



FIBA

We Are Basketball



**Northumbria
University**
NEWCASTLE

Newcastle Business School



FIBA

We Are Basketball

TIME OUT

EMPOWERING FUTURE LEADERS

We are pleased to announce details of our TIME-OUT programme. Created in partnership between Northumbria University and FIBA this postgraduate level course is designed to equip professional athletes with the skills, knowledge and behaviours to be successful leaders and managers.

By providing the two-tier education and academic qualification from an elite business university programme in conjunction with FIBA/FIBA Europe, the players-graduates will be able to access a wider range of employment opportunities on the market, not just in basketball but also in other sports, events and marketing organisations.

Designed to meet the demands of professional basketball players this course consisting of three modules is delivered flexibly, combining face-to-face sessions at Northumbria University's Campus in Newcastle with remote support.

Participants who successfully complete the course will graduate with a **Postgraduate Certificate in Business and Management**, providing a route to a Master's level qualification.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

TIME OUT

**FROM ELITE PLAYER
TO TOP MANAGER**

Empowerment of basketball players through a sustainable
dual career and good governance training supporting programme

FIBA We Are Basketball TIME OUT

Fast-track your new management career and develop a range of highly transferable and valued set of knowledge, skills, and behaviours. Graduate with a postgraduate level qualification, with a route available to achieve a full Master's.

DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY FOR ELITE BASKETBALL PLAYERS



Founded upon the Principles of Responsible Management Education

Newcastle Business School is committed to the Principles of Responsible Management Education (PRME) to develop future leaders that are socially responsible who will create sustainable environmental and economic value.

Programme Delivery

Teaching and Learning

Sessions are delivered in an engaging format, a mixture of seminars and workshops that explore theory and practice through facilitated discussions. Participants should expect to conduct pre-reading and reflective tasks to share their thoughts and experiences with others.

Learning Materials

Participants will have access to the Blackboard site, which will be used to share learning materials and the reading lists. As part of the induction, Student Services will introduce the Library Services and other support available to professional students. All materials will be uploaded in advance to allow for preparation.

Use of Technology

The programme focuses on developing academic and digital literacy skills, which is supported by the University IT Services. Microsoft Teams will be the main communication tool, with information being shared via the channels. You will be enrolled to the Team prior to the programme starting.



TIME-OUT participants graduating from NU with a Master's in Leadership and Management



Northumbria University Programme Content

Module 1: Leadership

Organisations across the private, public and third sectors continue to face accelerating and complex dynamics, and which often require novel and yet unimagined leadership-led response patterns. This module is designed as a flexible vehicle within which organisational leaders can address the idiosyncratic and specific challenges facing their organisation through the lens of leadership theory and practice. It will allow you to engage in a process of critical analysis to reflect on your own leadership behaviours and evaluate the effectiveness of leadership in your organisation and identify strategies to contribute to high performance.

Module 2: Management Reflection

This module is designed as a flexible vehicle within which organisational leaders can critically reflect upon the idiosyncratic and specific challenges facing their organisation. It will allow you to explore, through a process of critical reflection, your study of business and management disciplines on the programme. You will learn approaches, models, and processes to support your critical reflection and contribute to high performance within your organisation. The particular focus of the module will be addressed through dialogue and collaboration between you, your organisation, and the University to create a learning program that supports understanding and addresses the challenges facing the organisation.

Module 3: Contemporary Issues in Management and Organisations

This module is designed as a flexible module within which organisational leaders can address the idiosyncratic and specific challenges facing their organisation through the lens of a multi-disciplinary theoretical and practice-orientated approach. It will allow you to explore the synthesis of two or more academic disciplines and engage in a process of critical analysis to understand and evaluate the challenges facing your organisation. You will learn approaches, models, and processes to identify solutions to contribute to high performance within your organisation.



FIBA Manager in Business of Sport

The unique Business of Sport distinction of this programme compared to any other sport management degree on the market is the prioritization of basketball specificities throughout the academic process.

The programme will be structured into a ten-module learning framework which will take student players through the fundamental principles of running a basketball organisation. This will be supported by basketball-specific lectures, seminars and workshops delivered on location at sports events, in the academic environment or at the offices of FIBA.

