



# elite athlete friendly university program

---

Success in sport  
and study



## Elite Athlete Friendly University program

The Elite Athlete Friendly University (EAFU) program supports Australia's elite athletes to achieve academic excellence while also pursuing a sporting career.

The value of combining both sport and higher education to achieve greater life success is well recognised across the university and sporting sectors.

There are 39 universities across Australia that are part of the EAFU network. Each of these universities has a contact person to support elite athletes within their university.

The EAFU contact provides:

- advice and guidance on academic planning
- support in negotiating flexibility to meet academic requirements
- advocacy within the university environment
- support in negotiating and/or implementing cross-institutional study or credit transfer arrangements.

To locate EAFU contacts, visit the Personal Excellence website: **[ausport.gov.au/ais/personal\\_excellence](https://ausport.gov.au/ais/personal_excellence)**

***Please note*** – not all universities in the EAFU program provide all of the support services outlined. You will need to check with your university as to how they can assist you.



'The EAFU has provided me with the flexibility and support to allow me to continue with my studies whilst achieving my sporting goals.'

---

**Lauren Jackson**

Olympic and world championship medallist  
Seven-time WNBA All Star and MVP  
Bachelor of Arts



'The EAFU has a great understanding of the requirements of a professional Rugby player. They have been very supportive when it comes to the flexibility we require to balance our studies and Rugby successfully.'

---

**Ed Quirk (Queensland Reds)**

Bachelor of Education (Health and Physical Education)

**Aidan Toua (Queensland Reds)**

Bachelor of Business

## Benefits of the EAFU?

Universities belonging to the EAFU network understand athletes require increased support to successfully combine study, training and competition. As a result, eligible athletes may be able to negotiate their study options, assessment and course entry.

### Flexible study options

- > Enrolment:
  - academic study loads
  - lecture, tutorial and practical timetables
  - extending the minimum time to complete courses due to periods of decreased study load
  - several leaves of absence where required (for example, an Olympic year)
  - cross-institutional study options with interstate universities.
- > Assessment:
  - assessment deadlines, and the possibility of sitting exams externally under exam conditions while competing overseas
  - attendance at lectures, tutorials or practicals.
- > Course entry:
  - A number of universities allow elite athletes to submit accompanying documentation regarding athletic pursuits and achievements for consideration for course entry. This is normally highlighted within tertiary admissions documentation.

## Who is eligible?

For athletes to access the support EAFU program, they must be recognised as an **elite athlete** by one of the following:

- > AIS
- > State institute or academy of sport
- > AFL Players' Association
- > Australian Cricketers' Association
- > Rugby Union Players' Association
- > Rugby League Professionals Association
- > Australian Professional Footballers' Association

Alternatively, they must be a national squad member from Australian Sports Commission funded sports.

If an athlete is not recognised by one of the above, they may submit an application for consideration to the university. The university will use its discretion in assessing student athletes.



‘Having the support of the EAFU program has meant I have been more easily able to combine my studies and the demands of training and competing.’



### **Evan O’Hanlon**

Five-time Paralympic gold medallist  
Bachelor of Landscape Architecture

## How to get involved

Contact the AIS, your state institute or academy of sport, university or player welfare manager to discuss how the EAFU network can help you. To check if your university participates in the scheme, visit the Personal Excellence web site: **[ausport.gov.au/ais/personal\\_excellence](https://ausport.gov.au/ais/personal_excellence)**

For further information contact:  
AIS Personal Excellence program  
Tel: (02) 6214 1111

