



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH
Academy of Sport

ROAD MAP

2026

International Think Tank for Sport

REACH-OUT · ENGAGE · SUSTAIN · INFLUENCE · ADVOCATE · EVIDENCE · PROVIDE · CHANGE

JAN

FEB

MAR

APR

MAY

JUN

JUL

AUG

SEP

OCT

NOV

DEC

As we move into 2026, we will build upon and continue to support and develop the tools, networks and partnerships that have helped us sustain an International Think Tank focused upon sport from our base in Scotland.

Faced with the world's most complex issues neither Sport, the Academy of Sport, The University of Edinburgh nor our partners have all the answers and necessary expertise. We remain mindful of the need to be collaborative and co-operative.

Our diverse range of activities, events, policy briefings, monthly evidence-driven Sport Matters and more brings together policy makers, industry experts, communities and thought leaders to engage in meaningful dialogue, solutions and outcomes.

We remain committed to enabling sport to play its part in addressing the challenges that face humanity in the 21st Century — working with and in communities to actively address such challenges.

We cannot do this alone.

JANUARY

■ Sport Matters 2025

■ Sports Observations: Data Analysis Report for Motherwell Football Club

■ Football More than a Game (Online)

■ Postgraduate Research Students

■ Support Sports Science, Data Analytics, Sports Media Opportunities

■ Working with Blend Analytics to support two Scottish Women's Premier League reports

■ Educated Pass (Dr Spiers)

■ Sports Diplomacy, Origins, Theory and Practice (Dr S Murray/China Translation)

■ Teaching MHSES (All)

■ Campaign to stop betting on the Olympics – letter to IOC (Professor Kidd)

FEBRUARY

★ **Submit ESRC 2 Year Grant Submission – Investigation of the 2028 European Championships in Men's Football as a Platform for Enhancing UK Soft Power**

★ **Commonwealth Launch of Global Sport and Sustainable Development Goals baseline and Initial Impact Report**

■ Contributing to Scottish Festival of Politics in partnership with Scottish Parliament – sport as a soft power asset

■ Sports Dialogue: The Homeless World Cup (Mel Young)

■ Sports Dialogue: Sport, the Economy, Health and Wellbeing (Professor Bell)

■ Sport Matters Evidence Blog – Sport and Social Issues (1) Minquan Xiong

■ Football More than a Game (Online)

■ Support Sports Science, Data Analytics, Sports Media Opportunities (Dr Pearson/Northern)

■ Academy of Sport Board (1)

■ Policy Brief/Sports Observations (1) What does Italy get out of the 2026 Winter Olympics?

■ WADA Social Science Research Group Meeting (Dr Banda)

■ Working with Blend Analytics to support two Scottish Women's Premier League reports

■ BU's Sports Colloquium Keynote – 15 Years of Sports Diplomacy (Dr Murray. S)

■ United Nations Institute for Teaching and Research (Dr Ross/Riyadh)

■ International Golf Scientific Forum (Dr Murray. A)

■ Teaching MHSES (All)

■ Supporting East Renfrewshire Sport, Culture and Leisure Trust strategic away day

■ Postgraduate Research Students

■ Campaign to stop betting on the Olympics (Professor Kidd)

■ Integration of Climate Action and Sustainability in Sport and Exercise Science Higher Education Degrees (Professor Reid/Dr Ross)

■ British Foreign Policy and Soft Power Group – Saudi Arabia Workshop

MARCH

★ Sport Matters 2015–2026 – Celebrating a decade of Sport Matters Evidence and Knowledge Exchange

■ Sports Policy Briefing Manifesto for Scottish Sport (Widdop/Jarvie)

■ Postgraduate Research Students

■ Sports Dialogue: Sport and Social Capital (Dr Widdop)

■ Sports Dialogue: Sports Events, Legacies and Rights (David Grevemberg CBE)

■ Football More than a Game (Online)

■ Provisional Commonwealth Sports Debate (Walker/Jarvie/Bradley)

■ Support Sports Science, Data Analytics, Sports Media Opportunities (Dr Pearson)

■ World Association of Sport Management Conference (Dr Banda)

■ Working with Blend Analytics to support two Scottish Women's Premier League reports

■ Vuvale Week (Fiji) (Dr Murray. S – Department Foreign Affairs & Trade, Australia)

■ Teaching MHSES (All)

■ British Foreign Policy and Soft Power Workshop – Saudi Arabia briefing

APRIL

■ Sport Matters Evidence Blog – Sport and Planetary Health (1) Chang Su

■ British Foreign Policy and Soft Power Workshop

■ Football More than a Game (Online)

