

# PRO PLAYER PATHWAYS (GLOBAL)

A TRULY UNIQUE OFFERING FROM UCS

UCS



**PRO PLAYER  
PATHWAYS**

**COMBINING PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL WITH EDUCATION**

B R O C H U R E

# WHO WE ARE

Pro Player Pathways (Global) is a unique offering from UCS for the elite and gifted Student Athlete, providing a truly unique international playing and academic experience.

UCS employed lecturers deliver all academic content



UCS is the Higher Education arm of VLUK, a Nationwide government funded and regulated training provider. We educate approximately 1500 learners in each Academic Year, with a proven track record of outstanding learner outcomes in the sports and performing arts industries.

Our core philosophy revolves around bringing theoretical knowledge to life through industry-specific practical learning. We believe in developing core academic skills for all learners to engage in further and higher education, with appropriate exit routes to positive destinations being a key focus.

Our target is for all learners to be confident young people who are engaged in lifelong learning, developing softer skills, and becoming competitive in the workplace and employable in their chosen industry.



# DUAL CAREERS

Combining Professional Football with Education



The Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree allows students who have an exceptional talent within football the opportunity to combine both professional football and education.

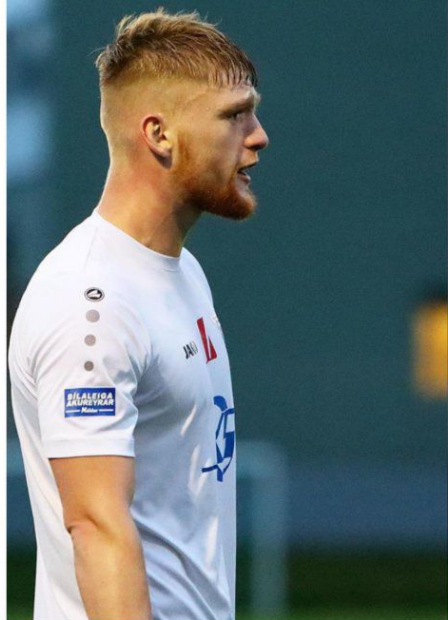
This dual-career opportunity recognises the enhanced level of ability of the student-athlete whilst also allowing them to pursue their educational aspirations, critical in ensuring that their long term employment opportunities are enhanced and protected.

International placements are also available via the PPP programme in Coaching, Match Analysis and other specialisms within the field of player or team development, combined with academics in the form of the BSc.

# HAMISH THOMSON

Hamish, a former Livingston centre-back, enrolled on our programme and signed immediately with UMF TINDASTÓLL in Iceland. Hamish went into the starting eleven and performed excellently, scoring a goal on his home debut.

Having the opportunity to train full-time allowed Hamish to improve his physical condition, which in turn improved his level of performance. Once the season in Iceland came to a close, he moved back to Scotland and signed a professional contract with Forfar Athletic in the Scottish Championship. Hamish was a mainstay in the starting 11 performing outstandingly for the duration of the season. As Hamish is now entering his second year on the programme he is excited about moving to Gibraltar and competing in European football.



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**I HAVE LOVED EVERY MINUTE OF THE COURSE. THE CONTENT DELIVERED WITHIN THE LECTURES GOES HAND IN HAND WITH THE WORK EXPERIENCE I AM RECEIVING PLAYING PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL**

”

- Hamish Thomson

# LINCOLN RED IMPS

Luke Wall and Sam Henderson have both had fantastic experiences with the Lincoln Red Imps in Gibraltar, winning both the league and the league cup. This has provided a fantastic opportunity for them to gain some Champions League experience next season.

Moving away has allowed both student-athletes to combine education with professional football.



# THUSO NYONI

The former Mansfield Town midfielder secured a fantastic move to Bochenski KS in the Polish third division. Thuso is a strong dominating midfielder who can also operate as a centre-back.

He has performed admirably for his new club and has seen his performance levels continuously improve the more time he spends at his new club. Thuso has his eyes set on representing the Zimbabwe national team if he continues to impress.



# DANIEL MARTINS

A strong and athletic defender who enjoys possession of the ball secured a move to Watra Bialka in Poland. Daniel has been playing to the right of a back three and he has started every game since arriving. He has enjoyed not only the exceptionally high standard of coaching but also the opportunity to put what he has learnt from the education into practice.

