

MBA

Master of Business Administration (Online Football Industries)

Study mode

Part-time

Duration

24 months

Apply by: **11 September 2026**Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

The Online Football Industries MBA (Online FIMBA) is a new, online MBA dedicated to the global football industry. As an MBA programme, it has a real business focus that management positions in football and sports demand.

Introduction

Wherever you are in the globe, through our Online FIMBA programme, you'll gain a critical awareness of football issues and the wider sports world, enabling your holistic development as a football or sports executive trained through our [triple-accredited Management School](#).

Our Online FIMBA programme is based on our highly ranked on-campus [Football Industries MBA](#) which was established over 25 years ago. Offered part-time over two years, the programme combines the core MBA curriculum created by our world class faculty that includes modules in leadership, managing financial resources and marketing alongside specialist football modules.

The football specific curriculum has been designed by our [academic staff](#) from the [Centre for Sports Business](#), a leading hub for sports business research and practice who bring expertise and industry experience from sports analytics, economics, governance and finance.

Our Director of Studies for the Online FIMBA programme introduces the programme and reasons why to apply:



Generous scholarships for 2026

We're offering 50% tuition fee discounts for our Football Industries MBA programmes for students starting in September 2026.

Places are limited, so we encourage you to apply to the 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!](#)

Who is this course for?

If you want to kick-start your career in football management or up your game in the sports business, this programme is for you!

Many of our candidates who join the FIMBA come from other sectors but have a lifelong passion and ambition to work in the game or start their new business within the football industry.

Typically, you will have a minimum of 3 plus years work experience in a professional or managerial capacity. Those who do not hold a degree or the required degree classification yet have extensive professional experience (more than 5 years) and/or a postgraduate qualification are encouraged to apply. For more information about eligibility, please get in touch with the MBA team at ulmsmba@liverpool.ac.uk.

Essential information about this course

This is a part time, online course for 24 months, offering the flexibility to study in your own time, from anywhere in the world.

- There will be a minimum of **15–20 hours of study per week**
- Approximately two hours of this time will involve attending live sessions with your module lead and fellow students. The remaining time is for asynchronous (recorded) sessions, and associated study, that can be completed in your own time around your personal commitments.
- Wherever you can get an internet connection, you'll be able to study.
- There are 12 modules to complete over 24 months. The curriculum combines core MBA modules alongside specialist football modules focused on the industry.
- Each module runs for 6 weeks with an assessment at the end of each module.
- Two weeks prior to the start of each module, you will receive the information you need to complete it, including the dates and times of live sessions.
- Times of the live sessions will vary and efforts will be made to account for the different time zones within which students are located.
- Currently there are no planned weekend live sessions but if this changes, your Director of Studies will make you aware.
- You will have access to a complete set of online learning materials via our learning platform, [Canvas](#). These materials contain the essential teaching you will need to complete your course and undertake your assessments. You will also be able to connect with your fellow students and the academic team via an online forum.
- Assessments will be carried out in your virtual classroom and may include report writing, reflective practice, research projects, and individual or group presentations.
- To help with independent study, we will provide access to our library's electronic resources 24/7, including thousands of books, ejournals and newspapers.
- [Chris Barlow](#), your Director of Studies will be your key contact before and during your course. Chris will offer individual monthly meetings to answer any questions and check on your progress. Chris will also be available for questions via the platform, social media and email.

More details can be found under Teaching and Assessment.

Student Stories

Our students come from a wide range of sectors, industries, backgrounds, countries and cultures. [Read our campus-based 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.

Globally Ranked MBA

Our campus based Football Industries MBA features in the top 30 global and top 5 [European SportBusiness postgraduate course rankings](#) for 2025.

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 \(Football Industries\)](#).

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 online and on-campus MBA candidates. These study trips usually take place in January or February of year two of study providing an opportunity to put theory into practice and helping you connect with sport, business and our alumni.

- **[MBA top industry leader speaker series](#)**

Deepen your understanding of business and football issues through our top industry guest speaker series. Join online 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.

- **[Becoming a Football Executive Module](#)**

If you can, we invite you to complete this specialist football module on campus in Liverpool, delivered over a week. This is an excellent opportunity to connect with your peers, experience our dedicated MBA facility and explore the Liverpool city region, home to a wide variety of football and sports clubs, including two Premier League sides. If you are not able to attend in person, this module can also be completed online.

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.

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Course content

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

Year 1, semester 1

The 24 month full-time programme consists of 12 compulsory modules followed by an MBA Impact Project. 180 credits are taken in total.

There are eight modules in year one.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL INDUSTRY (ULOL763)</u>	10
<u>LEADERSHIP THEORY AND PRACTICE (ULOL847)</u>	10
<u>FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ANALYSIS (ULOL701)</u>	10

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

Year 1, semester 2

The 24 month full-time programme consists of 12 compulsory modules followed by an MBA Impact Project. 180 credits are taken in total.

There are eight modules in year one.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>MARKETING IN THE DIGITAL AGE (ULOL842)</u>	10

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>SPORT GOVERNANCE AND THE LAW (ULOL721)</u>	10
<u>INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT (ULOL849)</u>	10

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

Year 1, semester 3

The 24 month full-time programme consists of 12 compulsory modules followed by an MBA Impact Project. 180 credits are taken in total.

There are eight modules in year one.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>SPORTS MARKETING AND OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT (ULOL829)</u>	10
<u>SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE (ULOL822)</u>	10

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

Year 2, semester 1

The 24 month full-time programme consists of 12 compulsory modules followed by an MBA Impact Project. 180 credits are taken in total.

