

CARNEGIE SCHOOL OF SPORT | MSc COACH DEVELOPMENT



LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY
CARNEGIE SCHOOL OF SPORT

CARNEGIE SCHOOL OF SPORT | MSc COACH DEVELOPMENT

INTRODUCTION:

The Carnegie School of Sport is committed to promoting and advancing effective and ethical Sport Coaching to improve participant and performer development experiences and outcomes. Central to this ambition is the continued support and development of Coaches provided by the emerging Coach Development workforce.

Working closely with Coaches to support their desire for continual improvement in all areas of coaching practice, the Coach Developer is increasingly recognised as a valued and expert role in the support of Coaching.

The course is designed to be completed part time over two years. Exit points exist at Post Graduate Certificate (1/3 of the MSc) or Post Graduate Diploma (2/3 of the MSc).

AIMS OF THE COURSE:

- Offer higher learning and professional development opportunities to those working in the emerging profession of coach development (and similar roles, including coach education and workforce development).
- Develop the knowledge and practical skills to ethically and effectively support coaches learning and professional development in a range of environments and contexts.
- Create stimulating experiences in which Coach Developers are exposed to a wide variety of coaching situations and contexts.
- Work with peers to develop a communal sense of 'good practice' in the various tasks you undertake in your work.
- Identify opportunities for your professional growth by exploring the impact of your work with others.
- Co-create a community of Coach Development professionals who can draw effectively on the support of a network of peers in their ongoing learning and professional development.
- Align with professional standards to provide graduates with a route to Chartered Status.

In pursuing these aims, the course will centre around three broad, overlapping and interconnected questions:

What do you bring to your work as a Coach Developer?

What is effective and ethical sport coaching?

What is effective and ethical coach development?

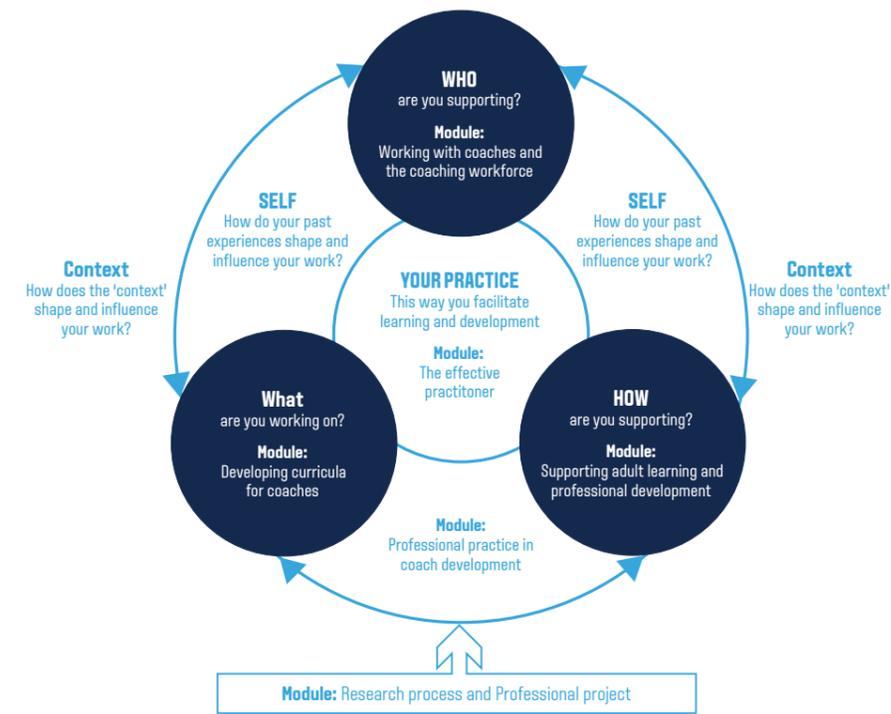
"Studying for my Master's in Coach Development at Leeds Beckett University has been an incredibly inspiring and transformative experience. The course has fundamentally changed the way I approach my coaching practice and how I see my role within coach development."

The depth of learning, combined with the opportunity to apply theory to real-world coaching environments, has enhanced my understanding of how to support and develop coaches effectively. The course has given me clear direction in my work at Leicester City, helping me refine my approach and implement impactful strategies to support the coaching workforce.

For anyone working in the field of coach development, I would wholeheartedly recommend this course. It has provided me with the tools, knowledge, and confidence to make a real impact in my role, and I have no doubt it will do the same for others."

PAUL CHENEY

Head of Coach Development, Leicester City Football Club



A Conceptual Framework for Coach Development (Adapted from Abraham, Muir and Morgan, 2010)

COURSE DESIGN AND MODULES

The course has been designed to reflect a Conceptual Framework for Coach Development (see Figure 1). The framework encourages us to consider how our practice is shaped and influenced by the 'context' within which we work, the beliefs, values, knowledge and perspectives we (i.e. understanding 'self') have about the needs and wants of the coaches we support (i.e. the 'who'), the demands of their role (i.e. the 'what') and our ideas about learning (i.e. the 'how').

