Health Undergraduate

BA (Hons) Sport and Social Sciences
Welcome from the Director of Studies

The University of Bath is a top ranking UK university where sport science is first in the Guardian University Guide 2015 and second in the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2015. Also, for the second year running we have come first for student satisfaction - according to the 2014 National Student Survey (NSS) Bath students have an overall satisfaction rate of 93 per cent.

The University is renowned as a research-led academic institution with a strong focus on high quality education for the ‘real world’. In the Department for Health we offer an excellent BA Honours degree in Sport and Social Sciences; a programme that provides an innovative, interdisciplinary and critical social science approach to understanding the relationships between sport, physical activity, health and well-being with society. The degree has proved to be excellent preparation for a variety of graduate level careers, including sports development, sports policy, and other sport, health and exercise related professions. In official data collected by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), six months after finishing the sandwich degree, 90 per cent of graduates are in work/study and 75 per cent are in a professional/managerial job.

This brochure has been specifically designed to help you understand the degree programme and the options available. In particular, you will find details of our outstanding placements scheme, fully supported by an experienced placements team.

The structure of the degree reflects our close connection between research, teaching and your professional development, and our commitment to underpin theoretical knowledge and skills with practical application. Together with the professional placement option, this ensures that a degree from Bath is the ideal starting point for a rewarding career.

We look forward to meeting you!

Dr Ant Bush
Director of Studies

www.bath.ac.uk/health
Why study Sport and Social Sciences?

The Sport and Social Sciences degree programme provides an innovative, interdisciplinary and critical social science approach to understanding the relationships between sport, physical activity, health and well-being with society.

In the programme, you will discover a breadth of academic work on sport, exercise and physical activity underpinned by a strong emphasis on research. There is a strong professional emphasis throughout, with clearly defined career pathways in sports management and policy, sports development and coaching, physical education teaching, and health/well-being related professions. As you progress through the programme, you will specialise in a field of your choosing through optional units, the optional placement year and the completion of a research-intensive dissertation.

In the degree you will:

- critically examine the structure of sport, health and physical activity within contemporary society
- critically reflect on the relationships between the body, sport, health and society
- gain an understanding of how to enhance participation and motivation, performance and enjoyment of sport and physical activity
- engage with a strong and diverse team of internationally renowned academics and practitioners
- have the opportunity to utilise the world-class sporting facilities on campus
- complete an (optional) professional placement; gaining valuable work experience and a competitive edge
- prepare for a variety of graduate level careers, and be in a position to apply for related postgraduate opportunities.

When I was looking for a university with the right combination of sporting excellence and achievements in the academic area, I thought the University of Bath and the Sport and Social Sciences degree ticked all the boxes. I wasn’t wrong! World class facilities and top class teaching have combined to provide a stimulating and truly life enhancing university experience.

The BA (Hons) Sport and Social Sciences programme is flexible and caters to the needs of the individual learner. The programme not only delivers the very best in sporting education from renowned researchers and scholars, but has also prepared me for working life, developed my independence and provided countless opportunities to take part in the varying and widespread sporting events hosted by the University.

Ashley Quinlan
BA (Hons) Sport and Social Sciences, graduate
Your degree structure

Utilising a broad and interdisciplinary range of social science approaches (from sociology, education, politics, health, international development, psychology and management/policy), you will develop theoretical understanding as well as the investigative and analytical skills needed to carry out effective research. In addition to a strong research and social science core, the programme allows you to specialise in various aspects of sport and physical activity. This is achieved through the selection of optional units which are based around the key themes of Physical activity, health and the body; Sport policy and development; Sports management; Coaching; and Physical education.

The first year of your degree offers a broad introduction and provides you with an understanding of how sport relates to the social sciences. In your second year you will begin to specialise through choosing from a range of optional units. For year three you will have the opportunity to take a placement in an appropriate organisation in the UK or abroad. In your final year, complementing the core units, you will focus your studies through further refining your optional unit choices and through completion of a research-based dissertation on a topic of your choice.

