



Royal Academy
of Engineering

MISSION 44



MSc Motorsport Scholarships Supporting motorsport enthusiasts

Applicant guidance notes
Deadline: 4pm 6 May 2026

Overview

The MSc Motorsport Scholarship Programme, supported by Mission 44, is designed to help talented UK-based students from underrepresented backgrounds access postgraduate study and careers in motorsport and engineering.

The scholarship supports students undertaking an MSc in Motorsport or a closely related subject at a UK university in the 2026/27 academic year, while also providing tailored career development, mentoring, and industry access.

Addressing underrepresentation in motorsport through funded study, mentoring, and industry access.



Academy support

Primary

- **Scholarship funding** - Worth up to £43,000, the scholarship will cover full tuition fees and living costs for an eligible motorsport (or related) MSc course. This means the total scholarship value will vary by awardee, depending on the course and university chosen, and may be less than this figure.
- **Tailored career support** – A structured programme designed to help awardees access the motorsport industry and build career readiness, in partnership with Driven By Us.
- **Expert mentoring** – Six months of mentoring to develop the skills and knowledge needed for roles or placements in Formula 1 and the wider motorsport and engineering sectors, in partnership with AFBE-UK.
- **Exclusive networking events** – Invitations to themed events at the Royal Academy of Engineering, connecting awardees with motorsport professionals and Academy Fellows.
- **Community support** – Collaborate, share, and communicate with fellow awardees and programme supporters through dedicated forums.

As a result of completing the programme, awardees will have:

- **Increased knowledge** of the motorsport sector, including skills requirements, career opportunities and pathways available.
- **Improved skills** in job applications and selection processes, such as interviews and assessment centres. Increased professional networks within Motorsports and engineering
- **Improved personal confidence** and resilience
- **A lifelong professional network**, with peers, mentors, and industry contacts.
- **Access to resources** and activities, designed to enhance engineering career prospects.



Eligibility criteria

Applicants to the programme must be:

- Black or mixed Black [1] **and/or**
- A Woman [2] **and/or**
- From a less advantaged socio-economic background. This means that you meet at least one of the below statements:
 - You are from a low-income household [3] **and/or**
 - You were eligible for free school meals whilst at secondary school **and/or**
 - Your permanent residence is in an area of high deprivation **and/or**
 - You are the first in your family to attend university

The programme may, before making any award, request reasonable evidence or conduct verification checks, and that providing inadequate, false or misleading information may result in your application being withdrawn.

You must also

- Be UK-domiciled (i.e. living in the UK on a permanent basis).
- Hold (or be completing) an undergraduate degree in engineering, a STEM subject, or a related field, as per the entry requirements for your chosen Master's course.
- If a graduate, you must have graduated from an undergraduate degree within the last five years.
- Be applying, or have applied, to one of the eligible Master's degree courses from the published list, to start in the 2026/27 academic year.
- Not already hold a Master's degree (or higher qualification) in a related subject.

Providing evidence of low-income background:

If you are from a low-income household and meet the threshold set for the programme, you will be asked to provide evidence of this when applying. We would expect this evidence to be a recent student finance letter showing the amount of your maintenance loan. If you are not in receipt of a maintenance loan or are not able to provide this as evidence (if, for example, you graduated within the last five years), you will be required to sign and upload a self-declaration statement to this section.

Self-Declaration:

I [insert full name] declare that I am from a low-income household.

I am submitting this declaration in support of my application for the above programme and understand it will be used solely for the purpose of assessing my eligibility.

I declare that my household income is below the income threshold used by the programme of £40,000.

I understand that the programme may, both before making any award and during the award, request reasonable evidence or conduct verification checks, and that providing inadequate, false or misleading information may result in my application, and any subsequent award being withdrawn or terminated, and steps taken to recover grant amounts already paid as per the Royal Academy of Engineering's Bursaries and Scholarships Terms and Conditions.

Signed_____

Date:_____

[1] Black people including those with any mixed ethnicity with Black ethnic background(s).

[2] Women includes (a) anyone who was assigned female at birth, and (b) trans women.

[3] Your household income is up to £40,000. Rounded up, this is the highest of the published median gross annual salary figures for full-time employees across all devolved nations in 2025 (England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland)

Eligible course list



The eligible course list was created in consultation with the motorsport sector, with consideration given to the technical engineering content within the courses and their relevance to the motorsport sector.

