About us

FCV International Football Academy offers academic football courses for aspiring footballers aged 15 and upwards. The academy opened in September 2007 and is dedicated to developing players while also providing a pathway for academic excellence. Former students have gone straight into professional football within the UK, Europe or at a significantly higher level in their home country. Some have earned scholarships to play and study in the USA, and others have played semi-professional football while studying at a UK university.

Many of us dream of playing football at a higher level. FCV can give you this opportunity – the pathways are endless...

Six reasons to choose FCV International Football Academy

1. UNIQUE EXPERIENCE
FCV International Football Academy caters for football development and will also provide the opportunity to gain educational qualifications

2. EXPERT TUITION
Receive guidance from UEFA A licensed coaches

3. INTERNATIONAL CULTURE
Players from across the globe, from all walks of life, are welcome

4. OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPRESS
Unparalleled regular access to club scouts and respected coaches

5. TOP FACILITIES
Train and play at the £5.5 million Borderville Sports Complex and live at the Academy’s exclusive boarding house, The Garden House

6. A RANGE OF ACADEMIC COURSES
Including BTEC, A Levels, degrees and language courses starting in January and September of each year

Heritage Timeline

2007
The UK's first private football academy was opened by Manchester United and England winger Ashley Young at Nene Park in Northamptonshire.

2008
The academy team, FCV Stamford, became an FA Charter Standard Club and Kieran Mahon becomes the first student to sign for a professional club when he joined Northampton Town.

2010
Sam Conway became the first player to join a professional club outside of the UK, signing for FK Banik Most in the Czech Republic. FCV Stamford won the Central Conference Cup.

2011
Former Scotland manager Gordon Strachan shared his expertise by staging a guest coaching session.

2013
Caluam Jahraldo-Martin became the first student to play for a Premier League club when he joined Hull City. International students made up 60 per cent of the cohort for the first time.

2015
FCV relocated to the centre of historic Stamford. Former Uruguay international Gus Poyet delivered a guest coaching session.

2017
A football programme is launched in India and FCV enjoy another prosperous year of growth in England.

2018
A record number of students join FCV Academy in a year when courses are launched in Australia, Bulgaria, Hong Kong, Nigeria and Zimbabwe.

“AS AN ACADEMY WE HAVE ESTABLISHED A REPUTATION FOR QUALITY SINCE 2007 AND MYSELF AND THE FCV TEAM ARE PROUD TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SO MANY YOUNG PEOPLE FROM AROUND THE WORLD TO FOLLOW THEIR ASPIRATIONS AND IMPROVE THEMSELVES AS FOOTBALLERS, ACADEMICS AND AS PEOPLE.”

GRAHAM STARMER
MANAGING DIRECTOR

The Academy has welcomed students from six continents since its inception, Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, South America and Australasia. The only continent remaining is Antarctica.
The academy serves breakfast, lunch and an evening meal Monday to Sunday. Laundry facilities are also available on site and all utilities are included within our tariff.

We do on occasion use landladies who have been validated by our Welfare Manager and hold the same safety certificates as our full-time residential staff.

Students have all they need to enjoy a safe, friendly stay at the Academy.

The Garden House, the boarding facility used exclusively by academy students, is conveniently situated in the heart of the idyllic stone town of Stamford in Lincolnshire, England.

All 19 twin rooms come with en-suite bathrooms and are fitted out to meet the everyday living and working needs of the modern student. High-speed wireless internet is available throughout the House which contains a dining room, study centre, conservatory and almost an acre of walled gardens, plus students can relax and socialise in the games room or communal areas.

The boarding house is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by our experienced and qualified residential team. A residential manager is available on site every weekday to help and assist students with any queries they may have and it is situated close to the Borderville Sports Complex, the base for all FCV football training and matches.

“We have created a strong family atmosphere where the students feel safe and at home. They develop life skills which enable them to flourish in any given environment.”

ANN DYTE
RESIDENTIAL MANAGER
Borderville Sports
Complex

In the summer of 2015 FCV moved to the impressive £5.5m development at Borderville in Stamford.

Academy students play their home matches at the brand-new 2,000 capacity stadium with training on the floodlit full-size 3G all-weather pitch or grass training pitches.

