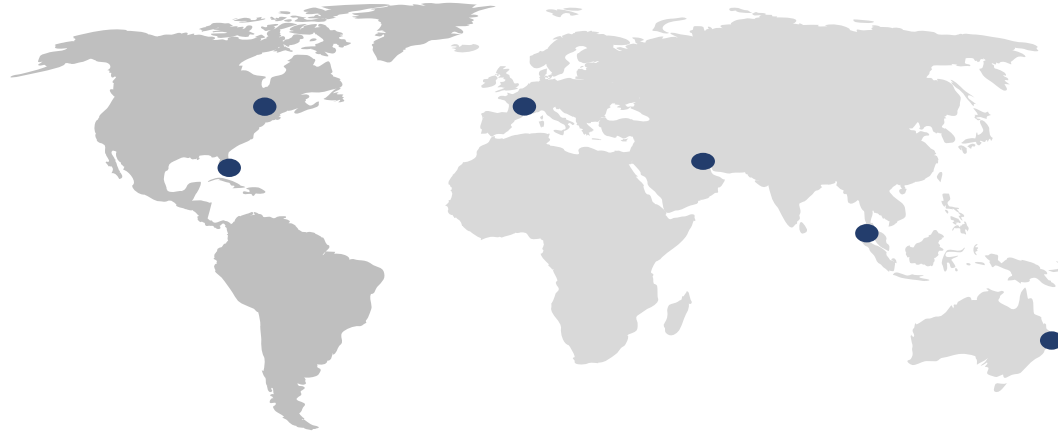




# World Aquatics Scholarship Programme 2026-2027

# About the Programme



**The World Aquatics Scholarships Programme** was launched in 2014 with the purpose of providing financial and technical assistance to athletes with internationally recognised sporting achievements, but without favourable or sufficient conditions to train locally.

World Aquatics is proud to allocate significant resources to the 2026-2027 World Aquatics Scholarship Programme, recognising its pivotal role in nurturing the development of the National Federations and their talented athletes.

**The programme targets** 100 Swimmers, 20 Open Water Swimmers, 20 Divers, 10 Artistic Swimming Duets, 20 Water Polo players and, for the first time ever, 6 High Divers. Quotas per continent and gender equality will be considered.

Majority of the athletes will be placed at the **World Aquatics Training Centres**, except Artistic Swimming Duets and High Divers, who will receive scholarship grants, and Water Polo players, who will be placed in Water Polo clubs across Europe.

**Priority** for the allocation of the scholarships will be given to the candidates with greater needs and to whom the scholarship will create an opportunity to reach their full potential.

All National Federations are invited to submit an **online application** by the **[30 April 2026](#)**.

# Overview

**QUOTA**

**TYPE**

**OPTION**

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

**APPLICATION**

**TARGET**

**DURATION**

**REVIEWS**

**PRIORITY**

SWIMMING	OPEN WATER SWIMMING	DIVING	WATER POLO	HIGH DIVING	ARTISTIC SWIMMING
100	20	20	20	6	10
Individual	Individual	Individual	Individual	Individual	Duet
TC Option	TC Option	TC Option	European Water Polo clubs (first & second division)	NF option	NF option
Provided to the Training Centres and Water Polo clubs as per the contractual agreements				Up to 20,000 USD/year	
Up to two (2) athletes per NF, one for each gender	One (1) athlete per NF	Up to two (2) athletes per NF, one for each gender	Up to two (2) athletes per NF, one for each gender	Up to two (2) athletes per NF, one for each gender	One (1) women or mixed duet per NF
Athletes who have competed at top-tier international competitions held in 2025-26 (the specific events for each sport are detailed in the following slides)					
2 years, starting on September 1, 2026, and ending on July 14, 2028 (Olympic Games – Los Angeles 2028)			1 year	1 year	1 year
Annual reviews will be performed to assess athletes' continued eligibility			National Federations will need to reapply for scholarships each year		
The scholarships will be allocated to the candidates with greater needs and to whom the scholarship will create an opportunity to reach their full potential					

# General considerations for Training Centre based athletes

# Athlete profile

- 1** | The candidate must be a National Team member, who has represented his/her country at the international competitions
- 2** | **He/she must participate in the upcoming World Aquatics Championships and Olympic Games**
- 3** | The athlete must be in **good physical & psychological condition** to undertake a high-performance training and competition programme. An official medical certificate confirming the athlete's physical and mental fitness must be provided by the respective National Federation prior to the athlete's arrival at the Training Centre (or Water Polo club).
- 4** | He/she is ready to move to a foreign country, **to the Training Centre (or Water Polo club) designated by World Aquatics**
- 5** | He/she will comply with the **World Aquatics' Regulations, the Scholarship holders' Code of Conduct** and the **Training Centre's (or Water Polo club) Code of Conduct**. The athlete must attend all scheduled training sessions as part of the programme requirements.
- 6** | He/she will take the chance to **improve their sport results, will be open to educational opportunities provided** by the Training Centres (or Water Polo clubs), will cooperate with World Aquatics and the Training Centre Coaches
- 7** | He/she put his/her **best efforts** to develop as an athlete and as a person



## Applicants' selection

Highly motivated athlete:

- Eager to join a **high-performance** training environment
- Fully prepared to **commit** to a 2-year programme (except for Artistic Swimming, High Diving and Water Polo)
- **Exemplary** attendance at practices

# Conditions at the Training Centres

Training Centre based athletes (excluding Artistic Swimmers, High Divers and Water Polo players\*) will receive:

- 1 | Full board accommodation or accommodation and meal allowance
- 2 | Training plan: access to training facilities, coaching services and biomechanical analysis (for Swimming and Open Water Swimming)
- 3 | Participation at competitions, according to the Training Centre's competition plan
- 4 | Accident, Health and Travel Insurance – the insurance coverage may vary based on the specific conditions at the different Training Centres
- 5 | Pocket money (100 USD/month)
- 6 | Personal development and educational opportunities may vary on the specific conditions at different Training Centres

\*Please refer to slide 33 for further information related to the conditions provided at the European Water Polo clubs.



