

University of Manchester Sport Scholarship Selection Policy

STAGE 1: ATHLETE APPLICATION

Athletes who wish to apply for a University of Manchester Sport Scholarship must complete a scholarship application form. This is an important element of the process as it enables the programme to understand the athlete goals for the season and where the programme can potentially add value. Each year the athlete cohort selected is from current students and prospective students who have applied to the University of Manchester.

STAGE 2: SELECTION PANEL

The purpose of the Selection Panel is to prioritise athletes who have highlighted the potential aligned to the below criteria and that are deemed to have shown signs to progress onto the next stage of their NGB pathway or into professional sport. The panel will be made up of members of the University of Manchester Performance Sport Panel.

The following four factors (five for returning scholars), as well as any other factors that may be deemed relevant, will be considered by the Panel when assessing selection for the programme.

FACTOR	CAN BY EVIDENCED USING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:	ASSESSED BY:
Performance Profile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Performance ranking ➤ Yearly progression profile and consistency of performance ➤ Major competition history ➤ Injury and training history ➤ Lifestyle and training environment ➤ Maturation / Potential (in primary and potential future events) 	Application
Sport profile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sports recognition by UK Sport ➤ Status of the NGB and sport/event on the senior international stage 	UK Sport Website

<p>Technical and Physical Profile</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Shows technical skills which highlights long term potential relevant to their sport/event ➤ Shows physical capabilities which highlights potential relevant to their sport/event 	<p>Supporting information or reference from NGB</p> <p>Metrics / KPI's from NGB to demonstrate skill against NGB set benchmarks and potential / trajectory</p>
<p>Demonstrates a commitment to striving for personal excellence <i>(see appendix 1 for further details)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Displays a commitment to striving for personal excellence ➤ Manages and balances the demands of a dual-career athlete ➤ Takes ownership of their programme ➤ Embraces learning and personal development 	<p>Personal statement</p> <p>Follow up interview if required</p>
<p>Previous engagement (returning applicants)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Engagement with services and processes in previous scholarship year. ➤ Acts as an ambassador to the scholarship both internally and external of the University. ➤ Commitment to supporting the development and performance of the relevant University Sports Club for your sport (in an agreed capacity) 	<p>Personal statement</p> <p>Staff reports</p>

STAGE 3: INDUCTION (Start of academic year, typically early October)

For returning scholars, the aim of the induction will be to officially re-welcome the athletes on the scholarship programme for this year, outline key dates, update on new tasks and processes for the year ahead, remind programme expectations and meet support staff and other athletes on the scholarship.

Athletes that are new to the scholarship will be asked to attend an additional section for the induction. The aim is similar to the returning scholar's induction however greater time will be spent to help the scholars understand the scholarship programme and navigate the processes and systems involved for the scholarship programme.

STAGE 4: ATHLETE ANNUAL MAPPING MEETING (July-October)

Following athlete/coach notification of selection for the programme, there will be a key stakeholders meeting with:

- The selected scholar,
- Their coach(es),
- Lead academic tutor/support staff,
- Sport Coordinator (Performance) or Performance Sport Officer,
- Relevant support staff such as S&C coach, physio and Lifestyle Advisor
- NGB representative or professional club representative (where required).

The purpose of the meeting is to connect all the athlete's stakeholders, outline the athlete's goals for the coming year, discuss the financial support package, align and agree primacy of support services (where required) and map pressure points for the year ahead in both academics and sport. The regularity of the key stakeholders meeting, reporting and communications will also be agreed.

STAGE 5: SCHOLARSHIP MID POINT MEETING (February)

At the midpoint of the scholarship, all scholars must attend a mid-point meeting. This meeting is to check progress against the agreed goals and support plans from the mapping meeting and adjust/update the plan for the remainder of the scholarship year if relevant.

EXPECTATION OF UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER SPORT SCHOLAR

- Communicate with programme staff via email as requested and in appropriate timeframes.
- As part of stage two and stage three, demonstrate Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound (SMART) sporting and educational goals.
- Meets with the Sport Coordinator / Performance Sport Officer for the annual mapping meeting and midpoint meeting.
- Complete the athlete UK Anti-Doping (UKAD) Compete Clean + course.
- Acts as an ambassador for the UoM Sport Scholarship and participate in agreed ambassadorial activities that raise the profile of the sport scholarship and support UoM Sport programme (a list of options will be shared with the scholar as part of their contract signing).
- Attends an annual programme induction and scholarship award ceremony (dates and times shared in appendix 2)
- Participate in scholarship events as directed by the Sport Coordinator (Performance) or Performance Sport Officer.
- Complete an annual programme review to support sport scholarship programme development.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the programme athletes will need to meet the minimum criteria;

- A University of Manchester full-time/part-time undergraduate/postgraduate student OR a prospective student who has received a conditional/unconditional offer and is commencing study in September 2026.
- Competing at a minimum of UK Junior National level on a recognised player pathway of a UK Sport recognised sport (for overseas applications, the standard must be equivalent to that of the UK).
- Be contracted to a club in a professional/semi-professional league, competing at national/international level (for overseas applications, the standard must be equivalent to that of the UK).
- Evidences a personal, sport and technical/physical profile that demonstrate performance levels of the minimum criteria.

- Evidences continuing striving for personal excellence, defined in this application under headline areas of:
 - Displays a commitment to striving for personal excellence
 - Manages and balances the demands of a dual-career athlete
 - Takes ownership of their programme
 - Embraces learning and personal development

Appendix 1 – Further details for applications

<p>Displays a commitment to striving for personal excellence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Commits to all training areas to prepare optimally for competition (e.g. sport, S&C, physio, lifestyle, nutrition and psychology) ➤ Shows consistence in effort over sessions and training block ➤ Keeps intensity in practice ➤ Shows consistent preparation ➤ Takes responsibility for rest and recovery ➤ Seeks support and identifies obstacles and setbacks as challenges ➤ Ability to work with others
<p>Manages and balances the demands of a dual-career athlete</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Proactively identifies periods of high demands (sport, academics and/or other factors) and communicates to relevant stakeholders in a timely manner ➤ Proactively manages their demands or seeks support where required ➤ Remains focused despite distractions present
<p>Takes ownership of themselves and their programme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Owns and takes responsibility for their programme ➤ Proactively seeks support from support staff where required ➤ The ability to understand the training process and their contribution to it ➤ Shows an understanding to why they are training in a particular way ➤ Asks questions to clarify understanding and purpose of training ➤ Be appropriately prepared for training and competition
<p>Embraces learning and personal development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Responds positively to training and competition situations ➤ Reacts appropriately to mistakes, feedback and constructive criticism ➤ Pursues confidence to thrive under pressure and do their best in competitive situations ➤ Reflects upon training and competitive performances to draw learning opportunities

Appendix 2 – key availability dates and times for 2026-27.

Scholarship induction session	Thursday 1 st October, 6pm-8pm
Scholarship award ceremony	Friday 9 th October, 12pm-2pm