The complex also boasts a sports hall, a fully-equipped gymnasium, dressing rooms, medical room, canteen and classrooms.

Rhino’s Gymnasium

Strength and conditioning training takes place at Rhino’s, a five-minute walk from Borderville. It is a unisex gymnasium for people who are serious about improving their health. The best-equipped gym in the area provides everything a student will need for a great overall body conditioning session and, with superb services and facilities, the 12,000 square-foot facility caters for all individual needs.

Rhino’s boasts a wide range of cardiovascular resistance, strength, functional equipment and studios offering several classes which is all included in each student’s complimentary gym membership.

Stadiums

At the end of each season, the academy has held its final showcase match and presentations at some of the top stadiums in the UK including The Hawthorns (West Bromwich Albion), Ricoh Arena (Coventry City) and most recently at the King Power Stadium, home of former Premier League Champions Leicester City. Sessions have also been staged at St George’s Park.
Our training sessions and matches are led by highly-qualified UEFA A coaches, including experienced former professional players and managers. The Academy’s intensive training programme has been designed to enhance every individual’s game.

Sessions focus on improving individual’s technique, as well as developing tactical awareness and an understanding of the game, that alongside strengthening physical attributes through a robust conditioning programme, is tailored to enable players to be fully prepared for the modern game.

The academy’s team, FCV Stamford, became a FA Charter Standard Club in 2008. Regular competitive matches are played in the National League U19 Youth Alliance, British Colleges U19 League and Midland Football U21 League, as well as County FA tournaments.

Friendly fixtures are also arranged against Premier League and English Football League opposition, whilst specific showcase matches are staged in front of scouts, giving each student a chance to test and benchmark their development against professional clubs in England. Each year, subject to EU funding, students in their second year can attend a two-week work placement, with a professional club in Europe. Experiences in the past have been delivered in Belgium and Sweden, enabling students to receive further training specific to European football, whilst enhancing opportunities of progression within the game.

- After graduating 93 per cent of our players are now competing at a higher level than when they joined
- Much of that is down to the dedication of the community environment here at the Academy and the growing reputation of sporting excellence we pride ourselves on

Away from the pitch itself, a number of activities are arranged for the benefit of each student’s football development and to make the course enjoyable, these include:

- Sessions with former professional footballers and managers
- Sessions about contracts with a FIFA-approved Player’s Agent
- Expert coaching sessions from UEFA-qualified coaches
- Specialist goalkeeping sessions from UEFA-qualified coaches
- Filming of matches and post-match analysis
- Specific strength and conditioning sessions with qualified instructors
- Fitness monitoring and testing
- Membership to Rhino’s Elite strength and conditioning gym
- Physiotherapy sessions and first aid training
- Nutrition, health and lifestyle advice
- Team-building activities
- Media training
- Opportunity to take FA Coaching badges and referee’s course
- Support with exit pathways and provision of references

Support services

At the academy we are committed to supporting our players/students with pastoral care and valuing them as individuals is paramount in our ethos. Our dedicated team provides a variety of support across many avenues including but not limited to welfare support, physiotherapy treatment to aid recovery and specialist advice on a wide range of issues including finance, visas and accommodation, exit pathways, opening bank accounts, airport transfers and FIFA international clearance.

We advise that you disclose any learning support requirements ahead of study to enable us to efficiently support your needs.

All full-time students who join FCV International Football Academy are registered with a local GP and dentist whilst also remaining registered with their doctor’s back home for holiday periods.

FCV employs qualified physiotherapists for all players which ensures immediate attention to any serious injuries picked up at the Academy. Please note this will not cover for any injuries picked up before joining the Academy.

We provide a Child Protection Officer and an Independent Listener and all the residential staff hold the relevant DBS checks and child protection certificates.

Religions

We have a diverse collection of players from a wide variety of cultures. We cater for different dietary requirements and the Academy will ensure prayer rooms are available when required, too.
Educational Courses

BTEC

The BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport (Performance and Excellence) is a two-year course, requiring 15 hours of study per week.

The qualification is delivered in association with the world-renowned centre for sporting excellence, Loughborough College. Established in 1909, it has established a proud, long-standing reputation for providing excellent levels of high-quality training across the UK. In its most recent Ofsted rating Loughborough College received an Outstanding commendation for its apprenticeships, including elite sport apprenticeships.

