

Deakin University Elite Athlete Program

Supporting elite student-athletes
and wider university outcomes

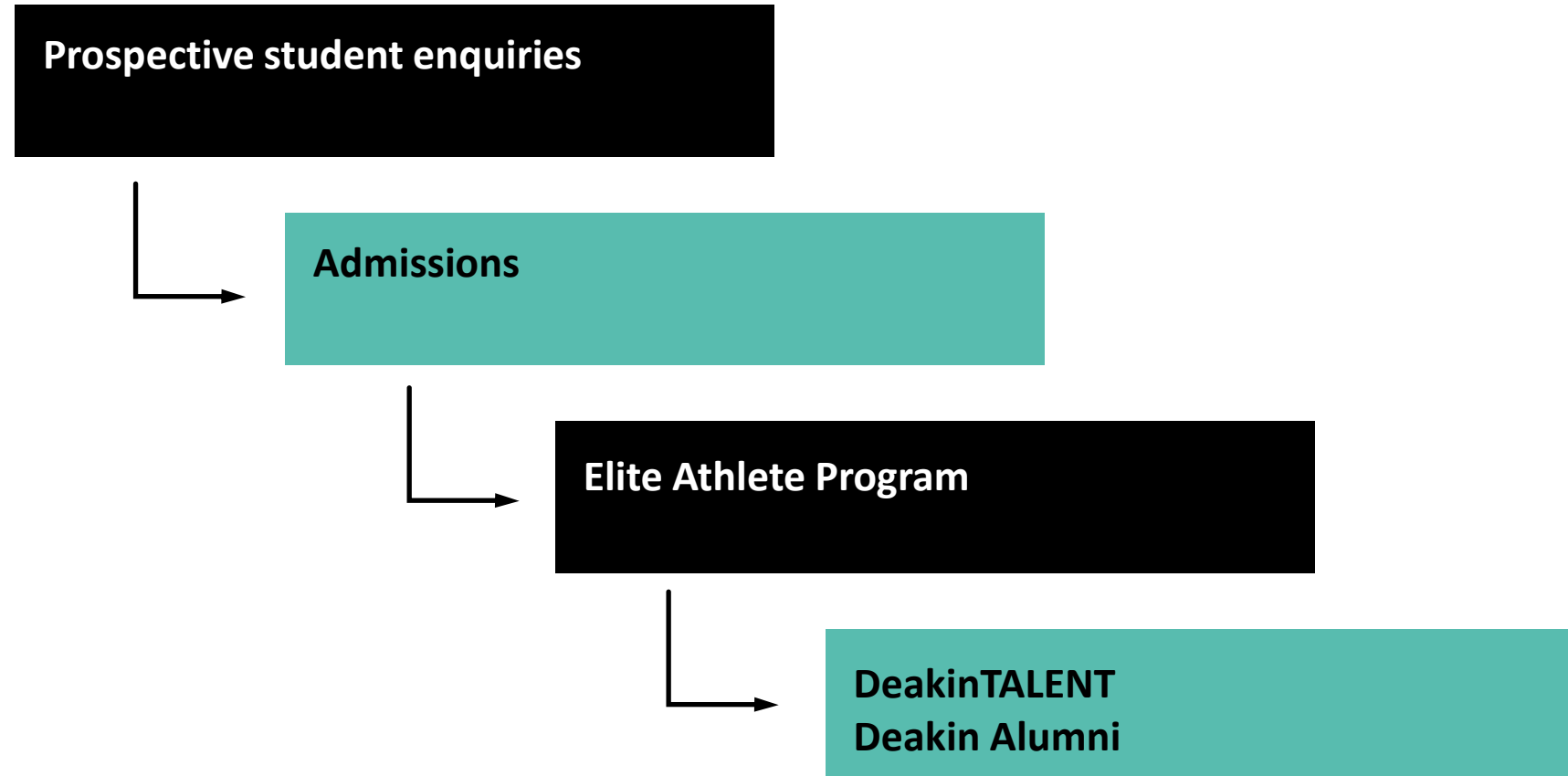


**DEAKIN
SPORT**



Leah Davidson, Football
Bachelor of Exercise
and Sport Science

Deakin elite athlete journey



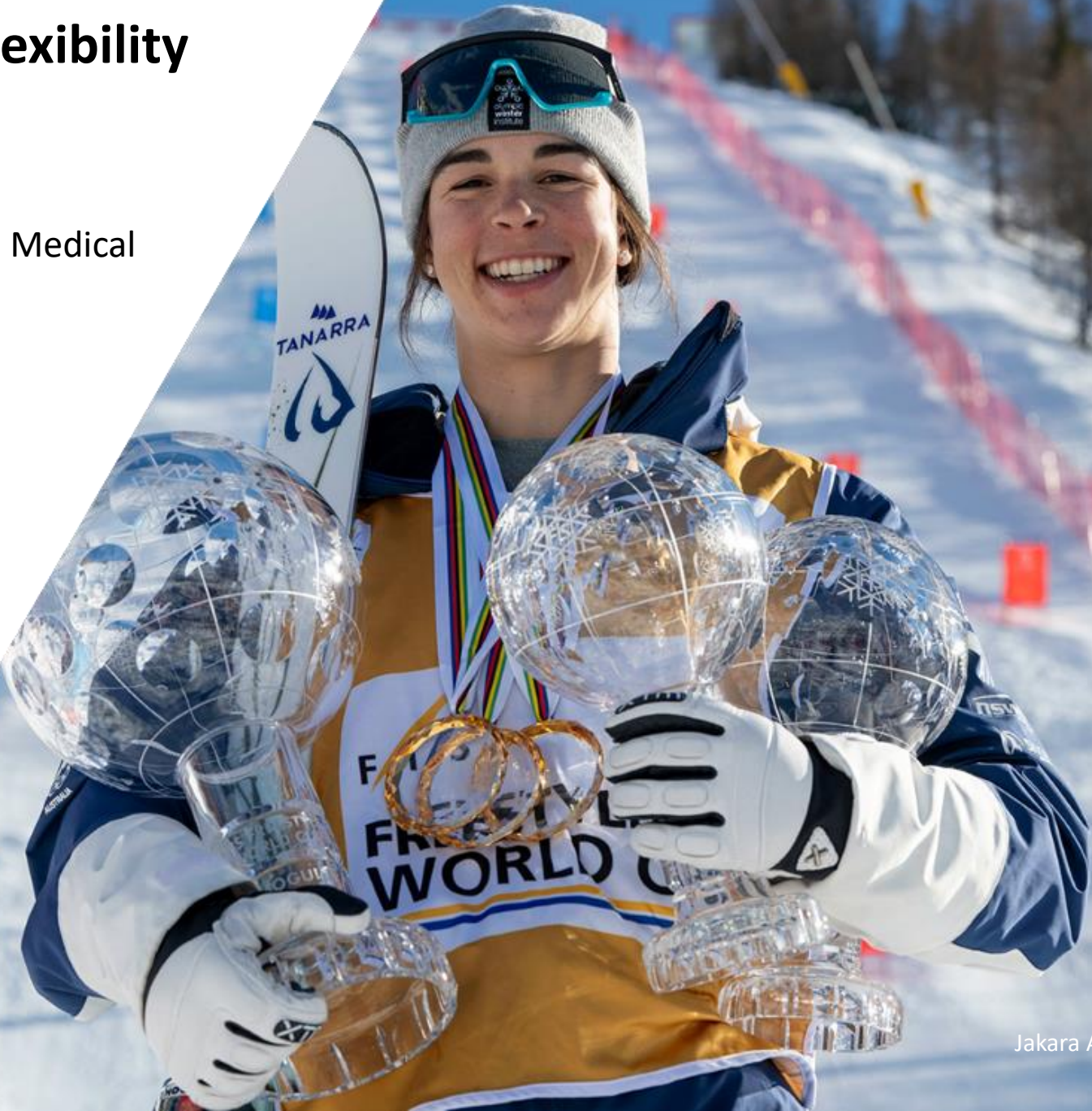
▶ Deakin elite athlete journey



- **Prospective student enquiries**
 - Dedicated contact point within the Future Student Engagement team
 - Assists with prospective student enquiries, pathways and entry requirements
 - Athletes often have a non-traditional pathway into university
- **Admissions**
 - Contact point to flag elite athlete admission applications
- **Elite Athlete Program**
 - Application acceptance
 - Email confirmation and information
 - One on one meeting with Elite Athlete Coordinator (on-campus or online)
 - Assistance of program throughout student journey
- **DeakinTALENT**
 - Dedicated university careers service
- **Deakin Alumni**
 - Elite Athlete Program members all flagged in the alumni database

