



DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME

FINA SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAMME

SWIMMING

FINA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME | 2021 - 2022



In line with the FINA Development Programme, FINA aims to assist the FINA National Member Federations to qualify their athletes for the upcoming 15th FINA World Swimming Championships in Abu Dhabi (UAE) and for the 19th FINA World Championships Budapest 2022 (HUN).

As part of the development of the National Federations, contributing on the athletes' preparation for international competitions is crucial to their progress and to the future of the National teams.

The main goal of the FINA Scholarships Programme is to identify, prepare and qualify a limited number of athletes aspiring to participate at the above-mentioned competitions, as well as ensuring that the National Federations have access to the necessary resources to increase the level of swimming within their countries.

1. Description

The FINA Scholarships Programme offers the opportunity to obtain financial and technical assistance for one potential elite athlete per Federation/year according to these guidelines:

- National Federations are invited to select and propose one potential elite athlete to benefit from this programme
- The FINA Scholarship will support the athlete in his/her preparation and qualification for the 15th FINA World Swimming Championships (UAE) and for the 19th FINA World Championships Budapest 2022 (HUN), with particular focus on those candidates and National Federations with the greatest needs
- National Federations may choose among two scholarship options: the assistance provided by FINA contributes to the improvement of the athletes' training conditions through the National Federation option managed by the federation or enables the scholarship holders to train abroad in a high-performance FINA Training Centre
- FINA will determine the length of the scholarship once the proposal submitted by the athlete's National Federation has been carefully reviewed

The National Federation or the Training Centre will ensure that the following conditions are available for the athlete's preparation:

- Access to appropriate training facilities
- A specialised coach
- Regular medical and scientific assistance and control
- Necessary accommodation
- A balanced nutritional plan
- Participation in a FINA Qualifying Event

- Access to technical information concerning the 15th FINA World Swimming Championships (UAE) and the 19th FINA World Championships Budapest 2022 (HUN)

Please note that the items to be covered by the FINA Scholarship and the budget distribution must be agreed upon by FINA, the athlete, the National Federation and the selected Training Centre (if applicable).

2. Athlete Training Options

The FINA Scholarships Programme aims to provide the best training environment to the athletes. For this reason, FINA, in coordination with the relevant National Federation, will decide which scholarship option is allocated to each candidate.

Factors to consider will be, among others, the specific needs of the athlete, his/her technical level, his/her preferences and his/her age. FINA and the athlete's National Federation will work together in order to take the best decision for the candidate.

The following training options are available as part of the programme:

2.1 NF Training Option

This option is only available for those athletes who have achieved a time between the B standard and the S standard at the time of application (please see Annex 1).

- The National Federation administers the FINA Scholarship and is responsible of choosing the athlete's training location
- FINA will carefully assess the budget proposal submitted by the National Federation. The monthly budget must be agreed by FINA and the National Federation

2.2 Training Centre Option

Athletes who have not achieved the S standard at the time of application may benefit from the Training Centre Option. This option may also be chosen for those athletes who have achieved the S standard at the time of application.

- FINA has agreements with a limited number of specialised high-performance training centres:
 - [FINA Development Centre in Dakar](#)
 - [FINA Development Centre in Kazan](#)
 - [Thanyapura](#) - FINA Training Center

- [Azura Florida Aquatics](#) – Independent FINA Training Center
- The specific Training Centre will be selected in collaboration with the athlete's National Federation based on the athlete's profile, his/her personal best times, his/her age and any particular needs he/she may have
- The Training Centre will be responsible for the administration of the FINA Scholarship, both technically and financially

3. FINA World Swimming Championships and FINA World Championships Qualification

The main objective of the FINA Scholarships Programme is to improve the athletes training conditions, assisting them in their preparation to qualify and participate in the 15th FINA World Swimming Championships (UAE) and the 19th FINA World Championships Budapest 2022 (HUN).

The costs related to the participation in the FINA Qualifying events must be covered as follows:

- **Athletes benefiting from a FINA Scholarship – NF Training Option:** any costs related to the participation in the FINA Qualifying events must be covered by the monthly scholarship funds.
- **Athletes benefiting from a FINA Scholarship – Training Centre Option:** FINA will provide up to 1,000 USD travel allowance to those athletes who need to travel to participate in the FINA Qualifying events.

A detailed budget including the flight ticket expenses, the visa (if required), the accommodation, the local transfers and the meals needs to be provided for FINA's approval. Any request concerning the travel allowance will be assessed by FINA on a case-by-case basis.

Athletes benefiting from a long-term scholarship who fail to qualify for the next 15th FINA World Swimming Championships (UAE) and the 19th FINA World Championships Budapest 2022 (HUN) might be withdrawn as of the date of their final qualification attempt.

4. Eligibility criteria

The FINA Scholarships Programme aims to promote universal representation at the FINA World Championships.

