

# DO YOU WANT TO PLAY SOCCER IN EUROPE?

**3-YEAR INTERNATIONAL  
DEGREE IN FOOTBALL  
COACHING & MANAGEMENT  
PORTUGAL AND ENGLAND**



# TRAIN, LIVE, AND PERFORM LIKE A PROFESSIONAL ATHLETE WHILST EARNING YOUR UNIVERSITY DEGREE



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# PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

A premium international soccer development and academic pathway designed for elite players, coaches, and future sports industry leaders. This unique three-year degree programme offers an immersive global soccer experience across two of Europe's most respected sporting environments.

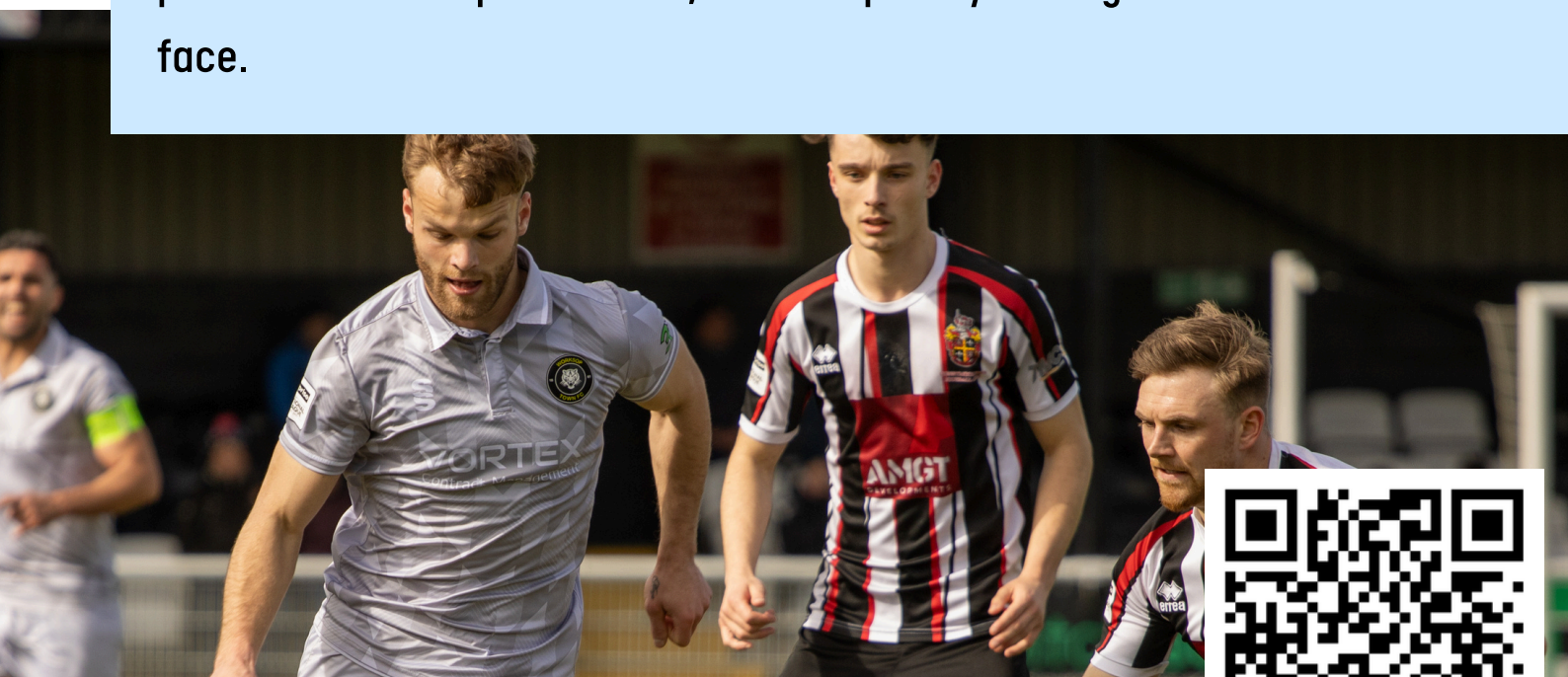
Each academic year is structured into two distinct high-performance phases:

## **Portugal (3 Months)**

High-Performance Pre-Season & Tactical Development Camp in Portugal.

## **England (6 Months)**

Move to England to train daily under UEFA A-Licensed coaches, compete in a structured UK fixture programme, undertake professional club placements, and complete your degree face-to-face.



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# PATHWAYS AND OPPORTUNITIES

At MITSkills, we are committed to creating genuine pathways and opportunities for aspiring soccer players from around the world. Central to our programmes is the strong network of scouts, agents, clubs, and soccer industry professionals we have built through our connections across the game.

