



NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC AND ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE

FOOTBALL



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Football

The men's football programme offers a fantastic development pathway for every player, with outstanding opportunities to thrive. These pathways include:

BUCS PREMIER NORTH

NORTHERN LEAGUE

NORTHERN ALLIANCE

Your weekly schedule:

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
S&C + Training		BUCS Match Day	S&C + Training		Northern League/ Alliance Match Day	

Alongside weekly S&C sessions.

Scholarships

We have a range of scholarships available from direct cash instalments, reduced academic grade offers and support services including medical support, sports psychology, S&C, academic flexibility and gym memberships.

High Performance Athletes (contextual offer)

Subject to the course that you have applied to, you may be considered for a lower grade offer due to your Performance Athlete Status. This would be considered by the Director of Football and Performance Sport team and will be communicated in your UCAS offer if applicable.

Director of Rugby

Neil Baistow - Director of Football & Men's Head Coach



Coaching Career

Neil started out coaching for Newcastle Council Football Development Scheme. He then moved to Tyne Met College to take up the role of Head Coach, working on both the men's and women's programmes. Alongside this, he worked for Newcastle United Academy for over 5 years. He took up the role at Newcastle University as Director of Football in 2015. Neil is a UEFA A licence holder who has also managed Newcastle United Women's Team.

Major Achievements at Newcastle University

Neil has led the men's football programme on an upward spiral since his appointment culminating in promotion to BUCS Premier League in 2020 having won BUCS 1A on numerous occasions. The team performed well and finished as premiership champions in 2025. The team progressed well through the local non-league pyramid resulting in promotion to the Northern League. This allows students the opportunity to play in the prestigious FA Vase competition. Over the years, the team has enjoyed success in winning cup competitions regularly.

Philosophy

Neil's playing philosophy at Newcastle University is based around a quick attacking passing style of football. The aim is to dominate possession and control the game with this. The team will attempt to be organised in all moments of the game and strive for high standards on and off the pitch. Neil has created an environment that is professional with all players expected to work hard to push to achieve team targets. He also understands that player development is central to the programme and that encourages opportunities for players to achieve and progress through the squads.

Our Facilities

Newcastle University has invested £32 million into its sporting facilities. Football has greatly benefited from this with three 3G artificial pitches, a performance ergo room and medical treatment and rehab space at the historic Cochrane Park Sports Ground, where the pavilion looks over the first team floodlit pitch.

As a member of the Football team, you will have a full time Strength and Conditioning programme with access to our modern facilities and equipment.



Chris Ferriter - Head of Rugby Athletic Performance

Chris Ferriter is a UKSCA Accredited Coach with an MSc in Strength and Conditioning to go alongside eight years of experience working at Newcastle University, City of Sunderland ASC and British Para-Swimming. Chris has worked the full breadth of the athletic development pathway from junior to professional athlete.

Chris has three key pillars that underpin the Athletic Performance Programme:

1. Mitigate injury and build robust players by developing a strong base of athleticism
2. Prepare each player for the demands of football specific to their position
3. Enhance individual and team performance through strong interpersonal relationships

Our University



Newcastle University is a world-leading university and a founding member of the Russell Group, representing the UK's top higher education institutions.

Why choose us



World Top 140 university

(QS World University Rankings 2026)



Top 20 university in the UK

(Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2026)



5 QS Stars for student employability

(2025)



Top 5 city for affordability in the UK

(QS Best Student Cities 2026)



Strong employer links

with international businesses including, Siemens RIE, PwC, Dyson, Proctor & Gamble, Accenture



World Top 50 & UK Top 5 student city

(QS Best Student Cities 2026)

RUSSELL GROUP

founding member

Neil Baistow - Director of Football

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Our City



Voted as one of the UK's greatest student cities, Newcastle is a big city in a small space with a sizeable student population of around 42,000. The city has a proud reputation for sport and is home to several professional sports teams, such as: Newcastle United, Newcastle Falcons and the Newcastle Eagles. Newcastle's reputation for a great nightlife is well-known and with its thriving arts and culture scene too, there's something different to do every day of the week. A combination of the fastest growing basketball programme in the country, a world class education and nationally renowned social life, makes this programme the place to be!

Information & Links



[Neil Baistow \(Director of Football & Men's Head Coach\) -](#)

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Instagram - @NewcastleUniAFC

Twitter - @NewcastleUniAFC

[Visit our University website](#)

[Visit our University Sport website](#)

BELONG