



Mark Crosbee
Australia U23 Canoe Slalom
UNSW Ben Lexcen Scholarship



2026 UNSW Sport Scholarships & Elite Athlete Program

Introduction

High performance sport has a long and successful history at UNSW. Our sports program has allowed us to attract and retain some of the best and brightest student athletes, and creates a sense of pride in the UNSW name through the celebration of student and alumni success.

UNSW is endorsed by Sport Australia as a member of the Elite Athlete Education Network (EAEN) and we offer flexible entry and study for identified elite athletes, allowing them to balance sport and study in order to provide pathways to life after sport. This ensures their experience on campus is one that is rewarding, flexible and helps them acquire the right skills and qualifications needed to follow their passions and interests outside of sport.

The Elite Athlete University Network provides a network of AIS endorsed providers in the areas of higher education where athletes can learn and equip themselves with qualifications, knowledge and skills for future careers beyond their sport.

**OUR STUDENT-ATHLETES ARE SUPPORTED TO
ACHIEVE IN SPORT AND STUDY, THROUGH THE
UNSW ELITE ATHLETE PROGRAM AND OUR RANGE
OF SPORTS SCHOLARSHIPS.**

**IF YOU WANT TO BALANCE SPORT AND STUDY,
NOW AND IN THE FUTURE, #TEAMUNSW HAS THE
SUPPORT YOU NEED.**



Acknowledgement of Country

UNSW Sport would like to Acknowledge the Bedegal (Kensington campus), Gadigal (City and Art & Design Campuses) and Ngunnawal people (UNSW Canberra) who are the traditional custodians of the lands where each campus of UNSW is located.



Photo courtesy of NSW Athletics



Ben Lexcen Scholarship

The Ben Lexcen Sports Scholarship is the premier elite athlete sports scholarship for current UNSW students with an outstanding ability in sport.

The scholarship aims to enable the scholar to continue excelling at their sport while also supporting their academic endeavours and promoting the development of well-rounded future leaders.

It is awarded on elite athlete merit, leadership qualities and potential to contribute to the UNSW community.

Ben Lexcen Scholars

Caitlin Cronin

Master of Public Health
Australian Rowing, Paris 2024 Olympics

Ethan Jamieson

B Politics, Philosophy & Economics
U19 Australian Cricket & UNSW Cricket

Hayley Ballesty

B Landscape Architecture (Hons)
Aussie Stingers Water Polo

Jack Adams

B Engineering (Hons)/Commerce
NZ National Snow Sports Team

John Hedges

B Commerce
Aussie Sharks Water Polo

Lucy Coleman

B Engineering (Hons)
Australian Rowing Team

Mark Crosbee

B Engineering (Hons)
Australian U23 Canoe Slalom Team

Matilda McDonell

B Psychological Science / Law
GIANTS Netball

Matthew Byrnes

B Commerce
Aussie Sharks Water Polo

Rebecca Beeson

Master of Property & Development
Giants AFLW

Sophie Fawns

B Science
NSW Swifts

Tamsin Colley

B Exercise Physiology
Australian Para-Athletics Team

Application Information

“UNSW provided flexibility so I could succeed in a professional sporting environment while also completing a degree. It wasn’t always easy combining the demands of AFL with study but having the relationship I did with the Elite Athlete Program certainly made things easier.”

Nick Smith
Former Sydney Swans player & UNSW student



Flexible Entry - Adjustment Factors

HSC Plus (No application)	UNSW Access Scheme (Application to UAC)	Elite Athletes, Performers and Leaders (Application to UNSW)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HSC Plus is designed to reward strong performance in Australian Senior Secondary Certificate (Year 12) Number of points awarded and the Year 12 subjects considered are specific to individual undergraduate degrees Maximum of 5 points for each UNSW preference No application required (automatically applied) HSC Plus Calculator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided for students new to higher education who have experienced long-term educational disadvantage Disrupted schooling; Financial hardship; Severe family disruption; Excessive family responsibilities; English language difficulties; Attendance at a rural high school; Low Socio-economic Status Applicants for UNSW’s ACCESS Scheme lodge an Educational Access Schemes (EAS) application and their circumstances are assessed centrally at UAC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EAPL Program considers both academic and elite achievements and recognises these by awarding adjustment factors.

