



The Professional Golfers' Association

TRAINING PROGRAMME



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Introduction

The PGA Training Programme is made up of a formal educational qualification i.e. the Foundation Degree in Professional Golf Studies (FdSc), accredited by the University of Birmingham or the Professional Golf PGA Diploma in Higher Education (DipHE), accredited by the University of the Highlands and Islands. There are a number of other specific requirements that are separate from the Training Programme but are integral to the course as a whole.

Once all the modules have been passed and the additional prerequisites met, Trainees are able to apply for membership of the Professional Golfers' Association, the oldest PGA and one of the most exclusive professional organisations in the world.

This training programme is therefore unique.

The Foundation Degree began in 2004/05, it has been continually

modified and updated to ensure graduates receive a programme that is current and meets the needs of the golf industry for the coming decade. October 2016 saw the start of another innovative programme, working with another collaborative body, the University of the Highlands and Islands, where Scottish based students will work towards the Professional Golf PGA DipHE.



The Make Up of the Training Programme

What is 'in' the programme and what's required?

- Passed all modules over the 3 years.
- Submission and attendance of all assignments and exams.
- Attendance of residential sessions.
- Passed the PGA Coaching Assessment in year 3.

What is 'outside' the programme but is a membership requirement?

- Current Safeguarding and Protecting Children Certificate.
- Basic First-aid Certificate.
- ASQ Level 1 and 2 Golf Coaching Certificate.
- 21 Tournament Rounds – A minimum of 7 for each year of training.
- Current Disclosure check (i.e. DBS).

Read on to learn more about what is studied on the Training Programme

Modules Taken in Year One

Work Placement:

A core element of the Programme is the requirement for the student to be in employment with a member of the PGA of GB&I (the Training Professional) at a golf facility. Changes in the industry mean that PGA Professionals often take on additional roles and responsibilities at their golf facility.

Whilst the type of facilities can vary considerably in the industry today there are common themes and practises that students will experience, such as time-management, dealing with customers and the requirement for strong interpersonal skills.

This aim of this module is to equip students with the knowledge, skills and tools required to manage

themselves effectively and to develop the skills required within the workplace as they start their journey towards becoming a PGA Professional.

There are formative (non-graded) assessment opportunities throughout the module due to the quizzes and tests that are provided alongside the learning material. In addition, the Training Professional will be required to verify that the learning experiences are being experienced through workplace training and opportunity.

For this module you will be assessed by submitting an assignment and an online exam.

YEAR ONE





YEAR ONE

Golf Coaching:

Great coaching goes a long way to maintaining and increasing participation, and improving performance in a sport. Therefore, it is essential that PGA Professionals develop a fundamental understanding of the key facets of golf coaching so that they can provide a first-class service to all golfers.

This module will introduce students to the technical fundamentals that are needed to be able to coach effectively. Students will be introduced to the coaching model of Laws, Principles and Preferences, focusing on the science of golf ball flight. This introduction will cover the pre-swing principles that affect the laws (impact factors). In addition, students will cover aspects related to the coaching process,

young golfers and skill acquisition.

There are formative assessment opportunities throughout the module due to the quizzes and tests that are provided alongside the learning material

For this module you will be assessed by submitting an assignment and a written exam.

YEAR ONE



Industry Skills:

The role of the PGA Professional requires skills and knowledge in a number of different areas. This module focuses on a selection of the areas that are key and current to the modern industry through introducing Students to the areas of custom fitting a player and the Rules of Golf.

Custom fitting and customisation allow a player to have the optimum club specifications to suit their individual game. Knowledge of the Rules of Golf is a requirement for both the regulations that golf clubs must adhere to, as laid out by the R&A and for the playing of the game.

A PGA Professional will most likely be the 'go-to' person that players will look to when a rules

decision is required and for the necessary advice when a custom fitting is needed. Both areas can be regarded as necessary key industry skills and provide PGA Professionals' with an excellent opportunity to develop long term customer relationships.

There are formative assessment opportunities throughout the module due to the quizzes and tests that are provided alongside the learning material.

Students learn about measuring and adjusting loft and lie, building a club from components and the stages of a custom fit. For this module you will be assessed by an online test, an assignment and an online rules of golf exam.

A photograph of three men on a golf course under a clear blue sky. The man on the left is wearing a grey polo shirt and sunglasses, holding a golf club. The man in the middle is wearing a light blue polo shirt and sunglasses, holding a smartphone. The man on the right is wearing a white polo shirt and sunglasses, smiling. A golf bag is visible on the right side of the image.

YEAR ONE

Sports Science:

The module will provide students with a basic introduction to several aspects of Sports Science - including motor control, anatomy and physiology, biomechanics, psychology, macro nutrition and a basic understanding of how the body functions in golf. Students will have the opportunity to recognise

the value of each area of study when applied to golf coaching and player performance.

The module will also be backed up and supported by different practical sessions, to give students a thorough grounding in Sports Science and its application to the body and golf. It will also have a focus on junior development and the

related application of sports science.

There are formative assessment opportunities throughout the module due to the quizzes and tests that are provided alongside the learning material

For this module, you are required to complete an assignment and a written exam.

YEAR TWO



Modules Taken in Year Two

Business:

The modern PGA Professional often develops and maintains multiple income streams; however, retailing is generally a key aspect of the golf business and many PGA professionals earn a large proportion of their income through the sale of golf related goods and services. However, for all businesses, the golf business environment is changing.

Golf businesses are coming under increasing pressure from competitors, shifting social habits, the economy and changing shopping behaviour. Only the best golf businesses will continue to prosper.

