

UNIVERSITY RUGBY LEAGUE



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES 2024-25



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the University Rugby League Scholarship brochure, looking forward to the 24/25 academic year.

This document has been produced to help College, Development Academy and Academy Rugby League participants understand the opportunities available for them to combine their future academic study and interest in Rugby League at an institution which offers a playing opportunity. This process demonstrates the Rugby Football League's commitment to a dual career pathway for all participants, but this booklet is specifically for those talented athletes looking to combine study and a professional career.

This resource details the specific scholarship opportunities available within Universities.

Please note, if the University you are applying to study at is not included on this list then this doesn't necessarily mean a scholarship isn't available. Please contact the BUCS Rugby League Co-ordinator maz.veater@bucs.org.uk who will assist you in understanding what opportunities are available to you.

A full list of Rugby League-playing universities can be found below;

RUGBY LEAGUE PLAYING UNIVERSITIES

- Bangor University
- University of Birmingham
- University of Bradford
- University of Brighton
- Brunel University London
- University of Cambridge
- Cardiff University
- University of Chester
- Durham University
- Edge Hill University
- University of Exeter
- University of Gloucestershire
- University of Huddersfield
- University of Hull
- Lancaster University
- Leeds Beckett University
- University of Leeds
- University of Leicester
- Liverpool John Moores University
- University of Liverpool
- Loughborough University
- University of Manchester
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- Newcastle University
- University of Northampton
- Northumbria University
- University of Nottingham
- Nottingham Trent University
- Oxford Brookes University
- University of Oxford
- University of Reading
- University of Salford
- Sheffield Hallam University
- University of Sheffield
- St Mary's University
- Swansea University
- University of Central Lancashire - UCLan
- University of Warwick
- York St John University

LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

MAIN CONTACT FOR RL SCHOLARSHIP

NAME	Mark Butterill / Gary Beaumont
EMAIL	M.Butterill@leedsbeckett.ac.uk / G.Beaumont@leedsbeckett.ac.uk
PHONE	N/A
SCHOLARSHIP OFFER	<u>Leeds Beckett sports scholarships</u>

Leeds Beckett University provides a platform for exceptionally skilled rugby league players to excel in both their athletic and academic pursuits through our international and focus sport scholarships.

The university, equipped with two dedicated rugby league teams and top-notch facilities, fosters an optimal environment for players to enhance their skills, compete at a high level, and pursue a degree simultaneously.

Currently, Leeds Beckett University boasts two rugby league teams that compete in prestigious leagues and tournaments. The university's men's first team plays in the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) Northern 1A League, while the men's second team competes in the Northern Tier 1 League. These teams provide talented players with the opportunity to test themselves against top-level competition and showcase their abilities on the field.

In addition to its competitive teams, Leeds Beckett University offers world-class facilities that are essential for athletes to train and perform at their best.

The university's Rugby League Development Centre provides a dedicated training space equipped with state-of-the-art equipment, as well as access to expert coaching and support staff. This ensures that players have everything they need to reach their full potential and succeed in their sport.

Furthermore, Leeds Beckett University prides itself on creating a fun and inclusive environment for its athletes. The university's strong sense of community and support system allows players to thrive both academically and athletically. This inclusive atmosphere fosters personal growth and a strong sense of camaraderie among teammates, creating a positive and enriching experience for all involved.

One significant aspect of the university's rugby league program is its close link to the Leeds Rhinos rugby league team. The partnership with the professional team provides an unparalleled opportunity for talented players to be scouted and potentially join the professional ranks. This connection gives students access to top-level coaching and mentorship, as well as exposure to the world of professional rugby league. It's a unique advantage that can set them up for a successful career in the sport.

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

MAIN CONTACT FOR RL SCHOLARSHIP

NAME	Sarah Robinson
EMAIL	S.J.Robinson1@leeds.ac.uk
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SCHOLARSHIP OFFER	<u>University of Leeds sports scholarships</u>

Each year we award a number of Sports Scholarships to selected high performing athletes who demonstrate aspirations to compete at the highest levels within their chosen sport. In order to be eligible for a scholarship, applicants must be competing in a BUCS, Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth sports. We welcome applications from students from all backgrounds including international students.

Our scholarship programme recognises the individuality of each athlete, and that needs differ from sport to sport so we provide a unique approach that tailors our scholarships to the needs of each individual athlete.

