



## Student Reservist, Emergency Services, Elite Athletes and Performers Support Policy

<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Provost
<b>Approved by</b>	Vice Chancellor
<b>Approved and commenced</b>	March 2016
<b>Review by</b>	March 2019
<b>Relevant Legislation, Ordinance, Rule and/or Governance Level Principle</b>	<i>Defence Reserve Service (Protection) Act 2001</i> Rule 6 – Admission, Assessment and Student Progress Ordinance 13 – Academic Senate
<b>Responsible Organisational Unit</b>	Academic Division

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## **1 Objective**

To ensure that students who are members of the Australian Defence Reserves, emergency services or who are elite athletes or performers are not disadvantaged academically or financially as a consequence of their required participation in these activities/fields.

## **2 Scope**

These provisions apply to all undergraduate, postgraduate and higher degrees by research students who are members of the Australian Defence Force Reserves, Volunteer Emergency Service Organisations and those who are defined as elite athletes or performers.

## **3 Policy Provisions**

### **3.1 Defence Reserves**

A student who is a volunteer member of the Defence Reserves and is required to undertake Reserve Service, attend compulsory camps of continuous training in a year and occasionally a non-compulsory camp or course, other intensive training or is called into active duty, may be granted special consideration with regard to attendance and assessment requirements:

- Learning materials will be arranged in alternative formats, where possible, if the student is unable to attend face-to-face classes during their involvement in above mentioned activities.
- A student may apply for additional time to complete assessment requirements, or a variation to the due date for submission of an assessment task on the grounds of being required to undertake Reserve Service duties.
- A student unable to sit an examination on the grounds of being required to attend Defence Reserves Leave may apply for special consideration including a variation to the date of the examination. Variation is discretionary and generally will only be granted where Defence Reserves Leave is scheduled on the same date of the student's examination/s and only during the ordinary examination periods. Variations will not be granted for Deferred and/or Supplementary Examinations.
- A student whose Defence Reserves service commitments impact negatively upon their attendance and assessment performance may apply for special consideration to withdraw from the course without academic penalty and for remission of the Student Contribution for the relevant units, if the withdrawal occurs after Census date.

- If a student who is a volunteer member of the Defence Reserves in a full fee-paying course is forced to withdraw in order to undertake full-time defence force commitments, the University will refund the student's fees for the relevant units, if the withdrawal occurs after the Census date.
- A student who is a member of the Defence Force Reserves may apply for a leave of absence from an awarded scholarship or for special consideration in relation to a breach of the conditions of an awarded scholarship, if they can provide evidence these commitments impacted negatively upon their studies.
- Applicants who can show significant evidence of participation as a defence reservist impacting upon their previous studies, including year 12, shall be given special consideration in the assessment of their application for admission.

### 3.2 Emergency Services

A student who is a volunteer member of the emergency services and is required to undertake compulsory training may be granted special consideration with regard to attendance and assessment requirements:

- Learning materials will be arranged in alternative formats, where possible, if the student is unable to attend face-to-face classes during their involvement in above mentioned activities.
- A student may apply for additional time to complete assessment requirements, or a variation to the due date for submission of an assessment task on the grounds of being required to attend state emergency situations or undertake compulsory training.
- A student unable to sit an examination on the grounds of being required to attend state emergency situations or compulsory training may apply for special consideration including a variation to the date of the examination. Variation is discretionary and will generally only be granted where emergency situations or compulsory training occur during the ordinary examinations period. Variations will not be granted for Deferred and/or Supplementary Examinations.
- A student whose volunteer emergency service commitments impact negatively upon their attendance and assessment performance may apply for special consideration to withdraw from the course without academic penalty and for remission of the Student Contribution for the relevant units, if the withdrawal occurs after the Census date.
- A student who is a member of the emergency services may apply for a leave of absence from an awarded scholarship or for special consideration in relation to a breach of the conditions of an awarded scholarship, if they can provide evidence these commitments impacted negatively upon their studies.