This module will provide students with the tools to identify, analyse and interpret key features of the modern golf business environment. It is expected that students will broaden their understanding of the underlying principles of business and develop their own business skills to enable them to maximise future opportunities.

There are formative assessment opportunities throughout the module due to the quizzes and tests that are provided alongside the learning material

For this module you will be assessed by submitting an assignment and by sitting a written exam.

YEAR TWO



Golf Coaching:

Developed as a follow on to the module in Year 1, this module continues to emphasise the integration of theory and practice in golf coaching. Students will study the golf swing in more depth and be able to teach a variety of golf shots

that constitute the 'short game'. They will learn how to communicate and use feedback effectively. They will also be introduced to video as a coaching tool for identifying key factors when analysing the golf swing.

There are formative assessment

opportunities throughout the module due to the quizzes and tests that are provided alongside the learning material

For this module you will be assessed by submitting an assignment and a written exam.

YEAR TWO

Equipment Technology and Custom Fitting:

Although the process for custom fitting a player is essentially the same the PGA Professional must be able to understand the variables that apply when fitting a player for other clubs such as drivers and putters.

More recently with the introduction of new materials into the construction process it is important that the PGA Professional has knowledge of materials, construction processes and how they can influence performance and a club's playability.

This module focuses on the design of various club heads and their influence on performance as well as the requirements of the golfing authorities relating to their design and construction.

There are formative assessment opportunities throughout the module due to the quizzes and tests that are provided alongside the learning material

Students are assessed by a written exam and a workshop practical exam. The workshop exam covers club building, swing-weighting and loft and lie measurement and alteration.



YEAR TWO



Sports Science:

Developed as a follow on to the module in Year 1, this module continues to develop the role of sports science within a coaching setting through the integration of theory and application. Students will identify key motor control theories and apply them to coaching situations, and discuss physiological, psychological and nutritional concepts related to improved golf performance. Psychological components of coaching skills to create a self-determining environment will be analysed and reflected upon and the use of basic mental skills will be introduced.

Students will be encouraged to take opportunities to apply each area of study to their own coaching and job role with a specific focus towards recreational club golfers.

There are formative assessment opportunities throughout the module due to the quizzes and tests that are provided alongside the learning material

For this module you will be assessed by submitting an assignment and by sitting a written exam.



YEAR THREE

Modules Taken in Year Three

Equipment Technology and Custom Fitting:

Modern technology may allow today's PGA Professional to consider more in-depth analysis and applications of the information gathered when carrying out a custom fit, for example when making shaft recommendations

to better players. This module focuses on different shaft and grip materials, designs and constructions. Evaluating influences for players through the interview and information gathering process, ball design and aerodynamics, shaft fitting and performance.

There are formative assessment

opportunities throughout the module due to the quizzes and tests that are provided alongside the learning material

Students are assessed by a written exam and a practical custom fitting assessment. The custom fitting assessment requires an actual fitting to be performed.

YEAR THREE



Business Finance:

Regardless of whether the golf professional operates as a self-employed business person or as an employee of a larger business, it is important that he or she has a sound understanding of business finance and taxation.

The aim of this module is to equip you with the knowledge and skills required to manage the finances of a small business operating within

the golf industry. In addition, it is expected that you will develop the ability to analyse and interpret relevant financial statements in order that you can assess the performance of a golfing enterprise whether big or small. From this analysis, it is expected that you will be able to recommend appropriate actions to improve business performance.

The core topics covered within this module are sources and uses

of finance, financial recording, forecasting and budgeting, analysing business performance and taxation.

There are formative assessment opportunities throughout the module due to the quizzes and tests that are provided alongside the learning material

For this module you will be assessed by submitting an assignment and by sitting a written exam.

YEAR THREE

Golf Coaching:

Developing the work of Year One and Year Two this module will enable students to further their knowledge and understanding of coaching golf. Students will learn how to provide detailed analysis of the golf swing and how to correct swing faults. They will be introduced to reflective practice and self-development strategies that can be effectively used within their coaching environment.

Students will learn how to apply the Laws, Principles and Preferences model to a range of shots that players of varying degrees of ability may need to execute on the golf course. These include shots from awkward lies and specialist shots requiring players to manoeuvre the

ball around objects. They will also learn how to build effective on-course lesson frameworks.

A key element of successful coaching is developing a relationship with a player and recognising their limitations. Students will learn how to develop successful coach/athlete relationships.

There are formative assessment opportunities throughout the module due to the quizzes and tests that are provided alongside the learning material

For this module you will be assessed by submitting an assignment, a written exam and two video analysis case studies.



YEAR THREE



Sports Science:

Students will identify and apply the principles of golf biomechanics and analyse the mechanical systems of human movement. The module will draw on knowledge of basic biomechanical principles in order to assess the limitations of the performer and then apply these to the swing. It will allow students to identify the methods used to collect biomechanical information and what the advantages and disadvantages are. Students will gain an awareness of the various equipment and professionals that are available to them as coaches.

The application of a holistic coaching strategy will be applied to golf coaching using the five considerations of technical, tactical, physical, mental and lifestyle to

allow students to be able to identify what influence each area can have upon the golfer. The effects of performance physiology will be evaluated and the application of performance physiology will be used to allow students to create performance benefits for golfers.

As in year two, students will be encouraged to take opportunities to apply each area of study to their own coaching and job role.

There are formative assessment opportunities throughout the module due to the quizzes and tests that are provided alongside the learning material

For this module you will be assessed by submitting an assignment and by sitting a written exam.



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