



Åbo Akademi University and elite sports

Unlocking a Successful Dual Career

August 2025



Higher Education and Elite Sports

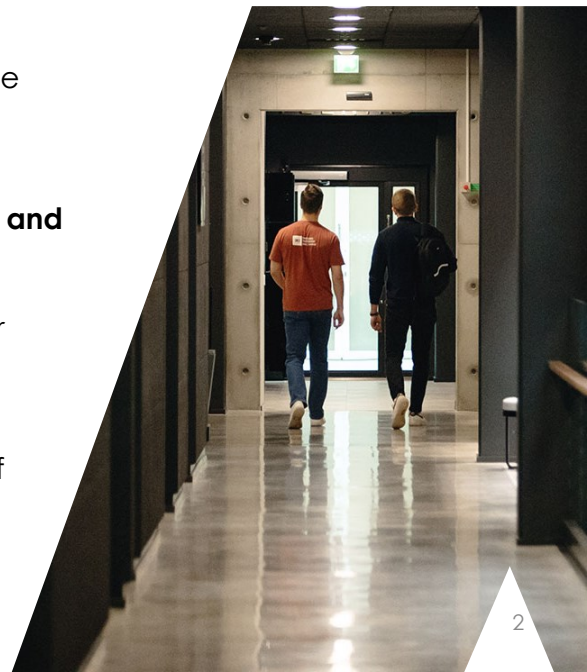
The Finnish Olympic Committee has in recent years focused on successfully combining sports and studies, and has therefore developed an accreditation model for universities wishing to be recognized as sports-friendly institutions. **ÅAU received their certificate for an Elite Athlete Friendly University in spring 2025.**

The sports academies of the Turku and Vaasa regions, together with Åbo Akademi, have established a cooperation agreement with the aim of helping students successfully maintain a dual career (studying at university level while competing in elite sports).

To be classified as an elite athlete at ÅAU, it is required that you are an enrolled student and have been granted a place in the Sports Academy of Turku Region (or Vaasa Region).

You can apply to the sports academies at the beginning of each term, in September or January.

As an elite athlete student at ÅAU, you have access to specially tailored support to facilitate your dual career – both at ÅAU and within the sports academies, regardless of your sport or field of study.



Contact

You can contact us at elitidrott@abo.fi

ÅAU contact person for elite athlete students in Åbo:

Kristiina Teppo

kristiina.teppo@abo.fi

ÅAU contact person for elite athlete students in Vasa:

Anki Stenkull-Aura

ann-christine.stenkull-aura@abo.fi

