



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

News Release

Issued: Thursday 8 December 2016

Australian Olympic coach to boost Edinburgh's top swimmers

One of the world's leading swimming coaches is set to take up a key role at the University of Edinburgh.

Australian Shannon Rollason, who has guided swimmers from across the globe to Olympic and World success, is set to become the University's Elite Performance Swim Coach.

The man who oversaw his country's record haul of 20 swimming medals at the 2008 Beijing Olympics will help Edinburgh to target medal success at major university, national and international events.

Mr Rollason managed his country's world-leading swimming programme for eight years as Head Coach at The Australian Institute of Sport. More recently he was Head Coach of the Danish Swimming Federation.

He will work with University's Head of Performance Swimming, Chris Jones and Assistant Head Coach, Mat Trodden.

Mr Rollason said: "I'm very excited to have the opportunity to add value to the University of Edinburgh and Scottish Swimming. Working in a professional environment at Edinburgh with Chris and Mat will be both stimulating and innovative."

"I am very proud and honoured to be working at one of the world's leading universities and looking forward to helping Edinburgh's athletes add to the University's great sporting history."

Edinburgh students and alumni from around the world have competed at recent Olympic and Commonwealth Games and World and European Championships.

Medal success was achieved at the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games by Chemistry student Corrie Scott, who secured a bronze in the 50m breaststroke.

The University was represented in swimming events at the Rio Olympics by students from Hong Kong, the Cayman Islands and Ireland.

The University of Edinburgh's Performance Swimming Programme was established in 2008 and is one of the leading programmes of its kind in the UK.

Ranked among the top universities in the world

Many of Edinburgh's athletes have been supported by the University's sector-leading Performance Programme.

It offers the University's student athletes a range of assistance to help them succeed on the world sporting stage.

Support is given through funding, tailored fitness conditioning, sports medicine care, access to top class competition and training facilities, advice and flexible study options.

The new post is partly funded by Scottish Swimming through the Swim Edinburgh partnership.

The University of Edinburgh's Director of Sport & Exercise Jim Aitken said: "We are thrilled to have a coach of Shannon's pedigree join our performance team. This underlines the ambition and quality of our performance sport programme, and the important part that sport plays in the life of the University."

The University's Head of Performance Swimming Chris Jones, said: "We are delighted that Shannon has chosen to join us. We pride ourselves on the support we give our performance athletes to excel in both their sport and studies. His experience will complement our skills set and help take our ambitious, world-class programme to the next level."

Mr Rollason is expected to take up his new position at the University in January, subject to visa approval.

For further information, please contact:

Andrew Moffat, Press and PR Office, Tel +44 131 650 9836, Email andrew.moffat@ed.ac.uk