



DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME

FINA SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAMME

SWIMMING

FINA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME | 2020 - 2021





Objective

In line with the FINA Development Programme, FINA aims to assist the FINA National Member Federations to qualify their athletes for the upcoming XXXII Olympic Games in Tokyo (JPN) and for the 15th FINA World Swimming Championships in Abu Dhabi (UAE).

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 in the next Olympic Games and FINA World Swimming Championships (25m).

Description

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

- National Federations are invited to select and propose one potential elite athlete to benefit from this programme
- The FINA Scholarship will support the athlete in his/her preparation and qualification for the Olympic Games and for the FINA World Swimming Championships, 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 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:

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 month 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 month duration)

For young athletes (under 23) who need a longer time to achieve the "B" standard

Content

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
- A fixed offset travel to participate in one Qualifying Event (as explained in the section *Olympic Games and FINA World Swimming Championships Qualification*)
- Access to technical information concerning the FINA World Championships and the Olympic Games

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 any.

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 if the athlete is going to train in his/her home country or abroad in a high-performance training centre.

Factors to consider will be, among others, the specific needs of the athlete, 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.

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 and depends on the cost of training at the chosen training environment.

2. Training Centre Option

FINA will assist the scholarship holder to find a high-level training centre with which FINA has a service agreement.

- 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 age, his/her personal best times 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.



Olympic Games and FINA World Swimming Championships Qualification

The main objective of the FINA Scholarships Programme is to improve the athletes training conditions, assisting them in their preparation to qualify and participate in the next Olympic Games and FINA World Swimming Championships (25m).

Any costs related to the participation in one FINA Qualifying Event must be covered as follows:

- Athletes benefiting from a FINA Scholarship – NF Training Option: any cost such as entry fees, board and lodging, coach travel expenses, etc. must be covered by the monthly scholarship funds
- Athletes benefiting from a FINA Scholarship – Training Centre Option: any cost must be covered by the total budget allocated to the scholarship holder, being the funds directly managed by the Training Centre

Additionally, FINA will provide up to 1,000 USD travel allowance to those athletes who need to travel in order to participate in a FINA Qualifying Event. 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 next Olympic Games and FINA World Swimming Championships (25m) might be withdrawn as of the date of their final qualification attempt.

External Partners

- National Federations
- Independent Training Centres

National Federations

The FINA Scholarships Programme aims to promote universal representation at the FINA World Championships and at the Olympic Games. Therefore, National Federations with less participation 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 Federations with the greatest needs.

Athlete's Profile

FINA Scholarship holders must meet the following requirements in order to benefit from the programme:

- Adequate technical level to be able to qualify for the Olympic Games and for the FINA World Swimming Championships (25m): the athlete must prove that he/she has achieved a performance that is between the FINA "B" Swimming Qualifying Time Standard and the "S" Standard (please see Annex 1). FINA will check the ranking and the results obtained at national and international competitions
- 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
- The candidate must not have competed in a FINA sanctioned event for a country other than the one submitting the candidature
- FINA or a National Federation may not put forward as scholarship candidates any athlete convicted of a doping offence or sanctioned for actions contrary to the standards of FINA Rules, especially those of FINA Ethics and Conducts
- 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
- The athlete accepts to participate in any survey that FINA may send in relation to the FINA Scholarships Programme

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.

Application Procedure Profile

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

- National Federations are requested to choose among their athletes and to select the candidate who better complies with the above-mentioned criteria
- The Application Form (Annex 2) must be completed and submitted to the FINA Office by the **20th August 2020**
- 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

Analysis and Approval

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

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

Financial Conditions

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 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

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 scholarship holder's flight ticket to travel to and from the Training Centre in economy fare
- The cost of the airfare must be approved by FINA beforehand. Non-approved expenses will not be reimbursed

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 only to those athletes who need to travel to another country to participate in a FINA Qualifying Event.

Follow up and Control

As of the FINA Scholarship approval, either the relevant National Federation or the Training Centre must submit the Report Form (Annex 3) at the end of each term (every two months):

- This document allows to monitor the athlete's progress towards the Olympic Games and the FINA World Swimming Championships 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

Termination of a FINA Scholarship

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

- Non-qualification for the FINA World Swimming Championship or the Olympic Games
- Decrease of technical level
- Medical reason that prevents the athlete from training
- Unethical behaviour such as doping, 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