It only contains courses listed on the UCAS website, and not all universities list their courses on this platform. Therefore, if there is a specific course that you have applied to (or intend to apply to) that isn't listed, please contact us via highereducation@raeng.org.uk before starting your application, with full details of the course. We will review the course for its content and relevance, and if we deem it to be relevant, we will add it to the list, allowing you and others to apply to the scholarship. We will respond to any enquiries as soon as possible, and certainly within 10 working days

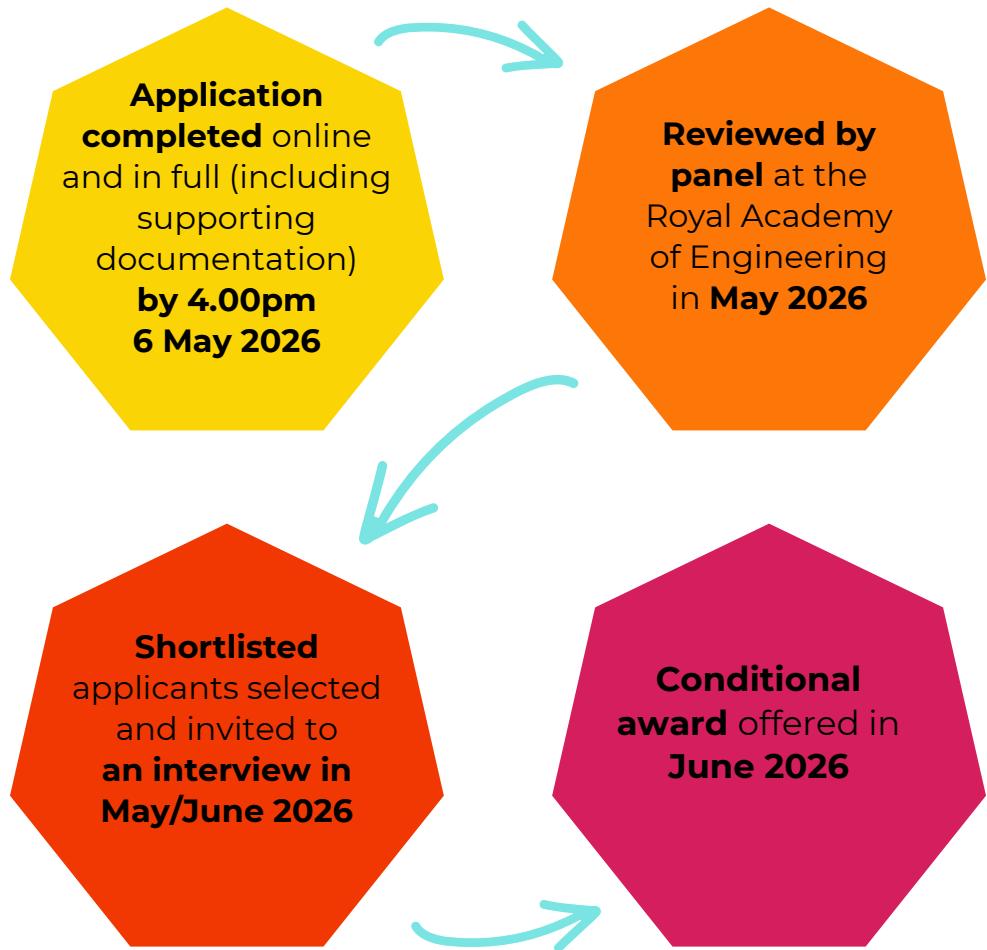
When deciding which eligible course to apply for, applicants may wish to consider a range of factors, including course content, teaching and assessment methods, learning environment, available academic and pastoral support, and practical considerations such as location and costs.

Some higher education institutions also participate in recognised sector-wide equality and inclusion frameworks, such as the [Athena Swan Charter](#) or the [Race Equality Charter](#). The eligible course list provides publicly available information about university participation in these frameworks, highlighting whether or not the university is an award holder or a signatory/member of either charter (at the time of publication). Further information on these frameworks can be found by clicking on the links and exploring the relevant websites. Applicants may also consider looking at the equality, diversity, and inclusion pages of university websites.

Institutional participation in these frameworks does not affect course eligibility or scholarship selection decisions.

Please check the [eligible course list which you can download from our 'how to apply' webpage](#), to see which Master's degrees you can undertake as part of this scholarship.

Application process



How to apply

You must apply for the scheme yourself – you cannot ask anyone to apply on your behalf.

The application form has three sections and should take two to three hours to complete fully.

You can save your progress at any time and come back to it later. All applications must be submitted via the Academy's Grant Management System (GMS), available here:

<https://grants.raeng.org.uk>

If you are not already registered, you must first register on the system and provide some basic details to create a profile. When you first register, you will need to wait around 10 minutes before you can access the application form for the first time.

After logging in to the GMS via the Academy website, click the RAErg Portal on the top left, and select MSc Motorsport Scholarships which will bring up the application instructions.

A summary of the guidance notes is embedded within the system itself, but the notes in this document are more detailed so we recommend you keep this document to hand when completing the form.

The main purpose of the application form is to identify whether you meet the eligibility criteria and the aims and objectives of the scheme.

