

# Award in Psychology for Sport and Exercise

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course builds on existing knowledge and experience and is aimed at providing the student with advanced knowledge, skills and competences required to work and progress in the sport and exercise sector. The programme will draw upon the students' experiences in sport and exercise to help provide a specific frame of reference for the study of human behaviour in sport and exercise settings. This programme, provides students with an overview of the key areas in sport and exercise psychology. Throughout this course students will also take time to discuss various case studies brought up by the lecturers and others they themselves may come across in their work.

## **TARGET AUDIENCE**

The Award is aimed at students who already possess a qualification in coaching, personal training, physiotherapy or similar and who are further interested in understanding the psychological factors in sport. In order, to enhance their own performance or of athletes they coach and to understand better the challenges participants in sport and exercise may face.

**DURATION** 3 months

**CREDIT VALUE** 5 ECTS/ECVET

**MODE OF TRAINING** This Award is delivered through a series of interactive teaching sessions with an emphasis on group activities. Case studies and work examples will be discussed throughout the course.

**ASSESSMENT** Assignments, Case-Study, Evidence of Observation work, Team-building event, interview with an athlete.

**AWARDING BODY** Learning Works

## **LECTURERS**

Dr Adele Muscat  
Ms Bernice Sant  
Ms Samantha Farrugia Tabone

## **COURSE STRUCTURE**

### **UNIT 1: PSYCHO-SOCIAL PERSPECTIVES OF SPORT AND EXERCISE (2 CREDITS)**

In this unit, students will understand better that the benefits of sport and exercise are not just physical aspects physical but psychological too. This unit is more focused on the practice of exercise and sports across all the population rather than elite athletes in particular. This unit looks into the growth of the child/adolescent and age appropriate development patterns that are important for the coach to understand. The unit also delves into personality types and understanding how one may motivate different participants and the importance of building self-confidence in the individuals we work with in order to enhance their chances of success.

### **UNIT 2: APPLIED SPORT PSYCHOLOGY (1 CREDIT)**

This unit is focused on the theoretical and practical implementation of performance enhancing skills for athletes - ranging from children to the elite. A look into the development of sport psychology since its inception and how psychology can aid performance in sport is discussed. The various areas of concern to the athlete and coach including dealing with anxiety and arousal in sport and concentration will be understood in terms of a theoretical framework. Skills to manage anxiety and arousal are highlighted, whilst practices on how to enhance concentration will be taught both theoretically and practically. Students will engage in various relaxation

strategies and psyching up strategies as well as positive self-talk, cognitive restructuring, goal-setting, visualization, pre-performance routines and others. Students will be encouraged to come up with their own techniques in order to enhance both their or their athletes' performance.

### **UNIT 3: TEAM DYNAMICS (1 CREDIT)**

This unit will focus on the skills needed to run an effective team. Whether you are a coach, sport administrator, captain or just a regular team player, communication, listening, leadership and basic counselling skills are vital. Participants will discuss and work together to learn how to build up their team and motivate it under pressure. Students will come up with a number of ways on how one can build team cohesion within their team. Roles and responsibilities of team members/ coaches/ administrators will be discussed as well as the importance of creating a desire for team success.

### **UNIT 4: CURRENT ISSUES IN SPORT AND EXERCISE PSYCHOLOGY (1 CREDIT)**

This Unit will look at trending topics in sport psychology. Current research worldwide is focusing greatly on the following areas:

- The transitions athletes go through which include retirement and migration for professional reasons
- The management of injuries from a holistic perspective
- The ever-increasing challenge of athlete/coach burnout
- Eating disorders and weight-management
- Match-fixing
- Drug abuse in Sport
- Measurement tools in psychology

### **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

Learners need to satisfy the following criteria:

- Ages 18 +
- Hold a Level 3 qualification in an area related to sport, psychology, physiotherapy, medicine
- Be able to communicate in the English Language
- Hold a clean Police Conduct Certificate.

For applicants who meet the criteria of admittance by experience only, a basic level of English which is demonstrated through the appropriate qualifications such as an 'O' level in English, a school leaving certificate with English indicated as a core subject or equivalent is needed.