## Competition support

### Qualifying events for the World Aquatics Championships

Training Centres receive up to **1,500 USD/year/scholarship holder** to support the scholarship holders' participation in the qualifying events

### Participation in the World Aquatics Championships

World Aquatics provides **travel and accommodation subsidies** to the National Federations for the participation of their delegations in the World Aquatics Championships

However, the National Federations may have to cover some of the scholarship holders' competition expenses

# Responsibilities of the Training Centres

## LOGISTICS

- Assistance in obtaining an entry visa and the necessary permits to stay in the country
- Provide a round-trip ticket from the athlete's home country to the Training Centre at the beginning and at the end of the scholarship
- Provide local airport transfers
- Coordinate the athlete's participation at the World Aquatics qualifying events

**IMPORTANT:** the Training Centres allocation is made by World Aquatics. World Aquatics covers the athlete's round-trip ticket to the Training Centre and up to 1,500 USD/year for the athlete's participation at the World Championships qualifying events

## TC COACH

- Establish the training programme, tailored to the athlete's needs
- Determine the competition programme

# Responsibilities of the National Federations

## LOGISTICS

- Assist the athlete during the visa application process. If the required documentation cannot be arranged or the visa process cannot be completed within the specified timeframe, athletes on the waiting list will be prioritised.
- Cover all costs associated with the visa application process

## COMPETITIONS

- For National Federations with athletes qualified through Universality places: submit a copy of the athlete's National selection criteria to participate at upcoming World Aquatics Championships at least five months in advance
- Include maximum **3 National/Continental** level events per year in the athlete's competition plan. National Federations must cover all travel and competition-related expenses
- Transparency is critical with the competition plan to ensure the TC Coaches can periodise the training plan for the individual. It is recommended the athletes compete regularly and this needs to be an open discussion with the Training Centres.

**IMPORTANT:** the competition proposal must be submitted to World Aquatics by the end of September and is subject to approval by both the Training Centre and World Aquatics

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- Provide pocket money to facilitate the athlete's reallocation and daily life at the Training Centre
- Provide additional financial support for the athlete's participation at competitions, as included in the competition plan

**IMPORTANT:** National Federations may use the **World Aquatics Support Programme funds** to cover any additional expenses that are not covered through the World Aquatics Scholarship programme

# Swimming Scholarships

*Key aspects National Federations need to consider  
before applying for the programme*

# Swimming Scholarships

Each National Federation may apply with up to two athletes, one of each gender, for a two-year scholarship

AIM

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

TARGET

FUTURE PLANS

## 1. AGE LIMITS

Applicants must be 18 years to 28 years old by the start of the scholarship

## 2. UNFAVOURABLE TRAINING CONDITIONS

Countries that lack a high-performance training environment (e.g. limited access to training facilities, a specialised coach etc.)

## 3. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Applicants do not benefit from alternative financial sources (e.g. Olympic Solidarity/University Scholarship, Governmental support)

## 4. GENDER BALANCE

If one or more athletes of the same gender already benefit from a similar programme (e.g. Olympic Solidarity Scholarship), an athlete of different gender would be considered

## 5. NATIONAL RANKING

The applicant holds a top 3 national ranking, either in the male or female category, as per the World Aquatics points table. Only the 2025-2026 swimming events performed in long course are considered

## 6. COMPLIANCE

The applicant must comply with World Aquatics regulations, including Sport Nationality rules (Competition regulations) as well as with the Olympic Charter

## PARTICIPATION AT INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

The athlete must have participated at least at one of the following competitions:

**World Aquatics Championships – Singapore 2025**

**World Aquatics Swimming World Cups 2025**

**World Aquatics Junior Swimming Championships – Otopeni 2025**

**Continental Championships held in 2025\***

## INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

The athlete should participate at the upcoming **World Aquatics Swimming Championships (25m) – Beijing 2026**, **World Aquatics Championships – Budapest 2027** and the **Olympic Games 2028**

# Swimming Scholarships

## **\*CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD IN 2025**

- 16<sup>th</sup> Africa Aquatics Junior Swimming Championships – Cairo (2025)
- Pan American Aquatics Championships – Medellín (2025)
- Juegos Panamericanos Junior – Asunción (2025)
- Asian Aquatics Championships – Ahmedabad (2025)
- European U-23 Championships – Šamorín (2025)

## National Federations placed through Universality

AFG	CAF	FIN	KEN	MLT	SAM	UGA
AGU	CAM	FRO	KGZ	MNE	SEN	URU
ALB	CAY	FSM	KOS	MOZ	SEY	UZB
AND	CGO	GAB	KSA	MRI	SKN	VAN
ANG	CHI	GAM	KUW	MTN	SLO	VEN
ANT	CIV	GBS	LAO	MYA	SOL	VIN
ARM	CMR	GEO	LAT	NAM	SOM	YEM
ARU	COD	GHA	LBA	NCA	SRI	ZAM
ASA	COK	GRN	LBN	NEP	SUD	ZIM
AZE	COM	GUA	LCA	NGR	SUI	
BAH	CPV	GUI	LES	NIG	SUR	
BAN	CRC	GUM	LUX	NMA	SVK	
BAR	CUB	GUY	MAA	OMA	SWZ	
BDI	CUR	HAI	MAC	PAK	SYR	
BEN	CYP	HKG	MAD	PAN	TAN	
BHU	DJI	HON	MAR	PAR	TCN	
BIH	DMA	IND	MAS	PER	TGA	
BIZ	DOM	IRI	MAW	PHI	THA	
BOL	ECU	IRQ	MDA	PLE	TJK	
BOT	ERI	ISL	MDV	PLW	TKM	
BRN	ESA	ISV	MEX	PNG	TLS	
BRU	EST	JAM	MGL	PUR	TOG	
BUL	ETH	JOR	MHL	QAT	TTO	
BUR	FIJ	KAZ	MLI	RWA	UAE	

