

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

PGA

BA (Hons)
Applied Golf Management Studies
(with PGA® Professional Status)



Frequently Asked Questions Handbook
(A rough guide to the AGMS degree programme)

UCAS Code: B32 N290

Revised & Updated: September 2007

The University of Birmingham and the PGA:
A Partnership providing Education, Research and Development in Golf

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1. What grades and what subjects do I need to be able to apply?

For 2008/9 entry, we are looking for students to have (or be predicted) “around” 300-320 UCAS tariff points (**BBB-ABB** at A level) or equivalent (the average UCAS points score for 2007 entry was 315). Please note that conditional offers may be higher than this, since these are based upon competition for places. Students who are doing subjects other than A-levels are advised to speak to the University Undergraduate Admissions Department for a more precise comparison. We consider students who have completed HNCs; HNDs; as well as Scottish Advanced Highers etc. (It is essential for you to have GCSE’s including English, Maths, and Science at grade C or above). Our current intake includes students from around the world with diverse qualifications: A levels, ACCESS, BTECs, HNDs, American SATs, UK and overseas graduates & ‘post experience’ students. (Please note: the University only “counts” AS level points from courses in Year 13/final year; we do not normally include General Studies; and students doing an NVQ3/Advanced Sports Apprenticeship should normally also be doing 3 A levels (or equivalent).

Students should be aware that they are required to normally have a minimum of **at least 2** of the following subjects at A2 level (or similar if studying other qualifications):

- i. Physical Education or Sports Studies/Science
- ii. Business Studies or Economics
- iii. Design & Technology or Maths
- iv. Science (e.g. Biology, Physics, Psychology)

Please note that in general the 25 candidates with the best grades of over 300 points (and the required handicap) are given places each year. This does therefore depend upon grades & competition for places year by year, so if you’re not sure - you have nothing to lose by applying! (The University reserves the right to raise grades dependent upon competition for places).

2. What if I’m not doing the precise subjects?

If you are not doing the precise subjects listed above (or perhaps only 1 of the relevant A levels), you may also still be considered. However, this will depend upon competition for places and each individual application. We may also look in detail at your GCSE results. If you are unsure about the subjects you are taking or wish to clarify your position, please contact Dr Martin Toms to discuss the best way forward.

Please note that it is in your best interest to have underpinning knowledge and understanding in the key academic areas in order for you to succeed on the degree, but we appreciate that not everyone has knowledge in all areas. It is strongly suggested that all students wishing to undertake the degree develop a theoretical awareness of the key areas they will be studying.

3. How do I apply & what are the fees?

All students must apply through UCAS (the University & Colleges Admissions System). For details and an application form, please contact UCAS via www.ucas.com (your school or college will help you with your application).

Applications will be considered on an individual basis, but students must achieve (or be close to achieving) the entry requirements in order to make it through to the short-listing stage. When writing their personal statement, candidates should consider their golfing experiences (NOT a list of competitions they have won), their current handicap (at point

of application) and also the personal qualities they think can bring to the degree course and to the PGA. Due to tight timescales we do not normally accept late UCAS applications.

For the latest details about the fee situation (which is the same for AGMS as all other UG programmes at the University), please see the online University prospectus "Finance" section (tuition fees for 2007-8 entry were approximately £3,070 per annum (2008-9 fees to be confirmed) – which is payable after graduation. For more information please see: www.undergraduate.bham.ac.uk/finance/fees.shtml).

UCAS details for application: BIRM - B32 - N290 - BA/AGMS

4. What is the handicap requirement?

The current stipulation is "a handicap consistent with PGA requirements" (*currently 4.4 for men and 6.4 for women*) for candidates to be eligible to apply for PGA Professional Status. Students who apply for the AGMS degree will be asked to supply bona-fide supporting evidence (current handicap certificate plus 12 month record from their club) before their application is considered. It is advisable for students to state their current handicap in their personal statement, and be prepared to supply further evidence when required.

Students with handicaps higher than 4.4/6.4 **MAY** also be accepted, although this is at the discretion of the short listing board, and is based around volume and quality of applications. Please note, however, if you are accepted on the course with a handicap higher than 4.4/6.4, you will be ineligible to enter a Playing Ability Test (PAT) until your handicap has reached the required level.

