



THE ROYAL AND ANCIENT GOLF CLUB SCHOLARSHIP

2025

SUPPORTED BY





“The most important shot in golf is the next one.”

Ben Hogan, winner of The Open in 1953

It is my pleasure to introduce the remarkable young players, coaches, agronomists, entrepreneurs and future leaders who form our inaugural cohort of Royal and Ancient Golf Club Scholars.

In barely a year, the generosity of our Club community has turned a vision for how we could best contribute to golf's thriving future into a fully-fledged and funded programme of bursaries, mentorship and support.

As we look forward to the second year of the scholarship, this first cohort represents our Members' continued commitment to shape the game's evolution while preserving its traditions and values. Whether from India, Canada, the USA or France, with ambitions to break down barriers or rebuild lives through golf, they are united by how much golf matters to them, their passion for the sport and their dedication to it.

I am particularly grateful to fellow members Lung-Nien Lee and Deirdre Walsh. Not only have they been immensely generous with their time and expertise throughout the selection and interview process, they have ensured, at every step, the programme is true to the guiding principles of the Club.

Golf matters to us all, and this exceptional class of 2024 Scholars share our dedication and belief in the positive future of our sport. I hope that they will inspire you to support the continued growth of this life-changing programme through 2025 and beyond.

Niall A. Farquharson

Chairman, General Committee

The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews

The Programme

The programme consists of five key elements of support:

1. A bursary of up to £10,000/year for educational costs
2. A bursary of up to £5,000/year for golf-related costs
3. Mentorship from a Club Member
4. Membership of a peer support network of Scholars
5. A leadership conference in St Andrews

Collectively, these five elements form a unique programme, which will enable Scholars to overcome any financial obstacles in their way, whilst providing the expert guidance, lifelong connections and experience of excellence to inspire and equip the next generation of golf leaders around the world.

Bursaries

In the spirit of providing support both on and off the course, Scholars receive an Education Bursary of up to £10,000 and a Golf Engagement Bursary of up to £5,000 per annum.

Whether used to cover traditional university fees, further their coaching and greenkeeping qualifications or for vocational courses, the purpose of the Education Bursary is always to gain the expertise required to excel in a Scholar's chosen field.

The Golf Engagement Bursary enables Scholars to pursue golf-related activities alongside their studies or training. For an aspiring sports journalist, it might fund cutting-edge equipment which helps them reach new audiences. For a trainee agronomist, it might facilitate hands-on experience which allows them to connect their study of climate change with the realities of golf course management.

Both bursaries are allocated according to individual need and designed to enable Scholars to pursue opportunities to develop their skills on and off the course.

Club Mentorship

Leadership requires not only imagination for the future but appreciation for the present and knowledge of the past. The relationships between Scholars and our Club mentors will create a direct connection across golf's generations.

Each Scholar will be allocated a mentor from the Club membership with a particular suitability to their chosen ambitions. This invaluable access to and guidance from our community is what makes this scholarship unique.

International Peer-to-Peer Network

The friendships forged on the course are one of the greatest qualities of our game. The Royal and Ancient Golf Club Scholarship provides more than financial support. It connects Scholars with a community of like-minded individuals to whom golf matters, and creates a global network that Scholars can draw on throughout their lives and careers.

Leadership Conference in St Andrews

Each cohort will gather in St Andrews for an unforgettable week-long conference at the home of golf. Scholars will gain leadership training, attend skills development workshops, access network-building opportunities, meet with Members and share their experiences, and enjoy some friendly competition on the course.



Class of 2024

Meet some of the remarkable Scholars in our inaugural cohort of golf's next generation of leaders:

Ivan Malovychko

 Ukraine

As a national golf champion from Kharkiv, Ukraine, Ivan is on a mission to use the power of golf to heal those impacted by the ongoing war. He is developing a golf coaching programme focussed on rehabilitating those physically and mentally affected by the conflict in Ukraine. His commitment to both his country and the sport drives him to pursue further education in Golf Management as he aims to rebuild lives through the sport that shaped his own.

"I aim to fully engage with the programme and Club members, using what I learn to show Ukrainians that golf is more than a sport – it's a way of life."



Hannah Isingwood

 Canada

Hannah is forging a path to champion both environmental sustainability and opportunities for women in greenkeeping. While studying Turfgrass Management at Olds College, her hands-on experience as a greenkeeper in Calgary, Alberta has fuelled her passion for making golf courses greener and more inclusive by inspiring more women to consider greenkeeping as a career. This scholarship will support her educational journey and advance her goal of becoming a leader in sustainable golf course management.

