About us

The FCV International Football Academy offers academic football courses for aspiring footballers aged 16 and upwards. The international football academy opened in September 2007 and is dedicated to producing professional players whilst 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-pro football whilst studying at a UK university.

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

Six reasons to choose FCV International Football Academy

1. **UNIQUE EXPERIENCE**
   The 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 Irthingborough, Northamptonshire.

2008
The Academy team, FCV Reds, 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 Reds won the Central Conference Cup.

2011
Former Coventry City, Southampton, Celtic and Middlesbrough manager Gordon Strachan shared his expertise by staging a guest coaching session.

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

2015
The Academy relocated to the centre of historic Stamford. Former Uruguay international Gus Poyet delivered a coaching session at FCV International Football Academy.

2017
A record number of students join the Academy in a year when a football programme in Mumbai, India is also launched.

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.
Accommodation

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 building 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 Academy football training and matches.

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 have residential and security staff who are on duty seven nights per week.

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

“We have created a strong family atmosphere where the students feel safe and secure, and where they can develop as people, as well as players.”

ANN DYTE
RESIDENTIAL MANAGER
Facilities

Borderville Sports Complex

In the summer of 2015 the Academy 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 Gym, a five minute walk from Borderville. It is a unisex gymnasium for people who are serious about improving their personal health.

The best equipped gym in the area provides everything you need for a great overall body conditioning session and, with superb services and facilities, the 12,000-square foot facility caters for everybody’s individual needs.

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

St George’s Park

The FCV International Football Academy has regularly held training sessions at St George’s Park since it first opened in 2012.

Set in the National Forest, in 330 acres of beautifully landscaped parkland, the centre is also the training base for the 24 England national teams. It includes a multi-purpose indoor sports hall, 11 full-size outdoor pitches, one elite DESSO training pitch, which is an exact replica of Wembley, and two hotels.

Stadiums

Each year the Academy students play their end of season showcase match at a top stadium in England. Previous venues have included the Hawthorns (West Bromwich Albion), Ricoh Arena (Coventry City) and King Power Stadium (Leicester City).
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, visa’s 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 students who join the 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. 

The Academy employs qualified physiotherapists for football injuries and private medical cover is provided 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 cuisines i.e halal meat, vegetarian and the Academy will ensure prayer rooms are available when required.

Football programme

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 Reds, 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.

• 93 per cent of our Academy graduates are now playing 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

“i feel I have developed very quickly, the game experience I’ve been exposed to has been a huge contributing factor to this. the Academy has helped my ability to work within a team immensely.”

DAN PERRY
SECOND YEAR UK STUDENT

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

• Sessions with former professional footballers and managers
• Sessions about contracts with 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
• Private medical insurance (optional)

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, visa’s and accommodation, exit pathways, opening bank accounts, airport transfers and FIFA international clearance.

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

BTEC

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

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 full-time employment, it is also a proven progression route to Higher Education including degree level.

Course Information

Duration: 2 years
Start Date: January and September
Fees: £20,995 for UK/EU Students and £25,995 for International Students.
Qualification: BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport (Development, Coaching and Fitness)
Age: 16-19
Study: Full Time • UK/EU • International (Student VISA required)

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.

Entry requirements

Students studying a BTEC Extended Diploma programme should normally have achieved 5 GCSE’s at grade C (or above) including English and Maths, or the equivalent in their own country. Alternatively, students who have studied at Level 2 Diploma Certificate or a BTEC First Diploma in a related subject should have achieved at least Merit grades.

One Year Top Up Programme

This programme is designed for learners who have completed the BTEC Level 3 Diploma and want to Top Up their qualification to a Level 3 Extended Diploma by taking an additional six BTEC units, or have done A Levels and wish to take a sport qualification.

The Top Up qualification is the equivalent of an additional A Level, which will further enhance entrance and opportunities into UK or US Higher Education Institutions.

The fees for the Top Up programme are met within the Academy fee structure for any students who are Under 19 on August 31st of the academic year they apply. Any UK/EU learners though that are older than 19 on August 31st can undertake the qualification, but additional costs maybe required.

