



Southampton Solent University team up with Kick It Out to offer equality awareness course

Southampton Solent University is collaborating with Kick It Out to offer an Equality and Diversity Awareness in Football award.

This unique six-unit course is aimed at professionally developing and educating the future leaders of football and increasing awareness of Kick It Out's work within all sectors of the game. It is a well-suited course for anyone who currently works, or aspires to work, within the football industry.

The course will be led by Southampton Solent University and staff at Kick It Out, who will offer support in a variety of ways. Ex-professional footballers and experts in equality and diversity within football will also give their insight as students work towards completion.

Dr Richard Elliott, Associate Professor and Director of the Lawrie McMenemy Centre for Football Research at Southampton Solent said: "As a university that is committed to social justice and one that has a national and international reputation for football education, I'm delighted that we've been able to develop this course in conjunction with Kick It Out. Their work is absolutely fundamental in changing attitudes at every level of the game.

"With a remit that extends well beyond the confines of racial discrimination, Kick It Out's task is a difficult one. I'm confident though that the development of this course presents a very real opportunity to drive significant change in the game," he continued.

Hayley Bennett, Education Officer for Kick It Out is confident that the award will add value to those in the game: "We're really pleased to be working with Southampton Solent University on this award. The world of football is changing all the time, and the opportunity to offer a course that reflects the dynamic face of the sport in an interactive and challenging manner is essential for the next generation of football's workforce.

"Working with an institution that understands the unique nature of football such as Southampton Solent was really important to us. With the university having a proven record in football, we hope this course becomes an established part of its excellent football specific academic programmes."

For more information about courses at Southampton Solent University, visit www.solent.ac.uk.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE MEDIA OFFICE ON 023 8201 3642 or press.office@solent.ac.uk

About Southampton Solent University

Southampton Solent University offers more than 19,000 students over 200 qualifications ranging from HND to PhD, in subjects such as maritime education and training, fashion and design, media and television, music, health, sport and leisure, business, IT and technology. The University was awarded the 2013 Quality Assurance kitemark for quality and standards of teaching and learning. Solent was voted one of the most creative universities in the UK in a Which? University 2014 poll of students. Solent Business School has been awarded 'Gold approval' by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and the Small Business Charter Award, which is supported by the Association of Business Schools and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

About The Lawrie McMenemy Centre for Football Research

The Lawrie McMenemy Centre for Football Research (LMCFR) is a multi-disciplinary football education, research and consultancy centre which provides expert support for the football industry, students and the media in a number of areas. The centre is founded on Southampton Solent University's

position as a leading provider of football-related academic study in the United Kingdom.

About Kick It Out

Kick It Out is football's equality and inclusion organisation. Founded in 1993, the organisation works throughout the football, educational and community sectors to challenge discrimination, encourage inclusive practices and campaign for positive change, the organisation is funded by The Football Association (FA), the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), the Premier League and the Football League. Kick It Out works within all sectors of football, tackling all forms of discrimination. The organisation organises an annual mentoring conference as part of its work aimed at making football's workforce more inclusive and diverse. Titled 'Raise Your Game,' the conferences organised over 750 one-to-one mentoring sessions in 2014 from some of the most well-established names within football, leading to future jobs and work placements in the game.