

Tuition Grant Guidelines

Purpose

USOC tuition grants are intended to encourage athletes to further their formal education in preparation for lifelong career goals by defraying a portion of the athletes' tuition costs.

Award Amount

The total dollar amount available for tuition grants is limited and the reward process is highly competitive. An athlete's performance standards, financial need and other scholarships awarded are considered when determining an award. Traditionally, awards will be considered for those applicants who have a current top-8 Olympic Games/Paralympic Games/World Championships placement or world ranking in events that are included in the program for the Olympic or Paralympic Games, or in the Pan American Games for Pan Am-only sports. Results from recent Olympic/Paralympic Games (or Pan American Games for Pan Am-only sports) will take precedence in the review process. However, compelling cases will be reviewed and given consideration.

NOTE: For Paralympic sports, individuals/teams must finish among the top 50% of the individuals/teams who started the event at the World Championships or Paralympic Games.

Based on budget availability, the following payment schedule may be applied:

<u>International Rank/Placement</u>	<u>Tuition Award Range</u>
1 st – 3 rd	up to \$6,000
4 th – 6 th	up to \$5,000
7 th – 8 th (individual only)	up to \$3,500

Retired Olympic, Paralympic or Pan American (for Pan Am-only sports) team members may apply for one-time only tuition assistance as a retired athlete, within four years of their last Olympic, Paralympic or Pan American Games (for Pan Am-only sports) competition. Retired athletes applying for these funds must be endorsed by their NGB/HPMO. Grant amounts for retired athletes will consist of up to \$2,000 for undergraduate study and up to \$3,000 for graduate study.

Tuition monies are restricted to tuition and mandatory fees only. Books, parking fees and room-and-board charges are not covered.

Any grant money awarded but not disbursed by the end of the calendar year is deemed forfeited.

Eligibility

The following eligibility criteria apply when reviewing USOC Tuition Grant applications:

- For athletes who are currently training and competing (eligible for one USOC Tuition Grant per calendar year):
 - ✓ Athlete must receive USOC Direct Athlete Support and/or be enrolled in or eligible for Elite Athlete Health Insurance (EAHI);
 - ✓ Athlete must compete in a discipline/event that is contested at the Olympic or Paralympic Games, or at the Pan American Games for Pan Am-only sports; and
 - ✓ Traditionally, awards will be considered for those applicants who have a current top-8 Olympic Games/Paralympic Games/World Championships placement or world ranking in events that are included in the program for the Olympic or Paralympic Games. For Pan Am-only sports, athletes with current top-8 Pan American Games or World Championships placement will be considered for awards. Results from recent Olympic/Paralympic Games will take precedence in the review process.
- For retired athletes (eligible for a one-time only USOC Tuition Grant as a retired athlete):
 - ✓ Retired Olympians and Paralympians must have competed in an Olympic or Paralympic Games within 4 years of submission date of the Tuition Grant Application; or
 - ✓ Retired athletes from Pan American-only sports must have competed in a Pan American Games within 4 years of submission date of the Tuition Grant Application.
- For active and retired athletes:
 - ✓ Typically, the USOC does not provide tuition assistance for student-athletes receiving a full ride, unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Applicant must be endorsed by his or her NGB/HPMO and must be enrolled in an accredited degree- or certificate-granting academic institution of higher learning. Qualified applicants must be in good academic standing, as defined by their educational institution.

Athletes may only receive one USOC Tuition Grant award in a calendar year.

Application and Review Process

Athletes who meet the eligibility criteria may obtain applications from their NGB/HPMO or their USOC Sport Performance Team. In order to be considered for a USOC Tuition Grant, applications must be received by the USOC Sport Performance Team on or before the submission deadlines below:

May 1
August 1
November 1

NOTE: If the first of the month falls on a weekend or holiday, the submission deadline will be extended to the following business day.

Applicants and their NGB/HPMO will be notified in writing within a month after the submission deadline, when practical. Incomplete or late applications will be returned to the NGB/HPMO and the athlete will be notified he/she is ineligible for the current review period.

If a tuition grant is awarded, the applicant must complete and submit a *Tuition Payment Request Form* (see 3.7.6.1.) in order for the USOC to disburse the approved amount to the athlete or his/her academic institution.

Reconsideration Request

An athlete may request reconsideration of a grant award decision if new and/or compelling circumstances have arisen since the time of the prior submission. Athletes should contact a member of their Sport Performance Team to request reconsideration.

School or College Eligibility

Athletes who are school-aged or college athletes are advised to check with the NCAA and/or their college athletic department compliance officer to ensure that these funds will not jeopardize school or collegiate eligibility.

Anti-Doping

Refer to the USOC Suspension of Benefits Policy at the following link:

<http://www.teamusa.org/About-the-USOC/Organization/Legal/Anti-Doping.aspx> (click on “U.S. National Anti-Doping Policies”).