The vocational course explores different areas of employment in the sports sector and meets the needs of those aspiring to a career in sport. It offers a solid foundation in the various aspects of sport, the broad study base provides a variety of experiences and the opportunity to acquire knowledge across a diverse range of subjects.

Upon successful completion of the BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma, students will have the equivalent of three A levels. The course not only serves as a route to higher education including degree level. The course not only serves as a route to higher education including degree level.

Extended Diploma, students will have the equivalent of three A levels. The course not only serves as a route to higher education including degree level.

Core units include:

- Anatomy and Physiology
- and Physiology of Fitness
- Sports Coaching and Assessing Risk
- Technical and Tactical Skills
- Analysis of Sports Performance
- Fitness testing and designing training programmes
- Sports Injuries
- Sports Psychology
- Talent Identification
- Current issues in sport

Assessment

The course is delivered in a vocational manner, with assessments ranging from written reports, portfolios, and posters to verbal assessments, presentations, and practical observations.

During the first year students will study the BTEC 90 Credit Diploma, which on successful completion will enable them to progress onto the BTEC Extended Diploma in year two.

The BTEC educational programme is delivered by college tutors of Loughborough College, with the students transported to campus by the Academy and College buses.

A Levels

FCV International Football Academy are able to offer players the opportunity to take a variety of AS and A Level qualifications, including Business Studies, to support their BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sports Studies course.

Course Information

Duration: 2 years
Start Date: January and September
Fees: £24,995 for UK and £29,995 for international, inclusive of tuition fees

Age: 16 – 19
- UK/EU
- International (Student VISA required)

Entry requirements

5 GCSEs at Grade C/4 and above, including one of either English and Maths.

About the Course

The course has two main aims. The first is to provide a balanced programme of study, placing emphasis on traditional areas of learning such as grammar and pronunciation, whilst also focusing on contemporary, practical English which students in the UK will regularly encounter outside of the classroom.

The second is to help prepare players to sit one of four main English language exams provided by Cambridge Assessment English – A2 Key English Test, B1 Preliminary English Test, B2 First English Test and C1 Advanced English Test. Students can also prepare to sit the IELTS Test, which is recognised by education and training providers worldwide, including FCV International Football Academy, supporting in particular future applications to study higher education and degree courses overseas.

Small class sizes are essential to optimising learning on an English language course. With this in mind, class sizes for the General English courses are currently capped at 12 students – so early registration is recommended.

Which class is right for me?

There are a range of class levels for students attending the 12-hour General English course, from Elementary through to Advanced.

Students on the course are given a short placement test and an informal interview to assess their level of English before being placed into the appropriate class.

Which exam will I sit and where is it recognised?

Students will be regularly tested in class to monitor their progress. The academy’s teachers will take class performance and test scores into account, before advising each student which exam is appropriate for them to study towards before the end of their course.

Cambridge Assessment English

Provides the world’s leading English Language qualifications. Cambridge exams are officially accepted by thousands of universities, employers and governments globally. They can open doors to higher education, improve job prospects and, due to the internationally recognised status of Cambridge Assessment English exams, international mobility is increased.

International English Language Testing System (IELTS)

IELTS is jointly owned and managed by the British Council, Cambridge Assessment English and IDP Education Australia. If you plan to enrol at a university or college, apply to business organisations, or register for a visa from government agencies in countries such as the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, or Canada, the IELTS test can help you reach your education, career or life goals. The IELTS is also a requirement for students wishing to progress onto the BTEC or Degree courses offered by FCV International Football Academy, particularly for those that require a tier 4 student visa to study.

Course Information

Duration: 1 – 2 years
Start Date: January and September
Fees: £31,995 for UK/EU and International inclusive of tuition fees

Age: 16 – 21
- UK/EU
- International (Student VISA required)
Blended Learning Degrees

In association with the world-renowned centre for sporting excellence, Loughborough College, FCV Academy offers the opportunity to study either a BA (Hons) Sport Management or BSc Sport Coaching degree via blended learning. Both degrees are three years in duration and are validated by Nottingham Trent University.

