

FISU WORLD UNIVERSITY CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

The FISU World University Cross Country Championships 2026 (WUCs) will take place in Cassino, Italy, with competition dates of the 14 March 2026 to 15 March 2026.

British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) are sanctioning a GB Students delegation as National University Sports Federation (NUSF) to represent the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The delegation will arrive in Italy on **Thursday 12 March 2026** and depart on **Monday 16 March 2026**.

Short Course- Approx 3000m

Long Course- Approx 10,000m

Short Course Relay- Approx legs of 1500m

Nominations

All athletes who wish to be considered for selection must submit an expression of interest on the [BUCS website](#) by **11.59pm on 21st January**.

Any athlete who fails to complete the online registration and submit the supporting document (including the FISU Eligibility form) by the deadline may not be considered for selection.

Please note that this process will necessitate your university confirming your eligibility in writing on the FISU Eligibility Form, and this being received by BUCS by the stated deadline.

Selections

Selections will take place by **Monday 2 February 2026**

Selected athletes will be **notified by phone call and email by COB Tuesday 3rd February**

You will have 24hrs to confirm your acceptance.

Athlete Costs

The cost of participation in this event will be in the **range of £980 - 1150** and this will be required in full payment at the point of selection by **Friday 6th February, 2026.**

Athletes submitting a nomination acknowledge this requirement and accept financial liability including in the case of withdrawal related to injury or illness. Any unrecoverable costs will be passed on to the supporting National Governing Body.

The above amount includes accreditation, travel insurance, leisure kit, race vest, food and returns flights and luggage from London Heathrow to Rome, plus transport to and from hotel accommodation.

Anti-Doping

All athletes must complete the UKAD Complete Clean+ eLearning course and upload a copy of their course certificate upon nomination. The **Complete Clean+** eLearning can be accessed for free via the [UKAD Clean Sport Hub](#). Once registered, athletes can click onto the relevant eLearning and complete the modules at their convenience. ***Complete Clean+** contains 11 modules which explore Anti-Doping topics including athletes' rights under the World Anti-Doping Code, UK Anti-Doping Rules, the Prohibited List, checking medications and supplements, the Testing Process and how to report concerns around doping in sport.*

Eligibility Criteria

For an individual to be eligible to represent BUCS/GB Students they shall:

INT 1.1.1 Be a British (United Kingdom) national.

INT 1.1.2 Be a registered student at an institution which is a recognised provider of Higher Education (HE).

AND

INT 1.1.3 Be at least 18 and no older than 25 years of age on 31 December of the year of the event (i.e. born between 1 January 2001 and 31 December 2008)

AND

INT 1.1.4 Be registered on a course which is at or above one of the following minimum levels:

- Level 4 on the Framework for higher education qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ).
- Level 7 on the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF).
- Level 4 on the Regulated Qualifications Framework for England and Northern Ireland (RQF).
- Level 4 on the Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales (CQFW).

INT 1.1.4.1 An individual at an institution outside of the UK shall be registered on a course equivalent to those covered under INT 1.1.4.

AND

INT 1.1.5 Be undertaking a study programme equivalent to:

- Where the course is credit rated under CATS (Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme), at least 60 credits per year.
- Where the course is run using guided learning hours, a minimum of 225 hours per year.
- Where the course is a postgraduate course which is not credit rated, no less than 50% of the full-time student programme per year.

INT 1.1.5.1 A year will be taken as 12 months from the start date of their course.

INT 1.1.5.2 An individual at an institution outside of the UK shall be undertaking a study programme equivalent to the requirements of INT 1.1.5.

AND

INT 1.1.6 Be a player who is permitted by the International or National Governing Body of the sport concerned to participate in FISU competition alongside any other competition in that sport.

INT 1.2 Special cases for participation Further to any FISU regulations in place at the time, the following individuals are classified as eligible to represent BUCS/GB Students in FISU competitions:

INT 1.2.1 Notwithstanding INT 1.1.5, an individual who is otherwise eligible under INT 1.1 on a sandwich/industrial placement as part of their course is eligible during this time.

INT 1.2.2 A former student of an eligible institution (as per INT 1.1.2) who has obtained an eligible qualification (as per INT 1.1.4) from said institution in the calendar year preceding the event. For this event Students graduating in 2023 will be eligible to compete in 2024, as former students who have obtained their qualification in the calendar year preceding the event.

See also detailed eligibility information at the end of this document in **Appendix 1**.

Please note that any athlete who is currently suspended or expelled by FISU, WADA, International or National Federation is ineligible for selection.

Sports Criteria

The team for the event will consist of 8 men and 8 women and 2 staff members. (4 men and 4 women for the short course, 4 men and 4 women for the long course).

Final selection will be at the discretion of the selection panel and will take into account the following criteria:

Round 1 Selections

Round 1 selections take place at the official trial for the individual long course at the BUCS XC event at Charnwood College, Loughborough on 31st January. Students aiming for selection are encouraged to wear their university colours in the trial race.

Individual long course: The first male and first female eligible athletes at the Trials (The Senior 10km race at the BUCS XC on the 31st January) will be automatically selected for individual long course team. For the avoidance of doubt, if the first eligible athlete at the Trials decline selection (through injury or any other reason), their automatic selection will NOT be offered to the next eligible athlete at the trials. Their place will be re-allocated based on the 'round 2' process below.

Individual short course: There will be NO automatic selection trial race, those seeking selection must fill out an expression of interest form. Athletes who compete in either the A or B race at BUCS XC can express interest in either team selection.

Short course relay: Due to the limit on delegation sizes a separate short course relay team WILL NOT be selected. The short course relay team will be selected in round 3 from athletes who have already been selected to compete in either the individual long or short course team.