► Elite Athlete Program - flexibility

- **Part-time study**
 - Full time courses (Nursing, Medicine, Medical Imaging, Optometry, Dietetics)
 - Trimester flexibility
 - Extended intermission
- **Priority timetabling**
- **Special Consideration**
- **Professional Experience/Placement**
- **Exam flexibility**
 - Date and time
 - Time zone
 - Location
 - Supplementary exams
- **Cross-institutional study**



Jakara Anthony, Aerial Skiing
Bachelor of Business

► Elite Athlete Program – Working within the university

- **Student Services Network (SSN)**
 - Admissions
 - Enrolments
 - Examinations
 - Fees
 - RPL
 - Student Advisers
 - Timetabling
- **Faculties and Schools**
 - Professional Experience/Placements teams
 - Academic staff (Course Directors, Unit Chairs, Teaching staff)
- **Integrating into the university's systems and ways of working**
- **Flexibility off the back of COVID pandemic**
- **Be available – elite athlete coordination primary function of role**

► Elite Athlete Program – athlete criteria



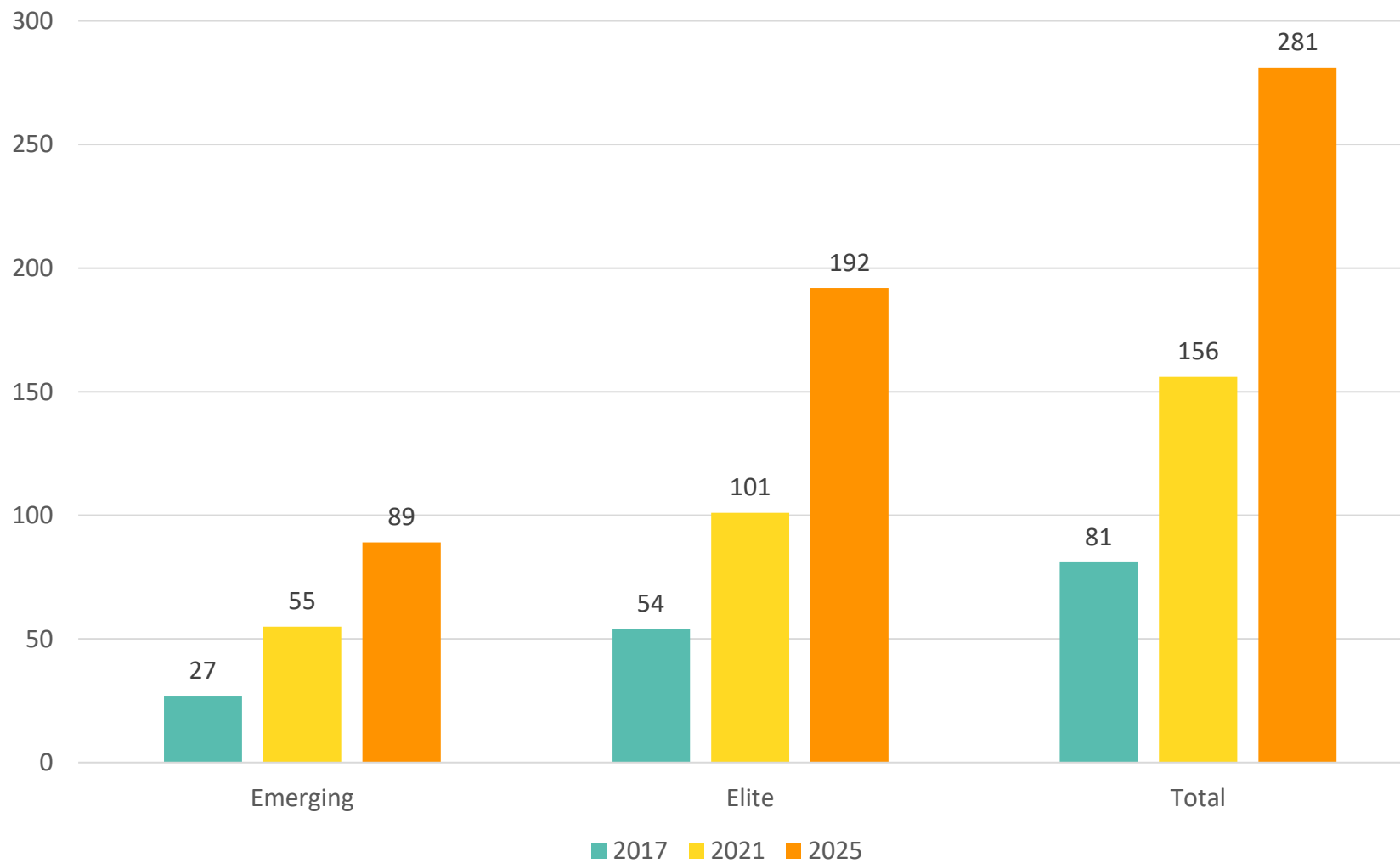
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- **Most universities expand on the AIS ESEN Eligibility**
 - Recognition that many athletes without categorisation still require the flexibility and support of the Elite Athlete Program.
- **Overly expanding the definition**
 - Dilution of the quality of athletes on your program.
 - Stretching staffing resources to support athletes, leaving less time to support the athletes who truly need the support.

