



CANADIAN RUGBY  
FOUNDATION

## 2025 University Coaching Awards APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

The Canadian Rugby Foundation University Coaching Awards are an initiative of the Foundation's University Rugby Supporters Fund to further develop university-level coaches' program leadership, coaching expertise and technical ability. The focus of this initiative is on university coaches as we believe the men's and women's university rugby pathway is critical to the success of our senior teams and programs. A major goal of this award is for the coaches to use their learnings to enhance the technical skills of their university student-athletes and to share that information with rugby coaches in their local and provincial rugby communities.

This award and arrangements with the Crusaders are administered by members of the Foundation's University Rugby initiative committee consisting of Mike Holmes, Doug Tate, Colette McAuley, Dave Lougheed, and Jeff Chan.

### What the Award Entails:



Selected coaches attend a 14-day program at the home of Crusaders Rugby in Christchurch, NZ (<https://crusaders.co.nz/>) Eight university coaches selected by the Foundation, will join 17 international coaches in a program organized by the Crusaders International Academy. The Crusaders are widely regarded as the top Super Rugby Pacific club (7 consecutive championships through June 2023), furnishing multiple players to the All Blacks, and most recently the All-Blacks head coach Scott 'Razor' Robertson. The International Academy offers ongoing courses focused on players and this Coaches program. FYI, Trinity Western sent 5 Spartans to the players course this summer.

### Canadian Rugby Foundation Coaching Award Eligibility

- A head or assistant coach of a CUMRC-eligible Men's or U SPORTS Women's university rugby team
- A Canadian citizen, landed immigrant or permanent resident.
- A demonstrated commitment to developing their capabilities as a university rugby coach, and to the development and growth of rugby at their university/province.

**Requirements:**

- Applications for this award are to be emailed by the candidate and include two rugby reference letters from referees who can attest to their rugby coaching qualifications and capabilities, plus their rugby CV including World Rugby and NCCP Coaching Level training and certifications (the information only, not the images of certificates)
- The award is conditional upon the recipient continuing coaching at a Canadian university.
- Nominations must be emailed to Jeff Chan ([jeffachan@gmail.com](mailto:jeffachan@gmail.com)) by **5:00pm, EST on December 1, 2024.**
- The award recipient must agree to have his/her name & photograph publicized.
- The applicant must agree to work in collaboration with the other Canadian coaches in the program to share their learnings more broadly in the rugby coaching community.
- Unsuccessful applicants for this 2025 course may apply in future years. Successful applicants from any year may not apply again.

**Selection Criteria:**

- A strong track record of success as a coach, and who sets high professional standards.
- Recognized as a developer of young people – both on and off the field – and as a mentor to other coaches and players.,
- Significant contributions to the rugby community – at the university, schools, and/or local, provincial or national teams.
- Commitment to developing as a high-performance coach and can articulate their rugby coaching aspirations.
- Strength of the application email demonstrating the above criteria, and of the references which should include how the referee knows the coach and the basis on which the application of this coach for this opportunity is made (not just a general reference such as a family friend).
- One of the following: World Rugby Level 3 certification, completion of the Level 3 training, Level 2 certification, or completion of Level 2 training and awaiting the Level 2 evaluation. Those who have committed to and scheduled to complete Level 2 training before May 2025 are also eligible.

**8 candidates will be selected from the following regions:**

- BC & Prairie provinces (2)
- Ontario (2)
- Quebec (2)

- Atlantic provinces (2)

**Note:** The Selection Committee reserves the right to select more or less candidates from each region depending on the applications and strength of the candidates.

### **Selection Committee:**

The selection committee for the 8 coaches consists of Mike Holmes and Dave Loughheed representing the two main financial backers Canadian Rugby Foundation and For the Love of the Game, plus Doug Tate and Colette McAuley.

**Award Value – Approximately \$6,900C** covers the Crusaders course fee plus hotel accommodations (double occupancy) for up to 14 days including breakfast, plus a \$400C meal allowance and a \$1,500C travel subsidy. Candidates are responsible for booking their own travel arrangements and for costs from their Canadian location to Christchurch. The total value is treated as taxable income, so a T4A tax form will be issued. Depending on individual circumstances, some of the expenses may be reimbursable by your university as a development expense, or possibly claimed as an education expense.

