

# Young Competitors

## Scholarships & Opportunity Guide



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## **MSA Academy**

The MSA Academy is a talent development pathway that equips the UK's most promising young drivers with the knowledge, skills and attitude needed to maximise their performance.

It is overseen by MSA Performance Director and 2001 World Rally Champion co-driver Robert Reid. The MSA Academy uses qualified coaches and support personnel to provide free and informed guidance to help young drivers unlock their full potential as athletes.

There are 4 main programmes that could be of relevance and interest to young Scottish competitors.

### **Performance Master Classes**

The Performance Master Classes represent the first step along the MSA Academy pathway. They are bespoke workshops designed to introduce junior competitors to the concepts of sports science and human performance.

Qualified MSA coaches deliver the workshops free of charge at a range of events across the country throughout the season. Workshops include subjects such as; driving techniques, fitness and nutrition, sports psychology and sponsorship skill amongst others.

### **Squad**

The MSA Academy's Squad is a group of around 25 drivers aged 14-24 who have demonstrated potential excellence in motor sport.

The programme is overseen by an MSA Academy Performance Manager and delivered by qualified MSA Coaches. The syllabus caters for the needs of the individual, so each driver's support programme is bespoke to their individual needs and requirements.

The squad is hand-picked by the MSA each. However, one of the best ways of getting on the MSA's radar for selection is by attending Performance Master Classes.

### **AASE**

AASE is a 3 year motor sport course at Loughborough College. The programme is essentially a sports science course focusing on all of the human performance elements that combine to create highly skilled and successful drivers.

AASE athletes work closely with coaches, nutritionists and psychologists, and receive performance-based sessions in the technical and tactical elements of driving, coaching, lifestyle, career management, health and safety, communications and the media. This programme provides athletes with the opportunity to develop their skills and knowledge while working towards a fully accredited qualification, making competing in motor sport a responsible and legitimate career choice.

### **MSA Team UK**

Team UK is a national squad of potentially elite drivers who are hand-picked to receive a bespoke one-on-one performance management programme as they progress towards the sport's top levels. It is the pinnacle of the MSA Academy talent development pathway. Generally the Team UK squad will be picked from athletes who are already involved in either the AASE or Academy squad.

For further Information on the MSA Academy visit:

<https://www.msauk.org/Development/MSA-Academy/MSA-Academy>

## Racing Steps Foundation

The Racing Steps Foundation is a private, not-for-profit fund that funds and supports the development programmes for young British racing drivers and motorcycle racers.

The backing is provided for those with the exceptional talent and determination needed to climb to the top of the international motorsports ladder but who lack the substantial funds and all-important mentoring and management needed to get there. Competitors are scouted and hand-picked for this support.

For more info visit: <http://racingsteps.co.uk/home-1>

## BRDC

The British Racing Drivers club currently runs two schemes to support the talented British racing drivers: the SuperStars and Rising Stars.

### Rising Stars

Rising stars aged 24 and under, are scouted from trackside. They are in effect 'Junior Members' of the Club, all taking their motor racing very seriously and all aiming for a professional career within the sport.

### Super stars

The BRDC Superstars scheme only selects the very brightest prospects, competition for places is tough and keenly fought. The successful candidates receive direct assistance with all aspects of professional motor sport. This will include help with physical and mental training, career guidance, team building skills, sponsorship advice, media and sales training, PR and marketing, motor sport seminars and workshops with BRDC Members.

For more info visit: <http://www.brdc.co.uk/>

## SMRC Rising Stars

The Scottish Motor Racing Club selects 8 up and coming drivers competing in one of the SMRC Championships each year to be on their Rising Stars programme.

The benefits vary year on year but in 2014 the Rising stars benefited from a tour of the McLaren factory and a bespoke MSA Performance Master Class.

For more info visit: <http://www.scottishmotorracingclub.co.uk/home.html>

## Ginetta Junior Scholarship

The Ginetta Junior Championship is the highest profile junior race series in the UK. In recent years, Ginetta have run a scholarship annually which provides one successful applicant with a fully funded season in the Ginetta Junior Championship (worth in the region of £50,000).

To be eligible, entrants' must be aged between 14 and 16. They also must not have previously competed in a circuit race, however, drivers with karting experience are actively encourage.

For more info visit: [http://ginetta.com/scholarship\\_2016](http://ginetta.com/scholarship_2016)

## RSAC Talent Scholarship

RSAC Motorsport run a scholarship each year that supports one young driver for the season with £100 off entries to every Ecosse Challenge round entered and a free entry to the RSAC Scottish Rally and Media Stage.

You can apply if you are:

- Under 23 years old
- in your first or second year of stage rallying
- competing in the Ecosse Challenge

For more info visit: <http://rsacmotorsport.co.uk/new-talent-scholarship/#sthash.9VAs5hjX.dpuf>

## John Easson Award

The John Easson Award is run annually by the 2300 club (Lancashire). The award is named after rally driver John Easson who lost his life in an air accident in 1999. It provides financial support to a young British competitor to assist in their rally career.

The Award is free to enter and open to all drivers / co drivers who fit the following criteria:

- Age under 25 on November 30th 2014, Resident in the British Isles, including Northern Ireland
- Holders of a MSA competition Licences up to National A
- Entries close on the 30th November 2014

For more info visit: <http://www.2300club.org/john-easson-award/>

## The Next Big Step Award

The Next Big Step Award was set up in 2012 to support the progression of talented young drivers from junior rallying into Forrest stage rallying. It supports successful applicants with Entry Fees, tyres and with tuition from the Higgins Rally School.

For more info visit: <http://www.thenextbigstep.co.uk/home/4583598560>

## Winning Students

Winning Students is Scotland's sports scholarship programme supporting students competing in high performance sport. Scholarships are available to full-time and part-time students at various Scottish colleges or universities. It is open to both able bodied and disability athletes.

The scholarships are awarded annually and can value up to £5,500 per annum, providing tailored support and academic flexibility. Scholarship funding can be spent on a number of support services from student accommodation to competition fees and sports equipment.

### Selection Criteria:

- You must have a British passport and be able to represent either Great Britain or Scotland
- You must be studying or set to study at a college or university in the Winning Students network
- You should be aged 16 to 28 for able-bodied athletes or aged 16 to 35 for disability athletes though scholarship upper age limits are flexible
- You should have attained OR demonstrated the capacity to attain the following in your sport:
  - Top 25 in the world championships
  - Top 15 in the European Championships

For more info visit: <http://www.winningstudents-scotland.ac.uk/>