UNIVERSITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON

# Course Specification

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| **Published Date:** | 03-Jun-2026 |
| **Produced By:** | Multi Type Usr Record For All Personnel |
| **Status:** | Validated |

# Core Information

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| **Awarding Body / Institution:** | University of Wolverhampton | | |
| **School / Institute:** | School of Health and Wellbeing | | |
| **Course Code(s):** | SR059F01SW | Full-time | 2 Years |
| **UCAS Code:** | C622 | | |
| **Course Title:** | Foundation Degree (Sci) Sports Coaching at Sandwell College | | |
| **Hierarchy of Awards:** | Foundation Degree (Science) Sports Coaching<br>Certificate of Higher Education Sports Coaching | | |
| **Language of Study:** | English | | |
| **Date of DAG approval:** | 14/Sep/2026 | | |
| **Last Review:** | | | |
| **Course Specification valid from:** | 2025/6 | | |
| **Course Specification valid to:** | | | |

# Academic Staff

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| **Course Leader:** | Mr Julian Smith |
| **Head of Department:** | |

# Course Information

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| **Location of Delivery:** | Sandwell College |
| **Category of Partnership:** | Franchised/Supported Delivery |
| **Teaching Institution:** | Sandwell College |
| **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

The entry requirements are in line with other UoW FD courses and are regionally competitive.

Applicants should have 40 UCAS points made up of a combination of the following:

- A Levels with a minimum grade of D, E
- BTEC Extended Diploma grade PPP, BTEC QCF Diploma grade MP
- Access to HE Diploma full award
- If you've got other qualifications or relevant experience, please contact The Gateway for further advice before applying.

Other Requirements

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

Applicants 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 is a franchised delivery of a University of Wolverhampton course at Sandwell College, and is designed to develop skilled, employable coaches who are ready to work across community, education, and sports environments.
- Taught and supported by experienced practitioners, with ongoing mentoring to develop professional behaviours, coaching competence, and reflective practice aligned to industry expectations.
- Employability focused modules enable you to explore sports coaching related career pathways and engage in career development planning that prepares you for graduate-level employment in a competitive industry
- Micro-placements embedded in multiple modules, giving you continuous practical experience with mentorship from practitioners.
- Focus on community-based and inclusive coaching.
- The course has a clear focus on community-based and inclusive coaching. Students learn to plan, deliver, and evaluate coaching sessions and projects that meet the needs of diverse participants and local communities.
- The programme is aligned to CIMSPA professional standards, ensuring that the skills, knowledge, and behaviours developed meet current expectations within the sport and physical activity sector.
- Graduate with the skills, knowledge and practical work experience valued by employers.
- You can access enrichment opportunities alongside your studies, including the chance to represent Sandwell College and partner university teams. Football opportunities are available within the Association of Colleges (AoC) and British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) leagues, supporting both performance and personal development.

If you’re passionate about sport, enjoy working with people, and want to make a difference in your

community, this Foundation Degree in Sports Coaching is for you. This course is delivered at Sandwell College and is designed to develop skilled, employable coaches who are ready to work across community, education, and sports environments.

You will learn how to coach effectively, plan, deliver and evaluate projects, and develop the professional skills that employers in the sport and community sectors value most. By the time you graduate, you'll have the confidence, knowledge, and practical experience to deliver coaching sessions, lead community sport projects, and demonstrate your impact to future employers.

This foundation degree blends theory with practice, ensuring that what you learn in the classroom is applied directly to your coaching practice. Through micro-placements linked modules, you'll gain hands-on experience and mentorship in live coaching and community sport environments. You will benefit from links with local professional clubs, grassroots and recreational sports clubs, and schools. Teaching is supported by access to professional facilities within the local area, enhancing the real-world application of practical delivery. Employability-focused modules and career development opportunities will help you explore pathways in coaching and the wider sport and physical activity industry.

You will have the opportunity to progress to BA (Hons) Sports Coaching (top-up) upon successful completion of your Foundation Degree in Sports Coaching.