World Aquatics Championships – Singapore  
2025

## National Federations placed through B qualifying time standards

ALG	ECU	LBN	PER
ANT	ESA	MAC	PHI
AZE	GHA	MAR	PUR
BER	GUA	MAS	SRI
CAY	HON	MGL	SUD
COK	IND	MNE	SVK
COL	IRI	MON	THA
CUB	JAM	NAM	TPE
CYP	JOR	PAN	URU
DOM	LAT	PAR	ZIM

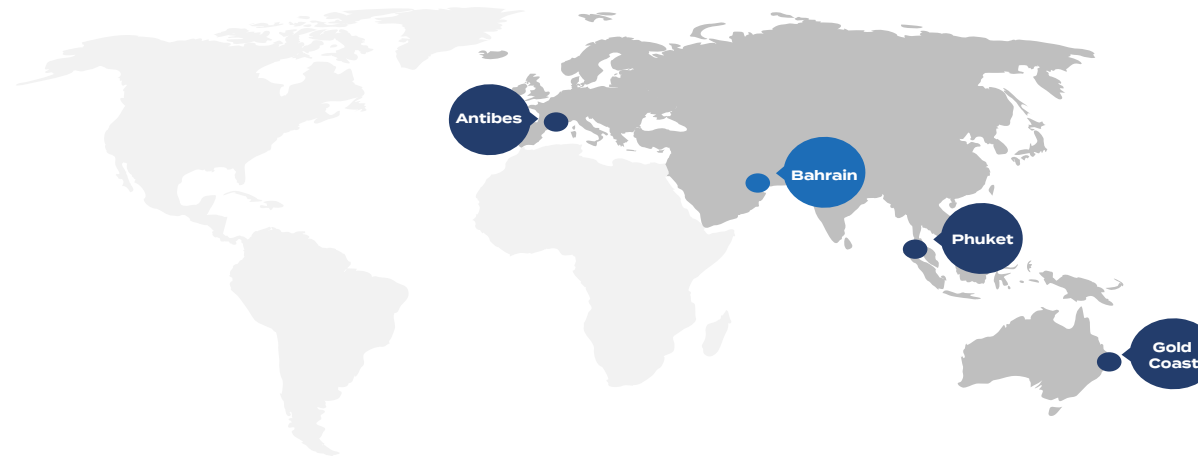
World Aquatics Championships - Singapore 2025

## National Federations placed through A qualifying time standards

ARG	CHI	GBR	KAZ	POR	TUR
ARU	CHN	GER	KGZ	ROU	UKR
AUS	CRO	GRE	KOR	RSA	USA
AUT	CZE	HKG	LTU	SGP	UZB
BAH	DEN	HUN	LUX	SLO	VEN
BEL	EGY	INA	MEX	SRB	VIE
BIH	ESP	IRL	NED	SUI	
BRA	EST	ISR	NOR	SWE	
BUL	FIN	ITA	NZL	TTO	
CAN	FRA	JPN	POL	TUN	

World Aquatics Championships - Singapore 2025

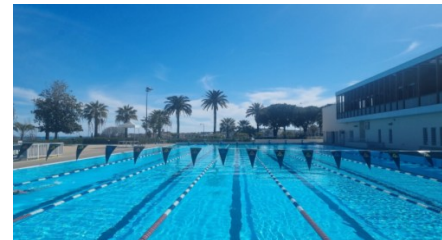
# Training Centres for Swimming



**Bahrain Training Centre,  
Bahrain**

Formal educational opportunities provided at the **University of Technology Bahrain (UTB)**

Educational expenses covered as part of the scholarship



**Antibes Training Centre,  
France**

Free French lessons  
+  
Formal educational opportunities available in French:  
- **Lifeguard training**  
- **Côte d'Azur University**

Tuition fees not covered as part of the scholarship



**Bond University,  
Australia**



**Thanyapura Training Centre,  
Thailand**

# Open Water Swimming Scholarships

*Key aspects National Federations need to consider  
before applying for the programme*

# Open Water Swimming scholarships

## AIM

Each National Federation may apply with one athlete for a two-year scholarship

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

### 1. AGE LIMITS

Applicants must be 18 years to 28 years old by the start of the scholarship

### 2. UNFAVOURABLE TRAINING CONDITIONS

Countries that lack a high-performance training environment (e.g. limited access to training facilities, a specialised coach, etc.)

