



UEFA Certificate in Football Management

Players' edition

ACADEMY

A smiling man with short dark hair, wearing a dark suit jacket, is holding a white and blue soccer ball with both hands. A yellow rectangular text box with a diagonal cut-off on the right side is overlaid on the center of the image. The background is a plain, light gray.

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



Who

Professional players, referees and coaches worldwide



Starting in

Every year in January



How long

9 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)



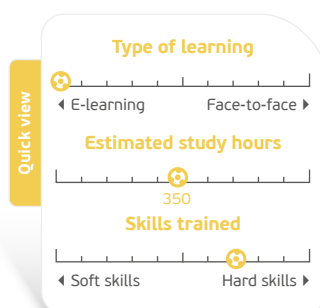
Language

English



Alumni

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



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

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.

10 ONLINE MODULES

- Organisation of world football
- Strategic and performance management
- Operational management
- Football marketing
- Communication, the media and public relations
- Event and volunteer management
- Football and social responsibility
- Women's football
- Football law
- Football development

7 MASTERCLASSES

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

- Masterclass 1 – 09.02.2026
- Masterclass 2 – 23.02.2026
- Masterclass 3 – 16.03.2026
- Masterclass 4 – 13.04.2026
- Masterclass 5 – 18.05.2026
- Masterclass 6 – 08.06.2026
- Masterclass 7 – UEFA Champions League simulation – 24.08.2026

Final oral exam – 22.09.2025 and graduation ceremony – 22.09.2026

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

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, Melbourne Victory FC



“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 CFM players' edition, which allowed me to study and meet new people while I'm still active on the field of play.”

■ Zećira Mužović, 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, Deputy Sporting Director, HNK Hajduk Split





Application process

To apply for the UEFA CFM Players' edition, complete the online application form available at [UEFAacademy.com](https://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](https://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 Transition Programme 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
- The UEFA Media Consultant Compact Course
- Sporting Director Programme
- UEFA Team Management Programme
- UEFA Financial Management Training

At any point in their career, active players can also access UEFA For players website. In addition an engaging set of learning initiatives providing all elite footballers with information and advice to support them on and off the pitch. In addition, UEFA has developed an online course focusing on financial management. The UEFA Financial Management Training (UEFA FMT) offers practical tools and knowledge to players so they can be in the driving seat of their finances and financial future.

LIFT certification

The UEFA Academy was awarded the LIFT (Learning 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.





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Contact us

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UEFAacademy.com