You will have the option to download a PDF of your application after submission, which may be useful for future reference if you are invited to interview.



All applications must be submitted via the Academy's Grant Management System (GMS), available here: **<https://grants.raeng.org.uk>**

Information about Grants

Grant Agreement

If you are successful, your funding will be awarded under the [Scholarships and Bursaries Terms and Conditions](#) found on the Academy's website. This agreement has been developed to ensure funding aligns with our Academy values, is used for the purposes for which it was awarded, and is managed in compliance with our own funders' agreements, UK legislation and funding best practice.

National Security

The Academy is the UK's National Academy for engineering and technology and seeks to increase the potential positive benefit that innovations can have for society, whilst reducing the risks of harm. Hence, in all our activities, we seek to minimise the risk that technology developed as part of work that we support could be misused by a foreign state to build a capacity to target UK interests in a hostile fashion or to control or repress their population. There is a risk that for some grant activities, failure to protect IP and a lack of due diligence into collaborators could result in sensitive technology being transferred to and misused by a hostile or repressive foreign state. As such all applicants should ensure they are familiar with the [Academy's Policy on National Security-Related Risks](#).

Use of generative AI tools in funding applications and assessment

The Academy has aligned with other UK funders around the use of generative AI tools in funding applications through the [Research Funders Policy Group joint statement](#). Regarding the use of AI, applicants are fully responsible for all the content presented in their grant applications. The grant process does not penalise the use of generative AI tools, but it is imperative to ensure that the application reflects the applicant's own voice and ideas. It is not acceptable to solely rely on generative AI tools to write the entire grant application from start to finish. While these tools may be used to assist in various aspects, the application must primarily represent the applicant's own work. Applicants must provide clear acknowledgement if they have used generative AI tools in the process of writing their grant applications. This includes disclosing the name of the tool used and describing how it was utilised. The following style should be employed for referencing:

I acknowledge the use of [insert AI system(s), version number and link] to generate materials for background research, styling, proofreading, etc.

Or,

I acknowledge the use of [insert AI system(s), version number and link] to generate materials that were included within my final assessment in modified form.

Application questions

Section 1 – Applicant details

Q. UK Resident

Before progressing any further please confirm by ticking the box below that you are considered a UK student, eligible for Home fee status, and have the right to live and work in the UK.

To be eligible for an award you will need to normally reside in the UK (not just for your course) and be eligible to pay the equivalent of UK home fees (not international fees). If you do not meet this criteria please do not progress any further with this application. We reserve the right to ask you for proof that you meet this criteria at a later date.

Q. Eligibility Criteria

Please select all statements that apply to you (you must tick at least one to be eligible for the programme):

- I am black or mixed-Black [1]
- I am a Woman [2]
- I come from a less advantaged socio-economic background

If you ticked the box to say you are from a less advantaged socio-economic background, please tick all of the below statements which apply to you. You must tick at least one to be eligible.

- I am from a low-income household [3]
- I was eligible for free school meals whilst at secondary school
- My permanent residence is in an area of high deprivation
- I am the first in my family to attend university

[1] Black people including those with any mixed ethnicity with Black ethnic background(s).

[2] Women includes (a) anyone who was assigned female at birth, and (b) trans women.

[3] Your household income is up to £40,000. Rounded up, this is the highest of the published median gross annual salary figures for full-time employees across all devolved nations in 2025 (England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland)

Q. Evidence of low income household

If you have indicated that you are from a low-income household and meet the programme's income threshold (household income of up to £40,000), please upload evidence to support this.

Option 1: Upload a recent Student Finance letter showing the amount of your maintenance loan.

If you do not receive a maintenance loan, or are unable to provide this evidence (for example, if you graduated within the last five years), you must instead complete Option 2.

Option 2: Complete a self-declaration statement confirming your household income is below the threshold of £40,000. Please copy the wording provided below into a separate Word document, sign it, and upload it to this section.

Self-declaration of low-income household

I [insert full name] declare that I am from a low-income household.

I am submitting this declaration in support of my application for the above programme and understand it will be used solely for the purpose of assessing my eligibility.

I declare that my household income is below the income threshold used by the programme of £40,000

I understand that the programme may, both before making any award and during the award, request reasonable evidence or conduct verification checks, and that providing inadequate, false or misleading information may result in my application, and any subsequent award being withdrawn or terminated, and steps taken to recover grant amounts already paid as per the Royal Academy of Engineering's Bursaries and Scholarships Terms and Conditions.

Signed _____

Date: _____

Q. Permanent residence in area of high deprivation

If you ticked the box declaring your permanent residence is in an area of high deprivation, please supply your full home address, including postcode for analysis.

Q. Institution

Please enter the name of the higher education institution you currently attend, or previously attended.

Q. Course Details

Please enter the name and type of course you are currently studying, or that you graduated from in the last five years. Your course must be being completed at a UK Higher Education institution.

