

Fontys Elite Sport Policy and Elite Athletes Scheme

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Fontys Elite Sport Policy

1. Background

In 2013, Fontys University of Applied Sciences, together with NOC*NSF, 15 universities of applied sciences and 10 universities, signed the Action Plan 1.0 of Flexible Education and Top-Level Sport (FLOT). The text of this action plan was revised in 2019 (Action Plan 2.0) and then in 2025.

The FLOT 3.0 Action Plan gives substance to the Agreement on Flexible Education and Elite Sports.¹

The FLOT writes: *"Both sport and higher education sectors strive to promote quality, to train talented students and to allow them to excel. An elite student athlete is an exceptional talent who is also challenged and encouraged particularly in higher education to grow to a high level. The higher education sector ensures the retention and development of talent and competences needed in the rest of students' careers, but equally plays a crucial role in encouraging and developing student careers in elite sports."*

The FLOT action plan gives higher education institutions pointers on how to support elite student athletes in such a way that they can develop optimally in both their sports and academic careers. The key objectives of the action plan are: 'a competence-oriented choice of study programme', 'flexible education', 'studying is kept financially feasible for elite athletes', 'a transparent offer of special arrangements', 'assurance in policy', 'monitoring & evaluation' and 'implementation of FLOT 3.0'.

In the strategic plan 'Fontys For Society 2021-2025', Fontys indicated that the social mission of a university of applied sciences is the development of talent. Hence, Fontys expressed the ambition to be talent-focused by 2025: *"We are renowned as an accessible educational institution at the vanguard of flexibilization and digitization (online learning and working), particularly since the coronavirus pandemic. This also means that we cater to the individual ambitions, learning methods and learning questions of our students as much as possible."*

This line is continued in the strategic plan For Society 2030².

'Development' is at the heart of our mission. Students develop their talent with us, we develop relevant practice-oriented knowledge, professionals can develop at Fontys throughout their (working) lives, and – last but not least – within our own community we develop ourselves and each other by sharing knowledge and skills. This is the only way we can respond flexibly to social developments. And only in this way our students, graduates and researchers can (continue to) make a meaningful contribution to society.'

Fontys is committed to welcoming and developing everyone's talent and has established the Talent-Oriented Education framework for this purpose.

2. Target group: Elite athletes and Talents

The target group of the FLOT action plan is primarily the group of Elite Athletes who have been awarded a talent or elite sports status by the NOC*NSF or a KNVB status from the sports association. Fontys recognizes the statuses for Elite Athletes mentioned in the FLOT and also uses statuses for Talents in and around the sport. These Talent Statuses have been elaborated in the Fontys Elite Athletes Scheme.

¹ <https://nocnsf.nl/topsport/voor-topsporters/regelingen-voor-topsporters/hoger-beroepsonderwijs-en-topsport>

² <https://www.fontys.nl/Wie-we-zijn/Visie-en-strategie.htm>

3. Principles of the Fontys Elite Sport Policy

Fontys has adopted the following principles as a basis for its Elite Sport Policy and for its implementation in the Fontys Elite Athletes Scheme. These principles apply to all Fontys institutes:

- Fontys University of Applied Sciences recognises the positive impact of Elite Athletes and Talents by creating a climate in every Fontys institute that will allow both Elite Athletes and Talents to excel.
- The Fontys Elite Sport Policy and the Fontys Elite Athletes Scheme facilitate Elite Athletes and Talents in the organisation (though not the content) of their study programme. All students must meet the same intended learning outcomes in order to obtain the study programme diploma. Where possible, Fontys will make special arrangements for Elite Athletes and Talents to allow them to meet the intended learning outcomes.
- In Talent-oriented education, each student can choose to follow (parts of) a facilitated learning pathway or a personal learning pathway, in which facilities can be allocated for the organisation of the study. The Elite Athlete/Talent and the study programme are jointly responsible for applying for and granting the right facilities. This requires a proactive attitude from the student. Skills that are characteristic of a proactive attitude are planning (having an overview, identifying bottlenecks), communicating (asking for cooperation) and orientation (knowing what can and cannot be asked).
- Fontys has at least two Elite Sport Coordinators, who are a central point of contact in the field of top-level sports for (prospective) students and employees. They work closely with Fontys Student Facilities and can provide (prospective) students and employees with information on the Fontys Elite Sports Policy and the Fontys Elite Athletes Scheme. The Elite Sport Coordinators make proposals for policy and also ensure the implementation of the policy.
- The Fontys Elite Sport Policy and the Fontys Elite Athletes Scheme are the responsibility of Fontys Student Facilities and therefore falls within one of the portfolios of the Executive Board. The Elite Sport Coordinators are employed by Fontys Sport and Exercise.
- Every Fontys institute has at least one Elite Sport Contact Person, who can provide current and prospective students as well as employees with information on the application of the Fontys Elite Sport Policy and the Fontys Elite Athletes Scheme at the relevant institute. If possible, the Elite Sport Contact Person is part of the guidance team of an institute.
- Fontys and the Elite Athlete or Talent concerned accept that practising elite sport combined with studying may mean incurring a study delay.

