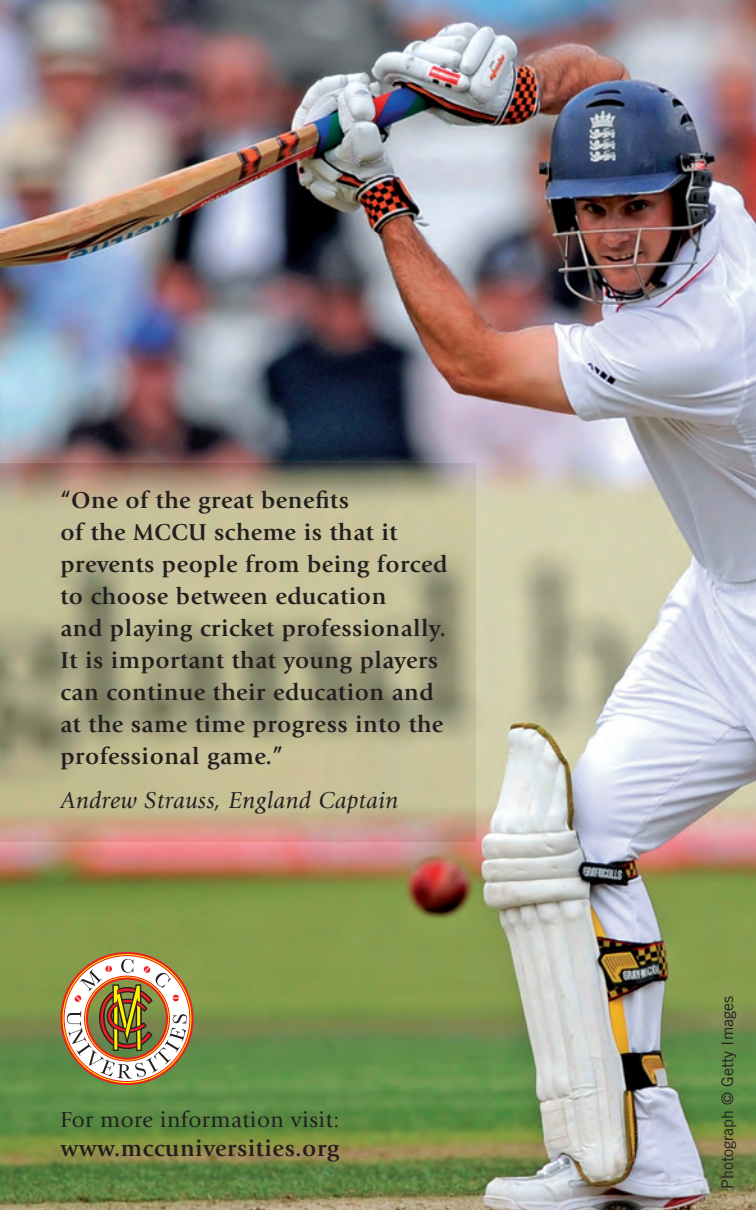




**MAXIMISING YOUR CRICKET
POTENTIAL WITHOUT COMPROMISING
YOUR EDUCATION**



“One of the great benefits of the MCCU scheme is that it prevents people from being forced to choose between education and playing cricket professionally. It is important that young players can continue their education and at the same time progress into the professional game.”

Andrew Strauss, England Captain



For more information visit:
www.mccuniversities.org



JOHN STEPHENSON MCC HEAD OF CRICKET

Since 2005 MCC has funded six university cricket academies in England and Wales – the MCC Universities (MCCUs).

The aim of the MCCUs is to give talented young cricketers the chance to receive top-level coaching and playing opportunities whilst furthering their education. Even the very finest sporting academies do not have a 100% success rate, so the MCCUs offer the best environment to excel on and off the sporting field, and the opportunity to obtain a degree which will be valuable whether the dream of professional cricket becomes reality or not.

The MCCUs are based in Cambridge, Cardiff, Durham, Leeds, Loughborough and Oxford, and incorporate a total of thirteen institutions. They offer hundreds of courses for students of all academic levels, and, critically for the aspiring cricketer, some of the best coaching and facilities available anywhere in the country.

Most importantly, the scheme works. Around a fifth of all English-qualified players in the county system attended an MCCU, and several current captains (including Andrew Strauss) are graduates. MCCUs don't just produce good cricketers, they produce strong leaders and rounded characters – and those traits are important for success both in cricket and the wider working world.

CAMBRIDGE MCCU



“The life of a professional cricketer is the equivalent of living the dream. However, it can be short and unpredictable. Having a solid education for use within and after a career in cricket is a great luxury and one which the MCCU scheme makes possible, as it enables bright young men and women to continue their education to a very high level while offering outstanding facilities and coaching for their cricketing talents. Cambridge played such a big part in my cricketing development and now, with the active support of MCC, it is even more equipped to nurture sporting and academic prowess.”

John Crawley, Former England cricketer and Cambridge MCCU Mentor

“The MCC Universities programme has enhanced my cricketing development significantly. It has allowed me to train as hard as everyone else in the Surrey squad, via access to superb facilities and coaching, alongside furthering my studies at one of the top universities in the world. In addition, the incentive of playing three first-class matches against county sides is huge and further increases the attraction of being part of the MCC Universities system.”

Surrey CCC player Zafar Ansari, in his second year at Cambridge MCCU



First-class university cricket has been played at the beautiful ground at Fenner's for well over a century. Cambridge MCCU cricketers are lucky to play on one of the best wickets in the country; Fenner's was voted the best MCC Universities cricket pitch by first-class umpires in 2010.

Component institutions: Cambridge University, Anglia Ruskin University

Coach: Chris Scott (Nottinghamshire and Durham)

Home ground: Fenner's Cricket Ground

Training: Fenner's

Recent role of honour: BUCS Winners (2011)
MCC Universities Challenge finalists (2006)

Current players: Ben Ackland (Ireland u19s), Paul Best (Warwickshire), Zafar Ansari (Surrey)

Graduates: Tony Palladino (Derbyshire), Garry Park (Derbyshire), Ruel Brathwaite (West Indies "A" and Durham), Chris Wright (Warwickshire)



CARDIFF MCCU



“People who think university cricket is an easy ride could not be more wrong. Having already been part of the Essex set-up when I went to Cardiff, I was very impressed by the nature and structure of the training, especially in the winter. Players compete with each other to be in the squad from October, so when it’s picked come January everyone is super-fit and raring to go. The only time ‘off’ from university cricket is in the summer - and that’s when, if you’ve done well, you’ll be playing county or second XI cricket - it’s a year-round experience.”

*Mark Pettini,
Essex CCC*

“I would definitely recommend the MCCU system for those aiming to get into professional cricket – the games against counties give you a great chance to impress and the MCCU coaches talk to county coaches about how you’re doing – that’s how I got into Warwickshire.

Being involved with MCC has also given me an opportunity to tour – I went to Abu Dhabi in early 2010 which gave me valuable experience of different conditions and also the chance to play with current and former pros.”

*Tom Allin,
Warwickshire CCC*



Training at an international ground - the Swalec Stadium - must prepare the Cardiff MCCU cricketers well for performing in famous surroundings, because they have tasted much success on their travels to Lord’s in recent years.

Component institutions: Cardiff University, University of Glamorgan and University of Wales Institute, Cardiff (UWIC)

Coach: Kevin Lyons (Glamorgan)

Training: Swalec Stadium

Recent role of honour: MCC Universities Challenge (2011, 2009, 2007), MCC Universities Championship (2011, 2007), BUCS winners (2010), BUCS finalists (2009, 2008)

Current players: Andrew Balbirnie (Ireland), Heather Knight (England Women)

Graduates: Mark Pettini (Essex), James Tomlinson (Hampshire), Steph Davies (England Women), Chris Ashling (Glamorgan), Tom Allin (Warwickshire), Alex Jones (Glamorgan)



DURHAM MCCU



“Many people at the forefront of thinking and decision-making within the game in England now were cricketers from university who captained their country and/or county. They are writers in the media or commentators on the game, and would attribute their success through the game to being part of the University system.”

*Will Jefferson,
Leicestershire CCC*

Durham was a pioneer in the university cricket system - Graeme Fowler established the prototype of the first academy in 1996 and its success laid the foundations for what are now known as the MCC Universities.

