



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

MBA

Master of Business Administration (Football Industries)

Study mode

Full-time

Duration

12 months

Apply by: **28 August 2026**

Starts on: **21 September 2026**

About this course

The Football Industries MBA (FIMBA) programme is the original, and still the only, Football Industries MBA. As an MBA programme, it has the real business focus that management positions in modern sports demand.

Introduction

Focusing on the professionalism and business of the beautiful game, if you want to work in the global football industry — with clubs, governing bodies or related marketing, media and sponsorship companies — this is the programme for you.

The Football Industries MBA features in the top 30 global and top 5 European [SportBusiness postgraduate course rankings](#) for 2025. The core elements of the programme — leadership, strategy, organisations, innovation, international business and the global environment, entrepreneurship and managing financial resources — are delivered in concentrated blocks with a strong emphasis on interactive teaching and learning. The specialist football modules apply business concepts to modern football. You'll gain a critical awareness of issues in football management, finance and law. Crucially, you'll receive vocational industry training, including the Becoming a Football Executive module and Sports Operations Management module.

The broader skills you'll acquire include analysis, problem-solving, creativity and decision-making. The Becoming a Football Executive module will also strengthen your career management skills and hone your interpersonal communication abilities. Based in Liverpool, the football hotbed of the North-west of England, clubs are accessible as laboratories for students to put theory into practice.

If you already hold an MBA or are working in the industry and would like to study the football-specific modules only, we offer a [Certificate in Business Administration](#) (Football Industries).

Who is this course for?

Candidates join our MBA programmes to achieve a number of professional goals. Typically they will have a minimum of 3 years of relevant management experience in the private or public sector.

Students may be planning to:

- Start a new business
- Move into a more senior strategic role
- Improve the performance of their current company
- Change the function, sector or country they work in.

Generous scholarships for 2025

We're offering 50% tuition fee discounts for our MBA programmes for students starting in September 2025.

Places are limited, so we encourage you to apply to the MBA programme early to avoid disappointment. Awards will be assigned on a first-come first-served basis, with applicants to the programme assessed automatically for eligibility. [Find out more about our scholarships](#) today!

Student stories

Our students come from a wide range of sectors, industries, backgrounds, countries and cultures. [Read our students' stories](#) and find out more about why they chose the Management School, highlights of the programme to date, and valuable advice if you're considering an MBA.

What you'll learn

[European study trips](#)

You are invited to attend two study trips to UEFA and FIFA plus a European city destination alongside your fellow MBA candidates. These trips allow you to put theory

into practice, offering a deeper understanding of business management in an economic and social context and helping expand your professional network through connecting with sports, business, and our alumni.

For more information, please see the Fees and Funding section below.

[MBA top industry leader speaker series](#)

Deepen your understanding of business and football issues through our top industry guest speaker series. Join sessions with industry leaders including Premier and European league football club CEOs and top executives at governing bodies as they share their experiences and insights on topical issues.

Accreditation

The University of Liverpool Management School is one of an elite group of institutions worldwide to hold the gold standard 'triple-crown' accreditation from AACSB, AMBA and EQUIS.

Accreditation in detail

AACSB

AACSB Accreditation Standards require a high quality teaching environment, a commitment to continuous improvement, and curricula responsive to the needs of businesses. This achievement means that the Management School meets specific standards of excellence. It also means it's committed to on-going improvement in delivering high quality education.

AMBA

[AMBA](#) is the highest standard of achievement in postgraduate business education. MBA students and graduates, business schools and employers all recognise it as a gold standard. AMBA's rigorous criteria and assessment

process ensure that only programmes that demonstrate the highest standards in teaching, learning and curriculum design; career development and employability; and student, alumni and employer interaction achieve accreditation.

EQUIS

The School is also accredited by [EQUIS](#), which is the leading international system of quality assessment, improvement and accreditation of higher education institutions in management and business administration. Institutions that are accredited by EQUIS must demonstrate not only high general quality in all dimensions of their activities, but also a high degree of internationalisation and corporate connections.

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Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

Semester one

The 12-month full-time programme consists of 12 compulsory modules, followed by an MBA Impact Project, selecting either a traditional academic enquiry (dissertation), strategic business plan, or working with an organisation as a consultancy based project.