Students who apply with handicaps of more than 9.0 (male) and 12.0 (female) are likely to be rejected at an early stage.

N.B. Students must provide proof of handicap (12 month playing record and current handicap certificate) by no later than the UCAS closing date – failure to do so may lead to the application being rejected. Please contact Dr Martin Toms if you wish to discuss this issue.

5. What about if I want to defer a year to reduce my handicap?

Students **MUST** be aware that if they wish to defer a year, they must still fulfil ALL of the offer criteria (an enhanced CRB check will also need to be done just prior to entry) by the August of the application. *e.g. If you are a male and apply in 2007-8 for deferred entry to 2009 and you have a handicap of 5.9, you would still have to lower your handicap to 4.4 or better by mid August 2008 (this would be a condition of any offer made).*

Since this is rather complicated (!), if you do wish to apply for deferred entry, please contact Dr Martin Toms to discuss your current situation and seek advice on the best way forward.

6. What is the timescale and process for applications, interviews & offers?

All applications must be made to UCAS by the UCAS closing date of mid January. (It is unlikely that late applications for the AGMS degree will be considered).

Once applications have been received by the University, a letter will be sent out asking candidates to provide evidence of their current handicap by providing a bona fide

certificate and 12 month playing record by a given deadline (usually by the UCAS closing date). For 2008 entry, candidate short listing will then be done by mid to late February, and around 50-60 students invited for interview in mid to late **March 2008**. After the interview, offers will be made via the UCAS system. Candidates **MUST** (unless due to exceptional circumstances) be available to attend the interviews if they wish to be considered for the degree.

7. What sort of offer will I receive?

Students will be expected to satisfy a number of criteria. Any offer made is likely to be based upon the following:

1. Academic grades
2. Handicap (currently 4.4 men, & 6.4 women)
3. Successful completion of Enhanced CRB Check (to be paid for by the student)

8. How many places are there?

Currently we have 25 places per year. Places are open to all students regardless of background, and all applications will be considered on **both** academic grades and golf handicap (i.e. below 4.4 or 6.4). There is no compensation for having a very good handicap but weak grades (or vice versa), so as long as you are off 4.4 or 6.4 or better the precise level of handicap does not matter.

9. When are the Open Days to look round?

There are currently Open Days organised at the University in June and September of each year. For precise dates please see the University WebPages or contact Admissions Liaison on 0121 414 3374. For 2007 the final Open Day is **Saturday 15th September**, and for 2008 the dates are **Thursday 26th** and **Friday 27th June**, as well as **Saturday 13th September**. For more information about University open days please visit: www.studyhere.bham.ac.uk/ugopendays/index.shtml.

There will also be a specific AGMS Open Day at The Belfry for prospective applicants around **Wednesday 27th August 2008** [yet to be confirmed – please contact Martin Toms for details]. *(Please ensure you have completed and returned the database form found at the end of this booklet. Full details of the open day will be sent to you nearer the time).*

On each of these occasions there will be students from the degree available, and representatives from both the University and the PGA on hand to discuss particular issues.

If you cannot make any of these dates and you still wish to look around the University, please contact Admissions Liaison on 0121 414 3374. They will be able to inform you of any additional Campus Tours etc. Unfortunately, staff do not normally have time to meet individually with prospective students away from these days.

10. Why is this degree so unique?

This degree is currently the only one of its kind in the world. It is a partnership degree that offers a unique opportunity for golfers to study their sport in depth with world leading experts in their fields. It is a degree that combines a high level academic qualification with a vocational focus and professional opportunities. **No other golf related degree is accepted by the PGA for application to membership.** Students who

complete the degree are expected to lead the development of golf throughout the world. The University and the PGA have very strong links, and as well as the full AGMS degree, the PGA qualification is now a University accredited “Foundation Degree [FdA] in Professional Golf”. We have also developed opportunities for further postgraduate programmes for those involved or interested in golf (we run a popular research Masters degree in ‘Sports Coaching’) plus we also have PhD students researching in the golf area. There is active research being conducted into various aspects of the game (e.g. research work with ELGA and EGP), and international links being developed around the degree course itself.