Blended learning provides the perfect combination of online/distance learning and contact day attendance, enabling students to perfectly balance their studies alongside the Academy’s football development programme.

BA (Hons) Sport Management

The programme provides opportunities to develop your management skills. You will cultivate a knowledge and understanding of operations, finance, human resources, leadership, quality and finance, which will be applied to sports facilities and events.

You will put your theory into practice through applied studies and assessments. Sports-specific modules include Sports Development and Physical Activity, Lifestyle and Wellbeing.

Year 1
Customer Care in the Sport Industry
Introduction to the Sport Industry
Physical Activity and Health Promotion
Industrial Work Placement/CPD
Marketing Management in the Sport Industry
Leadership in the Sport Industry

Year 2
Research Project
Human Resource Management in the Sport Industry
Managing in the Health and Fitness Industry
Financial Management in the Sport Industry
Event Management in the Sport Industry
Managing Sports Development

Year 3
Research Proposal
Research Project
Strategic Management in the Sport Industry
Sport Development
Global Sport Marketing
International Business of Sport

Course Information

Duration: 3 years
Start Date: January and September
Fees: £31,995 for UK/EU and International inclusive of tuition fees
Age: 18 – 21
• UK/EU
• International
( Student VISA required)

Entry requirements
72 UCAS points, including GCSE English and Maths (level 4 or above)

Progression Opportunities

Following this programme, many successful students have gained employment in sport and leisure management. Alternatively, you may progress on to postgraduate studies at master’s level.

BSc Sport Coaching

The programme provides opportunities to develop your teaching and coaching skills. You will cultivate a knowledge and understanding of the disciplines underpinning effective sports coaching and performance for different ages and abilities.

You will put your theory into practice through applied studies, placements and assessments.

Year 1
Applied Coaching Theory
Coaching Practice and Placement
Understanding Research
Technical and Biomechanical Analysis of Sport
Physiology of Fitness Training for Coaching
Principles of Pedagogy and Physical Education

Year 2
Athlete Welfare and Safeguarding
Psychology for Coaches
Leadership in the Sport Industry
Work Based Experience and Project
Foundations of Effective Practice

Year 3
Advanced Coaching Practice
Teaching Strategy: Pedagogy in Practice
Tactical Analysis of Sport
Managing Sports Development
Research Project

Progression Opportunities

Following this programme, many successful students have applied to PGCE programmes to pursue a career in teaching, with others gaining employment in international coaching, local authority coaching, professional clubs and National Governing Body programmes. Students can also progress on to postgraduate study.
FCV International Football Academy offers weekly courses while the Academy is open. They are designed to give players an experience of how professional clubs train and many players since we opened in 2007 have used this opportunity to see what life is like at FCV Academy, before joining us on a full-time basis.

Places are limited, so we do recommend booking early. All courses are fully residential using the same boarding house accommodation as the full-time Academy players. There are some non-residential day places available. There are also optional extras including English Language. These short courses offer intensive football coaching and training for players, aged between 16 and 21, from the UK and abroad and will provide match analysis, performance analysis and coaches advice.

Fees:
From £799 per week

Optional extras
- English language course
- Airport transfers

Prices on request

Top quality football training facilities at the Borderville Sports Complex

First-class football coaching programmes with UEFA A License coaches

An intensive football training regime from Monday to Saturday

Fixtures against Premier League, English Football League and National League opposition with the opportunity to impress scouts

Specialist coaching and advice including strength and conditioning, diet and nutrition, and goalkeeping coaching (if applicable)

Physiotherapy and sports injury cover

Welfare support

Full board accommodation with three meals per day

Recreational activities, excursions and team-building activities

Transport to fixtures and training

“THE FACILITIES HERE ARE EXCELLENT, BETTER THAN SOME PROFESSIONAL CLUBS. RHINO’S GYM IS FANTASTIC, THE LIVING CONDITIONS FOR THE BOYS IN THE GARDEN HOUSE IS EXCELLENT, AND THE STAFF ARE ALL GREAT PEOPLE.”

GRANT BROWN
ACADEMY MANAGER
Throughout the year, FCV Academy has a range of open days for potential students interested in enrolling. If you are unable to make our Open Days, we can arrange individual tours at your convenience. Please note that to attend an Open Day, players must be accompanied by a parent or recognised guardian.

