

## FISU WORLD UNIVERSITY ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

The FISU World University Rowing Championships 2026 (WUCs) will take place in London (Ontario), Canada with competition dates of the 13 to 15 August 2026.

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

The delegation will arrive in Canada on Saturday 8 August 2026 and depart on Saturday 15 or Sunday 16 August 2026.

The competition programme will include the following events:

Men	Women
Single sculls (M1x)	Single sculls (W1x)
Double sculls (M2x)	Double sculls (W2x)
Pair (M2-)	Pair (W2-)
Four (M4-)	Four (W4-)
Eight (M8+)	Eight (W8+)
Mixed Quadruple sculls (Mix4x )	

Only those crews that meet a minimum performance standard will be considered.

### Nominations

All athletes who wish to be considered for selection must submit an expression of interest on the BUCS website by **11.59pm on Wednesday 4 February 2026**.

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 **Thursday 9 July 2026**.

Selected athletes will be **notified by phone call and email on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July , or no later than Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July**.

**We will ask you to confirm your attendance verbally during the call, followed by written confirmation via email.**

### Athlete Costs

The cost of participation in this event is expected to be in **the region of £2,500 and will be payable in full upon selection**. Payment will be required **by Wednesday 15 July 2026**. We kindly ask that you note this deadline falls shortly after selection and therefore requires a tight turnaround.

Athletes submitting a nomination acknowledge and accept this requirement, including full financial liability 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, food/accommodation whilst in Canada and returns flights from London Heathrow airport to Toronto Pearson airport. Transport between accommodation and the competition venue will be provided by the Organising Committee. British Rowing will supply on water kit for the selected team.

Team members will need to cover the cost of their own Electronic Travel Authorisation (visa) for travel to Canada. Currently this is \$7 CAD (approx. £4). Team members will be responsible for applying for this following selection.

### **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**

To be selected a boat must be composed of rowers who are eligible and, in the opinion of the Selection Panel, be capable of finishing in the top six at the Championship in an event expected to have 9 or more boats. For an event expected to have 8 or fewer boats, the boat must be capable of contending for a medal.

### **Medal target**

The aspiration for the GB Rowing Team and BUCS is to win 3-5 medals including at least 1 Gold medal in 2026 with all boats in the top 6.

### **Priority Boats**

Long term planning/development will be considered when forming boats for the FISU World University Championships to maximise the performance and potential of the rowers making themselves available for selection. As a result, certain boat classes may be prioritised for FISU WUCs once it is clear what talent is available for selection.

Boat class priorities for each discipline and the FISU WUCs will be addressed and determined after the GBRT April Trial and subsequent crew formation testing period(s). At the GBRT April Trials, while the results in small boats will be significant in ranking rowers, they will only form part of the subsequent crew formation process. This will include in most cases crew boat testing to form the 'bigger' boats, alongside the judgement and experience of the Selection Panel.

### **Ergometer**

Except for U21s (born 01/01/2006 or after) rowers who wish to be considered for selection will need, as a minimum, to meet the GB Rowing Team ergometer standards for U23s for the ergometer assessments to be eligible to compete in the water assessments. Please see the GB Rowing Team Olympic Pathway Selection and Performance Strategy for Seniors and U23s for 2026 which is available to all registered rowers.

### **Coxes**

The selection of the coxes will be based on their skills in steering and on the contribution the selector and crew coach believe they can make to the crew's performance. The cox may be male or female for either the men's or women's eight.

A cox must weigh a minimum of 55kgs which may include up to 15kg of "deadweight".

### **Selection Process**

All rowers must follow and have complied with the GB Rowing Team 2026 Season Selection process for Senior/U23s and perform at a standard to gain an invitation to the GB Rowing Team Senior/U23 Trials in April 2026 to be eligible for selection.

If invited to the GB Rowing Team Senior/U23 trials, they must accept the invitation to remain eligible. Unless rowers are being considered for a GB Rowing Team Senior boat, all candidates for FISU are required to be available for testing at Caversham April 10-12 and available as required to engage with Crew Boat formation, April 13-16.

We recognise the importance of the BUCS Championships in May 2026 for many student rowers and encourage GB Rowing Team candidates to race there. We will work with University coaches to achieve a good balance between their wish to race at this event and the U23/FISU selection pathway. Performances in a small boat (1x, 2-, 2x) at BUCS Regatta may be taken into consideration in the team formation process.

The Selection Panel will consider factors as detailed in the [British Rowing Selection Policy 2025-2029](#), section 5 "Selection Factors".