You can gain up to 12 points across a range of adjustment factors schemes to use towards UNSW Admission

Elite Athletes, Performers & Leaders (EAPL)

EAPL Adjustment Factors

- [Adjustment Factors](#), including the EAPL Program considers both academic and elite achievements and recognises these by awarding adjustment factors
- Up to five points to high school leavers who have excelled in areas of sport, academia, leadership, and/or music at an elite level
- Achievements in separate sports can be combined
- Activities and/or commitments must have been undertaken in years 11 and/or 12
- 2025 applications open in August and close on November 30, 2025



2026 Sport Scholarships

Ben Lexcen Scholarship

Value: \$10,000 per year

The Ben Lexcen Sports Scholarship is the premier elite athlete sports scholarship for current UNSW students with an outstanding ability in sport. It is awarded on elite athlete merit, leadership qualities and potential to contribute to the UNSW community.

Indigenous Elite Athlete Scholarship

Value: \$10,000 per year

Premier elite athlete sporting scholarship at UNSW for Indigenous student athletes. Awarded on elite athlete merit, leadership qualities and potential to contribute to the UNSW community. Applicants must identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Prue Watt Sport Award

Value: \$10,000 per year

The Prue Watt Sports Award supports elite athletes living with a disability. Prue Watt OAM established herself as one of Australia's most successful Paralympians winning one gold, five silver and two bronze medals in swimming across three Paralympic Games. The Prue Watt Sport Award is part of Prue's legacy at UNSW, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science majoring in Neuroscience in 2017.

UNSW & NSW Rugby Awards

Value: \$10,000 per year

Specifically for rugby players based in NSW. Including playing in NSW rugby competitions and/or involvement in NSW Rugby pathways and/or NSW Waratahs.

Elite Athlete Program Scholarship

Value: \$5,000 per year

Targeted at elite athletes who are still progressing along their pathway to top level selection. Awarded on elite athlete merit and potential to represent UNSW at University Nationals and other competitions.

High Performance Club Scholarship

Value: \$5,000 per year

Specifically for student athletes competing for a UNSW High Performance Club- AFL, Cricket, Football (Soccer), Hockey, Judo, Water Polo

Randwick Rugby / St Hillier's Scholarship

Value: \$5,000 per year

Specifically for rugby players representing community partner Randwick Rugby Club. Awarded on elite athlete merit and value to Randwick Rugby Club.

Bill Jameson Football Scholarship

Value: \$5,000 per year

Specifically for football (soccer) players representing UNSW Football Club. Awarded on elite athlete merit and value to UNSW Football Club.

Mark Dorrity Athletics Scholarship

Value: \$5,000 per year

Specifically for track and field athletes representing UNSW Athletics Club. Awarded on athletic merit, club contribution and value to UNSW Athletics Club.

Sam Cracknell Memorial Scholarship

Value: \$5,000 per year

Targeted at athletes who are strong contributors to the running of their UNSW sports club or strong contributors to UNSW sport overall - both on and off the field.

UNSW Sport Scholarships
recognise and support student
athletes to achieve their
sporting and academic goals



Flexibility of Study

- Tailored timetables to integrate with sporting commitments, and access to distance education materials
- Leave of absence where required due to increased commitments. EG. Olympic Games
- Possibility to sit exams externally under exam conditions
- Three-term academic model

Student Support Advisors

Student Support Advisors help with personalised advice and information about:

- University life
- Student visas
- Wellbeing- anxiety, stress etc
- Academic performance- time management, goal setting
- If you need help but don't know where to go

Psychology and Wellness

UNSW Psychology and Wellness provides a confidential counselling service to all students enrolled at UNSW. Services include:

- Individual counselling
- Motivational support
- Personal skills development
- Psychological services
- Anxiety and mood management
- Stress management programs
- Our online self-help resources, specific programs, workshops and seminars
- Can refer to other mental health services external to UNSW
- Facilities - free Membership to Fitness & Aquatic Centre to use pool and gym for training

**A new era has
arrived at UNSW**



Village Green Wellness Precinct

The new Village Green Wellness Precinct at our Kensington campus is a vibrant and connected space that provides sport, social, recreational and wellness activities. It is a space where students, staff and the community come together and enjoy sport and active recreation at a variety of levels.

