

Elite Athletes, Performers and Leaders

2026 Adjustment Factor Program Guide

The Elite Athletes, Performers and Leaders (EAPL) Adjustment Factors Program recognises excellence in sport, academic pursuits, music and leadership achievements by awarding adjustment factors to eligible applicants.

UNSW also offers an EAP Support Program, which offers students flexible study arrangements and support, enabling them to continue their extensive elite sporting commitments whilst studying at UNSW. Please see the Support section in this document for further information.

The EAPL Adjustment Factors Program – FAQ's

The EAPL Program awards up to five adjustment factors to applicants who have excelled in the areas of sport, academia, music and/or leadership at an elite level. Achievements and/or commitments must have been undertaken in Australian high school Years 11 and/or 12.

To be considered for EAPL adjustment factors for UNSW entry in 2026 you must meet the following criteria*:

- Be either an Australian citizen, New Zealand citizen or hold a current Australian Permanent Resident or Humanitarian visa; and
- Complete an Australian Senior Secondary Certificate (Year 12)** or an equivalent overseas secondary qualification and receive an ATAR or equivalent; and
- Have not completed more than or equal to 0.75 FTE of study at a university or TAFE Diploma or above; and
- Provide sufficient supporting documentation with your application to successfully demonstrate that your studies in year 11 and/or 12 have been affected by your sporting, academic, music and/or leadership commitments.***

**University reserves the right to vary or reverse any decision made based on untrue, incomplete, or misleading information.*

***Applicants who completed the above qualifications in 2024 and took a gap year in 2025 are also eligible for EAPL adjustment factors for admission in 2026. An application must be submitted in the year prior to admission.*

****UNSW, along with the NSW Board of Studies, recognises the beginning of Year 11 as having commenced in Term 1, 2024.*

Can EAPL adjustment factors be used for admission to all UNSW degrees?

EAPL adjustment factors are not available for admission to the Bachelor of Medical Studies / Doctor of Medicine, Combined Law or any Co-op scholarship degrees.



Do I still have to submit a UAC application?

Yes. Your adjustment factors application and your UAC application are separate. To be eligible for admission to UNSW, all applicants must complete an application via the Universities Admissions Centre (UAC) at uac.edu.au.

A successful EAPL adjustment factors application does not automatically lead to an offer for an undergraduate degree at UNSW. All EAPL Program applicants are required to compete for a UNSW offer on the basis of academic merit.

Where can I find out which achievements are eligible?

The EAPL adjustment factors table, at the end of this document, lists elite achievements that applicants most commonly apply for and details the number of adjustment factors allocated to each specific activity.

Elite achievements that are not listed in the table may also be considered for adjustment factors. If you have participated or achieved certification at an elite level in an unlisted activity, please [submit a question online](#) for further information.

Does the adjustment factors table change every year?

The EAPL program undergoes an annual review. This means that the achievements considered, number of adjustment factors allocated and degrees that accept EAPL adjustment factors may change from year to year.

The 2026 review has taken place. The next review will take place in March 2026 for entry to UNSW in 2027.

Please note: UNSW reserves the right to change any degree, admission requirement, adjustment factor or any other information without notice.

Does the university verify the achievements I have claimed in my application?

Yes. UNSW may contact the relevant bodies and organisations to confirm the claimed achievements before the adjustment factors are granted.

Your Application

All EAPL applicants must submit an online application by the closing date to be considered for adjustment factors. Supporting documents must also be provided on time.

Applications that have not been submitted, are incomplete or lack supporting documentation (uploaded or emailed to futurestudents@unsw.edu.au) by the application deadline of 11.59pm on Friday 28 November 2025 will not be assessed.

It is the applicants' responsibility to contact the Future Students Office on 1300 864 679 **prior to the application deadline** if there are any concerns about an incomplete application or insufficient supporting documentation. Please note that the opening hours of the Future Students Office is Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm.

What documents do I need to support my application?

Achievements are unique to individual applications and therefore the supporting documentation may differ between applicants. However, in general, we require official documentation (certificates or letters) from a governing body, coach or school principal, detailing the highest level of achievement, key dates when achievements were undertaken, and the time commitment involved. Please note that letters must be on **official letterhead, signed and dated**.

