

Accelerating Athletes towards 2032 Program Overview and Terms and Conditions



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Introduction

This document contains a description of the Accelerating Athletes towards 2032 program including:

- an overview of the program including scheduling, structure, program benefit, program content and eligibility; and
- key selection criteria and guidance.

It should be read and understood by all applicants to the program.

Accelerating Athletes towards 2032 Program Overview

Topic	Description
Program short description	The University of Queensland (UQ) entrepreneurship and innovation unit, UQ Ventures in collaboration with Natalie Cook OAM OLY will deliver a one day Accelerating Athletes towards 2032 Program ("The Program") with the vision to upskill, uplift and support the next generation of Australian Athletes to maximise opportunities and improve their financial wellbeing.
Scheduling, duration and structure	<i>The Accelerating Athletes towards 2032 Program</i> will run for 1 day on Thursday 20th March 2025 with the mission to uplift, upskill and support the sustainability of the next generation of Australian Athletes. One full-day contact day schedule will include: - Full-day pilot delivery by subject matter expert presenters covering topics such as; <i>The Business of You</i> (Seeing yourself as a Business), <i>Finance & Sponsorship</i>, <i>Marketing & Branding</i>, <i>Resilience</i>, and <i>Leadership</i>. - Each session is between one to two hours long depending on the topic. - Fully catered event (morning tea, lunch, and afternoon tea) - Networking opportunities Post Program Support includes: - Week 2: 1-hour one-on-one mentoring session for each student - Week 3: 1-hour one-on-one mentoring session for each student - Ongoing Support: Students would be given the opportunity to connect with each other post program and be involved in future programs. Post Program Survey: Participants will be surveyed by UQ Researchers: individual interviews and pre/post surveys will be conducted for the purpose of collecting research data and analysis of the program for continuous improvement. Certificate of Completion The Head of UQ Ventures, Nimrod Klayman and Natalie Cook OAM OLY will provide certificates of completion to participants who complete all the components of the pilot program as outlined above.
Participant Commitment	The final 20 selected participants must commit to attending the one-day pilot program (in full) as well as the post program activities as outlined above. Inability to attend the one-day pilot program must be communicated to the Program Lead within three (3) days from the date of announcement. This requirement will allow time for the inclusion of a replacement candidate.
No Fee!	The Accelerating Athlete towards 2032 pilot program does not require any payment from participating athletes. This program is fully funded.
Program benefits and services	Key benefits of the program include: Experiential learning

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	The major focus of the program is to upskill, uplift and support the next generation of Australian athletes to maximise opportunities and improve their financial wellbeing. Throughout the day, the program will develop key skills and capabilities in developing an entrepreneurial mindset and financial literacy. Forging a comprehensive pathway for athletes to grow and position themselves for enduring success. By participating in this program, athletes gain access to a comprehensive pathway that aims to foster growth and empowerment which will position them for enduring success both as an athlete and in their post sporting career. This pathway encompasses a strategic blend of personal and professional skill development and mentoring. It provides athletes with the tools, resources, and support necessary to maximize their potential, overcome obstacles, and thrive in both their athletic and personal endeavours. Through this program, athletes will receive invaluable mentorship, skill development, and opportunity to build their network and connections in the sporting industry. Building resilience and self-confidence One of the key benefits of participating in this program is the focus on fostering resilience and cultivating self-confidence in athletes. Through a series of specialized training, mentorship, and experiential learning, the program is designed to empower athletes to develop a resilient mindset and build unwavering self-confidence. Athletes will gain the tools and strategies to overcome setbacks, bounce back from challenges, and maintain a strong sense of belief in their abilities. The program encourages athletes to embrace their unique strengths, push beyond their comfort zones, and develop the mental fortitude necessary to thrive in high-pressure situations. By actively nurturing resilience and self-confidence, athletes will not only enhance their performance on the field but also in various aspects of their lives. This program serves as a catalyst for personal growth, enabling athletes to face adversity head-on, unleash their full potential, and emerge as resilient, self-assured individuals ready to conquer any obstacle they encounter. Networks and introductions Athletes enjoy access to the extensive networks of UQ Ventures, Natalie Cook OAM OLY, and Green & Gold ecosystem of Australian athletes. Such introductions may enhance performance, bring valued partnerships, connections and mentoring for young Australian athletes. Community As an athlete embarking on a journey of personal and professional development, they become part of a network of like-minded individuals who share similar aspirations and challenges. The community serves as a valuable platform for collaboration, learning, and growth. By engaging with fellow athletes, participants gain access to a wealth of knowledge, experiences, and perspectives. They can exchange ideas, receive guidance, and build meaningful connections that extend beyond the duration of the program. The community fosters a sense of belonging, camaraderie, and