11. What will I be studying?

Whilst everyone asks this question, you **WILL NOT** be playing golf during lecture time. The degree is an applied theoretical approach to the game, and whilst you will be improving your game through understanding – you will not be having lectures on the fairways or greens! However, there are still plenty of opportunities to develop your game in your own time.

Throughout the 3 years of study you will cover what is a multi-disciplinary applied approach to golf. You will cover sports science; business management; materials science; and coaching science in an applied theoretical manner. The modules that you study will be taught by specialist world leading academics and researchers (including PGA golf specialists), and can be seen in more detail elsewhere. You will be taught by staff from the School of Education; School of Materials and Metallurgy; School of Sport & Exercise Science; School of Health Sciences (Physiotherapy) as well as PGA specialist staff.

The degree is set up in such a way that the first year applies generic principles to sport and golf, and the 2nd and 3rd years are far more applied. For example, in the first year you will look at the biomechanical principles of movement in sport *per se*, you will then go on to develop these principles and apply them to specific golfing examples. You will also be assessed through essays, presentations, plus seen and unseen exams, with marks in your second and third year counting towards your final degree classification on a 25%:75% basis.

The precise modules that you cover include (for 2007 entry students) are the following (more details will be made available at point of entry):

Year 1

Historical & Social Perspectives of Sport
An Introduction to Business
Introduction to Applied Sport Sciences
Materials in Golf
Coach Education 1
Introduction to Research Methods

Year 2

Coach Education 2
Research Methods
Psychology of Golf
Equipment Technology
Financial Performance
Applied Sports Science & Golf

Year 3

Human Resource Management
Advanced Psychology
Analysis of Swing Theory & practice
Event Management
Placement
Dissertation

12. When and where will lectures be?

Lectures will take place on week days (apart from Wednesday afternoons), and there will be approximately 12 - 14 hours per week contact time. Students are expected to do at least 200 hours additional self-study for each module covered.

Lectures will take place at both the Selly Oak and Edgbaston campuses (1.5 miles apart), as well as at The PGA National Training Academy (The Belfry) 15 miles away. *Students and parents **must** be aware that they will be required to arrange and fund their own travel to The Belfry (there is a free bus service between the Selly Oak & Edgbaston campuses). Currently each year group operates a car share system and we have not encountered any problems with this.*

It is anticipated that lectures will be block booked on campus, so students will not be expected to travel between each campus on one particular day. Precise details will be available on entry to the course, but it is anticipated that there will be one timetabled day per week at The Belfry, and the rest will be based at either Edgbaston or Selly Oak.

- Sports Science (Selly Oak/The Belfry)
- Business Management (The Belfry)
- Materials Science/Equipment Technology (Edgbaston/The Belfry)
- Coach Education (Selly Oak/The Belfry)

13. When do I actually get to PLAY golf?

As well as studying, students will have the opportunity to play sport and socialise, and you will have the chance to play golf in your free time. However, this does mean you will need to be good at time management, and certainly should not compromise your studies.

On a Wednesday afternoon you are free to play BUSA golf (see question 14), or to play for one of the many other University of Birmingham sports teams. There are a number of local clubs and courses on which you can play, and who offer subsidised membership to our students (e.g. Moseley, Edgbaston, Harborne). It is however, up to you to arrange your own membership and more importantly keep your handicap at the required standard, and play in as many competition rounds as you can. Should you choose to become a 'Trainee Professional', you will be required to play at least 7 PGA endorsed tournament rounds in each year of membership (see question 20).

We encourage students to play in competitions, but not to the detriment of their studies. Students wishing to compete during term time (that may interrupt their studies) should speak to the Programme Manager. (The PGA also arrange organised tournaments and player development seminars).

Tragically in October 2004 one of our Year 3 students was killed in an accident. In his memory we have now set up the "Chris Gray Memorial Scratch Trophy" which is open to students and graduates of the degree, and will be played every Autumn. The current holder of this is Adam Mason (an AGMS graduate and Euro-Pro tour player as well as a Coach and PGA Pro in Worcestershire) with a score of 72 on a rather damp day in October 2006.

14. How good is the University BUSA golf team?

The success of the degree has certainly helped improve Golf at the University and the teams have developed quickly. The University squad is one of the best in the UK, and

with support from the PGA and Elite University funding from the R&A this is bound to continue. In the past few years our students have won team and individual recognition at local and national level.

