

ASPA

ASSOCIATION OF SPORTS PERFORMANCE ANALYSTS

DEGREE ENDORSEMENT SCHEME (ADES)

2026

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Overview

The Association of Sports Performance Analysts (ASPA) **Undergraduate Endorsement Scheme (ADES)** recognizes undergraduate courses that equip students with the essential knowledge and skills to enter the profession as **sports performance analysts** or **sports data scientists**.

ASPA is a professional association designed to endorse courses that have significant performance analysis and/ or data science curriculum content. These typically include a diverse range of sport and non-sport related undergraduate courses that can prepare students for roles as sport performance analysts or sports data scientists

Criteria for course endorsement

To gain ASPA endorsement, applicants will have to demonstrate that an undergraduate degree course satisfies the criteria outlined in the ASPA application form, which is structured around the following 8 sections:

1. Course Strategy: ○ Approaches to Teaching & Learning ○ Class Sizes & Student Engagement ○ Assessment Strategies	**2. Mastering Core Theoretical Knowledge:** ○ Game Models & Tactical Frameworks ○ Performance Metrics & KPI's ○ Biomechanics & Movement Science
3. Applying Data & Technology in SPA: ○ Video Analysis & Coding ○ Data Handling & Statistical Analysis ○ Wearable Technology & Tracking Systems	**4. Applied Learning:** ○ Working with Coaches & Sports Scientists ○ Multidisciplinary Approach ○ Interpersonal & Communication Skill Dev.
5. Research & Critical Thinking: ○ Understanding Research Methodologies ○ Research Ethics & Governance Training ○ Applying Evidence-Based Practices	**6. Communicating & Reporting Skills** ○ Visualising Data Effectively ○ Presenting Findings to Stakeholders ○ Assessing validity & reliability
7. Professional Dev. & Industry Engagement ○ Employer involvement in design & delivery ○ Work-based or related learning inc. placements ○ Ethical & professional conduct in SPA	**8. Staff Professional Accreditation & Affiliation** ○ Advanced Degree & Research Credentials ○ Sporting Qualifications/ Awards ○ Relevant Accreditation / Certification

In completing the application form, institutions will need to demonstrate that their teaching strategies and programme activities meet the above criteria with relevant supporting documentation provided to support their application (e.g. programme specifications, module descriptors, laboratory manuals).

When can applications be submitted?

Applications can be made at any time during the academic year.

How do I submit an application form?

C**omplete** the online fillable ADES Application Form. Where prompted, upload the required supporting documents and press **submit**. The form can be saved and returned too at any time by pressing the **save** button.

Completing the application form

Applicants are required to complete the ADES application form to demonstrate that a course meets the criteria for ASPA endorsement. This is done via two core components:

1. A brief narrative explanation of how the course meets each of the specified criteria within each section of the application form. The sections are broken down into key content representing the expected areas of coverage of an undergraduate degree incorporating sports performance analysis. The narrative provided should focus on **how** the course provides students with opportunities to develop the requisite knowledge, skills and professional development competencies identified.

2. Documentary evidence, to be submitted with the application form, providing assessors with more detailed information about module content and learning outcomes, laboratory practices and teaching/learning strategies to support the narrative provided in the application form. For each element of each section of the form, applicants need to reference appropriate supporting documents to signpost assessors.

Supporting documentary evidence

– Programme specifications

– Module descriptors/guides (including session topics week by week schedules)

Support and advice on completing the application form

Any queries relating to ADES applications should be initially directed to the ASPA office by emailing info@theaspa.org subject ADES QUERY.

If more dedicated support or guidance is required, applicants may request additional support/advice from a member of the ASPA review panel, dependent upon panel members' availability. Requests for support should be in relation to specific queries about the ADES criteria.

Application assessment and feedback

Each application is reviewed by two members of the ADES Review Committee; a lead reviewer and a second reviewer. Reviewers will assess the application and the supporting documents and make a decision, which will be one of the following four outcomes:

1. **Endorsed:** the programme has been judged to fully meet the endorsement criteria.

2. **Endorsed with recommendations**: the programme has been judged to meet the endorsement criteria, however, the reviewers have identified some areas where there is potential improvement in coverage/provision, which will be detailed in the recommendations provided.