Topic	Description
	encouragement, creating an environment where athletes can thrive and excel together. Through ongoing interactions, shared resources, and continuous support, participants can maximize their potential, expand their networks, and contribute to the collective success of the athlete community as a whole. Developing a community within the pilot program not only enhances the learning experience but also lays the foundation for lifelong relationships and a strong support system in the pursuit of excellence.
Accelerating Athletes Program Outline and topics	The Business of You Workshop • Understand the concept of personal branding and its importance in the modern sports landscape. • Learn to market/sell yourself. • Identify your target audience online and create content that suits their needs. • Establish a meaningful digital profile to achieve your goals. • Learn to craft a three-minute elevator pitch. Finance & Sponsorship • Learn how to balance, manage, and develop your financial wellbeing. • Learn about effective management of finance and sponsorship. • Understand budgeting, saving, investment strategies, and tax considerations specific to athletes. • Learn the necessary tools and techniques to secure sponsorship deals successfully. • Learn about identifying potential sponsors, crafting compelling sponsorship proposals, and negotiating contracts that benefit both parties. Marketing & Branding • Develop effective social media management. • Understand the role of branding. • Develop media and public relations skills. Leadership • Understand leadership beyond sports. • Develop and understand how to increase team cohesion. • Role model development • Develop self-leadership. • Build adaptability and resilience. Mental and Emotional Resilience – Rejection Therapy • Develop resilience in the face of rejection. • Develop mental toughness. • Cultivate a growth mindset. • Improve performance under pressure. • Turn rejection into fuel to fire your success. Other • Develop networking skills. • Learn how to engage with mentors and how to take and implement feedback. Delivery of all the educational sessions detailed above cannot be guaranteed because the exact selection of topics and their timing will be adjusted in response to the needs of the cohort and availability of guest presenters.

Topic	Description
Giving Back	It is important that future participants of the Accelerating Athletes towards 2032 give back to the program as follows, though not limited to the following: • Provide time as future guest panellists, facilitators, guest speakers and mentors. • Assist in communicating the Accelerating Athletes towards 2032 Pilot experience to other potential participants. • Provide feedback of experience that can be used for future program promotion, used for marketing content including blogs, social media posts, videos, podcasts etc. • Any other support as deemed necessary
Expected skills and experience upon completion	Athletes actively participating in the program significantly grow their own personal skills, including: • Personal confidence • Pitching skills • Personal branding and positioning • How to engage with their target audience • Basic financial literacy skills • How to network and engage mentors • Develop resilience to setbacks and stress. • Leaderships strategies

Selection Process and Criteria

Topic	Description
Selection process overview	Step 1 Applications will be open from 12:00PM AEST on Thursday 20 February 2025 and closes at 5:00PM AEST on Monday 10 March 2025 (Application Period). Applications received outside of the Application Period will not be accepted. To enter, applicants must, during the Application Period visit the Accelerating Athletes towards 2032 Program web page and submit their application to email: ventures@uq.edu.au. Once submitted, all applications become the property of UQ. Step 2 Applications are assessed by a selection committee for shortlisting. Twenty Australian Athletes will be shortlisted to participate in the Accelerating Athletes towards 2032 Program. Shortlisting is undertaken by experienced UQ Ventures staff, Natalie Cook OAM OLY and UQ Sport, based on the key selection criteria below. Step 3 The Accelerating Athletes towards 2032 Selections' process includes: - A cover letter and CV (include a professional image) - Include in the cover letter why this program will be of benefit to you Step 4 A final cohort of 20 Athletes will be selected by the selection committee and announced on Friday 14th March 2025. Athletes have three (3) days from date of announcement to accept or reject the offer to participate in the pilot program. The final selection of participating Athletes is made by UQ Ventures staff, Natalie Cook OAM OLY and UQ Sport Staff following consideration of how applicants meet the key selection criteria below. The selection committee's decision in relation to any aspect of the application process is final and the program will not enter into any correspondence regarding the result of applications.
Eligibility Criteria	To be eligible to apply, athletes must: (a) Be an Australian citizen (b) Currently enrolled at one of the Queensland universities (c) Minimum T4 ranking in accordance with the AIS (Australian Institute of Sport) Foundations, Talent, Elite, and Mastery (FTEM) Framework (d) Minimum age of 18 at the date of application The program may decline to accept any application from an individual athlete which, in its reasonable opinion, does not meet the above eligibility criteria.