Throughout the year, our international students compete in fixtures, and showcase matches that provide valuable playing experience in a competitive environment. MITSkills regularly collaborates with professional clubs, independent scouts, player representatives, and recruitment specialists, inviting them to select matches and talent identification events.

These opportunities allow students to perform in front of people actively involved in player recruitment and development. Whether players are aiming for professional, semi-professional, academy, or university pathways, our network helps increase exposure and create meaningful industry connections.

By bridging the gap between talent and opportunity, we ensure players not only develop on the pitch but also gain access to environments where their abilities can be seen and assessed by the right people.

At MITSkills, we believe talent deserves an audience, and we work hard to help our players showcase their potential and take the next step in their soccer journey.



**9-MONTH ELITE FOOTBALL  
DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY**

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**Gavin Strachan**  
**Celtic 1st Team Coach**

"As First Team Coach at Celtic Soccer Club, I am delighted to be involved with the MIT International Programme as the lead mentor for our international students. My role is to help ensure that players receive high-quality coaching and development opportunities, drawing on my experience working within an elite professional soccer environment. Throughout the programme, I work closely with students to support their technical, tactical, and personal development, providing guidance, feedback, and mentoring to help them continually improve. I am passionate about helping young players maximise their potential and gain a deeper understanding of what it takes to succeed at the highest level of the game."



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# PORTUGAL PHASE (3 MONTHS)



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# HIGH-PERFORMANCE FOUNDATION PHASE

This phase of the programme in Portugal is a 3-month elite pre-season development period aimed at building the physical, technical, and tactical foundations needed for the competitive season ahead.

This phase focuses on intensive preparation in a warm-weather performance environment, allowing players to train at high volume and intensity while developing fitness, tactical understanding, and team cohesion.



# S.C. BEIRA-MAR

Founded in 1922, S.C. Beira-Mar is a respected club with deep local roots and a long tradition of supporting young players. The club blends community heritage with modern infrastructure and a clear focus on player development.

**Professional facilities:** competition-standard stadium and well maintained training pitches (natural and hybrid turf) suitable for daily practice and match play.

**Full player support:** changing rooms, physiotherapy and recovery spaces, kit and laundry facilities, and on-site catering to support team nutrition.

**Coaching environment:** experienced coaches and structured sessions focused on developing technical ability, physical conditioning and game intelligence.

**Competitive exposure:** regular fixtures and organised friendlies providing players with opportunities to perform in front of scouts and clubs.

**Club integration:** a community-focused club that welcomes visiting groups and supports youth progression.



# AVEIRO CITY

Aveiro is a compact, safe and lively coastal city on Portugal's west coast where canals and colourful art-nouveau buildings meet wide sandy beaches. Often called the "Venice of Portugal," Aveiro combines relaxed seaside living with a vibrant student scene, warm local hospitality and pleasant year-round weather – an ideal base for gap-year students seeking both serious soccer development and cultural immersion.

**Scenic setting:** picturesque canals, moliceiro boat rides, riverside promenades and beach coastline just minutes from the town centre.

**Student life:** the University of Aveiro brings cultural events, cafés, libraries and a youthful atmosphere that complements study and social life.

**Safety and wellbeing:** very low crime rates and a welcoming community make Aveiro a secure place for international students.

**Outdoor lifestyle:** surfing, beach training, coastal runs and cycling routes support fitness, recovery and wellbeing.

**Culture & food:** markets, local seafood specialities, museums and festivals offer genuine Portuguese experiences outside training hours.

**Mild climate:** comfortable weather for outdoor training and year-round activity.



# WHY AVEIRO & S.C. BEIRA-MAR

**Train and grow in a safe, inspiring setting:** Aveiro's combination of seaside recovery, student life and cultural richness creates the perfect backdrop for personal and soccer development.

**Professional environment:** S.C. Beira-Mar's facilities and coaching give players the platform to improve and showcase their talents.

**Cultural immersion:** language practice, local cuisine, festivals and coastal activities make for a rewarding gap-year experience off the pitch.

**Visibility and pathways:** consistent match play and club networks increase the chance of being noticed and progressing to higher levels.





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# ELITE TRAINING ENVIRONMENT

Players train daily under UEFA-qualified coaches in a structured high-performance system inspired by European academy methodology.

Training sessions focus on technical sharpness, tactical organisation, physical conditioning, and game intelligence. The environment is designed to simulate professional pre-season standards used across top European clubs.

Players also benefit from position-specific development for both outfield and goalkeeper roles, ensuring individual progression is maximised during this foundational phase.



