers.
- **Flexible Final Project**: Choose between traditional dissertation or applied innovation project allowing you to showcase your strengths.
- **Complete Career Preparation**: From CV workshops and mock interviews to continued professional development workshops, every year includes dedicated employability development aligned with real industry expectations.

You'll graduate with advanced coaching qualifications, substantial practical experience, professional industry networks, and the analytical capabilities to drive innovation in football, ready for roles spanning grassroots community coaching to elite performance analysis, education and sports management.

Intakes:

September

Major Source of Funding:

Office for Students (OFS)

Tuition Fees:

Tuition fees are reviewed on an annual basis. The fees applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website.

Year	Status	Mode	Amount
2026/7	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9790.00
2026/7	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£17600.00
2026/7	H	Part Time	£4895.00

PSRB:

SR051H01UW (Full-time)

Professional Accreditation Body:
Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity

Accrediting Body:
Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (CIMSPA)

Accreditation Statement:
Endorsed by the Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (CIMSPA).

Additional Notes:
"Upon successful completion of an approved programme of study graduates can apply for professional membership with CIMSPA, the professional development body for the UKÆs sport and physical activity sector."

Approved	Start	Expected End	Renewal
18/Jul/2020	18/Jul/2020	17/Jul/2023	17/Apr/2023

SR051H31UW (Part-time)

Professional Accreditation Body:
Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity

Accrediting Body:
Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (CIMSPA)

Accreditation Statement:
Endorsed by the Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (CIMSPA).

Additional Notes:
"Upon successful completion of an approved programme of study graduates can apply for professional membership with CIMSPA, the professional development body for the UKÆs sport and physical activity sector."

Approved	Start	Expected End	Renewal
18/Jul/2020	18/Jul/2020	17/Jul/2023	04/Apr/2023

Course Structure:

September (Full-time)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 90 credits in each academic calendar year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
4SR065	Succeeding at University in Football Coaching and Performance	30	SEM1	Core
4SR063	Football Coaching Pedagogy and Professional Development	30	SEM2	Core
4SR064	Performance Analysis in Football	30	SEM1	Core
4SR062	Applied Football Coaching in Context	30	SEM2	Core

September (Full-time)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 90 credits in each academic calendar year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
5SR057	Football Coaching Philosophy and Performance Development	30	SEM1	Core
5SR059	Tactical Philosophy and Playing Styles Integration	30	SEM1	Core
5SR058	Sports Event Management and Organisation	30	SEM2	Core
5SR060	Talent Identification and Player Development Research and Practice	30	SEM2	Core

September (Full-time)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 90 credits in each academic calendar year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
6SR056	Advanced Football Coaching and Performance	30	SEM1	Core
6SR054	Inclusive Football Coaching and Applied Problem Solving	30	SEM1	Core
6SR055	Strategic Football Leadership and Professional Development	30	SEM2	Core
6SR060	Professional Project	30	SEM2	Core

Please note: Optional modules might not run every year, the course team will decide on an annual basis which options will be running, based on student demand and academic factors, to create the best learning experience.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Regulations Exemption:

None.

Reference Points:

UK Quality Code for Higher Education

Qualifications and Credit Frameworks

Subject Benchmark Statements

University Policies and Regulations

Equality Act 2010: guidance - GOV.UK

Apprenticeship Standard

Occupational professional standards - CIMSPA

Overview of Assessment:

As part of the course approval process, the course learning outcomes were mapped to each of the modules forming the diet of the programme of study. This process confirmed that all course learning outcomes can be met through successful completion of the modules. This mapping applies to the final award as well as to all of the intermediate awards.

