



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

CODE OF PRACTICE ON ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX O

Policy on Flexible Arrangements for Learning and Assessment for Students with a Recognised Sporting Talent

2023-24

Applicable to all cohorts

In the Code of Practice on Assessment and all Appendices the term “student” includes apprentices on degree apprenticeship programmes

Policy on Flexible Arrangements for Learning and Assessment for Students with a Recognised Sporting Talent

1. Introduction

1.1. The University of Liverpool encourages its students to excel in academic and non-academic arenas for the benefit of the individual and the institution. In addition to observing the general principle of retaining Wednesday afternoons for inter-university competition, the University also recognises that, in order for high performing students to achieve their sporting goals, to compete in major events and to contribute to the University's strategic targets as set out in its Sports Strategy (summary versions available from Sport Liverpool on request), adjustments to an individual student's pattern of study or assessment may be needed from time to time.

1.2. The University expects that all students supported through this policy will maintain high levels both of academic and sports performance and will serve as ambassadors for the University.

2. Procedures for applying for recognition as a Performance Athlete

2.1. Students with a sporting talent should apply for University recognition as a performance athlete by submitting the Application form through the University's website. Prospective students can apply from the age of 16+ and the programme can give an applicant an offer prior to applying to the university. Prospective applicants to the programme understand that any offer made to be accepted as a performance athlete is contingent on obtaining a place on a recognised academic programme offered by the university. These applications will be considered by a panel comprising the Director of Sport Liverpool, the Sports Development Manager and the Sports Development Officer (Performance) against a set of published criteria (www.liverpool.ac.uk/sports/team-sport-liverpool/performance-programme/). The names of recognised elite athletes are notified to the relevant academic Departments/Schools.

2.2. Recognised athletes will be eligible for consideration for:

- 2.2.1. additional support services including training-fee subsidy, competition entry fee payment, or reimbursement of travel costs;
- 2.2.2. in some circumstances, for flexible arrangements for learning and assessment.

2.3. Recognised athletes should discuss their training and competition schedules with the University's Sports Development Officer (Performance) and with their Academic Adviser at the earliest opportunity, normally at the start of each academic year.

3. Flexible Arrangements for Learning and Assessment

3.1. Students who have been recognised by the University as having and maintaining sporting talent may apply in writing, citing key dates and a justification for alternative learning or assessment arrangements, to their Head of Department (or Dean of School where there is no Department), or their nominated representative, for consideration for the following types of flexible arrangements:

- 3.1.1. Authorised absence from scheduled lectures, seminars or other teaching sessions;
- 3.1.2. Revised deadlines for submission of formative or summative coursework;
- 3.1.3. Special consideration in the allocation and timing of placements, study visits or clinical practice sessions;
- 3.1.4. In exceptional circumstances, such as competing in or preparing for a major international sporting event, alternative assessments or examinations.

Where necessary, Heads of Department/Deans of School or their nominated representative will verify an applicant's supporting evidence such as competition dates and times or references from a National Sport Governing Body with the Sport Liverpool Directorate.

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3.2. The Head of Department (or their nominated representative) shall refer the application to the relevant Board of Studies for a decision on the application. The decision shall be notified to the student and reported to the relevant Board of Examiners.

3.3. Only those students who maintain the required level of academic progress on their programme of study, as determined by the relevant Board of Examiners or Faculty Progress Committee (by Chair's Action if necessary), shall be considered for the flexible arrangements.

3.4. The following are examples of sporting commitments for which students might request flexible arrangements:

- 3.4.1. Athletes competing in national/international competitions for their home nation;
- 3.4.2. Student athletes attending special training camps to maintain or enhance their inclusion in a regional or national (senior or age group) squad;
- 3.4.3. Students competing for a University of Liverpool team that has reached the semi-final or final of a British Universities and Colleges Sports National Competition;
- 3.4.4. Students who represent the University of Liverpool and compete in sports that offer only one or two events per year, as opposed to weekly league matches.

3.5. It is expected that any student requiring any concession in academic schedules under this policy will know of and have discussed with relevant University staff their commitments and any potential clashes with academic requirements well in advance. In normal circumstances, the student would also make their own arrangements to catch up on material covered in sessions missed.

3.6. The decision of the Board of Studies on the application for concession, whether a refusal of the application or provision of an alternative arrangement, cannot be used as grounds for an appeal or complaint.