The ten-modules will cover the topics:

- Global Basketball landscape
- Good Governance and Integrity in Sport
- Administration and Operations
- Strategic Planning
- Project Management
- Competitions and Event Management
- 3x3
- Commercial and Marketing
- Communications
- Club management



Meet-and-greet for TIME-OUT participants at the FIBA House of Basketball with A. Zagklis and J. Garbajosa



TIME-OUT 3.0 GRADUATION
(August 2025)

2026

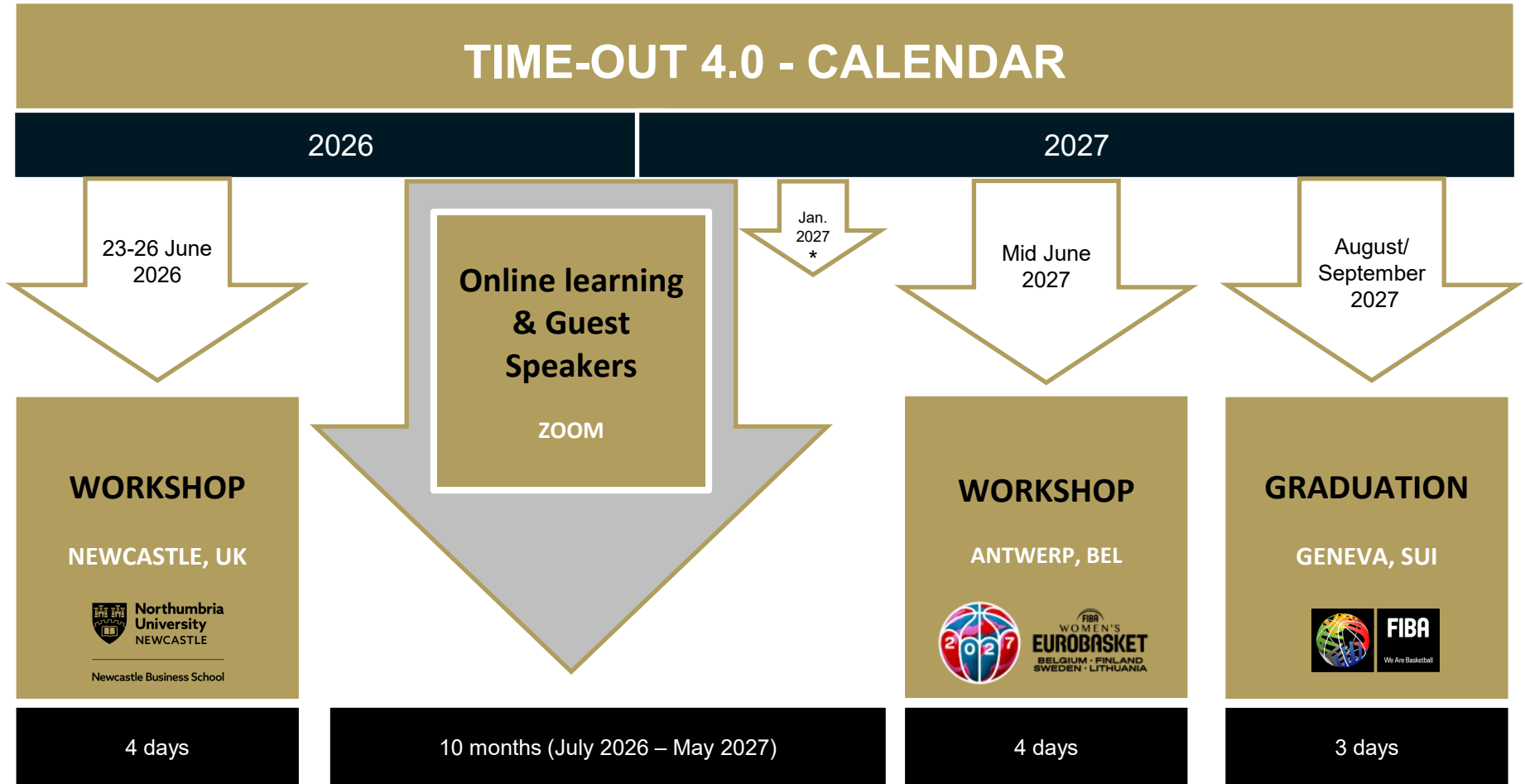
- **January**– registrations open (via nominations by National Federations)
- **End of April** – applications closed, and participants confirmed
- **End of June** - study visit at Northumbria University, Newcastle.

Participants will undertake a study and relevant field / experiential learning visit(s) and experience Newcastle City Life. Access will be provided to Northumbria University Sports Central.

- **July**– online learning starts

2027

- **January** - Northumbria University will deliver an optional follow-up session with participants in Munich (self-funded)
- **June** – 4-day workshop at the FIBA Women’s EuroBasket in Antwerp, Belgium
- **August** – project assessment by FIBA Panel
- **August-September**– FIBA will host graduation ceremony at the ‘Patrick Baumann House of Basketball’ in Mies, Switzerland
- **November** - Northumbria University hosts its winter congregation ceremony, and course participants will be invited to attend this ceremony



* Optional NU follow-up session with participants in Munich (self-funded)



GALLERY



Black-tie dinner; time to shine!



