ELITE ATHLETE PROGRAM GUIDE
FOR ACADEMIC and SUPPORT STAFF

Elite Athlete Policy

In 2004 QUT signed with the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) and the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) as an ‘Elite Athlete Friendly University’ (EAFU) to help lead the way nationally in supporting elite athletes. QUT recognises the demand on elite athletes through training and competition, and endeavours to provide student athletes with the same opportunity to achieve academic excellence while also pursuing a sporting career. The value of combining both sport and higher education to achieve greater life success is well recognised across the university and sporting sectors. Over 300 elite athletes, represented across more than 50 different sports are currently enrolled at QUT and registered with the program. QUT’s Elite Athlete Program is managed by Careers and Employment.

Registering with the Elite Athlete Program helps the university identify elite athlete students and provide support through:

- flexible and responsive approach to admissions
- enrolment and assessment
- academic support
- OP upgrading
- career counselling
- scholarships and financial support
- special consideration where possible
Flexible Study Options Include:

Assessment related needs:

* Ability to
  * negotiate assessment deadlines based on sporting related travel commitments
  * sit exams externally under exam conditions, within the athlete’s environment (e.g. whilst travelling, in their hotel etc)
  * waive the minimum attendance at lectures, tutorials or practicum where athletes are unavailable due to sporting commitments

Enrolment related needs:

* Ability to
  * tailor academic study load to integrate with sporting commitments
  * negotiate lecture, tutorial and practical timetables to accommodate sporting commitments
  * extend minimum time to complete course due to periods of decreased study load
  * take several leaves of absence where required due to increased sporting commitments (e.g. Olympic Games year)
  * complete cross institutional study options with interstate universities, and flexibility within this policy provided for student athletes (e.g. increase number of subjects able to be completed by cross institutional study)
  * provide summer study alternatives and/or ability to swap between distance education mode and on campus mode, depending on sporting commitments
  * recognise credit achieved at interstate universities

Course related needs

* access to distance education materials, and/or class notes for missed lectures, tutorials or practicum

What is the eligibility criterion for an elite athlete?

To qualify for the QUT Elite Athlete Program an athlete, coach or referee must be part of an AIS recognised sport which requires heavy training and competition and meet one or more of the following criteria:

* The athlete is recognised by the AIS, QAS or Professional Player’s Association
* The athlete is a member of a national senior squad from an ACE support sport
* The athlete is in a state, national level squad in open or age level competition
* The athlete is in a state, national level development squad
* The individual is a coach or referee within national or international level competitions

How do I check if the student is an elite athlete?

We are currently trying to work out a way in which the Elite Athletes at QUT can be identified online without breaching student privacy. We will send a list of current athletes to each faculty at the start
of each semester, however please contact us if you need an updated list or to check if a student is registered.

If an athlete does not appear on the registered Elite Athlete list, they may still be eligible for the Program but have not yet registered. For all enquiries on registered athletes email eliteathletes@qut.edu.au or phone 07 3138 2649.

What do athletes need to do to be included in the program and what are their responsibilities?

Elite athletes must register for the program via http://www.careers.qut.edu.au/student/elite/ by submitting a sporting resume outlining the teams and competitions they have recently competed in and/or are competing in currently.

- Each semester students are required to update their sporting details to confirm their eligibility for the program.
- The Athlete must attend an orientation session at the beginning of their study at QUT
- The Athletes should identify themselves as being part of the Elite Athlete Program to all of their lecturers at the start of each semester.
- The Athletes must inform their course and unit coordinators of any intended absence as soon as possible.
- The Athletes must proactively try to arrange with their lecturers, tutors or peers any materials they may have missed.
- The Athletes must apply for assignment extensions, exam deferrals and special consideration by the appropriate forms and be accompanied by a letter from their coach or selection letter from competition with travel details.

What obligations do we have to Elite Athletes?

As the Vice-Chancellor has signed an agreement with the Elite Athlete Friendly Universities Network, we endeavour to make every effort to support the Elite Athletes at QUT by adhering to the policy’s guidelines and give special consideration where appropriate. This could include the following:

- Moving an athlete to a different tutorial time where their original allocation clashes with sporting commitments
- Granting extensions and deferments of assessments (if they fall into the following criteria)
- Granting special consideration for assessments (if they fall into the following criteria)
- Providing athletes with catch up materials where possible for classes they may have missed

What are appropriate scenarios for special consideration?

- An athlete has been away competing or away training leading up to an assessment
- An athlete has been away competing or away training during the assessment time
The athlete has been injured and has had time away from university
The individual has heavy training and travelling commitments

The athlete must submit the appropriate forms and supporting evidence with all applications.

How can we be more involved with elite athletes?

The Elite Athlete Program hosts a function each semester for students and faculty representatives to meet. We encourage all staff involved to attend.

The Elite Athlete Launch Function: Annually held at the start of semester one. New and current elite athletes are welcomed and are invited to mingle with QUT staff and external guests. We also announce the Vice-Chancellor’s Sporting Scholars and hear from some special guests.

The Elite Athlete Awards Function: Held towards the end of Semester 2, this function recognises the Australian representatives for the year and awards are presented to the Elite Athlete and Young Elite Athlete of the year. Prospective and current Elite Athletes, external guests and support staff are welcomed.

If you would like to attend either of these events please email eliteathletes@qut.edu.au. We encourage as many QUT staff as possible to build upon the existing Elite Athlete support networks. The functions are a great opportunity to familiarise yourself with the athletes in your faculty. It also helps the athletes to identify the support staff from each faculty.

Where can I go to find out more information on Elite Athletes?

You can visit the QUT Careers and Employment website for elite athlete information.
Information for Academic Staff: http://www.careers.qut.edu.au/academic/elite.jsp

If you have any questions about the program, procedures or athletes, please email us at eliteathletes@qut.edu or call 3138 2649.