

## Elite Athletes Policy

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<b>Contact person</b>	Chair, Academic Senate
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<b>Related policies</b>	

### OVERVIEW

#### 1. Overview

Bond University is currently a member of the Australian Sport Commission's Elite Athlete Friendly University Agreement (EAFUA), which provides guidelines for flexible study loads and requirements. The EAFUA's definition of an 'Elite Athlete' is very narrow and does not provide for athletes who are competing at a National level in sports that are not heavily supported by the Australian Sports Commission (sports that are not contended at the Olympics or Commonwealth games).

The intensive three-semester year that Bond offers can create an added strain on students trying to balance sport and academia, for those who are training in their respective sporting disciplines at an elite level. This may have an adverse impact on a student's ability to perform at their peak in their academic studies, their sporting pursuits or both. In order to prevent this strain it is important to try to mitigate the impact on students.

The purpose of this policy is to provide a mechanism that governs the accommodations available to elite athletes across Bond University so that there is a fair and consistent approach to managing their absences for training and/or competition. This policy will support elite athletes in the balanced pursuit of their academic and sporting goals at Bond University by introducing more flexible academic regulations for student-athletes of an elite level.

### THE POLICY

#### 2. Identifying Elite Status

a) Elite athlete status will be granted to a student if he or she is identified and recognised as an elite athlete by one of the following organisations:

- Australian Institute of Sport (AIS)
- State Institutes or Academies of Sport
- AFL Players' Association
- Australian Cricketers' Association
- Rugby Union Players' Association
- Rugby League Professionals' Association
- Australian Professional Footballers' Association
- National squad and league members from Australian Sports Commission (ASC) supported sports

- b) Elite athlete status should also be granted to a student if he/she is a representative in a sport at a national or international level.
- c) To attain the status of elite athlete, students must register with and be approved by the General Manager, Student Experience in consultation with the Head of School of Health Sciences or nominated delegate.

### **3. Admission Provisions**

Bond University entry requirements are the same for all applicants. However, the University does offer some Sporting Scholarships to eligible applicants although the number and level of benefits may vary from time to time. Sporting scholars are selected for sporting excellence and academic merit and applicants are normally expected to be nationally ranked in the top ten in their sporting field with supporting documentation from the relevant controlling body.

### **4. Nominated Staff Contact**

The University recognises that elite athletes will require specific advice and assistance during their study at the University.

The initial point of contact for elite athletes at Bond University is the General Manager Student Experience. The General Manager and Head of School of Health Sciences will liaise with other relevant individuals within the University to discuss any actions or considerations which need to be taken or given in individual cases.

The Academic Adviser in the elite athlete's Faculty of enrolment is also a key contact person once the athlete has commenced their program of study at Bond.

### **5. Flexible Study Guidelines**

The University will encourage the provision of support for elite athletes to assist in providing flexible study arrangements, subject to preservation of the integrity of academic programs and the maintenance of appropriate academic standard.

Where appropriate, provisions of support shall include alternative examination arrangements, renegotiation of assessment deadlines, alternative format learning materials, outgoing cross-institutional study, timetable planning and flexibility about class attendance requirements, deferral, leave of absence, withdrawal and refunds.

Elite athletes will be expected to liaise with their Faculty Services Manager to ensure that appropriate consideration is given to their training and competition commitments. Study workload will be monitored and can be adjusted to maintain a realistic balance between the demands of the athlete's sport and adequate progression through a program at Bond. Students are able to apply for deferment of a centrally scheduled examination on the basis of participation in a national or international sporting event. Faculty Service Managers should be contacted if an elite athlete wishes to give effect to the provisions of this policy.

The University does not operate a distance or external study program; however, most courses at Bond University utilise on-line study tools through iLearn and students should also consult with their Faculty Services Manager about how to manage absences required by competition commitments.

In the MBBS and DPhty programs, given the nature of the teaching and learning experience and the way in which it is structured, these accommodations are more difficult to put in place.

### **6. Related Procedures**

### **7. Related guidelines and forms**