Key Selection Criteria Guidance

The following criteria will be used to shortlist the applicants for the Accelerating Athletes towards 2023 Program Selections:

1. Australian Citizenship
2. Currently enrolled at one of the Queensland universities
3. Minimum T4 ranking in accordance with the AIS (Australian Institute of Sport) Foundations, Talent, Elite, and Mastery (FTEM) Framework
4. Minimum age of 18 at the date of application

The following describes the key selection criteria in further detail.

1. Australian Citizenship

- A proof of Australian citizenship to be submitted as part of the Application process.

2. Currently enrolled at one of the Queensland universities

- Proof of current university enrolment at one of the Queensland universities

3. Minimum T4 ranking in accordance with the AIS (Australian Institute of Sport) Foundations, Talent, Elite, and Mastery (FTEM) Framework

- Ranking details are outlined below. Applicant to indicate in their application which ranking applies to them

Rank	Identifying Factors	Description	Examples
M1	Sustained International Success (Podium)	For Olympic and Paralympic sports, mastery athletes are those that achieve sustained success at an E2 phase over multiple high performance cycles (i.e., a typical eight year period based on two high performance cycles of four years). Similarly, professional mastery phase athletes are those who achieve repeated and sustained success at E2 over an enduring period or era (i.e., eight to 10 years). Mastery as the pinnacle of the high performance pathway represents the highest of sporting achievement.	Integral and longstanding member of National team, winning multiple medals at Olympics, World Cups, World Leagues and other international accredited events.
E2	International Podium Success (Podium)	An E2 phase athlete in an Olympic or Paralympic sport has achieved a medal winning performance at a major senior international competition such as the World Championships, Olympic or Paralympic Games. An E2 athlete in a professional sport has achieved recognition within that sport (for example, in the AFL a national premiership, winning the Brownlow medal or a club's best and fairest player).	Winner of medal at Olympics, Comm Games or Senior World Cup and other accredited events
E1	Senior National Representation (Podium Potential)	The E1 phase represents achievement of an elite athlete status through selection and representation at the highest senior levels of international or professional sport. Examples within non-professional sports include representing Australia at the senior World Championships, Olympic or Paralympic Games. Specific to professional sports, athletes are playing at the highest levels of professional competition. Whilst these athletes have achieved an elite status, they are yet to achieve an international podium result or be successful in a professional sport such as winning a national premiership (AFL for example) or a 'season's best player' recognition.	Emerging Senior National Squad or Team member, National Development Squad or High Performance Program member or a professional sports person in highest level national league.
T4	Breakthrough and reward (Development)	Gaining formalised and professional support for continued development is the key feature of T4. An athlete's efforts to improve their performance at T3 are essentially rewarded at T4 where they may earn an athletic scholarship at a university or an institute/academy of sport. Similarly, they may be drafted into a professional team or an elite training squad greatly enhancing their chances of becoming an 'elite' athlete. Performing well at a key event (e.g. a major championship) can also be a critical milestone that leads to the increased likelihood of being noticed and supported by the sport or the system.	National Senior Development Squad, National Junior Squad/Team, Talent Identified Nationally or recognised within High Performance pathway of Sport.
T3	Practising and Achieving (Emerging)	After being confirmed as potential elite athletes (T2), athletes are now committed to sport specific practice and investment in high training volumes, striving for continual performance improvements	Committed to daily training environment, training and competing within state/territory or National Junior programs.
T2	Talent Verification	Confirmed as Potential for State/Territory Program	standout performances at state representation

4. Minimum age of 18 at the date of application

- Proof of age documentation to be supplied together with the application documents.

UQ Ventures Staff, Natalie Cook OAM OLY as providers of the Accelerating Athletes towards 2032 Program expects all successful applicants to commit to participating in the full day program as well as the post program mentoring sessions. Participants who meet this key requirement must advise the Program Lead within three (3) days upon acceptance of offer. This requirement will allow time for the inclusion or replacement of candidates.