Learning Outcomes	Modules
CERTHE01 Demonstrate knowledge of the underlying concepts, theories and principles associated with your area(s) of study (Knowing).	
CERTHE02 Evaluate, interpret and apply data, to develop ideas and discussion in your subject(s) of study (Knowing).	
CERTHE03 Use different approaches to solving problems related to your area(s) of study (Doing).	
CERTHE04 Communicate the results of your study/work accurately and reliably, and with structured and coherent arguments (Doing).	
CERTHE05 Identify and undertake further training and develop new skills to support your learning (Being).	
CERTHE06 Identify personal qualities and transferable skills necessary for further study and/or employment (Being).	
DIPHE01 Demonstrate knowledge and application of the concepts and principles of your area(s) of study (Knowing).	
DIPHE02 Demonstrate the application of those principles in an employability and/or professional practice context (Knowing).	
DIPHE03 Identify and use methods of enquiry in the subject(s) and evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems in study (Doing).	
DIPHE04 Use a range of new and established techniques to explore and critique data and sources of information, to solve problems within your subject (Doing).	
DIPHE05 Effectively communicate information, arguments and analysis in a variety of forms to specialist and non-specialist audiences (Being).	
DIPHE06 Show personal responsibility and decision-making to developing existing skills and acquire new competences that will enable you to reach your employability goals (Being).	
BHONSN01 KNOWING: Demonstrate a systematic understanding of football coaching theory, pedagogy and performance principles, including coherent and detailed knowledge of contemporary tactical systems, sport science applications and philosophical approaches that represent current best practice in the discipline.	

Learning Outcomes	Modules
BHONSN02 KNOWING: Contextualise advanced research methodologies and analytical techniques to review, consolidate, extend and apply knowledge of football coaching and performance to initiate and carry out independent investigations that contribute to professional practice.	
BHONSN03 DOING: Design, deliver and evaluate innovative coaching interventions and tactical approaches that address complex performance challenges, using evidence-based methods and contemporary techniques at the forefront of football coaching practice.	
BHONSN04 DOING: Critically evaluate coaching practices, performance data and tactical approaches through systematic analysis of evidence and theory, communicating sound judgements and recommendations effectively to diverse audiences including players, coaches and sports organisations.	
BHONSN05 BEING: Demonstrate professional competence and leadership in football coaching environments, exercising personal responsibility and ethical decision-making in complex, unpredictable, and diverse situations while mentoring and developing others.	
BHONSN06 BEING: Assess, articulate and justify personal coaching philosophy, professional capabilities and transferable skills through comprehensive portfolios that demonstrate readiness for employment in diverse football industry roles and capacity for continuous professional development.	
BHONS01 KNOWING: Demonstrate a systematic understanding of football coaching theory, pedagogy and performance principles, including coherent and detailed knowledge of contemporary tactical systems, sport science applications and philosophical approaches that represent current best practice in the discipline.	
BHONS02 KNOWING: Contextualise advanced research methodologies and analytical techniques to review, consolidate, extend and apply knowledge of football coaching and performance to initiate and carry out independent investigations that contribute to professional practice.	
BHONS03 DOING: Design, deliver and evaluate innovative coaching interventions and tactical approaches that address complex performance challenges, using evidence-based methods and contemporary techniques at the forefront of football coaching practice.	
BHONS04 DOING: Critically evaluate coaching practices, performance data and tactical approaches through systematic analysis of evidence and theory, communicating sound judgements and recommendations effectively to diverse audiences including players, coaches and sports organisations.	
BHONS05 BEING: Demonstrate professional competence and leadership in football coaching environments, exercising personal responsibility and ethical decision-making in complex, unpredictable, and diverse situations while mentoring and developing others.	

Learning Outcomes	Modules
BHONS06 6BEING: Assess, articulate and justify personal coaching philosophy, professional capabilities and transferable skills through comprehensive portfolios that demonstrate readiness for employment in diverse football industry roles and capacity for continuous professional development.	

Teaching, Learning & Assessment Strategy/(Learning and Teaching):

Your learning combines hands-on pitch practice, interactive seminars and digital resources designed to mirror how professional coach's work. Each 12-week module follows a scaffolded approach with foundational concepts covered in weeks 1-4, application and practice in weeks 5-9, then advanced integration and assessment in weeks 10-12. This scaffolding approach ensures you're never left behind as complexity increases.

