

Info sheet

Admission of elite athletes to HHU

(As at: February 2023)

1. General

In general, applications (applications for admission) from elite athletes are subject to the same conditions as those from all other prospective students. However, membership of a national-level squad of a national association of the German Olympic Sports Confederation allows elite athletes to submit special case requests with admission applications for study programmes with restricted admission.

Applications for *admission to study programmes with nationwide restricted admission*¹ must generally be submitted to the *University Admissions Foundation*.

Applications for study programmes with *local admission restrictions*² should be submitted to the *university*.

The special regulations for elite athletes are described in the following:

2. Advance quota/hardship case application (local admission restrictions/Dialogue-oriented Service Procedure)

Heinrich Heine University has decided to exercise the right set out in the amendment to the Higher Education Admission Act of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (*Hochschulzulassungsgesetz NRW*) adopted at the end of 2008 and resolved to establish an advance quota for elite athletes in the meeting of the Senate on 12 May 2009.

Pursuant to the Articles of Association of the University³, from the winter semester 2009/2010 onwards up to 2% (rounded up) of the places available in study programmes with local admission restrictions will be reserved for applicants who belong to an Olympic, perspective, supplementary, team sport or youth squad of a national association of the German Olympic Sports Confederation (*→ proof should be provided in the form of a certificate from the corresponding national sports association*).

¹ Relevant for applications to Heinrich Heine University in the Medicine, Pharmacy and Dentistry State Examination study programmes. You can find more information, in particular about how to improve your chances of admission, here: www.hochschulstart.de (German only).

² You can find a current overview of study programmes with local admission restrictions here: <https://www.hhu.de/en/studies/application-and-enrolment/translate-to-english-bewerbungsportal/translate-to-english-dosv-dialogorientiertes-serviceverfahren-fuer-orts-nc-faecher>

³ Art. 4 of the “Articles of Association for the conduct of selection procedures in study programmes with admission restrictions”.

Please note that this certificate must clearly indicate both *membership of the corresponding squad* and *affiliation with the German Olympic Sports Confederation*. The advance quota means that elite athletes only compete with each other with regard to the qualification grade. However, the prerequisite for this is that they have achieved an *average grade in their Abitur school-leaving qualification of at least 2.8*.

Applicants should check the “Hardship application” field in their online application *for bachelor's combined study programmes (major and minor subjects)* in the [HHU DigStu portal](#).

Applicants in the *Dialogue-oriented Service Procedure* should complete the “Elite athlete” field in the [HHU DigStu portal](#).

3. Compensation for disadvantages: Improvement in the average *Abitur* grade (University Admissions Foundation and local admission restrictions)

When places in study programmes with restricted admission are awarded, the average *Abitur* grade is always the most important award criterion.

On application (University Admissions Foundation: special case request – average grade⁴), a better average grade will be taken into account if an applicant can prove that they have been prevented from obtaining a better average grade due to reasons beyond their control.

Membership of an Olympic, perspective, supplementary, team sport or youth squad of one of the national sports associations for at least one year without interruption during the three years preceding acquisition of the university entrance qualification (→ certificate from the corresponding national sports association) represents a case where an application for improvement of the average grade may be recognised.

Please also note that proof must be provided not only of the reason for the application, but also how it had a negative impact on the average grade. For elite athletes, this means that – in addition to proof of membership of one of the squads of the national sports associations stated above – proof must also be provided that the average grade would have been better if the individual had not been a member of one of these squads and that the poorer average grade is solely due to membership of the squad.

In addition to the → certificate proving the period of squad membership from the responsible national sports association, this usually also requires → proof from the school (in the form of a school report)⁵.

On the basis of the proven negative impact on performance as a consequence of squad membership, a “fictitious” average *Abitur* grade will be calculated and used as the basis for the procedure. The *special case request for an improvement in the average grade* must be submitted together with the *application for admission to studies* to the University Admissions Foundation or the university within the application period.

⁴ You can find additional information here (German only): <https://hochschulstart.de/unterstuetzung/downloads>

⁵ The principles for formulating school reports in the subject-specific information “*Zulassungschancen können verbessert werden*” (“Chances of admission can be improved”, German only) published by the University Admissions Foundation at www.hochschulstart.de must be observed.

4. Compensation for disadvantages: Improvement in the waiting period (local admission restrictions)

Alongside the average *Abitur* grade, the waiting period is a further key selection criterion.

An application for an improvement in the waiting period may be approved if an applicant can prove that they were prevented from obtaining their university entrance qualification earlier due to reasons beyond their control. In this case, an earlier date for acquisition of the university entrance qualification will be taken into account for the applicant when calculating the waiting period during the award procedure.

Membership of an Olympic, perspective, supplementary, team sport or youth squad of one of the national sports associations for at least one year without interruption represents a case, which may be recognised as a reason for a delay in acquiring the university entrance qualification. Here again, proof must be provided not only of the reason for the application (squad membership), but also – as described above – how it had a negative impact on when the university entrance qualification was acquired. In addition to the → certificate from the corresponding national sports association, a → school report must therefore also be submitted.

The special case request for an improvement in the waiting period⁶ must be submitted together with the application for admission to studies to the university within the application period.

⁶ You can find additional information here (German only): <https://hochschulstart.de/unterstuetzung/downloads>