## Educational Aims of the Course:

## 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 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2021/2 | H | Full Time | £6165.00 |
| 2022/3 | H | Full Time | £6165.00 |
| 2023/4 | H | Full Time | £6165.00 |
| 2024/5 | H | Full Time | £6165.00 |
| 2025/6 | H | Full Time | £6450.00 |
| 2026/7 | H | Full Time | £6682.00 |

## PSRB:

None

## Course Structure:

# September (Full-time)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

| Module | Title | Credits | Period | Type |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4SR072 | Succeeding at University in Sports Coaching | 30 | SEM1 | Core |
| 4SR073 | Foundations of Coaching Practice | 30 | SEM1 | Core |
| 4SR070 | Sport and Physical Activity in the Community | 30 | SEM2 | Core |
| 4SR071 | Coaching in Context | 30 | SEM2 | Core |

## September (Full-time)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

| Module | Title | Credits | Period | Type |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5SR067 | Coaching Philosophy in Practice | 30 | SEM1 | Core |
| 5SR065 | Sport Event and Project Management | 30 | SEM1 | Core |
| 5SR068 | Applied Research in Sports Coaching | 30 | SEM2 | Core |
| 5SR066 | Psychology for Sports Coaches | 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

### 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). | |
| **FD01** You will be able to demonstrate critical understanding of the principles, theories, and pedagogical approaches that underpin sports coaching and community development, and articulate how these underpin effective participation and performance in a range of contexts (Knowing). | |
| **FD02** You will be able to construct arguments and solve practical problems in sports coaching and development using appropriate theories, pedagogical models, and industry-relevant techniques (Knowing). | |
| **FD03** You will be able to apply methods and techniques from sports coaching, sport development, and related disciplines to design, deliver, and review coaching sessions, projects, and initiatives in community sport settings, making reference to evidence informed practice (Doing). | |
| **FD04** You will communicate evidence, ideas, and reflections on coaching and sport development practice, demonstrating the ability to adapt communication for both specialist and non-specialist audiences (Doing). | |
| **FD05** You will exercise personal responsibility and decision-making in coaching and development practice, drawing upon analytical techniques and problem-solving skills to address complex and unpredictable situations in sport and community settings, while reflecting on the values and ethics that shape inclusive coaching practice (Being). | |
| **FD06** You will recognise, reflect upon, and evidence transferable and professional skills relevant to employment in sport coaching and development (Being). | |

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

This course is structured to help you build confidence step by step — beginning with the essential foundations of coaching and community development before progressing to more complex and independent practice. At Level 4, you will focus on developing a solid understanding of key principles and frameworks through interactive workshops, seminars, practical, and guided placement. Activities are designed to introduce new ideas in a supportive way, helping you gain confidence in academic writing, teamwork, and digital skills before applying them to more advanced tasks.

As you progress to Level 5, you will take on greater responsibility for your learning, leading projects and

placements that connect theory to practice. This gradual increase in independence means you can apply what you've learned in real-world contexts while developing the reflective, analytical, and leadership skills expected of a sport professional.

Learning is delivered through a blend of in-person and online activities that are flexible and accessible. Workshops, discussions, and practical sessions give you hands-on experience, while online resources help you consolidate learning at your own pace. All slides and resources used in lectures and workshops will be placed online for you to refer to. The on-line learning environment is easy to navigate and designed to support different learning preferences, allowing you to revisit key content whenever you need.

Academic and digital skills are embedded throughout your studies rather than taught separately. You'll develop confidence using digital tools for research, presentation, and collaboration. Support from your Personal Tutor and lecturers ensures you can build these skills progressively, with feedback to help you improve at each stage.

Professional practice is woven into throughout the course. Placements and applied projects allow you to work directly with community groups and sport organisations, linking academic concepts to the realities of professional environments. You'll also develop digital fluency in line with professional expectations — learning to use technology ethically and effectively, including the responsible use of AI and data within sport settings. Upon completion of the course, you'll have the confidence, skills, and professional awareness needed to thrive in an evolving, digital sport industry.

## Assessment Methods/Assessments:

Assessment on this course is designed to help you learn, improve, and demonstrate your skills in ways that are relevant to real-world coaching and community sport contexts. You'll experience a mix of assessment types — including practical coaching sessions, reflective portfolios, presentations and written reports — so you can showcase your strengths in different ways. There will be time built in during modules to develop sections of your assessment to help you manage your workload.

At Level 4, assessments focus on helping you build confidence and apply foundational knowledge. Early, low-stakes assessments and formative tasks give you the chance to practise key skills before completing final submissions. You'll receive constructive feedback from tutors, peers, and mentors to help you understand how to improve.

