

Award Criteria

Sports Scholarships represent UCD's best prospect of matching the attraction of professionalism, which is now an integral part of traditionally "amateur" as well as professional sports. ***Where sports scholarships have been established, they have generally radically improved the fortunes of a club.*** Furthermore, they represent an acceptable form of "contract" between club and student.

A number of rationales form the basis of the UCD Sports Scholarship Programme:

1. *Encourages talented UCD students to join UCD clubs and compete for UCD.*
2. *Enhancement of the skills of other club members.*
3. *Encourages recreational participation, other students want to become involved.*
4. *All students have access to top class facilities and coaching.*
5. *Positive effects on health of participation in sport.*
6. *Role in character formation, teamwork and leadership skills.*
7. *Achievement and success of UCD students in competition.*
8. *Achievement and success of the respective UCD team or Club.*

UCD Sport is prepared to consider all sports for scholarship purposes. However, a number of criteria are adopted when considering each application:

UCD Club Considerations

1. Sports, which currently enjoy a high profile for UCD at national and international level, are given priority. This would "normally" mean that the respective club competes not only at intervarsity level but also in the respective provincial or national league, or other competitions of their sports National Governing Body.
2. The structure of the sport at UCD is examined in terms of the capability of the UCD club to provide the right milieu and opportunity for the recipient to advance their skills. The structure of the club in terms of the level of coaching provided, the facilities available, and the level of competitive opportunity are all considered. Scholarships may not be offered to a candidate who may be of an excellent standard in his/her sport but who in the scholarship committee's opinion could not satisfactorily progress their sporting career at the respective UCD club.
3. UCD Sport also requires a degree of continuity in administration within the club. This is normally provided by a development officer or graduate who looks after the on-going development of the club. In addition, they would also supervise the progress and activities of the scholarship recipient.
4. Where a sport wishes to be considered as a scholarship sport for the first time, due to financial constraints UCD Sport seeks matching funds from the respective club. **These matching funds must be available for the duration of the scholarship.** For example, where the scholarship student is entering first year, the club must show evidence that they can provide the matching funds for the duration of the recipient's diploma/degree course.
5. UCD sports clubs, which wish to be considered for a scholarship, must provide a development plan for the club to the Sports Development Manager. This plan would include the rationale for a scholarship within the club, how the scholarship recipient(s) will be integrated into the club activities and who will administer the scholarship programme within the club. The final decision on the addition of a sport in the UCD Sports Scholarship programme rests with the Sports Development Manager.

6. Where team sports are concerned, positional requirements of the respective team are considered.
7. The final decision on the awarding of a scholarship is made in conjunction with the respective UCD club and is subject to the availability of funds. (See Management & Funding for more details).

Applicant / Recipient Considerations

1. Due to the diversity of sport on offer at UCD, it is not possible to outline one specific standard for which all applications for scholarships are to be compared. However, in all cases the intention is to make scholarship awards to persons of outstanding sporting ability in a particular sport. To determine the ability of the applicants some clubs will hold trials; others may decide based on the supported information provided in the application and may seek references from a third party such as the respective National Governing Body.
2. The recipient must achieve the required academic qualifications and secure a place in UCD through the normal academic entry method.
3. The recipient must be prepared to commit himself/herself to involvement in the respective UCD sports club. This includes involvement in both training and competition as outlined by the respective club. In some cases, recipients are also required to coach others or take on administrative duties within the club.
4. The recipient must be prepared to represent UCD and only UCD in competition and will sign a contract to that effect. Usually, exceptions to this rule are made in Gaelic Games where due to the structure of the sport it is possible for the recipient to compete for their home club and UCD simultaneously and in Rugby where the recipient can compete if selected for UCD and a provincial Irish side. Other sports may be considered as an exception on a case-by-case basis where such a club in UCD is building a squad/team to compete at the highest level of competition nationally but is not yet at that level. However, in all cases where a clash occurs in such commitments, the final decision will rest with the Sports Development Manager.
5. The recipient must demonstrate an ability to effectively manage both academic and sporting commitments (training and competitive).
6. The recipient must attend lectures, tutorials and complete all academic work. In addition, the recipient must pass end of year examinations to maintain their place.
7. The recipient's injury history is reviewed to determine their physical ability to train and compete at the highest level. Where a recipient is injured during the term of the scholarship the scholarship benefits will continue to accrue to the student. Where the student is unable to train or play, they may be required by the Club to undertake other duties within the club for the duration of the injury.

In addition, the following guidelines apply in the various sports where scholarships have been awarded to date:

Athletics	Usually ranked in the top 1 or 2 nationally in their age group for their event.
Men's Basketball	Usually playing at Superleague level.

Boat	Usually have represented Irish at underage international level. Erg score also reviewed.
Cycling	Usually underage international.
GAA	Usually underage intercounty player.
Golf	Men's Golf usually has a plus handicap or less. Women's Golf a handicap of 4 or less.
Hockey	Usually playing at national underage level.
Men's Rugby	Usually playing at provincial underage level or schools international.
Men's Soccer	Usually playing at underage national level or schools international.
Women's Soccer	Usually senior international player.
Sailing	Usually international representative honours.
Swimming	FINA A Olympic Standard +6% while also being a finalist at Irish Open Championships.

Should the club seek to be added to the list of scholarship sports, the guidelines for that sport will be set in conjunction with the respective UCD club

It should be noted that the Sports Scholarship programme is independent of the Ad Astra Elite Athlete Programme with the exception of the unsuccessful applications for Ad Astra being transferred to the UCD Sport Scholarship applications upon the written consent of such applicants.

Furthermore, because a student is in receipt of an Ad Astra Elite Athlete scholarship in a particular sport, such an award has no bearing on the inclusion of that sport in the Sports Scholarship list of sports.