### 3. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Applicants do not benefit from alternative financial sources (e.g. Olympic Solidarity/University Scholarship, Governmental support)

### 4. GENDER BALANCE

If one or more athletes of the same gender already benefit from a similar programme (e.g. Olympic Solidarity Scholarship), an athlete of different gender would be considered

### 5. NATIONAL RANKING

The applicant holds a top 3 national ranking, either in the male or female category

Only the Open Water Swimming competitions held in 2025 and 2026 are considered

### 6. COMPLIANCE

The applicant must comply with World Aquatics regulations, including Sport Nationality rules (Competition regulations) as well as with the Olympic Charter

## TARGET

### PARTICIPATION AT INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

The athlete must have participated in a **5 or 10 km event** at least at one of the following competitions:

**World Aquatics Championships – Singapore 2025**

**World Aquatics Open Water Swimming World Cups – 2025 and /or 2026**

**Continental Championships held in 2025 and/or 2026\***

## FUTURE PLANS

### INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

The athlete should participate at the upcoming **World Aquatics Championships – Budapest 2027** and **Olympic Games 2028**, if he/she fulfils the applicable qualifying criteria

## Open Water Swimming Scholarships

### **\*CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD IN 2025 & 2026**

- Africa Aquatics Junior Open Water Swimming Championships – Cairo (2025)
- Pan American Aquatics Championships – Medellín (2025)
- Juegos Panamericanos Junior – Asunción (2025)
- Asian Beach Games – Sanya (2026)
- European Open Water Swimming Championships – Stari Grad (2025)

National Federations which took part at least at one of the following Men's events:

- 5 km
- 10 km

ANG	CRC	HKG	KOR	RSA	UGA
ARG	CRO	HON	MAR	SEY	USA
AUS	CZE	HUN	MEX	SGP	VEN
AUT	DOM	INA	MON	SRI	ZIM
BEL	ECU	IND	NAM	SUD	
BOL	FRA	ISR	PAR	SUI	
BOT	GBR	ITA	PER	SVK	
BRA	GER	JPN	POL	THA	
CAN	GRE	KAZ	POR	TPE	
CHN	GUA	KEN	PUR	TUR	

World Aquatics Championships - Singapore 2025

National Federations which took part at least at one of the following Women's events:

- 5 km
- 10 km

AND	DOM	HUN	MEX	RSA	VEN
ARG	ECU	INA	MON	SGP	
ARU	ESA	IND	MOZ	SLO	
AUS	ESP	ISR	MRI	SRI	
BOL	FIN	ITA	NAM	THA	
BRA	FRA	JPN	PAR	TPE	
CAN	GER	KAZ	PER	TUR	
CHN	GRE	KEN	POL	UGA	
CRO	GUA	KOR	POR	URU	
CZE	HKG	MAR	PUR	USA	

World Aquatics Championships - Singapore 2025

# Training Centres for Open Water Swimming



**Antibes Training Centre,  
France**

Free French lessons  
+

Formal educational opportunities  
available in French:

- Lifeguard training
- Côte d'Azur University

Tuition fees not covered as part  
of the scholarship



**Azura Florida Aquatics,  
USA**



# Diving Scholarships

*Key aspects National Federations need to consider  
before applying for the programme*

# Diving scholarships

## AIM

Each National Federation may apply with up to two athletes, one of each gender, for a two-year scholarship

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

### 1. AGE LIMITS

Applicants must be 18 years to 28 years old by the start of the scholarship

### 2. UNFAVOURABLE TRAINING CONDITIONS

Countries that lack a high-performance training environment (e.g. limited access to training facilities, a specialised coach, etc.)

### 3. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Applicants do not benefit from alternative financial sources (e.g. Olympic Solidarity/University Scholarship, Governmental support)

### 4. GENDER BALANCE

If one or more athletes of the same gender already benefit from a similar programme (e.g. Olympic Solidarity Scholarship), an athlete of different gender would be considered

### 5. NATIONAL RANKING

The applicant holds a top 3 national ranking, either in the male or female category. Only the Diving competitions held in 2025 and 2026 are considered

### 6. COMPLIANCE

The applicant must comply with World Aquatics regulations, including Sport Nationality rules (Competition regulations) as well as with the Olympic Charter

## TARGET

### PARTICIPATION AT INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

The athlete must have participated in a **1m Springboard, 3m Springboard or at a 10m Platform individual event** at least at one of the following competitions:

**World Aquatics Championships –Singapore 2025**

**World Aquatics World Cup 2026**

**Continental Championships held in 2025 and/or 2026\***

## FUTURE PLANS

### PARTICIPATION AT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The athlete should participate at the upcoming **World Aquatics Championships – Budapest 2027, World Aquatics Junior Diving Championships (if age eligible) and Olympic Games 2028**, if he/she fulfils the applicable qualifying criteria

## Diving Scholarships

### \* CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD IN 2025 & 2026

- Pan American Aquatics Championships – Medellín (2025)
- Asian Aquatics Championships – Ahmedabad (2025)
- European Aquatics Diving Championships - Antalya (2025)

National Federations which took part at least at one of the following Men's individual events:

- 1m Springboard
- 3m Springboard
- 10m Platform

ARM	CUB	HKG	MAS	THA
AUS	DEN	INA	MEX	UKR
AUT	DOM	IND	NOR	USA
BRA	EGY	IRI	NZL	UZB
BUL	ESP	IRL	POL	VEN
CAN	FRA	ITA	PRK	
CHI	GBR	JPN	ROU	
CHN	GEO	KAZ	SGP	
COL	GER	KOR	SRB	
CRO	GRE	LTU	SWE	

World Aquatics Championships - Singapore 2025

National Federations which took part at least at one of the following Women's individual events:

- 1m Springboard
- 3m Springboard
- 10m Platform

ARM	EGY	ITA	PHI	UKR
AUS	ESP	JPN	POL	USA
BRA	FIN	KOR	PRK	VEN
CAN	FRA	MAC	ROU	
CHN	GBR	MAS	RSA	
COL	GEO	MEX	SGP	
CUB	GER	NED	SUI	
CZE	HKG	NOR	SWE	
DEN	INA	NZL	TPE	
DOM	IND	PER	TUR	

