



# AIS Athlete Education Scholarship Program 2020

August 2020



## Background

The Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) has always acknowledged and been supportive of athletes having an underpinning education to support them during both their sporting career and in preparation for life after sport. Educated athletes are more likely to thrive, have more career options and contribute positively to the Australian community.

With increasing commitments to become 'World's Best', athletes require support to fulfil education objectives. Whilst the Elite Athlete Education Network (formerly EAFU) has been in place since 2004 to support flexible study around High Performance sport, more can be done to recognise and support athlete education aspirations, particularly given the rising costs of education in Australia.

Support for Australia's athletes to become life-long learners, and value education as part of their identity, is key to the legacy and impact sport can have in Australia.

## Purpose

The purpose of the AIS Athlete Education Scholarship Program 2020 is to provide financial support to current Australian High Performance athletes, who are committing themselves beyond their training and competitions, to pursuing education opportunities.

The AIS Athlete Education Scholarship Program 2020 is a single round, pilot program. Future opportunities to extend the program will be considered following a review of the program and subject to the availability of future funding.

## Important Dates

There is only one round of applications for the AIS Athlete Education Scholarship Program in 2020.

The applications dates are:

|                                |                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Applications Open              | 26 August 2020    |
| Applications Close             | 21 September 2020 |
| Advise successful applications | End October 2020  |

## Funding Amounts and Timeframe

A total funding pool of \$100,000 is available for allocation through the Athlete Education Scholarship Program.

The maximum scholarship amount available to any individual is \$5,000.

Scholarship amounts will be determined by the AIS as part of the assessment process. The amounts may vary between applicants and may not be the full amount applied for.

The unit or course of study for which a Scholarship is awarded, must be successfully completed by the applicant by 31 December 2020.

## Eligibility Criteria

### Who is eligible to apply for a Scholarship?

To be eligible to apply for an Athlete Education Scholarship in 2020, an athlete must:

- At the time of application, be categorised by their National Sporting Organisation (NSO) as Podium, Podium Potential or Podium Ready within the AIS Athlete Categorisation Framework in 2020;



- b) Be intending to enrol, currently enrolled, or part way through a course/unit of study in 2020,  
**OR**  
Have already successfully completed (at a pass level or greater) a course/unit of study in a previous academic semester of 2020 and can provide academic transcripts to make a retrospective claim.  
Any study must be for an Approved Course (as defined below);
- c) Have no anti-doping rule violations or match fixing offences at any time.

### What can the Scholarship money be used for?

Scholarship funds can only be used by the applicant as a contribution towards course fees for a single semester of study (which is to be completed during 2020) in an Approved Course. In the event of a retrospective claim by the applicant, the funds may be used as a reimbursement for course fees already paid toward study completed in 2020.

An '**Approved Course**' is a recognised Australian University degree or TAFE course from an educational institution that is part of the Elite Athlete Education Network (EAEN). A listing of educational institutions can be found at <https://www.ais.gov.au/career-and-education/eaen>;

**Note** that successful applicants will be required to provide evidence to substantiate the eligible course fees incurred or payable by them before any Scholarship funding will be paid.

## Selection Criteria

Applicants must address the following selection criteria in their application. Eligible applications will be assessed against these criteria:

- The purpose and benefits of the study for which the applicant is seeking funding;
- Demonstration of financial need, including the benefits and support offered by financial assistance;
- Demonstration of study complementing their high performance activities and preparation for a post athlete career; and
- Demonstration of how they are, or propose to, share the experience of their study to inspire, and for the benefit of others, including other athletes.

## Assessment Process and Scholarship Approval

All applications will initially be assessed by the AIS against the eligibility criteria. Only one application will be considered per athlete.

Eligible applications will then proceed to assessment against the selection criteria through a competitive process. This assessment will be undertaken by an AIS Assessment Panel, which will comprise representatives from the AIS, high performance system, education network and two independent members.

The Assessment Panel will consider each eligible application on its merits based on how well it meets the selection criteria and how it compares to other applications.

The Assessment Panel will provide recommendations for the consideration of the CEO AIS, who will provide the final approval for the award of Scholarships under this program.

## How to Apply

Before applying for an Athlete Education Scholarship in 2020 you will need to read and understand these guidelines, including the Terms and Conditions in Appendix 1.

Only one application should be submitted per athlete.

Applications are to be completed online on the AIS website at <https://www.ais.gov.au/career-and-education/ais-education-scholarship/> by the closing date. Late applications will not be accepted.

To complete the application, applicants need to have the following information:

- applicant's current athlete categorisation details
- applicant's educational institution and course details
- any supporting documentation to your application e.g. enrolments, commitments etc.



- applicant's personal and bank account details

You will receive an automated email receipt if the application is submitted successfully. You are responsible for ensuring the completeness and accuracy of the information within the application. Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the *Criminal Code 1995* and may result in your application being excluded from further consideration.

If you find an error in your application after submitting it, you should contact us immediately using the details below.

If we find an error or information that is missing, we may ask for clarification or additional information from you. However, we do not have to accept additional information or requests from you to correct or change your application after the closing time.

If you need further guidance on the application process or wish to withdraw a submitted application, please contact:

**Email:** [AthleteEducationScholarship@ausport.gov.au](mailto:AthleteEducationScholarship@ausport.gov.au)

**Phone:** 02 6214 1186

## Notification and Agreement

All applicants will be notified by email of the outcome of their application including:

- any funding amount to be awarded; and
- the specific terms and conditions of any funding.