Amongst the AGMS cohort we have students who have changed status and students with plus handicaps. During 2004-5 a third team was entered into the BUSA league, and in 2005-6 we were the first University in the UK to enter four teams into the BUSA competition. Results in 2006-7 highlight the strength of the UoB golf squad – making it probably the best University for Golf in the UK. All BUSA home games are played at Little Aston Golf Club. (More details of our BUSA performances can be found at: www.busa.org.uk/fl/golf_leagues.asp).

2003-4 BUSA Results:

1st Team:	Midlands Division 1A:	Champions
	Matchplay Championship:	Runners up
2nd Team:	Midlands Division 1A:	Runners up
	Matchplay Trophy:	Winners

2004-5 BUSA Results:

1st Team:	Premier League North:	3 rd
	Matchplay Championship:	Quarter Finalists
2nd Team:	Midlands Division 1A:	Runners up
	Matchplay Trophy:	Semi Finalists
3rd Team:	Midlands Division 2A:	Champions
	Matchplay Plate:	Quarter Finalists

2005-6 BUSA Results:

1st Team:	Premier League North:	Runners up
	Matchplay Championship:	Runners up
2nd Team:	Midlands Division 1A:	Champions
	Matchplay Trophy:	Quarter Finalists
3rd Team:	Midlands Division 1A:	Runners up
	Matchplay Plate:	Quarter Finalists
4th Team:	Midlands Division 2A:	4 th

2006-7 BUSA Results:

1st Team:	Premier League North:	Champions
	Matchplay Championship:	Quarter Finalists
2nd Team:	Midlands Division 1A:	Champions
	Matchplay Trophy:	Quarter Finalists
3rd Team:	Midlands Division 1A:	Runners up
	Matchplay Plate:	Semi Finalists
4th Team:	Midlands Division 2A:	Champions

15. I want to be able to do some golf coaching – what options are there?

All our AGMS students will undertake the PGA's Level 1 and 2 Certificates in Coaching Golf. These courses are considered essential for student development as well as PGA Professional Status - and as such are "compulsory" to complete. *(NB There will be subsidised additional costs for these courses, and they will normally be arranged in advance and will take place during term time away from assessment or teaching session).*

Students this year have used these qualifications to work as golf coaches for Sport Birmingham. They have coached in schools and community projects and have been involved in helping professionals with junior club coaching. Please note, however, that you need to be aware that earning money through coaching could jeopardise your amateur status, so you will need to check this in advance.

16. What about golf coaching for me?

The PGA have been able to offer subsidised coaching with the Pro's based at The Belfry for any student who wishes to take advantage of it. With their swing studio and expert tuition, a number of our students are taking the opportunity to further improve their game and reduce their handicaps. There is also coaching available with the University golf team on their coaching evenings.

17. Are Royal & Ancient Bursaries and TASS scholarships available?

The University has become one of eleven elite UK golf institutions (the others being Dublin, Exeter, Glasgow, Heriot-Watt, Loughborough, Northumbria, St Andrews, Stirling, Strathclyde and Ulster) and has been awarded £20,000 from The R&A to develop the golf teams. As well as this elite squad funding, students can apply for individual R&A Bursaries (for those who play off better than +1 [male] or 3 [female]) and/or TASS Scholarships (for those who play off 1 or better [male] or 4 or better [female]). Further details are available from Elizabeth Egan in the University Sport Birmingham office (0121 414 2581 or e.egan@bham.ac.uk).

(N.B. R&A Bursaries and TASS Scholarships are open to ALL students within the University, regardless of degree course – please also see www.randa.org and www.tass.gov.uk).

18. What golfing success have students had from the AGMS programme?

Our student's successes and highlights over the past 12 months include:

Jason Palmer (2003-6) Volkswagen Amateur World Open Champion (2005), Open Championship final qualifying (2005), English Universities Squad (2005 & 6), GB University Golf Team - Bronze medallists (2006 [including a hole in one during competition]), Italian Amateur Matchplay Champion (2006)

Ed Parker (current Year 3) BUSA Individual Matchplay Champion (2006), English Universities Squad (2006 & 2007), Open Championship Final Qualifying (2006), GB University Golf Team - Bronze medallists (2006), R&A National Team in Peru [2007]. [TASS & R&A Scholar]