As you progress to Level 5 and beyond, assessments become more applied and independent, encouraging you to think critically, solve problems, and link theory to practice. You'll take on projects such as planning, managing ad delivering a community event, or evaluating the impact of a coaching intervention. These authentic assessments mirror the tasks you'll encounter in professional roles, helping you develop confidence and employability.

Inclusivity and accessibility are central to assessment design. Tasks are clearly explained, with transparent marking criteria and regular opportunities for feedback and guidance. Assessment formats are varied to reflect different learning preferences and strengths. Students with specific learning needs are supported through reasonable adjustments and individual academic guidance.

You'll also have opportunities to personalise your assessments by selecting topics that reflect your own interests, lived experiences, and placement contexts. For example, you might evaluate a project you have contributed to during your placement or explore an issue affecting your local community. This personalisation helps make assessment meaningful, allowing you to connect your learning to your future goals and the communities you serve.

By the end of the course, you will have built a strong portfolio of evidence demonstrating your knowledge, professional skills, and ability to make an impact through sport and community development.

## Further Information for Student:

Starting university is an exciting step, and this course is designed to help you feel part of a supportive learning community from day one. During Welcome Week, you'll meet your lecturers, Personal Tutor, Sandwell College staff, and fellow students, take part in interactive induction activities, and get to know the facilities where your learning will take place. Early sessions will help you feel confident using the

University’s online learning environment, submitting assignments, and accessing support services.

Because work-based learning is central to the course, you’ll receive structured preparation for placements throughout your course. While on placements you’ll have regular contact with academic staff and workplace mentors, ensuring you feel supported and confident in applying what you learn. Reflection on practice is built into many of your assessments to help you connect theory with real-world experience.

At Level 4, you’ll explore the foundations of coaching and community development while adapting to university study. Workshops on academic writing, referencing, and digital skills are embedded within modules so you can apply them directly to your assignments. We recognise that students come from a range of educational and personal backgrounds, so teaching and assessment are designed to be inclusive, accessible, and supportive. Close contact with lecturers and your Personal Tutor means you’ll receive regular feedback and guidance, including opportunities for formative feedback on draft work before submission.

During placements, you’ll begin by shadowing experienced coaches in different settings to build confidence before leading small sessions. Through both academic study and hands-on experience, you’ll develop communication, teamwork, and leadership skills, and begin to see yourself as a developing coach and community practitioner, understanding professionalism and ethical practice in sport.

At Level 5, you’ll apply your knowledge in practice and begin to position yourself as an adaptable, reflective, and employable sport professional. You’ll lead sessions and small projects with increasing independence, developing employability skills such as initiative, communication, and problem-solving. You’ll also be supported to undertake placements to develop your readiness for employment. Reflection on practice is built into many of your assessments to help you connect theory with real-world experience.

Student voice is central to the course. Feedback from module evaluations, course representatives, and informal discussions is regularly reviewed by the teaching team and industry partners. Your insights directly shape modules, placements, and the learning environment — keeping the course engaging, relevant, and supportive for every student.

The College/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, personal tutors for Level 4 and 5 students, 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 out tutorial teams 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:

This course is designed to keep pace with a rapidly evolving sport coaching and community development sector. Module content is regularly updated to reflect current research, policy developments, and contemporary issues such as sustainability, inclusion, and the use of sport for social change. Collaboration with industry partners ensures teaching remains connected to real-world practice and community priorities. Academic staff actively engage in research and professional consultancy, and their expertise directly informs teaching — giving students access to current debates, evidence, and innovative approaches shaping the industry.

Students are encouraged to engage with research from the very start of the course. At Level 4, you will explore how evidence underpins effective coaching and community sport development, building confidence in reading and interpreting research. At Level 5, you will deepen these skills through applied inquiry — for example, by evaluating the impact of sport projects or exploring current community challenges. Through the development of your research skills during the Foundation Degree, you will have developed the skills and knowledge to undertake an independent Professional Project should you wish to progress onto the Top-up degree, demonstrating your ability to design, conduct, and communicate research that contributes to real-world understanding or problem-solving in your chosen area of interest.

The course also encourages creative and critical thinking about the broader role of sport in society. You will explore how sport can address complex global issues — such as health inequality, sustainability, and

social responsibility — and develop the entrepreneurial mindset needed to design innovative, ethical, and impactful interventions.

