

Teesside University Football Academy Terms and Conditions

1.0 Academy details

1.1 Teesside University Football Academy (TUFA) offers students the opportunity to study in their preferred discipline (not only sport-related), while continuing to train and play at a high level in football. Teesside University and Teesside Sport are committed to the development of football excellence and provide a sector-leading offer to high-performing players – both male and female – providing an outstanding environment that raises aspirations and enables students to succeed through a dual career pathway.

1.2 Eligible students can apply for the academy during their application process to study at Teesside University. On selection to the programme you will have access to the following:

- 10 hours per week of bespoke football-related activity including coaching, conditioning, analysis, recovery and medical support as part of a holistic care package
- gym membership
- use of hydrotherapy pool
- Teesside Sport training kit
- access to biomechanics and physiology labs

1.3 Applicants should note the 10 hours per week of bespoke football-related activity is not a contract that Teesside University or the student is bound by. Each week TUFA members will have access to the services listed above and these sessions. If students cannot make these timetabled sessions the University is not obliged to provide an alternative slot to make up the hours missed. However, TUFA staff will work with students so that clashes with their academic timetable can be avoided as much as is possible (e.g., by making use of the existing clinics booking system). To get the most out of the programme and to develop as a high performing scholar it is strongly recommended students attend all aspects of the programme.

2.0 Application and acceptance

2.1 Applicant need to have applied or intend to apply to Teesside University for any full-time (360 credit) undergraduate degree (inclusive of foundation year) or postgraduate degree. Prospective students may at the time of application also apply to the TUFA. The TUFA is open to applications from home and international students applying to study a course on Teesside University's Middlesbrough campus. Upon receipt of an offer to study on a Teesside University course, their application for the TUFA can be fully processed (subject to meeting the eligibility/entry criteria).

2.2 Any offer from the TUFA is conditional on the acceptance onto a Teesside University degree course (proof of enrolment needed).

2.3 Teesside University and Teesside Sport reserve the right to invite applicants to a football trial to ensure players can meet the football standards required of the academy.

3.0 Eligibility/entry criteria

3.1 Applicants are required to state their playing position and experience, including length of time playing and for whom (this information needs to be verifiable) – see specific criteria below. It is expected applicants will have progressed through existing youth, and Further Education (college) academies, however there is no limit/preference on how long someone must have played at this level.

3.2 All applicants must supply a valid reference from a qualified football coach (preferably UEFA B or above)

3.3 All applicants must state on their application form for the TUFA if they have a current injury. Having an injury does not mean applicants will be unsuccessful in their application but under a 'duty of care' the TUFA and Teesside University must be able to assess the student's injury and discuss the most appropriate outcome for the health and well-being of the applicant. Applicants may be offered a place on the TUFA subject to a successful trial/injury assessment. (also see essential criteria point 3.5)

3.4 Applicants must have an interest in football and contribute positively to sport at Teesside University through sports performance (see point 6.2 for more details).

3.5 Male specific criteria:

Essentials:

- Must have played 11 a side football at U18s
- Must have played in top 3 divisions in local Junior level football league
- Must be able to physically commit to intense football training program

Desirable

- Preferably been selected for county side football at junior level
- Preferably played within an academy Elite Player Performance Plan structure
- Preferably played U18s within a college football environment

3.6 Female specific criteria:

Essentials:

- Must have played 11 a side football at U18s
- Must have played in an FA Regional Talent Club or equivalent talent pathway or for a Women's Super League Academy, Women's Championship team, or Women's National League Team (senior first team or reserve team level)
- Must be able to physically commit to intense football training program

Desirable:

- Preferably been selected for international camps at age group level
- Preferably played U18s within a college football environment

4.0 Conditions for academy members

4.1 As a student of Teesside University and member of TUFA, students will be required to abide by the Student Code of Conduct at all times. Failure to do so could end up with disciplinary proceedings and removal from the academy and course of study.

4.2 As a TUFA member students get access to the aforementioned services and support (section 1.1).

4.3 Membership of the TUFA does not guarantee selection for the University football team(s) or time on the pitch for the University football Team(s). The football coach is solely responsible for player selection for matches.

4.4 Once a student has been accepted on to the TUFA, in order to maintain their place students must:

- achieve successful progression on their degree pathway
- have excellent attendance at timetabled teaching sessions for their course of study (monitored through stream by personal tutor)
- successfully submit work for course by agreed deadlines
- have good communication with Academy staff
- have excellent engagement in the programme (monitored via attendance at training and curricular activities)

The above will be monitored via the university's attendance monitoring system and by the student's personal tutor. Achievement and progression will be monitored and discussed on a case-by-case basis at one-to-one meetings with the academy director.

