

SWIMMING AUSTRALIA HIGH PERFORMANCE U.S. COLLEGE STATEMENT

The Swimming Australia High Performance Unit (HPU) acknowledges that student-athletes and their parents may be interested in exploring the opportunities presented by U.S. College swimming scholarships.

This information is provided to signpost the most relevant aspects of the Swimming Australia High-Performance system to assist the decision making process regarding U.S. College scholarships.

It is critical that student-athletes and parents understand that talented athletes are recruited for U.S. College scholarships to bolster the chances of success of the College swimming team in its division. The specific training and competition commitments under scholarships are inflexible, and may affect preparation and participation in Swimming Australia competitions, national programs, teams, and international competition, and affect other forms of support and funding.

It is the student-athletes responsibility to make an informed decision, and Swimming Australia advises extensive due diligence in gathering all information before committing.

Please consider the following in your initial explorations:

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE UNDER THE U.S. COLLEGE SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have you received substantial prize money or athlete funding (dAIS and/or HPSSS) that would make you ineligible for a scholarship (check rules on amateur status) • Are you of the required age for eligibility? • Do you have the academic requirements necessary? 	<p>NO →</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rules for entry into the U.S. College system are inflexible • Seek and discuss local opportunities with your coach, parents, State Technical Director, Athlete Wellbeing and Engagement (AW&E) Advisor (for categorised swimmers),
---	--------------------	---

YES
↓

ARE YOU A CATEGORISED SWIMMER?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relocating to train and compete in the US College system may affect the support you receive, check your Categorisation on the Swimming Australia website 	<p>NO →</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider your personal goals and future aspirations and pathways • Contact the Australian Swimmers Association to learn more about the experience of the US College and managing elite performance aspirations (https://www.australianswimmers.com.au/) • Discuss the pros and cons with your coach, parents, and school counsellor • Research your options (see links under 'Further Information'), ensuring you consider both future swimming and academic aspirations and opportunities • If you do go overseas you will need to apply through Swimming Australia for an International Clearance
--	--------------------	---

YES
↓

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider your personal goals and future aspirations, and ability to meet the expectations of the Australian Dolphins Swim Team or Performance Pathways Program • Contact your State Technical Director, who are Swimming Australia's US College guidance contacts to learn more about the US College system and managing elite performance aspirations (hpu.pathways@swimming.org.au) • Discuss the pros and cons with your coach, parents, and Athlete Wellbeing and Engagement Advisor or school counsellor • Research your options (see links under 'Further Information'), ensuring you consider both future swimming and academic aspirations and opportunities • If you do go overseas you will need to apply through Swimming Australia for an International Clearance
--



PRINCIPAL PARTNER



MAJOR PARTNERS

ASPECTS OF THE SWIMMING AUSTRALIA HIGH-PERFORMANCE SYSTEM FOR CONSIDERATION IN EXPLORING A U.S. COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

Performance Pathways

Swimming Australia is committed to providing a coordinated and holistic approach to our Olympic and Paralympic Programs. An overview of the support we provide within our Performance Pathways for the Olympic Program are detailed in the Orientation to the High-Performance Pathway Handbook at <https://www.swimming.org.au/high-performance-pathways>. The support highlighted for Paralympic Performance Pathways is also available via the same link.

Is the College offering you a place right for you?

Not all programs are equal, not all coaches deliver their program the same. We appropriately celebrate this diversity but you should consider if the location, the training facilities, the coach and the academic program are right for you.

Categorisation

A Categorised athlete has demonstrated performance at an identified level with potential for national representation and outcomes at an international Benchmark Event (BME). Categorisation informs the support provided to swimmers in the Australian High-Performance system. For detailed information on Categorisation and current lists, please refer to the [Swimming Australia website](#).

Swimmer Agreement

Of note in consideration of joining an international program, the current Swimmer Agreement states: "The Swimmer must attend all Team Activities as directed by Swimming Australia". If you have signed an agreement with Swimming Australia, you must consider all of the implications of commitments made under that agreement. Also, travel expenses to and from the U.S. for any domestic or international commitments are the responsibility of the athlete.