This Fontys Elite Sport Policy has been updated and has been adopted by the Executive Board on 26 May 2026, subject to the consent of the Central Participation Council. The latter granted consent 18 June 2026.

The Fontys Elite Sport Policy will enter into force on 1 September 2026.

Fontys Elite Athletes Scheme

Article 1 - Definitions

Committee for Elite Athlete and Talent Status

A committee, consisting of the two Elite Sport Coordinators, which grants or rejects Fontys Elite Athlete or Talent status based on the proof submitted.

The committee operates under internal rules of procedure.

Elite Athlete

The student who has been awarded the Fontys Elite Athlete status on the basis of this scheme.

Elite Sport Contact Person

The Elite Sport Contact Person is the first point of contact within a Fontys institute for current and prospective students as well as employees for all matters related to elite sport. Each institute has an at least one Elite Sport Contact Person who supports Elite Athletes and Talents in the broadest sense.

Elite Sport Coordinator

The Elite Sport Coordinator makes proposals relating to the Elite Sport Policy and the Elite Athletes Scheme and ensures that the policy is implemented in the broadest sense in conjunction with Fontys Student Facilities. The Elite Sport Coordinator is the first point of contact for current and prospective students as well as employees. Fontys has at least two Elite Sport coordinators.

FLOT

Action Plan Flexible Education and Elite Sport (see Elite Sport Policy).

Intake interview

A discussion between a prospective elite athlete student and the Elite Sport Coordinator and Elite Sport Contact Person for the relevant study programme.

This intake interview preferably takes place prior to registration for the study programme. Purpose of the intake interview: insight into the feasibility of combining elite sport/study, expectations and a possible study plan. The Elite Sport Coordinator provides feedback to prospective elite sports students and thus transfers it to the Elite Sport Contact Person.

Individual support meeting

A meeting between a student who has been granted Elite Athlete or Talent status by Fontys and the student coach and, if possible, the Elite Sport Contact Person for the relevant study programme. This interview takes place at the beginning of an academic year and/or shortly before the start of an educational period. The Elite Sport Contact Person can also be the student coach at the same time. The purpose of the interview: to apply for facilities according to the Elite Athletes Scheme on the basis of bottlenecks provided by the student. Student, student coach and Top Sport Contact Person are jointly responsible for recording agreements (whether or not in Mycoach) and informing those involved.

Student coach	Coach who guides the student in making choices and shaping the personal learning path. The student coach also supports the student in personal and professional development.
Student Support Fund Scheme	Scheme that provides for student support in the form of granting graduation support from the Student Support Fund.
Talent	The student who has been awarded the Fontys Talent status on the basis of this scheme.
TER	Teaching and Examination Regulations.

Article 2 - Aim and scope of the Fontys Elite Athletes Scheme

The aim of the Fontys Elite Sport Policy is to create a climate that will allow Elite Athletes and Talents to excel in addition to their education. The aim of the policy has been implemented in the Fontys Elite Athletes Scheme in the form of facilities that an Elite Athlete or Talent may apply for. Furthermore, the scheme sets out the conditions that must be complied with regarding eligibility for the relevant special facilities.

The Fontys Elite Sport Policy and the Fontys Elite Athletes Scheme facilitate Elite Athletes and Talents in the organisation (though not the content) of their study programme. All students must meet the same intended learning outcomes of the study programme in order to obtain the study programme diploma. Where possible, Fontys will make special arrangements for Elite Athletes and Talents to allow them to meet this requirement. The Fontys Elite Athletes Scheme applies to all Fontys students. Eligibility for the special arrangements under the Fontys Elite Athletes Scheme may vary per study programme. This is at the discretion of the Examination Board, if necessary, in consultation with Elite Sport Contact Person of the study programme.

