



DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME

FINA SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAMME

OPEN WATER SWIMMING

FINA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME | 2021 - 2022



In line with the FINA Development Programme, FINA aims to assist the FINA National Member Federations to qualify their athletes for the upcoming 19th FINA World Championships in Fukuoka (JPN).

As part of the development of the National Federations, contributing on the athletes' preparation for international competitions is crucial to their progress and to the future of the National teams.

The main goal of the FINA Scholarships Programme is to identify, prepare and qualify a limited number of athletes aspiring to participate at the 19th FINA World Championships (JPN).

1. Description

The FINA Scholarships Programme offers the opportunity to obtain financial and technical assistance for one potential elite athlete per Federation and year according to these guidelines:

- National Federations are invited to select and submit the application of one potential elite athlete to benefit from this programme
- If a National Federation has several candidates, the selection will be based on the highest ranked swimmer at the FINA Marathon Swim World Series or at National level competitions
- The FINA Scholarship will support the athlete in his/her preparation for the 19th FINA World Championships (JPN), with particular focus on those candidates and National Federations with the greatest needs
- National Federations may choose among two scholarship options: the assistance provided by FINA contributes to the improvement of the athletes' training conditions through the National Federation option managed by the federation or enables the scholarship holders to train abroad in a high-performance FINA Training Centre

NF Training Option	Training Centre Option
<p>The NF manages the athlete's scholarship funds and selects the training location.</p> <p>Reports prepared by the NF and submitted to FINA every two months.</p> <p>Administered by the NF and FINA.</p>	<p>Athlete training in one of the Training Centres established by FINA.</p> <p>Reports prepared by the Training Centre and submitted to FINA and to the NF every two months.</p> <p>Administered by the Training Centre and FINA.</p>

FINA will determine the length of the scholarship once the proposal submitted by the athlete's National Federation has been carefully reviewed.

The National Federation or the Training Centre will ensure that the following conditions are available for the athlete's preparation:

- Access to appropriate training facilities
- A specialised coach
- Regular medical and scientific assistance and control
- Necessary accommodation
- A balanced nutritional plan
- Participation at the FINA Marathon Swim World Series
- Access to technical information concerning the 19th FINA World Championships (JPN)

Please note that the items to be covered by the FINA Scholarship and the budget distribution must be agreed upon by FINA, the athlete, the National Federation and the selected Training Centre (if applicable).

2. Athlete Training Options

The FINA Scholarships Programme aims to provide the best training environment to the athletes. For this reason, FINA, in coordination with the relevant National Federation, will decide which scholarship option is allocated to each candidate.

Factors to consider will be, among others, the specific needs of the athlete, his/her technical level, his/her preferences and his/her age. FINA and the athlete's National Federation will work together in order to take the best decision for the candidate.

The following training options are available as part of the programme:

2.1 NF Training Option

- The National Federation administers the FINA Scholarship and is responsible of choosing the athlete's training location
- FINA will carefully assess the budget proposal submitted by the National Federation. The monthly budget must be agreed by FINA and the National Federation

2.2 Training Centre Option

- FINA has agreements with a limited number of specialised high-performance training centres:
 - [FINA Development Centre in Dakar](#)
 - [FINA Development Centre in Kazan](#)
 - [Thanyapura](#) - FINA Training Center
 - [Azura Florida Aquatics](#) – Independent FINA Training Center
- The specific Training Centre will be selected in collaboration with the athlete's National Federation based on the athlete's profile, his/her technical level, his/her age and any particular needs he/she may have
- The Training Centre will be responsible for the administration of the FINA Scholarship, both technically and financially

3. FINA Marathon Swim World Series

The main objective of the FINA Scholarships Programme is to improve the athletes training conditions, assisting them in their preparation for the 19th FINA World Championships (JPN).

The costs related to the participation in the FINA Marathon Swim World Series must be covered as follows:

- **Athletes benefiting from a FINA Scholarship – NF Training Option:** any costs related to the participation in the FINA Marathon Swim World Series must be covered by the monthly scholarship funds
- **Athletes benefiting from a FINA Scholarship – Training Centre Option:** FINA will provide up to 1,000 USD travel allowance to those athletes who need to travel to participate in the FINA Marathon Swim World Series

A detailed budget including the flight ticket expenses, the visa (if required), the accommodation, the local transfers and the meals needs to be provided for FINA's approval. Any request concerning the travel allowance will be assessed by FINA on a case-by-case basis.

Athletes benefiting from a long-term scholarship who fail to qualify for the 19th FINA World Championships (JPN) might be withdrawn from the programme.

