



Guidelines for the Academic Olympic Studies and Research Centres (Summary)

8 September 2023

1. BACKGROUND

Over the last few decades, the number of academic Olympic Studies and Research Centres (OSRCs), which seek to promote teaching, research and dissemination about the Olympic Movement and the Olympic Games with a humanities or social sciences perspective has substantially increased.

These guidelines aim to provide a general framework in which the OSRCs can function, ensuring full alignment with the Olympic Charter, while respecting their independence in terms of academic activities.

As such, the objectives of the guidelines are to:

- support the academic OSRCs by providing a well-defined framework to those that consistently contribute to the teaching, creation and/or dissemination of Olympic knowledge;
- underline the independence of the academic OSRCs vis-à-vis the IOC and the Olympic Movement;
- regulate the use of the Olympic properties by the academic OSRCs and protect the Olympic brand, in accordance with the Olympic Charter; and
- promote the network of the academic OSRCs and foster collaboration and exchange among its members.

To meet these objectives, the guidelines provide a clear framework and rules concerning:

- the definition of “Academic Olympic Studies and Research Centres”;
- the requirements in terms of institutional support;
- the requirements in terms of activities; and
- the use of the Olympic properties by the academic OSRCs and their partners and products.

2. DEFINITION OF AN ACADEMIC OLYMPIC STUDIES AND RESEARCH CENTRE

For the IOC, an academic Olympic Studies and Research Centre is a [university-based initiative](#) that functions thanks to the contribution of professors, researchers and (postgraduate) students and whose mission is to create and/or disseminate Olympic knowledge, mainly among university students (additional groups can also be targeted), through regular academic teaching and/or research activities embedded within the academic courses/programmes, together with dissemination activities such as publications and conferences. Olympic chairs fitting this definition are also considered academic OSRCs.

For the sake of clarity, it is important to note that:

- a) we do not consider as academic OSRCs other organisations/institutions that:
 - are devoted to “Olympic education and culture” but are not university based, such as National Olympic Academies;
 - exclusively manage Olympic-related written resources (documentation centres);
 - are university based but do not specifically focus on Olympic-related research or teaching in a consistent manner;
 - are university-based athlete training centres which conduct research on sports performance; or
 - promote Olympism but were created by public/governmental administrations.
- b) these guidelines do **not** refer to the “[IOC Research Centres](#)”, which conduct research in partnership with the IOC Medical and Scientific Department on the prevention of sports injuries and protection of the physical and mental health of athletes.

3. REQUIREMENTS

3.1 INSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

In order to be recognised by the IOC Olympic Studies Centre as an academic OSRC actively engaged in Olympic studies and to be included in the network of academic OSRCs (see [here](#) the list published on the IOC website) the academic OSRCs need to fulfil the following conditions:

- Comply with the definition of an academic Olympic Studies and Research Centre, as further detailed above.
- Receive the endorsement of their NOC (official letter signed by the President or Secretary General).
- Have the financial and logistical support of the university/faculty that hosts the OSRC to deliver an annual programme of activities (official letter signed by the appropriate university authority).
- For an initiative in a host city aiming to contribute to the legacy of the Olympic Games, receive written confirmation from the Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (OCOG) that the initiative is in line with the legacy plan and that clear coordination has been established with the OCOG, the NOC and other parties involved in the legacy governance.

All the letters mentioned above must be sent to the IOC Olympic Studies Centre via the [OSC portal](#).

3.2 ACTIVITY CRITERIA

In terms of activities, the academic OSRCs must fulfil the following criteria:

- Organise regular academic teaching, research and/or dissemination activities embedded within the academic courses/programmes and covering topics directly related to Olympism, the Olympic Games and/or the activities of the Olympic Movement.
- Send an annual activity report at the request of the IOC OSC, including a summary of the activities organised during the previous (academic) year and a programme of activities for the following (academic) year.

4. FURTHER INFORMATION

Academic representatives interested in creating an academic Olympic Studies Research Centre and requesting to be included in the network of OSRCs are invited to write to studies.centre@olympic.org. We will be happy to send you additional information concerning the “Guidelines for the academic Olympic Studies and Research Centres”, provide you with the “Form for the Academic Olympic Studies and Research Centres” to be completed and answer any questions you might have.

To find out more about the activities and collections of the IOC Olympic Studies Centre, please consult our [website](#).