What if I can't get my supporting documents before the application deadline?

Please contact the Future Students Office **prior** to the application deadline of **Friday 28 November 2025** to discuss your concerns – call 1300 UNI NSW (1300 864 679) or [submit an enquiry online](#). Applications will not be assessed if contact is made after the application deadline.

Supporting Documentation

Listed below is the supporting documentation we require for our most commonly applied for achievements:

- **Sporting achievements**

You must provide an official letter from your coach or from a club or school official outlining your highest level of achievement and the number of hours per week spent training/competing. We will not accept photos of medals or trophies.

- **UNSW Sport Club**

You must have joined one of the UNSW Sport Clubs for a minimum of one season before the membership can be taken into consideration.

- **Gold Duke of Edinburgh**

The Duke of Edinburgh Board release three documents to successful graduates – your Award Summary, Congratulatory email or Gold Award Certificate. Any of these documents will be accepted and should be attached to the EAPL application. The Duke of Edinburgh Board assist us by assessing as many books as possible before the EAPL application deadline. If you do not have either of the above documents (or are concerned that you may not have them) before the deadline of 11.59pm on **Friday 28 November 2025**



please call 1300 UNI NSW (1300 864 679) or [submit an enquiry online](#). Please ensure you submit an EAPL application if you are awaiting your Duke of Edinburgh documentation.

- **Music, speech, dance examinations**

We require a copy of the exam certificate from the official governing bodies, for example AMEB, IMEB, ABRSM or Trinity College London. Achievements in Music, speech, drama, dance and other performance can be considered. We will only consider your highest level of achievement for each instrument or area. If you have completed both components of your music grade (theory and practical), but are awaiting your certificate, please call 1300 UNI NSW (1300 864 679) or [submit an enquiry online](#) prior to the application deadline of 11.59pm on **Friday 28 November 2025**

- **Cadet Under Officer**

An official signed and dated letter confirming your position from your Commanding Officer.

- **School Captain**

An official signed and dated letter from your secondary school confirming your position as School Captain.

- **National Youth Science Forum**

Copies of official certificates from the National Youth Science Forum.

When do I find out if my EAPL adjustment factors application is successful?

Applications are assessed on a continuous basis and assessment can take three or more working days to finalise upon receiving completed applications (including supporting documentation). Turnaround time may vary if we need to verify the achievements with relevant bodies. We receive a large volume of applications close to the application deadline, so applicants should expect a delay at this time. Notification of the application outcome is emailed to applicants at the email address submitted when registering for the EAPL adjustment factors. Any change to the email address must be communicated via [submit an enquiry online](#).

Can I use my EAPL adjustment factors in conjunction with other adjustment factors?

EAPL adjustment factors can be used in conjunction with other adjustment factor schemes, such as HSC Plus and the Educational Access Scheme (EAS). Students may accumulate a maximum of 10 points across all of our adjustment factor schemes.

EAP Support Program

The EAP Support Program provides eligible UNSW students with a range of measures including enrolment flexibility, cross-institutional study options and leave of absence for travel. It aims to assist these students with successfully integrating their academic life with their external elite athletic pursuits.

For more information on support for elite athletes, please see the elite athletes support program website (<http://www.sport.unsw.edu.au/>).

UNSW also has a range of Scholarships for elite athletes. Scholarship applications for school leavers generally close on 30 September each year. Visit www.scholarships.unsw.edu.au for more information.

Please note: applying for EAPL adjustment factors does not grant you automatic access to the Elite Athlete support program or vice versa. Separate eligibility criteria may apply.