4. Eligibility criteria

The FINA Scholarships Programme aims to promote universal representation at the FINA World Championships.

FINA National Member Federations are kindly requested to carefully study the project description and to consider whether there is any athlete in their country who would realistically have the potential and necessary commitment to be included in the programme. National Federations are invited to apply with one candidate per year.

The swimmers must comply with the following criteria:

- The athlete must have attended a major continental competition or a FINA event (Olympic Marathon Swim Qualifier, Marathon Swim World Series or Ultra Marathon Swim Series)
- 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 National Federation for a FINA Scholarship
- If a National Federation has several candidates complying with the above-mentioned conditions, the selection will be based on the highest ranked swimmer at the FINA Marathon Swim World Series or at Continental level competitions. FINA will check the ranking and the results obtained at Continental and International competitions
- Particular focus is given to those National Federations with the greatest needs

4.1 Other requirements

All the following requirements must be fulfilled by any athlete benefiting from the FINA Scholarships Programme:

- The candidate must not have competed in a FINA sanctioned event for a country other than the one submitting the candidature
- A National Federation may not put forward as a scholarship candidate any athlete convicted of a doping offence or sanctioned for actions contrary to the FINA Rules
- The athlete has to be available to travel and to reside at the training location that has been determined as most suitable for his/her preparation
- The athlete has no current commitments and is available to join the Training Centre for the agreed duration of the programme (if applicable)
- The athlete accepts to participate in any survey that FINA may send in relation to the FINA Scholarships Programme

5. Application Procedure

National Federations have the opportunity to apply for one FINA Scholarship per year:

- National Federations are requested to select the candidate who better complies with the above-mentioned criteria (please refer to section 4)
- The Application Form (Annex 1) must be completed and submitted to the FINA Office by the **25th September 2021**
- Only National Federations are entitled to apply for the FINA Scholarships Programme
- At the end of the selection process, National Federations will be informed about the outcome of the application and the necessary future steps to be taken

6. Analysis and Approval

FINA will carefully assess each application, if needed, in collaboration with the relevant National Federation:

- FINA is responsible for the final approval of the FINA Scholarships and for the athletes' training option
- Each party involved in the FINA Scholarships Programme (the relevant National Federation, the relevant Training Centre if any, the athlete and FINA) will be required to sign a contract. The contract will list the responsibilities of each party and the monthly budget distribution of the scholarship

7. Financial Conditions

7.1 NF Training Option

FINA and the relevant National Federation will agree upon the monthly scholarship budget allocated to his/her athlete:

- A detailed budget breakdown must be submitted by the National Federation for approval
- FINA reserves the right to request the specific details of any of the budgeted costs and to verify any payments to third parties. All the payments to third parties must be settled by traceable means
- All the payments will be made to the National Federation's bank account. The National Federation is responsible for the administration of the scholarship funds regardless of where his/her athlete is training

7.2 Training Centre Option

FINA will negotiate a fixed monthly rate with the Training Centres with which an agreement is signed:

- All the payments will be made to the chosen Training Centre
- FINA will issue a round trip ticket for the scholarship holder or will reimburse the cost of the scholarship holder's flight ticket to travel to and from the Training Centre in economy fare (upon FINA's approval)
- Visa costs, PCR tests or other travel related costs will be addressed on a case-by-case basis
- The cost of the airfare must be approved by FINA beforehand. Non-approved expenses will not be reimbursed

7.3 Travel expenses

For those scholarships allocated at a FINA Training or Development Centre, FINA will cover the athlete's travel arrangements to and from the Training Centre at the beginning and at the end of the programme.

FINA will provide a travel allowance of up to 1,000 USD to those athletes who need to travel to participate in the FINA Marathon Swim World Series. The travel allowance is only available to those athletes benefiting from a FINA Scholarship – Training Centre Option. Please refer to section 3 for any further information.

8. Follow up and Control

As of the FINA Scholarship approval, either the relevant National Federation or the Training Centre must submit the Report Form at the end of each term (every two months):

- This document allows to monitor the athlete's progress towards the 19th FINA World Championships (JPN) qualification
- The form includes a financial statement to be signed by the athlete and by the relevant National Federation, confirming the distribution of the scholarship funds as agreed in the contract

9. Termination of a FINA Scholarship

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

- Non-qualification for the 19th FINA World Championships (JPN)
- Decrease of technical level
- Medical reason that prevents the athlete from training



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- Unethical behaviour such as doping offence, lack of discipline, etc.
- Breach of the athlete/National Federation's contract or of the FINA Rules
- Any other reason in mutual agreement with the relevant National Federation or Training Centre

