

FISU WINTER UNIVERSIADE 2027 - CHANGCHUN, CHINA

CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING

The FISU Winter Universiade 2027 will take place **15 January - 25 January** with Cross Country running competition dates across the **17 January 2027 to 18 January 2027** (with 19 January as a reserve date for competition). Athletes will travel out on 13 January and depart on 20 January.

The event website can be found [here](#), providing more information on the event.

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

Selection Policy Aim

The aim of selection is to support the development of emerging student-athletes by providing exposure to international championship competition and the experience of representing GB Students within a multi-sport Games environment. Selection will seek to identify athletes capable of performing credibly at the Championships and who are likely to benefit from the opportunity as part of their progression towards future senior international competition.

Winter Universiade Cross Country Running Competition

The team for the event will consist of eight men and eight women and two staff members.

- Individual Short Race (app. 3.7 km) (4 Men / 4 Women)
- Individual Long Race (app. 6.9 km) (4 Men / 4 Women)
- Mixed Relay 4 x app. 1.6km: 2 Men + 2 Women – (Fixed order M – W – M – W)

A maximum of **four men and four women** may be selected for each individual race. Athletes may be selected to compete in either individual races, subject to team requirements.

The **Mixed Relay team will be selected from the athletes selected to the overall team**. Selection to the team does not guarantee selection for the Mixed Relay, with relay team composition being determined by the Team Management and Selection Panel based on the athletes selected and the best interests of team performance.

Key Eligibility Requirements (Full Requirements in Appendix 1)

To be considered for selection, athletes must:

- Be a British (United Kingdom) national.
- Be eligible to compete under UKA and FISU regulations.
- Be enrolled at a recognised Higher Education institution and meet the FISU student eligibility requirements.
- Must be born between 1999 and 2009 (inclusive) (subject to [FISU regulations](#) in force for the event).
- Meet all relevant anti-doping requirements, including completion of the UKAD Clean Sport education requirements.

- Not be serving a suspension from FISU, WADA, UKAD, UKA or any other relevant sport governing body.
- Submit a completed nomination by the published deadline, including all required supporting documentation.

Important: Athletes are responsible for ensuring they meet all eligibility requirements. A summary is provided above; full eligibility regulations are contained in **Appendix 1** and apply in all cases.

Nominations

All athletes who wish to be considered for selection must complete and submit their self-nomination online form and upload all relevant files on the BUCS website **by 11:59pm Sunday 27th September.**

To complete the self-nomination online form, you will be required to upload the following documents:

- Accreditation photo (passport size, white background, neutral expression, no selfies)
- Passport (in a jpeg or pdf format with a minimum of 6 months validity after the expected return flight date)
- FISU Eligibility Certificate (this process will necessitate your university confirming your eligibility in writing on a template form and gaining your University stamp. The form is available for download on the online registration form – this will need to be signed and stamped by a member of your university).

Any athlete who fails to complete the online registration may not be considered for selection.

Athlete Costs

The cost of participation in this event will be in the region of £2295 – £2850 excluding flights.

Athletes submitting a nomination acknowledge this requirement and accept financial liability including in the case of withdrawal related to injury or illness.

Payment Plan

If you would like the option to pay your invoice instalments, please see options below.

There are 3 payment options available.

- Payment of the full amount at the point of selection.
- Payment of non-refundable deposit at the point of selection, 2nd payment of remaining balance by 1st December.
- Payment of non-refundable deposit at the point of selection, the remaining balance paid in two monthly instalments on 1st November and 1st December.

The deposit required is £400.

What's included in the costs

The costs above include event entry, accreditation, accommodation, food, in-country airport transfers, travel insurance and GB Students winter leisure kit (see provisional list below).

Costs also include a contribution towards the central support team, including the Chef de Mission and a small volunteer support team (dependent on final athlete numbers), as well as medical provision.

Not included

Return flights are not included in the costs.

Coaches / Fees

At FISU Winter Universiade the cost of the Team Manager or/and Team Coach will not be covered by Home Country Federations. This is reflected in the above amount and covers their travel, kit, accreditation and stay / food at the event.

Non-BUCS Member Universities

Students from universities not included as part of the BUCS membership will be required to pay an additional £200 surcharge.

Winters Leisure Kit – Provisional list

We are working with Trespass around the following items to be included in the GB Student kit and as part of your total cost;

- **Ski Jacket**
- **Under jacket**
- **Softshell trousers**
- **Lightweight trousers**
- **Hoodie**
- **4 t-shirts**
- **Backpack**
- **Gloves**
- **Fleece Hat**
- **Snood**
- **Blanket**

Dual Nationality

If you are dual nationality, please ensure you travel on and with your British Passport.