▶ Elite Athlete Program overview



Elite Athlete Program members



► Student Athlete endorsement



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- More AIS categorised athletes studying at Deakin University than any other Australian university
- 14 current students at the 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games representing Australia.
- This despite:
 - No formal partnerships with any Olympic sports
 - No university sport clubs participating above a local community level
 - No training centres or similar on campus
- 46 current members (16%) of the Elite Athlete Program have transferred to Deakin from other universities.

Sam McIntosh, Athletics
Bachelor of Health Sciences



► Student Athlete endorsement

- Your current elite athlete program members are your biggest advocates.
- If you support them and provide the flexibility you have promoted, they will promote your program to teammates, sport organisations and other athletes.

‘Given universities provide services to tens of thousands of students, Deakin’s ability to flexibly cater to my individual needs has always amazed me, and for this I am extremely grateful. I have always felt as if the university wanted me to thrive in both academic and sporting domains, and went out of their way to enable me to do so.

This, amongst other facets of my Deakin experience make me incredibly proud to be a student of this university; a university that places value on success from a holistic perspective and encourages its students to thrive in diverse domains.’

► Requirements placed on athletes

No obligations placed on athletes to represent the university at:

- UniSport or other sporting competitions
- Open Days
- Other promotional campaigns

Any athlete who appears in marketing materials are paid for their time.

We still have athletes who represent Deakin at UniSport events

- Six EAP members at UniSport Athletics Championship
- Four EAP members at UniSport Swimming Championship

