



**ACCREDITED
UNIVERSITIES**
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL



BUCS
British Universities
and Colleges Sport

BUCS FOOTBALL

ACCREDITED UNIVERSITIES

2026-27

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BUCS
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SEAN LOFTING

Football Development
Manager



ALAI AYYAKANNU

Football Development
Assistant



KELVIN NEWELL

Football Development
Officer



BETH EDWARDS

Football Development
Officer

WHAT IS ACCREDITATION?



Accreditation is an operating model which aims to unite the delivery of football under consistent standards to raise both the, equality of access of football provision and the quality of that provision.

The model sets our clear 'Accreditation Standards' which a university delivery must meet to be Accredited (1*). The model also offers a support mechanism for those not currently meeting the accreditation standards and a 1* to 3*** pathway to enable transition through the levels.

Member services are aimed to support this transition whilst delivering specific FA KPIs and enhance university's ability to use football to meet internal priorities of student experience, wellbeing and employability.

WHAT ACCREDITATION CAN DO FOR YOU?



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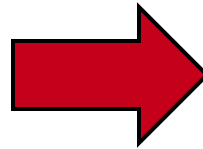


Reporting

Twice a season (January & May), we ask you to report your participation and workforce data for Football & Futsal

Share Opportunities

Encourage your students to attend relevant events by sharing opportunities with them



Free Events

Opportunities for students and staff to attend a variety of member services for free, as well as bursaries for travel to events

Funding Pots

Funding available to support the development of your Football & Futsal programmes and the workforce to support it

1 to 1 Support

BUCS Football Development team will be happy to book in time to discuss your Football & Futsal offer and how to enhance it

Online Portal

Personalised portal page detailing how you achieve the next star rating and upcoming events

Recreational Football on BUCS Play

Option to host your Intramural football leagues and turn-up and play sessions on BUCS Play with the license fee paid for by BUCS

Engagement Incentives

Rewards for students and institutions who engage with the BUCS Football Accredited Universities offer the most regularly

MEMBER SERVICES

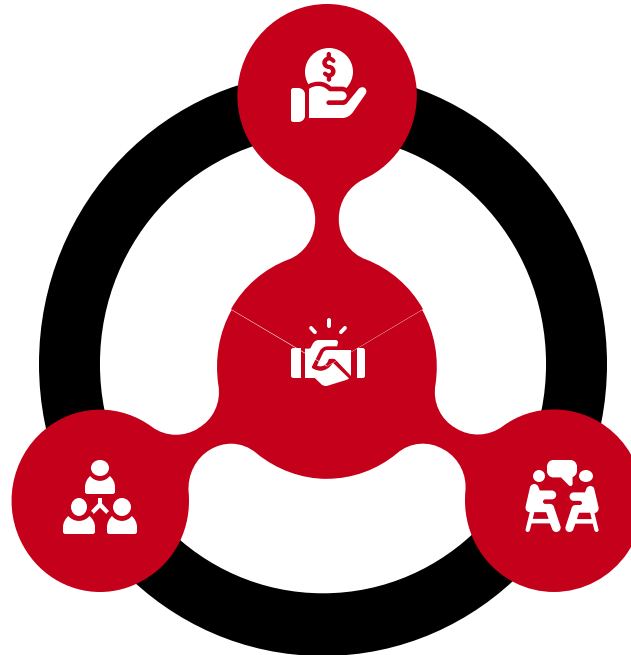


BUCS Football Development Team will support accredited universities and their students through a range of programmes and events.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT



STAFF ENGAGEMENT

STAFF ENGAGEMENT

The accredited leads at each institution are pivotal in raising the quality and supporting the equality of football and futsal provision at each institution.



FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK DAYS

(2 x 1-day events for collaboration with BUCS and other institutions to develop football and futsal)

REGIONAL MEETINGS

(Engaging with nearby institutions and County FA's, facilitated by BUCS)

BUCS CONFERENCE

(Brings the university sport sector together to connect, collaborate, and shape the future of student sport)



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT



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Educate students about the pathway available to them and inspire them to enhance others and contribute to their institutions.

Our offer for students includes:

WLP

THE FA UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

ECL

EMERGING CLUB LEADERS PROGRAMME

CCL

FOOTBALL & FUTSAL CLUB COMMITTEE LEADERS

THE FA UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME



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The BUCS and FA Women's Leadership Programme is a global award-winning programme delivered in partnership with Women in Football (WiF). The programme was developed in response to a clear gap in the talent development pathway for women, which had become a barrier to The Football Association's (The FA) objective of increasing female representation within its workforce.

The programme has since played a key role in strengthening both the quantity and quality of female talent within the leadership pipeline, supporting the FA and wider football ecosystem, in building a workforce that is fit for the future. Now entering its 8th year, graduates of the programme have gone on to secure roles with organisations including Chelsea FC, The FA, and London City Lionesses.



