



Introducing your Programme Leader **NEIL SCOTT**



Career history and interests

Worked for Manchester United since 2003 as a part of their soccer school, pre-academy and academy. I work as an international coach for the club's soccer school, providing a 'Manchester United coaching experience' for players as a part of the club's commercial strategy. I am also currently one of the coaches within the club's academy foundation phase, working mainly with the under 9 age group.

Interested in Learning and Talent Development. Like to encourage player ownership and probably focus more on psychological and social development of the person, which then leads onto the development of the player.

What to expect in your first few weeks

You will need to identify opportunities to coach, analyse or scout for clubs and teams. UCFB can help with this. Getting involved with practical sessions from the start. Being challenged to work away from the timetabled sessions in order to develop your skills both as a coach and as an academic. A transition to the higher education learning environment and to view football coaching as a career.

Course expectations

The course will challenge you to think critically about what you see, hear and read around football. You will be required to develop your industry skills, coaching and analysis. There will be opportunities to develop relationships with current academy coaches and other staff who work in football.

What you can do to prepare

Start to observe football rather than just watch. Try to analyse what you are observing, what is good play and what is not. Coaching on summer programmes and any opportunities to observe or coach in a pre-season environment would also be beneficial.

Reading list

These books may be available at local libraries.

Balyi, I., Way, R. and Higgs, C. (2013) Long-term Athlete Development. Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics

Collins, D. and MacNamara, A. (2018). Talent development. 1st ed. Oxon: Routledge

Nesti, M. and Sulley, C. (2015). Youth development in football. London: Routledge.

These are journal articles which might be accessible via Google Scholar. This type of document is something that you will become very familiar with over the next 3 years.

Baker, J., Schorer, J. and Wattie, N., (2018). Compromising talent: Issues in identifying and selecting talent in sport. *Quest*, 70(1), pp.48-63.

Croad, A. and Vinson, D., (2018). Investigating games-centred pedagogies to enhance athlete decision making in elite coaching contexts. *International Journal of Coaching Science*, 12(1), pp.35-68

Hendry, D.T. and Hodges, N.J., (2018). Early majority engagement pathway best defines transitions from youth to adult elite men's soccer in the UK: A three time-point retrospective and prospective study. *Psychology of Sport and Exercise*, 36, pp.81-89.

Larkin, P. and Reeves, M.J., (2018). Junior-elite football: time to re-position talent identification?. *Soccer & Society*, 19(8), pp.1183-1192.

Li, C., Martindale, R. and Sun, Y., (2019). Relationships between talent development environments and mental toughness: The role of basic psychological need satisfaction. *Journal of sports sciences*, 37(18), pp.2057-2065.

O'Gorman, J., Partington, M., Potrac, P. and Nelson, L., (2020). Translation, intensification and fabrication: professional football academy coaches' enactment of the Elite Player Performance Plan. *Sport, Education and Society*, pp.1-17.

Potrac, P., Jones, R. and Armour, K. (2016) "'It's All About Getting Respect': The Coaching Behaviors of an Expert English Soccer Coach", *Sport, Education and Society*, 3322(November). doi: 10.1080/135733202200001886.

Reeves, M.J., Littlewood, M.A., McRobert, A.P. and Roberts, S.J., (2018). The nature and function of talent identification in junior-elite football in English category one academies. *Soccer & Society*, 19(8), pp.1122-1134.

Reeves, M.J., McRobert, A.P., Littlewood, M.A. and Roberts, S.J., (2018). A scoping review of the potential sociological predictors of talent in junior-elite football: 2000– 2016. *Soccer & Society*, 19(8), pp.1085-1105.

Williams, A.M., Ford, P.R. and Drust, B., (2020). Talent identification and development in soccer since the millennium. *Journal of sports sciences*, 38(11-12), pp.1199-1210.