

September 2026 Orientation Schedule

ONLINE



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Welcome to GIS: 2026 Cohort!

Welcome to the 26-27 academic year with the Global Institute of Sport! We're thrilled to have you as part of our community and can't wait to kick off an unforgettable Orientation Week.

We've curated an action-packed schedule of sessions and activities designed to inspire, engage, and set you up for success this academic year.

This guide contains everything you need to know as you embark on this exciting journey. Inside, you'll find all the details on the must-attend sessions and when they're happening - so you won't miss a thing.

Don't miss the opportunity to kick off the new semester with fresh ideas and valuable connections!



GIS LONDON: WEMBLEY WELCOME EVENT

GIS
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MARK BULLINGHAM
CEO, The Football Association



JO TONGUE MBE
CEO, Tongue Tied Management



ASHA PHILIP OLY
Olympic medallist sprinter



DEJI AKANDE
CEO & Founder,
Gateway Sports Group

Open to all Global Institute of Sport new students, current students, and alumni

September 16 - 15:00-20:00 BST

Welcome Event (Wembley Stadium)- Wed 16th September 2026 15:00-20:00

New and returning students, alongside our alumni, are invited to join us at the iconic Wembley Stadium from 15:00-20:00, for an action-packed afternoon of networking, inspiration and behind-the-scenes access. Meet your classmates and lecturers, take part in fun networking activities, and hear from leading figures in football and sport.

We'll wrap up the evening with optional food and drinks in Wembley - the perfect chance to keep the conversations going and make new connections.

Registration for this event is essential.

[Please register to attend here.](#)

GIS Welcome

Kick off your journey at GIS with an inspiring welcome from our Leadership Team. Hear from GIS President and CEO Sharona Friedman, COO James McKeown, and Provost Dr. Mike Walsh as they introduce you to the university's mission, global vision, and dedication to developing the next generation of leaders in sport. This session will highlight our core values, outline academic expectations, and showcase GIS's unique sport-focused specialization—along with the incredible opportunities that await you as part of our community.

The sessions will run twice to accommodate students across time zones. You only need to register for one of the available sessions for your course.

Monday 21st September

18:00 – 19:30 (UK Time)

[Join here](#)

Tuesday 22nd September

09:15 – 09:45 (UK Time)

[Join here](#)



James McKeown
Chief Operating Officer



Sharona Friedman
President & CEO



Dr. Mike Walsh
Provost

Meet Your Academic Team - Business

Join your Academic Teams for a warm welcome onto your course. It's a great opportunity to expand your network, connect with fellow students, and engage with GIS staff. The sessions will run twice to accommodate students across time zones. You only need to **register for one of the available sessions** for your course.

Courses	Date	Time	Link to join
Faculty of Business (all BSc, MSc & PGCert courses) • BA Sports Management • CertHE in Sports Management • MSc International Sports Management • MSc Football Business • MSc Football Business & Leadership • MSc Football Business & Football Agency • PG Cert in Football Business • MSc Sports Marketing & Media • MSc Sports Marketing & Management • PGCert in Sports Marketing	Monday 21st September	18:30 (UK time)	Join here
	Tuesday 22 nd September	09:45 (UK time)	Join here

Meet Your Academic Team- Coaching

Join your Academic Teams for a warm welcome onto your course. It's a great opportunity to expand your network, connect with fellow students, and engage with GIS staff. The sessions will run twice to accommodate students across time zones. You only need to **register for one of the available sessions** for your course.

Courses	Date	Time	Link to join
Faculty of Coaching (all BA, MSc & PGCert courses) • BA Football Coaching • MSc Football Coaching and Analysis • MSc Football Coaching and Leadership • MSc Performance Analysis in Football • MSc Performance Analysis in Sport • PGCert Performance Analysis • PGCert Football Coaching • CertHE Football Coaching	Monday 21st September	18:30 (UK time)	Join here
	Tuesday 22 nd September	09:45 (UK time)	Join here

Course Leader Introduction Sessions

Join your Course Leaders for a warm welcome onto your course. It's a great opportunity to expand your network, connect with fellow students, and engage with GIS staff. The sessions will run twice to accommodate students across time zones. You only need to **attend one of the available sessions** for your course.

Before these sessions take place, we strongly advise you **review your Course Overview recording**, located on our [Orientation Webpages](#). This will provide you with an outline of what to expect, so you can ask for any clarification or put questions to the course team at these sessions.

Links to your course leader sessions can be found on the next pages and will also be added to your GIS calendar.

Course Leader Introduction Sessions- Business

Thursday 24th September
10am and 6pm (UK/BST)*

Course	Course Lead	Meeting Link- same link for both sessions
BA Sports Management CertHE in Sports Management	Ryan Hayes	Join here
MSc International Sports Management	Craig Hopkins	Join here
MSc Football Business MSc Football Business & Leadership MSc Football Business & Football Agency	Jarno Stegemen – session to be facilitated by Shana Doyle-Axccl (Deputy Dean- Business)	Join here
MSc Sports Marketing & Media MSc Sports Marketing & Management PGCert in Sports Marketing	Sam Homewood	Join here

*Please note you only need to attend **one** session- there are multiple sessions are to account for students in different time zones.