Q. Course Completion Date

Please enter the year and month that your current degree will finish, or the year and month you graduated.

Q. Masters' Degree

Please confirm by ticking the box below that you do not already hold a Master's degree (or higher qualification) in a related subject.

Q. Courses applied to

Please list the MSc course(s) you have applied to study at, for the 2026/27 academic year.

If you have not yet applied, then please write out the courses and institutions which you intend to apply to. Important note: Please refer to the eligible course list on our website and write out course names in the following format, (including the name of the institution, followed by the course). e.g. Cranfield University, MSc in Advanced Motorsport Engineering.

Q. Please upload proof of application* to an eligible course(s) and/or proof of confirmation of a place at an eligible course.

*If you have not yet applied to an eligible course, you can still apply for this award, however, you will be expected to provide proof of application prior to interview.



Application questions

Section 2 – Case for support

This section will help the review panel who judge your application to understand more about you as a person, your passion and interest for motorsport and engineering, and how you want to make a difference to the world around you.

Each question has a short word count of 250, so consider each question carefully, so that you can make the most of your responses. You may consider drafting answers to your questions on a separate document, before submitting your answer on the system.

Q1 – Why should you be awarded a scholarship?

This is your chance to tell us a bit about yourself, your goals and ambitions, and how this scholarship will help you to achieve them. What sets you apart from others who might apply? We are also interested to hear about your interest in the motorsport sector, and/or what inspires you about engineering.*250-word limit*

Q2 – Describe a project, situation, or piece of work, involving engineering in any form, that excites you. Why does it excite you, and how has it left a positive impression of what being an engineer could mean for you?

Engineering is everywhere. It underpins our daily lives and helps ensure our readiness for the future. We are curious to hear from you about an engineering project or piece of work that excites you. What is so exciting about it?*250-word limit*



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Q3 – This programme is designed to improve diversity across the motorsport industry. What else, in your opinion, could the sector do to improve diversity and inclusion?

We'd love to hear your ideas! How can we further improve diversity and inclusion in our sport? Are there approaches, initiatives, or lessons from other sectors or sports that could inspire positive change? *250-word limit*

Q4 – Video message

Please prepare a video message, using a smart phone or equivalent, which responds to the following three questions:

1. What influenced or inspired you to become an engineer?
2. What excites you about the prospect of joining the motorsport sector?
3. Why should you be selected for this award?

Your video must not exceed 4 minutes, there must be no limitations on the length of time the content is available to be viewed, and it must not be password protected.

Application questions

Section 3 – References and declaration

Please include a personal reference and state clearly in what capacity the person knows you.

Important: your personal referee should be either an academic staff member from your course (course tutor etc) or if you are currently employed, then

it can be someone you currently report to in your role, or someone who knows you in a professional capacity. The reference must be submitted on headed paper.

The reference should be no more than 1 page of A4, and should include:

- How the referee knows you and why the referee supports your application to this award
- Anything relating to your character and/or competency, that the referee feels is relevant for your application

Your referee should not be a family member or personal friend.

Please upload document(s) of confirmation from your Higher Education Institution.

The document(s) should confirm the following:

For undergraduates:

Proof of satisfactory academic standing e.g. your results transcript

Proof of current enrolment on an undergraduate degree in engineering, a STEM subject, or a related field, as per the entry requirements for your chosen Master's course, at a UK higher education institution

For graduates:

Your degree certificate, from a UK higher education institution, confirming your final degree classification.

Your confirmation documents must be on letter-headed paper from your higher education institution and must be submitted as a PDF. You can contact either a course lead, tutor, or member of student services to secure this letter.

It is worth asking for / locating this early in the application process as the deadline will not be extended for missing documentation.

The Royal Academy of Engineering is harnessing the power of engineering to build a sustainable society and an inclusive economy that works for everyone.

In collaboration with our Fellows and partners, we're growing talent and developing skills for the future, driving innovation and building global partnerships, and influencing policy and engaging the public.

Together we're working to tackle the greatest challenges of our age.

What we do

Talent & diversity

We're growing talent by training, supporting, mentoring and funding the most talented and creative researchers, innovators and leaders from across the engineering profession.

We're developing skills for the future by identifying the challenges of an ever-changing world and developing the skills and approaches we need to build a resilient and diverse engineering profession.

Innovation

We're driving innovation by investing in some of the country's most creative and exciting engineering ideas and businesses.

We're building global partnerships that bring the world's best engineers from industry, entrepreneurship and academia together to collaborate on creative innovations that address the greatest global challenges of our age.

Policy & engagement

We're influencing policy through the National Engineering Policy Centre – providing independent expert support to policymakers on issues of importance.

We're engaging the public by opening their eyes to the wonders of engineering and inspiring young people to become the next generation of engineers.

