

Development Associate

Programme: Further and Higher Education

By Simon Vardy

In 2020, I was approached by Parkour UK to create an information resource that members of the parkour community who were in further or higher education could use when looking to start a new club/society at their institution.

About Me

Simon Vardy – I have been involved in sport development within the higher education sector for the past 14 years, particularly within performance sport but also general club sport. Having this experience within university sport gave me a lot of insight into the project which has enabled me to draw together what I hope is an intuitive document that helps give people within the parkour community confidence in the policies, procedures, and actions that they might need to take in order to set up their own club or society whilst studying.

About the Project

Throughout November, December, and January we consulted with the university parkour community, reaching out via social media and already established links within Parkour UK to create a centralised hub where we could speak to these representatives and allow them to interact between themselves. This gave us the opportunity to understand the community in greater detail, including the barriers and difficulties they faced in both starting up and operating within the higher education environment. Following these conversations, we undertook research to identify some of the key routes within a University to set up a new club/society – the procedures and policies and the FAQs and documents that would be helpful to others in the future. As such, we have produced documents covering the following topics:

- Setting up a new club/society – This is a simple guide as to the process that is most commonly used amongst Universities. Within this we have covered some of the general questions that are often asked when applying, along with tips and answers to all of these, as well as contributions and ideas from parkour peers who have gone through the process themselves.
- Risk Assessment, Risk-Benefit Assessment, and Safeguarding – This section covers some basic tips and ideas, as well as some example forms, to help club/society committees to produce these documents or fill in those provided by their institution easily and effectively.
- Expanding your Parkour Community – In this section we have created a short guide on ways in which a club/society who have just started out, or even an established one, could look to expand their community, both within their university and the local community.

In compiling these documents, I received invaluable contributions from many different members of the parkour community who are currently involved in university programmes and I would like to thank everyone for their contributions.



I hope that this document can be of use to the parkour community and that it can aid members of Parkour UK to develop provision across the further and higher education sectors.