

FISU WORLD UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONSHIPS ORIENTEERING 2026

The 2026 FISU World University Championships Orienteering (WUCs) will take place in Vila Real, Portugal with competition dates of the 28th July to 1st August.

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 Portugal on 25th July and depart on 2nd August.

Men	Women
Sprint (Max. 6 athletes)	Sprint (Max. 6 athletes)
Middle (Max. 6 athletes)	Middle (Max. 6 athletes)
Knock-out Sprint (max 6. Athletes)	Knock-out Sprint (Max. 6 athletes)
Mixed Sprint Relay (Max. 2 teams of 4 athletes, 2 x men and 2 x women)	
Team size max. 12 athletes (6 x men and 6 x women) per delegation	

Nominations

All athletes who wish to be considered for selection must submit an expression of interest on the BUCS website by **11.59pm on 31st March 2026**.

AND

All athletes who wish to be considered for selection must complete the British Orienteering (BO) availability form by **11:59pm on 31st March 2026**.

The BO availability form can be found here: [British Orienteering 2026 International Availability Form](#)

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 7th April**

Selected athletes will be **notified by phone call and email by COB 10th April**

You will have 24hrs to confirm your acceptance.

Athlete Costs

The cost of participation in this event will be in the **range of £820 plus the cost of you return flight** and this will be required in full payment at the point of selection and by **Monday 27th April**.

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 event entry, accreditation, GB Student leisure kit, food plus transport to and from hotel accommodation. This does not include UK transfers.

British Orienteering will provide athletes with competition kit and travel insurance.

Please note: flights will be organised by British Orienteering and payment for flights due to British Orienteering separate to the above.

GB Student leisure kit supplied by Canterbury includes:

- Tapered stretch pant / tracksuit bottoms
- Mid layer 3/4 zip up top
- White club-dry polo
- 2 x Club dry round-neck t-shirts
- 1 x Shorts

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

Selections will be made according to the policies and procedures outlined in the British Orienteering 2026 Selection Policy: [British Orienteering 2026 Selection Policy](#)

Performance and performance data (time behind winner etc.) from the selection races listed below will be taken into account. Only if necessary to separate athletes, or if something unforeseen occurs (e.g. a misplaced control due to organiser-error), will additional information such as split times and GPS traces be used.

International performances from 2025 and 2026 will also be considered at each selection stage.

For Knock-Out Sprint selections, the initial consideration will be the likelihood of athletes qualifying for the knock-out stage of the competition, with any demonstrated head-to-head racing performance taken into consideration thereafter.

In addition, the following may be taken into consideration:

- Performances in WOC 2024 and EOC 2024.
- Whether an athlete has clearly demonstrated the potential to podium at the next three WOCs.
- Development opportunities for athletes who are potentially top 10 athletes in future WOCs and who will benefit from the experience.
- Evidence of athlete progression (or otherwise) over the last two years.
- Other data that provide evidence of competitive potential this season.
- Adherence to the Code of Conduct and any outstanding disciplinary matters.

The criteria above are not listed in any order of priority and those involved in selecting will exercise discretion fairly and without bias in making selection decisions.

In all cases, selectors may consider (and may require) additional evidence of athlete fitness. Where past international performances play a role in selection, athletes may be asked to demonstrate that their physical fitness is at a similar level to their fitness at that time.

Selection Races

BUCS Individual Championships – 14th March 2026

Lakes Spring, Sprint Race – 20th March 2026

Lakes Spring, Middle Race – 21st March 2026

JK Sprint – 3rd April 2026

Athletes are reminded that they must comply with embargoes associated with these competitions. The full list of embargoed areas can be found here: www.britishorienteering.org.uk/embargoed_areas

Selection Panel

Jenny Peel will Chair the selection panel.

The panel is expected to include:

- Jenny Peel, Chair (Voting position)
- Pippa Archer, Performance Pathway Manager (Voting position)
- Emil Wingstedt, L5 Coach (Voting position)
- Murray Strain, Independent Expert (Voting position)
- Andy Kitchin, L5 Coach (Non-voting position)
- Mark Nixon L4 Coach (Non-voting position)
- Charlie Adams, Scrutineer (Non-voting position)
- BUCS Head of International Student Sport and/or International Student Sport Coordinator (Non-Voting / Observer)

Athletes wishing to communicate with the Selection Panel should do so via the following contacts:

L5 Athletes – Andy Kitchin (andy.kitchin6@gmail.com)

L4 Athletes – Mark Nixon (mnixon@britishorienteering.org.uk)

Athletes outside the GB Squads – Pippa Archer (parcher@britishorienteering.org.uk)

Appeals

WUCs is subject to the appeals process as outlined in the British Orienteering International Selection Appeals Procedure: [British Orienteering Selection Appeals Procedure](#)

To challenge a selection decision pursuant to this Procedure, an athlete must (i) be directly affected by the nomination/selection decision, (ii) file a 'Notice of Intention to Appeal' **within 48 hours** of the selection decision being announced and (iii) send a formal written appeal (the **Notice of Appeal**) to the Chair or his/her nominated alternate by email (see contact details at Schedule 1 of BO Appeals Procedure). This must be done by **5pm UK time on the third working day** after the selection decision is communicated in writing, (usually via email) to all athletes who have declared themselves available for selection (see BO selection policy).

If the athlete fails to submit the Notice of Appeal within the time limit set out in this paragraph, s/he will lose his/her right of appeal under this Procedure, save in wholly exceptional circumstances as determined by the Appeal Panel. If the athlete requires more time to file a Notice of Appeal, s/he must apply to the Chair or his/her nominated alternate by email to request an extension, providing reasons for his/her request.

The Notice of Appeal must set out the grounds of appeal (see para 4.1, BO Appeals Procedure) and must include full details of the basis of the appeal, including the precise manner in which the appellant alleges the selection criteria have not been followed. The athlete must also file any documents s/he

wishes to rely on in support of his/her appeal. The Notice of Appeal (and supporting documentation) should be as full as possible as it will form the basis of the remainder of the proceedings. The appellant should also specify if s/he wishes to request an oral hearing, and the reasons for doing so (keeping in mind that the exchange of written submissions is the norm, and an oral hearing is the exception: see para 7.5, BO Appeals Procedure).

No fee is payable in respect of the Notice of Appeal

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.