For more details about the Top Up programme please contact the FCV International Football Academy.

English language courses

The FCV International Football Academy has linked up with Stamford Academy, a specialist English language centre, to offer a course for players seeking to improve their English skills, whilst studying towards an internationally-recognised Cambridge ESOL exam.

The course is designed to focus on developing the four key language skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening.

A Levels

The 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.
The FCV International Football Academy offers short courses which can be flexible and tailored to your individual needs whilst the Academy is open. They are designed to give players an experience of how professional clubs train and have served as a popular taster for many students before they have joined us on a full-time basis.

Our English language course is open to all students over the age of 16. Whether you are at an early stage of your English studies, with the ability to communicate your basic needs in everyday situations, or an advanced student seeking to refine your language skills, we have a class to meet your needs. Lessons will take place during the same time as other full-time courses, as well as some additional sessions during an evening or weekend.

Fees:
From £679 per week

Places are limited so we do recommend early bookings. All courses are fully residential using the same accommodation as the full-time Academy players. There are also some non-residential day places available. Please note, there is no medical cover included with the short course programme.

Top quality football training facilities
First-class football coaching programmes with UEFA A coaches and advice from managers in the professional game
An intensive football training regime with matches throughout the week
Fixtures against professional and semi-professional opposition, with the opportunity to impress watching scouts
Specialist coaching and advice including strength and conditioning, diet and nutrition and specialist goalkeeping coaching (if applicable)
Physiotherapy and injury rehab readily available
Welfare support
Full board accommodation with three meals per day
Recreational activities, excursions and team-building activities
Transportation to games

“THERE ARE GREAT OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPRESS SCOUTS”
JORDAN PARFAIT
SHORT COURSE AUSTRALIAN STUDENT
The Academy will open its doors to potential students interested in joining the Academy for next season. The dates can be viewed at internationalfootball.academy/open-days

If you are unable to make our Open Days we can arrange individual tours to suit your diary. Please note that to attend an Open Day, players must attend with a parent or recognised guardian.

Open Days

FCV International Football Academy can provide groups with a tailored programme, using the excellent football facilities at the Borderville Sports Complex and accommodation at the Garden House in Stamford.

Group Visits

FCV International Football Academy run a series of development camps throughout the year combining coaching, guest speakers, nutritional advice and culminating with a showcase match in front of scouts. Players use the same facilities as the Academy students staying at the Garden House in Stamford with training at the Borderville Sports Complex. There will be guest speakers, full-time coaching with all meals, accommodation and welfare provided.

Development Camps

All dates and fees are listed at internationalfootball.academy/football/trials-camps

*Please note, non-residential players will be provided lunch. Early drop off is also an option for non-residential players.
Success stories

**Gordon Strachan**
Scotland manager

“I’ve loved every minute coaching the 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 the FCV International Football Academy players. The facilities are fantastic and the Academy is run very professionally.”

**Emmanuel Oyeleke** (2009-10)
Current club: Exeter City (England)

Has played for: Tranmere Rovers (England), Alloa Athletic (Scotland) and Leyton Orient (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.”

**Calum Jahraldo-Martin** (2009-11)
Current club: Hull City (England)

International: Antigua and Barbuda

Has played for: Tranmere Rovers (England), Alloa Athletic (Scotland) and Leyton Orient (England)

“I’ve got great memories of my time at FCV International Football Academy – it’s where it all began for me. I learned lots of life skills. “The facilities are great, and even better than some clubs I’ve visited.

“Not everyone will go onto have careers in football, but they can learn so many other things from this experience.”

**Helder Pereira** (2012-13)
Current club: Lusitano (Portugal)

“I loved it at the 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 the Academy was the tactical understanding of the game, and there has been a lot of progression in my career since I graduated.”

**Ian Sagsetter** (2012-13)
Currently studying at: Faulkner University (USA)

**Tom de la Mare** (2010-12)
Current club: Guernsey (Channel Islands)

Has played for: Royal Racing Montegnee (Belgium)

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

**Calaum Jahraldo-Martin** (2009-11)
Current club: Hull City (England)

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

“FCV International Football Academy was a great experience and helped me a lot in terms of developing as a player.