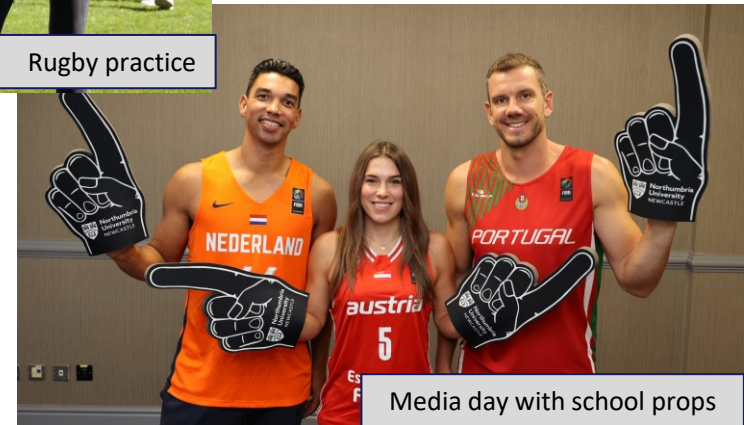
TIME-OUT 3x3 Tournament (2 Olympic medalists in the group)



Rugby practice



Back to school!



Media day with school props



RECAP VIDEO





THE TIME-OUT TEAM



RADMILA TURNER
Academic Program
Lead



BETTY CEBRIAN
Project Manager



GEOFF WILSON
FIBA Expert
Consultant



**ESTELLE MULLER &
MORITZ LANEGGER**
Admin Support

The programme will engage multiple FIBA Directors and Senior Managers with expertise across relevant functional areas.

NORTHUMBRIA UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC TEAM



**ALISTAIR BOWDEN, NU
Programme Leader**



**RACHAEL THOMPSON,
Leadership module**



**DAVID HART & HELEN WATSON
Contemporary Issues in Management
and Organisation module**



**JUDITH VAN DER LAAN,
Management
Reflection module**



**LYNNE CAVANAGH-
COLE, Management
Reflection module**

Candidate Profile

- Full commitment to the programme to attend all in-person and online sessions, workshops and seminars
- Elite player at the end of their playing career or recently retired (age 30-40)
- Must have played for their National team, or at the highest national level
- Excellent command of the English language. Find [HERE](#) the General University English Language requirements
- Can be a former participant in the WiLEAD, SWISH, or other FIBA programmes

Selection Process

- Each federation can select and nominate 1 female and 1 male player, plus reserves
- Player CV that includes sporting and academic achievements and supporting letter by the National Federation to be sent to Radmila Turner , Radmila.turnet@fiba.basketball by no later than **20th April 2026**.
- Online interviews with each candidate will be held in the period 20th -30th April 2026.
- TIME-OUT 4.0 participants announced on 4th May 2026.
- All players participants will receive the detailed programme and schedule of on-site workshops in early May
- June - on-site induction and workshop at the Business School of Northumbria University in Newcastle, UK.



Victor Claver, Spanish Basketball Player; 2x Olympic medalist, World Cup Champion, 3x EuroBasket Champion



FIBA Europe Contribution

- Complete cost of the FIBA Manager in Business of Sport tuition fees
- Full scholarship for the Postgraduate Certificate in Business and Management at Northumbria University
- Subsidy towards workshops and accommodation costs
- Graduation ceremony and Official dinner
- Fees of experts and guest-speakers
- Side activities

National Federation /Participant's costs

- 1000 EUR registration fee
- Flights /travel costs to attend the workshops in Newcastle, UK; Antwerp, Belgium and Mies, Switzerland



Graduating with honors from NU, S. van Rossom (BEL), V. Gimeno (ESP), and P. Pavlopoulou (GRE)

Testimonials

Bostjan Nachbar, Slovenia EuroLeague Players Association - Managing Director

"Attending Time-Out Program was one of the best decisions I have made as I was preparing for life after professional basketball. The knowledge, experience and wisdom received during program were invaluable. It helped me improve the necessary skills and provided me with the opportunity to better understand the sports business. I highly recommend the program to anyone who wants to get ready for what today's business of basketball demands from the people in the industry."



Sonja Vasic, Serbia Serbian NOC – Sports Director FIBA Central Board Member

"I first joined the TIME-OUT program because I knew I was going to stop playing soon and I was really torn between two choices, continuing in the basketball world in the future or getting out completely once I finished my playing career. But this program opened so many new views to me and gave me so much knowledge. I realized that as a player you are only aware of just a little bit of the basketball world, of just small parts. The program was really helpful not only to gain knowledge and see what my options, my possibilities are to continue my life in basketball, but also to see some roles or jobs that I would not like to do."