Round 2 Selections

Remaining selections for the individual long course and individual short course team after any round 1 selections have been made will be carried out in round 2 in the selection meeting. The Selection Panel may select athletes to fill the remaining team spots based on remaining eligible athletes' form, fitness and competition history up to and including 1st February 2026. The panel will consider the following when making selections;

- Relevant form in the current cross-country season since 01/09/25
- Performance at BUCS XC in either A or B Race
- Previous domestic and international championships performances
- 3000m times from 01/05/25 (Short course only)
- Relevant head-to-heads in races since 01/09/25
- Injury or illness status

Round 3 selections

A mixed short course relay team of two men and two women will be selected from athletes already selected in round 1 and 2. Athletes who wish to be considered for this additional race should identify this when they complete their expression of interest. The selection panel will then decide the mixed relay team and male and female reserve based upon;

- Having achieved at least 3:50 1500m for men and 4:30 1500m for women since 01/05/25
- Relevant form in the current cross-country season since 01/09/25
- Previous domestic and international championships performances
- Relevant head-to-heads in races since 01/09/25
- Injury or illness status

Reserve Selections

The selection panel may select up to two non-travelling reserves for each of the male and female teams who may be added to the relevant team should an athlete withdraw prior to the final entry date, each subject to minimum overriding objectives. Non-travelling reserve places will be selected based on remaining eligible athletes' form, fitness and competition history up to and including midnight 1st February 2026.

Athletes are reminded that this is a national representative squad, and they should have realistic aspirations to represent their country at a performance level. Please do NOT submit a speculative nomination if you do not meet the above criteria. If in doubt, please contact BUCS before submitting a nomination.

Selection Panel

Andrew Heyes National Endurance Off-Track Manager, England Athletics will Chair the selection panel. The panel is expected to include:

- Hayley Hemmings, National Endurance On-Track Manager, England Athletics (Voting)
- Angela Mudge, National Endurance Manager, Scottish Athletics (Voting)
- Steve Mitchell, National Talent Development Coordinator, Welsh Athletics (Voting)
- Steph Twell, Athlete Commission member (Non-Voting)
- BUCS Head of International Student Sport (Non-Voting / Observer)

Appeals

There is no appeals process for selections made for the GB Students team at the World University Cross Country Championships.

Appendix 1 - Eligibility for FISU World University Championships 2026

INT 1.1 Eligible participants Further to any FISU regulations in place at the time, for an individual to be eligible to represent BUCS/GB Students in FISU competitions they shall:

INT 1.1.1 Be a British (United Kingdom) national.

INT 1.1.2 Be a registered student at an institution which is a recognised provider of Higher Education (HE).

AND

INT 1.1.3 Be within the age range limits for the specific event they are attending, as set by FISU.

AND

INT 1.1.4 Be registered on a course which is at or above one of the following minimum levels:

- Level 4 on the Framework for higher education qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ).
- Level 7 on the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF).
- Level 4 on the Regulated Qualifications Framework for England and Northern Ireland (RQF).
- Level 4 on the Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales (CQFW).

INT 1.1.4.1 An individual at an institution outside of the UK shall be registered on a course equivalent to those covered under INT 1.1.4.

AND

INT 1.1.5 Be undertaking a study programme equivalent to:

- Where the course is credit rated under CATS (Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme), at least 60 credits per year.
- Where the course is run using guided learning hours, a minimum of 225 hours per year.
- Where the course is a postgraduate course which is not credit rated, no less than 50% of the full-time student programme per year.

INT 1.1.5.1 A year will be taken as 12 months from the start date of their course.

INT 1.1.5.2 An individual at an institution outside of the UK shall be undertaking a study programme equivalent to the requirements of INT 1.1.5.

AND

INT 1.1.6 Be a player who is permitted by the International or National Governing Body of the sport concerned to participate in FISU competition alongside any other competition in that sport.

AND

INT 1.1.7 Meet the Sport Specific Eligibility Requirements as defined in the individual competition selection policy for that competition

INT 1.2 Special cases for participation Further to any FISU regulations in place at the time, the following individuals are classified as eligible to represent BUCS/GB Students in FISU competitions:

INT 1.2.1 Notwithstanding INT 1.1.5, an individual who is otherwise eligible under INT 1.1 on a sandwich/industrial placement as part of their course is eligible during this time.

INT 1.2.2 A former student of an eligible institution (as per INT 1.1.2) who has obtained an eligible qualification (as per INT 1.1.4) from said institution in the calendar year preceding the event.

INT 1.2.3 A student who would otherwise be eligible under INT 1.1. who has their studies suspended will not be eligible to compete until such a time as their studies recommence.

INT 1.3 Gender Eligibility (including Trans+ Participation) For international competitions, the relevant gender eligibility policy or position followed will be that which the Organising Committee confirms.

INT 1.4 Anti-Doping All participants in FISU competitions are subject to the Anti-Doping rules of UK Anti-Doping (UKAD), the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), FISU, and the specific sport's International and/or National Governing Body. As such:

INT 1.4.1 All participants are subject to testing.

INT 1.4.2 Any individual who is serving a suspension as a result of an Anti-Doping rule violation will not be eligible to participate in any FISU competitions.

INT 1.4.3 Any trans+ athlete receiving gender affirming hormone treatment should ensure they are following the relevant Organising Committee position and acquiring a Therapeutic Use Exemption where required by that Organising Committee regulations.

All delegates will be required to complete the UKAD Introduction to Clean Sport qualification prior to attending the any GB representative event.

INT 1.5 Allowing ineligible participants to represent an institution will result in appropriate disciplinary action being taken. Athletic Union or equivalent staff should in cases of doubt refer the circumstances to the BUCS Sport Compliance and Governance Manager.