New Level 3 Certificate in Coaching Golf

"Coaches play a crucial role in the development of golf and in the lives of the golfers they coach."

The Professional Golfers’ Association and the University of Birmingham are pleased to announce the launch of the brand new Level 3 Certificate in Coaching Golf. A qualification aimed at ambitious coaches looking to expand their skills and knowledge on their journey towards becoming an expert coach within their chosen field.

The new Level 3 qualification will help you to continue your development as the:

‘Right coach in the Right place at the Right time’

This is the PGA’s vision for the future of golf coaching, ensuring:

- more people playing golf
- more people achieving their potential
- more people staying in golf
- better performances on a world stage

After completion of the new Level 3 Certificate in Coaching Golf you will be able to:

- Plan, implement, analyse and revise annual golf coaching programmes for golfers with a range of abilities, skills and experience
- Provide appropriate golf advice and solutions to individuals attending coaching sessions
- Understand the science behind golfing performance and coaching
- Understand the importance of reflection in your personal practice

To gain the new Level 3 Certificate in Coaching Golf you will need to successfully complete either the Advanced Certificate in Golf Coaching or a specific, appropriate PGA approved CPD programme¹ and the PGA Level 3 Coaching Course.

Knowledge
Develop the knowledge to achieve your goals as a coach and to meet the needs of your players. Learn how to create great experiences for individuals participating in golf, drawing people into and keeping players in the game. Understand the development of both elite and recreational players.

Application
Take the knowledge you gain and turn it into real-life practical coaching outcomes. Evaluate and assess your own personal practice and start your journey towards becoming an expert coach.

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¹ - Only available to PGA members who qualified prior to 31st December 2007 and by agreement with the PGA Coaching Department
Introduction to Level 3

2-day course introducing the content and context of the Level 3 qualification to enable prospective candidates to benchmark their current coaching knowledge, skills and experience against the requirements of the new, UKCC endorsed Level 3 qualification. Individuals will leave the 2-day introduction with a clear personal action plan to ‘up-skill’ themselves in relation to knowledge areas of the qualification.

Entry criteria – applicants for Level 3 must:

- Hold a minimum of the ASQ Level 2 Certificate in Coaching Golf
- Have a minimum of 3 years golf coaching experience
- Currently be an active and practicing golf coach (coaching on a weekly basis)
- Be able to demonstrate appropriate coaching experience relevant to this level; that is working with golfers on a regular basis to develop performance (whatever level that performance)
- Be able to commit to the required contact days for the Level 3 and undertake to fulfil all required elements of assessment

There are three possible outcomes for an individual attending this introduction:

- Proceed straight to PGA Level 3 course
- Personal development required; action plan and nominal timescale for progression agreed (Advanced Certificate route or agreed CPD as above diagram)
- Not ready for Level 3 – involvement concluded (this can be an outcome identified by the individual or tutor)

The cost of this introduction will be determined on a ‘break even’ basis and will not exceed £250.

NB. The ‘Introduction to Level 3’ course may be delivered in an alternative manner (e.g. through breakfast club networks) and in some cases waived if candidate coaches are recruited specifically for their level of expertise (e.g. a group of national/regional/academy coaches).

Specific, appropriate PGA approved CPD

This pathway applies to individuals pursuing the CPD route following attendance at the ‘Introduction to Level 3’ course. Such individuals will have been identified as having gaps in their Level 3 based knowledge, skills or experience that they need to fill before progressing to the PGA Level 3 course.

The personal action plan completed following attendance at the 2-day introduction will include SMART targets.

Individuals will be required to complete a learning journal to support their personal action plan in order to demonstrate how they have addressed their knowledge gaps and how this has helped their development.

This learning journal will contribute towards the final assessment of the Level 3 qualification.

Only once the agreed targets in the personal action plan are complete will an individual be able to progress to the PGA Level 3 course.

Any costs of individual CPD will be met personally by the candidate in addition to the relevant introduction and Level 3 course fee.
Advanced Certificate in Golf Coaching

This is a unique development between the University of Birmingham and the PGA to develop high quality coaches in a research environment. This academic programme delivers the underpinning theory and knowledge for the new Level 3 Certificate in Coaching Golf. Throughout the course students will be expected to develop their own coaching practice based upon the module content.

What will I study?

**Research methods and skills in sports coaching** - Develop the academic skills and knowledge required to be critical coaches with the ability to analyse research and collect data.

**Advanced Coaching Theory** - Reflect upon your own coaching practice considering the holistic nature of coaching, expertise in coaching and how this is developed.

**Integrated Coaching** - Working on case studies you will learn about player and participant development from a multi-disciplinary bio-psycho-social standpoint.

How will I study? You will learn through a mixture of high quality online resources (broadband internet required), face to face discussion time with leaders in the programme fields and interaction with other students.

How will I be assessed? Assessment will take place through coach learning journals, case-studies and a written examination.

How long will it take? A one year course delivered online and by attendance at 3 compulsory face to face teaching blocks held on the University of Birmingham’s Edgbaston campus. You will be expected to spend about 10 hours per week on independent study completing key readings, online tasks and discussions.

How much will it cost? The fee for the advanced certificate for 2012/13 is £1,850, subject to annual review. Students will also need to cover their accommodation and travel costs for the 3 teaching blocks.

PGA Level 3 course

This part of the Level 3 programme will help you to apply the theories and principles of coaching learned through the Advanced Certificate in Golf Coaching to practical and relevant golf coaching scenarios. You will be supported to plan, implement and analyse an annual coaching programme for a golfer with whom you work in order to help them achieve their golfing aims.

What will I learn? This practical golf coaching course will begin with a full induction to establish clear aims and objectives for the course, help you to set your personal expectations and then cover the following modules:

- The role of a Level 3 golf coach
- Long-term planning for golf
- Level 3 golf coaching skills
- Developing golfer performance
- Coaching golf at Level 3 - the technical aspects

How will I learn? You will learn through a mixture of face to face delivery with skilled tutors (5 days), personal coaching practice and pre-course preparation. You will also interact with other coaches during the course to help develop your problem solving and analysis skills.

How will I be assessed? Assessment will take place through observed coaching, a long-term coaching plan and report, personal coaching development log and practical golf assessments in both the course context and your own coaching environment. There will be a one day course to help you prepare effectively for your assessments.

How long will it take? A one year course with a total commitment of 8 days that includes 5 learning days, 1 day preparation for assessment, 1 central assessment day and 1 assessment in your own coaching environment.

How much will it cost? The cost of the PGA Level 3 Coaching Course will be determined on a ‘break even’ basis and will not exceed £1,600.