

Alex Isern '12
2019 Outstanding Young Alumni Award

Winthrop University recognizes young alumni, age 35 or younger, whose service to the university, service to the community and professional achievements have reflected positively on all alumni and the university.

The recipient of the 2019 Outstanding Young Alumni Award is Alex Isern.

Born in Barcelona, Isern studied business administration at ESADE Business School in Barcelona and The University of British Columbia before coming to Winthrop to earn his Bachelor of Science degree in entrepreneurship in 2012.

He played as a midfielder for Winthrop's men's soccer team for two seasons during his junior and senior years. Isern served as team captain in 2012 and was an active member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC) at Winthrop. During his time as a student, Isern received a number of soccer accolades, including Big South Conference recognitions. In 2013, he earned the Major League Soccer Player Combine title.

Combining his love of soccer with his business background, Isern, along with Marc Segarra '13, co-founded ISL Futbol (now ISL Agency), a global sports management company that creates, manages and executes unique soccer experiences. From athlete services to consulting and event planning, ISL is based in both Spain and the United States. Isern works with brands, clubs and companies to offer camps, clinics and competitions in the soccer market. ISL's hallmark has been the Barca Experience, training camps at FC Barcelona headquarters where athletes practice and play. So far, some 5,000 people from the United States have trained through this program.

ISL also provides soccer opportunities to youth in cities such as Charlotte, Miami, Columbus, Chicago, Austin and San Diego through its Barca Academy training program. Additionally, Isern and Segarra created the ISL Foundation in 2018 to provide soccer opportunities for disadvantaged and disabled youth.

Isern is the current CEO of ISL and recently partnered with the Mediterranean International Cup (MIC), the world's most prominent international youth soccer tournament, to bring the event to the United States. The inaugural American event will take place in late 2019 in Florida and will be held annually.

Isern – who speaks five languages including Catalan, English, French, Italian and Portuguese – also is an associate professor at the Instituto Superior de Derecho y Economía (ISDE) Law Business School where he teaches masters-level courses in sports management and legal skills.