

## **Compensation for top-level athlete students who have fallen behind schedule in their studies**

Adopted by the Executive Board with the agreement of the University Council on 26 June 2017.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Articles 7.51, 7.51c, 7.51f, and 7.51h of the Higher Education and Research Act (Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek, WHW) contain rules relating to financial support for students who fall behind schedule in their studies due to exceptional circumstances. The Executive Board has adopted the following scheme in relation to the awarding of financial support in accordance with the Act on 26 June 2017, with the agreement of the University Council.

## **CHAPTER 1. SCOPE AND FINANCIAL COMPENSATION**

### **Article 1 – Scope**

This scheme applies solely to students who:

- a. have paid statutory tuition fees to Utrecht University;
- b. are in possession of Dutch A status, HP status, Select status, Bond status, IT status, NT status or Promise status; or who are in possession of one of these statuses at Utrecht University during the period referred to in Article 1 under a; or who had the Utrecht Sports Association Region 1 status (abolished on 1 September 2016) or the NOC\*NSF B status (abolished on 1 January 2017) at Utrecht University during the period referred to in Article 1 under a; and
- c. had their status registered with the Top-class sport student advisor<sup>1</sup>.

### **Article 2 – Financial support**

- a. Any student, as referred to in Article 1, who gains less than 60 ECTS per year on average as a result of their top-level sporting activities during their main study programme, for which they pay tuition fees as meant in Article 6 paragraph 1, will be eligible for financial support for as long as no degree has been awarded for the programme for which they have met their payment obligations.
- b. Any falling behind schedule in studies that occurs during a period in which the top-level athlete student receives a scholarship from NOC\*NSF and the Ministry of Public Health, Welfare, and Sport will not in principle be eligible for financial support. Any expenses that are reimbursed to top-level athletes by their sports association, sport club or sponsor will be taken into consideration for the purposes of calculating the level of financial support, and may be deducted if it is deemed reasonable to do so, depending on the situation.

### **Article 3 – Level of financial support**

1. The financial support will amount to ten months per person for their entire period of enrolment at Utrecht University, as meant in Article 6 paragraph 1 (Bachelor's and/or Master's). Students who have fallen behind schedule in their studies by less than one month are not entitled to financial support.
2. The level of financial support is equivalent to €425 per month.
3. The financial support will be paid in the form of a gift.

## **CHAPTER 2. TOP-LEVEL SPORT AND FALLING BEHIND SCHEDULE IN STUDIES**

### **Article 4 – Determining the extent to which a student has fallen behind schedule in their studies**

- a. The extent to which a student has fallen behind schedule in their studies will be set down, once only, at the written request of the top-level athlete student in question, and will be based on the following:
  - evidence demonstrating the relationship between the falling behind schedule and the sport;

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<sup>1</sup> Top-class athletes should re-register their status every year in order to be able to continue using the relevant amenities.

- the number of credits gained by the student during the period in which his top-level sport status was registered at Utrecht University;
  - the number of credits that the student could have gained during that period; and
  - the level of responsible study conduct, referred to in Article 5.
- b. The extent to which a student has fallen behind schedule in their studies is determined:
- as soon as the student has fallen behind schedule by 60 ECTS or more, as a result of top-level sport activities; or
  - if this is less than 60 ECTS, at the time of the awarding of the final diploma. If the student is taking both a Bachelor's and a Master's, or just a Master's, at Utrecht University, the awarding of the Master's diploma will be deemed to be the final diploma.

### **Article 5 – Notification; limiting the extent to which a student falls behind in his or her studies**

The Utrecht University top-level sports policy entails support from the faculties (in the form of modifications to the study timetable, for example), with the aim of preventing, as much as possible, top-level athlete students from falling behind schedule in their studies as a result of their sports activities.

Top-level athlete students should make as much use as possible, at the appropriate times, of the supervision and facilities offered by the university, and if it appears likely that they will not be able to participate gainfully in their study programmes for an extended period of time, they should seek advice from the study advisor or student counsellor in relation to their enrolment at Utrecht University, and to follow this advice in order to limit the degree to which they fall behind in their studies as much as possible.

Not following this advice may result in the top-level athlete in question not receiving any compensation for that particular part of their studies in which they fall behind schedule.

## **CHAPTER 3. PROCEDURE: APPLICATION, PROCESSING AND DECISION**

### **Article 6 - Application**

1. Applications for financial support should be submitted digitally, once only, using the method described in the Utrecht University Top-Class Athlete policy:
  - if the extent to which a student has fallen behind schedule at Utrecht University (either the Bachelor's, Master's, or Bachelor's and Master's) as a result of top-level sport activities is known; and
  - in any event at least two months before the applicant graduates for the final diploma that he expects to receive from Utrecht University.
2. Digital applications should include:
  - An explanation on why the applicant fell behind in his studies, and the date on which he expects to graduate;
  - Documentation confirming that the falling behind schedule was due to top-level sport activities, such as a statement from the sports association, coach, NOC\*NSF, which should include contact details;
  - Proof of other sources of income, if applicable (see Article 2, under b);
  - A declaration of consent that information about the use of the facilities may be requested from the study advisor;
  - An IBAN number.
3. Applicants will then receive an online confirmation of receipt.
4. Applications submitted after graduation will not be considered.

### **Article 7 - Processing and decision**

1. The director of the Academic Affairs Office will decide on the application on behalf of the Executive Board within eight weeks of receipt of the documentation referred to in Article 6, paragraph 2.
2. Any application as mentioned in Article 6 will be put to the top-level sports student counsellor for his recommendation.
3. The decision will be one of the following:
  - the application will be rejected;
  - financial support will be awarded for a period to be determined;
  - the application will be disregarded due to late submission or because the submission was not complete by the end of the applicable period.
4. The decision will be delivered to the applicant in writing, and will include the reasons for the decision. In the decision, the applicant will be informed that he may lodge an objection to it with the Executive Board, in accordance with Article 7.1 of the General Administrative Law Act. In the ruling on the objection, the applicant will be informed that he may lodge an appeal against it with the Higher Education Appeals Board, in accordance with Article 7.66 of the Higher Education and Research Act.

### **Article 8 – Payment of top-level sports compensation**

Financial support will be issued in one payment to applications within four weeks of the decision referred to in Article 7.

## **CHAPTER 4. FINAL PROVISIONS**

### **Article 9 – Power of derogation**

The director of the Academic Affairs Office acts on behalf of the Executive Board in the case of applications for financial support under this scheme, unless this could have consequences for any of the parties involved that due to exceptional circumstances would be disproportionate in relation to the objectives of the scheme.

### **Article 10 - Entry into force**

This scheme entered into force on 01 September 2017.