



Job Description

Job Title: Sport Coaching University Placement

Reports to: Deputy Director of Sport / Head of Athletic Development

Location: Bradfield College, Bradfield, Reading, Berkshire

Department: Sport

Job Purpose:

To provide undergraduate or postgraduate students with the opportunity to gain meaningful, applied experience in a leading school-based sports coaching environment.

The placement is designed to support credit-bearing placement years or professional practice modules, where permitted by the student's enrolled university and course regulations.

Applications are welcomed from both students undertaking formal university placement years and those seeking applied coaching experience independently; completion of university credit requirements is not a prerequisite for application.

The placement will primarily involve shadowing and supporting sport-specific coaching staff in the planning, delivery, and evaluation of coaching sessions across Bradfield College's games programme, with opportunities aligned to the applicant's coaching specialism in football, netball, cricket, tennis, or hockey.

The role is designed to develop aspiring coaches' understanding of long-term player development, age-appropriate coaching practice, and the balance between participation and performance pathways within a school sport setting. The placement will also provide insight into the wider sporting ecosystem, including collaboration with athletic development staff, physiotherapists, and pastoral teams, supporting the holistic development of young people through sport.

Main Duties

- Observe, support, and on occasion assist with the delivery of sport-specific coaching sessions across a range of age groups and ability levels, aligned to the applicant's coaching specialism (football, netball, cricket, tennis, or hockey).
- Gain practical experience in the planning, delivery, and review of coaching sessions, including the use of appropriate progressions, differentiation, and session objectives linked to long-term player development.
- Support lead coaches with the organisation, set-up, and breakdown of training sessions and fixtures, including equipment preparation and basic administrative tasks.
- Develop an understanding of age-appropriate coaching practices, including how technical, tactical, physical, psychological, and social elements are integrated within school sport programmes.
- Assist in the coaching and management of diverse groups of pupils, recognising differences in motivation, ability, experience, and aspirations across participation and performance pathways.
- Observe and learn how sport-specific coaching integrates with athletic development, physiotherapy, and medical provision, particularly in relation to player availability, injury management, and return-to-play considerations.
- Support matchday and fixture delivery where appropriate, gaining insight into team preparation, in-game coaching, and post-match reflection.

- Develop an understanding of the professional standards, safeguarding responsibilities, and expectations required when coaching young people within a school environment.

Qualifications and experience required for this role:

Essential

- Current undergraduate or postgraduate student studying Sports Coaching, Physical Education, Sport & Exercise Science, or a related discipline.
- A clear interest in sports coaching and player development within a youth sport or school-based setting.
- Coaching involvement, participation, or formal study in at least one of the following sports: football, netball, cricket, tennis, or hockey.

Desirable

- Experience of coaching or assisting in a school, club, academy, or community sport environment.
- Working towards, or holding, a sport-specific coaching qualification (e.g. FA, ECB, England Netball, LTA, England Hockey or equivalent).
- An understanding of long-term player development principles and age-appropriate coaching practice.
- Experience supporting both participation and performance sport programmes.

General

- Enthusiastic and motivated to learn in an applied setting.
- Professional conduct and reliability.
- Strong communication skills.
- Willingness to contribute to session organisation and wider team support.
- Ability to reflect on experiences and seek feedback.
- Ability to manage own time and balance placement with academic commitments.
- Has a genuine interest in sports coaching, player development, and talent development within a youth or school sport setting.
- Willing to gain applied experience to complement current academic studies.
- Can demonstrate curiosity, ambition and commitment.
- Ability to act with professionalism and maturity in a school environment.

Placement Details

- **Location:** Bradfield College, Berkshire, RG7 6AU
- **Duration:** 10 months (September – June)
- **Hours:** Programme runs Monday to Saturday, 8:30am – 6:00pm
- **Benefits:**
 - Accommodation may be provided (subject to availability)
 - Meals included
 - £5,000 stipend towards travel and living expenses

This role profile is not exhaustive; it will be subject to periodic review and may be amended to meet the changing needs of the college. The post holder will be expected to participate in this process and we would aim to reach agreement to the changes.