

# Performance Sport Scholarship Programme 2025-26

The University of Essex is committed to supporting and developing high performance athletes. The talented athlete is at the heart of our ambitious programme to deliver sporting excellence. We believe that through our commitment to continuous improvement, cutting-edge sports research, excellence in education and willingness to leave no stone unturned, we can assist athletes to fulfil their athletic potential.

Our performance sport scholarships are aimed at talented athletes playing at regional, national or international level.

Alongside performance coaching, recipients of the Performance Sport Scholarship programme may also receive additional support services package benefits such as free kit, use of facilities and access to a range of support services worth up to of £1,500 per year (details outlined below).

Successful awardees will be notified in their Award Letter of the specific scholarship package they are being offered. The Award Letter should be read in conjunction with these terms and conditions.

Our Performance Sport Scholarship programme has four different tiers:

Scholarship Type	Award
Tier 1*	Tuition fee discount up to 100%, performance coaching and support services package.
Tier 2	Cash bursary (or varying amounts), performance coaching and support services package (available for undergraduate students only).
Tier 3	Performance coaching and support services package.
Tier 4	25% tuition fee discount and additional benefits (see 'Additional Benefits' below).

\* Some exceptional athletes in receipt of a Tier 1 scholarship may also receive additional financial support.

Under Tier 1 of the Performance Sport Scholarship programme, we award a number of tuition fee discounts to students on University of Essex undergraduate, postgraduate taught and postgraduate research courses.

Fee discounts available for students commencing their studies at Essex in 2025-26 are:

Sport	Number of awards*	Scholarship Award
Basketball	Up to 8 PG awards for Overseas Fee paying students (full-time or part-time)	Between 50-100% fee discount
	Up to 12 UG or PG awards for Home Fee paying students (full-time or part-time)	Between 50-100% fee discount**
Volleyball	Up to 8 PG awards for Overseas Fee paying students (full-time only)	Between 50-100% fee discount
	Up to 12 UG or PG awards for Home Fee paying students (full-time or part-time)	Between 50-100% fee discount**
Women's Football	2 x PG awards for Overseas Fee paying students (full-time only)	Between 50-100% fee discount
	1 x PG award for Home Fee paying student (full-time only)	100% fee discount
Men's Football	2 x PG awards for Overseas Fee paying students (full-time only)	Between 50-100% fee discount
Tennis	4 x PG awards for Overseas Fee Paying students (full-time only)	Between 50-100% fee discount
All sports and individual athletes	22 x PG awards for Overseas Fee paying students (full-time only)	25% fee discount

\*The University reserves the right to vary the number of scholarships awarded based on profile of applicants and the number of full-time versus part-time students applying for the scholarships.

\*\*In case of UK undergraduate students, this would be a fee discount for all years of study (but the University reserves the right to remove them from the scholarship programme as per the terms and conditions in the athlete contract, i.e., not meeting standard expected, no longer participating).

# Terms and conditions

## Eligibility

- Students must meet the conditions of their academic offer and register as a student at the University of Essex in 2025-26.
- UCAS applicants who have firmly accepted an offer of a place by 12 July 2025 (for October 2025 start) or 11 October (for January 2026 start) and met the academic conditions of entry, will be considered for these scholarships. Applicants that become firm with Essex through rejection by their original firm choice selection else are not eligible. Direct Applicants must accept their offer by 12 July 2025.
- Eligible courses are those which courses lead to BA, BSc, BEng, MA, MSc, LLM and MRes degrees starting in October 2025 and January 2026.
- Successful scholars will be selected based on:
  - Performance level compared to other candidates;
  - Position requirements of performance sport teams, where relevant;
  - Ability to meet the eligibility requirements for International Sportsperson visas, if required.
  - Tier 4 scholarships may be awarded to students selected on a coaching pathway, successful scholars will have a Level 2 coaching award (or equivalent) and studying the MSc Coaching Practice
- For the duration the student is in receipt of the scholarship, they will be expected to continue to perform at, or above the standard being achieved at the point of scholarship award (for undergraduate students, their scholarship eligibility will also be reviewed on an annual basis). Details relating to performance standards will be outlined in the performance scholar contract.
- Through formal termly reviews, individual scholars who are not progressing and engaging with the programme will be at risk of having their scholarship revoked.
- Individual scholars are expected to maintain a satisfactory academic performance standard.
- The award cannot be held in conjunction with any other University of Essex scholarships.
- Successful applicants are expected to be involved in promotional activity, as outlined in the scholarship contract.
- Students receiving the Essex Rebels Postgraduate International Scholarship awards for Basketball will need to be employed by the University, as professional basketball players on International Sportsperson visas, to be eligible to play for the Essex Rebels basketball teams.

