



THE ROYAL AND ANCIENT GOLF CLUB SCHOLARSHIP

SUPPORTED BY



**The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews
is proud to be a patron of this unique and vital venture.**

The Royal and Ancient Golf Club Scholarship embodies our commitment to nurturing the next generation of golf leaders on a global scale. Through this scholarship, the Club will shape the future of our sport and enhance the lives of exceptional young people around the world.

The R&A Foundation matches our dedication to, understanding of and appreciation for the game. As the philanthropic arm through which The R&A fulfils its responsibilities to our game, it carries the unparalleled brand, established worldwide network and significant commercial connections that can maximise the Club's impact.

Together, through an extensive international affiliate network, we will find young people of outstanding promise around the world, and provide the tailored support they need to fulfil their potential. Scholars will benefit from exclusive connections and distinctive advantages that only The R&A and our Club can extend.

The cornerstone of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club Scholarship is our shared conviction that golf possesses the power to transform lives. Through this initiative, we will identify and empower individuals who wholeheartedly embrace the sport, embody our cherished values and have the potential to shape its future.

From our unique position at the forefront of the game, our Club has the potential - and the responsibility - to safeguard golf's future. Through this initiative, we can foster the distinguished community of young leaders who will achieve new heights for the sport that is so integral to our own lives and legacies.

Niall A. Farquharson

Chairman, General Committee

The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews

The Award

The Royal and Ancient Golf Club Scholarship is dedicated to supporting the next generation of golf leaders around the world.

By founding this award, the Club will develop individuals who will define golf's future. These Scholars will be leaders, contributing significantly to the sport and their communities throughout their lives, embodying the very essence of what our game represents and can achieve.

This award will add life-long value to these outstanding individuals and their communities by providing them with invaluable mentoring, bursaries for education and golf, and opportunities to develop the leadership skills and networks that they need to reach their potential on and off the course.

Through this initiative, Scholars will have the opportunity to build a strong relationship with The R&A and the Club and, in turn, shape the future of golf.

Our vision is to ensure that the sport thrives in its finest form for generations to come.



The Scholars

This award exists to ensure each Scholar, our Club and the sport itself achieves its full potential.

This programme will convene an international cohort of young individuals who demonstrate exceptional commitment and contribution to golf. However they engage with the sport, from wherever in the world, all Scholars will be the embodiment of golf's values.

By using The R&A's network, this initiative will find and support those of outstanding dedication and promise - players, coaches, caddies, agronomists, volunteers, club managers - forging a career in golf. This scholarship will ensure they reach their potential and safeguard the sport's future through leadership in business, research, innovation, community development and on the course.

Each individual within this cohort will receive investment tailored to their particular needs, potential and circumstances. Candidates from non-traditional golfing backgrounds will be encouraged to apply.

The Programme

The Royal and Ancient Golf Club Scholarship will provide each of these exceptional individuals with a bespoke package of support, composed of the following core elements:

- Education bursary
- Golf engagement bursary
- Mentorship from a Club member
- International peer-to-peer networking
- Week-long leadership conference in St Andrews

With the support of our members, The Royal and Ancient Golf Club Scholarship will realise Scholars' potential and maximise their contribution to golf's future.

Education Bursary

Scholars will receive financial support of up to £10,000 per annum (according to individual need) towards tuition fees, throughout the duration of their chosen course. This financial assistance may be used for various golf or non-golf related educational paths including traditional university tuition fees, coaching or agronomy qualifications or vocational courses. The exact amount of each education bursary awarded is determined based on both the cost of the qualification and its affordability to the individual Scholar.

For instance, a Scholar from a low-income background, demonstrating a strong commitment to greenkeeping, might be eligible to receive £10,000 per annum directly paid to their university for a three-year BSc programme in Turfgrass Science.

On the other hand, a Scholar with similar potential and aptitude, facing no financial barriers to further education, may receive a different level of support. In some cases, no financial assistance may be required, in which case no education bursary will be dispensed.



Golf Engagement Bursary

Scholars will be granted financial support of up to £5,000 per annum (according to individual need) to sustain their involvement in golf-related activities while pursuing their academic or vocational studies. The exact figure of each golf engagement bursary is determined based on both the individual Scholar's financial means and the support they require to further their participation in golf.

For instance, a Scholar from a lower-income background, displaying a commendable dedication to sports journalism, might receive subscription fees to a relevant professional membership body. Additionally, they may be eligible to receive £1,000 towards the purchase of filming equipment and editing software, empowering them to excel in their pursuit of golf coverage and media.

On the other hand, a Scholar experiencing no financial barriers to having the equipment and registration fees for amateur championships or travelling to play might receive £500 towards maintaining their golf clubs and kit.



Allan Robertson (centre with club) and Tom Morris (right) captured in an early example of photography digitised from a glass plate negative in The R&A World Golf Museum collection.

Club Mentorship

The formative influence of mentorship spans golf's long history, all the way back to Allan Robertson and his legendary protégé, Tom Morris. The Royal and Ancient Golf Club Scholarship allows our members to continue this tradition of counsel, guidance and partnership across generations.

Each Scholar will be allocated a mentor from the Club's membership through a holistic matching process. Guided by relevant interests and motivations, geographical proximity and off-course aspirations, these pairings will foster meaningful connections between Scholars and mentors. Club members will impart knowledge and expertise to Scholars, creating an environment where the values and virtues of golf are instilled as lifelong commitments.

