

# FOOTBALL STUDENT'S ENGLAND OPPORTUNITY

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Football-mad student John McGuigan has landed a plum job as a backroom boy with the England Under 19s women's squad.

The 20-year-old is in his final year of a sports coaching degree at the University of Central Lancashire and has recently enjoyed trips to Italy and Harrogate with the team to provide video and computerised in-depth match analysis.



John McGuigan

He has done a similar job with Preston North End and Blackpool as part of his course, but got the England job after applying directly to the FA.

John was offered a chance to show off his skills in the summer and proved such an asset he was invited back.

The job, which involves him helping pinpoint players' good and bad moves, uses a system called SportsCode to film the players.

Footage is then put on computer and John creates clips of individual players to highlight good and bad aspects of play in team briefings.

John said: "It's been absolutely brilliant so far, really exciting and I've loved every minute of it. I've loved being able to put into practice what I've learnt on my course."

He added: "Before every game I speak to the coach, Mo Marley, and she always tells me the team tactics so I know what she wants to focus on in terms of team play. For example, it could be where people are at corners."

The Liverpool fan said: "All the girls seem to get a lot out of it and find it really improves their game.

"They are the ones who come to me first and they are always asking me to see the film."

His ambition is to be an elite level coach with club academies.

Adrian Ibbetson, academic director of sport at the university, said: "John has taken full advantage of the opportunities made available to him on the course and he is reaping the benefits."