Blended Learning Experience: Face-to-face sessions focus on what's most valuable in person: practical coaching on our 3G pitches with real-time feedback, collaborative tactical analysis workshops and guest speaker sessions with industry professionals. Online resources complement this through digital discussion forums providing opportunities for peer feedback and online resources to support independent learning away from campus. This flexibility means you can balance study with part-time coaching commitments while accessing learning when and where you need it.

Skills Development Throughout: Academic skills such as literature searching, referencing, critical writing and presentation skills will be taught through hands-on workshops. Digital competencies develop progressively; you will use video analysis software (Hudl) from Level 4, progress to data interpretation and event management platforms at Level 5 and engage with AI tools for analysis at Level 6. We emphasise ethical use, understanding when AI can assist research versus when original thinking and independent research is essential.

Theory Meets Practice: Professional application isn't separate from academic study, it's integrated throughout. When you study coaching pedagogy, you immediately test different teaching styles in supervised practical sessions. Your performance analysis module assesses real match footage from partner clubs. The Level 5 event management module requires actual event delivery, not just theoretical planning. Your work placements run alongside research methods training, so you're conducting applied investigations within your workplace setting.

Professional Technology Use: You'll work with industry-standard tools including performance analysis platforms and session planning resources. We address ethical considerations including player data protection, responsible social media use as a coach and AI's role in modern football, while maintaining human judgment in coaching decisions.

Assessment Methods/Assessments:

Assessment mirrors authentic professional practice. You will build portfolios of evidence just as qualified coaches do when applying for jobs or progressing through FA qualifications. Each 30-credit module uses approximately 2,000- 3,000 words equivalent assessments. Assessment methods can involve coaching videos, performance analysis reports, presentations, event proposals and reflective journals. This variety means you can demonstrate strengths across different formats while developing areas needing improvement.

Building Confidence Through Feedback: Every module includes formative assessment opportunities before anything counts toward your grade. You'll have the opportunity to get tutor feedback, deliver practice presentations to peers, receive coaching observation feedback during sessions and discuss video analysis findings in small groups. This "safe practice" space allows you to refine skills, understand marking criteria and build confidence before final submissions. Assessment deadlines are staggered across semesters to prevent multiple submissions clustering together.

Developing Professional Capabilities: Assessments explicitly develop critical thinking and problem-solving. Rather than simply describing coaching theories, you'll evaluate their effectiveness in specific contexts, analyse contradictory research findings and justify tactical decisions using evidence. Your Level 6 inclusive coaching module requires you to identify and solve real coaching problems with diverse populations, demonstrating the analytical skills employers value. Performance analysis projects teach you to interpret data, recognise patterns and make evidence-based recommendations.

Inclusive and Accessible Assessment: Clear assessment briefs with rubrics explain exactly what's required at each grade boundary. Support workshops cover skills such as academic writing, video editing, presentation skills and referencing. Students with specific learning differences receive tailored adjustments via extended deadlines, alternative formats, or assistive technology support, ensuring everyone can demonstrate their capabilities fairly.

Personalisation and Professional Relevance: Throughout the degree you choose topics reflecting your interests and career goals. Want to focus on women's football? Select that context for your tactical analysis. Passionate about disability sport? Design your inclusive coaching event around Paralympic football activities. Your Level 6 Professional Project offers a range of formats allowing you to showcase expertise in ways most relevant to your intended career pathway, whether that's further academic study, performance analysis or coaching.

Further Information for Student:

Your success begins from week one of semester one. Our structured semester approach ensures you're never overwhelmed. Each 12-week module provides focused, intensive development of specific skills before moving forward. Semester 1 immediately combines academic study skills with practical coaching, so you are applying learning in supportive, supervised environments from day one. Weekly reflective journals help you track progress, identify challenges early, and develop the self-awareness essential for both academic success and coaching excellence.