For this coming year there are two levels of support available with 'Sport Scholars' having maximum access to support services, and 'Supported Athletes' who will benefit from a wide range of services we offer to enable athletes to train to the highest level.

This years 'Sport Scholars' will have unique access to our brand new 'Performance Gap Analysis' service, in which a dedicated member of our sport science team will work with athletes to identify specific performance limiters and help develop effective solutions.

The services and benefits available to those given a place on the programme include:

- Premium membership at The Edge, our state-of-the-art on-campus sports facility
- Physiotherapy and sports massage support
- Performance Gap Analysis service (Sport Scholars only)
- Strength and Conditioning support from our dedicated team at the newly refurbished state of the art facility on Cromer Terrace
- Nutritional support
- Sport Psychology support
- Performance Lifestyle mentor
- Academic liaison support
- Professional development support (e.g. leadership skills, CV writing, networking events and interview preparation). For further information and to view the policy please visit the [Student Education Service website](#).

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER



MAIN CONTACT FOR RL SCHOLARSHIP

NAME	Steve Bayley
EMAIL	Smb76@leicester.ac.uk
PHONE	N/A
SCHOLARSHIP OFFER	<u>University of Leicester sports scholarships</u>

The University of Leicester and Sport and Active Life support individual student athletes to pursue the highest levels in their sport, alongside their academic studies, whilst benefitting from support services and a targeted financial contribution, aimed at assisting each individual to reach their potential.

ELITE ATHLETE AWARD

The Elite award was introduced to offer high performance athletes at undergraduate or postgraduate level the opportunity to benefit from a level of support, aimed at assisting each individual to reach their potential.

We are looking to receive applications from student athletes who are currently part of their respective sports, National Governing Bodies/Federation pathway programmes, or have in the past 18 months represented their respective National Governing Bodies/Federations at International sporting competitions.

If your application is successful, you will be eligible to receive the following;

- Complimentary [University of Leicester annual sports facility gold membership](#) and [Team Leicester club membership](#)
- Limited Physiotherapy support package is offered to each awardee (Delivered at Sports Medicine Clinic, Leicester)
- Financial contribution on agreed items up to £1,000 (e.g., travel expenses, equipment, specialist coaching, nutritional advice)
- Provision of kit

The following support to be discussed and agreed, if applicable to the individual athlete's needs.

- Individualised physical conditioning programme
- Athlete life skills coaching programme

The Elite Athlete award is determined by the sport's awarding panel on a case-by-case basis. Priority will be given to individuals who demonstrate a commitment to represent or play a full part in a respective Team Leicester sport, which features within the [British Universities and Colleges Sport \(BUCS\) programmes](#).

NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY



MAIN CONTACT FOR RL SCHOLARSHIP

NAME	Suzi Newton
EMAIL	suzi.newton@newcastle.ac.uk
PHONE	07973864814
SCHOLARSHIP OFFER	<u>Newcastle University sports scholarships</u>

Join Newcastle University and become the best athlete you can be! We offer world-class sports facilities, tailored training programmes, and funding opportunities. To qualify for our sports scholarships and funding, you must be a current student or an applicant with a place at Newcastle University, have achieved senior/age-group representative honours at national/regional level or be a member of the National Governing Body's performance squads. You must also commit to improving your sport and representing the University in British Universities Colleges Sport (BUCS) events.

Our sports scholarships include up to £5000, individual/small group strength and conditioning sessions, medical services, coaching, mentoring, athlete workshop programmes, performance video analysis, and sport science support.

UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM



MAIN CONTACT FOR RL SCHOLARSHIP

NAME	Phil Wood
EMAIL	Philip.Wood@nottingham.ac.uk
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SCHOLARSHIP OFFER	<u>University of Nottingham sports scholarships</u>

University of Nottingham Sport is at the forefront of blending academic excellence with international sporting success. This was recognised by the Times Good University Guide who awarded us with Sports University of the Year for 2024 (following on from winning this award in 2019 and 2021).

Nottingham operates the most extensive range of sports teams and facilities in UK Higher Education and has been 2nd in the BUCS rankings since 2018-19. We run two Men's Rugby League teams and a development team for Women's Rugby League. Our Men's 1st team compete within the BUCS Southern Premier League.