There are six compulsory modules in Semester one. **180** credits are taken in total.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>FOOTBALL ECONOMICS AND ANALYTICS (ULMS804)</u>	10
<u>INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL INDUSTRY (ULMS763)</u>	10
<u>LEADERSHIP THEORY AND PRACTICE (ULMS847)</u>	10
<u>SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE (ULMS822)</u>	10
<u>MARKETING IN THE DIGITAL AGE (ULMS842)</u>	10
<u>INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT (ULMS849)</u>	10

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Semester two

The 12-month full-time programme consists of 12 compulsory modules, followed by an MBA Impact Project, selecting either a traditional academic enquiry (dissertation), strategic business plan, or working with an organisation as a consultancy based project.

There are six compulsory modules in Semester two. **180** credits are taken in total.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>BECOMING A FOOTBALL EXECUTIVE (ULMS824)</u>	10
<u>FOOTBALL AND FINANCE (ULMS724)</u>	10
<u>INNOVATION AND STRATEGIC ENTREPRENEURSHIP (ULMS704)</u>	10
<u>SPORT GOVERNANCE AND THE LAW (ULMS721)</u>	10
<u>MANAGING FINANCIAL RESOURCES (ULMS701)</u>	10
<u>SPORTS MARKETING AND OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT (ULMS829)</u>	10

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Final project

Students have the option to complete a consultancy based project or a dissertation carried out over the summer period following semester two.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>MBA IMPACT PROJECT (ULMS823)</u>	60

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

MBA students are taught in a dedicated, purpose-built teaching space, the Brett Building. Its facilities include state-of-the-art audio visual equipment, a lecture theatre, break-out spaces, and social zones.

How you're assessed

In semester one and two, you will take modules totalling 120 credits. The dissertation or consultancy based project completed during the summer period is worth 60 credits and students will be supported by their academic supervisor.

Students are required to complete 180 credits to achieve a full MBA.

Subject to meeting specific criteria outlined by the University, students will graduate with a Pass, Merit or Distinction.

Assessment tasks are varied and some may be designed specifically to meet the learning outcomes of a particular programme of study, but students can expect to be assessed via coursework, essay, group work, presentations, case studies, negotiation exercises, reports and examinations. The weighting of individual components will vary from one module to another. All assessment information is included within the module specification.

Liverpool Hallmarks

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

The Liverpool Curriculum framework sets out our distinctive approach to education. Our teaching staff support our students to develop academic knowledge, skills, and understanding alongside our **graduate attributes**:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three **Liverpool Hallmarks**:

- Research-connected teaching
- Active learning
- Authentic assessment

All this is underpinned by our core value of **inclusivity** and commitment to providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students.

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Careers and employability

Our MBA Career and Leadership Development Programme is designed to enrich your MBA journey by challenging your thinking about your own professional, career and leadership development. Active participation in the Programme will deepen your awareness of yourself, your strengths, motivations and aspirations, and support you in confidently articulating and leveraging your MBA with impact and influence.

In practice, the **Career and Professional Development Programme** offers:

- Full psychometric profiling and feedback
- A personal career development plan
- Unlimited access to support throughout the year and up to five years after graduation
- Access to a Mentoring Programme, connecting with leaders, entrepreneurs and innovators who will inspire and guide you
- Support with interviews, CVs and job applications.

Networking is a central part of the MBA journey, network with peers, MBA Alumni and Guest Speakers. The Programme enhances professional networking skills both in person and virtually.

Careers support doesn't end when you graduate from your MBA programme. You are a lifelong member of the MBA community and we encourage you to stay connected and in turn become mentors to the next generation. You will also benefit from access to a wide range of careers and professional development support, advice and webinars up to five years after you've graduated.

Some of our most recent graduates are now working in the following football clubs and related organisations:

- Adidas
- AEG Europe
- Asian Football
- Confederation
- BATE Borisov [Belarus]
- Celtic FC
- Chinese Football
- Association
- England Netball

- European Broadcasting
- Union
- FC Bayern Munich
- FC Colo-Colo [Chile]
- FC Seoul [South Korea]
- Gremio FBPA [Brazil]
- Liverpool FC
- Manchester City FC
- NBA
- Nike
- Octagon
- Rugby Football Union
- Santos Laguna [Mexico]
- Scottish Professional Football League
- The [English] Football League
- UEFA
- Women in Football

Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

Career planning

From education to employment

Networking events

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Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

Tuition fees

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year – £26,500

International fees

Full-time place, per year – £33,500

Fees stated are for the 2025/26 academic year. Tuition fees for the academic year 2026/27 will be announced soon.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support.