World Aquatics Championships - Singapore 2025

# Training Centres for Diving



Toronto Training Centre, Canada



# Timeline for Training Centre based athletes

*Swimming, Open Water Swimming and Diving*

## Next steps

Steps	Deadline	Action	Comments
Step 1	<b>30 April 2026</b>	Submission of application to World Aquatics	National Federations submit an online application to World Aquatics
Step 2	<b>31 May 2026</b>	Application's review and selection process	World Aquatics notifies National Federations and athletes about their application status
Step 3	<b>7 June 2026</b>	Scholarship allocation	World Aquatics assigns the athletes to the Training Centres. National Federations and athletes are notified about the training location
Step 4	<b>15 June 2026</b>	Athletes' interviews	World Aquatics schedules interviews with the Training Centres and the athletes
Step 5	<b>15 June - 1 July 2026</b>	Signature of the Scholarship agreements and the Athletes' Code of Conduct	World Aquatics sends the scholarship documents. The scholarship agreement must be signed by the National Federations and the athletes
Step 6	<b>1 July 2026</b>	Visa application process to be initiated by the athletes	Scholarship holders must begin their visa application immediately after signing the agreement. The Training Centres provide guidance and all necessary documents to support the application. If an athlete does not obtain a visa by December 2026, his/her scholarship will be cancelled.
Step 7	<b>August 2026</b>	Travel arrangements are finalised by the Training Centres	Once the visa has been issued, Training Centres provide a round-trip flight ticket to the athletes and organise the airport transfers
Step 8	<b>1 September 2026</b>	Athletes' arrival to the Training Centres	Specific arrival date will be confirmed by each Training Centre
Step 9	<b>15 September 2026</b>	Initial meeting with Training Centres, National Federations and athletes	World Aquatics organises an initial meeting to discuss about responsibilities of each party, season plans and reporting mechanisms
Step 10	<b>30 September 2026</b>	National Federations submit a competition proposal. Training Centre sets a performance plan for the season	National Federations and Training Centres define a competition plan for the athletes. Training Centres' coaches and athletes agree on the goals for the season
Step 11	<b>1 October 2026</b>	Debrief meetings with the Training Centres and athletes	Individual debrief meetings are held upon completion of the adaptation period

# Study Programmes and timeline for the Bahrain Centre of Excellence

*Swimming Scholarships*

# Education opportunities at the Bahrain Centre of Excellence

*Provided free of charge through the Scholarships Programme*

## Available study programmes at the University of Technology of Bahrain (UTB)

### Foundation Year Programme

- NCUK International Foundation Year programme (IFY)

### Bachelor's Degree Programmes

- Bachelor of Science in Business Informatics (BSBI)
- Bachelor of Science in International Business (BSIB)
- Bachelor of Science in Accounting and Finance (BSAF)
- Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (BSCS)
- Bachelor of Science in Information Technology (BSIT)
- Bachelor of Science in Informatics Engineering (BSIE)
- Bachelor of Science in Mechatronics Engineering (BSME)
- Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering (BSEnE)

### Master's Degree Programmes

- Master of Business Administration (MBA)
- Master of Science in Logistics and Supply Chain Management (MSLSCM)
- Master of Science in Digital Marketing (MSDM)



### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ **Instruction language:** English (minimum B1 proficiency)
- ✓ **Placement tests:** as part of the onboarding process, athletes must pass an English test
- ✓ **Minimum cumulative GPA:** 60%. For more information, please visit the [University Catalogue](#)

# Required documents for athlete admissions

## NCUK International Foundation Year & Bachelor's Degree Programmes

- Athlete's information: full name, phone number, email address, passport copy, National ID, photo
- Academic programme your athlete would like to pursue, as detailed in the [UTB University Catalogue](#)
- English language proficiency certificate (IELTS/TOEFL) if available
- Academic documents\*: high school graduation certificate, three years high school transcript copy (transcript should be from grade 9-12 for private schools), cumulative GPA certificate (grades 10 to 12)
- If an athlete wishes to transfer previously obtained university credits, he/she will need to submit the university transcript along with the detailed course descriptions\* (the university will evaluate the possibility of transferring any eligible academic credits).

## Master's Degree Programmes

- Athlete's information: full name, phone number, email address, passport copy, National ID, photo
- Academic programme your athlete would like to pursue, as detailed in the [UTB University Catalogue](#)
- English language proficiency certificate (IELTS/TOEFL) if available
- Academic documents: High school graduation certificate\*, three years high school transcript copy\* (transcript should be from grade 9-12 for private schools), cumulative GPA certificate (grades 10 to 12)\*, Bachelor's degree certificate\*, Bachelor's transcript\*
- If an athlete wishes to transfer previously obtained university credits, he/she will need to submit the university transcript along with the detailed course descriptions\* (the university will evaluate the possibility of transferring any eligible academic credits).

## Important

- ✓ Unless the athlete studied in Arabic, all the above-mentioned documents must be translated into English.
- ✓ All the documents marked with an asterisk (\*) must be approved by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at a Bahraini Embassy, through issuance of the Bahraini Embassy's official stamp.
- ✓ For [countries of the Hague Convention](#), documents must be apostilled by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

