



FA UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Recruitment Information pack

Deadline for Submission: Midday 7th of June 2021 if you have any questions, please contact Beth Garner (beth.garner@bucs.org.uk).

Please read the Programme Overview and Criteria below before completing the nomination form.

Programme Overview

British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS), in partnership with the Football Association (FA) are delighted to share the FA University Women's Leadership Programme. Female students from across BUCS Accredited Football Universities have the opportunity to apply to be part of the programme for the 2021/22 academic year.

Based on FA commissioned research into the key behaviours that align to high performance in roles and/or increased chances of employability; the programme aims to support females with aspirations to work within the women's game to be competitive when they enter the job market: Seeking to bridge the gap between who the students are, and what they are capable of, through experiential and applied learning experiences. Students will have the opportunity to develop skills, behaviours, confidence and their professional network, as well as be supported in defining their career goals & ambitions by exploring and understanding the diverse opportunities that exist in the women's game.

Students will have three multi-day & one single day touch points across a twelve-month period, including a minimum of two residential stays. The programme will feature both theoretical and applied learning experiences, with students being placed in 'real life' simulated situations. As you would expect there are a limited number of places available and this opportunity will not be right for everyone. Please ensure those who are applying have considered their motivation for wanting to take part and can truly commit to attend all dates in different geographical locations.

Key Dates:

- 7th of May 2021 – Nominations Open
- 7th of June 2021 – Closing Date for Nominations
- July 2021 – Successful Nominees Notified of Offer of Place on Programme
- 15th-17th October 2021 - Residential 1
- 11th-12th February 2022 - Residential 2
- 15th-18th June – Residential 3
- July 2022 – Final Touch Point

All application forms can be found at the bottom of this pack.



Application Process:

As there are a limited number of places available and the fact that the programme will require commitment, it is crucial that both the student and their university meet the criteria outlined below.

In order to apply, all applicants will need to:

- Meet all elements of the eligibility criteria (please see below).
- Submit 3-minute application video (see questions and format below).
- Submit an Equal Opportunities Form.
- Submit a 'Written Supporting Statement' from their Academic School (please see detail on form).
- Submit a 'Written Supporting Statement' from an eligible Sponsor (Sponsor eligibility criteria below, detail on what the statement should contain on the form).
- (Elite Athletes Only) Submit an 'Elite Athlete Written Supporting Statement' (NB. – Elite game day/training commitments will not be an adequate excuse to miss programme dates, so it is important all stakeholders are in support of the application)

Only applicants that complete the application process by the closing date and time will be considered for this unique opportunity.

BUCS and the FA are committed to diversity and inclusion and encourage applications from all ethnic communities as well as, or including, people from underrepresented communities who face barriers to participation & engagement.

Programme Fee:

There is a standalone programme fee of £300 to be payable prior to Residential 1.

For the 2021-22 season a 'Covid Relief Fund' will be available to support the payment of the programme fee. The process for how to apply for this fund for financial support will be shared with successful applicants in July when they are offered their place.

Individual Criteria

To be eligible to participate students need to meet/agree to the criteria below:

- Be a female student currently undertaking full or part-time study at an English BUCS member Higher Education Institution and graduating after May 2022 which meets the 'Institution Criteria' below. (NB – This institution must commit to being a BUCS Football Accredited Institution prior to August 2022. Beth will cross reference this and contact relevant institutions after applications close.)
- Be able to attend all programme dates without exception.
- Aspire to work in a role that supports the Women's and Girls' game.
- Currently be supporting football/futsal (e.g. Volunteer, Activator, Coach, Referee, Youth Council, Women's Football or Futsal President or Committee Member, Marketing and Communications Officer, Welfare Officer Etc.). This can be within an institution or the community.
- Have a passion and commitment to making an impact within the Women's and Girls' game and be able to demonstrate that they are a role model to others.
- Have the full support of their sponsor & academic school to participate in the FA University Women's Leadership Programme.
- Be committed to investing in their Personal & Professional Development.

Key Dates:

- 15th-17th October 2021 - Residential 1
- 11th-12th February 2022 - Residential 2
- 15th-18th June – Residential 3
- July 2022 – Final Touch Point



Sponsor Criteria

As of the 2021-22 season, applicants can be sponsored by an eligible HE Institution or an eligible FA Partner. Eligibility criteria for Institution & FA Partner Sponsors can be found below. We strongly encourage all Sponsors to read the terms & conditions outlined in this document before supporting the application.

