

# Foundation Degree in Sports Coaching (Basketball)



### For admissions enquiries please contact:

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Full-time students should apply through UCAS directly or via the University's Application Form designed specifically for this programme.

Part-time students should apply direct to the University. Please contact Undergraduate Admissions for an application form.

[www.chester.ac.uk](http://www.chester.ac.uk)

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Department of Sport and Exercise Sciences

Sports coaching is essential to support sport at all levels, from beginners to elite performers, both young and old. Sports coaches play a crucial role in sport and can have a significant influence on the participants they coach. Coaching is about developing and improving performance and providing positive experiences for participants with a range of sporting aspirations.

Sport is currently high on the political agenda, with the government looking to this area to make a major contribution to the achievement of its wider policy objectives related to health, education, social inclusion and national pride, particularly in the build up to the 2012 Olympic Games; an important event for the sport of basketball.

Basketball is hugely popular and is played worldwide within 300 countries. The International Basketball Federation (FIBA) has 213 federations in membership and is now responsible for a sport that has over 400 million players' worldwide. The professional basketball league in the UK is the British Basketball League (BBL). BiG Storage Cheshire Jets are one of 12 teams in the league and are the key employer partner engaged in the delivery of this Foundation Degree. The main thrust of the club is around community engagement and in 07/08, basketball and health programmes were delivered to over 5,500 school children in Cheshire. Students on this Foundation Degree will work on the BiG Storage Cheshire Jets community activities providing a unique, hands-on basketball role via various school and community programmes. The degree course has been designed in collaboration with England Basketball, the governing body for basketball in England, and will incorporate their awards for Coaching Levels 1 and 2, Refereeing Level 1 and Table Officiating Level 1.

## Why study Sports Coaching?

Over the next five years Sports England expect an increase of at least 3,000 jobs within the coaching sector within the North West region alone, with a massive demand expected for coaches to work in the education sector. Sportscoach UK, the lead body in coaching, has identified that of the 1.2 million coaches currently working in the UK, 80% are volunteers. The UK Action Plan for Coaching sets the target of working towards coaching as a profession between now and 2016. In order to achieve this, the education and training of coaches will play a vital role. According to SkillsActive, Sportscoach UK's view is that Foundation Degrees will recognise the importance of the vocational nature of coaching, widen opportunities

and provide a collaborative approach to coach education.

## How is the programme structured?

The Foundation Degree in Sports Coaching (Basketball) is specifically designed for those already working or wanting to start working in sports coaching, and particularly for those interested in the sport of basketball. It is designed for students wishing to study part time or full time, and will open the door to a number of career routes and opportunities. Foundation Degree students can progress on to further professional coaching qualifications. Upon successful completion of the programme you will gain an FdSc in Sports Coaching however, this Foundation Degree also leads directly into the final year of the BA (Hons) Sport Development degree at the University of Chester.

## Work Based Learning

Work Based Learning is an important element of the course. The modules are designed so that you are given credit for competences developed and utilised within the workplace; facilitated by BiG Storage Cheshire Jets as an integral part of their community projects and wider business activity. Flexible delivery will allow students to complete single modules as part of an ongoing CPD (continuing professional development) programme. A Certificate of Higher Education can be awarded after successful completion of Level 1.

### Full-time

The two-year full-time programme is designed for students aspiring to a career in sports coaching and has a strong emphasis on developing practical and professional skills to serve that career. There is a compulsory work placement included in the programme.

### Part-time

The part-time programme is designed for people already working in the sports industry. It is structured so that you can stay in employment and earn a degree directly related to your work.

## What will I be taught?

Over the two year duration of the programme, students will develop and be assessed on key practical and professional skills, alongside those that develop knowledge and understanding relevant to the workplace.



For example, professional skills may include:

- Study Skills
- Communication Skills
- IT/Computer Skills
- Level 1 and 2 Basketball Coaching
- Level 1 Refereeing
- Level 1 Table officials

## How will I be taught and assessed?

Assessments are designed to encourage both academic skills and skills valued in the workplace. They include coaching competences (via a coaching log), reports and essays, work-books and portfolios, data analysis, processing and presentation, and presentations to fellow students.

Students are taught through a mixture of study including face-to-face, practical sessions, directed study of a core textbook and via the internet. Assignments are designed to bring together academic understanding and its application to sports coaching. Teaching is organised in a variety of ways to meet the demands of the subject and to expose you to a range of learning opportunities. These range from formal lectures and practical coaching to discussion seminars and individual tutorials.

## Do I have the right qualifications?

The Foundation Degree in Sports Coaching (Basketball) is designed specifically to offer education and training to people who have not had the opportunity of a university education, but who will benefit, both personally and in their career, by developing their work-related academic and higher-level skills.

We will consider applications from candidates who hold one of the following qualifications:

- GCE and/or VCE A/AS Levels
- BTEC National Diploma/Certificate
- Irish Highers/Scottish Highers
- Advanced GNVQ
- QAA Recognised Access course, Open College Units or Open University Credits

However we actively encourage widening access and participation in higher education. Appropriate NVQ Level 3, modern apprenticeships, work experience, and free-standing qualifications that form part of the post-16 qualifications framework will also be considered.

Students without evidence of the above qualifications but with appropriate experience, will be required to demonstrate enthusiasm and aptitude for higher level study.