The dates can be found at: internationalfootball.academy/open-days.

**Open days**

**Group visits**

FCV International Football Academy can offer groups the same facilities it uses— all football facilities at the Borderville Sports Complex and the accommodation at the Garden House in Stamford. Borderville offers players the chance to play at the 2,000 capacity stadium with training on the floodlit full-size 3G all-weather pitch and grass training pitches.

We can also host large groups at our educational partner, Loughborough College.

**Showcase matches**

Football trials are organised by FCV Academy on a regular basis. You will play in a match in your own age group, in front of scouts from clubs at a non-league level through to the Premier League. We have been running these successfully since 2001.

**Development camps**

FCV International Football Academy have been running development camps for more than 15 years, combining top quality coaching, guest speakers, nutritional advice, and culminating with a showcase match in front of scouts.

Players stay at the Academy’s Boarding House in Stamford with training at the Borderville Sports Complex. The boarding house offers use of all its facilities on an exclusive basis—twin rooms with en-suite facilities, dining room, communal rooms, games room, study centre, conservatory, and nearly an acre of walled gardens. Broadband wireless internet is provided in the premises, and the students will have all they need to enjoy a safe, friendly stay at the academy with 24/7 residential staff support.

Development camps are designed for players aged between 15 and 21 years old giving the ideal preparation and opportunity to develop all areas of their performance, culminating in a final day showcase match. As well as all the football activities, all meals, accommodation, and welfare are provided, and each player will leave with an evaluation from our UEFA A License coaches, certificate, and full training kit.

All dates and fees are listed at: Internationalfootball.academy/football/trials-camps.
Success stories

Ikechukwu Ofili (2009-11)
Following graduation from FCV Academy, Ikechukwu completed an undergraduate fantastic degree in Sport and Exercise Management at the University of Kent and a master’s degree in Business Administration at Coastal Carolina University in America. In September 2016, he started employment at the League Management Company in Nigeria, who run the Nigerian Professional Football League.

Brandon Taverner (2016-18)
Current club: Oxford United (England)
“The facilities are brilliant, the coaches were great and it’s a fantastic environment to be in.
“They were probably two of the best years I’ve had. I felt like we had a good group. It was always fun to be around and training was always enjoyable. I didn’t take long to settle down here.”

Helder Pereira (2012-13)
Current club: Lusitano (Portugal)
“I loved it at FCV International Football Academy. My time there prepared me very well for life in football, and I am very grateful for that.
“The main learning point at FCV was the tactical understanding of the game, and there has been a lot of progression in my career since I graduated.”

Michalis Ioannides (2012-14)
Current club: Olympiakos Nicosia (Cyprus)

Calau Mahrad-Martin (2009-11)
Current club: Billericay Town (England)
Has played for: Hull City, Oldham Athletic (both England) and Newport County (Wales)

Tom de la Mare (2010-12)
Current club: Guernsey (Channel Islands)
Has played for: Royal Racing Montegnee (Belgium)

Thabang Maponya (2015-16)
Thabang signed for Caudal Deportivo in Spain in January 2017 after a successful trial following his departure from FCV following the 2015/16 season. He then moved to CDA Navalcarnero in the summer of 2017.

Emmanuel Oyeleke (2009-10)
Current club: Port Vale (Since 2018)
Has played for: Brentford, Northampton Town, Exeter City and Aldershot Town (all England)
Mum’s view (Abi Oyeleke): “Sending Manny to FCV International Football Academy was the best decision we’ve ever made. The Academy provides the perfect opportunity for playing football and discipline needed to focus on studies.
“The belief in him gave him the confidence that was lacking before he joined the Academy. All the coaching and residential staff helped Manny to develop to his full potential – physically, emotionally and academically.”

Matthew Whibley (2014-16)
Current club: FC Versoix (Switzerland)

Sheldon Lindesay (2015-16)
Current club: K. Berg en Dal VV. (Belgium)
“Life at FCV Academy placed me outside my comfort zone. I learnt more about myself all the time and how I respond to certain situation.
“I couldn’t imagine doing anything better than training and playing football every day. It has been awesome.”

