

Introducing your programme leader: Darren Smith



<p>Career history and interests</p>	<p>Previously worked for the London Football Association, in coach development and inclusion. My coaching journey has also included working for Nike in the football development team, and also working within Millwall and Charlton Athletic Academy. Currently, as well as Programme Leader at UCFB, I am an FA Affiliate Tutor for UEFA B, as well as a FA Coach Mentor. One of my main interests is inclusion within sport, specifically looking at increasing BAME coaches within football.</p>
<p>What to expect in your first few weeks</p>	<p>Expect the unexpected as our coaching team will challenge all students to get involved practically from the very first day. We do not deliver in a traditional way of lecturing to the room and instead use a variety of methods to engage and debate the subject content with students individually and collectively. And remember, "Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard."</p>
<p>Course expectations</p>	<p>The degree will give a broad perspective of some of the most pertinent aspects and challenges within modern day football. The world of football coaching and management is not just about planning a coaching session for players, it's now more than just a game, with so many external factors that affect performance and development. The degree will give you an insight into how footballers can be supported through their development phases (youth) right up to their performance phases (professional game). We will take an in-depth look into how this can be influenced through talent identification, performance analysis and coaching to allow you to determine your own career interests.</p>

<p>What you can do to prepare</p>	<p>Do some basic research around the first semester modules for the degree to get a feel for the current landscape. In particular, try to get a feel for the broad range of different aspects that are encapsulated within the coaching and management environments. The reading list literature will give you a starting point but try to look more widely across the topics to get a head start for what will come on your first day.</p>
<p>Reading list</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armour, K. (2013) Sport Pedagogy: An Introduction for Teaching and Coaching. London: Routledge. • Cassidy, T., Jones, R. & Potrac, P. (2009) Understanding Sports Coaching: The Social, Cultural and Pedagogical Foundations of Coaching Practice. 2nd edition. London: Routledge • Jones, R.L. & Kingston, K. (2013) An Introduction to Sports Coaching. Second Edition. London: Routledge. • Cassidy, T., Jones, R. & Potrac, P. (2009) Understanding Sports Coaching: The Social, Cultural and Pedagogical Foundations of Coaching Practice. 2nd edition. London: Routledge • Jones, R.L. (2006) The Sports Coach as educator: Re-conceptualising Sports. London: Routledge • Williams, M., A. (2013). Science and Soccer: Developing Elite Players. 3rd Edition. London: Routledge