

PGA TRAINEE PROGRAM

Testimonials

"I went through the Trainee Program almost 20 years ago and it gave me the foundations to becoming a successful professional golfer. I learned all the skills necessary to become a valuable member of the PGA of Australia. If I hadn't taken the Trainee path I wouldn't be where I am today."

Nick O'Hern, Tour Professional

"As a second generation PGA member I believe the PGA Trainee system offers an opportunity to get involved with the development of the game itself. The Traineeship offers a very rewarding career helping golfers of all standards. The sky's the limit to what can be achieved as a PGA Member."

Mark Victorsen, Head Professional, Pacific Golf Club.

"A PGA Traineeship provides lifelong career that can prepare you for many different roles. I have seen great golfers by-pass the Traineeship as they strive to be a touring professional only to fall short and have no other avenues of a career in relation to the golfing industry."

The Traineeship is important as it give you life skills, accounting, time management, and operational qualifications that you can use in any country in the world. I have over 20 friends who work in the golf industry, in many different roles and they believe that they were given their roles over other applicants because they had completed an Australian PGA Traineeship, which is held in the highest regard through the golfing world."

David Northey, Head Professional, Castle Hill Country Club.

"The Traineeship is the foundation for your future in golf. It can be challenging, requires commitment, focus and 100% of your effort on and off the course. Surround yourself with a good team and strive to be your best. I enjoy going to work every day and I am very thankful for the opportunities that the Traineeship has provided."

Dylan Taylor, AAA Rated PGA Member

"The PGA Traineeship was some of the best years of my life. I met people that 20 years later I am still friends with. The opportunity to join the PGA membership is something I have never regretted. As with most things, you will get out of the PGA Traineeship what you put in it. I strongly recommend completing your PGA Traineeship and doing something you love for a living."

Glenn Whittle, Director – Whittle Golf



"As a life time career PGA Member and having been involved in many aspects of the golf industry I can only endorse undertaking a Traineeship as a Development Officer for a State or National body to any potential Trainees. It offers the Trainee a look into a different side of the industry, especially in areas such as State Coaching Programs from beginners to elite players, managing and working within budgets, training of community coaches, event and tournament management, rules and handicapping. It would definitely suit a person with a career in coaching or management in mind."

Allan Telford, Golf SA Development Coach.

"I have worked within the golf industry for over 20 years in varying types of positions. Completing a PGA Traineeship provided me with a sound knowledge and skills base for the many different aspects of the industry. Most importantly it allowed me to become a PGA Member. PGA membership has opened many of the doors to these positions. I strongly recommended anybody that is contemplating a career in the golf industry to complete a Traineeship, as being an Australian PGA Member will certainly put you ahead of the pack when looking to establish your career."

Khan Pullen, Manager High Performance - Golf NSW

Scholarships & Awards

Through the Titleist and FootJoy brands, annual scholarships are available to Trainees in the following categories:

Titleist FootJoy Excellence in Education Award

These scholarships are offered to the three (3) leading Trainees from each year level in recognition of their cumulative grades in academic subject areas. Trainees are offered financial contributions towards their annual program fees.

Titleist FootJoy Performance Rankings

These awards provide recognition to those Trainees who excel in playing performance. The top 50 Trainees in the country are eligible for these awards with substantial product agreements available to those ranked 1-10 and 11-50.



The Mark of a Player

Admission Requirements and Applications

To be eligible for the PGA Trainee Program applicants must:

- Be at least eighteen (18) years of age as at January 1 of the year they commence in the program
- Be an Australian citizen or permanent resident with the ability to work unrestricted for the duration of the program
- Have attained a minimum of Year 12 or equivalent and provide certified copies of all academic transcripts
- Have a handicap (exact) at the time of entry of three (3) or better for males and six (6) or better for females
- Attend an interview with representatives of the Division or Academy and provide evidence in support of their application. Applicants may need to undertake an aptitude test as part of their admission requirements.



General Enquiries

Telephone: (03) 8320 1911

Email: academy@pga.org.au

Web: www.pga.org.au/education-training



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"The Trainee Program has provided me with the tools for a successful career in the golf industry and I look forward to now being able to realise my career goals."

Paul Hayden - 2011 PGA Trainee of the Year

"I am confident the PGA Trainee Program has helped to equip me with many skills needed to succeed in not only the golf industry, but in life. This was the first step to making my dreams a reality."

Jack Wilson - 2012 PGA Trainee of the Year

About the PGA

The Professional Golfers Association of Australia is a not-for-profit organisation representing professional golfers in Australia. It is one of the oldest PGAs in the world and in 2011 celebrated its Centenary. The Association's origins date back to 1911, when a group of ex-patriot Scottish golf professionals formed a national organisation to promote the game of golf and to help elevate the vocational standing of golf professionals.