Article 3a - Granting and registration of the Fontys Elite Athlete status

Elite Athlete status is granted and registered centrally by Fontys' Committee for Elite Athlete and Talent Status.

Students are eligible for Fontys Elite Athlete Status if they have been awarded one of the following statuses by the Dutch Olympic Committee*Dutch Sports Federation (NOC*NSF): A, HP, Selection, Federation, International Talent, National Talent or Promise. These statuses are registered in NOC*NSF's Sports Statuses for Education database (SSO). The Elite Sport Coordinators have access to the SSO.

Students are also eligible for Fontys Elite Athlete Status if they have been awarded one of the following statuses by the Royal Netherlands Football Association (KNVB): International Talent, National Talent or Promise. These statuses are registered in the KNVB database. The Elite Sport Coordinators have access to the KNVB database.

Procedure for Awarding Fontys Elite Sport Status:

- a) Each year, the student registers as an Elite Athlete during (re-)enrolment via Studielink or through the Fontys website.
- b) The Fontys Elite Sport Coordinator checks whether the Elite Athlete is registered in NOC*NSF's Sports Statuses for Education database (SSO) or in the KNVB database. Based on

this information, the Fontys Committee Elite Sport and Talent Status subsequently awards Fontys Elite Athlete Status or rejects the application for the status.

- c) Fontys Elite Athlete Status is awarded for the duration of one academic year or, if the status is awarded during the academic year, for the remainder of that academic year.
- d) The Elite Sport Coordinator registers the awarded Fontys Elite Athlete Status with Fontys Student Facilities. The student receives a confirmation email confirming the status. This email also contains an invitation to the initial individual support meeting.

As NOC*NSF is the national governing body for elite sport in the Netherlands, only Dutch students may apply for Elite Athlete Status at Fontys. International students may apply for Fontys Talent Status.

Article 3b - Granting and registration of the Fontys Talent status

Fontys Talent Status is granted and registered centrally by Fontys' Committee for Elite Athlete and Talent Status.

The Fontys Elite Athletes Scheme recognise four categories of Fontys Talent Status:

1. **Athlete**
2. **Trainer/coach**
3. **Official**
4. **E-athlete**

Category 1 – Athlete

Students may qualify for Fontys Talent Status as an **athlete** if they:

- compete internationally at the highest junior level (European and World Championships, and the Youth Olympic³ Games) in an elite sport recognised by NOC*NSF;
- compete internationally at the highest level in student sport (Universiades and World University Championships) in an elite sport recognised by NOC*NSF;
- compete nationally at the highest junior or senior level in an elite sport recognised by NOC*NSF;
- compete internationally at the highest senior level (European and World Championships) in an elite sport not recognised by NOC*NSF.

Category 2 – Trainer/Coach

Students may qualify for Fontys Talent Status as a **trainer/coach** if they perform at the highest level within an elite sport recognised by NOC*NSF.

The following criteria apply to trainers/coaches:

- they must work as a head coach or head trainer for a sports federation or club under an agreement of at least 16 hours per week; and
- they must work as a head coach or head trainer of athletes who hold an NOC*NSF or KNVB status, or an equivalent status.⁴

An assistant coach with a training and development plan to become a head coach may also qualify for Fontys Talent Status.

³ Wherever the term “Olympic” appears in this text, it shall also be read as “Paralympic.”

⁴ An NOC*NSF or KNVB status is available only to the athlete themselves, not to trainers, coaches or officials. However, the status of these athletes does provide an indication of the level of the athletes whom the student applying for Fontys Talent Status trains or coaches, or for whom the student acts as an official.

Category 3 – Official

Students may qualify for Fontys Talent Status as an **official** if they perform at the highest level within an elite sport recognised by NOC*NSF.

The following criteria apply to officials:

- they must officiate at competitions involving athletes who hold an NOC*NSF or KNVB status, or an equivalent status; and
- as an official, they must be part of the training programme of a sports federation or club; and
- as an official, they must undertake a minimum of 16 hours per week of training and preparation.