- Applicants who can show significant evidence of work commitments impacting upon their previous studies, including year 12, shall be given special consideration in the assessment of their application for admission.

### **3.3 Elite Athlete**

A student who is recognised as an elite athlete and is required to attend compulsory camps of continuous training in a year and occasionally a non-compulsory camp or course, other intensive training or competitions may be granted special consideration with regard to attendance and assessment requirements.

- Learning materials will be arranged in alternative formats, where possible, if the student is unable to attend face-to-face classes during their involvement in above mentioned activities.
- A student may apply for additional time to complete assessment requirements, or a variation to the due date for submission of an assessment task on the grounds of being required to attend training or competitions.
- A student unable to sit an examination on the grounds of being required to attend compulsory training or competitions may apply for special consideration including a variation to the date of the examination. Variation is discretionary and generally will only be granted where compulsory training or competition is scheduled during the ordinary examinations period. Variations will not be granted for Deferred and/or Supplementary Examinations.
- A student whose elite sporting commitments impact negatively upon their attendance and assessment performance may apply for special consideration to withdraw from the course without academic penalty and for remission of the Student Contribution for the relevant units, if the withdrawal occurs after the Census date.
- If a student who is an elite athlete in a full fee-paying course is forced to withdraw due to sporting commitments, the University will refund the student's fees for the relevant units, if the withdrawal occurs after the Census date.
- A student who is an elite athlete may apply for a leave of absence from an awarded scholarship or for special consideration in relation to a breach of the conditions of an awarded scholarship, if they can provide evidence these commitments impacted negatively upon their studies.
- Applicants who can show significant evidence of participation as an elite athlete impacting upon their previous studies, including year 12, shall be given special consideration in the assessment of their application for admission.

### **3.4 Elite Performer**

A student who is recognised by the University of Tasmania as an elite performer and is required to undertake performances may be granted special consideration with regard to attendance and assessment requirements:

- Learning materials will be arranged in alternative formats, where possible, if the student is unable to attend face-to-face classes during their involvement in above mentioned activities.
- A student may apply for additional time to complete assessment requirements, or a variation to the due date for submission of an assessment task on the grounds of being required to undertake performances.
- A student unable to sit an examination on the grounds of being required to perform may apply for special consideration including a variation in the date of the examination. Variation is discretionary and generally will only be granted where a performance is scheduled during the ordinary examinations period. Variations will not be granted for Deferred and/or Supplementary Examinations
- A student whose performance commitments impact negatively upon their attendance and assessment performance may apply for special consideration to withdraw from the course without academic penalty and for remission of the Student Contribution for the relevant units, if the withdrawal occurs after the Census date.
- If a student who is an elite performer in a full fee-paying course is forced to withdraw due to performance commitments, the University will refund the student's fees for the relevant units, if the withdrawal occurs after the Census date.
- A student who is an elite performer may apply for a leave of absence from an awarded scholarship or for special consideration in relation to a breach of the conditions of an awarded scholarship, if they can provide evidence these commitments impacted negatively upon their studies.
- Applicants who can show significant evidence of participation as an elite performer impacting upon their previous studies, including year 12, shall be given special consideration in the assessment of their application for admission.

## 4 Responsibilities

The student is responsible for:

- Declaring their status as an Elite Athlete, Performer, Emergency Service member or Reservist to the relevant University staff
- Providing appropriate supporting documentation for that status
- Identifying possible conflict between study requirements and involvement in the above activities as these become apparent, in a timely manner
- Negotiating realistic alternative study arrangements with relevant University staff.

The Executive Director Student Experience is responsible for:

- Final determination when there is initial lack of clarity with the status of the proposed Elite Athlete, Reservist, Emergency Service member or Performer
- To make that determination in consultation with relevant University staff and external stakeholders.

The Associate Dean Learning and Teaching [relevant College(s)] is responsible for:

- Negotiating realistic and reasonable academic accommodations and adjustments to enable the student to continue and complete their course of study, and
- To do this in consultation with relevant University staff.

