

Arsenal Community Coach Development Programme



The **Arsenal Community Coach Development Programme** offers a unique opportunity to gain qualifications and experience in coaching football whilst contributing to Arsenal Football Club's community projects in the UK and around the world. Participating coaches will undergo football and education courses alongside practical coaching and teaching experience to reinforce the delivery of learning materials.

Structure:

The programme runs from September- July and is based at the Arsenal Hub, right next to the Emirates Stadium.

Coaches will receive 3 practical and one online coach education session per week and will gain experience through supporting and delivering on a wide range of Arsenal in the Community projects. As well as the regular coach education programme, coaches will gain the FA Introduction to Coaching Football (Level 1). We will do our best to support and signpost coaches with other opportunities for relevant qualifications, and bespoke insight from some of the most exciting coach educators in the country. Coaches who already hold the FA Level 1 are still strongly encouraged to apply.

Upon completion of the initial stages of training and delivery, coaches may be offered a placement with one of our community projects overseas, including our Coaching for Life programme in Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan. Placements are usually 4-6 weeks and will depend on the coach meeting club expectations and fulfilling the necessary training and visa requirements of the intended destination country.

Placements are not guaranteed. If a coach does not want to, or is not selected to travel abroad, they can choose to stay in London to continue a bespoke work programme that allows them to continue their development and supports them towards achieving their next steps beyond the programme.



The Opportunity:

This is an exceptional way of spending a year with Arsenal in the Community before or after higher education, or even as a career break. Coaches must be aged 18 or over at the start of the programme if applying from the UK, or at least 17 years old if applying from Republic of Ireland or Scotland.

There is no maximum age.

While some experience of community/ youth focussed work would be a bonus, the programme is open to anyone who can demonstrate a willingness to learn and a proactive, positive attitude towards working with young people.

No playing experience is necessary, and you will have the opportunity to meet like-minded people and make new friends in an engaging and inspiring environment. What a way to spend a year!

The Cost:

The cost of the programme is £650.

Please note that the Coach Development Programme is unpaid and requires travel to the Arsenal Hub and our local boroughs (Islington, Hackney and Camden), often during peak hours. It is essential that volunteers are able to cover their own expenses, including accommodation if necessary and travel, as Arsenal will not be able to contribute towards these costs.

The £650 fee funds necessary expenses during Stage 1 of the programme which include the following:

- FA Introduction to Coaching Football qualification (including FA Emergency Aid certificate and FA Safeguarding Children)
- Criminal Record check
- Official club training kit/clothing
- Coach Education sessions with Arsenal in the Community which take place throughout the programme, three to four times a week.
- Online session planning software

*Please note that the Coach Development Programme is unpaid and requires travel to the Arsenal Hub and our local boroughs (Islington, Hackney and Camden), often during peak hours. It is essential that volunteers are able to cover their own expenses, including accommodation if necessary and travel, as Arsenal will not be able to contribute towards these costs. *

While international placements are not guaranteed, the nature of any potential placement is subject to the need of individual partners. Food and accommodation will be provided, but any personal travel/ recreation will be at the participant's own expense.

How to Apply:

The first step is to complete and submit an application. Based on the strength of your application, and if we feel that you would be suitable for the programme, you will be invited for an interview with the Arsenal CDP Coordinator or a senior staff member of Arsenal in the Community. Interviews will be conducted either in person at the Arsenal Hub in London or by video call (for candidates living at least 3 hours away from Emirates Stadium).

Applications are via our online careers portal: <https://www.arsenaljobs.com/>

Some points to consider:

1. The Arsenal Community Coach Development Programme is unpaid and is a voluntary programme.
2. If you do not live in London, please calculate your travel expenses to check that they are affordable. You will need to travel to the Arsenal Hub and/or surrounding boroughs (namely Islington, Hackney and Camden) each day, mostly at peak times.
3. The programme requires you to be free Monday – Friday, between 9am – 5pm. (However, we are aware that coaches may want to take up some part-time work elsewhere to help with the costs of the year. This can be discussed with the programme coordinator and shouldn't be a problem.)
4. The start dates each year is early September. Arsenal in the Community will confirm your start dates upon offering you a place on the programme.
5. Overseas placements are only offered following the satisfactory completion of Stage 1 of the programme and after an individual review. You are therefore not guaranteed to go abroad if we feel you have not reached the required standards. Similarly, you do not have to go abroad; you may choose to complete your year with Arsenal in the Community projects based in London.
6. The Arsenal Coach Development Programme is not a placement year during a university course. It is for those who intend to take a development year either before or after further studies at college/university, or for those looking for a career break. If you wish to take a year out of your university course to take part, this is acceptable although it would not contribute towards your studies.

After the Programme:

Having completed the Arsenal Community Coach Development Programme, some of our coaches have continued to work for Arsenal in the Community on a part-time basis. Some have started coaching careers at other football clubs in the UK and overseas, gone into teaching, or pursued careers in the football or sports industries away from the pitch – including marketing, business, finance and corporate social responsibility. Other coaches have gone into higher education or resumed the careers they had prior to the programme.

Whatever your ambitions for the future, the Arsenal CDP is a great way to spend a year upskilling, gaining experience and qualifications, traveling and meeting new people. This provides a unique platform for you prepare for the working world and to start shaping your future.

Case Studies:

Joseph Amat (2017/18):



Graduate: Swansea University
Current role: Arsenal Pre-Academy Analyst

Laura Cousins (2018/19):



Current role: Arsenal Women Pre-Academy U8 & U9 coach

Joseph Bou-Nassif (2019/20):



*Masters Degree post-programme- Loughborough University
Current role: Loughborough University Inclusion Advisor*

Billie Graham (2022/23):



Current role- Arsenal in the Community Women & Girls Development Coordinator

If you require further information, please contact dtyler@arsenal.co.uk.



Frequently Asked Questions

How much does the programme cost?

The Arsenal Coach Development Programme costs £650 and covers the expenses for your training whilst in London.

What am I paying for?

Including weekly Coach Education sessions delivered by Arsenal in the Community, the cost of the programme goes towards all courses and qualifications during Stage 1 as well as your club training kit.

How long is the programme?

The volunteer contract is from September-July. Coaches can end the programme at any stage, following discussion and agreement with the programme lead.

Do I have to be good at football to take part in the programme?

No. You will be required to actively participate in coach education sessions, but no previous playing experience is necessary, and everyone is welcome to apply.

What if I already have completed any of the courses listed courses?

In that case a reduction in the overall fees will be made and communicated to you in advance of Stage 1.

Where can I get an application form?

You can complete an online application form at <https://www.arsenaljobs.com>
Or alternatively email dtyler@arsenal.co.uk

Is there an age limit?

The minimum age to apply for the programme is 18 years (17 years if you are from Scotland or Republic of Ireland). There is no upper age limit.

I don't live in London; can I still apply for the programme?

Yes, past coaches have come from across the UK & Ireland, and some from further afield. If you do not live in the London area, we can recommend a local hostel for a reasonable cost, but it is your responsibility to make the arrangements.

Can I get a part time job to help fund the programme?

We understand that this is a voluntary programme, so the timetable is designed to enable participants to obtain part-time work during evenings and weekends in order to help towards some of the costs that are incurred whilst on the Programme. As long as you are available for an average school week, including after school sessions, any part-time work outside of those hours should not cause any conflicts.

Do I need previous coaching experience?

Previous coaching or related experience (e.g., youth work or volunteering) is desirable when applying for Arsenal CDP. However, if you do not have any, you do not need to worry as we provide an intensive training programme as part of the programme.

Am I guaranteed to go abroad?

No coach is guaranteed to go abroad. During the seven months in London each coach is individually supported and assessed. We aim to provide placements for coaches based on their individual qualities with the intention of supporting their future prospects as best as possible.

Where can I go abroad?

Placements in 2023 and 2024 were in Jordan and the USA, however there is the possibility of additional opportunities being added.

Do I get to choose where I go?

We will endeavour to match Coaches to projects we think they will work best in and benefit the most from.

What do I have to pay for when I am abroad?

When abroad, your overseas host covers basic cost of accommodation, 3 meals a day (or an allowance towards food) and transport to and from sessions. Coaches are responsible for social costs such as going out, personal excursions and so on.

Do I have to go abroad?

No. If you do not want to go abroad during Stage 2, you have the option of carrying on with the programme based in London.

After the programme, what are the exit routes?

Exit routes from the programme are varied. Previous participants have moved into teaching, work with local and worldwide charities and within community football programmes in the UK and abroad.

I have more questions, who do I contact?

For further information please contact dtyler@arsenal.co.uk