Guest coaches

Gordon Strachan
Former Scotland Manager
“I’ve loved every minute coaching FCV International Football Academy lads - it has been really enjoyable and they’re a good bunch. It’s a good set up here and I wish them all the best.”

Gus Poyet
Former Uruguay international
“It was a pleasure to coach FCV International Football Academy players. The facilities are fantastic and the Academy is run very professionally.”

Brandon Taverner
Former Scotland Manager
“I’ve loved every minute coaching FCV International Football Academy lads - it has been really enjoyable and they’re a good bunch. It’s a good set up here and I wish them all the best.”

Gus Poyet
Former Uruguay international
“It was a pleasure to coach FCV International Football Academy players. The facilities are fantastic and the Academy is run very professionally.”
How to apply

We would be delighted to hear from you if you are interested in attending FCV International Football Academy on a full-time or part-time basis. Please send us an enquiry and one of our knowledgeable football and education advisors will respond to assist.

What’s more we will make sure you receive a copy of our free monthly e-newsletter featuring all the latest news from FCV including new programmes, dates of events and news about what we have in store.

UK/EU Students

Fees for UK/EU students will be from £24,995 for students wishing to study one of the college courses on offer.

Easy steps for a UK/EU student to join us:

- Attend an open day or individual tour
- Provide copies of educational certificates and references
- On offer of a place, complete relevant paperwork
- Pay relevant fees
- Complete IELTS test if required
- If relevant to course, acquire CAS number from Academic partner once evidenced above steps
- Make travel arrangements
- Inform FCV International Football Academy of travel arrangements
- Please note airport transfers can be arranged for you

International Students

FCV International Football Academy welcomes students from around the world.

To ensure your arrival at the academy is as smooth as possible we can offer to arrange travel from the airport when you arrive in the UK.

Fees for International Players will be from £29,995 for students wishing to study one of the college courses on offer.

Easy steps for an international student to join us full-time:

- Attend an open day or individual tour
- Provide copies of educational certificates and references
- On offer of a place, complete relevant paperwork
- Pay relevant fees
- Complete IELTS test if required
- If relevant to course, acquire CAS number from Academic partner once evidenced above steps
- Apply for visa if required through embassy
- Complete and return further Academy registration forms as instructed
- Make travel arrangements
- Inform FCV International Football Academy of visa confirmation (if applicable) and travel arrangements
- Please note airport transfers can be arranged for you
Contact Us

By Post
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The Garden House
High Street
St Martins
Stamford PE9 2LP

By Telephone
+44 1933 420 000

By email
info@internationalfootballacademy
The FCV International Football Academy was the UK’s first private football academy.

Former Academy pupil Calum Jahraldo-Martin became the first FCV Academy player to sign for a Premier League club when he joined Hull City in the summer of 2011.

The FCV Academy offers a choice of football and academic courses for 15 – 21 year-olds dedicated to producing professional players in conjunction with a good education.

During our first 10 years, FCV Academy welcomed and helped develop more than 500 players. Of these, 93 per cent graduated to play at a higher level.

Students on the short course at the FCV Academy are placed on an intensive football training regime six days per week.

Last season 12 different football coaches spent time teaching FCV Academy players. Four are employed on a full-time basis.

The Academy has 10 residential members of staff who look after the players 24/7 at the Academy’s own boarding house in Stamford.

Alongside a footballing education, Academy students can also study for a BTEC Diploma or Extended Diploma, Blended Learning Degrees or English Language requiring 15 hours of study per week.

More than 50 scouts from Premier League, Football League and non-league clubs will be watching Academy players during FCV Stamford matches.

The FCV Academy was opened by Ashley Young in 2007.

Former Scotland manager Gordon Strachan has visited the FCV Academy twice to deliver coaching sessions to the Academy players.

In 2015 the Academy moved to Stamford with former Chelsea star, Gus Poyet, taking the first coaching session at the new state-of-the-art Borderville Sports Complex.

The cost per year for non-residential day students to attend the FCV Academy is from £12,995.

The cost per year for UK and EU residential students to attend the FCV Academy is from £24,995.

The cost per year for international residential students to attend the FCV Academy is from £29,995.

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