### **Overseas Rowers**

Eligible overseas based rowers may be exempt from early season on water trials as per the GBRT Olympic Pathway Selection and Performance Strategy for Seniors and U23s for 2026. However, rowers must commit full-time to GB testing and training from Tuesday 2 June 2026 (women and men).

### **Selection Panel**

The British Rowing Head Coach – Olympic Pathway, will Chair the selection panel. The panel is expected to include:

- British Rowing Head Coach – Olympic Pathway
- Lead Coach – FISU Rowing Team
- BUCS Head of International Student Sport (Non-Voting / Observer)
- British Rowing Independent Selector for U23s (& FISU)
- Coach from the UK University system

### **Appeals**

Athletes have the right to appeal their non-selection, or de-selection, for the FISU World University Games and details of the appeals process are provided in Appendix 2.

## 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.

## Appendix 2 – Appeals Process for the FISU World University Rowing Championships 2026

### 1. Athletes' Right of Appeal

- 1.1 An Athlete only has the right to appeal against any decision of the Selection Panel in respect of the implementation of the Policy or Process where the Athlete believes that:
  - 1.1.1 there has been a failure to apply the applicable selection criteria; and/or
  - 1.1.2 there has been a failure to adhere to the procedure set out in the applicable selection Policy or Process.
- 1.2 An Athlete does not have a right of appeal against any judgement or discretion exercised in the course of making selection decisions, or against the content of the applicable selection criteria.

### 2. Appeal Procedure

- 2.1 Following the communication of a selection decision the members of the relevant Selection Panel will be available to discuss any grievances.
- 2.2 In the event that an Athlete is minded to appeal, in the first instance an Appeal is made to the relevant Selection Panel. The appeal process is commenced by the Appellant addressing an email to [appeals@britishrowing.org](mailto:appeals@britishrowing.org). This email must be received within two (2) working days of the selection decision being communicated and must contain the Notice of Appeal, comprised of:
  - 2.2.1 The appellant's name, address and contact details (email and phone number). If the Athlete is under eighteen years of age it shall also include their date of birth and the name(s) and contact details of their parent or legal guardian.
  - 2.2.2 The details of the decision being appealed;
  - 2.2.3 Details of the grounds of appeal upon which the Athlete relies, including the precise manner in which the Athlete alleges that the selection criteria have not been applied or in which the procedure set out in the applicable selection Policy or Process has not been followed; and
  - 2.2.4 Any documents or written evidence upon which the Athlete relies in support of his or her appeal. These documents must be relevant specifically to the Athlete's grounds of appeal.
- 2.3 The relevant Selection Panel will consider the Appeal and inform the Appellant in writing as to the outcome of these further deliberations within one (1) working day.
- 2.4 The Appellant may raise a Second Appeal if they do not agree with the outcome of the Selection Panel's further deliberations. This Second Appeal must be based on the same grounds of Appeal and Notice of Appeal.
- 2.5 To commence the Second Appeal the Appellant must notify the CEO of British Rowing by email ([ceo@britishrowing.org](mailto:ceo@britishrowing.org)) no later than 1200 of the next working day.
- 2.6 If a Second Appeal is lodged, the CEO will notify British Rowing's D&G Panel Chair by 1700 of the same working day to convene an Appeal Panel. The Panel shall, where possible, contain at least two members from the British Rowing Selection Appeal Panel Nominees List agreed annually by the Board of British Rowing. At least one Panel member will be from a legal background.
- 2.7 British Rowing will provide any written response for consideration by the Appeal Panel to the D&G Panel Chair by 1700 of the next working day.
- 2.8 The Notice of Appeal and British Rowing's response will be considered by the convened panel within two (2) working days and where necessary the Appeal Panel may request further information in the process of their deliberations.

2.9 The possible outcomes are to:

- 2.9.1 confirm the selection decision under appeal and reject the Appeal; or
- 2.9.2 allow the Appeal and quash the selection decision under appeal and remit the matter back to the Selection Panel identifying the errors they have noted in the conduct of the selection process, requesting that a new decision is made within two (2) working days. The new decision must remedy the errors identified in the conduct of the process to date to the satisfaction of the Appeal Panel.

2.10 The Appeal Panel will inform all parties of their decision in writing via email within one (1) working day of making their decision.

2.11 Provided the previous errors are remedied, the new decision cannot be the subject of a further appeal, even in the event that the new decision produces the same outcome for the Athlete.

### 3. Costs

3.1 The Appeal Panel has the power at its discretion to make an order for the costs of the Appeal to be paid in such proportions as the Appeal Panel may decide. The costs may include any room hire, travel and other expenses incurred in establishing the Appeal Panel, but nothing shall be included on account of a party's professional charges for representation or otherwise.

### 4. Appeal Process Overview