Component institution: Durham University

Coach: Graeme Fowler (England, Lancashire and Durham)

Home ground: The Racecourse Ground

Training: Durham University Sports Centre

Recent role of honour: MCC Universities Championship (2010), MCC Universities Challenge (2010), MCC Universities Challenge finalists (2007)

Current players: Chris Jones (Somerset), Holly Colvin (England Women), Seren Waters (Kenya)

Graduates: Andrew Strauss (England and Middlesex), James Foster (England and Essex), Mark Chilton (Ex-Lancashire), Will Smith (Durham), Caroline Atkins (England Women), Robin Martin-Jenkins (Ex -Sussex), Luke Sutton (Derbyshire), Tim Phillips (Essex), Lee Daggett (Northamptonshire), John Glover (Glamorgan) Tom Westley (Essex), Greg Smith (Leicestershire),

“I struggled with injuries during my late teens and realised that I could not rely upon being a professional cricketer – I needed something else to fall back on, so that’s why I went to Durham.

Durham are very understanding about releasing contracted players, and for those without a contract I couldn’t recommend the MCCU scheme highly enough. It’s a great shop window and the level of training is a real eye-opener about what is expected should you make it to a county.”

Tom Westley, Essex CCC,



LEEDS/BRADFORD MCCU



“Playing for Leeds/Bradford gave me the opportunity to test myself - it’s a particularly valuable experience for a cricketer to play against county players because it shows the level you need to be at to get where you want to be, in professional cricket. I’ve now moved over to umpiring and I’m thankful that the university experience gave me a rounded view of what I could do in cricket.”

*Ismail Dawood,
Umpire*

“Would I have signed a contract if I’d not been at an MCCU? No chance. I wanted to go to university and the highest level of cricket was at the MCCUs. You play three games against counties a year, performances get noticed and I found it was a great way of getting coaches talking about you.”

*Toby Roland-Jones,
Middlesex CCC*



With Yorkshire such a hotbed for cricket in England, it is no surprise that Leeds/Bradford MCCU includes more institutions than any other. Both cities each have two institutions represented with Leeds the focal point for training and games.

Component institutions: Leeds University, Leeds Metropolitan University, Bradford University and Bradford College

Coach: Andrew Lawson (Eastern Province, Border and North West)

Home ground: Weetwood

Training: Headingley Carnegie

Recent role of honour: MCC Universities Championship (2009)

Current players: Katie Cross (England Women’s Academy)

Graduates: Will Porterfield (Ireland and Warwickshire),

Ismail Dawood (Umpire, played for Yorkshire, Glamorgan),

Harry Gurney (Nottinghamshire), Toby Roland-Jones (Middlesex),

Lauren Griffiths (England Women), Tom Craddock (Essex),

Alex Blake (Kent), Ross Whiteley (Derbyshire), Chris Dougherty

(Ireland u19s), Brad Kruger (Holland)



LOUGHBOROUGH MCCU



“It is important to acknowledge that not all players are ready to play first-class cricket at the age of 18-20. Many players develop at a later age – I didn’t play a full season in the first team until I was 24. To prevent promising players from attending a MCCU means the county system will miss out on a large number of talented but also more mature and rounded characters who can offer a lot to English cricket.”

*Chris Nash,
Sussex CCC*

“Playing in the MCCU set-up whilst studying for my degree was an excellent experience, which helped me to mature as a person as well as a cricketer. The facilities and coaching available at Loughborough are truly world-class, and the opportunity to gain exposure to First Class cricket in such a supportive environment is fantastic. If you are a young aspiring cricketer looking to go to into higher education then an MCC University is the obvious choice.”

*Monty Panesar,
England and Sussex CCC*



The National Cricket Academy at Loughborough University is one of the finest cricket facilities in the country - used by England and counties alongside the MCCU cricketers. Loughborough’s excellent reputation for sport is well-known and its cricketers benefit from top-quality facilities and resources.

