

University of Birmingham

Website	N/A		
Facebook and Twitter	Www.facebook.com/UoBfencing		
Contact email address(es)	Club Captain: Alexander Miller Coach: Mike Whitehouse		
Size of fencing club	50+ members		
Cost to Join (Athletic Union and fencing club fees where appropriate)	£110 for 2 terms (inc. £10 admin fee) £65 for 1 term (inc. £10 admin fee)		
Venue details (where/size/quality/storage for personal kit)	Where: "Old Gym", University of Birmingham. (Quite central to the campus) Size: Approx. 12m x 25m. Enough for approx 50 fencers but it can get crowded. Quality: Facility is quite old, however, there is a new Sports Complex under construction where the club will move to in 2015. Storage: Currently very good, plenty of space if people want to store personal kit, however, we do not encourage it as other groups use the gym and personal kit is not insured against theft. Once the club moves to the new sports centre storage will decrease and we will not be able to offer space for personal kit		
Coach(es)	Head Coach/Coaching Coordinator: Mike Whitehouse Assistant Coach: Daniel Elliker Other Coaches: Joan Whitehouse volunteers for us every week, and we also have 5 level 2 qualified club members who can take over coaching duties.		
Additional coaching costs	None. Coaching is offered for free to all club members, however we tend to use our coaches mainly for the beginner/intermediate groups because of numbers.		
Details of beginners courses (cost/coaches)	We take in a large number of beginners at the start of the term, which reduces to a core of about 25 by the 5 th or 6 th week. We run an ongoing beginners course but we try to accommodate all who turn up after the course starts. We have a 2 nd intake of beginners after the 2 nd Sports Fair in January, but this is a much smaller group		
Club night information (number of pistes/footwork/free fencing etc.)	Warm up led by one of the student coaches followed by footwork. At the beginning of term the club is split into two groups, with the new starters at one end of the hall doing basic footwork and everyone else participating in a more advanced session. The club divides approx. into 3rds for the rest of the night, with 4/5 pistes for free fencing for our experienced members, a middle section for coaching non electric & electric fencing for our intermediate group, and group coaching for the new fencers.		
Composition of club (experienced fencers/any weapon speciality etc)	10+ Experienced (all weapons) 15+ Intermediate (initially, mostly foil but we introduced epee and sabre sucessfully last term) 20+ Beginners (only foil)		
Does the club run out of term time?	No however we inform our members of alternative training nights in Birmingham.		
Club equipment to use for training and competitions?	We have a large amount of equipment that is free to borrow for all club members. However the club relies on the head coach to bring in clothing and electric weapons as and when required. Members who take part in competitions outside the club are allowed to borrow equipment, but this needs to be agreed.		
Teams entered into BUCS, which leagues and finishing positions for last year	Team	League	Final Position 12-13
	Men's	Midland 1A	2nd
	Women's	Premier North	4th
Do you send fencers to the BUCS individuals, does the AU pay for transport and entry fees?	Yes, we send as many as we can. The AU covers the entry fee for 3 fencers per weapon per sex, however the club covers the transportation cost and any entry fees for additional fencers		
Do club members attend open competitions?	Yes, however it is not compulsory for our team members to also be on the circuit, We do try, however, to encourage those who go to competitions to group together and share lifts etc.		

Do you have other regular matches? Friendlies, local leagues etc.	We organise an annual club beginner tournament and participate in a national novices foil event organised by Warwick University.		
What about social events? After training, dinners, parties etc.	There is usually a pub trip after training, however this is usually in Selly Oak which can be a long walk home for our 1 st year members. We get a good turn out for Sport's Night which is every couple of weeks and we do a termly "formal" meal for all members.		
Can elite fencers get sports grants, scholarships or other help from the University? Please give details of where from and how much.	Yes, as one of the top UK campuses for sport, Birmingham always receives high quality applications from a large number of athletes across all sports, therefore, the competition for these scholarships is intense.		
Hall of Fame – list some fencers who are currently at your university or who are recent alumni.	<p>Alumni: Tom Potterton, Lindsay Bottoms, Tom Olphin, Jack Boetler, Helena Eastham, Eryn Spinlove, Phil West, Hannah Chenneor-Stockley.</p> <p>Current students: Greg Carty, Maxwell Rowe-Haynes, Rosie Davies, Pascal Delany.</p>		
What is the best thing about your university fencing club?	We have a large number of volunteer student coaches, which helps break the barrier between the "experienced" and "beginner" groups.		
What is the worst thing about your university fencing club?	University Club is limited to 2 terms, however, the ongoing relationship with BFC enables anyone who wishes to fence continuously, can do so on site.		
Anything else we should know?	<p>The University club is in partnership working with BFC.</p> <p>The University Club has had a sponsored coach education programme for a couple of years.</p> <p>Fencing is a Focus Sport at the University of Birmingham.</p>		
Any advice for prospective applicants	<p>Wear track suit bottoms Not shorts, bring trainers and a drink, wear comfortable clothing.</p> <p>Talk to the experienced club members, (they are human and friendly!!)</p>		
If there are local clubs that university fencers sometimes attend then please list the following information for each:	Birmingham Fencing Club		
Cost to join	Membership: £161.00 per annum	Or: Weekly student rate: £6.00	
Venue details (where/size/quality/storage for personal kit)	Tuesday: Hallfield School, Edgbaston, Birmingham. Large sports Hall.	Thursday: "Old Gym" University of Birmingham Same as the above	
Coach(es)	Mike Whitehouse Joan Whitehouse David Wray Roger Simmonds	Mike Whitehouse Joan Whitehouse Plus amateur Coaches	
Additional coaching costs	There are no extra charges during the fencing sessions	Regular fencers have individual lessons as required. No extra charge.	Private individual lessons can be arranged as required.
Details of beginners courses (cost/coaches)	5 courses per year.	£63.00 per 6 week course	
Club night information (number of pistes/footwork/free fencing etc)	Tuesday Warmup/footwork Group lesson Free fencing and individual lessons	Thursday Footwork Free fencing and individual lessons	

Composition of club (experienced fencers/any weapon speciality etc)	Tuesday All standard of fencers welcome. All weapons. All kit including weapons supplied	Thursday Intermediate and advanced fencers Most fencers bring their own kit.	
Club equipment to use for training and competitions?	The Club can supply/loan kit for external competitions by agreement		
Does the club have any teams and if so what leagues/events do they compete in?	The Club enters teams in Regional and National events.		
Do club members attend opens competitions?	Yes		
Any other information?	As a Community Club, Birmingham Fencing Club is in partnership with The University Club	There is a University representative on the Club Committee.	