BA (Hons) Sport and Social Sciences degree programme structure

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<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Semester 1</th>
<th>Semester 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Historical and contemporary issues in sport, physical activity &amp; the body</td>
<td>Ethics, sport &amp; the body</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction to sports pedagogy</td>
<td>Introduction to sport &amp; exercise psychology</td>
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<td>Research design for the social sciences</td>
<td>Introduction to sport policy, management &amp; development</td>
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<td>Sport &amp; social theory</td>
<td>Physical education, policy &amp; practice</td>
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<td>Sport &amp; the social sciences: a critical introduction</td>
<td>The politics of sport</td>
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<tr>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Semester 1</th>
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<tr>
<td>Critical &amp; applied social science research</td>
<td>Community based professional practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional identity &amp; practice</td>
<td>Critical &amp; applied social science research</td>
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<td>Choose three options:</td>
<td>Choose three options:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical health &amp; body pedagogies</td>
<td>Applied sport pedagogy practicum</td>
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<td>Culture, media &amp; sport</td>
<td>Contemporary issues in sport &amp; exercise psychology</td>
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<td>Sociology of sport, health &amp; the body</td>
<td>Motivation &amp; cognition for sport &amp; physical activity</td>
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<td>Sport &amp; promotional culture</td>
<td>Sport &amp; culture in the global marketplace</td>
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<td>Sports policy &amp; international development</td>
<td>Sport, leisure &amp; tourism</td>
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<td>Director of Studies approved unit</td>
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<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Optional Professional Placement</th>
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<tr>
<th>Final Year</th>
<th>Semester 1</th>
<th>Semester 2</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dissertation research</td>
<td>Dissertation research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Choose two options:</td>
<td>Advanced seminar in sport, health &amp; the social sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced issues in physical activity, health &amp; the body</td>
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<td>Advanced issues in sport policy &amp; development</td>
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<td>Advanced issues in sports management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Applied pedagogy &amp; practice: coaching</td>
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<td>Applied pedagogy &amp; practice: physical education</td>
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Final year optional choices

Optional unit choices through the programme provide the foundation for final year specialisation in two of five areas:

**Physical activity, health and the body**
This specialisation offers you an opportunity to explore, mostly from a socio-psychological perspective, the concepts of health, the healthy body and fitness within contemporary society. This knowledge is related to key societal concepts, issues and concerns; for example: obesity, the relationships between the body and technology, disability, injury and ageing, young people and physical activity, social media, consumerism and schooling. Students who opt for this choice are often interested in health and well-being related professions and/or further academic study.

**Sport policy and development**
In this specialisation you will gain an advanced theoretical and critical understanding of sport policy as it relates to both the international and domestic context. Moreover, the unit will adopt an applied perspective, by examining how policy translates to the field of sports development work. Consequently, this strand is essential for students aspiring to work in sports development roles within the National Governing Body and charity sectors.

**Sports management**
Within this specialisation you will address key issues related to the management of sporting events, the organisation and delivery of sport, and how mainstream management theory impacts upon the practice of sports management. Taking a local and a global perspective, this strand prepares you for employment within the public and private sports industry.

**Coaching**
This specialisation offers you an opportunity to critically reflect on your own, as well as others’, coaching practices. You will have the opportunity to undertake various coaching practices, which, underscored by theory, allows for new perspectives and knowledge to inform the ways in which athletes and children are coached. This strand provides invaluable knowledge for those interested in a career in coaching.

**Physical education**
In this specialisation you will have the opportunity to explore in theoretical terms the various practices of teaching and learning. This knowledge will be supplemented by critical reflection on teaching practices and experiences. Many who choose this strand decide to embark on further study to become a Physical Education teacher (via PGCE, GTP and other graduate level routes).

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I have always aspired to a career related to sport and physical culture and so I was motivated to engage in a degree with a broad range of options that would encourage me to gain a critical appreciation of sport, health and society. I have found it reassuring to unpack the complexities of social science and sport within the seminars and practical experiences that accompany lectures. During my second and final year, I have been given the opportunity to tailor my degree to suit the particular areas I am most interested in: physical activity, health and the body.

The diverse team of renowned academics enthusiastically approach the course content in an innovative and engaging way, whilst the personal support I receive also gives me great confidence. I now hope to study for a Master’s degree in order to pursue a career in sport and social science research.