Component institution: Loughborough University

Coach: Alan Duncan (temporary appointment)

Home ground: Loughborough University

Training: National Cricket Academy

Recent role of honour: MCC Universities Challenge finalist (2010), MCC Universities Challenge (2008), MCC Universities Twenty20 (2008), BUCS winners (2008)

Current players: Sam Billings (Kent), Tom Winslade (England u19s), Tammy Beaumont (England Women), Georgia Elwiss (England Women), Helen Shipman (England Women’s Academy), Beth Langston (England Women’s Academy), Amy Jones (England Women’s Academy), Natalie Sciver (England Women’s Academy), Anya Shrubsole (England Women’s Academy)

Graduates: Monty Panesar (England and Sussex), Chris Nash (England Lions and Sussex), Nicky Shaw (England Women), David Wainwright (England Lions and Derbyshire), Rob White (Northamptonshire), Ruel Brathwaite (West Indies “A” and Durham), Matt Spiegel (Surrey), Jimmy Adams (Hampshire), Gavin Baker (Northamptonshire), David Murphy (Northamptonshire)

OXFORD MCCU



“Being involved in the Oxford MCCU taught me valuable lessons in not only technical aspects of my game, but more importantly in issues such as time-management and the lifestyle required to become a successful professional cricketer. I would advise any aspiring young cricketer to sample the MCCU scheme, for it provides years of great enjoyment and learning, and serves as the perfect catalyst for future success in the game.”

*Joe Sayers,
Yorkshire CCC*

“The level of guidance I received at University was greater than that at my previous county and my rate of development during those three years was probably only matched in the professional game when I was able to attend the National Academy at Loughborough.”

*Jamie Dalrymple,
England, Middlesex CCC
and Glamorgan CCC*



Oxford University’s picturesque home ground - The Parks - has hosted first-class cricket since 1881. Several Oxford colleges have their own high-quality grounds, and Oxford Brookes University also has two.

Component institutions: Oxford University, Oxford Brookes University

Coach: Graham Charlesworth (Griqualand West)

Home ground: The Parks

Training: Oxford University Sports Centre

Recent role of honour: BUCS winners (2009), MCC University Challenge (2006), MCC Universities Championship (2006)

Current players: Izzy Westbury (England Women Academy)

Graduates: Jamie Dalrymple (England, Ex-Middlesex and Glamorgan), Joe Sayers (Yorkshire), Tim Linley (Surrey), Ed Cowan (Tasmania), Richard Coughtrie (Gloucestershire), Ed Young (Gloucestershire)



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What competitions do the MCCUs compete in?

The six MCCUs compete against each other in the MCC Universities Championship, with the top two going onto the MCC Universities Challenge Final at Lord's. They are also part of the British Universities & Colleges Sport competition – where they play other university sides.

Do MCCUs play first-class cricket?

All six of the MCCUs now have first-class status. Each MCCU plays three matches against full county sides every season; the first two early-season fixtures are classified as first-class.

What formats do MCCUs play?

The county fixtures last for three days, the MCC Universities Championship is a two-day competition, the BUCS and MCC Universities Challenge Final are 50-over competitions and there is also an MCC Universities Twenty20 competition. A wide variety of formats are covered.

Can girls be part of an MCCU squad?

Yes, MCCUs are for elite cricketers, male and female. Most of the MCCUs have one or two women cricketers who train with the full squad – for example England's Holly Colvin is at Durham. The exception to this rule is Loughborough which has a full women's squad in addition to the men's squad.

Does the scheme run in the summer holidays?

Those players who do not get county contracts in the summer are eligible for selection for the MCC Universities side which competes in the Second Eleven Championship.

Can I get a bursary to play cricket?

Each institution has different rules on bursaries so they need to be contacted directly.

How do I apply to an MCCU?

Like any other student, potential MCCU cricketers have to apply to university through UCAS. However there is an application form available from the MCC Universities website (www.mccuniversities.org/applicationforms/universities.html) which will notify the institution that you are hoping to attend.

Where can I find more information?

Visit www.mccuniversities.org where there are links to all the individual institutions, or the MCC Universities page on Facebook.

CONTACT DETAILS

MCC employ two administrators of the MCCU scheme, Fraser Stewart and Glen Read. They can be contacted by email (university@mcc.org.uk) or by telephone (020 7616 8753) for more information about the scheme as a whole.

Each coach can be contacted by individuals interested in their respective MCCU:

Chris Scott

cws24@hermes.cam.ac.uk and 01223 762975

Kevin Lyons

kjlyons@uwic.ac.uk and 02920 416591

Graeme Fowler

graeme.fowler@durham.ac.uk and 0191 334 2178

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S.Briggs@lboro.ac.uk and 07919 264175

Graham Charlesworth

graham.charlesworth@sport.ox.ac.uk and 01865 791207





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For more information on the Universities, please visit:
www.mccuniversities.org

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