Lucinda Davies (current Year 3) BUSA Individual Matchplay Runner-up (2006), English Universities Squad (2006 & 2007) [USB Scholar]

David Fulcher (2002-5) Open Championship Final Qualifying (2006), French Open Final Qualifying (2007)

John Cheetham (2002-5) Open Championship Final Qualifying (2006), Finalist in the Glenbrae Fourballs (with Simon Shepherd - 2003-6) [2007] [Currently on the EuroPro Tour]

19. I understand that I can apply for PGA ‘Assistant Professional’ status at any time during my studies?

You can apply for PGA ‘Assistant Professional’ status during your studies. However, you can only do this in negotiation with the PGA, and are advised to contact them to discuss this matter.

In order to apply during your degree course you need to do the following:

- (a) Pass the PGA’s Playing Ability Test (PAT) (you must be playing off 4.4 or 6.4 or better to enter a PAT.)
- (b) Find a PGA Professional who is prepared to propose you as a “student member” of the PGA and act as a mentor to you.
- (c) Pay the required fees to the PGA (for 2007/08 this is around £180).

If you choose to take up this option you will obviously relinquish your amateur status and you will be bound by the PGA’s Rules and Regulations and Code of Conduct.

For those who wish to stay amateur during their undergraduate studies it is still possible to gain full membership of the PGA by following the same route and then completing 12 months as a registered assistant professional after graduating. In order to gain PGA Professional Status as soon as possible after graduation, students must complete the PAT in the summer of Years 1 or 2. *[If you require further clarification of this please contact Gary Jackson at the PGA].*

20. What must I do to achieve PGA Professional Status?

During the degree there are a number of specific modules and assessments that you must pass in order to be eligible to apply for PGA Membership. You must also successfully complete the 3 golf club placements (see Q 21).

To be eligible for full PGA Professional Status you must also successfully complete the following:

- 1. Once you become an ‘Assistant Professional’ you must compete in at least 7 (PGA endorsed) tournament rounds per annum. (Minimum time for membership is 1 year before applying for full PGA status)
- 2. First aid qualification (provided by the PGA - offered to students at cost in year 1)
- 3. Child protection qualification (as above)
- 4. Shown basic competence in club repairs in years 1 & 2
- 6. Passed the Rules of Golf exam (taken in year 3)
- 7. Passed all elements of the swing theory practical examination in year 3
- 8. Completed all three 240 hour placements to the satisfaction of the PGA
- 10. Completed the PGA’s UKCC Level 1 and 2 Certificates in Coaching Golf (provided at cost by the PGA)

In addition you will need a letter of reference and support (reflecting attendance, participation etc) from the PGA National Training Academy. You will also need to be nominated for membership of the PGA by your A(T) or AA(T) Professional, plus one other member of 5 years standing

Although you may have achieved the necessary qualifications to become a full PGA member, this can only be achieved if you are proposed and seconded by current members and accepted by the appropriate Regional Committee of the PGA. It is for this reason that all applicants must be registered with the PGA for a minimum of 12 months before election. More details are available from the PGA. *[NB Successful completion of the*

degree does not guarantee PGA Professional Status].

21. Tell me more about the placements.....

Students will be asked to complete placements in PGA approved clubs (with AA(T) Professionals) during the summer vacation of years 1 and 2. Ideally the placements should be in 2 different clubs and should be arranged by the student (with the aid of the PGA). The aim of the placement is to gain experience in a golf setting within the organisation, working with the public, in the shop and as a coach. The minimum requirement for each placement is 240 hours. In year 3, students will need to complete 240 hours after their final exams in a golf setting - completing their placement requirements. It is important that placements are arranged by the student early on in each academic year.

22. Where can I do the placements?

Initially we would recommend that placements are done where it is most convenient (this may be a course near the student's home). However, it is very much up to the student. Some students have completed placements abroad. We would recommend that most placements are done wherever the student feels most comfortable (although it must be done with an AA(T) Pro). Students are encouraged to arrange placements in a variety of clubs during their studies, if possible – this is in order to gain a wider range of experiences in different organisations. Students should think carefully about where they would like to do their placements, and successful candidates must ensure they plan ahead for these.

