Utrecht University Top-Class Athlete Policy

1. To whom does the Utrecht University Top-Class Athlete Policy apply?
You are entitled to additional support from Utrecht University if you:
• are enrolled as a student; and
• have been awarded: A status, HP status, Select status, Bond status, or Talent status (International Talent, National Talent or Promise); and
• have registered this status with Utrecht University.

If you do not have a top-class athlete status, you are not eligible for support under the Utrecht University Top-Class Athlete Policy. You may contact your Study Advisor and/or lecturer to discuss whether any provisions can be made for you within your degree programme or specific course.

2. What are top-class athlete statuses and how are they awarded?
Top-class athlete statuses are awarded by NOC*NSF and/or sports associations; they are not awarded by the University itself. Utrecht University checks whether you have been granted a status and makes the provisions and facilities available to you accordingly. More information regarding the statuses is available on the website of our regional top-level sports partner Vereniging Sport Utrecht, and other sources.

3. How do I register my top-class athlete status with Utrecht University?
Before applying for the provisions and facilities for top-class athletes, you must make an appointment with the Top-Class Athlete Student Counsellor, Anne Hamburger. She will check your eligibility and ensure, among other things, that your status is communicated to the coordinator of your degree programme.

You can make an appointment with the Student Counsellor via the Student Services desk.
• Please ensure that you contact them in good time and not only when something goes wrong.
• If you are unable to attend during the set consultation hours due to your sporting or academic commitments, you can arrange to come at another time.
• For prospective students: please make an appointment before you make your final choice of degree programme or enrol to ensure that the programme is compatible with your sporting schedule.

NB: Every new academic year, you must apply to extend your access to the special provisions and facilities. You can submit your application to the Student Counsellor directly via email: a.n.hamburger@uu.nl.

4. What provisions and facilities does Utrecht University make available?
Utrecht University offers a number of provisions and facilities for which top-class athletes are eligible, including:
• special adjustments to your degree programme or special examination provisions;*
• an extension of the time limit for completing your degree (for the financial assistance system for students) for A status athletes;
• a special dispensation with regard to the student progress monitoring system (binding recommendation on continuation of studies);*
• assistance with finding accommodation with other top-class athletes;
• a special top-class athlete graduation certificate;
• a free membership card (Olympas) for the Olympos Sports Centre;
• assistance with finding professional coaching and support (sports physiotherapist, etc.);
• reimbursement of costs if you fall behind in your studies as a result of your sporting commitments;
• clothing sponsorship for important (inter)national matches or tournaments;
• reimbursement of costs, either wholly or in part, for training internships or matches abroad.

Utrecht University makes every effort to help top-class athletes combine their studies and sporting activities, but athletes must bear in mind that there are certain limitations even when you have a top-class athlete status.

5. What conditions must I satisfy to take advantage of these provisions and facilities?
To be able to take advantage of the provisions and facilities for top-class athletes you must, in any case, satisfy a number of conditions:
• You have registered your top-class athlete status with the Top-Class Athlete Student Counsellor (NB: you must apply to extend your registration each year to continue to take advantage of the provisions).
• Your commitment to your studies is evident from your study results or a statement from your Study Advisor or tutor.
• You make as much use of other amenities for top-class athletes as possible (association, sports association, sponsors).
• You registered with the Top-Class Athlete Student Counsellor in good time, i.e. before problems arose.

6. How do I arrange and manage the provisions following registration?

Adjustments to your degree programme: After you have registered as a top-class athlete with Utrecht University, you can discuss your study timetable with your Study Advisor and any special provisions within your degree programme. The Study Advisor may refer you directly to the relevant lecturer or Board of Examiners to request a special provision.

Financial and other support (not study related): You may email requests for financial and other support to the Top-Class Athlete Student Counsellor. You can also contact her for any other information you require.

a. Requests for financial support for matches or training internships abroad should be submitted after you return and should include:
• a budget (including contributions from yourself and other sources);
• copies of receipts;
• a description of the activity for which you are requesting support;
• a description of your performance/achievements (if applicable);
• an IBAN number.
NB: expenses relating to equipment, food and drink, and matches within the Netherlands will not be reimbursed.

b. You may submit a request for reimbursement if you fall behind schedule with your studies as a result of your position as a top-class athlete once only before your enrolment at Utrecht University is terminated/you graduate from Utrecht University, and only if it is abundantly clear that the delay was due to your sporting activities. The request should include:
• a written statement (from you) explaining the delay in your studies and any necessary supporting documents;
• the date on which you expect to graduate;
• an IBAN number.

NB: when awarding this financial support, Utrecht University will also take account of stipends from NOC*NSF and other sources of income from your sporting activities.

c. Requests for sponsorship should be submitted with:
• an overview of your recent sporting achievements;
• a budget;
• a statement of the purpose and scope of the sponsorship and your obligations in return (what does the sponsorship involve and how much publicity will Utrecht University gain);
• an IBAN number.