Records and Information that support these activities will be created, managed and retained in accordance with *University Records Management Policy, Procedures and Guidelines*.

## 5 Definitions and Acronyms

<b>Term/Acronym</b>	<b>Definitions</b>
<b>EAFU</b>	An Elite Athlete Friendly University (EAFU) implements the guiding principles of the Australian Sports Commission's Elite Athlete Friendly University Program, and relies on the accurate identification of athletes as being elite.
<b>Elite Athlete</b>	For athletes and coaches to access the support identified within the EAFU guiding principles, they must be identified and recognised, or be a member of one of the following organisations as an "elite athlete or coach": <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Australian Institute of Sport</li><li>• State Institutes or Academies of Sport</li><li>• AFL Players' Association</li><li>• Australian Cricketers' Association</li><li>• Rugby Union Players' Association</li><li>• Rugby League Professionals' Association</li><li>• Australian Professional Footballers' Association</li><li>• National squad members from Australian Sports Commission funded sports</li><li>• Senior/head coaches from state and territory institutes/academies of sport, national teams from</li></ul>

Australian Sports Commission funded sports or participating professional sports.

The majority of elite athletes within Australia will be on scholarships within the network of institutes and academies of sport around Australia, however there are many athletes that may fall outside of this cohort. The EAFU guiding principles state that: "If an athlete falls outside of these organisations, they may submit an application for consideration to the University."

This clause allows the Executive Director of the Student Centre of The University of Tasmania to assess an application from an athlete outside of the endorsed list provided by the Australian Sports Commission, and use their discretion to determine if they provide the athlete with EAFU status.

**Elite Performer** A student who is operating at the highest level in their field in either scholastic achievement, leadership or as a contracted artist on a state, national or international level.

- Actors Equity Australia
- Australian Dance Council
- Australian Dance Theatre
- Australian Chamber Orchestra
- The Symphony Australia Orchestras
- Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra
- Australian Youth Orchestra
- Opera Australia
- Musica Viva Australia
- Musica Viva Tasmania
- ABC Concerts
- Australian Voices

This clause allows the Executive Director of Student Experience of The University of Tasmania to assess an application from an elite performer outside of the above list and use their discretion to determine if they would like to provide the performer with Elite status. Or "If a performer falls outside of these organisations, they may submit an application for consideration to the University."

**Emergency Services Worker** A member of one of the following organisations:

- The State Emergency Service (SES);
- Tasmanian Fire Service or relevant state equivalent;
- Country Fire Authority;
- Tasmanian Ambulance Service or relevant state equivalent.

**Student Reservist** A member of the Australian Defence Force Reserves.

## 6 Supporting Documentation

- *Student Reservist, Emergency Services, Elite Athletes and Performers Support Procedure*
- Guiding Principles for National Network of Elite Athlete Friendly Universities - National Conference for Australian Vice Chancellors Committee May 2004
- Australian Defense Force Advanced Standing Scheme Agreement (the University of Tasmania is a signatory)
- *Guidelines for Awarding Deferred Ordinary Examinations on Non-medical Grounds – Application for Deferred Examination*
- *Full Fee Paying and Commonwealth Supported Student Remission of Debt Policy*
- Academic Unit/College Assessment Guidelines

## 7 Versioning

<b>Former Version(s)</b>	Version 1 – <i>Student Reservist, Emergency Services, Elite Athletes and Performers Support Policy</i> ; approved by the Vice Chancellor December, 2010. Version 2 – <i>Student Reservist, Emergency Services, Elite Athletes and Performers Support Policy</i> ; minor amendments approved by the Director, Governance and Legal December, 2011. Version 3 – <i>Student Reservist, Emergency Services, Elite Athletes and Performers Support Policy</i> approved March, 2016, amended in December 2016 to incorporate Colleges.
<b>Current Version</b>	Version 4 – <i>Student Reservist, Emergency Services, Elite Athletes and Performers Support Policy</i> approved March, 2016, amended in December 2017 to reflect College structure and nomenclature.