# Timeline: Bahrain Centre of Excellence

Steps	Deadline	Action	Comments
Step 1	<b>30 April 2026</b>	Submission of application to World Aquatics	National Federations submit an online application to World Aquatics
Step 2	<b>31 May 2026</b>	Application's review and selection process	World Aquatics notifies National Federations and athletes about their application status
Step 3	<b>7 June 2026</b>	Scholarship allocation	World Aquatics assigns the athletes to the Training Centres. National Federations and athletes are notified about the training location
Step 4	<b>7 June- 14 June 2026</b>	Submission of required academic documents for athletes under a Swimming and Academic Scholarship (pre-stamp process)	The Bahrain Centre of Excellence reviews the athletes' academic documents (first technical check)
Step 5	<b>15 June 2026</b>	Athletes' interviews	Interviews are scheduled with the Bahrain Centre of Excellence and the athletes
Step 6	<b>15 June - 1 July 2026</b>	Signature of the Scholarship agreements and the Athletes' Code of Conduct	World Aquatics sends the scholarship documents. The scholarship agreement must be signed by the National Federations and the athletes
Step 7	<b>1 July - 10 August 2026</b>	Submission of required stamped academic documents (for athletes under a Swimming and Academic Scholarship) or completion of the medical examination documents (for athletes under Swimming-only Scholarship)	For athletes joining under a Swimming and Academic Scholarship, all academic documents must be submitted with the required stamps to proceed with the visa application. Without these stamps, the athlete will be prevented from joining the Training Centre. The deadline for submission of stamped academic documents is 10 August. Any delay may put the athlete's university enrollment at risk.  For athletes joining under a Swimming-only Scholarship, submission of the medical documents is required as part of the visa process
Step 8	<b>July – August 2026</b>	The Bahrain Centre of Excellence will facilitate the visa process with relevant parties following the submission of all the required documents	After submission of required documents, the Bahrain Centre of Excellence will coordinate the visa process with relevant parties. If an athlete does not obtain a visa by December 2026, his/her scholarship will be cancelled
Step 9	<b>August 2026</b>	Travel arrangements are finalised by the Bahrain Centre of Excellence	Once the visa has been issued, the Bahrain Centre of Excellence provides a round-trip flight ticket to the athletes and organises the airport transfers
Step 10	<b>1 September 2026</b>	Athletes' arrival to the Bahrain Centre of Excellence	Specific arrival date will be confirmed by the Bahrain Centre of Excellence
Step 11	<b>1-15 September 2026</b>	University English placement test and onboarding for athletes joining under a Swimming and Academic Scholarship. Post-arrival medical examination for athletes joining under a Swimming-only Scholarship	Specific date for the exam and the onboarding will be provided by the university. For the Swimming-only Scholarship, athletes who do not pass the post-arrival medical examination will have their scholarship cancelled
Step 12	<b>15 September 2026</b>	Initial meeting with the Bahrain Centre of Excellence, National Federations and athletes	World Aquatics organises an initial meeting to discuss about responsibilities of each party, season plans and reporting mechanisms
Step 13	<b>30 September 2026</b>	National Federations submit a competition proposal. The Bahrain Centre of Excellence sets a performance plan for the season	National Federations and the Bahrain Centre of Excellence define a competition plan for the athletes. Training Centre's coaches and athletes agree on the goals for the season
Step 14	<b>1 October 2026</b>	Debrief meetings with the Bahrain Centre of Excellence and athletes	Individual debrief meetings are held upon completion of the adaptation period

# Water Polo Scholarships

*Key aspects National Federations need to consider  
before applying for the programme*

# Conditions at the European clubs

Athletes placed at the European first and second division clubs will receive the following services:

- 1** | Assistance in obtaining an entry visa and the necessary permits to stay in the country for the duration of the scholarship
- 2** | A round-trip ticket from the athlete's home country to the club's location at the beginning and at the end of the scholarship (in Economy class), as well as the airport transfers
- 3** | Full board accommodation (or accommodation and meal allowance)
- 4** | Access to training facilities and to a specialized coach or coaching team
- 5** | Regular training sessions as determined by the club (at least 7 practices per week, including one game)
- 6** | Registration in the team roster according to National/European regulations (practice and competition team) and participation at national club competitions according to the club's competition plan
- 7** | Dedicated medical assistance and regular scientific control
- 8** | Health, accident and travel insurance (the travel insurance should provide coverage during the athlete's participation at national club competitions)
- 9** | The scholarship provides 1,500 USD per year to Water Polo clubs to support the athlete's participation in club competitions. In addition, the athlete receives 100 USD per month as pocket money.
- 10** | Personal development and educational opportunities (they may vary depending on the specific conditions at each club)

# Responsibilities of the National Federations

## LOGISTICS

- Assist the athlete during the visa application process. If the required documentation cannot be arranged or the visa process cannot be completed within the specified timeframe, athletes on the waiting list will be prioritised.

**IMPORTANT:** All costs associated with the visa application process must be covered by the athlete's National Federation

## COMPETITIONS

- During their scholarship, athletes may participate in a maximum of three (3) competitions with their National Teams

- The competition proposal is subject to the Water Polo clubs' and World Aquatics approval

- Transparency regarding the competition plan is critical. At the start of the season, National Federations must inform the Water Polo clubs about their National calendar, ensuring they are informed about scheduled National Team events by the 30 September

**IMPORTANT:** The athlete's National Federation is responsible for the necessary arrangements and must cover any expenses related to the athlete's travel and participation at National Team events. The National selection criteria to participate at National Team events must be submitted at least five months in advance

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- Provide pocket money to facilitate the athlete's reallocation and daily life at the Water Polo clubs

**IMPORTANT:** National Federations may use the **World Aquatics Support Programme funds** to cover any additional expenses that are not covered through the World Aquatics Scholarship programme



# Water Polo Scholarships

AIM

Each National Federation may apply with up to two athletes, one of each gender and regardless of playing position, for a one-year scholarship. Current athletes may be re-nominated; however, priority will be given to newly nominated athletes.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

## 1. AGE LIMITS

Applicants must be 18 years to 28 years old by the start of the scholarship

## 2. UNFAVOURABLE CONDITIONS

The athlete has limited exposure to a high-level competition environment and training conditions

## 3. ATHLETIC BACKGROUND

The applicant must have played Water Polo for a minimum of 8 consecutive years and must have represented his/her country internationally\*

## 4. ACADEMIC PROFILE

The applicant has graduated from High School and has an intermediate level of English proficiency

## 5. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Applicants do not benefit from alternative financial sources (e.g. Olympic Solidarity/University Scholarship, Governmental support)

## 6. COMPLIANCE

The applicant must comply with World Aquatics regulations, including Sport Nationality rules (Competition regulations), with the club's Code of Conduct and with the Olympic Charter

## \*PARTICIPATION AT INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

### European athletes

European athletes may apply if they participated in **Continental Championships since 2025** or at the **European Championships 2026**, provided their teams were not placed within the top 14 positions at the 2024 European Championships.

