L-Università ta' Malta

UM SASP

University of Malta Student-Athlete Support Programme

# Student-Athlete Support Programme Guidelines

**Student-Athlete Exemption from Lectures / Seminars/ Tutorials**
**and**
**Arrangements for Examinations Clashing with International Competitions**

**Instructions for Student-Athletes**

The University endeavours to assist student-athletes to strike a balance between their sport and academic commitments hence aiming to ensure that they perform to the maximum of their abilities in both their course and their sporting discipline through the provision of the necessary structures and support required for success.

Any student-athletes following a course at UM whilst also practising sport at the highest national level and /or international level are invited annually to come forward and apply for consideration to join the University's Student-Athlete Support Programme (SASP). Students who had already been accepted to join this programme in previous years are asked to reapply at the start of each academic year in order to confirm their eligibility to remain members of the programme.

From time to time, student-athletes may be selected to represent their club or Malta in international competitions that may clash with their academic commitments. ***Only student-athletes who have been accepted to join the SASP will be eligible to benefit from exemption of their academic commitments and/or the possibility of rescheduling examinations that clash with their international competition commitments.***

The SASP supports student-athletes in balancing their academic studies with their sporting commitments. However, fixed regular club training sessions, for instance, scheduled training sessions taking place during the week from 15:00hrs onwards, cannot justify exemption from scheduled academic activities. In cases when such clashes happen on 'one-off' and 'non-regular' occasions, support is provided. Student-athletes are expected to attend and fulfil their academic commitments while managing their training schedules accordingly. Any requests for exemptions must be justified and considered in accordance with the SASP guidelines.

*A list of all student-athletes accepted to join the SASP for the current academic year will be sent to Faculty Managers/ Officers towards the start of the academic year. All requests from student-athletes should be verified against this list.*

## 1.0 Information and Procedures for Student-Athletes

Student-athletes should follow the below procedures:

### 1.1 Local, International Competitions, and Training Camps abroad clashing with lectures / seminars / tutorials

Student-athletes selected to take part in official local, international competitions and training camps abroad clashing with lectures/seminars /tutorials are to:

(a) ensure that they have been accepted to join the SASP for that academic year. Eligibility to join the SASP is renewed on a yearly basis normally towards the start of the academic year. Should there be any queries on this they are to contact SASP administrators on athletesupport@um.edu.mt

(b) inform the relevant Sport Mentor and Faculty Manager / Officer by filling in and returning via email the Student-Athlete Exemption from Attendance of Lectures form together with a scanned copy of an original letter of confirmation by their sport association/federation. The Student-Athlete Exemption from Attendance of Lectures form may be found by following the link below:

https://www.um.edu.mt/media/um/docs/institutes/ipes/SASPFormExemption_Lectures2025.pdf

**Student-athletes are responsible for informing the relevant members of staff well in advance. On the day exemption requests are not acceptable.**

(c) Student-athletes are responsible for communicating their absence to the relevant academic members of staff on an individual basis as well as ensure that they abide with any instructions that are communicated to them including any additional work that may be set to make up for the time lost and that is required in the opinion of the academic.

***Students are reminded that exemption is not automatic nor guaranteed. Failing to attend lectures / seminars / tutorials without approved valid reasons may result in them being barred from taking any of their assessments.***

## 1.2 International Competitions Clashing with the University's Official Examination Period

In cases where student-athletes have been selected to compete internationally, and the competition clashes with examinations held during the University's official examination period, as published on the UM's official calendar, the following procedure should be adhered to.

(a) As soon as the student-athlete is notified that they have been shortlisted for selection to compete in an international competition, they should inform the relevant Sport Mentor and Faculty Manager/Officer. The earlier this notification comes in, the better. This is because the University will do its utmost to avoid scheduling examinations that clash with the student-athlete's competition dates.

(b) The selected (or potentially to be selected) student-athlete should fill in the *Student-Athlete Examination Clashes with Competitions* form below. It must be signed by the relevant sport association/federation:

https://www.um.edu.mt/media/um/docs/institutes/ipes/SASPExam_Comp_Form202529102025(1).pdf

(c) The Student-Athlete Examination Clashes with Competitions form filled together with a scanned copy of an original letter of confirmation by their sport association/federation should be sent via email to the home faculty/institute/centre/school and cc athletesupport@um.edu.mt.

*Failure to submit this form may result in the student's absence not being considered valid and hence deemed to be equivalent to the student not having turned up for examinations with the normal consequences as established by the General Regulations for University Undergraduate Awards.*

Students are reminded that they are to inform the University in writing if they are NOT participating in the sports event/competition. The University reserves the right to revoke any arrangements made for student-athletes who fail to inform the University of their non-participation, and they will be bound to sit for their examination/s on the stipulated dates and times as published by the University with the rest of the cohort.