Other Key Terms and Conditions

Topic	Description
Intellectual Property (IP)	You confirm and promise that your entry is original and does not infringe the intellectual property rights of any third party. You agree that the Promoter has an unrestricted, irrevocable, transferable, right and license to use and modify your entry including for promotional purposes without the payment of any further fee or compensation or further reference to you, and that the Promoter can authorise other people to do any of these things. If requested by the Promoter, you agree to sign any further documentation required by the Promoter to give effect to this arrangement. To the extent permitted by law, you unconditionally and irrevocably consent to the Promoter modifying your entry as described in this clause, agree that the Promoter is not required to attribute you as the author of the entry, and consent to any other act or omission that would otherwise infringe any moral rights in your entry.
Withdrawal of application	You may withdraw your application at any time before notification of the successful pilot cohort is made by notifying the Program Lead by email to ventures@uq.edu.au. If you withdraw your application: 1. The Accelerating Athletes towards 2032 Program will remove your application. 2. The Accelerating Athletes towards 2032 Program will not use your details or application for media or promotional purposes; and 3. you will no longer be eligible to be selected for the program.
Consent Waiver	By applying for The Accelerating Athletes towards 2032 Program, the applicant hereby consents to the selection committee, event organizers, or their representatives contacting the Athlete's National or State Sporting Organisation to verify their current FTEM ranking and current commitment to their sport. The Athlete understands and acknowledges that the purpose of this verification is to ensure fair competition and uphold the integrity of the program. The Athlete further acknowledges and agrees that the National or State Sporting Organisation may disclose relevant information regarding their participation, including but not limited to membership status, eligibility, and performance records, to the selection committee or event organizers for verification purposes. The Athlete releases the selection committee, event organizers, and their representatives from any liability or claims arising from the contact or disclosure of information with the National or State Sporting Organisation for the sole purpose of verifying the Athlete's status as an active participant.
Miscellaneous	Applications which, in the opinion of The Accelerating Athlete towards 2032 Program, are incomplete, incorrect, or incomprehensible, contain defamatory or offensive content are not eligible for selection, may be removed from the application process and the relevant applicant will be disqualified. The Accelerating Athlete towards 2032 Program may, in its absolute discretion, disqualify applicants if, in the opinion of "The Program", the applicant breaches these Terms and Conditions, engages in dishonest or unethical conduct in relation to their application, manipulates, tampers, or interferes with the conduct of the application process, does not comply with the application process, or conspires with others to gain an unfair advantage. The Accelerating Athletes towards 2032 Program may audit applicants if it suspects they have engaged in such breach or conduct.

The Accelerating Athlete towards 2032 program may request information from applicants relevant to entry or participation in the program, such as proof of citizenship or age. The program may, in its absolute discretion, disqualify applicants if they provide insufficient information, false information or fail to provide any information.

The Accelerating Athletes towards 2032 is not responsible for any:

1. Late, lost, or misdirected applications; or
2. Delays, problems or technical malfunction of any telephone network or lines, computer systems, computer equipment or software, technical problems, or traffic congestion on the Internet or at any website, or any combination thereof, including injury or damage to applicants' or any other person's computer related to or resulting from making an application. If such problems arise, UQ may modify, cancel, terminate, or suspend the application process.

To the extent permitted by law, The Accelerating Athletes towards 2032 Program is not liable for any loss, damage, or injury whatsoever (including, but not limited to, indirect or consequential loss) resulting from the Accelerating Athletes towards 2032 application process or participation in the program.

If for any reason, the program is not capable of running as planned, including war, terrorism, state of emergency or disaster, infection by computer virus, bugs, tampering, unauthorised intervention, fraud, technical failures, or any other causes beyond the control of The Accelerating Athletes towards 2032 Program which corrupt or affect the administration, security, fairness, integrity, or proper conduct of the program, The Accelerating Athletes towards 2032 Program reserves the right in its sole discretion to cancel, terminate, modify or suspend the program.

All costs associated with submitting an application are the responsibility of applicants.

Applicants understand and agree that The Accelerating Athletes towards 2032 Program may collect personal information from them when they make an application, and use it for the purpose of running the program (which may include disclosure to third parties for the purpose of processing and conducting the program), for promotional purposes surrounding the program, reporting purposes, as well as other purposes, as set out in [UQ's Privacy Policy](#). For further information on how The Accelerating Athletes towards 2032 Program deals with applicants' personal information, please refer to UQ's Privacy Policy.

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