Category 4 – E-athlete

Students may qualify for Fontys Talent Status as an **e-athlete** if they:

- compete at the highest national competitive level in an internationally recognised and organised e-sport, with a minimum of 16 hours per week devoted to training and preparation.

Procedure for Awarding Fontys Talent Status

- a) Each year, the student registers as a Talent during (re-)enrolment via Studielink or through the Fontys website.
- b) Following this (re-)enrolment, the student provides evidence of the level at which they compete or perform. Examples of possible evidence include:
 1. copy of a player's licence stating the team, club and level;
 2. an official letter from the relevant sports federation confirming the level;
 3. an official letter from the club confirming the level;
 4. recent results demonstrating that the athlete performs at the required level.
- c) Students applying for Fontys Talent Status may be asked to provide additional information if the evidence submitted does not provide sufficient clarity.
- d) For Fontys Talent Status as an **athlete**, this may include, among other things:
 1. information about how the sport is organised and the selection criteria for competing or performing at the highest international level;
 2. the facilities or support they wish to receive under the Elite Athletes Scheme.
- e) For Fontys Talent Status as a **trainer/coach**, this may include, among other things:
 1. the agreement between the trainer/coach and the club or sports federation for which they work;
 2. the training and development programme of which an assistant coach forms part at the sports federation or club;
 3. the facilities or support they wish to receive under the Elite Athletes Scheme.
- f) For Fontys Talent Status as an **official**, this may include, among other things:
 1. the training and development programme of which the official forms part at the sports federation or club;
 2. the facilities or support they wish to receive under the Elite Athletes Scheme.
- g) For Fontys Talent Status as an **e-athlete**, this may include, among other things:
 1. the agreement between the e-athlete and the team or organisation for which they compete;
 2. the number of peak viewers and/or the prize pool of the game concerned;
 3. the facilities or support they wish to receive under the Elite Athletes Scheme.

- h) On the basis of the evidence submitted, the Fontys Committee for Elite Athlete and Talent Status awards Fontys Talent Status or rejects the application for the status.
- i) Fontys Talent Status is awarded for the duration of one academic year or, if the status is awarded during the academic year, for the remainder of that academic year.
- j) The Elite Sport Coordinator registers the awarded Fontys Talent Status with Fontys Student Facilities. The student receives a confirmation email confirming the status. This email also contains an invitation to the initial individual support meeting.

Article 4 – Support Measures

The Fontys Elite Athletes Scheme provides five categories of support for students with Fontys Elite Athlete or Talent Status. This support is aimed exclusively at the organisation of the student's studies and not at their content.

The five categories are:

1. Support for students with Fontys Elite Athlete or Talent Status
2. Flexibility in education
3. Financial support (Student Support Fund Scheme)
4. Free sports membership card for Fontys partners
5. NOC*NSF Elite Athlete and Study Certificate

A uniform application procedure applies to all categories. This procedure is based on the principles of proactive communication, maintaining an up-to-date schedule and the timely identification of potential obstacles by students with Elite Athlete or Talent Status.

The provisions described for each category cover the most common forms of individual arrangements. Each study programme is required to make reasonable efforts to offer an appropriate individual arrangement. The form this takes may vary from one degree programme to another.

Category 1 – Support for Students with Fontys Elite Athlete or Talent Status

Fontys's student support structure includes the following roles in relation to supporting students with Fontys Elite Athlete or Talent Status:

1. Elite Sport Coordinator (Fontys-wide)

- Acts as the central point of contact for prospective and current elite athlete students, staff and external parties regarding the policy framework, regulations and opportunities available to students with Elite Athlete or Talent Status.
- Seeks to ensure consistency in the implementation of the Elite Athletes Scheme and maintains contact with the Elite Sport Contact Person.
- Organises and conducts elite athlete Intake interview with prospective elite athlete students and the Elite Sport Contact Person of the relevant study programme.
- Is a member of the committee that awards Fontys Elite Athlete and Talent Statuses and periodically informs institutes of statuses awarded through the institute's Elite Sport Contact Person.

2. Elite Sport Contact Person (within the study programme)

- Acts as the first point of contact within the study programme for both students and staff in relation to elite sport.
- Initiates, at a minimum, the first individual support meeting with a student holding Fontys Elite Athlete or Talent Status and the student coach.