3. **Deferred pending additional evidence**: the programme has been judged to meet most of the endorsement criteria, however, there are some aspects of the application where further evidence or

clarification is required for the reviewers to make a final decision. In their feedback, the reviewers will provide details of the additional information or evidence that is required. Upon receiving the requested information from the applicant, the two reviewers will make a decision on the final outcome of the application (Endorsed; Endorsed with recommendations; or Not endorsed).

4. **Not endorsed**: The programme has been judged to not meet the endorsement criteria. In this scenario, reviewers will not ask for additional evidence or information, as it has been judged that the programme/course structure, content and/or provision does not meet the ADES criteria.

The reviewers' decision and feedback will be provided to the applicant on the ADES Review Feedback Form, which will include the decision on endorsement, feedback providing rationale for the decision and, if applicable, recommendations.

ADES endorsement renewal

If endorsed, an undergraduate degree programme will hold ASPA endorsement for a period of three years, at which point a renewal endorsement application must be submitted. For renewal, the same ASPA application form must be completed in full, though where only minor changes have been made to the course, it is acknowledged that much of the information and documentation submitted will be the same as the previous application.

Changes to degree programmes

If modifications are made to undergraduate degree courses (within the four-year endorsement period) which fundamentally change the programme's provision (e.g. core modules removed/ replaced), ASPA must be informed of these changes. It is the responsibility of the named contact for the endorsed degree to outline the changes by emailing: education@theaspa.org

Any changes outlined will be reviewed by a member of the ADES Review Committee, resulting in one of the following outcomes:

– **No action required**: If the changes outlined are deemed not to impact on the degree course meeting the ADES endorsement criteria.

– **Re-application required:** If the changes outlined are deemed to be significant enough that it is no longer clear whether the course meets the criteria for ADES endorsement, the reviewer will recommend that a re-application is required. A period of 3 months will be given to complete and submit a new application form. The re-endorsement fee will be adjusted based on the number of years since the previous endorsement application was submitted.

Endorsement fees

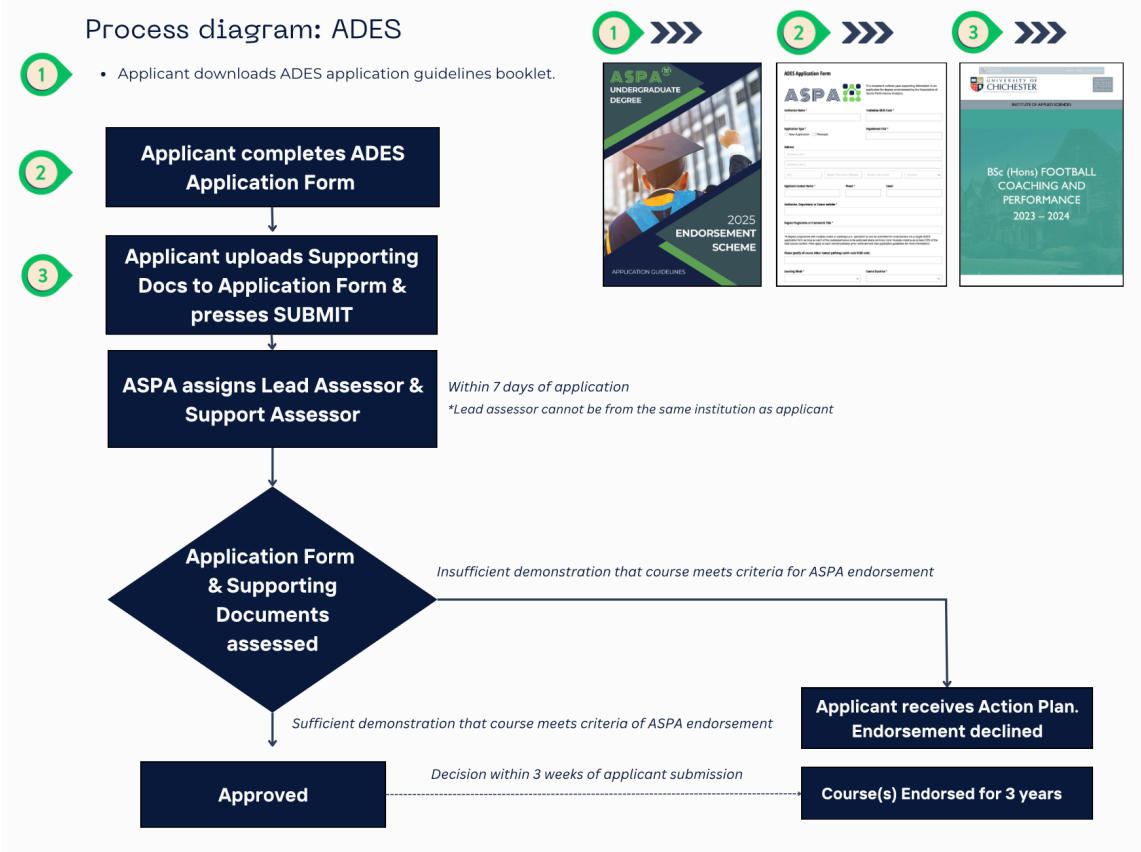
The endorsement fee for a single degree course is **£499**. This covers the cost of the application review and assessment process, and the **three-year period** of endorsement.

