

# Academy & University Overview



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## Purpose of this Document

The **International Analyst Competency Framework (IACF)** is a professional standards framework for sports performance analysts working in applied sport environments.

It provides:

- a structured pathway from education into applied professional practice
- tiered accreditation aligned to responsibility and independence, not academic level alone
- a shared language between education providers and industry
- ethical and safeguarding standards appropriate to working with athletes

The framework is owned and administered by **ASPA** and operates with **independent standards oversight**.

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## Why the IACF Matters to Academies and Universities

Education providers play a critical role in preparing analysts for real-world practice.

The IACF helps academies and universities by:

- clarifying expectations of applied competence at different stages
  - supporting smoother transition from study to practice
  - aligning placements and applied modules with professional standards
  - reinforcing ethical, safeguarding, and data protection awareness
  - supporting graduate employability and credibility
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## Supporting Student Development & Employability

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## Understanding the Accreditation Tiers in Education Contexts

### Tier 1-2 | Emerging & Developing Analysts

Typically appropriate for:

- undergraduate students
- early postgraduate students
- placement and internship roles

Focus:

- foundational technical skills
  - supervised applied practice
  - professional behaviours and reflection
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## Tier 3 | Practising Analyst

Often aligned with:

- postgraduate programmes with strong applied components
- graduates in structured applied roles

Focus:

- independent applied practice
- reliable delivery of analysis tasks
- professional accountability

*(Tier 3 may be accessed via endorsed postgraduate routes.)*

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## Senior Tiers (4–8)

These tiers recognise:

- applied leadership
- system ownership
- governance and professional stewardship

They are typically post-education career stages and not expected outcomes of academic programmes.

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## Education Endorsement & Alignment

ASPA may endorse education programmes that:

- align learning outcomes with IACF competencies
- include applied assessment and reflection
- support ethical and safeguarding standards
- prepare students for applied practice

Endorsed routes may:

- support progression into Tier 2 or Tier 3
- reduce duplication between education and accreditation
- provide clarity for students and employers

Endorsement does not replace accreditation, but supports structured progression.

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## Safeguarding, Ethics & Professional Responsibility

The IACF reinforces expectations around:

- safeguarding of athletes and vulnerable persons
- ethical handling of performance data and video
- professional conduct in applied environments

These principles complement institutional safeguarding policies and placement requirements.

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## Independent Oversight & Trust

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- ethical handling of performance data and video

- professional conduct in applied environments

These principles complement institutional safeguarding policies and placement requirements.

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## How Academies & Universities Can Use the IACF

Institutions may use the IACF to:

- map curriculum to applied professional standards
- support placement quality assurance
- guide student development conversations
- enhance employability messaging
- demonstrate industry alignment

The framework supports, but does not replace, institutional regulations or accreditation requirements.

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## What the IACF is Not

To maintain clarity:

- it is not an academic qualification
- it does not replace degree programmes
- it is not a guarantee of employment
- it does not override institutional safeguarding or assessment processes

It is a professional development and recognition framework.

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## Working with ASPA

ASPA works collaboratively with:

- universities
- academies
- placement providers

Opportunities include:

- programme endorsement
- student pathway guidance
- mentoring integration
- contribution to standards development

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## Closing Statement

The IACF supports academies and universities by providing a clear, ethical bridge between education and applied professional practice in sports performance analysis.

**Contact [Education@theaspa.org](mailto:Education@theaspa.org)**

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