



THE ROYAL AND ANCIENT GOLF CLUB SCHOLARSHIP 2026

SUPPORTED BY



SCHOLARSHIP OVERVIEW

The Royal and Ancient Golf Club Scholarship supports young people from around the world with the passion and potential to shape the future of golf.

Established in 2023 through a partnership between The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews and The R&A Foundation, this international programme is open to young people aged between 18-29. It offers not only generous financial support, but connects Scholars to other like-minded peers, provides professional and personal development through virtual workshops and seminars, and mentorship provided by a member of the Club.

In its first two years, 21 Scholars have been selected from over 500 applications, with interests in agronomy, club management, sports medicine, golf administration, the business of golf and development.

Whatever I am today it's because of golf and with this opportunity I hope to inspire young generations to seek opportunities to grow.

KASHMIRA SHAH,
CLASS OF 2025



The Scholarship has created unforgettable learning and networking experiences. I look forward to giving back to the game and industry that have given me so much.

SIMON RICHALOT
CLASS OF 2024



This initiative is not only about recognising talent, but empowering young people who are passionate about golf, progressing their careers in the golf industry and contributing to the sport in an innovative and meaningful way.

NIALL FARQUHARSON,
PAST CHAIRMAN, THE R&A



THIS AWARD PROVIDES FIVE ELEMENTS OF SUPPORT...

1

A bursary of up to £10,000 per year for academic fees

The purpose of the education bursary is to contribute to the costs a candidate incurs in gaining the expertise to excel in their chosen field.

This bursary can be used to cover traditional university fees or professional qualification fees such as those in club management, greenkeeping or coaching.

2

A bursary of up to £5,000 per year for golf related costs

The golf engagement bursary enables Scholars to pursue hands-on career development experiences within the golfing world alongside their studies or training.

3

Mentorship from a Member of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews

Each Scholar is allocated a mentor from within the Club membership with a particular suitability to their chosen ambitions.

This invaluable access to, and guidance from this incredible community is what makes this Scholarship truly unique.

4

Membership of a peer support network of Scholars, past and present

The Royal and Ancient Golf Club Scholarship connects Scholars from all over the world, united by their passion for golf, creating a global network that Scholars can draw on throughout their lives and careers.

5

Scholars Conference in St Andrews

Each cohort will gather in St Andrews for an unforgettable conference at the home of golf. Scholars will gain leadership training, attend skills development workshops, access network-building opportunities and meet and share their experiences with Members from The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

This Scholarship is for those with the potential to shape golf in the coming decades. We're looking for young people who already have an active interest in and can demonstrate exceptional commitment and contributions to the sport.

Types of candidates could be:

- Those embarking on a more traditional learning path such as university who want to remain active in and give back to the golfing community.
- Those who are considering a career in or already working in a golf related industry such as broadcasting, marketing, sports journalism, events, hospitality, course design or golf club management who want to continue studying alongside their work.
- Those with a medical background such as physiotherapists, psychologists or those in academic research who want to advance health studies specific to golf.
- Those involved in sustainability efforts who want to pursue research specific to golf.
- Those who are passionate about golf's heritage who may already be working in or considering a career in museum curation or want to pursue academic research.
- Those who are considering or already studying for an industry specific education qualification such as club management, greenkeeping or coaching.

We welcome applications from individuals who may also have overcome adversity showing determination and aptitude, already demonstrating leadership qualities that they want to develop and dedicate to the sport.

This is a global programme focused on increasing diversity in the game. We are actively seeking applications from individuals with fewer golfing opportunities available to them, and from non-traditional golfing backgrounds.



Applying was
one of the best
decisions I have made
in my career so far.

ATIRATH DEB ROY,
CLASS OF 2024



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicants for the 2026 Royal and Ancient Golf Club Scholarship must:

- Be aged between 18 and 29 on 1 September 2026
- Be enrolled / be enrolling in a nationally-recognised academic or vocational qualification (generally lasting two to four years, which need not be golf related)
- Demonstrate an exceptional commitment to and active engagement with golf
- Demonstrate a passion for golf and embodiment of its values
- Demonstrate the qualities befitting future leaders of the sport
- Be committed to attending the Scholars Conference in St Andrews from Monday 17 - Sunday 23 August 2026

Employees of The R&A and direct relatives of Members of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews are not eligible to apply.



This
Scholarship
has opened doors
I never imagined.

SARAH BRANNIGAN,
CLASS OF 2024



HOW TO APPLY

If you would like to apply and meet the selection criteria:

Step 1 by Wednesday 4 February 2026

- Complete the [online application form](#).
- The application consists of several sections that ask for:
 - Personal details
 - Education/ qualifications
 - Employment / volunteering / other activities and hobbies
 - Awards / achievements
 - Contributions to golf and demonstration of values of golf to date
 - Level of request for funding – for the education and golf bursaries
 - Future career ambitions and plans and how they relate to their funding request
- You will also need to submit your CV along with your personal statement (of not more than 250 words) to RAClubScholarship@randa.org outlining why a scholarship should be awarded to you and how this award will support you in achieving your ambitions.

Step 2 by Thursday 16 March 2026

If your application progresses, you will be asked to submit a short video clip introducing yourself and explaining what golf means to you.

You must also nominate two referees who will be contacted by the selection panel. These referees will be asked to speak to your character and provide background context that will help the panel to not only determine your potential, but also your need, for funding.



Step 3 by Friday 24 April 2026

Shortlisted applicants will be interviewed via Microsoft Teams / Zoom by the selection panel where you will have the opportunity to demonstrate your commitment to and aspirations in golf and beyond.

You will be notified by Wednesday 6 May if you have been selected for the 2026 Royal and Ancient Golf Club Scholarship and the value of your award confirmed by Monday 1 June. Scholarships will be awarded for the duration of your proposed course of study.*

*Subject to satisfactory progress.

The application process is intense but it's so worth it - the Scholarship has given me so much.

TIM MANZELLO,
CLASS OF 2024

The R&A Foundation

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