

## RIO FERDINAND



Born:	07 Nov 1978
Signed:	22 Jul 2002
Debut:	27 Aug 2002 v Zalaegerszeg (H)
Goals total:	8
Appearances total:	455
Position:	

**Rio Ferdinand proved himself to be one of the finest defenders in world football during 12 successful years at Manchester United.**

Armed with elegance, pace and astute reading of the game, Ferdinand was a distinguished servant from 2002 until 2014, forming one of the most formidable central-defensive partnerships in the club's history alongside Nemanja Vidic.

Ferdinand made 455 appearances for the Reds and scored eight goals, winning six Premier League titles, one European Cup, a FIFA Club World Cup and two League Cups. Rio called time on his trophy-laden stay at Old Trafford on 12 May 2014, saying: "After 12 fantastic years playing for what I regard as the best club in the world, I have decided the time is right for me to move on."

The Peckham-born star initially burst onto the scene with West Ham under the guidance of Harry Redknapp, later signing for Leeds in November 2000. However, the 2002 World Cup was confirmation of Rio's credentials as his performances with England ultimately convinced Sir Alex Ferguson to part with an estimated £30million, a record fee for a defender.

Although his first season was initially hampered by injury, Rio became an integral player as United overtook Arsenal to claim the Barclays Premier league.