- Supports the student and student coach in drawing up the study plan. This plan sets out the support measures awarded under the Elite Athletes Scheme and/or arrangements for submitting a request to the Examination Board. The Elite Sport Contact Person may also act as the student's student coach.
- The Examination Board and/or the management of the study programme may authorise the Elite Sport Contact Person to award support measures under the Elite Athletes Scheme.
- Ensures that the arrangements agreed are recorded in MyCoach (or the study programme's designated format) and that the relevant parties are informed.
- Takes part in the elite sport intake interviews with prospective elite athlete students organised by the Elite Sport Coordinator.

3. Student Coach (within the study programme, for every student)

- Supports the student in making choices and shaping their individual learning pathway.
- Also supports the student's personal and professional development.
- Where possible, participates in the individual support meeting with the student and the Elite Sport Contact Person, so that support and study planning are aligned.

Procedure for Applying for Support for Students with Fontys Elite Athlete or Talent Status

- a) During each educational period, the student with Fontys Elite Athlete Talent Status schedules an individual support meeting with the Elite Sport Contact Person and/or the student coach, based on anticipated conflicts between their sports and study schedules.
- b) Potential obstacles and possible support measures are discussed and recorded in MyCoach (or the study programme's designated format).
- c) If the arrangements concern assessment or deviate from the Teaching and Examination Regulations, the student submits a request to the Examination Board, accompanied by a recommendation from the Elite Sport Contact Person.

Category 2 – Flexibility in Education

The Fontys Elite Athletes Scheme provides the following support measures that students with Fontys Elite Athlete or Talent Status may request in relation to organising their studies alongside elite sport. Unless stated otherwise, students request these measures during an individual support meeting with the student coach and/or Elite Sport Contact Person.

1. Timetabling and participation in education

Students may indicate preferences regarding teaching days, teaching times or group allocation. This must be requested from or through the Elite Sport Contact Person before the timetable for the educational activities has been finalised.

If a student is unable to participate in educational activities because of sporting commitments, they may request measures that enable them to access the content of those activities.

Possible measures relating to participation in education include:

- attending classes with another group;
- using any available recordings of classes;
- asking the lecturer to record the class;
- attending the class online or in hybrid format by joining remotely via the lecturer or another student;
- independently catching up on missed material using available sources of information and/or notes from fellow students.

2. Attendance requirements

If the content and nature of the education permit this, a student may request a full or partial exemption from, or an adjustment to, the attendance requirement.

- The request must be submitted to the Examination Board, which is responsible for deciding on it.

3. Group work

If a student is unable to participate, or can participate only to a limited extent, in group assignments or projects because of training or competition commitments, they may, after consulting the supervising lecturer and fellow students, record arrangements concerning their role or tasks within the group. The guiding principle is that these arrangements must not compromise the quality of the work or the fair distribution of tasks within the group.

- Arrangements concerning the division of tasks should be recorded in MyCoach (or the study programme's designated format), so that tasks can be completed independently of time or location.

If it is not possible to make such arrangements, the student may participate in the group assignments or projects at another time or choose not to use the facilitated learning pathway.

If this is also not possible or desirable, the student may submit a request to the Examination Board for an adapted or alternative assignment.

4. Work placements and graduation

If a student is unable to undertake a work placement on the proposed days and at the proposed times because of sporting commitments, they may request measures relating to the organisation of the work placement and/or graduation.

Possible measures relating to work placements and graduation include:

- assistance in finding work placements that accommodate elite sport commitments;
- flexible scheduling of placement days or spreading the placement period in accordance with the requirements of the study programme and the possibilities available at the placement company;
- the possibility of carrying out tasks independently of time or location;
- reducing the number of placement hours, provided that the student can demonstrate the learning results, learning objectives or learning outcomes of the placement;
- where necessary, submitting a request to the Examination Board for an alternative form of work placement.

5. Assessment

If a student is unable to participate, or can participate only to a limited extent, in assessments because of training or competition commitments, they may request measures enabling them to achieve the learning outcomes in an alternative manner:

- by submitting alternative evidence;
- by following an alternative learning pathway, including group work, a work placement and/or participation in educational activities.

The student may also submit a request to the Examination Board for an additional assessment opportunity, in accordance with Article 23 of the Teaching and Examination Regulations, in order to retain the opportunity to take two assessments per academic year.

