

University in America

TASS Research Team Presentation

12:00 - 12:30pm

 **BARCLAYS**



**FA Women's
Super League**
Academy

The US A Option

FA Careers Event – 28th October

HELPING TALENT **SHINE** IN EDUCATION AND SPORT



SUPPORTED BY   **SPORT
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Player Transition to the US A System



A popular route overseas is the US A into Collegiate sport.

The number of international student-athletes in the US A has significantly increased over the last few years.

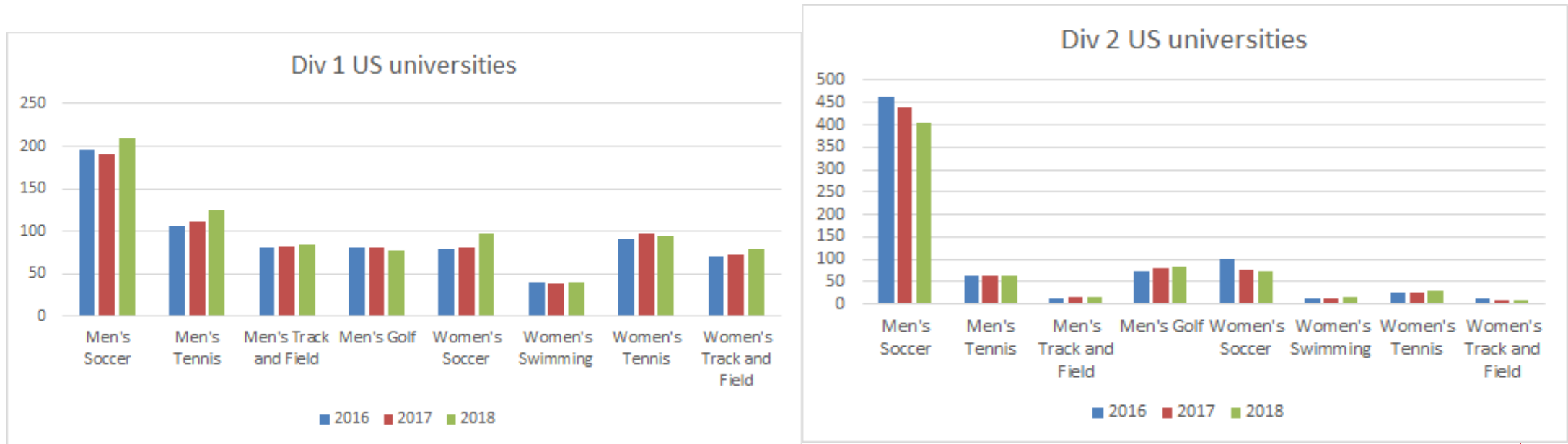
Our role is to educate you about this option, and to make sure that you make an informed decision.

