



THE ROYAL AND ANCIENT GOLF CLUB SCHOLARSHIP

2026

SUPPORTED BY





From The Chairman.

It was my pleasure to meet the first and second cohorts of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club Scholarship programme in person, when they visited our Club in August.

Those 21 scholars have been selected from more than 500 applications over the last two years. They represent 12 countries, across five continents, with passion and ambition across different aspects of our game: in coaching, agronomy and sports medicine; club management, golf development, championship staging and entrepreneurship.

Each of these Scholars was chosen for this programme in recognition of their commitment to golf and their potential to shape its future. I expected, in meeting them, informative and interesting conversations – which was the case. More than that though, I was very impressed by their ambitions for the game that we love and feel that the future of golf is exciting, and safe, in their hands.

This was very much the aim of this partnership between The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews and The R&A Foundation: to find and nurture those with the potential to shape and lead golf in the decades to come. It gives me great pleasure to report that, in my opinion, after only two short years, The Royal and Ancient Golf Club Scholarship is already succeeding in this mission.

There are a few individuals who deserve particular praise for this hugely successful start, especially Niall Farquharson, my predecessor as Chairman of the General Committee, who has been so instrumental in getting the Scholarship programme off the ground.

My sincere thanks also to every Member who volunteered their time as a Mentor for our Scholars, giving their time and expertise which these young people might otherwise never have been able to access – these connections are what makes this programme unique and an opportunity like no other. In addition, thank you to all those who have provided the financial support for the education and golf engagement bursaries, workshops and leadership development that our Scholars have received.

I ask you to join with me in investing in the future of our game – and our Club's role in developing it - to ensure the continued success and growth of this programme.



Martin Hattrell

*Chairman, General Committee
The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews*

The Scholarship Story.

The Royal and Ancient Golf Club Scholarship exists to ensure the values at the heart of our game – sportsmanship, integrity and respect – are carried into its future by the most promising young leaders in golf.

From its first year, the programme has brought together talented young people from around the world and connected them with Members of the Club to learn from one another. These relationships have already opened doors to opportunities, strengthened careers and built friendships and networks that will last a lifetime.

In this way, the Scholarship connects the Club's long heritage at the heart and home of golf to the bright, ambitious young people who will shape its future.

We have seen Scholars take the helm of community initiatives, inspire new generations of players and carry forward the ethos of the Club into classrooms and communities worldwide.

“From mentorship and workshops to study abroad and volunteerism, this Scholarship has opened doors I never imagined.”

Sarah Brannigan, 2024 Scholar

The Programme.

The Scholarship is unique: combining financial support for those who need it with connections that will build their knowledge and networks. Through contact with the Club, it equips Scholars with the skills, insight and connections to expand both their horizons and the boundaries of what golf can be.

Scholars receive five pillars of support:

1 Education Bursary

Up to £10,000 is available annually to support Scholars to further their academic or vocational qualifications (dependent on individual circumstances).

2 Golf Engagement Bursary

Up to £5,000 is awarded annually to facilitate hands-on career development experiences within the golfing world.

3 Mentorship

Mentorship from Members of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews provides expertise, guidance and connections alongside one to one support.

4 Global Peer Network

A lasting community of Scholars, united through their connection to the Club and Scholarship, to build from and depend upon as they advance their careers.



Scholars Sarah Brannigan, Tim Manzello and Amy O'Donnell interviewed at The 153rd Open at Royal Portrush.

5 Leadership Development

A year of virtual leadership training and skills development workshops culminating in the week-long Scholars Conference in St Andrews.

The Scholarship provides expert guidance, unlocks transformative opportunities and elevates golf's future leaders as both individuals and a global cohort.

2024 Scholar Experience.

Our 2024 Scholars have reached some remarkable milestones this year by putting their leadership learnings into practice, expanding their networks and embracing all the opportunities the Scholarship offers.

Ivan Malovychko 1

Inspired by the resilience of his community through the conflict in Ukraine, and the mental wellbeing benefits of our sport, Ivan has created GolfMotion. This coaching programme uses golf as a tool for rehabilitation of those who have been injured, physically and mentally, by war.