FINA National Member Federations are kindly requested to carefully study the project description and to consider whether there is any athlete in their country who would

realistically have the potential and the necessary commitment to be included in the programme. National Federations are invited to apply with one candidate per year.

The swimmers must comply with the following criteria:

- FINA will prioritise athletes who have achieved a performance that is between the FINA "B" Swimming Qualifying Time Standard and the "S" Standard (please see Annex 1). FINA will check the ranking and the results obtained at national and international competitions
- Only the athletes to whom a scholarship will make a significant difference to their training and who do not have access to alternative means of paying for their preparation may be put forward by their National Federation for a FINA Scholarship
- If a National Federation has several candidates complying with the above-mentioned criteria, the selection will be based on the highest ranked swimmer using the FINA points system

4.1 Other requirements

All the following requirements must be fulfilled by any athlete benefiting from the FINA Scholarships Programme:

- The swimmer cannot be over 23 years of age at the time of the application
- The candidate must not have competed in a FINA sanctioned event for a country other than the one submitting the candidature
- A National Federation may not put forward as a scholarship candidate any athlete who is currently suspended for an anti-doping rule violation or sanctioned for any actions contrary to the FINA Rules
- The athlete has to be available to travel and to reside at the training location that has been determined as most suitable for his/her preparation
- The athlete has no current commitments and is available to join the Training Centre for the agreed duration of the programme (if applicable)
- The athlete accepts to participate in any survey that FINA may send in relation to the FINA Scholarships Programme

5. Application Procedure

National Federations have the opportunity to apply for one FINA Scholarship per year:

- National Federations are requested to choose among their athletes and to select the candidate who better complies with the above-mentioned criteria
- The Application Form (Annex 2) must be completed and submitted to the FINA Office by the **25th September 2021**
- Only National Federations are entitled to apply for the FINA Scholarships Programme

- At the end of the selection process, National Federations will be informed about the outcome of the application and the necessary future steps to be taken

6. Analysis and Approval

FINA will carefully assess each application, if needed, in collaboration with the relevant National Federation:

- FINA is responsible for the final approval of the FINA Scholarship and for the athletes' training option
- Each party involved in the FINA Scholarships Programme (FINA, the relevant National Federation, the relevant Training Centre if any and the athlete) will be required to sign a contract. The contract will list the responsibilities of each party and the monthly budget distribution of the scholarship

7. Financial Conditions

7.1 NF Training Option

FINA and the relevant National Federation will agree upon the monthly scholarship budget allocated to his/her athlete:

- A detailed budget breakdown must be submitted by the National Federation for approval
- FINA reserves the right to request the specific details of any of the budgeted costs and to verify any payments to third parties. All the payments to third parties must be settled by traceable means
- All the payments will be made to the National Federation's bank account. The National Federation is responsible for the administration of the scholarship funds regardless of where his/her athlete is training

7.2 Training Centre Option

FINA will negotiate a fixed monthly rate with the Training Centres with which an agreement is signed:

- All the payments will be made to the chosen Training Centre
- FINA will issue a round trip ticket for the scholarship holder or will reimburse the cost of the scholarship holder's flight ticket to travel to and from the Training Centre in economy fare (upon FINA's prior approval)
- Visa costs, PCR tests or other travel related costs will be addressed on a case-by-case basis

- The cost of the airfare must be approved by FINA beforehand. Non-approved expenses will not be reimbursed

7.3 Travel expenses

For those scholarships allocated at a FINA Training or Development Centre, FINA will cover the athlete's travel arrangements to and from the Training Centre at the beginning and at the end of the programme.

FINA will provide a travel allowance of up to 1,000 USD to those athletes who need to travel to participate in FINA Qualifying Events. The travel allowance is only available to those athletes benefiting from a FINA Scholarship – Training Centre Option. Please refer to section 3 for any further information.

8. Follow up and Control

As of the FINA Scholarship approval, either the relevant National Federation or the Training Centre must submit the Report Form at the end of each term (every two months):

- This document allows to monitor the athlete's progress towards the 15th FINA World Swimming Championships (UAE) and the 19th FINA World Championships Budapest 2022 (HUN) qualification
- The form includes a financial statement to be signed by the athlete and by the relevant National Federation, confirming the distribution of the scholarship funds as agreed in the contract

9. Termination of a FINA Scholarship

FINA reserves the right to withdraw the scholarship from any athlete in the following cases:

- Non-qualification for the 15th FINA World Swimming Championships (UAE) and the 19th FINA World Championships Budapest 2022 (HUN)
- Decrease of technical level
- Medical reason that prevents the athlete from training
- Unethical behaviour such as doping offence, lack of discipline, etc.
- Breach of the FINA Rules on the Protection from harassment and abuse
- Breach of the athlete/National Federation's contract or of the FINA Rules
- Any other reason in mutual agreement with the relevant National Federation or Training Centre