UK Athlete Transition to the US A

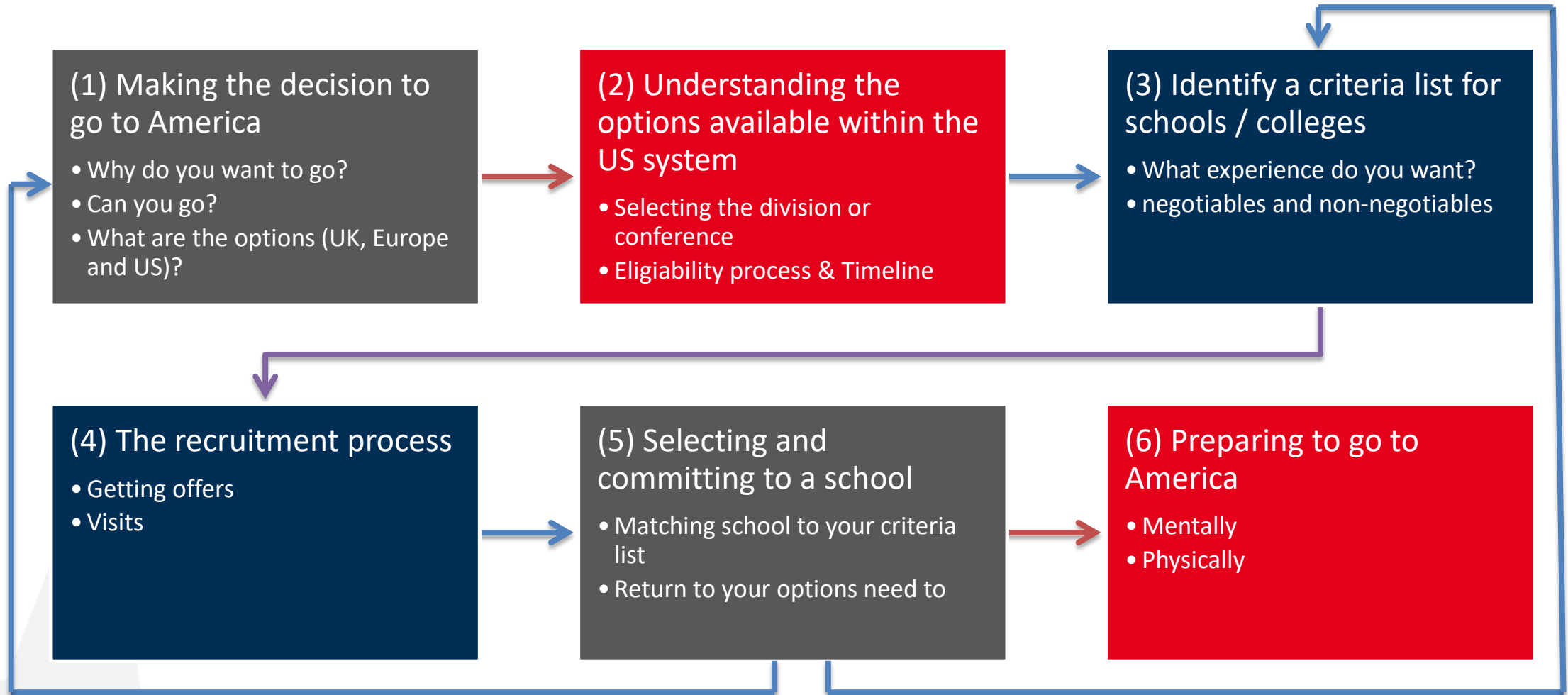


The graphs below are the NCAA statistics for UK athletes migrating to the US university system in 2016, 2017 and 2018.

From this, we can see that a significant number of athletes make this transition from a range of sports, but particularly from Men's football.



The Process



Differences Between the UK and US University Systems

	UK	US
Degree content	Degree related course	Core education + degree related classes
Degree length	3 years	4 years
Style of teaching	Individual work	Classroom based, group work
Sport facilities	Good quality gyms, hall and courts	Stadium arenas + world class facilities
Cost	£9,000	\$19,000-\$30,000 a year (private could be up to \$80,000)
Availability of scholarships	TASS – focus on support provisions Uni – small financial bursaries + support provisions	Div I and II - full and partial cover of tuition fees