# FESTUS LORI

Festus is an exciting winger who plays for Nybergsund IL-Trysil in the Norwegian third division. Festus has performed excellently both within education and football. He has looked to implement what he has learnt from the lectures into his own professional career.

Festus has utilised the knowledge gained from the fitness training and sports nutrition modules to improve his level of performance. He has looked to become more explosive by implementing a healthier diet whilst performing suitable training sessions to improve this component of fitness.



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**SINCE JOINING I HAVE CONTINUED WITH MY STUDIES WHILST PLAYING PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL IN NORWAY. I FEEL I HAVE THRIVED IN THIS ENVIRONMENT THANKS TO THE SUPPORT AND THE CONSTANT LINE OF COMMUNICATION WITH THE STAFF.**

”

- Festus Lori

# FC BOCA

Jack Atkinson enjoyed his time in Gibraltar representing FC Boca. Jack is a young goalkeeper who has performed very well and firmly establishing himself as his club's number one.



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**THE PRO PLAYER  
PATHWAYS (GLOBAL)  
PROGRAMME HAS  
GIVEN ME THE BASE  
TO EXPLORE THE  
PROFESSIONAL  
FOOTBALL ROUTE  
WHILST GAINING  
QUALIFICATIONS.**

”

- Jack Atkinson



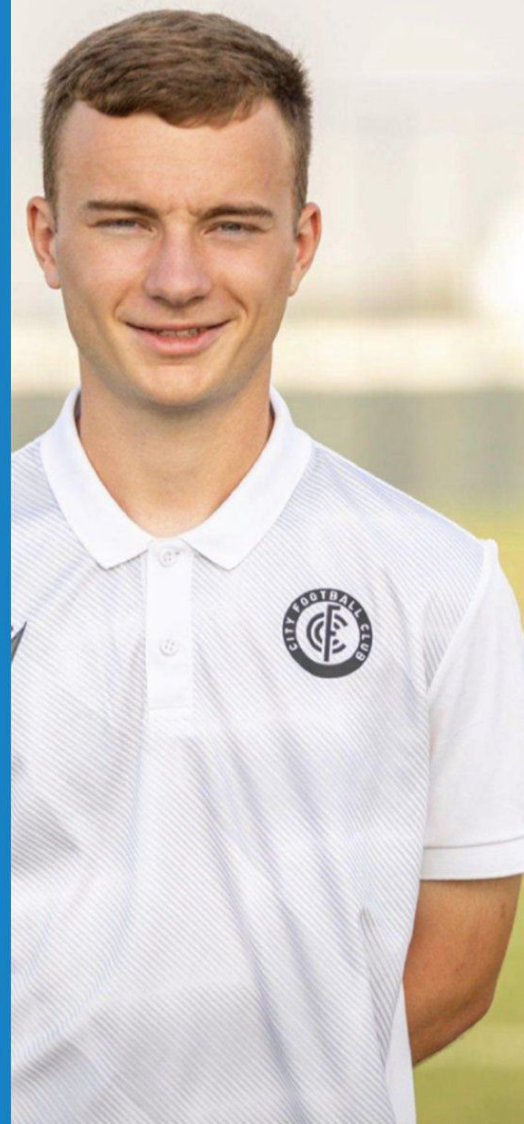
# NATHAN MILLS

The former Shrewsbury Town left-back has moved to Sweden where he plays for Gottne IF in Sweden. Nathan is a set-piece specialist who has outstanding technical ability. Nathan has continued to develop throughout his first year on the course and he has started every game for his new club.



# COMBINING PROFESSIONAL COACHING OR MATCH ANALYSIS WITH EDUCATION

Students who are passionate about a career in Coaching or even Match Analysis can be provided with work experience opportunities in various countries.



ProPlayerPathways holds partnerships around the globe to provide students with work experience opportunities in a variety of countries including:

- UK
  - Spain
  - Gibraltar
  - Dubai
  - Bulgaria
  - America
- And many more...

This work experience sets them apart from other graduates with real-life understanding and knowledge within a professional environment.

# GEORGI RAEV

Assistant Coach at Botev Vratsa -  
Bulgarian Premier League.