Higher Education Institution Sponsors must:

- Be a BUCS Accredited Football Institution for 2021-22, able to demonstrate a commitment and investment to the Women and Girls' Game (Please note you do not have to meet this criterion until your participant has been offered a place on the programme).
- Commit to ensuring the student nominee attends all events as part of the FA University Women's Leadership Programme.
- Identify a lead staff member for the applicant who will be the contact for application as well as throughout the participant's time on the programme.
- Have a discussion with their applicant to confirm:
 - Who will pay the programme fee of £300 (NB – Covid Relief Support available).
 - How (between the sponsor & the participant) you will ensure the applicant can attend all residentials (ie. Payment of travel expenses to and from events).

FA Partner Sponsors must:

- Be one of the following:

FA National Delivery Partner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Football Foundation • Sport England 	FA Educational Delivery Partner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AoC Sport • ESFA • ISFA • YST
FA Disability Delivery Partner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity Alliance • CPSport • The WFA 	FA Inclusion Delivery Partner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amnesty International • Football Beyond Borders • Kick It Out • Twinning Project
FA Delivery Partner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County FA • County FA Youth Council • Charter Standard Club • Charter Standard League • English Football League Trust • Premier League Charitable Foundation • Women in Football. 	<i>Nominations from other organisations working within football will be considered on a case-by-case basis – please contact Beth Garner for a discussion on this before submitting an application if your organisation does not appear on the below list.</i>

- Commit to ensuring the student nominee attends all events as part of the FA University Women's Leadership Programme.
- Identify a lead staff member for the applicant who will be the contact for application as well as throughout the participant's time on the programme.
- Have a discussion with their applicant to confirm:
 - Who will pay the programme fee of £300 (NB – Covid Relief Support available).
 - How (between the sponsor & the participant) you will ensure the applicant can attend all residentials (ie. Payment of travel expenses to and from events).



Programme Terms & Conditions

- No more than 2 students per institution will be accepted onto the programme.
- All residentials must be attended. BUCS reserve the right to remove a participant from the programme should dates be missed. The programme fee is non-refundable; anyone removed from the programme who has received a bursary may be liable to re-pay up-to their total bursary amount.
- The programme fee must be paid prior to Residential 1. BUCS will communicate an exact deadline to successful applicants in July. (NB – In response to Covid all applicants will have the option to apply for a bursary to cover their fee).
- It is up to the student & sponsor to agree independently of BUCS how travel to residentials will be funded (NB – Not being able to afford travel will not be an adequate excuse to miss programme dates, if finance is a concern, applicants are urged to contact BUCS at point of application.) Overnight stays & subsistence during the residential themselves will be covered by BUCS.
- Participants must have written support from their Academic School, confirming they will be released from studies to attend programme dates.
- Elite Athletes must complete and submit the additional form to evidence that their club support their application and will make them available for the dates (NB. – Elite games will not be an adequate excuse to miss programme dates)

Supporting Video (Bringing your application to life)

Please create a three-minute video to support your application for the FA University Women's Leadership Programme. This can be done on any hand-held device or free-standing camera.

Areas to consider:

- Why you are applying to be part of the programme?
- What value will you bring to the group/programme?
- Why are you passionate and committed to making an impact within Women's and Girls' Football?
- What are your future aspiration/goals in terms of working/volunteering in a role that supports the Women's and Girls' game?
- How are you currently supporting the game (e.g. Women's Football or Futsal President or Committee Member, Volunteer, Activator, Coach, Referee, Youth Council, Marketing and Communications Officer, Welfare Officer Etc.)?
- Have you attended a BUCS Presidents' Network Day?

Please ensure videos are in an **mp4 format** that can be viewed on a laptop or computer.

There are a limited number of places available so consider how you can make yourself stand out when completing both your application and video.

Application Forms

- [Academic Supporting Statement form](#)
- [Sponsor Supporting Statement form](#)
- [Equal Opportunities form](#)
- [Elite Athlete Supporting Statement form](#)

Deadline for Submission: Midday 7th of June 2021. If you have any questions, please contact Beth Garner (beth.garner@bucs.org.uk). (Late applications will not be considered.)