



Programs and Assessment for Elite Athletes - Procedures



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3.50.07b

Topic:

3.50.07 Programs and Assessment for Elite Athletes [2]

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All Staff

All Students

Document Web Links:

PPL 3.50.06 Academic Adjustments [3]

PPL 3.50.08 Alternative Academic Arrangements for Students with a Disability [4]

PPL 3.50.09 Arrangements for Reasonable Adjustments in Examinations for Students with a Disability [5]

Commonwealth Disability Standards for Education (2005) [6]

PPL 3.10.11 Examinations [7]

PPL 3.10.12 Finalisation of Grades [8]

PPL 3.50.03a Credit for Previous Studies and Recognised Prior Learning [9]

Notes:

September 2019 - updates to references to an online Elite Athlete Status application, list of organisations nominated to identify elite athletes, definitions, hyperlinks and procedure for applying for elite athlete consideration. Minor editorial amendments.

1. Purpose and Objectives

These procedures enact PPL 3.50.06a Academic Adjustments – Policy [3].

2. Definitions, Terms, Acronyms

Academic Programs – sequence of study leading to the award of a qualification such as an undergraduate degree or diploma, and/or postgraduate coursework qualification.

AIS - Australian Institute of Sport

EAFU - Elite Athlete Friendly University

Elite athlete - is a student who is identified and recognised by one of the following organisations as an elite athlete representing Australia, or a state or territory of Australia –

- Australian Institute of Sport
- National senior squad members from Sport Australia supported sports
- State Institutes or Academies of Sport
- AFL Players Association
- Australian Cricketers' Association
- Rugby Union Players' Association
- Rugby League Professionals' Association
- Australian Professional Footballers' Association
- Senior/head coaches from state and territory institutes/academies of sport, national teams from Sport Australia funded sports or participating professional sports

All athletes including those who fall outside the definition above must submit an application online using the [Elite Athlete Status request](#) ^[10] (see section 5.1).

Reasonable adjustment – for these procedures, a reasonable adjustment is a change to a course or program which may alter, within reason, the specific activities but retains the essential learning objectives for the course or program.

Sport Australia - Sport Australia is the operating brand name of the Australian Sports Commission (ASC), a Commonwealth entity within the Australian Government's Department of Health Portfolio.

Study period - a semester, trimester, research quarter, medical rotation or teaching period.

Supporting documentation - documentation provided by a student as part of an application to provide evidence for their claim.

3. Procedures Scope/Coverage

These procedures apply to elite athletes representing Australia, or a state or territory of Australia.

4. Procedures Statement

The procedures outlined below form one strategy to provide elite athletes who have training, competition and/or practice commitments with an opportunity to obtain tertiary qualifications.

5. Applying for Elite Athlete Consideration

The University of Queensland is endorsed by Sport Australia as an Elite Athlete Friendly University (EAFU) which means that UQ supports the Australian Institute of Sports (AIS) Guiding Principles - Elite Athlete Friendly University program.

5.1 Students must submit an application online using the [Elite Athlete Status request](#) ^[10], together with supporting documentation verifying training and/or sporting commitments for the relevant study period. Supporting documentation is to be in the form of PDF documents on official letterhead, completed by:

- Sporting authorities
- Coaches or managers
- Sporting institutions

5.2 Students will be notified of the outcome of their application via email. UQ's appointed EAFU liaison will act as a representative of Sport Australia to investigate, verify and make a recommendation to the University if required.

5.3 Approval for elite athlete status is only valid for the current study period and students are required to re-apply for consideration for each subsequent study period.

5.4 Approved elite athlete status will be noted on [SI-net](#) ^[11] with a Positive Service Indicator with the acronym EAC (Elite Athlete Consideration) for the relevant study period.

5.5 The student may be required to produce the email confirming elite athlete status to the school or faculty when seeking reasonable adjustments.

6. Administrative Procedures – Reasonable Adjustments

6.1 Enrolment

The University has in place policies to assist all students to complete their program in the minimum time including [PPL 3.50.03a Credit for Previous Studies and Recognised Prior Learning – Policy](#) ^[9]. For elite athletes, additional adjustments might be required at certain times. Adjustments might include –

- where continuous enrolment is compulsory, a negotiated arrangement to study part-time;
- where choice exists in the timetable, the ability to negotiate lecture, tutorial and practical timetables;
- an extension of the time specified to complete a program of study;
- the provision for students to defer enrolment for up to two years for major sporting events (e.g. in an Olympic Games year);
- completion of some studies as a cross-institutional student or exchange student at an approved interstate or overseas university;
- provision of summer semester alternatives or, where programs with multiple modes of delivery are available, to undertake studies via distance mode.

