

FINA Scholarships for athletes Guidelines

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OBJECTIVE

In line with the FINA Development Programme, FINA aims to help the FINA National Federation members, and more concretely their athletes to qualify for their participation in the next FINA World Championships. FINA will assist scholarship holders to train in a high-level training centre/environment or supporting his/her FINA National Federation (NF).

The aim of the programme is to identify, qualify and prepare a limited number of athletes aspiring to participate in the FINA World Championships and the Olympic Games. As part of the development of the National Federations, preparing athletes for international competitions is crucial to their development and the future of the national teams.

DESCRIPTION

The FINA Scholarship Programme offers the opportunity to obtain financial and technical assistance for one potential elite athlete selected and proposed by their respective NF. The scholarship will support the athlete in their preparation and qualification for the FINA World, with a particular focus on athletes and NFs with the greatest needs.

FINA Scholarships

Technical and Financial Assistance





Training Centre option

NF Training Option

Athlete training in one of the The NF manages the training centres established by Scholarship funds to provide to

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FINA	the athlete a high performance environment for training.
Reports made by the centre and sent to FINA every 2 months.	Reports made by the NF and sent to FINA every 2 months.
Administrated by training centre and FINA.	Administrated by the NF and FINA.

Short-Term Programme (3 month duration)	Those who are close to the set "B" Standard objective could participate in short-term preparation.
Medium-Term Programme (3 - 6 months duration)	Designed for athletes who have the potential to achieve the "B" Standard and need better technical and environmental conditions.
Long-Term Programme (6 - 12 months duration)	For Young Athletes (under 23) who need a longer time to achieve the "B" Standard.

^{*}Please note that the final decision on the length of the scholarship will be taken by FINA according to the study of the proposal submitted by the athlete and his/her NF.

CONTENT

The NF or training centre will ensure that the athlete has:

- Access to appropriate training facilities.
- A coach specialised in the FINA discipline.
- Regular medical and scientific assistance and control.
- Board and accommodation.
- A fixed offset travel to participate in one qualification competition (except in the case explained below).



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Executive Director CORNEL MARCULESCU - Access to technical information on the FINA World Championships and Olympic Games.

The budget distribution and items to be covered by the scholarships must be agreed upon by FINA, the athlete, the National Federation and training centre in the scholarship.

ATHLETE TRAINING OPTIONS

The FINA scholarship Programme aims to provide the best training environment to the athletes. For this reason, FINA in coordination with the relevant National Federation will decide if the athlete will train in their home country or abroad in a high-level centre. Factors to consider will be: the needs of the athlete, his/her requirements and his/her age.

FINA and the NF will work together in order to take the best decision for the athlete.

Therefore, the training options are:

1. NF Training Option

The NF will be the administrator of the FINA Scholarship and responsible of choosing the training location.

The calculation for monthly expenses for a "NF training option" per athlete will be negotiable, and will be dependent upon the cost of training the athlete in his/her chosen training environment. FINA will consider the budget proposed by the NF in order to award the athelte.

2. Training centre option

FINA will assist the scholarship holders to find an international highlevel training centre with which FINA has a service agreement.

<u>Partner NF:</u> FINA has agreements with a number of NFs which have a high-level training structure to place athletes in their high performance training centre network.

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Executive Director CORNEL MARCULESCU <u>Individual training centre:</u> FINA has an agreement with a limited number of specialised high-performance training centres.

FINA in collaboration with the NF will determine the choice of the highlevel training centre concerned on the personal profile of the athlete and his/her needs.

The training centre will be responsible for the administration (technical and financial) of the FINA Scholarship.

FINA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFICATION

The main objective of the FINA scholarships is to assist the athletes to participate in the next FINA World Championships. Therefore, the athletes will need to be qualified in one of the FINA Qualification Events. The costs relating to the participation in the competition must be covered by the monthly scholarship (entry fees, board and lodging, coach's travel, etc).

For the athletes benefiting from the training centre option, all costs will be included (except travel assistance, explained below) in the total budget agreed upon with the training centre, or with the NF, and the budget is managed directly by the centre, or NF. The scholarship holders, the training centre and the NFs are expected to work together for the entry of the athletes in the qualifying competition.

