

Rugby League Scholarship Policy

First year entrants in 2026/27 Academic Year

Summary

This policy document outlines the purpose, eligibility criteria, benefits, and conditions of the University of Hull Rugby League Scholarship Programme for students commencing study in the 2026/27 academic year.

The Rugby League Scholarship is designed to attract, support, and develop talented rugby league players who demonstrate the potential to contribute to the University's performance sport environment whilst successfully completing their academic studies.

Scholarship holders will receive a tailored package of support, comprising of a tuition fee waiver (of a value between 20% to 100%) and various performance-based benefits in each academic year of studies. Continuation of the award throughout studies is subject to continued academic progression, performance standards, and behavioural expectations.

For further information, applicants should contact the University of Hull Performance Sport team - PerformanceSport@hull.ac.uk.

1. Description of Award

The Rugby League Scholarship will be awarded to a limited number of successful Rugby League athletes in the 2026/27 Academic Year. Applications are welcomed from experienced Rugby League athletes seeking to embark onto full time studies at the University of Hull at either foundation year, undergraduate or postgraduate-taught level. Interested applicants must have been assessed for fee status as a 'home' student or expect to be assessed as a 'home' student with start date for their chosen degree to be in September 2026 at the University of Hull.

The Rugby League Scholarship is offered as a package of benefits tailored to the individual recipient. In exchange, the recipient of the scholarship agrees to meet minimum performance and professional standards, and to represent the University Rugby League programme for the duration of their studies.

This is a competitive scholarship and not all applicants will be successful. All applications will be reviewed by the Performance Sport Panel based on playing standard, performance potential, positional needs, and overall contribution to the programme, which will inform both selection decisions and the level of support offered

2. Eligibility for Award

Applications will only be accepted from individuals who plan to begin a full-time programme of study (at foundation, undergraduate or postgraduate taught level) at the University of Hull starting in September of the 2026/27 Academic Year.

To be considered for this award, applicants must:

- Demonstrate a strong rugby league playing background at one or more of the following levels:
 - Professional or academy environment
 - National or regional representative level
 - High-level community or talent pathway programmes
- Have received an offer of study from the University of Hull to commence studies at the Hull Campus in the September of the 2026/27 academic year.
- Have confirmed their preferred programme of study as their firm choice on their application portal by no later than **30 June 2026**.

In receiving this scholarship, the successful candidate agrees to a commitment to play for the University of Hull Rugby League Team throughout the duration of their studies at the University of Hull.

The following groups of students are not eligible for the Rugby League Scholarship:

- Anyone who is entering directly into the second, third (or any other subsequent year) of academic studies.
- Current students at the University of Hull.
- Anyone unwilling represent the University in the Rugby League Programme.
- Hull York Medical School Students.
- Hull Online students.

Students cannot be in receipt of more than one University of Hull financial award at any given time. Eligibility for this scholarship does not automatically exclude or affect eligibility to apply for or receive hardship funds or other similar financial support grants should financial difficulties arise during studies (for example sport participation funds, Humber or employability grants).

3. Applications

Students wishing to be considered for the Rugby League Scholarship must apply via the application process available at [Rugby League Scholarship | University of Hull](#) by the closing date **30th June 2026**.

The application must include the following:

- Playing CV with detail of clubs represented and any representative honours including regional, national, and international if applicable.
- A personal reference
- A player or coach performance reference and a highlights video completed of both attacking and defence displays.

Failure to provide all elements as requested above will prevent an application progressing.

In their application, applicants must demonstrate:

- Strong academic potential
- High standards of professionalism, discipline, and conduct

Applicants must Complete the Rugby League Scholarship Application Form by the advertised deadline. An invitation for an interview and or trial session may be required. Shortlisted candidates

may be invited to participate in a performance assessment process. The final decision will be made by a Performance Sport Panel, whose decision is final.

