



Press Release from Bournemouth University

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BU secures new role as leader in football development

Bournemouth University (BU) has been selected as one of the ten British Universities & Colleges Sport (BUCS) Football Development Focus Universities for 2009-10.

BU will now play a significant role as a leader in football development individually, regionally and on a national scale.

Beating a number of strong applications from other UK universities, the announcement confirms BU's commitment to delivering sustainable opportunities for its students, and in helping to deliver the BUCS Football Development Strategy 2008-12.

In a letter to BU, George Carney, Football Development Manager at BUCS stated: "I have no doubt that the potential at your university to develop exceptional football programmes for players, coaches, referees and volunteers can benefit not only your institution but the wider football community."

As a Focus University, BU will work on key areas of football development such as increasing Futsal (a globally popular indoor version of football) opportunities, developing local club links, improving intra mural football, and developing a student workforce to sustain coaching, refereeing and volunteering initiatives such as Step into Sport.

BU Head of Sport Development Barry Squires said: " We have been working hard to develop our football programme at sportBU for several years now and we are delighted to be accepted to become a football focus institution alongside many of the top sporting institutions in the country.

"We strive hard to offer high quality football opportunities for our students and will continue to develop programmes for the students, staff, volunteers and the wider community with this additional support from BUCS and The FA."

The news follows the success of BU students who finished as runners-up in the 2009 BUCS national intra-mural 5-a-side championship in April. The team fended off the likes of teams from Nottingham, Loughborough, Lincoln, Warwick and Southampton universities to reach the final.

sportBU men's football team also finished 8th in their first season of competing in the Hampshire Premier Football League which is Step 7 of the non-league pyramid.

Notes to Editors:

1. sportBU is the university's new brand for sport and recreation activity. Further information about sportBU is available at <http://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/sportBU/index.html>
2. The excellent delivery of BU's undergraduate courses in Sports Management and Sports Coaching & Development has helped the University reach number two in the Sports Sciences subject table of the 2010 Guardian University Guide – a surge of 18 places over the past two years.
3. BU is the UK's Number One New University (first place among all institutions that became universities since 1992) according to The Guardian University Guide 2009 & 2010. (www.guardian.co.uk/education)
4. In the 2008 [Research Assessment Exercise](#) (RAE) BU is the fourth most improved university in the UK for the quality of its research (according to *Times Higher Education*).

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