Embedded Academic and Pastoral Support:

- **Structured Progression**: Each module builds systematically on previous learning, with clear connections explained at the start of every block, ensuring you understand how knowledge integrates across your three-year journey.
- **Formative Feedback Cycles**: Early low-stakes assessments in every module (e.g., draft literature reviews, practice presentations and coaching observation feedback) allow you to develop confidence and refine skills before summative submissions count toward your grade.
- **Diverse Assessment Methods**: Portfolio-based assessment recognises that students demonstrate competence differently, whether through practical coaching videos, written analysis, presentations or event delivery, you can showcase your strengths while developing weaker areas.
- **Regular Touchpoints**: Personal tutorials each semester focus specifically on your progress, employability development, and any additional support needs, with academic staff trained in supporting diverse learners including mature students, care leavers, and those from widening participation backgrounds.
- **Placement Preparation and Support:** Your Level 5 placement isn't left to chance. Dedicated preparation workshops cover CV development, DBS applications, professional conduct and risk assessment. During placement, weekly reflective logs with tutor feedback ensure you're progressing, while placement supervisors provide workplace mentoring. Post-placement debriefing sessions help you articulate learning for future job applications.
- **Responsive Course Development:** Student voice shapes your experience through mid-module feedback surveys, end-of-module evaluations and annual

Student-Staff Liaison Committee meetings where your representatives directly influence teaching approaches, assessment timing and resource provision. Your opinions genuinely matter and create tangible change.

The University provides a wide range of academic and pastoral support to help students succeed in their studies and personal development. This includes access to the Library and Skills for Learning service, student success coaching for students in the early stages of their course and tailored advice from the Careers and Enterprise teams. Students also benefit from 24/7 wellbeing support through WLV Student Life Connect, pastoral care via the Multi-faith Chaplaincy, and assistance from the Mental Health and Wellbeing team. Those living in university accommodation have additional access to Residential Life support and all students can engage with the Students' Union for advocacy, societies and further peer-led services.

Currency:

Football evolves rapidly, tactical innovations, new technologies, changing participation patterns, and emerging research constantly reshape the coaching landscape. Your course is designed to remain at the cutting edge through flexible content delivery that allows immediate integration of contemporary developments without waiting for full revalidation cycles.

Dynamic Content Integration: Module frameworks are deliberately broad, enabling tutors to update case studies, tactical examples and research articles annually. Guest speakers from professional clubs, national governing bodies and sports companies bring current industry practice directly into your learning. Emerging challenges like AI in performance analysis, mental health in youth sport and environmental sustainability in football are integrated into your final level.

Research-Informed Teaching: Staff actively research areas including coaching pedagogy, inclusive practice and performance analysis, with findings directly informing teaching content. You'll engage with research through seminars, read published work in your modules and potentially contribute to ongoing projects through your own investigations.

Real-World Challenge Engagement: Contemporary football challenges thread throughout the curriculum. You'll critically examine issues relating to social responsibility (community inclusion programs, addressing inequality in participation, environmental sustainability) and issues faced by coaches across different contexts including grassroots football and academy settings.

Graduate Attributes Development: The curriculum embeds university graduate attributes systematically: **Global Citizen** through diverse football culture studies and inclusive practice; **Knowledge development** through evidence-based coaching and research skills; **Professional development** through placement experiences and FA qualification support and development and being **Digitally Fluent** through use of performance analysis software and ethical AI engagement.

Interdisciplinary and Lifelong Learning: You'll draw on psychology (motivation, team dynamics), physiology (training methods and adaptation), business (event management) and education (pedagogical theory), recognising that effective coaching requires multidisciplinary thinking. Reflective practice and CPD planning embedded throughout foster habits of continuous learning essential for adapting to football's ever-changing professional landscape.

Personalisation Opportunities:

Your journey through this degree is shaped by your unique coaching ambitions and experiences. From the very first module, you'll engage with content that reflects your personal coaching context, whether you're coaching grassroots youth teams, working with disability groups or aspiring to elite academy roles.

