

## Elite Athlete Support Policy

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<b>TRIM document</b>	2016/7006134
<b>Description</b>	This policy encapsulates Griffith's commitment to practices which support Australia's elite athletes to achieve academic and sporting excellence.
<b>Related documents</b>	
<a href="#">Student Review and Appeals Policy</a>	
<a href="#">Conflict of Interest Policy</a>	
<a href="#">[Introduction]</a> <a href="#">[Principle]</a> <a href="#">[Nominated Staff Contact]</a> <a href="#">[Defining an Elite Athlete]</a> <a href="#">[Flexible Arrangements for Elite Athletes]</a>	

### 1. INTRODUCTION

This policy encapsulates Griffith's commitment to practices which support Australia's elite athletes to achieve academic and sporting excellence. This commitment is consistent with Griffith's long standing support of elite athletes through the Sports Excellence Scholarship Scheme and the Elite Athlete Friendly University Agreement made between the University and the Australian Sports Commission and the Queensland Academy of Sport (20 October, 2004). This policy is consistent with the Australian Sports Commission's Guiding Principles for Implementation of the National Network of Athlete Friendly Universities.

### 2. PRINCIPLE

Griffith University acknowledges the value of the integration of sporting and academic aspirations and is committed to develop and implement support systems for the benefit of the student elite athlete.

### 3. NOMINATED STAFF CONTACT

The Vice Chancellor shall nominate a specific staff member or staff members to support elite athletes within the University. The Elite Athlete Contact Officer shall:

- provide advice and guidance to student athletes on academic planning;
- support student athletes in negotiating necessary flexibility to meet academic requirements in terms of this policy or as otherwise required;
- undertake advocacy for student athletes within the University;
- liaise with relevant external organisations.

## 4. DEFINING AN ELITE ATHLETE

For students to be recognised as an elite athlete+ in order to take advantage of the provisions of this policy, the student must be identified and recognised as an elite athlete\* by one of the following organisations:

- Australian Institute of Sport
  - 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 senior squad members from National ACE supported sports
  - Senior/head coaches from state and territory institutes/academies of sport, national senior teams or participating professional sports.
- + the term 'elite athlete' is inclusive of both athletes and coaches
- \* an athlete or coach who falls outside of these organisations, may submit an application for recognition as an elite athlete by the Griffith Sports College.

The Elite Athlete Contact Officer will confirm that a student is recognised as an elite athlete for the purposes of this policy.

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## 5. FLEXIBLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ELITE ATHLETES

The University will use its best endeavours to accommodate the needs of the student athlete within the standard student policies and processes and with due regard to academic standards and student obligations. The student athlete wishing to access any of the provisions set out below should directly approach the relevant Course Convenor and / or the Program Director and / or the Manager of the Student Administration Centre at the student's campus, providing documentation of sporting / training commitments where relevant to support their request. The Elite Athlete Contact Officer may assist the student athlete in negotiating suitable arrangements.

### 5.1 Admission

In the assessment of an application for admission in terms of the University's admission policies, the University may take account of the applicant's sporting achievements in making an admission decision.

### 5.2 Enrolment

#### 5.2.1 Reduced study load, leave of absence

The [Student Administration Policy](#) provides flexibility which the student athlete may take advantage of, including reduced study loads and multiple periods of leave of absence.

Where a specific program places restrictions on the study program (such as requiring students to take a full-time study load) or on leave of absence, the student athlete may apply to the Program Director for relaxation of the program requirements.

#### 5.2.2 Maximum Time to Complete Degree

The maximum time period in which a student must satisfy the requirements to complete the program and to be eligible to graduate ([Student Administration Policy](#) section 10) may be extended for the student athlete by the Program Director.

#### 5.2.3 Withdrawal Without Penalty

If sporting or training commitments make it necessary for the student athlete to withdraw from some or all courses during a trimester, the student athlete should make every effort to notify the University of the withdrawal before the dates applicable for withdrawal without failure or financial penalty ([Student Administration Policy](#) section 7). If advice of

withdrawal is not able to be given before the required dates, the student athlete may avoid academic and financial penalties by applying for withdrawal from the course or courses due to special circumstances ([Student Administration Policy](#) sections 7.5, 7.6). The Director, Student Administration shall give favourable consideration to applications from student athletes for withdrawal from a course or courses due to special circumstances.

### **5.3 Class Attendance**

Where training or sporting commitments prevent the student athlete from attending classes, the student athlete should approach the Course Convenor to negotiate appropriate alternative arrangements. Where alternative arrangements cannot be made, the student athlete should withdraw from the course as provided for in section [5.2.3](#).

### **5.4 Assessment**

Favourable consideration will be given to applications from student athletes for

- extension of assessment submission deadlines;
- alternate examination sittings, including sitting at external venues;
- deferred examinations.

### **5.5 Cross-Institution Study**

Favourable consideration will be given to applications from student athletes for approval to study at another university to obtain credit towards the student's Griffith degree (cross-institutional study - [Student Administration Policy](#) section 11) and for recognition of credit for study taken at other institutions.

### **5.6 Support from Elite Athlete Contact Officer and Appeals**

Whenever a student athlete makes a request for favourable consideration under the provisions of this policy, if the Program Director, Course Convenor or other relevant university decision maker is unable to accommodate the student's request, they should advise the Elite Athlete Contact Officer of the situation and the reasons for their decision. The Elite Athlete Contact Officer will assist the student athlete and the University decision maker to negotiate appropriate accommodations.

If the student athlete is still dissatisfied, they may seek a review of the decision under the University's [Student Review and Appeals Policy](#).