23. Can I get to play on the courses at The Belfry?

The PGA actually does not own the courses at The Belfry, so access to the courses is by payment only. Please contact Gary Jackson for more information.

24. What are the job prospects likely to be when I graduate?

Over half of all of our graduates so far have achieved at least a 2:1 degree classification – excellent results when considering the multi-disciplinary content of the programme. On completion of the AGMS degree, you will be qualified to take advantage of a wide range of opportunities within the world of golf. If you choose to become a PGA professional, you may wish to become a club pro or to specialise as a teaching pro. Ultimately, you may aspire to become a Director of Golf or Club Manager, although undoubtedly these are positions that will require you to climb the career ladder. However, do not think that the options for PGA Professionals are limited to the 'traditional' golf club. The industry is changing and PGA Pro's are working in many aspects of golf such as the organisation of events, golf course design and golf development. In addition, others work for equipment manufacturers and suppliers. Finally, many carve out niches for themselves as innovators and entrepreneurs in this country and around the world. With the AGMS Degree and PGA Professional Status the golf world is really 'at your feet'.

Should you choose not to become a PGA Professional, there are opportunities to work within golf with the game's governing bodies (e.g. the R&A or the Home Unions), or within the management side of the business (e.g. as a Golf Club Secretary - although again this is a career that would be reached through a series of steps).

In short, we hope our graduates will take leading and influential positions within the golf industry at every level. Whilst we all appreciate that many students wish to become Tour Pro's, the reality is often different, so it is hoped that through a love, appreciation, and understanding of the game, our graduates will be the future managers, administrators and coaches of the sport. It is of course possible for students to do further postgraduate study at the University when they graduate, and it is hoped that through the degree some world leading research will be established and as the degree progresses, more opportunities will become available for our students elsewhere.

Additional information on the size of the Golf Industry, and fact and figures about PGA Diploma Employment:

- The economic impact of golf on the UK economy is conservatively estimated at between £1bn and £3bn^{1,2}
- Golf facilities and golfers contribute annually nearly £3m to local and central government (equivalent to £14 per household in the UK)¹.
- Golf receives 3,382 hours of TV coverage each year (second to soccer) with 12m adults following golf on TV¹.
- 5m people in the UK describe themselves as golfers².
- Golf is the sixth sport in participation levels¹.
- Between 300 and 400 million person-hours are spent on the golf course¹.
- UK golf retail market is worth between £400-£450m³
- Worldwide there are 57 million golfers, 30,730 courses and the industry is worth £60bn⁴.

¹ Proctor S (2002) 'Economic Contribution of Golf to the UK Economy' in Thain, E. (Ed) (2002) *Science and Golf IV: Proceedings of the World Scientific Congress of Golf*, Routledge, London.

² Mintel Report: "Golf" 2001

³ Mintel Report, Golf, 2003.

⁴ Hegarty, C., Blake, S. and Evans, E. (2002) *Financial Performance of UK Golf Courses 2002*, Weymouth, Golf Research Group.

Other PGA Research highlights that of the 2002 Diploma graduates, almost half were earning over £20,000 within one year of graduation and about one quarter were earning over £30,000. The employment rate of PGA Diploma graduates was also around 97%. It is hoped and expected the AGMS Degree graduates will be as (if not more) successful in this employment market.

25. What are the current graduates doing?

We now have 2 cohorts of graduates, and a number of them have taken some key jobs in the industry. These include teaching professional posts at such places as The Belfry, Royal Porthcawl, Royal Liverpool, St Mellion, John Cook Golf School and TopGolf, as well as in other courses around the UK. A number are now working as Professionals abroad – in places such as Cyprus (Aphrodite Hills), France (Golf Club du Haut Poitou) as well as Dubai, South Korea, Germany and Belgium. Students are also working within the wider world of golf for the PGA National Training Academy (Coaching Executive); the Faldo Series (as an executive), and working with GASP systems and V1. We also have some who are intending to try the Tour (e.g. John Cheetham, Adam Mason & Simon Shepherd are playing on the EuroPro Tour). A number already registered for Higher degrees (e.g. MSc in Sports Psychology, PhD in Golf Psychology and a PhD in youth coaching). Other graduates are undertaking the MPhil (B) in Sports Coaching that we also offer. It would appear that there are plenty of graduate opportunities for our students all

round the world.....

