

ACADEMIC FLEXIBILITY FOR STUDENTS COMPETING IN INTERNATIONAL SPORT

1. BACKGROUND

It was agreed at the meeting of Academic Directorate on 11 June 2001 to offer academic flexibility wherever possible to members of the Kingston University Talented Athletes Scheme.

The University's Sport & Recreation Service, a section of the Department of Student Services and Administration, set up a scheme for supporting talented athletes in 1998. The scheme was renamed the Sports Performance Programme in 2006.

The aim of this scheme is to provide support for current students who compete at an international standard in sport. The scheme also offers the following benefits:

- Bursaries of up to £250 towards the costs of competing in major championships (e.g. British Universities Games)
- Free use of the University Fitness Centre
- Discounted sports therapy and sports science support
- Free sports massage

2. PROVIDING ACADEMIC FLEXIBILITY

In previous years, many students on the scheme have been fortunate to enjoy the enthusiastic support of their tutors in helping them to balance their academic and sporting needs. For example, a final year student was allowed to take his last exam two days early, to enable him to compete in the European Hockey Championships in May 2001.

In some circumstances, other students have also either had exams moved, or been able to sit them away from the University, whilst being invigilated by an approved person, such as their coach. Submission dates for course work have also been moved.

3. POLICY STATEMENT

The principle that all students should be treated equitably suggests that the University needs to adopt a clear position. The following policy statement has been approved by Academic Directorate:

- The university is committed to supporting students who compete at an international level in sport and are members of the University's scheme for supporting talented athletes.
- In the case of course work, there should be a general presumption that revised submission dates can be negotiated. It is recognised that certain assignments may not permit this, for example where a guest lecturer or group work is involved.
- Wherever possible, and if supported by the Exams Office, an examination may be sat early or late, but as close to the original date as possible and in accordance with current procedures. If this is not possible, it may be appropriate to allow a student to sit the examination when the resit exams are timetabled.

4. PROCEDURES

These procedures must be followed:

- Any chaperonage should be organised by the School or sports governing body concerned and must be approved by the Exams Office. Strict standards of rigour will be applied.
- The Exams Office and other relevant individuals within the University must be notified of the possibility of the need for special arrangements in good time wherever possible.
- Confirmation of the student's current membership of the Sports Performance Programme must be sought from the Sport and Recreation Service.

5. FURTHER INFORMATION

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