6.2 Assessment

The University has procedures in place to cater for elite athletes who are prevented from sitting an examination because of sporting commitments at an elite level. As set out in the University's Academic Adjustments Policy ([PPL 3.50.06](#) ^[3]), reasonable adjustments may be granted for special circumstances or incomplete results may be recorded to the limit specified in [PPL 3.10.12 Finalisation of Grades](#) ^[8]. Reasonable adjustments might include –

- negotiating alternative assessment deadlines;
- deferred examinations;
- sitting the examinations off campus under examination conditions;
- where appropriate, waiving of minimum attendance requirements at lectures, tutorials or practicals.

6.3 Timing of requests

The nature and extent of commitments to elite activity can be unpredictable and outside a student's control. A student is expected to plan for known commitments well in advance. Students are required to seek assistance as soon as possible to ensure the best outcome, as the timing of requests may have an impact on the University's capacity to provide assistance.

Students wishing to access any of the provisions provided in this procedure should approach the course coordinator providing documentation of sporting/training commitments to support their request. Students needing to sit an examination off-campus will need to submit an online application in accordance with section 5.6 of [PPL 3.10.11 Examinations – Procedures](#) ^[7].

To take advantage of the provisions in this procedure students must be formally recognised by the University as an elite athlete. Elite athlete status cannot be applied retrospectively and will only apply to reasonable adjustments for the courses in which the student is currently enrolled.

6.4 Determination of special arrangements

Course Coordinators should consider all requests for assistance in the first instance once a student's elite athlete status has been verified.

In determining reasonable adjustments the following procedures will be observed:

- a. the status is reviewed on a semester-by-semester basis;
- b. requests for reasonable adjustments are normally lodged no later than one month prior to the commencement of the semester;
- c. faculties will consider the student's academic program and recommend whether any adjustments are necessary;
 - i. For these procedures, an adjustment is reasonable if it balances the interests of all parties affected. Judgements about what is reasonable for a particular student, or a group of students, may change over time.
 - ii. In assessing whether a particular adjustment for a student is reasonable, all relevant circumstances and interests should be taken into account, including the following:
 - The student's circumstances;
 - The views of the student;

- The effect of the adjustment on the student, including the effect on the student's:
 1. ability to achieve learning outcomes;
 2. ability to participate in courses or programs; and
 3. independence
- the effect of the proposed adjustment on anyone else affected, including the University, staff and other students;
- the costs and benefits of making the adjustment.

A detailed assessment, which might include an independent expert assessment, may be required in order to determine what adjustments are necessary for a student. The type and extent of the adjustments may vary depending on the individual requirements of the student and other relevant circumstances. Multiple adjustments may be required and may include multiple activities. Adjustments may not be required for a student in some circumstances.

- iii. In assessing whether an adjustment to the course or program in which the student is enrolled, or proposes to be enrolled, is reasonable, the University is entitled to maintain the academic requirements of the course or program, and other requirements or components that are inherent in or essential to its nature.
- d. in cases where students are dissatisfied with the proposed adjustments, the Academic Registrar will be responsible for reviewing the arrangements between the student and the school.

6.5 Other considerations

In observing these procedures the following matters can be considered:

- The reasonable adjustments set out in this procedure are not intended to be prescriptive but to assist those responsible to achieve a measure of consistency. It must be recognised that each student's needs are individual. Not all needs sit comfortably into a set of predefined categories.
- Timely consultation will be an important element of the process. For example, in consultation with the lecturer in charge of the particular course it may be determined that a reasonable adjustment, such as an extra assignment, may be more appropriate and as intellectually rigorous, as an examination with reasonable adjustments.

Custodians

Academic Registrar Mr Mark Erickson
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Source URL (retrieved on 2020-03-31 15:54): <https://ppl.app.uq.edu.au/content/programs-and-assessment-elite-athletes-procedures>

Links:

- [1] <https://ppl.app.uq.edu.au/print/node/635>
- [2] <https://ppl.app.uq.edu.au/content/3.50.07-programs-and-assessment-elite-athletes#Procedures>
- [3] <https://ppl.app.uq.edu.au/content/3.50.06-academic-adjustments>
- [4] <https://ppl.app.uq.edu.au/content/3.50.08-alternative-academic-arrangements-students-disability>
- [5] <https://ppl.app.uq.edu.au/content/3.50.09-arrangements-reasonable-adjustments-examinations-students-disability>
- [6] <https://www.education.gov.au/disability-standards-education-2005>

- [7] <https://ppl.app.uq.edu.au/content/3.10.11-examinations>
- [8] <https://ppl.app.uq.edu.au/content/3.10.12-finalisation-grades>
- [9] <https://ppl.app.uq.edu.au/content/3.50.03-credit-previous-studies-and-recognised-prior-learning>
- [10] <https://portal.my.uq.edu.au/#/apps/my-requests/process/Elite%20Athlete%20Status>
- [11] <https://ppl.app.uq.edu.au/glossary/term/171>
- [12] <mailto:'+'academic.registrar@uq.edu.au'+>