There are four modules in year two.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>FOOTBALL ECONOMICS AND ANALYTICS (ULOL804)</u>	10
<u>INNOVATION AND STRATEGIC ENTREPRENEURSHIP (ULOL704)</u>	10

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

Year 2, semester 2

The 24 month full-time programme consists of 12 compulsory modules followed by an MBA Impact Project. 180 credits are taken in total.

There are four modules in year two.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>FOOTBALL AND FINANCE (ULOL724)</u>	10
<u>BECOMING A FOOTBALL EXECUTIVE (ULOL824)</u>	10

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

Final project

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>MBA IMPACT PROJECT (ULOL823)</u>	60

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

Teaching and assessment

The learning, teaching and assessment strategies for all online programmes are aligned with the three University of Liverpool hallmarks of research-connected teaching, active learning and authentic assessment – as well as the three University of Liverpool Graduate attributes of confidence, digital fluency and global citizenship.

You'll take modules totalling 120 credits, with the dissertation or consultancy based project completed at the end of your studies being worth 60 credits. You'll be supported by your academic supervisor during the dissertation or consultancy based project.

You're required to complete 180 credits to achieve a full MBA. Subject to meeting specific criteria outlined by the University, you'll graduate with a Pass, Merit or Distinction.

How you'll study

Studying online allows you to study in your own time and from wherever works best for you – whether that is from your home, during your lunch hour or anywhere else you have internet access.

With online FIMBA, you can study in your time and wherever through live and recorded sessions. All our online programmes are delivered through [Canvas](#), the University's Virtual Learning Environment, enabling you to thrive in a flexible and engaging hybrid approach.

Key features include:

- User-friendly interface accessible on smartphones, tablets, and computers
- Comprehensive course content with multimedia materials
- Interactive tools for collaboration and discussion
- Real-time feedback and progress tracking
- Mobile app for on-the-go learning
- Integrated communication tools
- Easy assignment submission
- Extensive digital resource library

Canvas provides a flexible, engaging learning environment that combines the benefits of online study with the interactivity of traditional classrooms.

Assessments

Assessments will reflect the University's hallmark of authentic assessment, which may include report writing, reflective practice, research projects, individual or group presentations and a business simulation exercise that each represent the kinds of tasks you would be expected to undertake in a professional setting. There is also one exam (delivered online) within the Managing Financial Resources module.

The weighting of individual components will vary from one module to another. All assessment information is included within the module handbook at the start of each module.

Online learning experience

We will support your online learning experience with high-quality learning materials and resources, which can all be found on Canvas.

Typically, your learning experience will include the following:

- **directed learning** – including participation in virtual discussions with peers, led by the lecturer, working through relevant and specially prepared videos and lecturecasts; completing interactive exercises on the learning platform; and appointments with your lecturer during office hours
- **self-directed learning** – including wider reading and research in your subject area to further develop your knowledge and understanding
- **assessment** – time taken to prepare and complete assignments and activities which contribute to your overall assessment.

On average, you will need to dedicate a minimum of 15–20 hours of study per module, per week.

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

Dedicated MBA careers support

Whatever your experience as a manager and whatever your professional ambitions, you'll be supported with your future career planning from the very first week.

FIMBA is at the centre of one of the best existing global networks in the football industry, with alumni working for the top football/sports clubs, governing bodies, media and commercial organisations in Europe, Asia, the Americas and Africa.

Some of our most recent graduates are now working in:

- UEFA
- AEG Europe
- Asian Football Confederation
- The [English] Football League
- Scottish Professional Football League
- Chinese Football Association
- Manchester City FC
- Celtic FC
- Liverpool FC
- Santos Laguna [Mexico]
- BATE Borisov [Belarus]
- FC Bayern Munich
- FC Seoul [South Korea]
- FC Colo-Colo [Chile]
- Gremio FBPA [Brazil]
- Nike
- Adidas
- Octagon
- European Broadcasting Union
- Rugby Football Union
- England Netball
- NBA

INTERESTED IN HOW OUR ALUMNI HAVE PROGRESSED?

Find out how [Mario](#) achieved his long-term goal of becoming a **football agent** following his graduation from the FIMBA programme in 2016. You can also [read more of our alumni stories](#).

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)

Part-time place, per year – £14,000

International fees

Part-time place, per year – £17,750

Tuition fees are for the academic year 2026/27. Please note, the fee for this course includes one international study trip to a European destination, including accommodation and excursions. The fee does not include any additional costs associated with the trip, such as flights and visa applications. The School cannot guarantee that visa applications connected with the study trip will be successful. Fees will not be refunded to students who do not participate in the international study trip.

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' work experience in a professional or managerial capacity.

This should be evidenced by providing a copy of your current CV detailing your experience and achievements to date (this may include examples of key projects, managerial responsibilities, or leadership). Please ensure that you include dates of employment and job titles on your CV.

Preference will be given to those who can demonstrate that they have strong business and management experience.

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, but may have appropriate experience. We would still encourage applications if you have:

- Significant work experience (more than 5 years)
- No formal university degree
- Substantial record of achievement in business and leadership (for example accredited training courses, learning and 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 for the MBA programme, as well as your experience and interest in the MBA programme.

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

Personal statement

The personal statement encourages applicants to write around 200 words for each of the following sections:

- Your reason for choosing to apply for an MBA programme
- Your reasons for choosing this particular programme
- Your future aims 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.

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 component below 4.0	40 weeks	On campus

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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