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## PERFORMANCE BUILDING & MATCH PREPARATION

The Portugal phase includes a structured pre-season match programme against local and international opposition.

Players are exposed to competitive fixtures designed to build match fitness, tactical awareness, and team cohesion under real-game conditions.

This phase prepares players physically and mentally for the intensity of the England academy programme that follows.



## PROFESSIONAL TRAINING ENVIRONMENT IN PORTUGAL

Players train and recover in high-performance facilities designed to support elite athlete development.

The environment includes professional training pitches, recovery spaces, gym access, and structured performance support systems, ensuring optimal development conditions throughout the 3-month phase.



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# ACCOMMODATION

To ensure optimal recovery, nutrition, and professional lifestyle development, student-athletes are hosted in premium hotel environments tailored to elite sport standards. During this phase performance camp in Portugal, players are accommodated at selected high-quality locations such as the Hotel Afonso V or The Magnolia Hotel environments, offering dedicated fitness, spa, or sports hub access to maximise physical recovery.



# INTERNATIONAL PERFORMANCE MOVE

Alongside the Portugal phase, the experience also includes a UK-based 6-month academy programme.

This transition is managed as part of the professional pathway experience, replicating the movement of international players entering European club systems.

Players arrive into England fully prepared, physically conditioned, and tactically developed for the next stage of their journey.



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**Craig Parry**  
**Workshop Town 1<sup>st</sup> Team Manager**  
**National League**

As First Team Manager, I believe the MIT International Programme provides a fantastic opportunity for young players to develop their soccer talent in a professional and ambitious environment. We are committed to creating a clear pathway for talented individuals to progress into our first-team setup. I look forward to meeting the players, supporting their development, and helping them reach their full potential both on and off the pitch.



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# ENGLAND PHASE (6 MONTHS)



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## PROFESSIONAL SOCCER DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT

This phase is delivered in England at Worksop Town FC, one of the oldest soccer clubs in world soccer, founded in 1861.


This phase focuses on long-term development, competitive match exposure, and full immersion into the English soccer system.

Players operate as full-time academy athletes competing in the UK system, supported by elite coaching, sports science, hands-on professional club placements, and face-to-face degree lectures.



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A young man with curly hair, wearing a white and gold football kit with 'MULTI CLAD LIMITED' on the front, is holding a football. He is standing on a grassy field in front of a building with large windows. The windows have blue and orange patterns and some text like 'BUSINESS' and 'HOWDENS'.

It's a great opportunity to develop your understanding of football and open up different pathways within the game.

Ethan Bowley



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# SHEFFIELD CITY

Sheffield is a vibrant, welcoming city in the heart of England, known for its sporting heritage, world-class facilities, green spaces, and friendly community. Home to over half a million people, it combines the energy of a major UK city with the feel of a close-knit environment, making it an ideal destination for international students seeking high-quality football development and an authentic British experience.

**Sporting heritage:** Sheffield is one of the birthplaces of modern football, with a rich sporting culture, professional clubs, and excellent training facilities that inspire players of all levels.

**Student life:** With two universities and a large student population, Sheffield offers a lively atmosphere, diverse social opportunities, and a welcoming international community.

**Lifestyle & entertainment:** From theatres, music venues, shopping districts, sporting events, festivals, cafés, restaurants, and traditional British pubs, there is always something to enjoy beyond training.

**Outdoor lifestyle:** Located on the edge of the beautiful Peak District National Park, Sheffield offers easy access to hiking, cycling, running trails, parks, woodlands, and green spaces.

**Excellent location:** Centrally positioned within the UK, Sheffield has convenient transport links to Manchester, Leeds, Birmingham, and London, making it easy to explore more of Britain during your stay.



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# DAILY TRAINING PROGRAMME

Players train daily under UEFA A-Licensed coaches within a professional academy structure.

Training is designed to replicate the demands of English soccer, focusing on technical precision, tactical intelligence, physical performance, and decision-making under pressure.

Sessions include position-specific development, small-sided games, and full-pitch tactical training scenarios.



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# COMPETITIVE MATCH PROGRAMME

Players participate in a structured fixture programme against UK academy, development, and semi-professional opposition.

Matches are designed to progressively increase intensity and challenge, ensuring continuous adaptation and development.

Selected fixtures are played under floodlights to replicate professional match environments and pressure conditions.



# PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS & DEVELOPMENT

Players receive continuous video analysis and individual development planning throughout the 6-month phase.

Each player is tracked across technical, tactical, physical, and psychological performance markers, ensuring measurable progression over time.



# ELITE SOCCER IMMERSION

Players experience full immersion into English soccer culture, including stadium visits to Manchester United, Manchester City, and Liverpool FC.

