

July 2015

Dear Student

**Welcome to the Times & Sunday Times Sports University of the Year!**

What have Andrew Strauss, Will Carling, Jonathan Edwards, Nasser Hussain and Steve Rowbotham got in common? The answer is that they are all top class international sports stars who graduated from Durham University.

Student sport is one of Durham's enduring strengths. Since 1966 we have won over 170 national university sports championships and students from Durham have represented their country in athletics, basketball, climbing, cricket, equestrianism, fencing, hockey, lacrosse, rowing and rugby union to name but a few! Our British University ranking in 2014/15 was **second** out of 160 H.E. institutions, whilst over 40 of our students represented their country at age group or senior international level.

Top class sportsmen and women are only one part of Durham's impressive sporting profile. Equally important is the fact that an overwhelming number of Durham students take part regularly in sport to promote health, maintain a balanced lifestyle and create life-long friendships. **Over 90%** of our students took part in sporting activities last year. Our College Sport programme is the largest intra-mural competition in Britain with over **600** teams playing on a weekly basis across 20 different sports. In addition to this we run a recreational programme which is available for students, staff and members of the local community. We really do hope that you will find the right activity for yourself.

Target sports at Durham include basketball, canoeing, cricket, fencing, football, golf, hockey, lacrosse, rowing, rugby union, tennis, volleyball and waterpolo. Durham enters University sides in a large number of sports and, as such, no matter what your sport, we really want to hear from you.

As a postgraduate student you are required to pay an annual sports levy of £30 to give you access to the sporting provision at Durham University. However, due to the high maintenance costs of some of our facilities the all-weather pitches and the indoor rowing tank do have additional charges associated with them although these are typically covered through club membership fees if you are part of a college or university sport club. The University Fitness Suite is a membership suite and therefore there is a cost of £140 per year for students – we always ensure that we provide a less expensive service for our students than other local providers. Further information about our fitness suite can be found at: <https://www.teamdurham.com/facilities/durham/fitnesssuite/>

To pay your £30 levy and attain a Sports Card you can do either of the following:

- Before your arrival at Durham, fill out **Section B** of the form (below) and follow the brief instructions
- Upon your arrival at Durham, come to the University Sports Centre with a passport sized photo and payment of **£30**

**If you do have an interest in representing Durham University we really would like to hear from you so please do fill in Section A (below).**

**Want more information about Durham University Sport?** Visit our website at: [www.teamdurham.com](http://www.teamdurham.com)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Q. R. Sloper'.

**Quentin Sloper - Head of Sport, Music & Theatre**

**Section A – University Sport**

Name: .....

Home address:.....

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Tel: .....

Email: .....

College: .....

Main Sport: .....

Position (if relevant):.....

\*Standard

(School/County/Regional/National/International):.....

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***Students are reminded that it remains the University custom and practice for all sportsmen/women to represent the University when asked to do so. Variations to this policy must be agreed with the Head of Sport or his named representative.***

**Please return to Quentin Sloper, Head of Sport, Music & Theatre as soon as possible.**

**Post: Durham University, The Graham Sports Centre, Maiden Castle, Durham, England, DH1 3SE**

**Email: [teamdurham.freshers@dur.ac.uk](mailto:teamdurham.freshers@dur.ac.uk)**

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**Section B – Postgraduate Sports Levy**

Name: .....

Home address: .....

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Tel: .....

Email: .....

College: .....

***I enclose a cheque for £30 made out to 'Durham University' along with a passport sized photograph. I understand that I will be able to pick up my sports card from the University Sports Centre, Maiden Castle, from October 1<sup>st</sup> onwards.***

Signed:.....

**Please return to Quentin Sloper, Head of Sport, Music & Theatre, Durham University, The Graham Sports Centre, Maiden Castle, Durham, DH1 3SE**