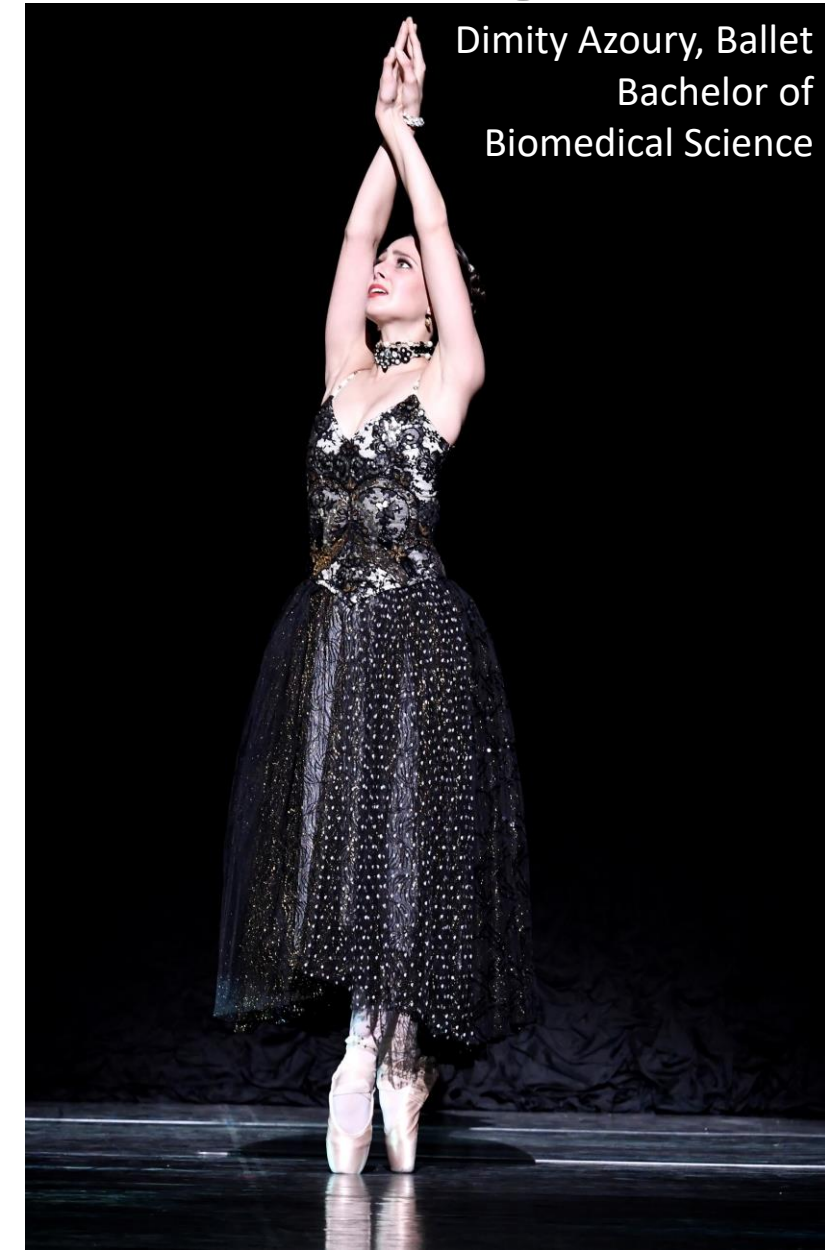


Alex Pearce, AFL
Bachelor of Arts (Psychology)

► Supporting broader university outcomes - Student Recruitment

“Deakin's elite athlete program aligns perfectly with Deakin's reputation as a global leader in Tertiary sport education. When engaging with prospective students, emerging athletes and their families, they value Deakin's commitment to supporting their sporting and academic goals through our flexible and supportive learning environments, whether that be through on campus or online learning.”

Luke Bryden, Manager – Future Student Recruitment



Dimity Azoury, Ballet
Bachelor of
Biomedical Science

► Key takeaways

- Integrating into the university's way of working. Doing so ensures buy in from other areas of the university.
 - Athletes are often some of the best success stories at the university. (Measuring the student impact)
- Network with all of your internal stakeholders. Make the processes to support the athletes as easy as possible for them. Sell them the why in relation to your Elite Athlete Program.
- Focus on what you do well – do you have academics in certain courses who are willing to be more flexible?
- Be available – elite athlete coordination as the primary responsibility of the role.
- Your current student-athletes are your biggest advocates – provide them with the support and flexibility they need, and they will advertise your program widely.
- Don't burden your athletes by placing appearance requirements on them.

Matilda Garrett, Netball
Graduate Diploma
of Applied Sport
Science



A man with long, wavy brown hair tied in a bun is shown in profile, facing right. His eyes are closed, and he has a slight smile. He is wearing a dark blue shirt. The background is a blurred indoor gym with blue exercise equipment and a large window looking out onto a green, hilly landscape.

My name's Joel Baden, I'm a two-time