Today, the PGA of Australia boasts a membership of approximately 2500 Australian golf professionals ranging from Tournament Professionals, Club Professionals, Assistant Professionals and Teaching Professionals, to Golf Club Managers, Directors of Golf and Golf Operations Managers.

PGA Members service the Australian golfing community and are spread right across the country. By servicing both populated and remote areas, PGA members continue to drive the business of golf, thereby encouraging more Australians to enjoy golf more often.

What does the PGA do?

The Professional Golfers Association of Australia Ltd (PGA) is a cornerstone of the Australian golf industry. Since its inauguration in 1911 the PGA has played a significant role in the popularity and promotion of golf at all levels.

The PGA is the national sanctioning body for professional golf within Australia and is recognised internationally for delivering high-quality education and training programs to its members.

The PGA, through its vision, strives to be one of the region's leading sports brands, delivering the highest standards across its diverse portfolio of programs.

In addition to a strong history of producing major winners, world ranked players, elite coaches and highly skilled club-based professionals, each year the PGA of Australia stages over 400 events from the award winning Australian PGA Championship to the state based Pro-Am circuits which take professional golf to regional and local venues.

Our members continue to play a significant role in servicing in excess of 1 million Australians of all ages, abilities and social backgrounds who take to the fairways each year.

What is the PGA Academy?

The PGA Academy of Golf is the department within the national office which is responsible for all PGA training and education. This includes the delivery, administration and management of the PGA Trainee Program.

The PGA Academy currently operates as a Recognised Training Organisation (RTO Number 22044) and provides nationally recognised training. Vocational qualifications are derived from the Sport, Fitness and Recreation Training Package and delivered under Australian Quality Training Framework standards.



Is ideal for

Both male and female golfers who have a passion for a career in golf. PGA Trainees work alongside a fully qualified PGA members and receive practical work experience and on-the-job training at approved golf facilities around the country. In addition to developing real skills for the workplace, PGA Trainees also receive nationally accredited qualifications in a variety of vocational disciplines.

Qualifications

Graduates of the PGA Trainee Program are eligible for the following certifications and accreditations:

- Certificate II in Sport (Career Oriented Participation)
- Certificate III in Sport (Career Oriented Participation)
- Diploma of Sport Coaching
- Level 3 Vocational Golf Coach Accreditation under the Australian Sports Commission's National Coaching Accreditation Scheme
- Full Vocational Membership of the PGA of Australia

Course Structure

Studies in the Trainee Program are a combination of on-the-job training, block release training schools, distance and online education.

Academic Subjects

Key academic program areas for the 2014 program include:

- Coaching – knowledge and skills for golf coaching, leading to the highest level of coach accreditation in golf.
- Game Development – strategies and skills to actively grow participation and enjoyment of the sport of golf.
- Small Business – strategic and operational skills for successfully operating a business in the golf industry.
- Management – skills and strategies relating to planning, organising and leading a golf club or golf organisation.

These areas of study are designed to provide a well rounded generalist qualification and industry specific skills for the golf professional. Further specialist study in your area of interest may be available as part of the PGA continuing education program.

Practical Playing Requirement

Professional tournament play is an integral component of the PGA Trainee Program. Throughout the program, Trainees are required to compete in a number of professional events to ensure they retain a professional playing standard.

There is a wide variety of playing opportunities for Trainees such as:

- Weekly trainee matches
- Domestic Pro-Am events
- PGA State Trainee Championships
- PGA National Trainee events
- PGA Tour of Australasia events (subject to eligibility)

A minimum of twenty (20) rounds per year is used to calculate an adjusted playing average and successful completion of the playing requirement is contingent on achieving the required average in each of three (3) separate playing periods.

PGA National Trainee Events

PGA National Trainee Events include the Rich River Classic and the PGA National Futures Championship. These four-round stroke events are open to all Trainees and are a fantastic way to experience professional tournament play. National events provide Trainees with the opportunity to compete against their peers – male and female - for substantial prize money.

Face-to-face Training

Training schools or 'Block Release' schools are an important component of your learning experience. Training schools are the primary means of providing the face-to-face and underpinning theoretical aspects of the program. Lectures and workshops will be in a range of subject areas and will often include interactive workshops and assessment activities.

All Trainees are required to attend the multi-day training school in their respective Divisional capital city. Attendance at all scheduled sessions is a compulsory requirement for progression within the three-year program.



Assessments

To assess both underpinning knowledge and the application of skills through competency-based assessment, there are several methods in which the Academy will assess the progress of a Trainee in the program. Assessments are conducted in a flexible learning environment with online, practical and third-party methods included in the program. Assessment summaries and weightings are published at the commencement of each Trainee year.

Job Outcomes

Employment opportunities for graduates of the PGA Trainee Program include:

- Head Professional or Director of Golf
- Assistant Professional
- Golf Operations Manager or Golf Operations Assistant
- Teaching Professional
- Tournament Professional
- Development Officer
- Company Sales or Technical Representative
- Golf Club Manager



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