Live Premier League match attendance is included (subject to scheduling), offering direct exposure to elite professional environments.



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## RESIDENTIAL LIVING & PERFORMANCE LIFESTYLE

Players are accommodated in high-quality hotel environments in the Sheffield and Bawtry region, supporting recovery, nutrition, and professional lifestyle development.

The environment is designed to replicate full-time academy living standards.



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# STAFFING & PERFORMANCE TEAM

The entire pathway is delivered by a structured elite staffing model including UEFA-qualified coaches, a Programme Director, goalkeeper specialist coach, physiotherapist, sports science team, safeguarding lead, pastoral care staff, and programme coordinators.

This ensures players receive consistent professional support across both countries and all phases of development.



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## EDUCATION, MENTORSHIP & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Throughout both phases, players receive structured education and mentorship from former professionals and industry experts.

Sessions focus on career pathways, mindset, discipline, nutrition, professionalism, and long-term soccer development.



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**Sasa Ilic**

**Head of International Relationships / Recruitment  
Former Premier League Soccer Player**

As a former Premier League soccer player, I am proud to be leading and driving the MIT International Soccer Pathway programme. My role allows me to meet players, coaches, and clubs from around the world, building strong relationships and identifying talented young soccer players with the potential to succeed at the highest levels of the game. Through our international camps and development programmes, I am passionate about helping players access the right opportunities and guiding them on the best pathway to achieve their goals. Using my experience from professional soccer, I look forward to supporting and mentoring young talent, helping them develop both as players and as people, and giving them every chance to reach their full potential.



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## FULL INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

All logistics are professionally managed across both countries, including airport transfers, internal travel, accommodation coordination, and full programme supervision.

Players experience a fully supported international soccer pathway from arrival in Portugal through to completion in England.



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# QUALIFICATION

Our unique degree programme offers a clear progression route, empowering you to reach the highest levels of academic and professional achievement.

## Degree Sports Coaching and Management

The course delivers a blend of theory and practice so that students are equipped with extensive knowledge and skills making them highly employable on completion of the course. We ensure our programmes equip students with the skills and knowledge to pursue a wide range of exciting careers in the sports industry, including:

- ◆ Sports coach
- ◆ Coach developer
- ◆ Performance analyst
- ◆ Sports management
- ◆ Coach educator
- ◆ Scout and talent reporter
- ◆ Development officer
- ◆ Teaching
- ◆ Project lead



# ENTRY CRITERIA

- A GPA between 2.3 and 2.7 in a relevant qualification.
- A-level is equivalent to 2 AP exams with a score of 3 or above.
- Proficiency in both written and verbal English communication.
- A genuine and keen interest in sports.

**3 years degree  
instead of 4 years in the USA**

**1 year Masters  
instead of 2 in the USA**

**Daily coaching from former  
professional players and  
coaches**

**No Red Shirting, all players  
go straight into playing  
squads**

**9 month soccer season  
instead of 3 month in the US  
(Three times more playing  
time than USA college)**

**15 hours weekly training  
integrated with studies,  
unlike USA extracurricular**



# ACADEMIC PATHWAY

## Year 1

- Technology and Performance: Fundamentals of Performance Analysis
- Football for Social Change: Coaching in the Community
- Building a Professional Identity: Academic and Career Skills for Football Coaching and Management
- Inclusive Football Coaching: Engaging Communities
- Scouting and Talent Identification in Football
- The Social Responsibility of Football Coaching

## Year 2

- Optimising Player Development: Coaching and Technology
- The Business of Football: Finance, Marketing, and Governance
- Developing a Career in Football: Skills, Networking, and Development
- Football Event Planning and Delivery
- Football Research: Methods and Practice
- Advanced Football Coaching for Performance

## Year 3

- Advanced Coaching Pedagogy and Practice
- Strategic Leadership and Management in Football
- Professional Development and Industry Engagement
- Applied Project in Football Coaching and Management
- Football Development and Social Responsibility
- Innovation and Technology in Football Performance





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# WHO THIS PROGRAMME IS FOR

This programme is designed for elite international academies, professional clubs, player agencies, and high-performance individuals and inspired student-athletes seeking an elite European playing pathway whilst obtaining a fully accredited university degree.

It is ideal for players aiming to transition into professional soccer environments in Europe through a progressive, long-term development model.



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# FEE

£35,000 per year

Portugal Accommodation Included

For further details or to request a quote,  
please visit [our website](#).



[www.mitsports.co.uk](http://www.mitsports.co.uk)



# **FOLLOW YOUR DREAM CONTACT US NOW!**

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