Course Leader Introduction Sessions- Coaching

Thursday 24th September
10am and 6pm (UK/BST)*

Course	Course Lead	Meeting Link- same link for both sessions
BA Football Coaching CertHE Football Coaching	James Bush	Join here
MSc Football Coaching and Analysis MSc Football Coaching and Leadership PGCert Football Coaching	James Orvis	Join here
MSc Performance Analysis in Football MSc Performance Analysis in Sport PGCert Performance Analysis	Connor McGillick	Join here

*Please note you only need to attend **one** session- there are multiple sessions are to account for students in different time zones.

Industry Insight Webinars

(all times UK/BST)

Hear from our industry guest speakers as part of our virtual webinar series, expertly hosted by BBC broadcaster and sports presenter Mark Clemmit. Offering a unique and invaluable opportunity for students aspiring to make their mark in the sports industry, these sessions feature expert-led discussions, where industry professionals share their experiences, knowledge, and insider tips on navigating the ever-evolving world of sports.

- Wednesday 23rd September- 18:00
 - Liam MacLean - Academy Operations Manager & PDP Operations Lead at Brentford FC.
- Thursday 24th September – 19:00
 - Luke Cheyne – Head of Player Services (Men's First Team) at Liverpool FC
- Wednesday 30th September- 10:00
 - James Rosengarten - General Manager of the Melbourne Stars



More information on each speaker & how to register on the following slides

WELCOME WEEK GUEST SPEAKERS

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LIAM MACLEAN

Academy Operations Manager & PDP Operations Lead,
Brentford FC and GIS Alumnus

Go behind the scenes of **academy operations, player development and the people-focused side of professional football** with Liam MacLean, Academy Operations Manager & PDP Operations Lead at Brentford FC.

With experience across academy football and player care, Liam brings valuable insight into **developing young talent, supporting players and creating the right environment for athletes to thrive both on and off the pitch.**

Liam is also a **Global Institute of Sport alumnus**, bringing his own journey from studying sport to building a career within the professional game.

[Click here to register](#)

WELCOME WEEK GUEST SPEAKERS

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LUKE CHEYNE

Player Care Professional and GIS Advisory Board Member

Get behind the scenes of **athlete development, wellbeing, career transition and life beyond sport** with one of the industry's leading voices in player support.

With over eight years of experience across the professional game, including roles as **Head of Player Development & Wellbeing at the Rugby Players Association** and currently **Head of Player Services (Men's First Team) at Liverpool FC**, Luke brings first-hand insight into what it really takes to support athletes both on and off the field.

As a **Global Industry Advisor at the Global Institute of Sport**, Luke also brings his expertise directly to the GIS community.

[Click here to register](#)

WELCOME WEEK GUEST SPEAKERS



JAMES ROSENGARTEN
General Manager, Melbourne Stars

Go behind the scenes of **professional sports leadership, commercial strategy and the business of elite cricket** with James Rosengarten, General Manager of the Melbourne Stars.

With extensive experience leading professional sporting organisations across the **BBL and WBBL**, James brings a wealth of insight into strategy, sponsorship, partnerships and what it takes to drive success both on and off the field.

James is also **Chair of the Global Institute of Sport's Industry Advisory Board**, helping shape the student experience through his expertise and connections across the global sports industry.

[Click here to register](#)

Essential Skills for Academic Success

Join this session to understand more about the essential tools you need to thrive in your studies.

This session will guide you through the key areas of university-level learning- critical thinking, academic writing, referencing, and time management- while showing you where to find help and support along the way.

Designed to build your confidence and prepare you for success, it will set you up for a strong start to your GIS academic journey.

Wednesday 23rd September

17:00 – 17:30 (UK time)

[Click here to join](#)

Or

Thursday 24th September

11:00 – 11:30 (UK time)

[Click here to join](#)



Navigating the GIS Online Learning Environment

Join Louise Aldridge, GIS Digital Education Manager, and learn how to navigate the GIS digital platforms including:

- GIS Collab : submissions, grade access and support.
- Key Communication platforms
- The Student Hub (Central)
- How to access Library resources

Tuesday 22nd September
11:00 – 11:30 (UK time)
[Click here to join](#)

Or

Thursday 24th September
17:30 – 18:00 (UK time)
[Click here to join](#)



Student Support



At GIS, we're committed to supporting you throughout your student journey. Check out the student support resources and videos to help you get familiar with the wide range of support services available to you on our [Orientation webpages](#)

We encourage you to explore each resource to gain a clear understanding of how we can support you during your time at GIS – and to make the most of your university experience from day one.

Here, you'll find information on:

- Accessibility and Learning Support
- Academic Services
- Careers
- Student Wellbeing
- Student Voice



We look forward to welcoming you
to the start of your academic journey
with the Global Institute of Sport!

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