Due to the number of FINA Qualification Events in countries worldwide, FINA will offer a travel subsidy up to 1.000 USD to those athletes who have to travel to another country to take part in the competition (to be discussed with FINA).

Athletes with a Long-Term Programme who fail to qualify for the next FINA World Championships might be withdrawn as of the date of their final qualification attempt.



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Executive Director CORNEL MARCULESCU - NFs

- Independent training centres

NATIONAL FEDERATIONS

FINA Scholarships aim to promote universal representation at the FINA World Championships and Olympic Games. Therefore, NF with less participation, in terms of athletes, in international competitions will be put forward.

As it is mentioned above, the main objective of the FINA Scholarships Programme is to focus the support on the athletes and National Federation with the greatest needs.

ATHELETES PROFILE

FINA Scholarship holders must have the following profile:

- 1. The athlete must have a sufficient technical level to be able to qualify for the FINA World Championships. FINA will check the ranking and results obtained at national and international competitions, therefore the athlete must proof that he have achieved a performance that is between the FINA World Championships "B" standard and the FINA standard "S" for the Scholarships (Annex 1).
- 2. Only the athletes to whom a scholarship will make a significant difference to their training, and who do not have access to alternative means of paying for their preparation, may be put forward by their NF for a FINA Scholarship.
- 3. FINA, NFs or training centres may not be put forward as scholarship candidates athletes who have been convicted of a <u>doping offence</u> or sanctioned for actions <u>contrary to the standards of FINA Rules</u>, especially those of FINA Ethics and Conducts.
- 4. The athlete has to be <u>available to travel</u> to reside at a centre that is determined to be the most suitable venue for the athlete's programme.



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Executive Director CORNEL MARCULESCU 5. The athlete has <u>no current commitments and is available</u> to attend to the Training Centre for the period of the programme.

FINA National Federations are kindly requested to study the project description carefully and to consider whether there are athletes in their country who realistically would have the potential and necessary commitment to be included in this project.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

FINA offers the opportunity to apply and request for one FINA Scholarship per FINA National Federation. Therefore, following the explanation above the NF must choose the athlete who fits better in the profile detailed.

Having gone through these evaluations, FINA National Federations have to fill in the attached Application Form (Annex 2) and return it to the FINA Office.

At the end of the selection process by FINA, the NF will be informed about the outcome and necessary future action.

Applications may only be made by the FINA National Federations.

ANALYSIS AND APPROVAL

FINA will analyse each application in collaboration, if needed, with the NFs.

FINA will be responsible for the final approval of the FINA scholarships and for training option for athletes.

Each party involved in the FINA Scholarship will be required to sign a contract (FINA, NF, training centre and athlete). The contract will list the responsibilities of each party and the monthly budget distribution of the scholarship.



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FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

1. NF Training Option

FINA and the NF will agree upon the monthly amount of the scholarship per athlete per month. FINA will make all payments relating to this training option directly to the NF, which will then administer the scholarship holder funds regardless of where the athletes are training.

FINA will request the concrete details of all costs to be accounted for.

2. Training centre option

FINA will negotiate a fixed monthly rate with the training centres with which an agreement is signed, and will make all payments relating to athletes in the centre directly to the centre.

FINA will reimburse the flight ticket in economy class for the scholarship holder to travel to and from the centre.

3. Travel expenses

FINA will cover the travel arrangements of the scholarship holder at the beginning and at the end of the programme.

FINA will offer a travel subsidy up to 1'000 USD only to the athletes who have to travel to another country to participate in 1 (one) qualifying competition.

FOLLOW UP AND CONTROL

FINA requires the evaluation form (Annex 3) to be submitted every month from the scholarship award date, by either the NF or the Training Centre, to monitor each athlete's progress towards World Championship and Olympic Qualification. The form includes a financial statement to be signed by the athlete and NF confirming the distribution of scholarship funds as agreed in the contact.



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TERMINATION OF A FINA SCHOLARSHIP

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

- non-qualification for the World Championship or the Olympic Games;
- decline of technical level;
- medical reason that prevents the athlete from training;
- unethical behaviour (doping, discipline, etc.);
- breach of the athlete/NF contract or FINA Rules;
- any other reason in mutual agreement with the NF or the Training Centre.