Anna Barthold, Sweden FIBA HQ - Women's Competitions Manager

"FIBA TimeOut is a transformative pathway that helps players transition from the court to leadership roles while staying connected to basketball. It equips participants with knowledge, mentorship, and insight into how the game is developed globally. Since 2021, I've worked at FIBA HQ leading women's competitions worldwide, and my TimeOut journey was key in preparing me for this role. TimeOut is more than a program — it's a long-term investment in people and the future of basketball."





Katalin Honti, Hungary

**Diplomat - diplomatic counselor
Embassy of Hungary in Rome**

"Looking back, I believe many elements of Time-Out and completing a degree at Northumbria helped me on my path to where I am today. For a former-athlete the transition from the court to a class-room setting is not easy or may even seem scary. Time-Out was the opportunity for a smooth transition. The good atmosphere and living the experience with other former players - sharing the struggles & bringing nothing but team spirit to the program - made learning easier and sparked my interest for many new topics. Eventually, I am tempted to say that the experience gave me not only the necessary academic requirements, but more importantly, the confidence needed to enroll for diplomatic school. Or said differently: it allowed for a more natural path into diplomacy, which would have seemed overwhelming if I'd come straight from the gyms."



Ville Kaunisto, Finland

Eduskunta - Member of Finnish Parliament

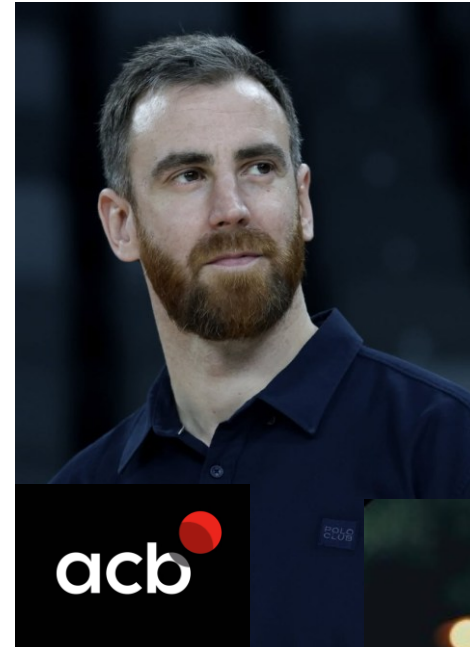
"Time-Out gave me a credible jump start to my next career as a politician. It also opened the door for me in academia that led me to the University of Oxford. The work and progress is up to you."



Victor Claver, Spain DAZN Commentator & ACB Development Projects

I couldn't imagine a better way to transition from life on the court to building something beyond it, or to approach my first year after retiring from professional basketball.

The Time Out programme gave me the tools to discover a new role and a new future. At times, the process was challenging, but it helped me establish a new routine, step out of my comfort zone, and, above all, gain a deeper understanding of myself and the direction I want my future to take. As a player, you rarely think long-term, but there is nothing more valuable than being prepared. I'm confident that the skills gained through this programme will help me set new goals and open doors to the next chapter of my professional life.



Sam van Rossom, Belgium General Manager of Filou Oostende and Coretec Dome

The FIBA Time Out 3.0 program came at exactly the right moment in my journey. Having just retired from professional basketball, I found myself exploring different paths to define my direction in this new chapter of life. Several former players (also former Time Out graduates Axel Hervelle and Ann Wauters) strongly recommended pursuing further education to prepare for a potential role in management, which led me to this programme.

The program proved to be an excellent opportunity to connect with other players navigating the transition to life after basketball. By combining high-level academic courses at Northumbria University with basketball-focused FIBA webinars, it offered solid preparation for a career both within and beyond the sport. While the experience was challenging and pushed us outside our comfort zones, it was ultimately highly rewarding, especially to share it with fellow athletes going through the same transition.





Testimonials

Farhiya Abdi, Sweden National Team Player

“Time-Out helped me see the basketball world from a much wider perspective than just being a player. It gave me clarity on how my experience on the court can translate into real roles and responsibilities off the court and made the idea of transition feel more concrete and less overwhelming. It showed me that there are many ways to stay impactful in the sport beyond playing.

But being a part of Time-Out while I’m still an active player was truly the real gift. It allowed me to look at life after basketball without fear and instead with curiosity and excitement. Knowing that my experience will still matter makes the future feel empowering. It didn’t just prepare me for what’s next, it made me genuinely look forward to it.”



Milica Jovanovic, Montenegro Podcaster & Mental Health Advocate

“As my playing career was ending, I knew I had more to give, but I couldn’t see the path forward. Time-Out opened my eyes. It helped me see strengths I’d overlooked, showed me where I could grow, and revealed opportunities I never knew existed.

What meant the most was realizing I wasn’t alone. The people I met became a real support system—kind, experienced, and genuinely willing to help.

Today, I’m shaping a new role in basketball that truly matters to me. Time-Out didn’t just prepare me for life after playing—it helped me turn my experience into something meaningful for the next generation.”