2026 EAPL Adjustment Factors Table

ACADEMIC				
5 points	4 points	3 points	2 points	1 point
Member of Australian Maths and Science Olympiad Team	Australian Junior Chess League – International Representative	Australian Junior Chess League – National Representative	National Schools Debating Championship – Participant	Australian Junior Chess League – State Representative
-	Australian Mathematics Competition – Medal	Australian Mathematics Competition – Prize	Australian Science Olympiad Summer School Participant	Australian Science Olympiad National Qualifying Exam – High Distinction
-	-	World Schools Debating Championship – Participant	NYSF International Representative	NYSF National Representative
-	-	-	-	ICAS Medal

LEADERSHIP				
5 points	4 points	3 points	2 points	1 point
		Queen's Scout	Duke of Edinburgh Gold (approved by DOE Board is required)	School Captain
-	-	Queen's Guide Award	State Youth Governor	-
-	-	-	Cadet Under Officer (CUO)	-
-	-	-	Regimental Sergeant Major / Cadet Warrant Officer Class 1	-

SPORT					
	5 Points	4 Points	3 Points	2 Points	1 Point
Representative Teams (Open Age)	Member of Australian Team	Member of State Team			
Closed Competition (competitors need to qualify to compete)	International Level (Open Age)	Ranked Top 10 at National Level (Open Age)	National Level (Open Age)	National Level (Under Age)	
		International Level (Under Age)			
Open Competition (competitors don't have to qualify to compete)	Ranked Top 3 at International Level (Open Age)	Ranked Top 10 at International Level (Open Age)	Ranked Top 3 at National Level (Open Age)	Ranked Top 10 at National Level (Open Age)	National Level (Under-Age)
School Sport		International Level Competition		National Level Competition	Pierre De Coubertin Award
					State Level Competition
National Sporting Organisations	Institute of Sport Scholarship & Professional Players Association	National Sports Organisations- Development Academies (incl UNSW Partnership)			UNSW Sport Club
Coaching				Coach Career Management Program	
Officiating/ Administration				National Umpiring/ Refereeing	
Open Competitions: competitors don't have to qualify to compete Closed Competitions: competitors need to qualify to compete Open Age: any age can compete Under Age: competing in an age division (e.g. Under 18, Under 21 etc.)					

*Please note that the Adjustment Factors indicated above are only a guide and you may be granted more, or less, adjustment factors dependent on but not limited to:

- The nature of the competition.
- The level of the sports competitiveness.
- Applicant's rank and position in major competitions.

Eligibility is also not limited to the above criteria. If you are unsure, please [ask a question](#) or contact us on 1300 UNI NSW (1300 864 679)



PERFORMANCE (incl Music, Drama, Speech and Dance)				
5 points	4 points	3 points	2 points	1 point
LMus Diploma Pass	Leader of Section in Australian Youth Orchestra	AMus Diploma Pass	Certificate of Performance (CoP) for Music	AMEB Grade 8 with High Distinction (A*) or Honours (A) [#]
Trinity College London LTCL with Distinction	Trinity College London LTCL with Pass	DipABRSM Pass	Certificate of Speech and Performance (CSPA)	ABRSM Grade 8 with High Distinction or Distinction
ABRSM LRSM Pass	IMEB LMus Diploma	-	Certificate of Voice and Communication (CVCA)	Trinity College London ATCL with Pass
Role in professional theatre, TV or film production	-	-	Trinity College London ATCL with Distinction	Trinity College London Grade 8 with Distinction
-	-	-	IMEB AMus Diploma	RAD Grade 8 with Distinction or RAD Vocational Intermediate Level
-	-	-	Member of Australian Youth Orchestra / National Choir (e.g. Gondwana Voices)	-
-	-	-	RAD Vocational Advanced Level	-
* No points awarded 'For Leisure'				

[#]Comprehensive exam and Repertoire exam for AMEB Grade 8 are both accepted.

UNSW Sydney

T: 1300 UNI NSW (864 679)

unsw.edu.au/eapl futurestudents.unsw.edu.au/ask-question

UNSW reserves the right to change any degree, admission requirement or other information herein without any prior notice. CRICOS Provider Code No: 00098G. For students studying a different but equivalent qualification to the NSW HSC please contact the Universities Admissions Centre (UAC) for further information and conversions. The information contained in this publication applies to Australian citizens, Australian permanent residents and New Zealand citizens ONLY. All international students should contact UNSW International for admissions procedures and degree information.