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Selection Process

Selections will take place w/c 28th September 2026.

Selected athletes will be notified by email by Friday 2nd October 2026.

You will have 24 hours to confirm your acceptance to BUCS, return your completed Team Member Agreement and confirm your preferred payment option.

Upon receipt of your completed Team Member Agreement and confirmation of your acceptance, you will be issued an invoice to secure your place.

Consideration Standards

The following standards are provided as a guide to the expected level of performance for consideration. Athletes may demonstrate this level through track, road, or relevant cross-country competition. **Athletes who have not achieved one of the listed standards may still be considered where they can demonstrate a strong record of cross-country performance.** Achievement of a standard does not guarantee selection

Male	Event	Female
3:45	1500	4:25
8:10	3000 / 3km	9:40
14:05	5000 / 5km	16:45
29:30	10000/ 10km	35:00

The Selection Panel will consider all nominated athletes using an assessment of available evidence. Given the time required for preparation and entry into the World Universiade, it is not possible to host and select from a Trial race. Selection will take place in a single Round with the Panel consider all nominated athletes using an assessment of available evidence. No single performance or criterion will automatically guarantee selection. The Panel will consider the following when making selections;

- Relevant performances during the 2025/26 and 2026/27 cross-country seasons;
- Current form (from 1 January 2026 to 27 September 2026) and consistency of performance (across all disciplines and distances);
- Performances at the 2025 and 2026 BUCS Cross Country Championships and other major domestic competitions;
- Previous domestic and international championship performances;
- Relevant head-to-head performances against other athletes under consideration;
- Injury, illness, or medical status and its likely impact on preparation and performance.

Relay Selection

A relay squad will be identified at the time of team selection. The final four athletes selected to compete in the Mixed Relay, together with any reserves, will be determined during the Championships by Team Management based on athlete performances, fitness, tactical considerations and the best interests of team performance.

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 on 10th January 2027.

Appeals

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

Athlete Arrivals

To assist with the cost of the competition for athletes, athletes will travel to the venue 48 hours before their event and will depart the day after.

Travel information / Proposed travel dates:

Based on the current schedule, Home Country Federations and BUCS have developed a draft travel plan to help determine the anticipated number of days at the event and estimate the associated costs for each event, as shown above.

Costs are presented as a range to reflect the current uncertainty around travel dates, duration of stay and final delegation numbers.

Athletes selected for the Championships will be expected to travel as part of the GB Students team on designated outbound and return flights arranged by BUCS and Home Country Federations. Travel is anticipated to be coordinated from a single UK departure airport (likely London Heathrow), enabling athletes and staff to travel together as a team and ensuring compliance with Championship arrival requirements, accreditation processes and team logistics. Athletes should therefore be prepared to travel on the designated team itinerary if selected.

Subject to confirmation, we propose the Cross Country running delegation to arrive on 13 January and depart on 20 January 2027.

Travel and competition dates are based on the FISU draft schedule (as of 1 June 2026), available [here](#).

As FISU and the OC may continue to update the schedule, please check online for the latest version.

These travel dates allow c.48hrs to land and settle at the event, aligning to the FISU Technical regulations which state: *Athletes taking part in the Winter Universiade must arrive in the Universiade Village at least 48 hours before their first competition.*

As the competition schedule remains provisional, all costs are indicative estimates. We aim to confirm the final costs once the OC publishes the final schedule and our delegation numbers are confirmed following completion of all sport selections, expected by mid-to-late October.

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.

Sport Specific Regulations

[Regulations for the FISU Changchun 2027 Winter Universiade](#)

Eligibility for FISU Winter Universiade 2027

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 28 years of age on 31 December 2027 (i.e., born between 1 January 1999 and 31 December 2009). Para Alpine Skiing and Para Cross-Country Skiing athletes must be at least 18 on 31 December of the year of the event (i.e., born on or before 31 December 2009);

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 1.1.7 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 For all FISU competitions, the gender eligibility criteria will be as communicated by FISU.

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 receiving treatment involving a Prohibited Substance or Method, as described on the World Anti-Doping Agency's Prohibited List, should apply for a standard Therapeutic Use Exemption.

INT 1.4.3 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 1.4.4 All delegates will be required to complete the UKAD Introduction to Clean Sport qualification prior to attending the any GB representative event.

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