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Top performance scheme for students

For students who deliver a special performance in the field of sports or culture
(top sport / top culture)

The Top Performance Scheme for Students is intended for students who perform a special performance in the field of sports or culture in addition to their studies. And who, due to obligations that the programme entails, are hindered in the delivery of this performance and/or are hindered in completing the regular study programme by performing this special performance. To facilitate these students in their dual development, they have a support need.

Recognition of position

Article 1 Definitions.

1. For the purposes of these regulations, the following definitions shall apply:
 - a. **Top Performance Committee:** The committee assesses whether the student meets the conditions as referred to in Articles 2 or 3 of these regulations. The committee consists of five experts in the field of top performance, appointed by the director of SOZ. The chairman is the coordinator of Top Performance. The secretariat is housed at the Student and Educational Affairs department (SOZ);
 - b. **Programme:** a Bachelor's or a (pre)Master's programme for which the student pays tuition fees/pre-Master's fees at VU Amsterdam;
 - c. **OER:** Education and Examination Regulations;
 - d. **BSA:** Binding Study Advice;
 - e. **SOZ:** Student and Educational Affairs Office;
 - f. **Topsport Amsterdam:** One of the five accredited TeamNL centres of Netherlands;
 - g. **Annual status:** a top performance status that is valid for the entire academic year;
 - h. **Project status:** a top performance status that is valid for one or more teaching periods in the relevant academic year.

Article 2 Conditions for a student who combines study with top-level sport

1. A student will receive a Top Performance Status from VU Amsterdam to be issued by the Top Performance Committee if they are in possession of a top-level sports status or a talent status from NOC*NSF, as evidenced by the NOC*NSF register.
2. If the student does not meet the conditions referred to in Article 2, paragraph 1, the application will be assessed by the Top Performance Committee on the basis of the documents submitted by the student as included in the application form. The Top Performance Committee may seek the advice of Topsport Amsterdam for the purpose of assessing the application.

Article 3 Conditions for a student who combines study with a top cultural performance

1. A student will receive a top performance status from VU Amsterdam for a top cultural performance to be awarded by the Top Performance Committee if the student demonstrates that they meet all of the following conditions:
 - a. Student practices the art within a (semi-)professional organization that focuses on one of the arts; and
 - b. Student demonstrates that the practice of art is a top achievement by regularly practising it on (inter)national stages, festivals or cultural events that are known for their good name.
2. A student who delivers an individual cultural top performance can also be awarded the top performance status of VU Amsterdam if the student meets the condition of paragraph 1 under b.
3. The application will be assessed by the Top Performance Committee on the basis of the documents submitted by the student as included in the application form. For the purpose of assessing the application, the Top Performance Committee may, with the student's permission, seek advice from an expert from the professional field.

Article 4 Top performance status

1. The student will receive the top performance status from the Top Performance Committee if the student meets the conditions as referred to in Articles 2 or 3. The award can be:
 - a. Granting top performance status for the entire academic year, or;
 - b. Assignment of a project status for one or more teaching periods.
2. If the Top Performance Committee concludes that the student is not eligible for a Top Performance Status, the Top Performance Committee will inform the student of this with an explanation. The student can then submit a new application with additional documents.
3. The Top Performance Status is placed in the Digital Student File of the student, the student also receives the Top Performance Status via email. When submitting a request to the study programme, the examiners, the examination committee and/or the BSA committee, the student must add this Top Performance Status, which is considered to be an advice to take the student's Top Performance status into account when making requests from the student.

Article 5 Procedure

1. Students who perform a special performance in the field of sports or culture submit the application form to the secretariat of the Excellence Committee every year. When the student makes a first request for the top performance status, the student also books an intake interview with the student counsellor Top Performance.
2. If the student demonstrates that the decision on the application is necessary in the short term, he or she must submit a reasoned request to this effect to the secretariat of the Top Performance Committee. The chairman will process the application as soon as possible, but in

any case within two weeks. This decision is conditional. At the next meeting, the decision will be submitted to the committee for approval.

3. At the start of the academic year in question, the student makes an appointment with the study advisor to go through the study planning for that academic year.

Request for the granting of facilities in the event of bottlenecks with the study programme

Article 6 Facilities

6.1 Examinations and compulsory attendance

1. Facilities relating to examinations can be requested from the Board of Examiners in accordance with the rules and guidelines of the Board of Examiners:
The student demonstrates in the application, on the basis of supporting documents, that the special activity in the sporting or cultural field
 - a. prevents the examination from taking the exam on the set date and the use of a subsequent regular examination will lead to an unacceptable study delay.
 - b. prevents attendance at a compulsory part of education
2. The student must add the advice of the Top Performance Committee referred to in article 4 to his request to the Examination Board.

6.2 Written orders

1. The student submits a written request to the relevant examiner/lecturer and demonstrates, on the basis of supporting documents, that the special activity in the sporting or cultural field prevents the student from submitting a written assignment (papers, theses, etc.) in time, before the set deadline.
2. The student must attach the advice of the Top Performance Committee referred to in Article 4 to the written request.
3. The examiner/lecturer may decide to allow the student to submit written assignments (papers, theses, etc.) after the deadline.

6.3 Adapted study programme

1. The student submits the request for an adapted study programme in writing to the Director of Studies and demonstrates, on the basis of supporting documents, that following the regular study programme will lead to an unacceptable study delay due to the special activity in the sporting or cultural field.
2. The student must attach the advice of the Top Performance Committee referred to in Article 4 to the request.

6.4 BSA

1. A postponement of the BSA can be requested from the BSA committee in accordance with the BSA regulations of the faculty/study programme. The student demonstrates, on the basis of supporting documents, that his special activity in the sporting or cultural field has prevented him from achieving the BSA standard.
2. The student must attach the advice of the Top Performance Committee referred to in Article 4 to the application.

Article 7 Study guidance

The student makes use of the guidance offered by the university.

1. Guidance by the study advisor. The first point of contact for guidance during the academic year is the study advisor of the relevant study programme. The help may include, but is not limited to:
 - a. Help with study planning;
 - b. Division into working groups that best suit the sporting or cultural activities;
 - c. Help with requests for facilities from the Board of Examiners, examiner or Director of Studies.
2. Supervision by the student counsellor Top performance. The guidance can consist of, but is not limited to:
 - a. An intake interview when the Top Performance Status of VU Amsterdam is applied for for the first time;
 - b. Interim progress interview, for example in the event of (major) changes in sporting or cultural career that may affect study progress;
 - c. An exit interview upon obtaining the diploma, or stopping the program early.

Article 8 Entry into force, citation title

1. These regulations have been established by the Executive Board.
2. The scheme can be referred to as the Top Performance Scheme for Students.

Article 9 Evaluation

This scheme is periodically evaluated.

Approval of the University Student Council, 18-11-2025 Adoption of the Executive Board, 02-12-2025.