

School of Education

BA(Hons) Sports,
Physical Education and
Community Studies



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Sport and physical education has the power to influence and change young peoples lives and horizons, this may be your first step towards being a part of this journey.

Dr Symeon Dagkas, Programme Co-ordinator.

Challenge convention.

The BA (Hons) in Sports, Physical Education and Community Studies (SPECS) combines the study of sport and physical exercise across education and community boundaries.

This programme has been designed for students who are interested in pursuing careers in sport, education or working in the community. The course prepares you for the role of a sport and physical education professional, and with the necessary skills to contribute to partnership enterprises within sport, education and community contexts.

You will study a range of topics including Sport, Physical Education, Coaching, Leisure Management and Community Studies. Students also gain a greater understanding of significant sporting bodies such as the Sports Council, Central Council for Physical Recreation, Sports Coach UK and the Youth Sport Trust.

The Physical Education aspect of the programme involves the study of the nature of physical education, and includes modules that cover physiology, psychology and sociology. The Community Studies element of the degree course enables you to explore a range of issues in which sports and leisure activities are increasingly used as a base for informal education programmes.

You will also have the opportunity to complete a research placement in either an educational setting or in a sport and leisure context. You will have access to the University's extensive sporting facilities including the Munrow Sports Centre, the Gillett Sports Centre, a floodlit athletics track, international-standard water-based synthetic pitches, numerous grass pitches and a swimming pool.

At Birmingham you will be taught by academics who are working at the forefront of their subject areas. Research excellence within the School of Education was recognised in the Research Assessment Exercise where the school achieved a grade 5, given to research of international significance.

Research influences all the teaching that takes place at Birmingham as you are taught by academics who are global experts in their fields, and whose research interests directly influence the content of our programmes. Teaching at Birmingham was rated as excellent by the Higher Education Funding Council for England in their assessment of teaching quality in UK universities.



Staff activities research collaborations

The SPECS staff are currently involved with projects and research with the following bodies:

- Professional Golfers Association
- Birmingham Royal Ballet
- Amateur Swimming Association
- British Gymnastics Association
- Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR)
- England and Wales Cricket Boards
- Institute of Youth Sport
- Sport Birmingham
- Youth Sport Trust
- Specialist Sports and Arts Colleges

Facilities

The University of Birmingham has some of the best university sports facilities in the country and Birmingham itself is home to a number of world-class sports amenities and sports clubs. The university sports facilities include the Munrow Sports Centre on the Edgbaston Campus and the Gillett Sports Centre on the Selly Oak Campus. The course is mainly taught on the Selly Oak Campus and the new Orchard Learning Resource and Teaching Centre (OLRC) at Selly Oak Campus is used for theoretical lectures.

Academic programme

The programme focuses upon the study of sport, physical education and youth and community studies. Students study a range of compulsory modules that may include a selection of the following:

Year 1

- Introduction to Sports Studies
- Academic Skills Development
- Introduction to Research
- Personal Development through Outdoor Education
- Introduction to the Organisation, Development and Management of Sport
- Principles and Practice of Physical Education through Games and Athletics
- History and Theory of Informal Education

Year 2

- Practical Studies: Aesthetic Activities of Physical Education (Gymnastics and Dance)
- Applied Coaching Theory
- Research Methods
- Placement (Physical Education, Sport/Leisure/Coaching)
- Principles of Physical Activity
- Sport in the Community

Year 3

- Advanced Coaching Theory
- Teaching and Coaching Swimming
- Psychology/Sociology of Sport and PE
- Creative Interventions with Communities
- Dissertation

The academic programme is one that seeks to give students breadth of knowledge and understanding of sport, physical education and community issues in both practical and theoretical contexts.

Sport at the University of Birmingham

SPECS students represent the University within a range of BUSA sports clubs. There are also more informal opportunities to participate in sport through intra-mural sports competitions that operate within the University. Students are encouraged to obtain NGB Coaching Awards to enhance their coaching experiences during their time at University.

Sports scholarships

Students may apply for sporting scholarships from the University, through the Foundation for Sport. Several of our current students are sports scholars. Further details can be obtained from the Foundation for Sport or try www.bham.ac.uk/sport

Careers and destinations

On completion of this course students have embarked upon a range of careers that have included teaching, sports development work, leisure management, sports marketing, youth and community work and careers in the private and public sectors.

What can I do when I leave?

There are many options (not just sporting ones) open to University of Birmingham graduates. However, if you are considering a career in any of the following, then you should think about doing the 'SPECS' degree: PE teaching (PGCE Secondary/Primary); sports development work, sports coaching; leisure industry staff/management; youth and community work.

We feel that it is important that the graduate skills you gain whilst you are a student are transferable to any future employment.

How much practical work will I do?

As with every sports course in higher education, the key element is gaining and applying theoretical knowledge. This means that you will be involved in a substantial amount of classroom and seminar based theory work. Practical work will underpin your theoretical knowledge in a range of modules, for example you will examine the theory and practice interface of activity areas in the National Curriculum for PE. These include Games; Dance; Gymnastics; Swimming and Outdoor Education.

What grades do I need to get on to SPECS?

All students are required to conform to certain requirements when applying to the University. Our typical offer for this programme is ABB/BBB. Please contact our admissions team for more advice. We consider students with a range of qualifications which typically include: A levels; BTEC; GNVQ; HND and Access.

Learn more

- Careers Centre 0121 414 6123
- Foundation for Sport 0121 414 4117
- Housing Services 0121 414 6441
- ungradaccom@bham.ac.uk
- Student Services 0121 414 6382
- Student Support 0121 414 5130
- Guild of Students (BUGS) 0121 472 1841
- University Switchboard 0121 414 3344

Alternatively check out the University of Birmingham website and research the University thoroughly!

For an informal discussion of the SPECS degree please contact:
 Symeon Dagkas on 0121 415 8389, email s.dagkas@bham.ac.uk
 or Lesley Phillpots on 0121 415 8390, email l.a.phillpots@bham.ac.uk

www.bham.ac.uk

This leaflet was written several months in advance of the start of the academic year. It is intended to provide prospective students with a general picture of the programmes and courses offered by the School. Please note that not all programmes or all courses are offered every year. Also, because our research is constantly exploring new areas and directions of study some courses may be dropped and new ones offered in their place.