

CAREER TRANSITION

CASE STUDY: FOOTBALLER to MEDICAL STUDENT

Name: Richard Smith **Age:** 29

From: Durham

Playing Career Summary:

Richard is a former Sunderland youth player and was on YTS aged 16-18 but was not offered a professional contract at 18. Rather than go on trials, he decided to focus on his education.

New Career: Medicine

Support from Player Association:

Richard received guidance from the PFA Education department and an education grant in order to study for a BTEC National Diploma in Sports and Exercise Science. They also supported him when he went back to college to do his A Levels in order to get into Harvard University and study medicine. He is currently working at a hospital in Boston, Massachusetts, as part of his practical training.

Career Transition Highlights:

- Passing his BTEC National Diploma in Sports and Exercise Science with distinctions
- Being able to combine studies at Harvard with playing football at a high level as part of the college team.
- Having the opportunity to live and work in America.

Career Transition Challenges:

- Deciding whether to carry on with education or attempt to become a professional player.



“ If you look at the statistics around how many people make it past the academies, it is very small percentage. I didn't want to carry on until my mid-30s, having played a few years professionally but with no other formal education. It's then really hard to pick up the pieces.

Having the PFA there for players who are looking to transition away from the game is incredibly important and they have been incredibly generous and supportive of me in my new career. ”