4.5 Once a student has been accepted onto the TUFA their place is secured for one academic year or until the end of the current academic year (the academy year runs September to June) or following an unsuccessful review of conditions mentioned in section 4.4.

4.6 For successful TUFA applicants joining the University outside of these dates (e.g., January cohorts or late enrolments) their place will be secured until the end of

the current academic year or following an unsuccessful review of conditions mentioned in section 4.4.

4.7 At the end of each academic year the TUFA and the students currently enrolled will be reviewed. Students can apply for the TUFA for each year of their full-time undergraduate course.

4.8 Doping – Teesside Sport is an accredited member of the Clean Sport higher Education Partnership delivered through UK Anti-Doping (UKAD). In addition to the substance misuse policy set out in the student code of conduct we reserve the right to hold disciplinary proceedings and/or withdraw any student from the TUFA if they are convicted of a doping offence in line with World Anti-doping agency or UKAD. If a TUFA player is suspected of taking performance-enhancing drugs or engaging in illegal methods of performance enhancement the case will be referred to UKAD .

4.9 Students accessing the clinics through the TUFA will be asked to complete a medical questionnaire and consent form prior to accessing the clinics.

4.10 The payment of red and yellow cards received during matches will be assessed on an individual basis. Fees associated with cards will only be paid subject to the discretion of the Head Coach.

5.0 Amendments and termination

5.1 TUFA reserve the right to amend/withdraw membership if the above conditions (section 4) are not maintained.

5.2 On occasion there may be demand/requests from external football club personnel (e.g., clubs students play for outside of university) for TUFA staff to amend training loads associated with the academy (e.g., number of conditioning sessions, number of matches per week, injury rehabilitation) to accommodate contractual responsibilities with their existing club. These occasions/requests will be assessed on an individual basis and communicated with the student.

5.3 Teesside University reserves the right to amend or withdraw the operation of the TUFA at any time.

5.4 Injuries experienced during membership of TUFA will be managed through Teesside University Sports Injury clinic and there will be opportunities on your weekly timetable for injury assessment and rehabilitation. If a student experiences an injury during their academy period that prevents them from taking part in the full academy offer (e.g., strength and conditioning and football specific training) this injury will be assessed and managed for the time remaining on the academy (end of the academic year). Assessment of the injury will be completed by appropriate members of Academy staff prior to re-engaging with the full academy offer. If a student is not fit to participate in football training and or matches in the TUFA the following year, injury management and rehabilitation support will still be offered through the wider university clinical offer.

5.5 If a student withdraws or is withdrawn from their academic course then their place in the TUFA would be terminated and access to the offer stopped.

5.6 A student can withdraw from the TUFA at any time. Students who have received sports kit will not be asked to return it. If students still require access to the University Gym and other TU sport facilities, they will need to join as a paying student member as soon as they withdraw from the TUFA.

5.7 If a student is withdrawn from the TUFA due to not meeting the conditions set out in section 4.4. they will have the associated benefits withdrawn and need to join as paying student members.

6.0 Insurance and football club membership

6.1 Students who receive and accept an offer to join the TUFA will have their Teesside University clubs/societies fee to join the Teesside Football Clubs paid for by the TUFA.

6.2 TUFA students are expected to be available for selection to play for Teesside University football team(s) in matches (fitness and injury permitting). In specific situations where this conflicts with any existing agreement they have with any external clubs these must be discussed with the TUFA coach. These agreements must be identified at the application stage to be reviewed by the Head Coach.

6.3 Students who are affiliated with the TUFA and TU football clubs are covered for personal accident/injury whilst engaging in football related activities linked to the TUFA

7.0 Data protection

7.1 TUFA and Teesside University confirm that data it holds on you will be held in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (EU 2016/679).

7.2 Students enrolled on the TUFA will be provided with a participant information sheet and consent form which will detail all the data that the TUFA will collect and hold on that student (e.g., training data such as GPS) and how it is used.

7.3 As mentioned in point 5.2, there will be occasions where TUFA will be required to share training data with external organisations (e.g., clubs students play for outside of university). This data would only be shared with the students' knowledge and consent. We would not share personal information with any external organisation (e.g., contact details).

7.4 Students on the TUFA will be provided with a video and photographic information sheet which will detail how the TUFA will record and use digital content collected during the programme. Prior to publication/sharing of any digital content, students will sign a consent form.

7.5 With the popularity of social media and the ease of sharing personal data such as, photographic or video footage, it is likely some students from the TUFA and the students' wider networks may engage in these forums and may discuss TUFA related content. The TUFA note that whilst comments relating to the celebration of the success of others are encouraged we ask students to be respectful. Inappropriate use of social media or any comments deemed to be derogatory, a public criticism or to be upsetting towards others may be subject to TUFA and Teesside University disciplinary procedure