

	ELITE STUDENT-ATHLETE POLICY
Policy Owner	Director of Sport
Contact Officer	Student-Athlete Program Manager
Endorsement Authority	University Registrar
Date of Next Review	August 2026

1. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

Bond University is currently a member of the Australian Institute of Sport's Elite Athlete University Network (EAUN), which provides guidelines for flexible study loads and requirements for elite athletes.

The intensive three-semester year that Bond offers can create an added strain on student-athletes trying to balance academic and sporting commitments, for those who are training in their respective sporting disciplines at an elite level. This may have an adverse impact on an elite student-athlete's ability to perform at their peak in their academic studies their sporting pursuits, or both.

The purpose of this Policy is to support elite student-athletes in the balanced pursuit of their academic and sporting goals at Bond University by permitting more flexible academic arrangements. The Policy provides a mechanism that governs the accommodations available to elite student-athletes across Bond University so that there is a fair and consistent approach to managing their absences for training and/or competition.

2. AUDIENCE AND APPLICATION

Elite Student Athletes

3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Role	Responsibility
Student-Athlete Program Manager	Clause 4.1 Register elite student-athlete in Bond Elite Sport Program
	Clause 4.3 Main point of contact with elite athletes
	Clause 4.4 Provide Faculty SASQ Manager with a list of student-athletes every semester
Enrolment and Student Engagement Coordinator in the SBC in conjunction with the Faculty SASQ Manager	Clause 4.2 Oversee enrolment and program requirements
Executive Dean	Clause 4.3 Decision-maker for academic adjustments

4. POLICY STATEMENT

4.1. Elite Status Criteria

Elite student-athlete status will be granted to a student who meets the criteria set out on the [AIS Elite Athlete Education Network's website](#).

Elite student-athlete status may also be granted to a student who is a representative in a Bond recognised sport at a national or international level.

Elite student-athlete status must be approved by the Student-Athlete Program Manager and must be registered as an Elite Athlete in the Bond Elite Sport Program (BESP).

4.2. Admission Provisions

Bond University entry requirements are the same for all applicants seeking admission to the same program.

4.3. Nominated staff contact

The University recognises that elite student-athletes may require specific advice and assistance while enrolled at the University.

The initial point of contact for elite student-athletes at Bond University is the Student-Athlete Program Manager. The Student-Athlete Program Manager 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 Senior Manager - Enrolment and Administration in Student Business Services, in conjunction with the Student Affairs and Service Quality Manager in the elite student-athlete's Faculty of enrolment are the key contacts regarding academic matters once elite student-athlete status has been recognised and the student has commenced their program of study at Bond.

4.4. Flexible Study Guidelines

Elite athletes must liaise with the Student-Athlete Program Manager to give effect to the provisions of this Policy. The Faculty Executive Dean or delegate is the decision-maker for all academic adjustments.

The University will endeavour to provide support for elite student-athletes but will not compromise the integrity of academic programs and the maintenance of appropriate academic standards. In some programs, such as the medical and professional master's programs including physiotherapy, nutrition and dietetics and occupational therapy, the nature of the teaching and learning experience and the program structure make accommodations more difficult to put in place. For the medical program, accommodation requests must be made with sufficient notice (i.e. before the impacted semester commences for Phase 1 students and before the year commences for Phase 2 students).

Where appropriate, the provision of support may include flexible study arrangements, 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.

Deferment of a centrally scheduled examination may be sought based on participation in a state, national or international sporting event. Elite student-athletes on scholarship may apply to take a reduced study load due to their sporting commitments.

4.5. Elite Student-Athlete Obligations

It is a requirement that each elite student-athlete meets with lecturers, tutors, and teachers at the commencement of every semester to discuss proposed absences and variations to usual expectations. Training and competition schedules to be provided where applicable. The Student-Athlete Program Manager will provide the Student Affairs and Service Quality Manager in each Faculty a list of student-athletes enrolled every semester.

5. DEFINITIONS, TERMS, ACRONYMS

6. RELATED DOCUMENTS

Bond Elite Athlete Program Application

7. MODIFICATION HISTORY

Date	Sections	Source	Details
August 2023		Director of Sport	Reviewed with no changes
15 July 2020			V2.1
July 2017			V2
31 March 2006			Date First Approved

APPROVAL AUTHORITY: Vice Chancellor