"True progress in golf comes from nurturing both our environment and our people."



Amanda Cunha

 USA

Amanda lost her eyesight as a child but never her passion for golf. Now a champion adaptive golfer, she is dedicated to raising the profile and opportunities for golfers with disabilities. Hailing from Oahu, Hawai'i, Amanda is now pursuing a degree in Communications at the University of Arizona to merge her love for golf with a career in broadcasting and become a role model and advocate for adaptive athletes.



With this scholarship, she will work to increase access to golf for individuals with disabilities, ensuring a more inclusive future for our sport.

"True leadership in golf means breaking barriers and opening doors for others to follow."

Atirath Deb Roy

 India

Atirath Deb, originally from New Delhi, India, is a passionate PGA Golf Management student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. While his experience spans roles as a professional caddy on the DP World Tour and Assistant Golf Professional, Atirath Deb's true mission is to bring greater international representation to the upper ranks of the sport's administration. He is dedicated to breaking barriers and promoting inclusivity, ensuring that golf is accessible and representative at all levels. Atirath Deb is committed to fostering a global vision for golf leadership that reflects the diversity of its players.

"Golf has taught me that neither success nor failure defines me. Instead, my story has been shaped by moments when I dared to see challenges ahead and charge ahead."



Ellie Smyth

 United Kingdom

Hailing from Northern Ireland, Ellie is learning how to make her mark on the golf industry as she studies Sport and Business Management at the University of Stirling. She hopes to promote live golf events by making them as exciting and engaging as possible to attract new and diverse audiences. With her dedication to excellent spectator experiences, Ellie envisions a career in the business of



golf, blending tradition with innovation to create dynamic, inclusive events that bring more people into the sport.

“I’m honestly so excited and grateful to have been offered the scholarship – it’s such a unique opportunity to get help with my studies and career in the golf world.”

Simon Richalot

 France

In his final year of studying Golf Course Turfgrass Management at Pennsylvania State University, Simon is an aspiring golf course manager with a keen interest in climate change and water use on courses. After gaining valuable international experience in the USA, Simon is committed to advancing innovation in sustainable practices in the golf industry upon his return to Europe.

“I believe that the future of golf lies in continuously evolving and improving the standards of quality within the industry.”



The Role of Members

Golf matters to our 2024 Scholars who have the ability to enhance almost every aspect of our sport. Alongside those already profiled, the cohort includes: James Harris, an aspiring Club Manager and CMAE student; Sarah Brannigan, a business and finance student at Georgetown University; Mason McKenna, an aspiring elite coach and PGA Golf Management student; and Timothy Manzello, a young golfing entrepreneur.

This scale and diversity of impact has been achieved through the generous support of Club members. Your contributions and mentorship make The Royal and Ancient Golf Club Scholarship possible, ensuring that through this programme the values and ethos of the Club are central to the scholarship experience.

The aim is for The Royal and Ancient Golf Club Scholarship's scale and impact to only grow in coming years. The quality of support each individual receives requires an average investment of £50,000 per Scholar and the unique guidance and insights that only The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews can provide.

This level of support depends on as many Club Members becoming involved as possible. There are numerous ways you can take part:

◆ Promote the programme

If you know a young person with passion for our sport and leadership potential, encourage them to apply.

◆ Donate to support future Scholars

All administration costs associated with the programme are covered by The R&A, so the entirety of every Club donation goes towards the Scholars' bursaries and experiences.

◆ Volunteer to be a mentor

Your experience and knowledge could empower a future ambassador for our sport.

◆ Spread the word

Every Member who gets involved directly influences the shape and success of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club Scholarship.

How to Support

Your contributions are essential to the success of this programme. Gifts of any size can collectively make a significant impact.

For more information on how to give, or to donate via debit or credit card, please scan the QR code below, which links directly to our secure online donation page for Member contributions to the scholarship.

If you prefer to donate by bank transfer, cheque or shares, or if you would like to discuss your donation in more detail, please contact The R&A Philanthropy team at foundation@randa.org. We also offer options for tax-efficient giving, according to your location.

Additionally, Members interested in volunteering as mentors for our Scholars are encouraged to get in touch. Your involvement is vital in nurturing the next generation of golf leaders.

Thank you for your generosity and support.



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



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

Niall A. Farquharson

Chairman, General Committee

The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews

Bruce Mitchell

Past Captain of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews

Chair of The R&A Advancement Committee

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