David Fulcher (2002-5):

“I am one of the full time teaching professionals at The Belfry, but since October I have been on sabbatical leave in Australia looking at the role of 'sports science' in golf, specifically looking at physiotherapy and biomechanics in elite performers. Highlights include working with Ramsay McMaster and his team who have had success with European Tour players such as Henrick Stenson. The AGMS degree has enabled me to have a good depth of knowledge in numerous areas that other programs would not necessarily give and this foundation has allowed me to learn and develop further as a teaching professional.

I intend to continue teaching at The Belfry and learning as much as possible, but to also continue competing in the PGA Midland Region and on the PGA Euro Pro Tour. The experience of university is definitely one of the best of my life so far and I would recommend to everyone to experience it”.

Ben Derbyshire (2003-6)

“I am currently working at a local golf club called Abergele under National Welsh coach Iain Runcie. I have recently turned professional and am beginning to get going on my teaching. The AGMS degree definitely helped in gaining the job as it proved as something a little bit extra rather than just going through the assistant procedure. I am hoping however that after more experience and when I decide to go for head professional jobs or director of golf roles that the degree will back my experiences up. University has really just given me more life skills in terms of day to day looking after myself from cooking to housework and living away from my family”.

26. What about fees, accommodation etc if I choose to apply to Birmingham?

If you have questions about fees or accommodation, please contact the individual University departments directly (The numbers for Undergraduate Admissions and Housing Services can be found on the “Further Useful Contacts” page near the end of this booklet). If a student wishes to bring a car to University, we suggest that you discuss this with the Accommodation Services before deciding where to live. All students doing the AGMS degree are expected to purchase AGMS kit (polo shirts and tracksuit trousers) and should also come prepared to adhere to the PGA’s strict dress code when at lectures at The Belfry. Information on this for successful candidates will be made available after confirmation.

Further information about the practicalities of life as a student at the University can be found on the University web pages.

27. What else can I do at Birmingham Uni or at the PGA?

The PGA has the ‘Foundation Degree in Professional Golf’ in partnership with the University (formerly the PGA Diploma) that keen golfers may wish to undertake. It is a 3 year Programme undertaken by Distance Learning, and students need to be accepted as Club Assistant Pro’s in order to be eligible to apply. For further information please contact the PGA National Training Academy.

The University of Birmingham has a number of other world renowned and popular Sports related undergraduate degree courses – e.g. Sport & Exercise Science; Sport, Physical Education & Community Studies; and Sport & Material Science. For further details about these courses please see the University web-pages. (See also Q 33).

28. Why the University of Birmingham?

The University is a well established elite Russell Group & *Universitas 21* World Class University, and its degrees are some of the most respected in the world. It is also one of the world's top 100 Universities. It has academic and sporting facilities that are second to none, and is one of the country's most popular choices for undergraduate study. Its transport links and proximity to top class sporting facilities also make it a key choice for students who wish to combine top level sport with a high quality degree.

The schools involved in the delivery of the degree at the University are all highly rated, and in the most recent Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) they received the highest marks of 6* (Sport & Exercise Science), 6* (Metallurgy and Materials) and 5 (Education). With research based teaching and lecturing expertise this puts students at the forefront of advancing technology. With Metallurgy and Materials leading the way in golf club and ball research for the R&A, students have the chance to be involved in the development and research of technology in the game.

29. What facilities are there for me to use?

On the degree you will have the chance to use the specialist PGA facilities (Swing rooms and Workshops) at The National Training Academy, and at the University you will have access to specialist teaching space for lectures. On the sporting side the University has facilities that are second to none including water based Astroturf hockey pitches, Gymnasias, a Swimming Pool, Squash Courts, athletics track, Golf driving range (Wasthills nearby) and a Human Performance Laboratory.

30. I'm really keen to apply – what else can I do to help my application?

When we look through a UCAS application we not only look at grades, GCSE's and School statements, we also look at your personal statement in some detail.

We appreciate that you may wish to write a more generic personal statement if you are applying for a number of different types of degree course. However, in order to aid your cause it is worth writing at least a short paragraph citing your experiences of working in the golf industry/assisting a Pro with youth coaching/awareness of wider social issues and golf/understanding the role of a golf Pro. These would be far more useful than purely listing tournaments won and medals collected!! At the same time please also mention your PRECISE current handicap in your statement (we will ask for proof before you can enter the short-listing stage).