### **Crusaders Coaching Course:**

“We are extremely excited to have this available for you once again! Your Canadian coaches [in 2023 & 2024] were just awesome. They were fully engaged in every aspect of the course, from presentations during the day to activities in the evening & in the weekend. You have a group of outstanding coaches who only want the game in Canada to get better! The post-course feedback was universally positive and the coaches all highly recommend our in-house program in Christchurch” -- *Grant Keenan, Crusaders International Academy* Video on Crusaders International Academy:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=55FiZWPIrhw&ab\\_channel=CrusadersRugby](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=55FiZWPIrhw&ab_channel=CrusadersRugby)

### **Course information for the successful candidates:**

- Course starts Monday, May 12 and finishes on Friday, May 23, 2025. Coaches should arrive on Saturday 10th or 11th May and leave on Sunday 25th May (unless you are staying on to travel around NZ).
- The Foundation will pay the Crusaders for the course fees of \$4,500 NZD, and double occupancy accommodations of \$100 NZD per night for 14 nights including breakfast or \$1400 NZD (roughly \$5,015C per coach based on the exchange rate as of September 26, 2024, \$1.00 NZD = \$0.85 CDN)
- The Foundation will pay the selected coaches a meal allowance for other meals of \$400C and a travel subsidy of \$1,500C funded by “For the Love of the Game”. Prior arrangements can be made to stay in the hotel for an extended period if desired at the same daily rate, subject to availability. Single occupancy rooms are \$180 NZD/night with the difference borne by the coach and are subject to availability.
- The coaching course schedule and curriculum will be finalised in the coming months; however, what you will be guaranteed to see is how the Crusaders operate, with:

- ✓ Presentations from the Crusader Coaching, Management & Support staff on each of their respective responsibilities.
- ✓ Listening to Crusader players on what their expectations are of being a Crusader player.
- ✓ Talent Identification – How, Who and Why!
- ✓ Crusaders Academy - Listen to our full Academy staff on how we prepare the most successful Rugby Academy in NZ.
- ✓ Mental Skills – The process our players undertake to ensure they are at their best each week.
- ✓ Player Development – How do our players excel off the field to set themselves up for their future.
- ✓ Game Planning – How can you successfully implement this into your weekly planning.
- ✓ Session with Crusaders GM of Professional Rugby
- ✓ Attending one live Crusaders game - TBD
- ✓ Enjoy viewing school 1st XV Rugby, local club rugby & learning the Haka!
- ✓ Finally, there will be plenty of technical & tactical learnings to be had and gold nuggets to take away!

**Important note:** You will be required to complete amongst other things, a Crusaders form that the successful applicants will need to complete and a visa status check. These will be provided following the coach selections. Additionally, there will be several Zoom sessions scheduled for the whole contingent of 25 coaches so networking can begin before setting foot in New Zealand.

If you would like to connect with our coaches from 2024, they are (as selected by the CRF):

- Simon Chi, Head Coach, University of Calgary Women's Rugby
- James Flemming, Head Coach, University of Ottawa Men's Rugby
- Chris Jones, Head Coach, McMaster University, Women's Rugby
- Jessie-Ann Gibson, Assistant Coach, University of Guelph Women's Rugby
- Jessica Joubarne, Assistant Coach, Carleton University Women's Rugby
- Zak Scovoranski, Assistant Coach (now Head Coach), Mount Royal University Men's Rugby
- Lancelot Satge, Head Coach, University of Montreal Men's Rugby
- Jay Shaw, Head Coach, University of Waterloo Women's Rugby
- Brent Wood, Assistant Coach, University of Calgary Men's Rugby

and selected by the BC Rugby Union:

- Darcy Patterson, Assistant Coach, University of British Columbia Women's Rugby
- Jon Mergui, Assistant Coach, University of British Columbia Men's Rugby