Annaleise Depper
BA (Hons) Sport and Social Sciences, graduate
Name: Nina Cattaneo  
Programme: BA (Hons) Sport and Social Sciences, graduate  
Placement: London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Ltd, and the British Olympic Association

“I chose to do this programme because I knew I wanted to do something that involved sport, but that would also provide me with a wider range of skills and interests. The degree has opened my eyes to all the opportunities that lie within the sports industry. Having studied such a broad range of topics, I am now excited about entering the world of work. The third year placement was another aspect of the course that drew me to this BA programme, and I can safely say that after taking that third year in industry and working with some of the most exciting sports organisations in the country, it was one of the best decisions I have ever made. Not only did I have an incredibly interesting and fun year but I also greatly widened my skill base in preparation for the world of work. I now have a career direction and something to aim for!”
Placement

Students taking the BA in Sport and Social Sciences at Bath have the opportunity to undertake a professional placement following Year 2 of the programme. Your placement experience will develop your knowledge and understanding and allow you to consider more deeply your interests and preferences in preparation for future employment. The placement year can also give you a competitive advantage when applying for jobs and often informs final year option and dissertation choices. Placement providers have consistently reported that they benefit from having a placement student (as well as enjoying the strong links with a leading university).

Why choose to do a placement?

- The placement is an opportunity to use the theory and practical skills you have developed during your first and second year in a real world context, working alongside sport professionals

- It will enable you to learn about an organisation and its area of work, and is an excellent opportunity to discover and evaluate future career paths

- The placement can provide the inspiration on which to base your final year dissertation

- You will acquire transferable skills such as teamwork, oral and written communication, planning, prioritising, problem-solving, and decision-making and project management

- A year of professional work is highly valued by employers and gives you an advantage in the competitive job market when you graduate

- Students are sometimes offered permanent graduate jobs by their placement providers.

What kind of job could I do?

There are placements in a wide range of organisations in the public and private sectors. You could choose to work, for example, in schools, sports clubs, government organisations, sports marketing and management companies, and in sport management positions. These may be in the UK or overseas.

Some of our recent placement providers:

- British Olympic Association
- Disability Sport Wales
- Event360
- Everyone Active
- Gloucestershire County Cricket Club
- Harbour Sport, New Zealand
- Join in UK
- Lancing College, West Sussex
- Let Me Play
- LOCOG
- Millfield School
- Octagon
- Performance Advantage (NE)
- Rostrevor College, Australia
- Surfers Against Sewage
- University of Victoria, Australia
- West Bromwich Albion Football Club
- Westminster School, Australia

I worked as a football coach for a soccer coaching franchise Global Premier Soccer based in New England, USA. I worked with children of all abilities. Dealing with tricky situations on this placement was a real challenge but I learned a lot. The experience gave me an interesting insight into the real-life working world of coaching, and helped me to develop my ideas for what I want to do after my degree.

Henry Greenbury, graduate
Placement with Global Premier Soccer, New England, USA

During my placement I worked as a Sports Psychology research assistant at the Auckland University of Technology in New Zealand. My role included deciding which research methods and literature to use in our research, as well as analysing the data, giving me an interesting insight into Sports Psychology from a research point of view. I really enjoyed developing my skills, particularly in statistical analysis...and the great weather! Throughout my year in New Zealand, I received great support from Bath, and from my supervisors in Auckland. One of the most useful aspects of the year was building up contacts and making the most of networking opportunities within the industry.

Rhianna Stewart, graduate
Placement with Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand
When do I need to decide?

It is possible to postpone your decision to undertake a placement until the end of the second year. To help you decide, there will be an opportunity to see presentations given by students at the Placements Poster Event held on campus in October.

How would I get a placement?

Our Placements Officer will support and guide you through the recruitment process to gain your placement:

During the first and second year you will be given briefings and information on how to make a successful application for a placement and what choices are likely to be available.

From the beginning of your second year you will start applying for placements. These are advertised online by our Placements Officer. The recruitment process is competitive, giving you good practice for the graduate job search later on.

You will receive guidance on CV and letter writing, and interview skills from the Placements Officer and the Careers Service.

What support would I get whilst on placement?

- You will be in regular contact with the Placements Officer and your personal tutor who will provide you with information, advice and support throughout.
- You will be guided by your Supervisor at the workplace.
- You will have regular contact with other students on placement through a virtual learning environment and a student blog.
- If you are on placement in the UK, a member of our staff (usually your personal tutor) will visit you.

How will my placement be assessed?