Course Modules:

Year 1:

Developing Curricula for Coaches
Working with Coaches and the Coaching Workforce
Supporting Adult Learning and Professional Development
The Effective Practitioner

Year 2:

Professional Practice in Coach Development
Research Process
Professional Project

LEARNING EXPERIENCES:

The nature, balance and blend of experiences have been designed to reflect the belief that professionals' learning and development may be accelerated by frequent and varied opportunities to put ideas to work, access to timely feedback that can be used, and the introduction of supporting concepts and ideas.

The course is designed around a work-related, integrated curriculum: the modules, assessment, learning and teaching activities integrate with each other, and the professional role of the coach development practitioner. The 'day-to-day' of your work is learning and development when integrated in this way.

The course will be delivered in a blended fashion, with a mixture of campus-based 3-day learning events, online, and field based (in-situ) experiences. In addition to the face-to-face and online contact, you will engage in significant self-directed study, supported by tutors and peer networks.

An important feature of the course is that you will be expected to be working in a placement or working in a coach development role throughout. This will provide an important context for all of the module assessments, helping you to embed new skills and knowledge in your ongoing professional practice.

COURSE DURATION AND KEY DATES:

The course will be delivered over two years part-time, from October 2025 to September 2027. During the first year, there will be three campus-based 3-day learning events. These will be face-to-face events taking place at [Leeds Beckett University's Carnegie School of Sport](#).

The dates for each of the learning events in year 1 are:

Learning event 1: Wednesday 15th to Friday 17th October 2025

Learning event 2: Wednesday 21st to Friday 23rd January 2026

Learning event 3: Wednesday 22nd to Friday 24th April 2026

Assessment-for-learning event: Wednesday 17th and Thursday 18th June 2026

Each learning event will begin at 12:30 on day 1 and conclude at 15:00 on day 3.

Between each learning event, the regional field-based coaching observations, online one-to-one, small and whole group sessions will be used to support your opportunities to learn through and from your everyday experiences supporting coaching.



WHO IS THIS COURSE FOR AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS?

The course has been designed for professionals that are:

- Experienced in people development and similar roles that support others in their learning and professional development;
- Familiar with the demands of coaching across varying contexts in sport;
- Already facilitating individual and group learning interactions in professional environments;
- Able to evidence the driving of their own learning and professional development as a people development practitioner;
- Open to learning and demonstrating the ability to work effectively alongside others;
- Able to identify an appropriate coaching environment and coach(es) with whom they can work for the duration of the course.

All applicants are expected to be practicing coach developers and able to evidence being in the role for at least one year. Applicants will normally be expected to possess an undergraduate degree.

Applicants without an undergraduate degree can apply through a portfolio of evidence that will be considered by the course leader, typically alongside an interview.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

For applicants based in the UK, studying part-time, commencing in October 2025, the full course tuition fees are £9,540 (£17,900 for international students). Payment of fees will be spread over the delivery of the programme. Funding your postgraduate degree: Students can benefit from Master's Loans for up to £12,858. [For further information please click here.](#)

If you're not sure you want to commit to a full MSc you can enrol via:

Post Graduate Certificate Coach Development (1/3 of the MSc and 1/3 of the fees)

Post Graduate Diploma Coach Development (2/3 of the MSc and 2/3 of the fees)

NB, all students are taught together.

COURSE TEAM

The team at Leeds Beckett University (LBU) has a long and influential history in supporting the professionalisation of sport coaching and coach development. Since 2009, staff from the course team at LBU have been centrally involved in designing and delivering individualised, longitudinal learning and professional development programmes to meet the needs of coaches across several talent pathway, Olympic, Paralympic and professional sport contexts.

Drawing from their experiences supporting coaches and coaching across sports, the course team have also undertaken a complementary and parallel stream of work, designing and delivering programmes of professional learning for coach developers in partnership with a range of national and international partners including UK Sport, The Football Association, Sport Scotland, Sport Northern Ireland and the International Council for Coaching Excellence (ICCE).

Their work has been underpinned by a track record of world leading research that has informed policy and practice, including the recently published Professional Standard for the Role of a Coach Developer (accessed here) by CIMSPA (the Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity). The professional standard outlines the role, scope, skills and knowledge of a coach developer working across pathway and performance programmes in Olympic and Paralympic sports.

For further information please email Dr Bob Muir <mailto:b.muir@leedsbeckett.ac.uk>

"I enrolled in the MSc in Coach Development program at Leeds Beckett University without knowing what to expect, having not previously engaged with studies at this level. Reflecting on my journey, I can confidently say that this course has exceeded my expectations in every way. From the outset, the programme offered an engaging learning environment that combined theory and practice. Its design and flexibility allowed me to balance my studies with professional commitments, making it ideal for working practitioners."

The staff truly bring the course to life. They are exceptional people who are driven to help us learn and grow academically, professionally, and personally. I wholeheartedly recommend the MSc in Coach Development at Leeds Beckett University to anyone passionate about coach development, eager to make a meaningful impact in the field, and looking to invest in themselves in a supportive environment."

SARAH GREEN

Performance Pathway Coach Developer England Netball



LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY
CARNEGIE SCHOOL OF SPORT