

PRESS RELEASE



27 June 2019

Olympians and Olympic hopefuls converge in Napoli for 30th Summer Universiade

THE BIGGEST MULTI-SPORT EVENT FOR UNIVERSITY ATHLETES GETS UNDERWAY ON 3 JULY

NAPOLI, Italy – Olympians and world champions – past, present and future ones – from around the world will compete at the Summer Universiade 2019, set to take place in Naples, Italy from 3-14 July. Nearly 6,000 student-athletes from 112 countries will descend on the capital city of the Campania region for twelve days of scintillating sport, in what is one of the most highly anticipated events on this year's sporting schedule.

The largest delegation, expectedly, is from the host country of Italy that will be fielding 301 competitors, closely followed by the United States and Russia. The 12-day event features student-athletes under the age of 25 competing in 222 medal events across 18 summer sports including archery, athletics, basketball, diving, fencing, football, artistic and rhythmic gymnastics, judo, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo, tennis, volleyball and water polo. There are 1247 competing in athletics alone, and 649 swimmers on the roster. This year's event features three new sports on the Summer Universiade programme including rugby sevens, sailing and sport shooting.

For the first time in multi-sport event history, part of the Athletes' Village will be on board two cruise ships – about 4,000 athletes and officials will be lodged on board the MSC Lirica and Costa Victoria luxury liners. The two grand ships will be docked at the Naples cruise ship terminal Stazione Maritima from 27 June to 16 July, providing an exclusive residence to the Universiade delegates just a stone's throw from the city centre, train station, main stadium and many competition venues.

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The Napoli 2019 Summer Universiade will get underway on the evening of 3 July, with a grand Opening Ceremony directed by famed producer Marco Balich. It promises to be a spectacle par excellence, with more than 1000 performers participating.

The Summer Universiade is the largest global multi-sports event for student-athletes drawing several thousand athletes together every two years. Napoli 2019 will be the eleventh – among Summer and Winter editions – to be held in Italy: the first one took place in Torino in 1959 exactly sixty years ago.

Therefore, in the year of FISU's 70th anniversary, it is only befitting that the 30th Summer Universiade returns to Italy.

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The International University Sports Federation – FISU

Founded in 1949, FISU stands for Fédération Internationale du Sport Universitaire (International University Sports Federation). FISU was formed within university institutions in order to promote sports values and sports practice in harmony with the university spirit. Promoting sports values means encouraging friendship, fraternity, fair-play, perseverance, integrity and cooperation amongst students, who one day may have responsibilities and key positions in politics, economy, culture and industry.

With FISU's motto being 'Today's Stars, Tomorrow's Leaders', all FISU events include educational and cultural aspects, bringing together sport and academia from all over the world to celebrate with a spirit of friendship and sportsmanship. FISU cooperates in developing its events and programmes with all major international sports and educational organisations. As major outcomes of those collaborations, in 2015, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) proclaimed the International Day of University Sport to be celebrated annually on 20 September – an event that has seen huge growth in its first few years.

FISU is composed of 174 Member Associations (National University Sports Federations). The FISU General Assembly elects the members of the FISU Executive Committee, its board of directors. A total of 14 permanent committees advise the Executive Committee in their specialised areas. For the daily administration of FISU, the FISU Executive Committee relies on the Secretary General, who is assisted by the FISU staff. FISU's headquarters are in Lausanne, Switzerland.

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