



## Sport England recognise University's sporting ambition

Southampton Solent University's ambition, drive and commitment to supporting talented young athletes and making a difference within the world of sport has been recognised by the Sport England Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS).

In recognition of their work with the region's young athletes, Southampton Solent is one of only 24 institutions in the country to be awarded TASS Accredited Centre (TAC) status.

TASS - a Government-funded programme that represents the partnership between talented young athletes, National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGB's) and the higher (University) and further (college/school) education sector - aims to help its athletes to balance academic life with training and competition as a performance athlete.

Speaking about the award, James Grant, Sport Solent High Performance Academy Manager, says: "Sport England TASS is recognised worldwide, and has seen many supported athletes go on to win major championships. Becoming an Accredited Centre is an acknowledgement of the strides Solent have made within performance sport and sport science."

As well as running a successful High Performance Academy for elite athletes at the University, Solent has provided sport science and coaching support for the Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme for a number of years. Earlier this year it launched the Southampton Talented Athlete Scheme - aimed at helping the city's talented young athletes fulfil their sporting potential.

The accreditation will help further develop and improve the skillsets of practitioners at Southampton Solent University and the services they offer to talented young athletes, both at the University and within the region.

Matthew Bishop, Sport Solent's Sports Development Manager says, "This prestigious accreditation is testament to the hard work and vision of our High Performance Academy team, led by James Grant. It also shows the University's commitment to being an integral part of the development of talented young athletes both regionally and nationally".

If you are interested in a career coaching elite athletes, check out our specialist sports degrees at [www.solent.ac.uk/courses](http://www.solent.ac.uk/courses).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE MEDIA OFFICE ON 023 8031 9040 or [press.office@solent.ac.uk](mailto:press.office@solent.ac.uk)

### About Southampton Solent University

Southampton Solent University offers more than 23,000 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 2013 poll of students. Solent Business School has been awarded the Small Business Charter Award, which is supported by the Association of Business Schools and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and 'gold approval' by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA).