



FIBA graduates

Aug 21, 2025 10:58 BST

Elite basketball players celebrate graduating with Northumbria

Northumbria University, Newcastle, is proud to celebrate the achievements of the third cohort of [TIME-OUT](#) graduates, a unique international programme that prepares elite basketball players for life and careers beyond the sport.

Developed by Northumbria, Newcastle Business School in partnership with FIBA Europe - the European office of the Basketball World Governing body - TIME-OUT equips professional athletes with the tools, knowledge and qualifications needed to transition from the court to the workplace. The latest

graduation ceremony, held at the Patrick Baumann House of Basketball in Switzerland, recognised 42 former elite players who have successfully completed the programme.

The year-long hybrid course combines academic learning with industry insight, including a postgraduate certificate in Business Management and a Manager in Business of Sport qualification from FIBA. Students benefit from online sessions and in-person workshops in Newcastle, Geneva, and Athens, ensuring both academic rigour and real-world application.

The programme has rapidly become a benchmark in athlete career transition, offering graduates opportunities to move into business, leadership and management roles within sport and beyond. Among this year's standout achievers were Paris 2024 silver medallist Vega Gimeno Martinez, Belgian international Sam Van Rossom, and Greek star Pinelopi Pavlopoulou, all of whom received the Faculty Pro Vice-Chancellor Award from Northumbria for outstanding academic performance.

Celebrating their achievements, participants praised the balance of academic challenge and professional development. Van Rossom described the programme as “a strong preparation for potential careers within or beyond sport,” while Gimeno highlighted the value of building skills in management, communication and business, alongside the support of peers undergoing the same transition.

Senior leaders from FIBA, including Secretary General Andreas Zagklis and President Jorge Garbajosa, attended the ceremony to congratulate the graduates, emphasising the programme's role in transforming how athletes prepare for life after professional sport.

Vincent Robson, Business Development Manager at Northumbria, said: “This milestone reflects the University's mission to provide real-world and life-changing opportunities, helping individuals from all backgrounds – including world-class athletes – to develop skills that drive careers and strengthen communities worldwide.”

With the next cohort of TIME-OUT scheduled to launch in 2026, Northumbria continues to play a central role in shaping this international initiative, reinforcing its reputation as a global leader in education, innovation and collaboration with the sports industry.

FIBA has been working in partnership with Northumbria's [Newcastle Business School](#) to deliver the programme since it was launched in 2017.

UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR 2022 (Times Higher Education Awards)

Northumbria is a research-intensive university that unlocks potential for all, changing lives regionally, nationally and internationally.

Two thirds of Northumbria's undergraduate students come from the North East region and go into employment in the region when they graduate, demonstrating Northumbria's significant contribution to social mobility and levelling up in the North East of England.

Find out more about us at www.northumbria.ac.uk

--- Please contact media.communications@northumbria.ac.uk with any media enquiries or interview requests ---

Contacts



Rik Kendall

Press Contact

PR and Media Manager

Business and Law / Arts, Design & Social Sciences

rik.kendall@northumbria.ac.uk

07923 382339



Andrea Slowey

Press Contact

PR and Media Manager

Engineering and Environment / Health and Life Sciences

andrea.slowey@northumbria.ac.uk

07708 509436



Rachael Barwick

Press Contact

PR and Media Manager

rachael.barwick@northumbria.ac.uk

07377422415



James Fox

Press Contact

Student Communications Manager

james2.fox@northumbria.ac.uk



Kelly Elliott

Press Contact

PR and Media Officer

kelly2.elliott@northumbria.ac.uk



Gemma Brown

Press Contact

PR and Media Officer

gemma6.brown@northumbria.ac.uk