- You can [pay your tuition fees in instalments](#).
- All or part of your tuition fees can be [funded by external sponsorship](#).
- International applicants who accept an offer of a place will need to [pay a tuition fee deposit](#).

If you're a UK national, or have settled status in the UK, you may be eligible to apply for a Postgraduate Loan worth up to £12,167 to help with course fees and living costs. [Learn more about paying for your studies](#).

Additional costs

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This could include buying a laptop, books, or stationery.

Find out more about the [additional study costs](#) that may apply to this course.

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Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

Postgraduate entry requirements

Professional Experience

MBA Candidates are normally expected to have a minimum of 3 years of substantive managerial experience in the private or public sector.

They will have managed budgets/people/projects.

Qualifications

Candidates will normally be expected to hold a 2:1 Honours degree (which may be in any discipline) from a UK university, or an equivalent professional qualification from a similar non-UK institution.

Non-graduates who possess extensive professional experience (more than 5 years) and/or a postgraduate qualification are encouraged to apply.

Non Standard Entry

Non Standard entry relates to applicants who may not hold a degree or the required degree classification. We would still encourage applications if you have:

- Significant management experience (more than 5 years),
- Below 2:1 or no formal university degree
- Substantial record of achievement in business and leadership (for example accredited training courses, learning & development courses).

Each application is considered on a case by case basis and will include an informal, online interview with the MBA team. The interview is an opportunity to discuss your suitability to MBA programme, your experience and interest in the MBA programme.

Applicants should apply via the normal route. For more information on this non-standard entry process, please contact ulmsmba@liverpool.ac.uk.

Personal Statement

The personal statement encourages students to write between 100–200 words for each of the following sections:

- your interest and experience in this subject area,
- your reasons for choosing this particular programme,

- your future aim or career plan
- how the programme of study enables you to achieve this.

GMAT Score

A GMAT score is not a mandatory requirement; however, we do encourage candidates who have undertaken the examination to submit their scores for consideration alongside other criteria during the admissions process.

We look for a balanced score across all components of the GMAT and will only accept scores which are still valid (attained within the last 5 years) by the time of entry to the programme.

Our institution is listed as University of Liverpool, University of Liverpool Management School and the programme code for the full-time MBA is: ZCC-MW-25

International qualifications

Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.

Many countries have a different education system to that of the UK, meaning your qualifications may not meet our entry requirements. Completing your Foundation Certificate, such as that offered by the [University of Liverpool International College](#), means you're guaranteed a place on your chosen course.

English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a [majority English speaking country](#).

We accept a variety of [international language tests](#) and [country-specific qualifications](#).

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our [Pre-Sessional English courses](#) to achieve the required level.

IELTS

6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0

TOEFL iBT

88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 19, writing 19, reading 19 and speaking 20. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

Duolingo English Test

125 overall, with writing not less than 125, speaking and reading not less than 115, and listening not below 110. For academic year 2025/26 only, we will also accept the production, literacy, comprehension and conversation score set: 120 overall, with no component below 105.

Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with no component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

70 overall, with no skill below 65

PSI Skills for English

B2 Pass with Merit in all bands

INDIA Standard XII

National Curriculum (CBSE/ISC) – 75% and above in English. Accepted State Boards – 80% and above in English.

WAEC

C6 or above

Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

Pre-sessional English in detail

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or [the equivalent score in selected other English language tests](#), to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with no component below 6.0	6 weeks	On campus
6.0 overall, with no component below 5.5	10 weeks	On campus and online options available
6.0 overall, with no more than one component below 5.5, and no component below 5.0	12 weeks	On campus and online options available
5.5 overall, with no more than one component below 5.5, and no component below 5.0	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no more than one component below 5.0, and no component below 4.5	30 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no more than one component below 4.5, and no	40 weeks	On campus

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
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component below 4.0

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-sessional English course length you require.

Please see our guide to [Pre-sessional English entry requirements](#) for IELTS 6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0, for further details.

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