Hannah Isinghood 2

Hannah volunteered at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, attended her first professional conference with the Canadian Golf Course Superintendents Association and has called St Andrews home since May, having secured a greenkeeping placement with St Andrews Links through the end of 2025.

Sarah Brannigan 3

Sarah interned with First Tee in Washington DC this summer. Scholarship support also enabled her to complete a summer programme at the University of Oxford, where she submitted a paper on golf inclusivity projects such as UNDERRATED Golf.

Atirath Deb Roy

Whilst competing in high-level tournaments Atirath Deb has also maintained his 4.0 GPA across twin majors in PGA Golf Management and Economics. With Scholarship support he has completed a club internship and attended workshops and teaching seminars at the PGA Trade Show in Orlando.

Mason McKenna

Mason is studying PGA Golf Management at the University of Nebraska. Over the summer he gave over 135 hours of lessons as part of an internship at Nemacolin Resort in Pennsylvania and was also able to join The R&A Founders' Society gathering at Bay Hill where he played with, and coached, some of the Scholarship's supporters.

Amanda Cunha 4

The Scholarship has enabled Amanda to compete in the U.S. Adaptive Open Championship and travel to attend The Vision Cup. With the support of her Mentor she has also run coaching clinics for golfers with disabilities at three UK clubs this summer.

Simon Richalot 5

Simon graduated top of his class at Penn State, earning the Alumni Award for excellence in Turfgrass Management. He joined the team at The 125th U.S. Open as a full-time agronomist, applying the knowledge of golf course design and maintenance he gained while using Scholarship support to visit a number of courses.



Ellie Smyth

Ellie applied Scholarship support towards her Sport Business Management degree and worked behind the scenes with The R&A Championships team at The 153rd Open at Royal Portrush.

James Harris

James is using his Scholarship Education Bursary to study Financial Management through Harvard Business School and has been applying the learnings from the Scholarship workshops to expand his network in the UAE.

Tim Manzello

At the PGA Trade Show in Orlando, Tim met with senior executives from The R&A. He was also able to spend time with his Mentor at The 153rd Open at Royal Portrush.

Mentorship.

The personal relationship between Scholars and their Mentors is what makes The Royal and Ancient Golf Club Scholarship such a unique opportunity. Every Scholar is paired with a Club Member who shares their interests and can offer insight, introductions and encouragement.

For Club Members, mentoring offers the chance to share the wisdom of experience, open doors to new opportunities and pass on the values of the game to the next generation of golf's leaders.

For Scholars, it means having a trusted sounding board, a guide to navigating challenges and a reminder that they are part of something far greater than themselves.

Mentors are fully supported by The R&A's Golf Education team, receiving guidance on how to approach their role, how to support their Scholar and how to tailor conversations to the Scholar's stage of career.

“Amanda's relentless determination to make golf accessible to all is inspiring. My role involves harnessing that enthusiasm and channelling it towards specific projects. I also use my expertise to help Amanda refine and shape some of her brilliant ideas.”

Andrew Jessop, Mentor



“I have such big ideas and dreams to grow adaptive golf and it is good to know that my Mentor, Andrew, is there to help me make it happen.”

Amanda Cunha, 2024 Scholar
(pictured with her Mentor, Andrew)

“Arnaud has been a phenomenal Mentor. Our in-depth discussions about my career have been incredibly insightful. He has also introduced me to professionals within the golf industry and shared valuable perspectives.”

Tim Manzello, 2024 Scholar
(pictured with his Mentor, Arnaud)



The Scholars Conference in St Andrews.

The first annual Scholars Conference took place in St Andrews in August 2025.

Scholars took part in a week-long programme of leadership development, professional insight and connection, surrounded by the history and traditions of the game.

The Conference was designed to challenge and inspire. Scholars met with Mentors, Club Members, executives from The R&A and leaders from across the golf industry, sharing their own journeys and learning from those who have shaped the sport at the highest levels.

