University in America

TASS Research Team Presentation

12:00 - 12:30pm
The USA Option

FA Careers Event – 28th October
Player Transition to the USA System

A popular route overseas is the USA into Collegiate sport.

The number of international student-athletes in the USA 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.
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

(1) Making the decision to go to America
- Why do you want to go?
- Can you go?
- What are the options (UK, Europe and US)?

(2) Understanding the options available within the US system
- Selecting the division or conference
- Eligibility process & Timeline

(3) Identify a criteria list for schools / colleges
- What experience do you want?
- Negotiables and non-negotiables

(4) The recruitment process
- Getting offers
- Visits

(5) Selecting and committing to a school
- Matching school to your criteria list
- Return to your options need to

(6) Preparing to go to America
- Mentally
- Physically
## Differences Between the UK and US University Systems

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

Influence of others and social media

Use of the US system for other gains

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”.

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.”

(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?”

Can you go?

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

What are your options to consider?

“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 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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flexibility of the college</th>
<th>Getting game time (is your position filled)</th>
<th>Geographical location – the weather!</th>
<th>Size of college</th>
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<td>Academic opportunities</td>
<td>Style of play of team</td>
<td>Limited options</td>
<td>Motivation – experience vs development</td>
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<td>The coaching staff</td>
<td>Experience on an official visit</td>
<td>Time off to play for national team</td>
<td>Other players experiences</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Flexibility of the college**: The ability of the college to offer flexibility in your academic and athletic schedule.
- **Getting game time (is your position filled)**: Ensuring you have the opportunity to play and possibly fill a position.
- **Geographical location – the weather!**: Understanding the climate and weather conditions at the college.
- **Size of college**: The size of the college, which can affect the atmosphere and size of the student body.
- **Academic opportunities**: Opportunities for academic growth and development.
- **Style of play of team**: The style of play and coaching approach of the team you would join.
- **Limited options**: The number of choices available to you, which may be limited.
- **Motivation – experience vs development**: Balancing the need for experience with the opportunity for development.
- **The coaching staff**: The quality and experience of the coaching staff.
- **Experience on an official visit**: Valuable insights gained from visiting the college.
- **Time off to play for national team**: Opportunities to play for national teams.
- **Other players experiences**: Feedback and experiences from current or former players.
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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Positives</th>
<th>Negatives</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>- Investment of coaches</td>
<td>- Big fish, little pond</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Access to facilities</td>
<td>- Viewed as a job</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Style of play / inconsistent playtime</td>
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<tr>
<td>Academic</td>
<td>- Different structure of assessment</td>
<td>- Lack of control over study</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Relevance of American degree back in the UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal/</td>
<td>- Independence</td>
<td>- Moving away from support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Developme</td>
<td>- Experience living in a different country</td>
<td>- Lack of relevant career networking opportunities</td>
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<tr>
<td>nt</td>
<td>- Meeting people from other cultures</td>
<td>- Limited social opportunity</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Moving out of comfort zone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support &amp; Resources</td>
<td>- Access to academic advisors</td>
<td>- Coach relationship and philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Access to therapists &amp; counsellors</td>
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## Potential Challenges to Consider

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<tr>
<th>Homesick</th>
<th>Injury</th>
<th>Culture Shock</th>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;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’&quot;.</td>
<td>&quot;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.&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;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 was 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&quot;</td>
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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

www.tass.gov.uk