For additional courses, routes or pathways that are part of the same 'programme framework' and therefore submitted within the same application, the endorsement fee is £40 for each additional named route/pathway. To be classed a part of the same 'programme framework', all of the different routes/pathways must share common 'core' modules making up at least 75% of the total course content. If an application for endorsement is not successful 80% of the total application fee will be refunded.

FAQs

Can any course apply?

Yes. The ADES scheme is intended to endorse undergraduate degrees that provide the underpinning knowledge & skills required for a career in sport performance analysis & /or data science – therefore a variety of degree courses will be eligible for endorsement.



Must a course fulfil every knowledge and technical skill element in the application form to obtain endorsement?

Yes. However, it is acknowledged that different degree courses may not provide the opportunity for students to develop every knowledge element or technical skill as demonstrably as others. Yet it is expected all of knowledge elements, technical skills & professional competencies are to have at least basic coverage. Significant gaps in coverage of knowledge &/or skill elements are likely to result in an unsuccessful application

To what level/depth must the knowledge elements identified in the ADES criteria be covered?

Degree courses will need to demonstrate significant coverage of themes beyond level 4 to be eligible for endorsement: degrees that cover themes at Level 4 only are highly unlikely to be able to demonstrate the breadth & depth of coverage required.

What are the different 'types' of undergraduate degree program that are eligible for endorsement?

Single programme (single honours) – defined as a degree programme with a single course title - e.g., "BSc (Hons) Sport Coaching" – where there are no or few options for students to select which modules they study within the programme; or flexibility is only offered later in the course (i.e., final year) following the completion of a set of mandatory, core modules that meet the ADES criteria.

Joint honours – defined as a degree programme combining more than one subject of study. Joint honours degree programmes must demonstrate that all graduating students will have completed a core set of performance analysis-related modules that meet the criteria relating to knowledge and skill development outlined in the application form. Joint honours that give students significant flexibility in the modules that are studied may not be eligible for endorsement, unless the programme results in clear 'named pathways' (see below) which show a graduate has undertaken the necessary modules to cover the knowledge & skill elements detailed in the ADES criteria.

Multiple routes/pathways – defined as a degree programme framework that enables students to select specific, named routes or pathways in order to specialise in particular subjects or disciplines within sports coaching or data science. An example of such a programme might be the following named pathways that are part of the same 'programme framework':

• BSc (Hons) Sport and Exercise Science (Sport Performance)

• BSc (Hons) Sport and Exercise Science (Physical Activity for Health)

• BSc (Hons) Sport and Exercise Science (Strength and Conditioning)

Degree programmes with multiple named routes or pathways can apply for ASPA endorsement via a single application form, as long as all of the named pathways seeking endorsement share common 'core' modules making up at least 75% of the total course content. Details should be provided within the application about how & when students are able to specialise by selecting a specific route/pathway.