### Non-European athletes

Non-European athletes may apply if they participated in **any Continental Championships since 2025**, provided their teams were not placed within the top 8 positions in the last Olympic Games. If they did not participate in these events, they may still apply if they attended **the World Aquatics World Cup 2026 and/or the World Aquatics Championships - Singapore 2025**.

TARGET

FUTURE PLANS

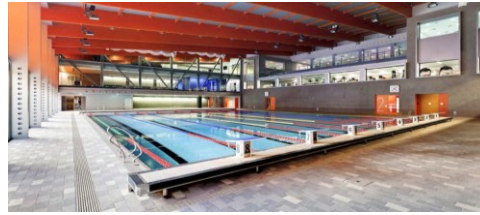
The athlete should participate in the **World Aquatics Championships – Budapest 2027**, the **World Cup 2027** or at the upcoming **Continental Championships**, if the team qualifies for these events

# Host clubs for Water Polo

The programme is hosted across six clubs in four countries, providing scholarship holders with a diverse and internationally enriching experience:



**VK Zadar, Croatia**



**CN Catalunya, Spain**  
- free intensive Spanish course



**CN Rubí, Spain**  
- free intensive Spanish course



**UE Horta, Spain**  
- free intensive Spanish course



**CN Marseille, France**



**ANC Glyfada, Greece**



# Timeline for Water Polo

## Next steps

Steps	Deadline	Action	Comments
Step 1	<b>30 April 2026</b>	Submission of application to World Aquatics	National Federations submit an online application to World Aquatics
Step 2	<b>31 May 2026</b>	Application's review and selection process	World Aquatics notifies National Federations and athletes about their application status
Step 3	<b>7 June 2026</b>	Scholarship allocation	World Aquatics assigns the athletes to the Water Polo clubs. National Federations and athletes are notified about the training location
Step 4	<b>15 June 2026</b>	Athletes' interviews	World Aquatics schedule interviews with the clubs and the athletes
Step 5	<b>15 June -1 July 2026</b>	Signature of the Scholarship agreements and the Athletes' code of conduct	World Aquatics provides the scholarship documents. The scholarship agreement must be signed by the National Federations and the athletes
Step 6	<b>1 July 2026</b>	Visa application process to be initiated by the athletes	Scholarship holders must begin their visa application immediately after signing the agreement. The Water Polo clubs will provide guidance and all necessary documents to support the application. If an athlete does not obtain a visa by December 2026, his/her scholarship will be cancelled.
Step 7	<b>August 2026</b>	Travel arrangements are finalised by the Water Polo clubs	Once the visa has been issued, the Water Polo clubs provide a round-trip flight ticket to the athletes and organise the airport transfers
Step 8	<b>1 September 2026</b>	Athletes' arrival to the Water Polo clubs	Specific arrival date will be confirmed by each Water Polo club
Step 9	<b>15 September 2026</b>	Initial meeting with Water Polo clubs, National Federations and athletes	World Aquatics organises an initial meeting to discuss about responsibilities of each party, season plans and reporting mechanisms
Step 10	<b>30 September 2026</b>	National Federations submit a competition proposal. Water Polo clubs set a performance plan for the season	National Federations and Water Polo clubs define a competition plan for the athletes. The clubs' coaches and athletes agree on the goals for the season
Step 11	<b>1 October 2026</b>	Debrief meetings with the Water Polo clubs and athletes	Individual debrief meetings are held upon completion of the adaptation period

# Artistic Swimming Scholarships

*Key aspects National Federations need to consider  
before applying for the programme*

# Artistic Swimming scholarships

AIM

Each National Federation may apply with one duet for a one-year scholarship.

SCHOLARSHIP OPTION

## NATIONAL FEDERATION

The Artistic Swimming Duet trains under the National Federation option: the National Federation and the athletes may choose the training programme and location.

National Federations must ensure that the necessary minimum conditions are provided to the athletes:

- Full board accommodation
- A specialized coach
- Access to training facilities
- Medical assistance
- Health, travel and accident insurance

Other services may be offered to the athletes upon approval of the budget proposal

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

## 1. AGE LIMITS

The youngest member of the Artistic Swimming Duet must be 18 years to 28 years old by the start of the scholarship

## 3. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Applicants do not benefit from alternative financial sources (e.g. Olympic Solidarity/University Scholarship, Governmental support)

## 2. UNFAVOURABLE TRAINING CONDITIONS

Countries that lack a high-performance training environment (e.g. limited access to training facilities, a specialised coach, etc.)

