

The Royal and Ancient Golf Club Scholarship Guidelines for Applicants

1. Mission Statement

'To support the next generation of golf leaders around the world and develop individuals who will define golf's future'.

The Royal and Ancient Golf Club Scholarship 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. 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.

2. Award Details

Education Bursary:

- A maximum of £10,000 per annum will be awarded to scholars to go towards tuition fees, throughout the duration of their chosen course (for a maximum of four years).
- 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 will be determined based on both the cost of the qualification and its affordability to the individual scholar.
- Funding will be dispensed directly to the scholar's education provider.
- If no financial assistance is required, no education bursary will be dispensed.

Golf Engagement Bursary:

- A maximum of £5,000 will be awarded to scholars per annum to sustain their involvement in golf-related activities while pursuing their academic or vocational studies (for a maximum of four years).
- The exact amount 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.

Club Mentorship:

- 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 the Club's community.
- By demonstrating first-hand the lessons of the game, Club Members will contribute meaningfully 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 exceptional 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.

Leadership Conference in St Andrews:

The Royal and Ancient Golf Club Scholarship includes an unforgettable visit to St Andrews, where each cohort of Scholars will embark on a week-long immersive experience in leadership development to include:

- Career talks, professional skills development, network building and friendly competitions.
- Workshops and presentations by representatives from The R&A and significant golf industry partners.
- Access to 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.
- The opportunity for scholars to build connections with Club members.
- The opportunity for scholars to share their experiences in both formal and informal settings.
- The opportunity for Club members to hear about the transformative impact of this programme in presentations, over dinners and on the course.

3. Eligibility Criteria

Each applicant for The Royal and Ancient Golf Club Scholarship must:

- 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 aged between 18 and 29 years on 1 September in the year of award.
- Be committed to attending the Leadership Conference on one occasion.

4. Application Process

- Scholarship Applications will open on the 14 January and close on the 24 February 2025.
- Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.
- All enquiries regarding applications should be sent to RAClubScholarship@randa.org

5. Application Guidelines

The application process will consist of three stages.

Stage 1

- Complete the online application form at www.randa.org. If an applicant is unable to complete an online application contact RAClubScholarship@randa.org or telephone +44 1334 460 000. The application form consists of several sections including:
 - Personal details
 - Education/qualifications

- Employment/volunteering/other activities and hobbies
 - Awards/achievements
 - Links to golf/demonstration of values of golf
 - Level of request for funding – education and golf
 - Future career ambitions
 - Contact details of two Referees who can advocate for the applicant. Referees should exclude family members, friends or members of The Royal And Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews. **Referees will only be contacted if the applicant is invited to Stage 2.**
- Submit a CV to HollySitch@randa.org
 - Submit a personal statement (no more than 250 words) outlining why a scholarship should be awarded and how this award will support in achieving their ambitions. To HollySitch@randa.org

Stage 2

If an applicant is successful in progressing to Stage 2 they will be asked to:

- Submit a short 45-60 seconds long video clip to explain 'why golf matters to me'.
- Referees will be contacted and asked to submit their advocacy statement, by responding to a short number of questions.

Stage 3

Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed via Microsoft Teams/Zoom by a selection panel. Candidates will have the opportunity to demonstrate their passion and aspirations in golf and beyond.

6. Terms & Conditions

- The tenure of the scholarship is for a maximum of four years, depending on the length of the scholar's chosen course of study.
- Scholars will commit to regularly engaging in communication with The R&A Executive Team managing the programme and to provide six monthly update reports.
- Education and Golf Engagement bursary funding will be released on an annual basis on condition that scholars:
 - Provide evidence of academic progress
 - Demonstrate continued involvement in golf
 - Engage with mentoring
- 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 the scholar withdraws from the programme/fails to complete their studies, but ordinarily no repayment would be required, barring exceptional circumstances.
- Funding will cease if there is any misappropriation of funds.
- Scholars will recognise and embrace their ambassadorial responsibility and continue to uphold the values of golf as a role model for the programme.