There are three levels of Sports Scholarship at the University of Nottingham which include:

- Access to facilities
- Strength and Conditioning
- Physiotherapy
- Nutrition
- Psychology
- UKAD advice
- Performance Lifestyle

The three levels are:

- Bronze- Support Services and up to £500-1000 (GB U19, England U18/19 or equivalent)
- Silver- Support Services and up to £2000-4000 (GB U21/23 or England U21 or equivalent)
- Gold- Support Services and up to £5000-8000 (Full Senior International level or equivalent)

Please note meeting the criteria does not guarantee an award.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHAMPTON



MAIN CONTACT FOR RL SCHOLARSHIP

NAME	Luke Callis
EMAIL	Luke.callis@northampton.ac.uk
PHONE	N/A
SCHOLARSHIP OFFER	<u>University of Northampton sports scholarships</u>

Established in 2021/22, the University of Northampton is offering 15 places on our Northampton Energy Elite Athlete Scholarship Programme; this scheme offers the student athlete a support network enabling them to balance the demands of performance sport with academic study.

As a TASS (Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme) dual career accredited site, successful Student Athletes will be provided with the following:

- Performance testing up to three times across the year – this will include detailed movement screening aimed around injury prevention
- Strength and conditioning – up to three weekly slots will be made available for individualised S&C provision. Individual programmes can be created where required by university staff or existing programmes from National Governing Bodies (NGBs) can be overseen and supervised

- Weekly rehabilitation clinics
- Nutrition workshops – Athletes will gain an insight into the importance of good nutrition and practical advice to ensure that they stay healthy and are able to train and compete to the level they require
- Media training – Athletes will receive a range of tailored training to develop their skillset in relation to the image they portray across various media platforms to ensure they remain on brand with the university, develop their athletic profile and relay important messages and updates to a wider audience
- Flexible learning options to balance study and sport
- University of Northampton training kit

CRITERIA

The sport scholarship is aimed at student athletes competing at a county standard or above. In team sports, they should have competed to an academy standard. Students can be enrolled on an undergraduate or postgraduate programme.

ST MARY'S UNIVERSITY



MAIN CONTACT FOR RL SCHOLARSHIP

NAME

Jen Fairfield

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PHONE

020 8240 4000 ext. 1030

SCHOLARSHIP OFFER

[St Mary's University sports scholarships](#)

St Mary's has a proud history in supporting scholarship and elite athletes. This year, we are supporting over 40 scholars across a number of sports. We have a number of past and present Rugby League supported scholars some of whom have turned professional and a number of current students who continue to represent St Mary's.

Our sports scholarships include a wide range of support services that enable athletes to successfully train, compete, and study in a performance environment.

With financial support and a comprehensive support service package, the scholarship programme can be tailored to your needs.

The scholarships range in value up to £2,000 and are open to all St Mary's students, regardless of year or programme of study.

Along with financial support, scholars are also entitled to free gym membership to the St Mary's Fitness and Conditioning Suite. Furthermore, they are provided with access to St Mary's services including:

- Strength and conditioning services
- Student massage clinic
- Nutrition and psychology support from MSc students
- Performance lifestyle support services
- Sport St Mary's apparel

You can find more details of our past and present scholars here: [Sport scholars \(stmarys.ac.uk\)](#)

THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL LANCASHIRE



MAIN CONTACT FOR RL SCHOLARSHIP

NAME	Kate Youngman
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PHONE	N/A
SCHOLARSHIP OFFER	UCLan sports scholarships

If you are an athlete, we can offer opportunities for you to be supported with your aspiration of maintaining your playing career whilst also studying for a high-quality degree.

Our panel will consider applicants as part of the admissions cycle and will offer support to those they feel will make a valuable contribution to our sporting objectives. To be eligible, you must be studying on a full or part-time undergraduate or postgraduate course in the academic year 2024-25; part-time students will be awarded on a pro rata basis.

We invite applications from talented individuals who are competing at a high level within their sport, as long as it is a British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) sport [BUCS Sports](#) or para sport [BUCS Para Sport](#) (i.e. a sport at which universities compete), however, we prioritise scholarships in line with our [6 focal sports](#) one of which is Rugby League (men's and women's).

The awards include;

Gold

Up to £5000 cash support plus a support package worth approximately £2000

Silver

Up to £2000 cash support, plus a support package worth over £1000

Bronze

Up to £500 cash support, plus a support package worth approximately £750

Support packages include;

- Free sports facility membership
- Free club membership
- A kit package.
- Physiotherapy/sports therapy support (defined number of sessions based on award level)
- Group Strength and Conditioning sessions
- Group Lifestyle, Nutrition and Psychology support session
- Dual career flexibility (academic flexibility around high level performance needs)