## 4. COMPLIANCE

The applicants must comply with World Aquatics regulations, including Sport Nationality rules (Competition regulations) as well as with the Olympic Charter

## PARTICIPATION AT INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

The Duet must have participated at least at one of the following competitions:

**World Aquatics Championships – Singapore 2025**

**World Aquatics Artistic Swimming World Cup – 2026**

**Continental Championships held in 2025**

## PARTICIPATION AT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Duet should participate in the upcoming **World Aquatics Championships – Budapest 2027**, provided they meet the applicable qualifying criteria

TARGET

FUTURE PLANS

# Artistic Swimming Scholarships

## \* CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD IN 2025

- PanAm Aquatics Championships – Medellín (2025)
- PanAm Aquatics Junior Championships – Asuncion (2025)
- Asian Aquatics Championships – Ahmedabad (2025)
- European Artistic Junior Swimming Championships – Athens (2025)
- Oceania Artistic Swimming Open Championships – Wellington (2025)

National Federations which took part at least at one of the following events:

- Women Duet Free
- Women Duet Technical

ARG	CUB	HKG	RSA
AUS	CZE	HUN	SGP
AUT	EGY	INA	SVK
BRA	ESA	ITA	TUR
CAN	ESP	JPN	UKR
CHI	FRA	KAZ	URU
CHN	GBR	MAC	USA
COL	GEO	MEX	UZB
CRC	GER	MLT	
CRO	GRE	PER	

World Aquatics Championships - Singapore 2025

National Federations which took part at least at one of the following events:

- Mixed Duet Free
- Mixed Duet Technical

BRA	CUR	ITA
CHI	ESP	KAZ
CHN	GBR	MEX
COL	GER	THA
CUB	ISR	

World Aquatics Championships - Singapore  
2025

# High Diving Scholarships

*Key aspects National Federations need to consider  
before applying for the programme*

# High Diving Scholarships

AIM

Each National Federation may apply with up to two athletes, one of each gender, for a one-year scholarship

SCHOLARSHIP OPTION

## NATIONAL FEDERATION

High Divers train under the National Federation option: the National Federation and the athletes may choose the training programme and location.

National Federations must ensure that the necessary minimum conditions are provided to the athletes:

- A specialized coach
- Access to training facilities
- Medical assistance
- Health, travel and accident insurance

Other services may be offered to the athletes upon approval of the budget proposal

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

## 1. AGE LIMITS

Applicants must be 22 years to 31 years old by the start of the scholarship

## 3. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Applicants do not benefit from alternative financial sources (e.g. Olympic Solidarity/University Scholarship, Governmental support)

## 2. UNFAVOURABLE TRAINING CONDITIONS

Countries that lack a high-performance training environment (e.g. limited access to training facilities, a specialised coach, etc.)

## 4. COMPLIANCE

The applicants must comply with World Aquatics regulations, including Sport Nationality rules (Competition regulations)

TARGET

## PARTICIPATION AT INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

The athlete must have participated in at least one of the following competitions and must not have been ranked among the top 8:

**World Aquatics Championships Singapore 2025**

**World Aquatics World Cup Porto Flavia 2025**

## PARTICIPATION AT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The athlete should participate in the upcoming **World Aquatics Championships – Budapest 2027** and **World Aquatics High Diving World Cup - 2027** provided he/she meets the applicable qualifying criteria

FUTURE PLANS

National Federations which took part at least at one of the following Men's individual events:

- 27m platform

ARM	CAN	FRA	MEX	SUI
AUS	COL	ITA	NZL	UKR
BRA	ESP	KOR	ROU	USA

World Aquatics Championships - Singapore 2025

National Federations which took part at least at one of the following Women's events:

- 20m platform

AUS	DEN	ITA	SUI
CAN	FRA	MEX	USA
COL	GER	NED	

World Aquatics Championships - Singapore 2025

# Timeline for National Federation based athletes

*Artistic Swimming and High Diving*

## Next steps

Steps	Deadline	Action	Comments
Step 1	<b>30 April 2026</b>	Submission of application to World Aquatics	National Federations submit an online application to World Aquatics
Step 2	<b>31 May 2026</b>	Application's review and selection process	World Aquatics evaluates the applications
Step 3	<b>7 June 2026</b>	Scholarship allocation	World Aquatics notifies National Federations and athletes about their application status
Step 4	<b>1 July 2026</b>	Submission of a budget proposal to World Aquatics	World Aquatics reviews the budget proposals. National Federations may be requested complementary documents and/or information
Step 5	<b>1 August 2026</b>	Signature of the Scholarship agreements	World Aquatics sends the scholarship documents. The scholarship agreement must be signed by the National Federations and the athletes
Step 6	<b>1 September 2026</b>	Start of the scholarship	The training programme begins at the location chosen by the National Federation and the athletes
Step 7	<b>15 September 2026</b>	Initial meeting with National Federations and athletes	World Aquatics organises an initial meeting to discuss about responsibilities of each party, season plans and reporting mechanisms
Step 8	<b>30 September 2026</b>	National Federations submit a competition proposal and a performance plan for the season	National Federations and athletes agree on the goals for the season
Step 9	<b>1 October 2026</b>	Debrief meetings with the National Federations and athletes	Opportunities for feedback and discussion are provided following the start of the season

# Application process

# Application process

To apply for the World Aquatics Scholarships programme, National Federations are kindly requested to submit an online application form by **30 April 2026**.

## New nominations

If your National Federation is applying with a new candidate, please use the following links to submit your application:

- 1. Swimming:**  
<https://forms.office.com/e/jw5VnEnvvh>
- 2. Open Water Swimming:**  
<https://forms.office.com/e/kV26S1SU3w>
- 3. Diving:**  
<https://forms.office.com/e/NNWGzjjaXe>
- 4. Water Polo:**  
<https://forms.office.com/e/2PCG50B7ft>
- 5. Artistic Swimming:**  
<https://forms.office.com/e/xFLSYJMJV4>
- 6. High Diving:**  
<https://forms.office.com/e/56nzVg2Xvb>

National Federations applying with the same candidates for the Water Polo or the Artistic Swimming Scholarships Programme must submit an application using the above-mentioned links.

## Reapplications

If your National Federation is **reapplying with a swimmer, open water swimmer or diver** who received a World Aquatics Scholarship during the **2025-2026 season**, please submit your application through the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/BFQknGsONS>

A separate application must be submitted for each re-nominated athlete.



**For additional information or questions please contact:**

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# United by Water