4. Payment of Awards

The Rugby League Scholarship consists of a tailored package of benefits, which may include some or all the following elements:

- A tuition fee waiver of a value between 20% to 100%
- A tailored financial package of between £250 to £500 (this may be offered as an accommodation discount and/or food card)
- Elite Performance supplement
- Bespoke individualised S&C programme
- Nutrition & Hydration support
- Rehabilitation & Massage management
- Athlete lifestyle with direct guidance with monthly workshops
- All-inclusive gym & rugby league club membership

The Performance Sport Panel will determine the amount of tuition fee waiver and full contents of the package of benefits to be awarded to each of the successful candidates after reviewing all applications. The Rugby League Scholarship is designed to provide support that reflects each scholar's individual performance context and role within the programme, and support packages may therefore differ in structure and value. Successful candidates will be notified the contents of their tailored benefits package at the point of an offer of scholarship being made.

5. Duration and Continuation of Award

The Rugby League Scholarship is provided for the duration of study (up to a maximum of 3 academic years), providing successful progression to the next stage of study has been made with an average mark of 60 or above across all modules (with a minimum mark of 40 in each individual module). Additionally: -

- Students will not receive any award for periods of study (e.g. repeated years) for which awards have already been made
- This award will only be able to continue subject to continued selection and application to the Rugby League programme
- Mandatory attendance to workshops, 1:1s, Rehabilitation appointments & Strength and Conditioning programmes.
- Compliance with University of Hull policies and codes of conduct.
- Students will not continue to receive award benefits in the event of withdrawal (please see "6. Grounds for Withdrawal" for more detail) – however in the event of withdrawal of scholarship, this does not automatically constitute withdrawal from a student's academic programme of study.

Scholarship support is confirmed on an academic-year basis. The level of support will ordinarily remain unchanged where ongoing progression and engagement criteria are met. Any consideration of amendment would be exceptional and subject to assessment within the context of existing University support provision.

Any student providing the University with false information for the purpose of gaining funding they are not entitled to will render themselves unfitted for support. No further financial awards will be made, and any awards already held will be rescinded.

6. Grounds for Withdrawal of scholarship

The University of Hull reserves the right to withdraw or amend a Rugby League Scholarship under the following circumstances:

- The student withdraws from their academic programme.
- The student voluntarily leaves or refuses to represent the University Rugby League programme.
- The student signs a full-time professional playing contract that prevents continued participation in the University programme.
- The student fails to meet agreed academic progression standards.
- The student breaches University codes of conduct, disciplinary policies, or performance standards.
- The student repeatedly fails to engage with the performance or academic support provision (e.g., S&C, testing, review meetings).

Scholarship withdrawal decisions will be decided by the Performance Sport Panel in consultation with relevant University departments.

6.1 Full Time Contract

If a scholarship recipient signs a full-time professional contract with a Super League or equivalent professional club during the period of their award, the University may make the decision to review the status of the scholarship immediately (withdrawal from the scholarship does not constitute withdrawal from enrolled programme of study). Such review may result in one or more of the following actions, determined on a case-by-case basis and taking account of the individual circumstances and timing of professional registration:

- Withdraw future tuition fee support provided by way of this scholarship from the date of professional registration.
- Seek a proportional compensation contribution reflecting the level of benefits already awarded.
- Any compensation request would be calculated on a pro-rata basis relative to:
 - The percentage of tuition fee covered.
 - The duration of study completed under scholarship support.
 - The value of performance services provided.

The University reserves the right to enter discussion with the professional club regarding an agreed compensation mechanism were deemed appropriate.

Each case will be assessed individually and proportionately.

6.2 Injury & Medical Circumstances

Injury alone will not constitute grounds for withdrawal of the Rugby League Scholarship.

Where a scholar sustains an injury:

- The University will provide access to physiotherapy, rehabilitation support, and performance monitoring.
- The scholar will be expected to fully engage with any prescribed rehabilitation programme.
- Scholarship continuation will remain in place provided the student demonstrates commitment to recovery and programme engagement.

Withdrawal would only be considered in injury-related cases where:

- The student permanently withdraws from the Rugby League programme.
- The student refuses to engage in rehabilitation processes.
- Medical evidence confirms permanent inability to return to competitive sport.

7. Responsibilities

Management of the various elements of the awarded Rugby League Scholarship reside with appropriate departments across the University.

8. Scope of this Policy

This document refers explicitly to arrangements for the Rugby League Scholarship awarded to those entering the University in the 2026/27 Academic Year.