THE FA UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

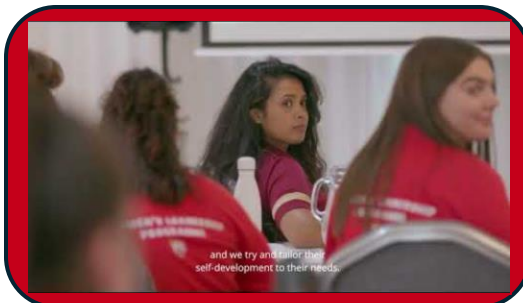


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“The programme has given me vital skills to accelerate my career both on and off the pitch. I have met some amazing like-minded people within the women's football industry which has provided me the opportunity to grow my support network. Sharing this experience with 20 other female leaders across the U.K has been a privilege, and I am excited to see where the future takes us in the world of women's football!”

Ellen Williams - WLP Cohort 4



126

NUMBER
OF WOMEN'S
LEADERSHIP
PROGRAMME
ALUMNI

25

NUMBER OF
STUDENTS ON
PROGRAMME
IN 2026/27

EMERGING CLUB LEADERS

A new programme designed to make volunteering in football a meaningful development pathway for university students, focused on off pitch roles that support the growth of community clubs. The programme is underpinned by a dedicated Learning and Development offer to upskill participants throughout their placement. Students can apply for one of seven roles and will be placed with a club competing at Steps 3 to 6 in the men's game or Tier 3 to 4 in the women's game. For the 2026/27 season, we will be working with 20 universities as the programme continues to scale.

If you are interested in your university being involved in 2026/27 and beyond, please get in touch.

1

LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

Localised networks between Universities, County FA's and Clubs to embed HE into the football ecosystem

2

CLUB PLACEMENT

Placement in roles such as Media & Marketing, Fundraising & Sponsorship and Community Engagement

3

LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

Masterclass sessions, 1-to-1 support and an in-person development day for all students on the programme



CLUB COMMITTEE LEADERS

The BUCS Club Committee Leaders programme is a national development initiative designed to help student club committee members gain the skills, knowledge, and confidence to lead their university football clubs effectively and sustainably. Each season three regional events are hosted to bring together committee leaders from across each region to share ideas, learn practical skills, and strengthen connections.

Throughout the course of the season BUCS will also offer online workshops and sessions to aid and develop club committee members on a range of topics, including leadership, club management, communication, planning and personal development.

CCL events provide a mix of interactive activities, practical challenges and opportunities to hear from experienced speakers and other student leaders. Attendees will have the chance to reflect on their own clubs, work through real life scenarios and take away ideas and approaches that can be applied throughout the season. The events will also provide a space to ask questions, share experiences and learn from how other university football clubs operate.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



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DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Funding to deliver targeted interventions aligned to FA Strategy

01

RECREATIONAL FOOTBALL

License fee covered to use BUCS Play for your IMS and Turn-Up & Play sessions until 2028

03

INCENTIVES

Termly Engagement Awards (Institutions & Students)

05

02

COACHING HUBS

Grant to upskill new football coaches with qualifications and CPD

04

REFEREE DEVELOPMENT HUBS

Grants to upskill new referees for IMS football/ futsal and the wider community

06

INCLUSIVITY FUND

Funding to cover student's travel costs to member service events

RECREATIONAL FOOTBALL ON BUCS PLAY



BUCS will cover all licence costs until 2028, so universities can access and use the platform free of charge. We will also provide full training and implementation support, with on demand help available to support with any issues throughout delivery.

INTRAMURAL PROGRAMMES

Institutions can deliver their intramural football/ futsal activity through BUCS Play, with the license fee fully covered by BUCS. The platform supports automated fixture generation for leagues and knockout competitions, as well as friendly fixtures and one-off events.

Institutions have complete flexibility over their offer, with the ability to run men's, women's and mixed formats that suits their students. BUCS Play also enables easy tracking of participation data, helping institutions better understand student demographics and engagement levels, alongside rewards and incentives from BUCS to encourage regular participation.



TURN UP & PLAY SESSIONS

Turn Up and Play sessions can now be delivered through BUCS Play, providing an accessible, low-commitment entry point into football/ futsal.

TUAP supports a wide range of inclusive and engaging formats, including female-only sessions, disability-focused activity, skill-based sessions, that remove barriers to participation and appeal to a broad range of students.

Sessions are easy to manage through the platform, with QR code check-ins enabling quick and accurate capture of student participation data.