Choice and Agency in Your Learning:

- **Professional Project Flexibility**: In your final year, choose between a traditional research dissertation, an applied innovation project addressing a real industry challenge or a comprehensive professional portfolio—each pathway allows you to demonstrate expertise in the area most relevant to your career goals.
- **Placement Selection**: Your Level 5 placement can be tailored to your interests across diverse settings including community clubs, school sport, women's football, disability organisations or performance analysis roles, with staff support to identify opportunities aligned with your aspirations.
- **Assessment Topic Freedom**: Within portfolio assessments, you select specific coaching contexts, populations and challenges to analyse. For example, mature students might focus on adult participation, while those interested in elite performance can explore academy systems or tactical innovations.
- **Research Focus Areas**: From Level 4 thematic analysis through to Level 6 independent projects, you choose topics reflecting your passions, whether that's mental health in youth football, inclusive coaching practices or analysing performance.
- **Personalised Guidance and Reflection:** Personal tutorials each semester help you map modules and assessment choices to your career pathway, whether that's as a coach development tutor, performance analyst or community development officer. Your coaching philosophy development a level 5 is entirely personal, drawing on your own experiences, values and beliefs about player development.
- **Inclusive and Diverse Perspectives:** Course content actively incorporates diverse voices through case studies spanning women's football, disability sport, LGBTQ+ inclusion and global football cultures. Guest speakers represent various career pathways and backgrounds, ensuring you see yourself reflected in professional practice. Assessment formats accommodate different strengths; visual learners can emphasise video analysis, strong communicators can showcase presentation skills, while analytical thinkers can focus on data-driven projects.

Reflective practice is embedded throughout, encouraging you to connect academic theory with your lived experiences, challenging assumptions and shaping your unique professional identity as a football coach.

Employability in the Curriculum/Employability and Professional Development:

Your professional development begins in week one and intensifies each year, ensuring you graduate not just with a degree, but with industry experience, professional qualifications, an established network and a competitive portfolio that opens career doors.

Career Exploration and Preparation: You'll explore multiple career pathways through structured experiences: grassroots community coaching (Level 4), professional placement opportunities in your chosen setting (Level 5) and specialised practice with diverse populations (Level 6). Guest lectures and practical workshops from partner organisations, including designing training programs, analysing performance data and planning youth sport events, provide authentic projects for your portfolio. Industry guest speakers representing various pathways (academy coaches, performance analysts, sports development officers, education coordinators) will help you understand role requirements and progression routes.

Professional Identity and Portfolio Building: Each year contributes distinct evidence to your professional portfolio; coaching videos showing progression from basic to more advanced competence, performance analysis projects using industry software, event management delivery evidence and research demonstrating evidence-based practice capabilities. Your Level 5 coaching philosophy statement becomes a powerful interview tool, articulating your values and approach.

Professional Standards Integration: FA Codes of Conduct, safeguarding requirements and industry expectations aren't theoretical, they're embedded in every practical module through live assessment by qualified FA tutors and industry professionals. Mock panel interviews, simulated job applications and professional presentation assessments mirror real recruitment processes. Updated DBS checks, first aid certifications and safeguarding training ensure you meet employment requirements upon graduation.

Employability Skills Practice: Dedicated workshops each year develop CV writing, interview techniques, LinkedIn optimisation and professional networking skills. Tutors will support you in career planning with individualised guidance, placement selection and Professional Project topics aligned to your goals. You'll receive feedback from multiple sources; academic tutors, placement supervisors, industry assessors and peers, building comprehensive understanding of your strengths and development areas.

Informed Career Decision-Making: Career pathway education is woven throughout, with explicit discussion of routes into community coaching, elite performance, education, sports management, disability football and performance analysis. Staff guidance helps you select placements and project topics strategically; those targeting academy roles focus on elite tactical analysis, while aspiring community coaches emphasise inclusive practice and event management expertise.