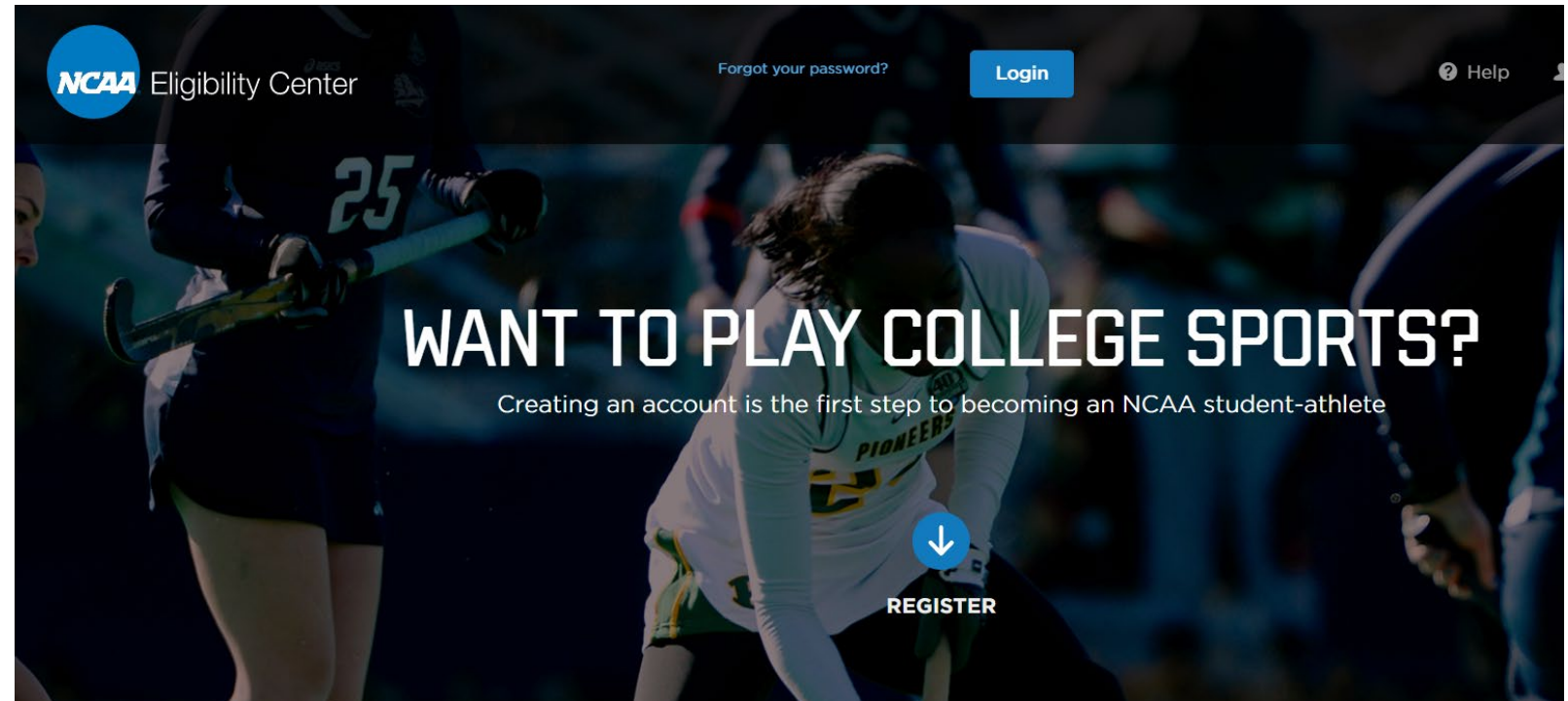
Eligibility



NCAA require you to prove your status as an amateur.

Things to consider:

- Payment / Prize money
- Training expenses
- Playing for a professional team
- Promoting products



What Might Influence your Decision to go to the USA?



Perception that the US is the next logical step

Other options are limited

"I'm going to the states regardless, I don't really care where I'm going. And then yeah, it was just like you've got a spot, let's go. I packed my bags, and I was off".

Influence of others and social media

Coach, Family, Peers, Social Media

"I'll definitely say that my coach didn't really look into many of the UK Universities... I still feel like they were very pushy towards America and didn't actually give me that balance."

Use of the US system for other gains

- (1) Using sport to access free education
- (2) Desirability of the offer (e.g., the lifestyle, crowds, kit, finances)
- (3) New challenge and opportunities

Making the Decision



Why do you want to go?

“How does going to the US complement your long-term aspirations in football, academics, and socially?”

“Have you considered all the options available in the UK before making this decision?”

Can you go?

“What would you be going to the US for? Is it for a university degree? Is it to play football? Is it to experience the culture? Is it to meet new people?”

What are your options to consider?

“What does it look like in parallel with a future with England? Will you be available to participate with England over the next for years?”

What Might Influence your College Selection?

Flexibility of the college

Getting game time
(is your position filled)

Geographical location – the weather!

Size of college

Academic opportunities

Style of play of team

Limited options

Motivation – experience vs development

The coaching staff

Experience on an official visit

Time off to play for national team

Other players experiences

Recruitment – What to Consider

1. Consider the “offer” carefully
2. Consider how you can boost recruitment opportunities
3. Timelines & locations
4. Consider whether you want to use an agent/recruitment company
5. Players should be in control of the process

How Interested is the College in You?

Strong Interest

The head coach has travelled to watch you play

Itinerary been developed for your visit

The players in the team making you feel welcome on your visit

The college has paid for you to fly out on an official visit

Some Interest

You have been on a visit, but no itinerary developed?

You have had regular and consistent communication with the head or assistant coach

Players on the team aren't that invested in you on your visit

Weak Interest

Only had communication with the assistant coach

No official visit offer

Positive vs Negative Experiences

	Positives	Negatives
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Investment of coaches- Access to facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Big fish, little pond- Viewed as a job- Style of play / inconsistent playtime
Academic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Different structure of assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Lack of control over study- Relevance of American degree back in the UK
Personal/ Social Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Independence- Experience living in a different country- Meeting people from other cultures- Moving out of comfort zone	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Moving away from support- Lack of relevant career networking opportunities- Limited social opportunity
Support & Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Access to academic advisors- Access to therapists & counsellors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Coach relationship and philosophy

Potential Challenges to Consider



Homesick

"I grew up very quickly in that first year. I remember when my dad left me, and he went to the airport. I thought, 'oh my god', I can call my parents if I needed help, but they would take a day or two to get to me. It's not like they can just jump in the car and come and see me. So I think that when it really hit me, when he left and I realized where I was and thought 'god, I'm a long way from home'".

Injury

"Particularly for me, I found it tough because straight away when I got there, I was playing quite high on the team, which meant that there was more pressure. Then I suffered quite a bad injury my first year, and it's one of those. I was in a boot for a few months. It wasn't what I expected and what you'd been told from people who'd been coming back."

Culture Shock

"I think that's what a lot of people experience quite quickly because it is quite a big culture shock. America is really different to England. Even though obviously, we speak the same language, and it seems like we get a lot of our pop culture from America. There were these values in America that are so different to England that, I think, it took me a really long time to understand and get on board with"



Making the Decision – Final Tips

Reflect

Take your time

Is this right for you?

Don't forget about all options (Div 2!)

Have you considered all aspects?

Are there any **red flags**?!

Prepare

Gain as much information as possible – research!

Be aware

The recruitment process might not be as transparent as you might think

Are other people influencing your decision?

Don't get distracted by the bright lights

Social media



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