ACADEMY

UEFA Certificate in Football Management

Players' Edition

A must-have for players, coaches and referees looking for a second career in football management

Foreword

Contributing to the professional management of football has been one of UEFA's goals throughout Europe for many years. On account of the success of the national and open editions of the UEFA Certificate in Football Management, UEFA developed a special edition of this internationally recognised programme specifically designed for active players, referees and coaches wanting to gain a foundation in football administration.

The UEFA CFM – Players' edition enables you to gain an academic qualification recognised all over Europe while pursuing your career on the pitch. It offers enhanced knowledge of the football ecosystem combined with practical management skills. Opening up the UEFA CFM to active players also ensures an influx of new ideas and administrators from the heart of the game and fosters the professional management of football in Europe.

Theodore Theodoridis
UEFA General Secretary

Programme overview

TYPE OF LEARNING

◀ E-learning — Face-to face ▶

ESTIMATED HOURS OF LEARNING

350

SKILLS TRAINED

◀ Soft skills — Hard skills ▶

WHO
Professional players, referees and coaches worldwide

STARTING IN
Every year in January

HOW LONG
10 months

WHERE
Online

PRICE
€7,900

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Max. 35

ACADEMIC CERTIFICATION
Certificate of advanced studies (CAS) delivered by the University of Lausanne (10 ECTS credits)

LANGUAGE
English

ALUMNI
A growing community of more than 1,800 UEFA CFM graduates, represented by the UEFA Academy Alumni Association

APPLICATION CLOSE
5 December 2026

UEFA Certificate in Football Management (UEFA CFM) – Players' edition

The UEFA CFM is an essential foundation programme for anyone working in football wanting to gain an understanding of how the game is managed.

The players' edition of the UEFA CFM is an adaptation of UEFA's most successful education programme to meet the needs of active professional football players, coaches and referees. Delivered 100% online, it gives you the opportunity to join this unique programme, enhance your knowledge of football management and gain an academic qualification before your professional career comes to an end.

The structure and content of the programme ensures you will have access to a range of different resources and become part of an expanding network of international graduates – all of which will contribute to your personal and professional development.

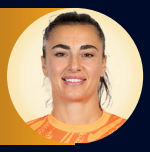
Programme outcomes

- Comprehensive understanding of the football industry
- Solid foundation in managerial skills
- Knowledge of how to conduct a managerial analysis of a football organisation and provide recommendations for improvement
- Close connections with UEFA and a global network in the football industry
- Internationally recognised academic certificate in football management delivered by the University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Testimonials

It's really important for footballers to perform well on the pitch, but we also need the opportunity to learn new things and grow as individuals. Unfortunately, our busy schedules do not allow us to attend weekly classes or go to a university campus. The UEFA CFM enables me to complete a university degree in sports management, meet new people and prepare for my second career while continuing to play at the top level.

Juan Mata, Professional player, Melbourne victory



I wanted to deepen my knowledge of management and to specialise it in football. As I still play in England, it would have been impossible to participate in a face-to-face edition, so I took the opportunity to participate in the UEFA CFM players' edition, which allowed me to study and meet new people while I'm still active on the field of play.

Zećira Mušović, Malmö FF

The UEFA CFM is the best path for me to discover how the football industry works behind the scenes and get an academic diploma while playing at the top level. This was also a fantastic opportunity to meet other players from other countries and make important contacts for my second career.

Ivan Rakitić, Former player

Programme overview

The UEFA CFM is a nine-month 100% online programme adapted to active players' schedules and featuring:

- 10 online modules that you can complete anywhere, at any time
- 7 live online masterclasses allowing you to ask questions to experts and connect with your fellow students
- A detailed analysis of your club or national association
- Individual coaching sessions with mentors to support you in your learning journey

The ten online modules provide you with a 360-degree understanding of how football organisations are managed. The live online masterclasses are made of practical exercises giving you the opportunity to test yourself while connecting with experts and other participants. Alongside of your online studies, you will be required to complete a comprehensive analysis of your club or national association, applying what you learn in the different modules. You will be supported throughout this process, with tailored one-to-one mentoring by an academic expert from the University of Lausanne.

You will also receive a copy of the UEFA Handbook of Football Association Management and the UEFA Toolbox in Football Management, with over 100 management tools and tips on how the game is run, and have advanced access to UEFA Academy Online, our online knowledge-sharing platform which contains over 1,000 documents, reports and videos on the many different facets of football.

12 ONLINE MODULES

- The organisation of world football
- Strategic management
- Operational management
- Football marketing
- Communication, the media and public relations
- Football development: From grassroots to elite
- Women's football
- Social and environmental sustainability
- Medical, health, and anti-doping
- Football law
- Event and volunteer management
- Competitions in football

7 MASTERCLASSES

Once a month, on Mondays (14:00-16:00 CET)

- Kick off call – 25.01.2027
- Masterclass 1 – 01.02.2027
- Masterclass – UEFA Champions League simulation – 15.02.2027
- Masterclass 2 – 08.03.2027
- Masterclass 3 – 29.03.2027
- Masterclass 4 – 26.04.2027
- Masterclass 5 – 24.05.2027
- Masterclass 6 – 13.09.2027

Final oral exam – 27/28.09.2027 and graduation ceremony – 18.10.2027

Each session is based around the content of the online modules as well as management, personal development and player transition

MENTORING

Regular one-to-one sessions with an academic mentor to support you during your entire learning journey

Application process

To apply for the UEFA CFM Players' edition, complete the online application form available at UEFAacademy.com and submit it along with a CV, a short personal video and an electronic passport-sized photo.

The video should be no longer than three minutes. It should introduce you and your background, including previous football experience and qualifications, together with your motivation for applying. Please note, the video does not need to be of professional quality and can be filmed using a phone or computer.

For more information related to the application deadlines and seminar dates, please visit UEFAacademy.com.

If you have any questions about the application process, please contact academy@uefa.ch.

We welcome all participants from diverse backgrounds and cultures, recognising the unique value that diversity brings to our community. If you have any uncertainties about meeting specific programme criteria, we encourage you to reach out to us.

Building your career off the pitch

The UEFA Academy has recently designed a series of programmes exclusively for players considering a second career in football. The UEFA CFM Player's edition is one of various opportunities for career development.

More UEFA Academy programmes exclusively designed for players, coaches and referees are available, in various lengths and formats:

- The UEFA Career Management Training is the first step in assessing your needs and objectives when planning for a second career
- The UEFA Master for International Players equips former footballers with the skills they need to successfully transition to a second career within football administration

The UEFA Academy offers other programmes suitable for ex-footballers and football specialists:

- The UEFA Player Agent Programme
- The UEFA Elite Scout Programme
- Sporting Director Programme
- UEFA Team Management Programme

LIFT certification

The UEFA Academy was awarded the LIFT (Learing Impact for Today and Tomorrow) by EFMD for the period 2024 to 2027. This certification recognises the impact of the UEFA Academy programmes on its participants, their organisations and society at large.

Be part of the UEFA Academy Alumni Association

After graduation, your journey continues. Join a global network of 5,000+ football professionals, take part in exclusive events, and stay connected through dedicated platforms and expert-led sessions.

UEFAACADEMY.COM

Contact us: academy@uefa.ch
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