

# The British Canoeing Coaching Diploma

## Information for Potential Students

The British Canoeing Coaching Diploma offers you the opportunity to immerse yourself into a powerful learning environment by challenging your views and supporting you to explore and develop in your specialist area/s. As a student you will engage in deep critical analysis of your coaching practice, and in doing so, develop your understanding of what you do and why you do about your coaching as you do. The Coaching Diploma aims to give you practical opportunities to work with new material to help you challenge your current practice/thinking as well as work alongside and challenge your peers.

The programme aims to support the development of coaches as visionary and knowledgeable decision makers, with exceptional skills, behaviours and the highest professional and ethical standards. It is aimed at coaches who wish to further develop the performance of the paddlers they coach, who are operating at the forefront of paddlesport coaching, and who have an interest in gaining insights from a diverse range of current academic literature. It is suitable for coaches with specialisms in one or more areas, for example:

- coaching paddlers in any of our competitive or non-competitive disciplines;
- coaching paddlers in specific age groups;
- coaching paddlers at different levels (e.g. beginner, intermediate, expert);
- coaching paddlers with different aspirants/motivations (e.g. participation, adventure, educational, high-performance, talent development);
- Paddlesport Coach/Leader education.

Through the course you will have the opportunity to progress your knowledge and understanding of paddlesport performance, of coaching processes, and of your coaching delivery. Importantly we also consider you will be in a position to progress the development of coaching in your specialist area/s.

## The Coaching Diploma Programme

The course is an innovative programme combining Postgraduate level study with Paddlesport specific learning opportunities. It is designed to support the professional development of experienced and well-practiced coaches, and therefore has flexibility to be tailored to individual needs. The core programme is made up of three main components;

1. **Regular Residential Events;** these provide an opportunity to grapple with a wide range of relevant content that supports the application of knowledge into paddlesport coaching. A wide range of guest speakers, topic experts, and academic researchers from across the wider discipline of sports coaching are invited to join these events to share their ideas with you. Comfortable venues are chosen that allow you to immerse yourself into a growing community of dedicated coaches who are motivated to move their thinking forward; giving you the opportunity to put context to the research, discussing concepts and sharing ideas with your peers.

2. **Paddlesport Support Visits;** one to one support in the field gives you the opportunity to put theory into practice. The visits provide opportunities for advice, support, critical challenge, feedback

and discussion regarding your coaching practice. The primary aim of the visits is to provide an avenue for personal development in practical coaching in area/s of focus chosen by you, with ideas often ignited by the content covered in the academic study.

**3. Postgraduate Modules;** Postgraduate level study is integral to the Coaching Diploma programme with 120 Credits required at QCF Level 7 (SCQF Level 11). Students on the 'full' programme join the University of Stirling Postgraduate Diploma in Performance Coaching (Paddlesport) and as a group progress through these distance learning modules together. However, if the content or structure of another Postgraduate course appeals to you (or you have already completed one), you may wish to choose a bespoke Coaching programme instead. These options are explained below;

## Programme Options

You are going to have individual needs, aspirations and motivations that we hope will shape the structure of your programme. We have three different frameworks that you can use to build a learning programme to best meet your needs:

### Option 1 - Join the 'full' Coaching Diploma programme

Joining a cohort of other dedicated and motivated Paddlesport Coaches through a supported and managed programme that includes:

- 6+ Residential Events;
- 4+ Paddlesport Support Visits;
- the University of Stirling Postgraduate level modules.

The University of Stirling Postgraduate Diploma in Performance Coaching (Paddlesport) is made up of six distance learning modules. With the content of the university programme being heavily threaded through both the residential events and paddlesport support visits.

Students who successfully complete the modules for the Postgraduate Diploma also have the option of transferring onto the University of Stirling M.Sc. Performance Coaching if they wish. This is not linked to the British Canoeing Coaching Diploma, but provides students with another avenue to continue to develop their understanding and skills.