KEY DATES: TERM 2 & 3



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Reporting
Window 1
Deadline

WLP
Touchpoint 2

BUCS Big Wednesday @
Loughborough University

WLP
Touchpoint 3

Reporting
Window 2
Opens

29/01/2027

16/02/2027

24/03/2027

27/04/2027

01/04/2027

APRIL 2027

30/04/2027

04/05/2027

MAY 2027

15/06/2027

WLP & ECL
27/28
Applications
Open

Reporting
Window 2
Deadline

Football Development
Network Day & Awards
@ University of Warwick

All funded projects 27/28
Applications Open

WLP
Touchpoint 4

MINIMUM OPERATING STANDARDS



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	1*	2*	3*
Participate	Separate participation offers for male and female students.	Separate participation offers for male and female students* At least 1 student must be trained and deployed as an FA Qualified Referee.	Separate participation offers for male and female students* At least 1 student must be trained and deployed as an FA Qualified Referee throughout this academic year. <i>Including Futsal Equivalent*</i>
Lead	Paid or Volunteer Workforce opportunities for male and female students.	Paid or volunteer workforce opportunities for male and female students. A minimum of 1 male and 1 female student must attend a BUCS Football Development Member Service.	Paid or volunteer workforce opportunities for male and female students. A minimum of 2 male and 2 female students must attend a BUCS Football Development Member Service
Compete	BUCS Men's or Women's Football and/or Futsal Teams.	BUCS Men's AND Women's Football and/or Futsal Teams At least 1 student must be trained and deployed as an FA I2CF Coach.	BUCS Men's AND Women's Football and/or Futsal Teams. At least 1 student must be a UEFA C qualified coach OR onboarded onto a UEFA C course & deployed as a coach. <i>Including Futsal Equivalent*</i>

*Inclusive for any students with disabilities

BUCS FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT MEMBER SERVICE

In regard to the lead accreditation criteria, the following counts towards a BUCS Football Development Member Service:

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Your students must be onboarded on to the programme.

EMERGING CLUB LEADERS PROGRAMME

Your students must be onboarded on to the programme.

CLUB COMMITTEE LEADERS

Your students must attend one of these events.

FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK DAYS

Your students must attend one of these events.



MINIMUM OPERATING STANDARDS



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	1*	2*	3*
Participate	10 POINTS	20 POINTS	30 POINTS
Lead	15 POINTS	30 POINTS	40 POINTS
Compete	10 POINTS	20 POINTS	30 POINTS



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**ACCREDITED
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**ACCREDITED
UNIVERSITY ★ ★**
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL



**ACCREDITED
UNIVERSITY ★ ★ ★**
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0*	1*	2*	3*
0 – 34 Points	35-55 Points	56-80 Points	81-100 Points

EXTERNAL FUNDING INFORMATION



Introduction to Coaching Football Course (I2CF):

Chase Fully Funded Places

This programme is run in partnership with Chase, the Official Banking Partner of England Football Learning. If you're awarded a place on our [Chase fully funded places](#) programme, the full £160 cost of the Introduction to Coaching Football course will be covered by Chase.

Partially Funded Places Programme

Through our [partially funded places](#) programme, we fund £136 of the course cost meaning you only need to pay £24.

UEFA C Diploma:

Partially Funded Places

Through our [partially funded places programme](#), we fund £555 of the course cost, meaning you only need to pay £95 to take part.

Grassroots Affiliated Discount *(This should apply to you)*

If you coach at a Grassroots Affiliated Club, we fund £150, meaning you only need to pay £500 for the course. You'll need to provide your clubs National Club ID number to apply for this discount, so please make sure you know this when completing the Funding Eligibility Form.

Chase Fully Funded Places

This is a new programme delivered in partnership with Chase, the Official Banking Partner of England Football Learning. If you're awarded a place on our [Chase fully funded places](#) programme, the full £650 cost of the UEFA C Diploma course will be covered by Chase.

EXTERNAL FUNDING INFORMATION



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County FA Refereeing Support

Quite often your local County FA will put on referee courses that are female only or courses that are targeting historically underrepresented groups. As a result, these referee courses are sometimes discounted and even free.

As a result, we would encourage you if you cannot tap into our BUCS Referee Development Hub Funding, to get in contact with your local County FA and understand if there are any courses that can host your students at a discounted rate.



REFeree COURSE
BLACK, ASIAN AND MIXED HERITAGE

6PM-9PM | 26 SEPTEMBER 2024
9AM-4PM | 28 SEPTEMBER 2024

THE GURDWARA
GURU NANAK MARG
GRAVESEND
DA12 1AG

Secure your place for £40

SIGN UP NOW

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL
Referees@KentFA.com

Kent FA

*CFA BAME Referee Course advertised as £40 instead of £140**

HELP & SUPPORT



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01

SEAN LOFTING

Staff Network Days,
Football Development Strategy,
FA and England Futsal Liaison

02

BETH EDWARDS

Women's Leadership Programme,
Club Committee Leaders,
Coaching Hubs

03

KELVIN NEWELL

Accredited Universities,
Emerging Club Leaders,
County FA Working Groups,
Referee Development Hubs

04

ALAI AYYAKANNU

Development Projects,
Recreational Football on BUCS
Play, Accreditation Portal,
Event and Admin Support

HELP & SUPPORT



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