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Nations confirmed for FISU 2018 World University Squash Championship



The FISU 2018 World University Squash Championship is the official international university competition bringing together the best student squash players from around the world. It will be held at the University of Birmingham, England between 6-12 September - with a record number of participating individuals.

With virtually all the leading squash nations competing, this Championship will be the biggest World University Squash Championship to date in terms of the number of individuals competing. There are 19 nations registered to compete in the individual championships – Argentina, Australia, Austria, Canada, China (People's Republic of), Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Hong Kong (China), Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Uganda, and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. There will also be some returning medallists from the FISU 2016 Kuala Lumpur Championship. Hong Kong's Tsz Fung Yip (25 in PSA world rankings) and Chi Him Wong (117) won gold and bronze respectively in the men's individual championship in 2016, and GB's own Joshua Masters (52), who also received bronze in the same event, will be returning to try and claim the title. The individual championship, comprising 48 male and 25 female players, will kick off on the first day of the event and the final will be on 9 September.

Following the individual competition, 13 nations will compete in the team championship, which will culminate on 12 September. Two years after the last World University Squash event in which the host nation, Malaysia, took home the gold; Australia, Austria, Canada, China (People's Republic of), Czech Republic, France, Hong Kong (China), Malaysia, New Zealand, South Africa, Switzerland, Uganda and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland will compete for the 2018 team title.



Since its launch in 1996, this 10th edition of World University Squash will be the first time a World University event has ever been held in the UK's second city. With six ASB squash courts and an all-glass show court erected especially for the event in the 1 year-old Sport & Fitness club on the University of Birmingham campus, Birmingham is rapidly establishing itself as a major international squash city. The Championships are part of a series of squash events in Birmingham, with the University and Edgbaston Priory between them hosting the prestigious British Junior Open (pictured) for the next 3 years, European Team Championships in May 2019, and the 2022 Commonwealth Games squash.

The FISU 2018 World University Squash Championship will feature some of the best emerging squash players in the world and is the perfect opportunity to see university sport at a world level being showcased.

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Notes to the editor:

- The University of Birmingham is currently ranked in the top ten universities for sport in the UK.
- The University have invested in new indoor and outdoor sport facilities, including the £55 million Sport & Fitness Club which opened May 2017, new pitches, athletics track and a pavilion.
- The University of Birmingham is ranked amongst the world's top 100 institutions, its work brings people from across the world to Birmingham, including researchers and teachers and more than 5,000 international students from over 150 countries.
- University of Birmingham Sport & Fitness Club opened in May 2017, it features Birmingham's first 50m pool, six glass back squash courts, 200+ station gym, five activity studios, an indoor sports arena, 10m climbing wall and more.
- The University of Birmingham has two Squash scholars on the scholarship programme for 2018/19, PhD student Jan Van Den Herrewegen, current Belgian #1, and Stuart MacGregor, second-year Human Biology student who ranked #2 at England U19.
- Individual championships will run Thurs 6th - Sun 9th and the Team Championships from Mon 10th - Wed 12th. Tickets for relevant matches are either free or where appropriate £3 for adults and £2 for children/students. For full details please see <http://wucsquash2018.com/>
- Photos: British Junior Open January 2018 at Sport & Fitness. Credit: Steve Cubbins