### Option 2 - Elect for a 'Bespoke' Programme:

Students can choose a bespoke programme if they already have, or wish to do a different (but relevant) Postgraduate Diploma. The number of residential events and Paddlesport Support visits can also be tailored to suit prior learning and experience. The bespoke programme;

- normally includes 2 - 6+ Residential Events;
- normally includes 2 - 4+ Paddlesport Support Visits;
- includes an alternative (and approved) Postgraduate level Coaching Diploma or M.Sc.

The bespoke programme is designed to support coaches who are attracted to specific Postgraduate courses (or may have already completed) and wish to join the Paddlesport specific community to continue to develop their understandings and practice.

Students who opt for the 'bespoke' programme usually start at the same time as those students on the 'full' programme so they benefit from joining this wider network of coaches.

We work very closely with students opting for this programme, working together in the initial stages to select the components that best match their developmental aspirations.

### **Option 3 - Choose a 'Partial' Programme:**

Students can undertake a 'partial' programme where they can undertake as much or as little of the programme as they wish. The focus is on tailored CPD and includes;

- any number of Residential Events;
- any number of Paddlesport Support Visits;
- a selection of University of Stirling Postgraduate level modules.

Through this process the student may build up enough evidence to complete the Postgraduate Diploma in Performance Coaching (Paddlesport) and the British Canoeing Coaching Diploma; although this may not be the individual's aspiration.

The 'partial' programme is designed to support coaches who wish to further their coaching practice and understandings, but may not wish to (or can't) commit to the investment required for the 'full' programme.

Students who opt for a 'partial' programme usually start at the same time as those students on the 'full' programme so they benefit from joining this wider network of coaches.

### **Is this for you..... ?**

The Coaching Diploma is a learning focused opportunity to stretch your current knowledge, skills and understanding. The 'full', 'bespoke' and 'partial' programmes are designed for active coaches whose coaching skills are well practised, developed and embedded AND who have an open mind and the curiosity to extend their current coaching skills and knowledge. These characteristics are typically demonstrated by:

- the highest paddlesport coaching qualification relevant to your coaching role;
- significant/current coaching experience in a challenging role/s;
- expertise at the forefront of your specialism;
- the ability to use sophisticated methods to support participant development;
- the capacity, motivation and drive to learn through independent study;
- process, rather than outcome based, aspirations;
- the motivation and open-ness to commit to furthering your coaching skills and knowledge.

There are no formal academic entry requirements.

From initial expressions of interest, through to start date is a collaborative time. We aim to support potential students assess the programme suitability to ensure that it is a good match for their needs and that it has potential to provide the learning opportunities being sought out. This process is supported by a two-day residential event and a 'distance learning' style Bridging Module. These aim to provide you with induction activities and a taster of the style of opportunities that the programme offers.

If you would like more information please contact [coaching@britishcanoeing.org.uk](mailto:coaching@britishcanoeing.org.uk) and we can arrange for you to discuss the programme in more detail. We also ask that students who are interested complete the "*Coaching Diploma Questions for Potential Candidates*"; these are used to

support your own review of the programme suitability and to help us support you through your decision making.

## Fees

Students opting for the full programme starting in May 2019 will pay £4654 to British Canoeing and approx. £3200 to the University of Stirling. These fees can be paid by instalment through the period of study. The fees for students on a bespoke or partial programme will depend upon the components being used to build up the programme.

The Introductory residential has a stand alone cost of £450.

## Key Dates

3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2018	Make sure you have returned the “ <i>Coaching Diploma Questions for Potential Students</i> ” to us by now.
13th/14th March 2019	Introductory Residential Event - Save the date!
31st May 2019	The British Canoeing <b>Bridging Module</b> kicks off with a selection of learning activities for you to play with through the summer.  The first payment of £750 to British Canoeing is required before 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2019.
4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	A British Canoeing <b>residential event</b> at the University of Stirling; the focus of this event aiming to get you started on your forthcoming learning journey!
9th Sept – 13th Dec. 2019	The first block of <b>University of Stirling Postgraduate modules</b> for those completing these as part of their programme. The first payment to Stirling University is required before this semester starts.