■ Support Sports Science, Data Analytics, Sports Media Opportunities (Dr Pearson/Northern)

■ Postgraduate Research Students

■ Policy Brief/Sports Observations (2)

■ Working with Blend Analytics to support two Scottish Women's Premier League reports

■ Teaching MHSES (All)

■ Supporting Oscar Foundation

MAY

★ Sport, Culture and Society – Book Launch

■ Football More than a Game (Online)

■ Support Sports Science, Data Analytics, Sports Media Opportunities (Dr Pearson/Northern)

■ Postgraduate Research Students

■ Academy of Sport Board (2)

■ Sport Matters Evidence Blog – Sport and Social Issues (2) Minquan Xiong

■ Educated Pass

■ Visiting Research Scholar (Murray/Australia)

■ Working with Blend Analytics to support two Scottish Women's Premier League reports

■ British Foreign Policy and Soft Power Workshop

JUNE

★ FIFA World Cup 11 June – 19 July

- Sentiment Analysis of Scottish Women's Football (Scottish Affairs)
- British Foreign Policy and Soft Power Workshop
- Football More than a Game (Online)
- Postgraduate Research Students
- Support Sports Science, Data Analytics, Sports Media Opportunities (Dr Pearson/Northern)
- Educated Pass
- Visiting Research Scholar (Murray/Australia)
- Working with Blend Analytics to support two Scottish Women's Premier League reports
- Support Oscar Foundation

JULY

★ Co-Hosting Sport for Good Conference with SFA Edinburgh Conference Centre (20–21st)

★ Commonwealth Games Glasgow (23 July–11 August)

★ FIFA World Cup 11 June – 19 July

- Sport Matters Evidence Blog – Sport and Planetary Health (2) Chang Su
- Football More than a Game (Online)
- Representation at GEO Sustainable Leaders RoundTable Discussion – Genesis Scottish Open
- Postgraduate Research Students
- Visiting Research Scholar (Murray/Australia)
- Open Championship Health and Performance Summit (Dr Murray. A)

AUGUST

- Sport Matters Evidence Blog – Sport and Social Issues (3) Minquan Xiong
- British Foreign Policy and Soft Power Workshop
- Football More than a Game (Online)
- Postgraduate Research Students
- Support Sports Science, Data Analytics, Sports Media Opportunities (Dr Pearson/Northern)
- The AIG Women's Open Health and Performance Summit (Dr Murray. A)
- Teaching MHSES (All)

SEPTEMBER

- Hosting Visiting Researcher
- Football More than a Game (Online)
- Football More than a Game (Hibernian Football Club, September–October)
- Support Sports Science, Data Analytics, Sports Media Opportunities (Dr Pearson)
- Policy Brief/Sports Observations (3)
- Postgraduate Research Students
- Diplomats, Diplomacies and Sports 19–21st Century – University of Lausanne
- Educated Pass
- Visiting Research Scholar (Fuhan/China)
- Teaching MHSES (All)

OCTOBER

★ **Edinburgh University School of Medicine 300 Year Celebrations – Conference Contributions (Professor Reid et al)**

- Sport Matters Evidence Blog – Sport and Planetary Health (3) Chang Su
- New Doctoral Students Arrive

■ Football More than a Game (Online)

■ Football More than a Game (Hibernian Football Club, September–October)

■ Support Sports Science, Data Analytics, Sports Media Opportunities (Dr Pearson/Northern)

■ Postgraduate Research Students

■ IOC Report – Sports Development, Policy and Governance in China and Indonesia (Professor Fan Hong)

■ Educated Pass

■ Visiting Research Scholar (Fuhan/China)

■ Teaching MHSES (All)

NOVEMBER

■ Football More than a Game (Online)

■ Support Sports Science, Data Analytics, Sports Media Opportunities (Drs Pearson/Northern)

■ Postgraduate Research Students

■ Academy of Sport Board (3)

■ Asian-Pacific Annual Sports Studies Conference: Sport and International Relations

■ Educated Pass

■ Visiting Research Scholar (Fuhan/China)

■ Teaching MHSES (All)

■ Data, Sport and Society Partnership (Dr Campagnola)

DECEMBER

■ Football More than a Game (Online)

■ Support Sports Science, Data Analytics, Sports Media Opportunities (Dr Pearson/Northern)

■ Visiting Research Scholar (Fuhan/China)

■ Teaching MHSES (All)

■ Data, Sport and Society Partnership (Dr Campagnola)

■ British Foreign Policy and Soft Power Xmas Forum

■ Academy of Sport Annual Report 2026

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Why Not Visit Us