Athlete Funding

Direct funding to swimmers is provided by the Australian Sports Commission, administered by the Australian Institute of Sport as [dAIS funding](#); and by the [Hancock Prospecting Swimmer Support Scheme \(HPSSS\)](#), administered by Swimming Australia. Accepting a scholarship in the U.S. College system may result in ineligibility for funding, or vice versa.

Daily Performance Environment

The Australian Swimming Framework (ASF) is an extensive framework that identifies individual and program characteristics known to contribute to success. The ASF identifies four factors in an optimal Daily Performance Environment (DPE): Coaching, Support, Management, and Facilities. To access the ASF, please visit the [Swimming Australia website](#).

A detailed review of any potential US College program against the elements of the ASF is recommended to establish the quality of a program.

In summary, Swimming Australia provides the following support in the DPE:

- **Swimming Australia Supported High-Performance Centres** (HPCs) are provided targeted investment (collaboratively supported by the National Institutes Network, NIN) to maintain program quality service provision in alignment with the ASF.

HANCOCK
PROSPECTING

SPORT
AUS



arena

- All **Categorised swimmers** are provided a targeted investment of resources (collaboratively supported by the National Institutes Network, NIN) through their coach's submission of a detailed plan on a Request for Funding basis, formulated from Individual Athlete Performance Plans (IAPPs).

Competition

The U.S. College system competes in a 25-yard short course pool. All programs prepare for a peak performance for the Conference Championships at the end of February. The Conference Championships are the focus for teams as they may have 60 on the team and only 3-5 student-athletes make it to NCAA due to strict qualifying requirements. This creates a four week double taper if student-athletes qualify for NCAA's, which are held in mid to late March each year. Most programs have a sprint-orientated program focus.

The training commitments made within a scholarship agreement are strict and inflexible; are often limited to shorter training periods, fewer sessions, and limited hours; and may influence the capacity to train for, and compete in Australian National team selection events and international competition.

Local Dual Career Opportunities and Support

- The **Swimming Australia Athlete Wellbeing and Engagement (AW&E) Program** promotes, encourages, and supports dual career progression. Swimming Australia's AW&E advisors integrates athlete personal and professional development into Swimming Australia High- Performance planning, and provides letters of support and coordinates the study needs of student-athletes while participating in national team or program activities. Under the Swimming Australia AW&E Program, **Categorised swimmers** can access one to one **AW&E** guidance through the NIN network or external providers, coordinated by the Swimming Australia Athlete Wellbeing and Engagement advisors.
- The AW&E advisors in each State Institute or Academy of Sport (VIS, WAIS, NSWIS, QAS, SASI, TIS, ACTAS and NTIS) and the AIS liaise directly with the Elite Athlete Friendly University (EAFU) network in supporting the athlete's dual career needs.
- The **Australian Swimmers Association (ASA)**, is available to provide and coordinate guidance to swimmers, including those who are not Categorised, <https://www.australianswimmers.com.au/>.
- The **Elite Athlete Education Network (EAEN)** Program includes Australian universities that provide variable support to student athletes, that can include initiatives such as scholarships, bursaries, study flexibility, tutoring, and career planning. To locate EAEN contacts, visit the website: <https://www.ais.gov.au/career-and-education/eaen>.
- The **World University Games** provides valuable international competition experience in a multi-sport environment. The participation of eligible University student-athletes is partially financially supported by Swimming Australia. Visit the **Australian University Sport and UNIROOS** web page for more information on the event, www.unisport.com.au.

Further Information

Depending on your current age, performance level, performance aspirations and stage of development, a U.S. College swimming scholarship may be an option for you. The application process is complex, and there are many individual considerations.

There are private providers who act as agents for U.S. College scholarship programs, who may assist student-athletes and parents in gathering information. The most reliable starting point for information on the U.S. College system can be found at the United States Department of State **Education USA** website, <https://educationusa.state.gov/>.

**HANCOCK
PROSPECTING**

**SPORT
AUS**



PRINCIPAL PARTNER

MAJOR PARTNERS