Possible measures relating to assessment include:

- requesting an additional assessment opportunity if the student is unable to use an offered resit because of elite sport commitments;
- taking an assessment at a time other than the regularly scheduled time;
- taking an assessment in another format, for example online;

- requesting individual arrangements concerning submission dates or deadlines in good time.

Procedure for Applying for Flexibility in Education:

- a) The student discusses any potential obstacles with the Elite Sport Contact Person in good time.
- b) The Elite Sport Contact Person assesses which educational and organisational measures can be implemented within their mandate.
- c) The arrangements are recorded in MyCoach (or the study programme's designated format) and shared with the relevant parties.
- d) In the case of assessment, grading or deviations from the Teaching and Examination Regulations:
 1. the student submits a formal request to the Examination Board, including the recommendation of the Elite Sport Contact Person;
 2. the Examination Board communicates its decision to the student, the Elite Sport Contact Person, the student coach and any other relevant parties.

Category 3 – Financial Support

A student who has been awarded Elite Athlete or Talent Status and who experiences study delays as a result of participating in elite sport may apply for graduation support under the Student Support Fund Scheme.

The student may claim support under this scheme if the following conditions are met:

- a) the student meets the requirements for applying for graduation support;
- b) the Elite Athlete or Talent Status has been registered with Fontys Student Facilities.

Procedure for Applying for Financial Support

As soon as there is a possibility of study delay resulting from elite sport commitments, the student must contact a student counsellor.

Category 4 – Sports Card

Students who have been awarded Elite Athlete or Talent Status are eligible for a free Sports Card, which provides access to fitness facilities, sports halls and designated sports facilities operated by Fontys University of Applied Sciences' partners.

Procedure for Applying for a Sports Card

- a) The student informs the Elite Sport Coordinator that they are interested in obtaining a free Sports Card.
- b) The Elite Sport Coordinator informs the student about the application procedure and refers them to the partner providing the sports facilities.
- c) The Sports Card remains valid for as long as the student's Elite Athlete or Talent Status remains valid.

Category 5 – NOC*NSF Elite Sport and Study Certificate

Students with NOC*NSF Elite Sport or Talent Status may be eligible for an NOC*NSF Elite Sport and Study Certificate. This certificate recognises the combination of elite sport and study as an exceptional achievement.

*Procedure for Applying for an NOC*NSF Elite Sport and Study Certificate*

- a) Each year, the Elite Sport Coordinator informs students with Fontys Elite Athlete Status about the possibility of applying for the certificate.
- b) The student submits an application for an Elite Sport and Study Certificate to the Elite Sport Coordinator.
- c) The Elite Sport Coordinator assesses the application and, if the application is approved, applies for the Elite Sport and Study Certificate.
- d) The study programme adds the Elite Sport and Study Certificate to the student's graduation documents.

Article 5 – Disputes

The legal protection available to students is set out in Chapter 7 of the Fontys Student's Charter. If a student encounters problems relating to the implementation of this Scheme, they may seek advice at any time from the student coach, the Elite Sport Contact Person of the study programme, the Fontys Elite Sport Coordinator and/or a student counsellor.

If disputes arise concerning the award of Fontys Elite Athlete or Talent Status, or the award of one or more support measures, the following legal protection procedures may be followed.

Fontys Elite Athlete or Talent Status

If the request concerns obtaining Fontys Elite Athlete or Talent Status, the student must first contact the Fontys Committee Elite Athlete and Talent Status. Where necessary, the student may subsequently lodge an objection against a decision of this Committee pursuant to Article 48 of the Fontys Student Charter with the Executive Board via Studentenloket beroep-bezwaar-klacht@fontys.nl.

Support measures

If the request concerns the refusal by the Examination Board to grant the requested support measures, the student may appeal against that decision to the Examination Appeals Board, as described in Article 46 of the Fontys Student Charter.

If the request concerns other support measures, the student may seek advice from the Elite Sport Coordinator at Topsportbeleid@fontys.nl and/or submit a complaint to the director of their study programme or to the Executive Board (see Article 47 of the Student Charter).

Article 6 – Entry into Force

This Fontys Elite Athletes Scheme replaces the Fontys Elite Athletes Scheme dated 1 September 2022 and was adopted by the Executive Board on 26 May 2026, subject to the approval of the student representatives on the Central Participation Council. This approval was granted on 18 June 2026. These updated Fontys Elite Athletes Scheme enters into force on 1 September 2026.