“As well as helping me grow my understanding of the game and my position, it also helped me build up my confidence.”

**Guest coaches**

**Gordon Strachan**
Scotland manager

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**Gus Poyet**
Former Uruguay international

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

**Sheldon Lindesay** (2015-16)
Current club: K. Berg en Dal W. (Belgium)

“Life at the Academy placed me outside my comfort zone. I learnt more about myself all the time and how I respond to certain situation.

“1 couldn’t imagine doing anything better than training and playing football every day. It has been awesome.”

**Paco Puertas** (2014-15)
Current club: Rayo Vallecano (Spain)

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

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Current club: Olympiakos Nicosia (Cyprus)
How to Apply

We would be delighted to hear from you if you are interested in attending the FCV International Football Academy on a full-time or part-time basis. Please send us an enquiry and one of our knowledgable 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 the Football Academy including new programmes, dates of events and news about what we have in store.

For our degree programme, student finance is available for assistance and we would be happy to provide guidance on this process.

International Students

The 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 £25,995 for students wishing to study one of the college courses on offer.

We will be able to help with opening a bank account, registering with local doctors and gaining employment whilst studying if necessary. Anything you need, we will do our best to help.

Easy steps for an international student to join us:

• Attend an open day or individual tour.
• Provide copies of educational certificates and references.
• Sit interview face to face or on Skype with our Academic partner.
• 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.
• Join Academy.

UK/EU Students

Fees for UK/EU students will be from £20,995 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.
• Sit interview face to face or on Skype with our Academic partner.
• On offer of a place, compete 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.
• Join Academy.

"IT’S BEEN A REALLY ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCE IN A FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT; EVERYONE HAS BONDED AND SOCIALISES WITH EACH OTHER. IT’S A REAL FAMILY ATMOSPHERE."

ADITYA PUNNAKAL
FIRST YEAR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
How to Find Us

The Academy’s boarding house is situated on the High Street, which is part of the main north/south road passing through Stamford. The Garden House is located at the south edge of town adjacent to the A43 junction. Entry to the car park (inside the walled gardens) is from Pinfold Lane off the A43 at the rear of the hotel.

By Car
Using the A1 from the south, take the slip road signposted B1081 Stamford and Burghley House (about a mile after you pass RAF Wittering on the left). Follow the road down the hill into Stamford. We are the first building on the left as you enter the town.

Using the A1 from the north, stay on the A1 until the A43 exit (ignore previous Stamford exits). Turn left towards Stamford. In less than a mile, 50 yards before the end of the A43, turn right into Pinfold Lane. The car park is the third gateway on the left (the one with the archway).

Using the A43 from the west, 50 yards before the end of the A43, turn right into Pinfold Lane. The car park is the third gateway on the left (the one with the archway).

Using the A16 from the east, once in Stamford, follow the signs for London /A1 South. After crossing the town bridge, continue up the hill on the B1081. We are the last building on the right, just after the A43 junction.

By Train
The hotel is 400 yards from Stamford railway station. The closest mainline station is Peterborough on the east coast main line. Trains run roughly hourly between there and Stamford on the line that links Manchester, Birmingham, Peterborough and Stansted Airport. The journey takes about 10 minutes.

Nearest Airports
East Midlands airport – 46 miles
Birmingham airport – 70 miles
Luton airport – 72 miles
London Heathrow – 102 miles

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@internationalfootball.academy
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 16 - 21 year-olds dedicated to producing professional players in conjunction with a good education.

At the end of the 2016/17 season more than 500 players have attended the FCV Academy during the first 10 years. Of these, 93% are now playing at a higher level.

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

In 2015/16, eight different football coaches spent time teaching the Academy players. Four are employed by the Academy 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, a BSc Foundation Degree Course 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 Reds matches.

The FCV Academy was opened by Ashley Young in 2007.

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 £4,995.

The cost per year for UK and EU residential students to attend the FCV Academy is from £20,995.

The cost per year for international residential students to attend the FCV Academy is £25,995.

www.internationalfootball.academy

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