31. What are the University and PGA looking for in applicants?

As well as good grades in relevant subjects and a good handicap, we are also looking for students who are mature; motivated; have a strong willingness to work, improve and succeed; and who will be committed to their studies and their own personal development. They should also be aiming to become PGA Professionals and be willing to learn the

skills involved in coaching, administration, management and the game's development. Students will be expected to represent the University and the PGA, and will be closely bound by their rules and regulations once they change status. Students should also note that lecture attendance is compulsory and a close eye is kept upon each student's attitude, work, and welfare in order to help them progress and succeed. This academic-pastoral approach will also be reflected in regular student reviews and reports, and will be central to any reference for your PGA application.

32. What are the expectations of me should I get onto the degree?

Because of the nature of the degree and the expectations of the golf industry, we expect a high level of commitment from our students. For example attendance at all lectures is compulsory; academic tutorials are vital; and behaviour and dress are equally important. In return for this high level of commitment, students will receive academic and pastoral reviews, support, tutorials and advice which can be lost on degree courses with large student numbers. AGMS staff get to know each student individually and we believe this is pivotal to the success of the degree and the student (*how many other University programmes can achieve that?!).*

We have a public statement on the expectations of our students:

"The AGMS degree has very high expectations of its students. Because of the nature of the qualifications and the professional expectations of the industry to which you aspire, there are high requirements in terms of attendance, punctuality, appearance and commitment (much like they are in other professional qualifications like Medicine, Physiotherapy and Teacher Training). All of these are closely monitored and will be reflected in references, reports and ultimately applications for membership of the PGA".

33. What else is happening with golf at The University of Birmingham?

As well as the newly accredited Foundation Degree (the old PGA Professional Diploma), we are involved in beginning to develop Masters degree routes in various aspects of the game, such as an MPhil (B) in Sports Coaching (and an MBA in Sports Management which is started in 2007). In the mean time it is possible for graduates to register for MPhil/PhD research degrees within the University, using staff expertise of the golf field. We currently have a number of individuals heavily involved in Golf who are undertaking PhD's with us.

In addition staff are involved in research into all aspects of the game, and are working with the PGA to develop golf participation, technology, health and social well being through research into the sport.

34. I still have some questions about the degree – who should I contact?

If you still have further questions, please feel free to contact Dr Martin Toms at the University or Gary Jackson at the PGA. They can provide further information or advice on applications or entry requirements.

Dr Martin Toms (University of Birmingham: Programme Manager)
Telephone: 0121 415 8392 (*Secretary: 0121 415 8285*)
Email: M.R.Toms@bham.ac.uk

Gary Jackson (PGA: Business Skills Development Manager & AGMS Co-ordinator)
Telephone: 01675 470333
Email: Gary.Jackson@pga.org.uk

FURTHER USEFUL CONTACTS:

Admissions Liaison: 0121 414 3374
Housing Services: 0121 414 6444
University Sport Birmingham: 0121 414 4117
Undergraduate Admissions: 0121 414 6623
UoB Guild Of Students (BUGS): 0121 472 1841

WEBSITES:

www.bham.ac.uk
www.pga.org.uk

University printed prospectus request page:

www.prospectus-req.bham.ac.uk/main.htm

(The information given in this handbook is for guidance only and should not be taken as definitive. More precise information will be provided on entry)

BA (Hons): Applied Golf Management Studies
University of Birmingham, School of Education
Database Information

Name:

Address:.....

.....
.....
.....

Postcode:.....

Tel No:.....

Email.....

Present Golf Handicap:.....

Current Educational Situation:.....

Probable year of application/entry:.....

The information held will be used to inform potential students of Open Days (which at the PGA will be by invitation only on Wednesday 27th August 2008 [tbc]).

I wish to remain on the database for the Applied Golf Management Studies Degree, and am aware that I will be removed from the database once my probable year of application has been exceeded.

Signed:

Date:

Please return completed form to:
Dr Martin Toms, School of Education, University of Birmingham,
Weoley Park Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 6LL.
Fax: 0121 414 5619
Email: m.r.toms@bham.ac.uk