

# CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

IOC Olympic Solidarity  
Scholarship available!

Nippon Sport Science University (NSSU) and  
the International Council for Coaching Excellence (ICCE) are pleased to invite applications for the  
**2026-2027 NSSU-ICCE Coach Developer Program**

5 -11 July 2026 and 14-20 February 2027 in Tokyo, Japan

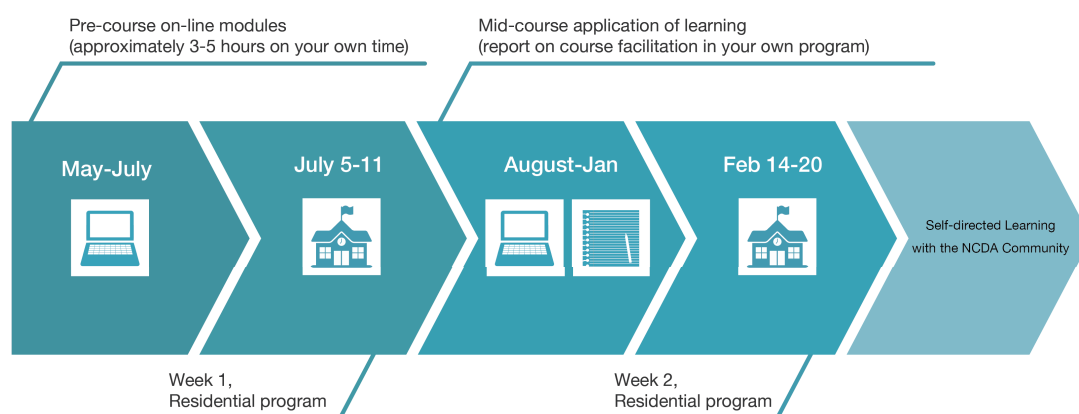
“COACH DEVELOPERS develop, support and challenge coaches to improve their knowledge and skills  
to provide positive and effective sport experiences for all participants.”  
(International Coach Developer Framework, ICCE, 2014)

We invite 12 practitioners working across the sporting contexts (national and international sporting federations, coaching organizations, and universities) to join our 2026–2027 program and:

- Become part of a global network of coach developers striving to enhance the quality of coaching at all levels
- Develop your skills in facilitation, supporting coaches in the field, program design and mentoring
- Improve your coach education programs, your coaches, and your coaching system

Run by the NSSU Coach Developer Academy (NCDCA), the Coach Developer Program offers a blended learning experience that is divided into two broad parts; the on-campus residential component and the remote component. The on-campus residential component consists of two one-week residencies at NSSU in Tokyo (both are compulsory) and include a mixture of workshops, seminars, discussion groups and practical work. The remote component consists of packages of E-modules and online support aimed at helping coach developers utilise and implement skills gained on and through the program when working with real coaches back in their organizations.

## Program timeline



## Voices from the past cohort

**Bettina Callary:** cohort 5, Professor, Cape Breton University, Canada

“The NCDCA has had an impact on different people and organizations in different ways. However, the impact, whatever it is, is profound. For me, interested in research in coach development, and taking a role as a coach developer through both my academic teaching in higher education and in the community, the NCDCA opened an international door. I am much more aware of the cultural impacts on coach development, especially in cultures that are very different than my own. It has led me to critically think about learning as a function of culture and social interaction, power dynamics, systemic biases and ways of knowing, that affect coaches, and in turn, athletes, and sport.”



**Puspapal Sharma:** cohort 7, Technical Director/ HC, Paro Football Club, Bhutan

“My experience with NCDCA has been both professionally enriching and personally meaningful. The program deepened my understanding of what it truly means to support coaches, not only technical expertise, but through facilitation, reflection, and a learner-centred approach, strengthening my identity as a coach developer. Being part of a global network was especially valuable. Learning from peers broadened my perspective and expanded my skills in field support, program design, and mentoring. These insights are already shaping how I deliver coach education at Paro FC, improving coaching quality and our development pathway. The NCDCA has elevated my practice and positively influenced the direction of our club's coaching system. I am so much indebted for the wonderful opportunity.”



## Costs and fees

### 1. Program Fee: 6,750 USD

#### The program fee includes:

- The educational programs during two residential weeks and pre-, between- and post-online activities
- Professional and cultural activities during the two residential weeks.
- Educational materials including course handbooks and e-modules
- Assessment and certification
- Accommodation and meals at the NSSU Setagaya Guesthouse in twin rooms shared with other participants

### 2. Other costs: all applicants are responsible for travel expense to NSSU for the two residential weeks, visa expense to enter Japan, international travel insurance covering Japan, and other personal expenses not covered in the program fee.

#### IOC-Olympic Solidarity scholarship

Applicants can contact their National Olympic Committee (NOC) to apply for a scholarship covering the program fees and the travel expenses (airfare and visa costs). This process can be carried out simultaneously with the NCDA program application. The two procedures are independent but mandatory. The scholarship allocation by Olympic Solidarity is not automatic and will depend on several factors (e.g. acceptance into the program, budget availability, etc.).

## Application process

1. Applications can be made electronically through our secure application system below.
2. The call for applications will close at 5pm GMT on 28th February 2026.
3. Applications will be submitted to the NCDA selection committee for shortlisting. Interviews over zoom may be conducted if clarifications are required.
4. Notification to candidates (both successful and unsuccessful) will be made via email by early April 2026.

\*For a complete application, applicants are required to submit 6 documents: Cover letter, Resume/CV, written recommendation from their federation/coaching organization/university, copy of their highest university qualification and the photo page of their passport, 5-minute self-introduction video in English.

## Applicant requirements

- You have experience in the education of coaches and are highly motivated to be a leader in this field now and in the future
- You have a written recommendation from NOC and/or your federation, coaching organization or university
- Preferably you have completed a Bachelor degree (in any field) or equivalent
- You have sufficient command of English to participate in classes and lead small group discussions and activities
- You can commit to attend both one week courses and the home-study elements of the programme (including conducting and reporting on your coach development practice between week one and week two).
- You are in agreement with the mission of the academy: To build a community of coach developers across the world who will enhance the quality of coach education and development leading to improved athlete participation, retention, well-being and performance.

CLICK HERE FOR APPLY TODAY!

<https://form.jotform.com/253378217029460>

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