The University of Wolverhampton's Graduate Attributes are embedded throughout the curriculum:

- Global Citizen – understanding diversity, equality, and the power of sport as a global connector.
- Knowledgeable – applying research and theory to inform evidence-based practice.
- Professional – demonstrating leadership, integrity, and reflective practice in real-world contexts.
- Digitally Fluent – using digital tools ethically and effectively to communicate, analyse data, and deliver projects.

Interdisciplinary collaboration is also central to the course ethos. You'll work alongside peers, staff, and community partners from a range of disciplines, helping you to see challenges from multiple perspectives and adapt to future changes in the sport industry. This approach builds confidence, creativity, and a mindset for lifelong learning — essential qualities for a successful and sustainable career in sport coaching and development.

## Personalisation Opportunities:

This course is designed to help you explore what matters most to you as a developing coach and community practitioner. While all students study the same modules, there is flexibility within learning activities and assessments to focus on your personal interests, lived experiences, and future goals.

At Level 4, you will be introduced to a broad range of coaching and community development contexts through placements and classroom learning. This gives you the chance to experience working with different populations, such as young people, older adults, or underrepresented groups, and to reflect on which areas most inspire you. Assessments are designed to encourage you to apply theory to your own experiences and career aspirations, ensuring learning feels relevant and authentic.

At Level 5, you'll begin to specialise, developing your own coaching philosophy and leading projects that align with your interests. You'll receive one-to-one guidance from your personal tutor to help you make informed choices and build a clear pathway toward employment or further study.

Inclusivity and diversity are embedded throughout the course. Case studies, discussions, and guest speakers reflect a wide range of cultural and social perspectives within sport, helping you understand how identity and lived experience influence coaching and participation. You are encouraged to draw upon your own background and experiences when contributing to class discussions, reflective journals, and project work.

Reflection is a continuous part of your learning journey. Through portfolios, feedback tutorials, and mentoring sessions, you'll evaluate your progress, identify your strengths, and set personal goals. By the time you complete the course, you'll not only have developed the skills and confidence needed to succeed in the sport and community sectors, but also a strong sense of your professional identity and how your values and experiences shape your approach to coaching and community sport development.

## Employability in the Curriculum/Employability and Professional Development:

Employability and career development is embedded at the heart of the Foundation Degree in Sports Coaching, with every module designed to help you build the knowledge, skills, and professional behaviours needed to thrive in the sport, coaching, and community development sectors. From day one, you'll begin developing your professional identity through reflective practice, and applied learning. Teaching is supported by access to professional facilities within the local area, enhancing the real-world application of practical delivery

Work-based learning is a key feature of the course, and you will benefit from links with local professional clubs, grassroots and recreational sports clubs, and schools. You'll complete micro-placements linked to modules, allowing you to apply theory to real-world situations while developing communication, teamwork, and leadership skills. These placements evolve across the programme — from shadowing and assisting coaches and community practitioners at Level 4, before progressing at Level 5 to take more responsibility in leading sessions and small projects. This gradual development helps you become a capable, adaptable practitioner ready for employment or further study.

Employability focused modules enable you to explore sports coaching related career pathways and engage in career development planning that prepares you for graduate-level employment in a competitive industry. Sports coaching and sport development modules will introduce you to different pathways within the community sports coaching and development sector, supporting you to explore different career opportunities.

The course aligns with the Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (CIMSPA) coaching standards. These frameworks inform the design of assessments and learning activities, helping you understand professional expectations and sector benchmarks. This ensures you are well prepared to meet employer needs and pursue recognised professional roles in coaching, community sport, or sport development.

Career development and reflection are integrated throughout your studies. Employability workshops will help you identify your strengths and areas for development. Sports coaching and sport development modules will introduce you to different pathways within the community sports coaching and development sector, supporting you to explore different career opportunities.

You can choose to progress onto the Level 6 top-up degree in Sport Coaching, but this Foundation Degree is also designed to prepare you for direct employment. By the end of the course, you will have a strong understanding of how to design and deliver inclusive coaching sessions, support community sport initiatives, and contribute to positive social change through sport.

You will leave the Foundation Degree with a professional portfolio of experience, strong industry networks, and the transferable skills that employers across sport, health, and community sectors value highly.