Georgi is a UEFA A Licenced coach who has demonstrated his high level of football knowledge by working within the Bulgarian Premier League. He is currently combining this first-class experience with studying for his Bachelor of Science in Sports Coaching.

Georgi utilises his experience in football within class discussions and into his assignments. Georgi is gaining an excellent understanding of professional football that will provide him with great opportunities in the future.



# CAVAN BURNS

Scottish Football Association Level 2  
Coach - Dubai City Football Club

Cavan has travelled to Dubai to combine both playing and coaching football within a Professional Football Club. Whilst at Dubai City FC Cavan was able to continue with his Football at a high level by representing the Under 23 team, and the intention of breaking into the first team.

Whilst working within the Football Club Cavan is utilising his degree as he is able to transfer his academic skill set into real-life hands-on coaching.



# GEORGE MULONDA

A central defender who represents Lynx Football Club in both a playing and coaching capacity in Gibraltar. George has exceeded expectations and hopes the club are playing in Europe next season.

George also combines this role with coaching the Lynx youth teams, which assists in transferring the knowledge gained within lectures into practical situations.

# CAREER OPPORTUNITIES



The qualifications secured through UCS as part of this programme will enhance and protect the career prospects of every participant, allowing to pursue potential careers in the fields of:

- Sports Analysis
- Talent Identification
- Sports Coaching
- Strength and Conditioning
- Teaching

# AMERICAN CAMPS

Gaining practical work experience is fundamental to the development of a coach. Our course enhances career prospects as students have a variety of opportunities to travel the world.

Working with our partner Football Clubs or coaching organisations students with a passion for coaching can sample numerous countries throughout the academic year.

The American camps enhance the fundamental skills of a coach whilst working with different cultures, genders, abilities and ages groups.



# BSc SPORTS COACHING

A career in sports awaits



Students will achieve a Certificate in Education in year one, Diploma in Education in year two, and the BSc (Hons) in year three.

Each year consists of 6 Modules with the exception of the third year which is made up of four units and a dissertation.

# YEAR 1

Sport Pedagogy for Coaching

Introduction to Sport & Exercise Psychology

The Social Context of Sport & Exercise Science

How to be Successful at University

Sport Coaching Behaviour

Sport Coaching Science



To view the Academic Prospectus  
use the QR code above





# YEAR 2

Sport Research Methods

Positive Psychology Coaching

Performance Analysis Coaching

The Developing Athlete

Sport Leadership & Team Dynamics

Applied Practice & Business Skills



To view the Academic Prospectus  
use the QR code above



# YEAR 3

Applied Sport Psychology

Applied Practice in Sport

Creating Performance Coaching Environments

Coaching Professional Development & Education

Dissertation



To view the Academic Prospectus  
use the QR code above



# PRIVATE STUDENT/ATHLETES

For Student/Athletes who are not eligible for Student Finance and would like to access the programme as a private fee paying student please register your interest and identify yourself as a private student.



# POSTGRADUATE COURSES

Upon the completion of the learner's Bachelor of Science in Coaching, the learners have opportunities to progress onto Postgraduate courses. This exit route includes both Masters and Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) that will enhance their employment opportunities.

Once the learner has decided to specialise within a specific career they are provided with opportunities to further enhance their skills and knowledge in this area by enrolling onto a postgraduate course. This will allow learners to enhance career prospects in their desired profession.



# MASTERS

Learners can pick from numerous exit routes including a Masters in; [Sports Coaching](#), [Sports Analysis or Strength and Conditioning](#). A learner will have the opportunity to expand their knowledge relating to their professional field, as they will acquire skills in new technologies and methods that have developed in their area.

## **Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)**

Should a learner decide to pursue a career in teaching the BSc qualification will enable them to enrol onto a PGCE. This qualification will provide opportunities to teach in primary, secondary or further education, dependent on which level of education our learner pursues.

# WHERE OUR PLAYERS PLAY



# HOW TO APPLY

UCS  
ucsport.org



To register your interest please submit your information via the QR code below



Email: [mike.morris@ucsport.org](mailto:mike.morris@ucsport.org)

Twitter: [@PathwaysPro](https://twitter.com/PathwaysPro)