## **Students who are not eligible**

The following students are NOT eligible for the Performance Sport Scholarship regardless of meeting the above criteria:

- Students undertaking courses at our Southend Campus or our Loughton Campus.
- Students undertaking a University of Essex validated course at one of our partner institutions.
- PG students studying postgraduate courses below Masters level, including, but not limited to, Graduate Certificates, Graduate Diplomas, Postgraduate Certificates (PGCerts), and Postgraduate Diplomas (PGDips).
- Students registered on summer schools or short courses.
- Students studying a course that is normally delivered wholly online.
- University of Essex International College (UEIC) Pathway students.
- These scholarships are restricted to students who are entirely self-funded. Students receiving a repayable loan to fund their studies will be considered as self-funded.
- This scholarship award does not apply to deferred entry. Where a scholarship has been awarded to a student who subsequently defers entry to the following academic year, the award will be withdrawn, and the applicant will be considered again in line with the terms and conditions and performance sport team requirements, that apply in the new proposed year of entry.

## **Additional Benefits**

In addition to performance coaching, recipients of a Basketball, Football, Tennis and Volleyball Sport Scholarship in Tiers 1 to 4 also receive a support package including:

- Strength and Conditioning coaching
- Free peak-time access 'Gold' Essex Sport membership which covers full access to our gym and sports facilities
- Access to physiotherapy treatment
- Free injury assessment and treatment at on-site sports therapy clinic
- Guaranteed on-campus accommodation (costs apply)
- Allocated lifestyle practitioner
- Comprehensive performance lifestyle workshop programme
- Free playing and training clothing bundle

- Permission to park on the university campus, even if living on campus (parking costs apply)
- Flexible academic provision (ability to pace studies and avoid clashes between academic assessments and important sporting events)

Recipients of a Tier 4 Performance Sport Scholarship in sports that sit outside our performance sport programme will receive the following additional benefits

- Access to group Strength and Conditioning coaching sessions\*\*
- Free peak-time access 'Gold' Essex Sport membership which covers full access to our gym and sports facilities
- Free injury assessment and treatment at on-site sports therapy clinic
- Guaranteed on-campus accommodation (costs apply)
- Comprehensive performance lifestyle workshop programme
- Permission to park on the university campus, even if living on campus (parking costs apply)

## How to apply

Scholarships are awarded based on a competitive application process, open to applicants who meet the eligibility criteria outlined above. Students will be awarded on the basis of their scholarship application and performance abilities.

An application form to apply for this scholarship is available on our [website](#). Applications will be assessed by the University's Performance Sport team and relevant coach (and further evidence may be requested to support the application).

Candidates will be notified via email on a rolling basis.

Due to the large number of applications for these scholarships, individual feedback will not be provided.

## Payment arrangements

These scholarships will only be made available as a reduction on the tuition fee that is payable on registration at the University (for Tier 1 & Tier 4 scholars), payment cannot be offset against a tuition fee deposit if one is required. Or for a cash bursary paid termly (for Tier 2 scholars), payment will be made in three instalments, usually in October, January and May by bank transfer. You must open a UK bank account and we will contact you at the start of the academic year to fill out a sport scholarship bursary registration form, if your bank details change you must inform the Performance Sport Manager.

If you intermit from your course, you may, at the discretion of the University, be entitled to a pro-rata payment of the remainder of your award on your return to study. Please contact the [Funding Team](#) for further information.

Any scholar failing to fulfil their scholarship requirements will have their fee discount/bursary and other benefits withdrawn. If an international scholar then fails to pay any remaining tuition fee balance, this will have implication for their visa status. Written notice will be provided.

Please note that if our records show that you are in debt to the University when an award payment is due, the payment will be offset against your student account in the first instance, and you will be entitled to receive any balance.

## **Data Privacy Statement**

The University of Essex takes confidentiality very seriously, your application form will only be seen by members of staff involved in processing your application. Information is kept in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) as it applies in the UK, tailored by the Data Protection Act 2018. Personal data will be used solely for statistical purposes and electronic record keeping and may be made available to authorised University staff to allow statistical information to be analysed.

This data will not be passed to any other third party without your consent, except when the University is required to do so by law. Any formal enquiries concerning the use of data noted here should be addressed to the Head of Student Services.

## **Resolution of disputes**

Acceptance of this award constitutes acceptance of these terms and conditions. Registered students should contact the [Funding Team](#) in the first instance for guidance regarding this award. In cases not covered by the above terms and conditions, or where a student claims exceptional circumstances, or disputes a decision not to make payments due under an award, final appeals on decisions regarding eligibility must be made via the [Student Complaints process](#). The Academic Registrar or their nominee will review the case and his/her decision will be final.

*These terms and conditions apply to the academic year 2025-26. The University of Essex reserves the right to update these terms and conditions as necessary.*