Features

- FIFA and World Rugby competition-standard multi-purpose pitch
- Multi-sport facilities to exercise, socialise and relax
- Multi-purpose courts for netball, basketball and futsal
- 500m walking and running track
- Flood lighting
- Basketball half-court



Why choose UNSW?

UNSW is driven to deliver excellence in all we do, underpinned by our ethos of heart, hand and mind.

From attracting the world's foremost leaders, the brightest students, and partnering with champions of industry, government and community - we are proud of the positive impact we are making.

Since its inception, UNSW has delivered outstanding educational outcomes, capitalising on our tradition of discovery, collaboration, entrepreneurship, technology, and our commitment to social justice.

Our world-leading research spans pioneering renewables, developing critical therapeutic treatments, creating equitable education, progressing the Uluru Statement, and advancing quantum computing (and much more).

From being in the top 50 universities worldwide, to our research initiatives recognised as best in Australia for social impact, our passion for quality research and education is reflected in our accolades and contributions.

WHEN DO UNSW SPORT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS OPEN AND CLOSE FOR 2026?

Applications are now open for 2026 scholarships and will close on December 1, 2025.

WHEN WILL APPLICANTS BE NOTIFIED OF THE OUTCOME OF THEIR APPLICATION?

All applicants will be notified if they have been successful or unsuccessful during December 2025 and January 2026.

IF I AM SUCCESSFUL IN BEING AWARDED A UNSW SPORT SCHOLARSHIP, HOW WILL I RECEIVE THE FINANCIAL COMPONENT?

Scholarship recipients will have payment made to their nominated bank account. Payments are made once per term throughout the academic year.

WHAT IS CONSIDERED FULL-TIME STUDY LOAD?

Full-time study load is studying a minimum of six subjects spread across the three academic Terms.

IS MY SPORT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION THE SAME AS MY APPLICATION FOR ELITE ATHLETE, PERFORMERS AND LEADERS (EAPL) ADJUSTMENT FACTORS?

No. These are two separate applications and are reviewed by separate review committees.

For more information on Elite Athlete, Performers & Leaders (EAPL) Program please visit the Future Students website.

IF I AM UNSUCCESSFUL IN RECEIVING A UNSW SPORT SCHOLARSHIP, IS THERE STILL AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE PART OF THE UNSW ELITE ATHLETE PROGRAM (EAP)?

Yes. Successful Scholarship applicants will automatically be included on the UNSW Elite Athlete Program. However, non-scholarship students can separately apply for the UNSW Elite Athlete Program once they commence studying at UNSW.

HOW TO APPLY

Scan here to visit the scholarships page of the UNSW Sport website, where you will find all the info and links to apply for your course of choice, sports scholarships and the Elite Athlete Program.



KEY DATES

- Scholarship applications open: July 1, 2025
- EAPL Adjustment Factors applications open: August 2025
- Scholarship applications close: December 1, 2025
- EAPL Adjustment Factors applications close: November 30, 2025
- Scholarship recipients notified: December 2025 & January 2026



OUR SPORTING PARTNERSHIPS

Community Partners



Venue Partners



Testimonials



Giants Netball | B Psychological Science / Law

"I think it's really important to balance study with sport – there are a lot of studies about mind and body working together, so it's always been important to me to study really hard and get a job as well as an athletic career."



Australian Kookaburras Hockey | B Actuarial Studies

"Getting the right balance as an athlete is really important. Study is a good outlet, it helps me take my mind off hockey and I enjoy it."



Sydney Swans AFL | M Commerce

"I transferred once UNSW adopted trimesters. It suits our program much better. The greatest thing I've noticed is that the team are great communicators and very proactive with making sure we've flagged potential clashes of schedules or workloads."



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