



# Elite Athlete Support Program

Supporting our elite sportspeople

# Monash University Elite Athlete Support Program

The Monash University Elite Athlete Support Program is a structured program within Monash University. It encourages and supports student athletes, enabling them to balance higher education with the training and commitment involved with participating in sport at an elite level. The program is managed by Monash Sport, operating across all Monash campuses in Australia. It is strongly endorsed by the Vice-Chancellor and the Deans of the University's ten faculties.

In recognition of the fact that combining sport at an elite level with academic studies is highly challenging, the program provides strong personalised support elite student athletes.



Matt Gibney, Athletics, MB BS

## Infrastructure

Monash Sport oversees the program and its links to Monash faculties, the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS), the Victorian Institute of Sport (VIS), participating professional players' associations and other external sporting and educational organisations.

Elite athletes are often identified and referred to Monash by Athlete Career Education (ACE) staff at the AIS, VIS and other associations. However, they can also be nominated by their secondary school or sporting club, they can self-nominate or also be nominated by their faculty.

## Program Effectiveness

Case-by-case feedback since the program commenced in 2002 indicates that:

- fewer students combining study and sporting commitments have discontinued their studies
- students are better equipped in terms of course and load planning
- more conflicting sporting and study requirements are resolved successfully, especially assignment and assessment deadlines

\* Cover Photo: Claire Messent, Hockey, BCom

## Support

Once students have been accepted into the program, the Dean of their faculty and the designated faculty officers are notified.

The faculty will provide support to help the students address any conflicting requirements that might arise from their academic studies and participation in sport and to facilitate solutions that can accommodate both needs.

It is fundamental to the program that standard Monash University policies and requirements – especially those relating to entry, enrolment, assessment and completion – apply to every student.

Existing policies and regulations for special consideration/disadvantage typically provide the flexibility needed to accommodate the special sporting requirements of elite student athletes.

The program ensures that students are given assistance to help balance their priorities and make sure there is reasonable flexibility in terms of assessment and attendance.

Monash Sport also provides sponsored access to the University's excellent sporting facilities and services, funding assistance to national and international university competitions and access to personal and professional development and employment opportunities.

## Bursaries

Monash Sport in conjunction with the University, has introduced Monash Sport bursaries.

To be eligible to apply for any of the varied bursaries on offer, students must be enrolled in study at Monash and must be representing Monash in their sport.

For more information, visit [www.sport.monash.edu](http://www.sport.monash.edu).



Michael Rix, BCom/BE, St Kilda Football Club, LLM (Juris Doctor Law)

## Current Student Athletes

Students who are enrolled at Monash and who compete in recognised sport at national and international level are generally designated as elite student athletes.

Many of these are also AIS or VIS scholarship holders who receive educational support through their institution's career education staff, or are supported through professional players' association education staff and club officers.

There is no limit to the number of students or sports that can be represented in the program, and the following sports are currently represented:

- archery
- athletics
- badminton
- basketball
- beach volleyball
- cricket
- cross country running
- cross country skiing
- cycling
- expeditions
- football – AFL
- futsal
- golf
- gymnastics
- hockey
- judo
- mountain biking
- netball
- pole vault
- rowing/cycling
- rugby
- sailing
- soccer
- squash
- swimming
- table tennis
- taekwondo
- tennis
- trampolining
- triathlon
- ultimate frisbee
- volleyball

If you would like more information about the program, contact the Athlete Support Coordinator on 9905 5929, email [athletesupport@sport.monash.edu.au](mailto:athletesupport@sport.monash.edu.au), or visit our website [www.sport.monash.edu](http://www.sport.monash.edu).

# Elite Athlete Friendly University

State Institutes and  
Academies of Sport



Participating Professional  
Players' Associations



## VICE-CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE: Professor Richard Larkins

"Young people who excel at both sport and studies are quite exceptional individuals and are wonderful role models for their colleagues. At Monash, we will do everything we can to make it easier for them to achieve their potential in all their areas of endeavour."



## Stephanie Brennan – Golf

Stephanie, who is studying a Bachelor of Business, is a current VIS Scholarship holder for golf. She has represented Victoria in the Victorian State Team, participated in the Australian Women's Open 2007 and is currently ranked 3rd in Victoria and 16th nationally. Internationally, Stephanie was runner up in the Vanuatu Open 2007.

"The Athlete Support Program has been a great help in allowing me to receive a university degree as well as continue my career in golf. Golf can be very time consuming, and it takes me all around the world, so support is needed in order to keep up with the work load."



## Luke Ball – AFL

Luke is undertaking a double degree in commerce and law. He plays AFL Football and is in his 8th year at the St Kilda Football Club. Luke was overall number **two** pick in the 2001 National AFL draft, won the club Best and Fairest in 2005 and captained his team in 2006. He says that while he finds it challenging to combine his studies with his AFL career, it is made easier by the support and advice he receives from the Monash Program. "It is so important to prepare for my career after football," Luke says.



## Brenton Rickard – Swimming

Brenton graduated with a Bachelor of Science in 2006. He is a swimmer who competes in the 50m, 100m and 200m breaststroke. He has represented Australia at Olympics, Commonwealth Games and World Short Course Championships. 2008 will see him represent Australia at the Beijing Olympics. He says the assistance and encouragement he received as a student at Monash, both from the Science faculty and Monash Sport, was invaluable.

CRICOS provider: Monash University 00008C

**Disclaimer** While the information provided in this brochure was correct at the time of its publication, Monash University reserves the right to alter procedures, fees and regulations should the need arise.