

## Samuel Stephens, Applied Golf Management Studies, 2005



### Current role

PGA Professional, working as head professional at South Devon College running Golf Academy

### Career experiences

After completing the AGMS degree in 2005 I worked for 5 years at Churston Golf Club in South Devon as Assistant Professional delivering coaching to golfers of all ages and ability. I was community coach for Torbay delivering Tri Golf and Golf Xtreme to 30 schools across the area.

In September 2007 I became the academy coach/manager and ASSE coordinator for elite golfers at South Devon College. And alongside this I development my junior teaching/development website [School of Golf \(http://www.schoolofgolf.co.uk\)](http://www.schoolofgolf.co.uk) and a junior clothing and equipment website Bunkered Kids Golf.

**'Play hard and work hard. It really is your passport to go on and do whatever you want to do.'**

*Samuel Stephens*

In September 2010 I gained the position of Regional Development Officer for the Golf Foundation. Through our work we believe that golf is a wholesome activity that enriches the lives of those who participate in the sport. Through our work, we aim to give all young people a positive experience through the medium of golf regardless of their background or circumstances. The role has diversity, travel, great contacts and a great team to work with. It's been a fantastic organization to work for thus far and really shows the diverse opportunities out there for PGA Professionals and AGMS graduates.

### What is the best thing about what you are doing now?

Working with young people and helping them develop skills; improving their lives and making them the best people they can be.

### Best thing about being an AGMS student

The best thing about my time as an AGMS student was the sense of achievement when receiving the degree, becoming an adult and also meeting great people. Coming to the university completely changed me and my life. It shows you there is a world outside your home town and that there are amazing things to learn and see. It makes you stand on your own two feet. I was a very shy person before university however the experience gave me confidence in myself and it made me the person I am today. I loved the city life and the University of Birmingham was a very inspirational institute to learn and always gave great support.

There has been a huge flux of AGMS student pouring into the golf industry over the last 6 years and it's wonderful to travel round and see your old classmates in positions of power doing so well whether that's working with the Golf Foundation, EGU, PGA or other partners in the industry.

### Expectations and experiences of living in Birmingham

I loved city life and it was a very professional institute to learn at and always gave great support.

### How did you grow as a person by coming to University? Did it change your life in any way?

It completely changed my life and me. It shows you there is a world outside your town and that there are amazing things to learn and see. It makes you stand on your own two feet. I can wash my clothes, cook and iron now because of my time at Uni! But not just that, I was a very shy person pre university however the experience gave me confidence in myself and it made me the person I am today.

### Advice for current students

For anyone who is thinking about applying for this course, I advise giving it everything you have. Play hard and work hard. It really is your passport to go on and do whatever you want to do. It gave me immense pride passing my degree and changed me as a person. I owe a lot of gratitude to Martin Toms and the team, they are great to work with and still support me now 6 years on.