This connection to Club members offers Scholars an unprecedented chance to engage with and learn from our community. By demonstrating first-hand the lessons of our game, Club members will meaningfully contribute to the personal and professional journeys of golf's next leaders, innovators and legends.

International Peer-to-Peer Network

Scholars will become members of an elite cohort of future leaders, learning from each other and growing together in service to their local communities and the world of golf. This programme provides opportunities for participation and collaboration in physical and virtual events throughout the year, fostering connections between participants and with the Club and The R&A.

This network opens doors to a world of opportunities, connecting Scholars from different corners of the globe. By sharing experiences and insights, Scholars will gain diverse perspectives and build friendships that transcend borders.

The Royal and Ancient Golf Club Scholarship is more than just a financial grant; it is a life-long international community united by a passion for golf and a drive to shape its future.



Leadership Conference in St Andrews

The Royal and Ancient Golf Club Scholarship culminates in an unforgettable visit to St Andrews, where each cohort of Scholars will embark on a week-long immersive experience in leadership development. The conference programme will include career talks, professional skills development, network building and friendly competitions.

Scholars will benefit from a curated itinerary, containing workshops and presentations by representatives from The R&A and significant golf industry partners.

The conference will also feature the vibrant golfing community of St Andrews, allowing Scholars to explore the game from the amateur to the elite level, and play rounds at the Home of Golf.



A Journey to the Home of Golf

The conference in St Andrews offers a unique opportunity for Scholars to build connections with Club members. Scholars will share their experiences in both formal and informal settings, and Club members will have the opportunity to hear about the transformative impact of this programme in presentations, over dinners and on the course.

The week in St Andrews marks the culmination of the scholarship journey, leaving Scholars with cherished memories, elevated capability and the strong peer network required to define the future of golf.

The connections forged during this visit will serve as a foundation for a lifetime of possibilities in the world of golf, enabling Scholars to thrive in their academic, vocational and golfing pursuits.

Scholarship Terms

Eligible applicants for The Royal and Ancient Golf Club Scholarship must demonstrate:

- ◇ Enrolment in a nationally-recognised academic or vocational qualification (generally lasting 2 to 4 years, which need not be golf-related).
- ◇ An exceptional commitment to and active engagement with golf.
- ◇ A passion for golf and demonstrable embodiment of its values.
- ◇ The qualities befitting future leaders of the sport.

All Scholars will be aged between 18 and 24 years on 1 September in the year of award.

Global applications will be sought via The R&A's network, with special encouragement for those from non-traditional golfing backgrounds.

Scholars will need to furnish evidence of academic progress, demonstrate continued involvement in golf and provide confirmation of mentorship engagement to release each year's funding. They will be required to report to Club members and The R&A Foundation on the impact of their award.

In cases where Scholars need to repeat studies or pause their education, fund availability will be at The R&A Foundation's discretion. Funding will cease in the event of failure, but ordinarily no repayment would be required, barring exceptional circumstances.

Selection Timeline

Each year, a new cohort of Scholars will begin their journey through the award.

January - March

Aspiring Scholars are invited to apply. Utilising The R&A's affiliate network, applications will be encouraged from potential Scholars who represent all forms of golf engagement around the world.

Club members will be invited to volunteer as mentors. The R&A Foundation will provide support and facilitation to this group of members who generously offer their time. Matches will be based on relevant interests and motivations, geographical proximity and off-course aspirations.

April

The R&A Foundation will engage referees to provide insight into character and potential of applicants, and contextual information to determine the appropriate level of support.

May

Interviews will be conducted by a panel of experts, including The R&A Foundation, Club members and representatives from local affiliates. Candidates will have the opportunity to demonstrate their passion and aspirations in golf and beyond. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of the selection process.

September

Successful Scholars will receive their funding and be introduced to their Club mentor as they begin their journey through the programme.

June - August (from 2025)

Club members have the opportunity to meet the new cohort of Scholars during their St Andrews visit for the annual Leadership Conference.



The Collaboration

The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews encourages Club members from all corners of the globe to embrace this collaboration with The R&A Foundation. As supporters of this initiative – both as mentors and as funders - members will determine its scale and success.

As contributors to the selection panel or mentors of successful Scholars, Club members will collaborate directly with each cohort. The diversity of backgrounds, locations and passions amongst Club membership will be reflected throughout the process to ensure global applications are encouraged, an international cohort is selected and Scholars benefit from all that makes the Club great. Mentors will be assigned a Scholar to whom their particular experience and guidance on and off course will be of most value.

Financial contribution to this award offers Club members the chance to strengthen their association and investment in the future of golf for their home countries. For every £50,000 generously donated by Club members (collectively or individually) from a single country, a scholarship could be awarded to a deserving Scholar from that nation. There will also be a central fund from which awards will be made to the best applicants no matter where they are in the world.

As the specific financial awards provided to each Scholar reflect their individual situation, it is not the case that each Scholar will receive £50,000 of support. The appropriate level of award in terms of education bursary and golf engagement bursary amounts will therefore vary.



To learn more about The Royal and Ancient Golf Club Scholarship
or to register your interest in further involvement, please contact:

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