



THE ROYAL & ANCIENT GOLF CLUB SCHOLARSHIP

What is The Royal & Ancient Golf Club Scholarship?

The Royal & Ancient Golf Club Scholarship is an international programme designed to identify and develop the next generation of golf's leaders.

It is much more than just a financial award. It is a unique programme which provides young people with the funding to enable them to continue learning and fulfil their career ambitions, but also connect them to a community of people that share their passion about the future of the game.

This award provides five elements of support:

- 1. A bursary of up to £10,000 per year for educational costs***
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 golf-related activities alongside their studies or training. For an aspiring sports journalist, it might fund cutting-edge technology which will help them reach new audiences or for a trainee agronomist or club manager, it might facilitate hands-on work experience.
- 3. Mentorship from a Member of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews**
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 this incredible community is one of the greatest elements of this scholarship and what makes it unique.
- 4. Membership of a peer support network of Scholars, past and present**
The Royal and Ancient Golf Club Scholarship 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.
- 5. A Leadership 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, meet and share their experiences with Members from The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, and enjoy some friendly competition out on the course.

* a bursary of more than £10,000 per year for educational costs would be considered in cases of exceptional need.

Who is The Royal and Ancient Golf Club Scholarship aimed at?

We want to attract applications from young people who already have an active interest in and can demonstrate exceptional commitment and contributions to the game.

Types of candidates could be:

- Those who are considering or already studying for an industry specific education such as club management, greenkeeping or coaching
- Those who are considering a career in or already working in a golf related industry such as golf club management or and want to continue studying alongside their work
- Those embarking on a more traditional learning path such as university who want to remain active in and giving back to the sport

They may be an elite player themselves, or a more casual golfer who plays an active role in their club or community. They may be an aspiring golf journalist, or want to pursue a career in TV, marketing, events or hospitality in the golfing world. They may have a medical background, or be involved in sustainability efforts and want to pursue research specific to golf. We welcome applications from individuals who may have overcome adversity showing determination and aptitude, already demonstrating leadership qualities that they want to develop and dedicate to the game.

What is the scholarship eligibility criteria?

Applicants for the 2025 Royal and Ancient Golf Club Scholarship must:

- Be aged between 18 and 29 on 1st September 2025
- 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 Leadership Conference in St Andrews from Tuesday 26th- Sunday 31st August 2025

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.

When will applications be opened and closed?

Scholarship applications for the 2025 programme will open on **Thursday 9th January 2025** and close on **Monday 24th February 2025**. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

How can candidates apply?

Students will apply online through The R&A's website www.randa.org.

What will the application process consist of?

The application process consists of three stages:

Stage 1 – January-February 2025

Complete the Royal and Ancient Golf Club Scholarship application form online. If an applicant is unable to complete an online application, please contact RAClubScholarship@randa.org or telephone +44 1334 460000.

Candidates will be asked to complete the online form, which consists of several sections asking for their:

- Personal statement
- 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

Stage 2 – March-April 2025

If an applicant is successful in progressing to Stage 2, they will be asked to submit a short video clip, introducing themselves and explaining what golf means to them.

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

Stage 3 – May 2025

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

Successful scholars will be notified by Friday 30th May 2025 if they have been selected for the 2025 Royal and Ancient Golf Club Scholarship and the value of their award confirmed by Friday 13th June.

How is it determined how much funding each scholar receives?

Funding is according to individual need and designed to enable Scholars to pursue opportunities to develop their skills on and off the course.

Successful applicants selected to receive the scholarship will be asked to provide a full breakdown of expenditure aligned to their request for funding. A follow up meeting will then be held with each potential scholar to ensure this information is correct. In addition, the selection panel will also have the statements from the applicants' referees as part of stage 2 of the application process to provide additional background information on the appropriate scholarship recipient funding level.

Scholarships will be awarded for the duration of the Scholar's proposed course of study. Therefore a multi-year commitment will be made to each Scholar.

How does the mentoring programme work?

Mentorship from a member of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, and the guidance and support that this brings is what makes The Royal and Ancient Golf Club Scholarship unique.

The Scholarship provides a mentoring experience for that is relationship based and that has flexibility that suits both the Mentor and the Scholar. The frequency and length of meetings or phone calls, is very much an arrangement agreed and committed to by the Scholar and Mentor.

It is very possible, given the international nature of the programme that Scholars could be matched with a Mentor based in a different country. Scholars should therefore expect that the majority of the mentoring contact they will have with their Mentor will be online via Teams video calls or WhatsApp messaging.

Where possible we would of course encourage Scholars and Mentors meeting in person but appreciate that may not be easily possible.

How are Scholars and Mentors matched?

We ask all Club mentor volunteers to complete a one page bio, and these are then shared with each Scholar for them to then nominate their top 3 choices. We then endeavour to match each Scholar with a Mentor of their choice, but also one that is a good holistic match for them.

Scholars are then informed who they have been matched with and contact information for their Mentor shared. Mentors will be told who they have been matched with shortly afterwards. We then send an email to both Scholar and Mentor introducing them to each other, thereafter the responsibility for first contact and follow up is the Scholar's.

What is the Leadership Conference and are Scholars expected to attend?

The Leadership Conference is a 5 day programme that all Royal and Ancient Golf Club Scholars, and their Mentors, are invited to attend once during their time in the Scholarship programme.

The conference will include:

- Leadership and careers workshops
- A drinks reception with Club members, including a presentation in which the group will share their experiences as Royal & Ancient Golf Club Scholars
- Insight into the history of golf through a curated tour of The World Golf Museum
- Opportunity to gain insight and career talks from across The R&A and from closely associated golf organisations, as appropriate (such as IMG, St Andrews Links Trust, Championship Patrons/Partners)
- Networking time within the peer group
- Some friendly competition out on the course with Mentors
- Time spent within the wider golfing community of St Andrews (caddies, greenkeepers, travel tour operators)
- Leadership and careers seminars

We will be holding the first St Andrews Leadership Conference from **Tuesday 26th - Sunday 31st August 2025** and would ask that if you apply for The Royal and Ancient Golf Club Scholarship, that you are able to attend on these dates. All travel and accommodation costs associated with attending the Leadership Conference are covered by the Scholarship fund.