This gathering marked the first time both cohorts came together in St Andrews – 18 Scholars from 12 countries. They left with new perspectives, strengthened ambitions and a deeper understanding of the responsibility that comes with taking the game forward.

“Experiencing the home of golf was truly unforgettable. It gave me a deeper appreciation for the game and broadened my perspective.”

Atirath Deb Roy, 2024 Scholar



Class of 2025.

Meet the remarkable Scholars in the next cohort of golf's upcoming leaders:



Ellen
O'Gorman
 Republic of Ireland
Sports Medicine



Anderson
Kiplimo
 Kenya
Course Design



Kashmira
Shah
 Nepal
Golf Development



Jaime
Canal Campos
 Spain
Greenkeeping



Ramya
Meenakshisundaram
 USA
Marketing



Rocío
Alvear González
 Spain
Agronomy



Amy
O'Donnell
 United Kingdom
Performance Nutrition



Cameron
Kpedekpo
 United Kingdom
Golf Business



Guy
Harrison
 New Zealand
Disability Golf



Eli
Trestan
 Canada
Golf Development



Claudia
Marazita
 Australia
Golf Development

Your story, your network, your support. Each can shape the future of golf.

The Scholars we have supported, and the impact they have had so far, is thanks to the generosity of the Club. Member donations and willingness to mentor are what make The Royal and Ancient Golf Club Scholarship possible. It also ensures that the values and ethos of the Club can be part of every Scholar's journey.

Providing the level of opportunity, resources and personal guidance that define this programme requires an average investment of £60,000 per Scholar, alongside the unique mentorship and insights that only Members of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews can offer.

The level of award made to each Scholar is dependent on their need. Financial support is provided based on their individual personal circumstances and the cost of the education that will enable them to reach their potential and goals.

Alongside the Scholarship Education and Golf Engagement Bursaries, every Scholar receives the opportunity to travel to St Andrews annually to attend the Scholars Conference. This is a unique week-long programme of personal and professional development opportunities for Scholars to undertake whilst spending time with one another and Club Members.

The vision for this Scholarship remains for it to grow year after year, but that future depends on as many Members as possible supporting the programme. There are many ways you can be part of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club Scholarship. Whether by encouraging a young person with a passion for golf and the potential to lead to apply, or by giving time or financial support, every Member's involvement matters.

Together, we can nurture the next generation of golf leaders and ensure this programme continues to thrive.

Because golf matters.

How to Support.

Whether it be time, expertise or resource, your contributions are essential to the success of this Scholarship. Gifts of any size help to support and create opportunities for those with the potential to shape and safeguard golf's future.

Make a Gift

The Royal and Ancient Golf Club Scholarship is funded entirely by donations from Members. The R&A covers all administration costs, but every pound you give enables Scholars to study at renowned institutions, access transformative experiences and grow into leaders who will shape the game's future.

Contributions can be made at any time – online, by post or through your bank. Legacy gifts and other planned giving options are also available.

To make a secure donation by debit or credit card, scan the QR code opposite. For bank transfers, cheques, gifts of stock or to discuss tax-efficient giving options, please contact foundation@randa.org.

Donations can be made tax-effectively in the UK, USA, Canada, Singapore, Hong Kong, India and Japan.

Mentor a Scholar

The shared knowledge, experience and networks of our Mentors help shape the careers of emerging ambassadors of our sport.

Club Members can offer career advice, encouragement and insight to Scholars enabling them to take confident steps in their education, careers and ambitions to contribute to the future of golf.

Mentoring is flexible, rewarding and supported throughout the year with orientation, check-ins and optional meetups.

To volunteer as a Mentor, please contact foundation@randa.org.



Scan the QR code to visit our online donation page and add your support to the Scholarship.

Thank you for your generosity.

“On behalf of all the Scholars: thank you for believing in us, for investing in our futures, and for allowing us to be part of your proud tradition. We are committed to carrying forward the values of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews in everything we do.”

Eli Trestan, 2025 Scholar



The R&A Foundation

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