



HISTORY OF THE GAMES

SINCE THE FIRST GAMES IN 1959, THE EVENT HAS GROWN IN SIZE AND QUALITY



PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Athletes pose for a photographer to celebrate the opening of the 2009 Universiade in Belgrade.

The Universiade, also known as the World University Games or the World Student Games, was inaugurated in 1959, but its roots go back nearly 40 years before that.

In 1923, the Union Nationale des Etudiants Francais (UNEF) staged the International Universities Championships in Paris. A year later, the Confederation Internationale des Etudiants (CIE) conducted the Summer Student World Championships in Warsaw.

The CIE held similar championships in 1927 (Rome), 1928 (Paris), 1930 (Darmstadt), 1933 (Turin), 1935 (Budapest), 1937 (Paris), and 1939 (Vienna).

The Federation Internationale du Sport Universitaire (FISU) began holding a biennial Summer International University Sports Week in 1949.

Primo Nebiolo of Italy, who helped organize the 1957 event in Paris, saw it as the foundation for a kind of Olympics for university students from around

the world. So he organized the first Universiade, staged in 1959 at Torino (Turin), Italy. About 1,400 athletes from 43 countries took part, a much greater number than at any of the previous FISU events. The numbers have gone up with virtually every Universiade, reaching a high of 7,805 participants in 2005.

The Universiade was held in odd-numbered years from 1959 through 1967. Then there was a three-year hiatus to 1970 and another to 1973. Since then,

the games have again been held biennially. The 1975 Universiade was replaced by a World University Championships in Athletics, which comprised only track and field events.

The Winter Universiade was first held in 1960 at Zell-Am-See, Austria. Only 98 athletes competed, but that number grew to 1,449 from 50 countries by the 2005 Winter Universiade at Innsbruck.

There are 13 standard sports in the Summer Universiade and seven in the Winter Universiade.



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Left: Yao Ming leads China to a silver medal during the 2001 Beijing Universiade Games. Top: Shannan Catalano of the United States (left) celebrates winning the women's 50 m butterfly final at the 2003 Summer Universiade in Daegu, South Korea.

TIMELINE

• 1959 (August 26 – September 7) Turin, Italy

Athletes: 985
Countries and Regions: 45
Events: 7
Gold: 60
Silver: 60
Bronze: 61
Total: 181
Top-ranked countries and regions:
1st: Italy
2nd: Soviet Union
3rd: West Germany
China participated for the first time.

• 1961 (August 25 – September 3) Sofia, Bulgaria

Athletes: 1,270
Countries and Regions: 32
Events: 9
Gold: 68
Silver: 69
Bronze: 67
Total: 204
Top-ranked countries and regions:
1st: Soviet Union
2nd: Japan
3rd: Hungary
China did not participate.

• 1963 (August 30 – September 8) Porto Alegre, Brazil

Athletes: 713
Countries and Regions: 27
Events: 9
Gold: 70
Silver: 67
Bronze: 69
Total: 205
Top-ranked countries and regions:
1st: Soviet Union
2nd: Hungary
3rd: West Germany
China did not participate.

• 1965 (August 20 – August 30) Budapest, Hungary

Athletes: 1,729
Countries and Regions: 32
Events: 9
Gold: 74
Silver: 72
Bronze: 73
Total: 221
Top-ranked countries and regions:
1st: Hungary
2nd: Soviet Union
3rd: United States
China did not participate.

• 1967 (August 27 – September 4) Tokyo, Japan

Athletes: 938
Countries and Regions: 32
Events: 10
Gold: 83
Silver: 86
Bronze: 88
Total: 257
Top-ranked countries and regions:
1st: United States
2nd: Japan
3rd: West Germany
China did not participate.

• 1970 (August 26 – September 6) Turin, Italy

Athletes: 2,084
Countries and Regions: 58
Events: 9
Gold: 82
Silver: 80