



Student recruitment and admissions

Policy No.	SRA-010	Version:	003
Title	Policy and Procedure for Undergraduate Applications from Elite Athletes		
Description	How the University manages applications from elite sportspersons		
Dates			
First approved:	01/10/2014	Last approved:	01/10/2014
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UK quality code:	Core practices: The provider has a reliable, fair and inclusive admissions system.	Legal/regulatory-driven	No
Purpose			
The policy sets out principles and procedures for the management of applications for admission to the University of Edinburgh from elite athletes.			
Scope			Mandatory
This policy applies universally to all undergraduate students, irrespective of their fee status. Under this policy, consideration will solely be extended to applications from elite athletes who have undergone the prescribed identification procedure outlined herein			
Consultation carried out			
Sport and Exercise Department; College admissions practitioners, SRA stakeholders			
Responsibilities			
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Approving body:	Student Recruitment and Fees Strategy Group		
Related policies:	The University of Edinburgh Admissions Policy		
Policies superseded:	None		
Keywords:	Elite athlete; sport; admissions		



Policy and Procedure for Undergraduate Applications from Elite Athletes

1. Purpose

- 1.1.** To set out principles and procedures for the management of applications for admission to the University of Edinburgh from elite athletes.

2. Scope

- 2.1.** This policy applies to applications for undergraduate study only.
- 2.2.** This policy applies to all undergraduate students regardless of fee status.
- 2.3.** Only applications from elite athletes who have been identified by the procedure set out below will be considered under the terms of this policy.

3. Abbreviations

- 3.1. EUCLID:** University applications management system
- 3.2. HESA:** Higher Education Statistics Agency
- 3.3. SFC:** Scottish Funding Council
- 3.4. SRA:** Student Recruitment and Admissions
- 3.5. UCAS:** Universities and Colleges Admissions Service

4. Definitions

- 4.1.** An elite athlete is considered to be any athlete selected to represent their country in their chosen sport at either senior or junior international level.

5. Background

- 5.1.** The University of Edinburgh wishes to encourage applications from elite sportspersons.
- 5.2.** The University recognises the dedication and effort required from any athlete who goes on to reach the top in their sport. This level of commitment is valued in academic study as well as in athletic performance.
- 5.3.** The high-profile success of University staff, students and alumni in a wide range of sporting disciplines contributes positively to the life of the University, inspiring students and staff, and enhancing the University's reputation.

- 5.4. The University will recognise this contribution by providing flexibility in the selection process for applications from elite athletes who meet all of the minimum entry requirements for the programme they have applied to.

6. Policy detail

- 6.1. Elite athletes are generally identified by Performance Sports Team staff who work closely with sports clubs and national teams across the UK. Potential applicants with queries regarding eligibility should contact the Performance Sport Manager.
- 6.2. The University's Director of Sport and Exercise will identify applications from elite athletes to the Head of Admissions, Student Recruitment and Admissions, during each admissions cycle. Athletes must currently be competing at junior international level or above and will compete for the University as their club of first choice and/or represent the University at agreed competitions. Particular focus will be given to the following sports which are strategic priorities for the University's Performance Sport support programmes: Archery, Basketball, Fencing, Hockey, Orienteering, Swimming, Rowing and Rugby.
- 6.3. Athletes from other sports, including disability categories, will also be considered on a case-by-case basis provided they bring value to the University of Edinburgh and its sports programme. In such cases, evidence will be considered by the Director of Sport and Exercise in consultation with the Head of Admissions.
- 6.4. Applications will be identified as early as possible in the cycle each year, but no later than the standard UCAS deadlines of 15 October for applications to Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, and 15 January for all other applications. Where a programme remains open for applications from international applicants beyond 15 January, applications can continue to be identified as long as the programme remains open.
- 6.5. Applications from elite athletes will be flagged on EUCLID, and the appropriate College Admissions Office will be informed.
- 6.6. Applications will be screened as normal.
- 6.7. Where an appropriately flagged application meets all the minimum entry requirements for the programme applied to, including any specific subjects or grades, it will be entered into the selection process.
- 6.8. An 'Elite Athlete' flag will ensure that the application is given credit in the scoring system in the form of additional points, to increase the likelihood of an offer being made. This recognises the dual commitment of applicants who are also elite athletes to their academic studies and their sport.
- 6.9. Offers will be made at the typical level for the programme. However, at Confirmation, additional flexibility will be given to applicants with an 'Elite Athlete' flag who have not met the conditions of their offer but whose achievement is above the minimum. The degree of flexibility will be decided by the Colleges and will be dependent on the grades the applicant has achieved in specific subjects relative to entry requirements, as well as on conversion rates and available places.

- 6.10.** Wherever possible, an applicant who has an 'Elite Athlete' flag will be allowed to defer entry to the University for one year, if this is for reasons directly related to his or her sport. This includes deferral decisions made by the applicant following acceptance at Confirmation. Deferred entry may not be available for every degree programme.
- 6.11.** If the decision has been taken to reject an application before the Director of Sport and Exercise has identified it within the terms of this policy, reconsideration of the application will be at the discretion of the relevant admissions office.

7. Data protection

- 7.1.** The University of Edinburgh holds information about everyone who applies and studies at the institution. Information supplied as part of an application is used to administer the admissions process and may be shared with UCAS or other bodies to verify the identity, qualifications or references of an applicant. Information may also be used in an anonymised form for statistical purposes, which may be subsequently published or passed to government bodies such as the SFC or HESA to guide policy and funding allocation.
- 7.2.** Information held on successful applicants will be additionally used to administer studies, monitor performance and attendance, and provide student support. Further information about the University's use of data is available from the University's [Data Protection Officer](#).

8. Reporting and monitoring

- 8.1.** The Monitoring Student Numbers Group will track the number of elite athletes entering the University of Edinburgh under the terms of this policy and will report on an annual basis to the Student Recruitment and Fees Strategy Group.
- 8.2.** The policy will be reviewed in 2025 to assess fitness for purpose, and then reviews will be scheduled every three years.

9. Responsibilities

- Sport and Exercise [identify applications from elite athletes to the Head of Admissions in SRA]
- SRA Admission team [Monitors effectiveness of policy/reviews/amends in consultation with Sport and Exercise]
- College undergraduate and postgraduate offices [implement policy and provide feedback to SRA and Sport and Exercise]

10. Related policies

- Policy for admission to the University of Edinburgh

11. Policy version history

- Approved May 2014
- Reviewed September 2016 (no changes)
- Reviewed September 2020 (no changes)
- Reviewed September 2023 (minor changes to formatting and layout)