



Scottish Rowing  
**PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Grainger Puts Her Oar Behind New University Appointment**

Olympic rower Katherine Grainger has welcomed the creation of a new coaching post to help develop the sport in Scotland.

The three-time Olympic silver medallist says the new post - backed by the University of Edinburgh and Scottish Rowing - will help more young rowers compete at the highest level.

The post of Head of Performance Rowing / Performance Development Coach is to be advertised this week. It will be the first professional rowing coaching job to be based at a Scottish university.

Grainger, 34, who learned to row as a student at the University of Edinburgh, said:

“University rowing is a proven pathway for talented athletes into international teams. I always had a passion and enthusiasm for rowing but my own sporting career only took off at Edinburgh University when I was with someone who was a great coach in his own right and also had a clear vision of how things should be.”

The Olympian, who is Honorary President of Scottish Rowing, added: "I am thrilled to see my former University investing in high performance coaching. This new position is one that could change the face of rowing in Scotland."

The new post holder will be based at the University of Edinburgh's Centre for Sport and Exercise where a £4.5million extension was recently opened by the Duke of Edinburgh.

Included in the new development is a rowing gymnasium, named after Grainger who was also inducted into the University's Sports Hall of Fame in 2008.

The University's Director of Sport and Exercise, Jim Aitken MBE, believes that the new Head of Performance Rowing will complement the existing portfolio of professional coaches to create a winning performance culture within the University.

Aitken said, “Over the last couple of years we have recognised that in order for our students to compete at the highest level, we need to attract the best coaches to co-ordinate our performance programmes.

“We now have Heads of Performance in Swimming, Archery, Orienteering and Hockey and I am confident that this new post will take our already successful Boat Club to a new level.”



The role of Scottish Rowing's Performance Development Coach, which is funded by **sportscotland**, will be to continue to implement the Scottish Rowing Performance Plan which has yielded significant success this summer.

Scotland finished second overall, behind hosts Canada, at the Commonwealth Rowing Championships at the Welland International Flatwater Centre in Ontario, whilst medals were won by Scottish athletes at both the World Junior and Under 23 Championships.

Scottish Rowing's High Performance Co-ordinator, Lee Boucher, added, "The link with the Higher Education sector is vital to creating a pathway for our most talented athletes to progress through and I am excited about what this partnership can bring to the table.

"Scottish athletes have enjoyed significant medal success representing Great Britain at junior level over the past few years, so I am hopeful that with the creation of a high performance centre in Scotland, we can offer our best athletes an opportunity to combine their rowing and education locally, without the need to look further afield."

**--ENDS--**

### **Vacancy Details**

- The vacancy, along with a full job description will be advertised at [www.jobs.ed.ac.uk](http://www.jobs.ed.ac.uk) with a closing date of 10 September 2010.

### **Note to Editors**

- Scottish Rowing is the National Governing Body for the sport of rowing in Scotland, and provides athletes to the GB Rowing Team for international competition.
- In 2010, Callum McBrierty (George Watson's College, Edinburgh) won a silver medal rowing for Great Britain in the coxless four at the World Junior Rowing Championships in the Czech Republic, whilst at the World Under 23 Rowing Championships in Belarus, Andrew Holmes (Castle Semple Rowing Club, Lochwinnoch) took bronze in the coxed four and Sam Scrimgeour (Glasgow Rowing Club / Strathclyde University, Forfar) bronze in the lightweight quadruple scull.
- The Scottish Rowing Team at the 2010 Commonwealth Rowing Championships in Canada finished second overall behind the hosts with 5 golds, 4 silvers and 8 bronzes.
- The University of Edinburgh are the current Scottish University Sport (SUS) champions and in 2010 four crews have been selected to represent British Universities at the European Universities Rowing Championships in the Netherlands. Edinburgh students were also selected in the Scottish teams which competed at the Home International Regatta in Cork, Ireland and the Commonwealth Rowing Championships in Canada whilst medical student, Polly Swann, was in the Great Britain women's coxless four that finished 4<sup>th</sup> at the World Under 23 Rowing Championships.



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