- You will need to satisfactorily complete the required number of weeks and submit a number of supporting reports during the placement.
- You will give a poster presentation at a Placements Poster Event.
- You will also need to submit a final report.
- In addition, the Placements Supervisor will write an appraisal of your performance on placement.
- Performance on placement does not count towards your degree classification, but is recognised by an appropriate endorsement on your final degree transcript.

Will I be paid?

- Most placements are unpaid but some offer a small allowance.
- When calculating your financial position you should work on the basis that placements will be unpaid. If you do go abroad please take into account visa costs and travel expenses.
- Students are usually eligible for the full maintenance loan if they are on an unpaid placement in the public or voluntary sector. Students on paid or unpaid placements in the private sector are usually entitled to a reduced non-income assessed maintenance loan.
- You will pay reduced fees for the placement year.
Career opportunities

The majority of graduates from the BA in Sport and Social Sciences choose careers in one of the programme’s main emphases: sports management and policy; sports coaching and development; physical education teaching; or the health, physical activity and fitness industries.

Several choose to study at Masters or PhD level on courses such as Sport Management, Sociology of Sport, or Sports Coaching. A smaller proportion of our graduates choose to continue with high performance sport and commence full-time training and competition after completion of their degree.

“Since leaving the University of Bath, I have been very fortunate to travel the globe and organise high-profile events in professional golf. Studying at Bath enabled me to find a career path that I enjoy and the variety of study units on the Sport and Social Sciences programmes provided me with a well-rounded perspective of the many facets of the sport industry. During my studies, I undertook several professional placements, one of which was at the 2010 Ryder Cup at Celtic Manor. The experiences I gained not only equipped me with first-hand knowledge of the sports event industry, but also informed my final year dissertation. The benefit of having a degree from a highly-regarded university like Bath has helped me enormously in developing my career.”

Tom Smith
BSc (Hons) Sport and Social Sciences, graduate
Operations Manager in Championship Management, European Golf Tour

“I was fortunate enough to be offered a full time job with my placement provider, Let Me Play; a small sports organisation based in London. I thoroughly enjoyed working for the company during my placement and my experience on various projects within the company enabled me to more narrowly define my area of expertise. The ‘Sport, leisure and tourism’ unit of the degree was particularly useful in showing me career opportunities I hadn’t really considered and my current role with Let Me Play involves managing their specialist sports residential camps, as well as coordinating the full time running of eight education centres across London. My position has enabled me to gain a wealth of experience in the event management field and I am lucky enough to be already managing some of the major projects within the company; a great start to my career prospects.”

Lucy Ferguson
BA (Hons) Sport and Social Sciences, graduate
Marketing and Operations Manager, Let Me Play
Bath is a great place in which to be a student. The University occupies a purpose-built campus which is safe and friendly with a vibrant international community, excellent student services, outstanding arts facilities and a first-class sports complex.

The campus has open views across the beautiful hills of the West Country but is less than 2km from the World Heritage City of Bath - one of the most elegant and interesting cities in the UK, famous for its Roman Baths, medieval Abbey, Georgian squares and sweeping crescents. Bath offers some of the best shopping and cultural attractions outside of London. There is a great selection of restaurants, cafés, bars, pubs and clubs. The city has three theatres, cinemas and many fascinating museums and galleries.

Frequent bus services link the campus, city and major student residential areas. Bath is not far from Bristol International Airport, providing rapid access to international destinations. By train, London is approximately 90 minutes and Bristol only 15 minutes away. You are always connected to your work, your home and your social life when studying.
Contact us

For more information about this programme, entry requirements and admission, please visit our website: www.bath.ac.uk/study

For further enquiries on entry requirements and admission to the programme, please contact:

Undergraduate Admissions

Tel: +44 (0) 1225 383019
Email: admissions@bath.ac.uk

Key facts

BA (Hons) Sport and Social Sciences CX63 Three years
BA (Hons) Sport and Social Sciences CX6H Four years with placement

Typical offers
A Levels: AAB
95 places
340 applicants
See what our students have to say about studying Sport and Social Sciences and about the placement year

1. Download the free Aurasma App from the App store or Google Play store
2. Open your web browser and enter the following URL: bit.ly/bathchannel
3. With the camera view displayed on the screen (click on the icon), hold your device over one of the images above and watch the video come to life! Tap the image to play, double-tap to close.

Getting started with Augmented Reality

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