There is no review or appeal process after the final decision is made by AIS.

Successful applicants will enter into an agreement with the AIS in relation to the Scholarship funding, which will be substantially based on the sample terms and conditions at Appendix 1 to these guidelines.

## Disclosure of Information

The AIS must treat any personal information according to the *Privacy Act 1988* and the Australian Privacy Principles.

Personal information can only be disclosed to someone for the primary purpose for which it is collected, unless an exemption applies.

Personal information submitted via the online application is collected by the AIS for the purpose of considering applications for and administering the Program.

The personal details of successful applicants (including name, home state, sport, the value of the scholarship awarded and a brief description of the purpose for the scholarship) may be released by the AIS to the public and the media for the use of promotional and educational purposes.

To view the AIS Privacy Policy visit: [https://www.sportaus.gov.au/legal\\_information/privacy\\_policy](https://www.sportaus.gov.au/legal_information/privacy_policy)

## Conflict of interest

Conflicts of interest for AIS staff will be handled in accordance with the organisation's Conflict of Interest Policy. Assessment Panel members must also declare any conflicts of interest.

## Enquiries and feedback

If you have any questions regarding the Athlete Education Scholarship program, please contact:

John Hutchinson – Education Network Advisor, AIS Athlete Wellbeing & Engagement

[John.hutchinson@ausport.gov.au](mailto:John.hutchinson@ausport.gov.au)



If you wish to lodge a complaint regarding the scholarship opportunity this can be done using the AIS complaints form.

[https://origin.sportaus.gov.au/sportaus/location\\_and\\_contacts/australian\\_sports\\_commission\\_complaint\\_form](https://origin.sportaus.gov.au/sportaus/location_and_contacts/australian_sports_commission_complaint_form)



## Appendix 1 – Terms and Conditions

1. If the Australian Institute of Sport (**AIS**) decides to offer a scholarship under the Program to the applicant (**Scholarship**), the Scholarship will be awarded subject to any terms the AIS sets out in the applicant's letter of offer, these terms and conditions, and the Program Guidelines (as updated from time to time) (**Agreement**).
2. The AIS will make a single payment of the Scholarship amount to the successful applicant (**Recipient**) subject to sufficient funding being available to the Program and the Recipient complying with this Agreement.
3. The Recipient must:
  - a. promptly notify the AIS if the Recipient becomes aware that he or she no longer fulfils the Eligibility Criteria (as set out in the Program Guidelines) for receipt of the Scholarship;
  - b. successfully complete the nominated unit or course of study for which the Scholarship is awarded (**Course of Study**) by 31 December 2020, at a pass level or greater;
  - c. only use the Scholarship as a contribution towards the cost of course fees for the Course of Study or, where the Recipient has already completed the Course of Study - as a reimbursement for those course fees already paid;
  - d. keep records detailing the use and expenditure of the Scholarship and make them available to the AIS or its authorised representatives on request;
  - e. provide by 31 December 2020, a statement and accompanying evidence in the form required by the AIS, verifying that the Course of Study has been successfully completed and that the Scholarship has been spent in accordance with this Agreement. This may include production of the Recipient's academic transcript for the Course of Study and evidence of expenditure of the Scholarship.
4. The Recipient:
  - a. declares and warrants, at the date of agreeing to these terms and conditions, that he or she has not at any time been found to have breached any anti-doping rule or policy applicable to the Recipient, and has not engaged at any time in any conduct that constituted a breach of any anti-doping rule or policy applicable to the Recipient;
  - b. agrees to maintain a high standard of personal behaviour expected of an athlete representing Australia; and
  - c. agrees not to do anything to bring the Recipient, the AIS, or the Recipient's National Sporting Organisation into disrepute.
5. Without limitation to any other rights of the AIS, if the AIS reasonably believes, at any time following the award of the Scholarship, that:
  - a. the Recipient has provided false or misleading information in the application process;
  - b. the Scholarship has been spent other than in accordance with this Agreement;
  - c. the Recipient will not complete the Course of Study at a pass level or greater, or has otherwise breached any of its obligations under this Agreement; or
  - d. the Scholarship amount is additional to the requirements of the Course of Study,  
  
then the AIS may by written notice, require the Recipient to repay to the AIS, at the AIS's absolute discretion, all or part of the Scholarship. The amount notified must be repaid within 30 days of any such notice.
6. The Recipient must, if requested by the AIS, co-operate with the AIS in relation to promotional and educational initiatives regarding the Program and the AIS's Athlete Wellbeing and Engagement activities.
7. The personal details of Recipients (including name, home state, sport, the value of the Scholarship awarded and a brief description of the purpose for the Scholarship) may be released by the AIS to the public and the media for the use of promotional and educational purposes.
8. If the Recipient is under 18 years of age, he or she must also obtain agreement of their parent or guardian to these terms and conditions and the Program Guidelines prior to entering this Agreement.



9. The Recipient agrees to indemnify the AIS and its officers, employees and contractors against any claim, loss or damage arising in connection with undertaking the Course of Study, or a breach of this Agreement. This obligation to indemnify the AIS will reduce proportionally to the extent that any act or omission involving fault on the part of the of the AIS, contributed to the claim loss or damage.
10. This Agreement does not create a relationship of employment, or agency between the Recipient and the AIS
11. This agreement is governed by the law of the Australian Capital Territory.





[AIS.gov.au](https://ais.gov.au)



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