

A group of five riders on horses, wearing helmets and riding attire, are positioned in a line on a grassy field. The background shows a line of trees and a clear sky. The riders are wearing dark clothing and helmets, with some wearing red helmets. The horses are brown and appear to be in motion.

The British Racing School

Careers Pack 2025/26

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About the British Racing School

The British Racing School is a centre of worldwide excellence within horse racing and has been training young people to go on and excel in the sport for over 40 years.

We run a number of courses for young people, regardless of how much (if any) experience they have with horses, to help them jumpstart rewarding careers within the UK's second largest spectator sport. From our base in Newmarket, Cambridgeshire, we offer world-class training facilities, have around 65 retired racehorses on site and a team of talented and passionate coaches and staff, dedicated to helping each young person fulfil their potential.

We offer a range of courses for young people aged 16-24 including our fully residential Foundation Course, a non-residential course for 16-18 year olds and a gap year programme. To find out more or to arrange a group visit to the British Racing School please contact our team at careers@brs.org.uk

Our Mission

As a centre of excellence within racing, our mission is to provide training of the highest calibre whilst also ensuring the well-being of all trainees and providing them with a smooth transition into work and independent living.

Our Aims

- To provide world class training to enable stable staff in the UK to develop skills throughout their career
- To give outstanding care, guidance, and support to our trainees at the British Racing School and in the workplace.
- To deliver excellence through a well governed, well managed and highly effective organisation.

Our Commitment

We are committed to:

- Encouraging students and helping them to get the most out of their training.
- Treating everyone as an individual and providing additional support to those that need it.
- Providing a world-class training experience through excellent facilities and highly experienced and motivational staff.

Our values

We expect everyone to:

- Be kind
- Work hard
- Have fun

Foundation Course

About

Our Foundation Course is an apprenticeship programme for 16-24 year olds leading to a Level 2 Equine Groom Apprenticeship. We accept young people with both existing riding experience and those that are new to working with horses and there are no academic entry requirements.* This is a brilliant course that teaches young people all the foundations to be able to safely work in in a professional racing yard where they'll be working with incredible racehorses every day, together with life skills to support independent living. The course is split into two mandatory parts:

- The first part of the course (level 1 diploma) is fully residential at the British Racing School lasting up to 18 weeks where young people gain all the skills they need to be able to work at a racing yard. For 16-18 year olds who do not already hold a level 4 Maths and English qualification at GCSE, we will provide 100 hours of additional tuition in these subjects during the course.
- We then support students onto an apprenticeship placement at a yard as a paid member of staff, working towards the level 2 over about 18 months. The course is fully supported by one of our workplace instructors who will be in regular contact with workplace students.

At a glance

- Apprenticeship course for 16-24 year olds over c.2 years.
- Up to 18 weeks residential course at the British Racing School (depending on riding experience), followed by a paid work placement in a racing yard.
- 100 hours of Maths / English tuition for those who do not hold a grade 4 qualification at GCSE.
- Cost: FREE tuition. £950 towards food and accommodation during the course (bursaries available).

Qualifications

- A Level 1 Diploma in Work-based Horse Care and Riding (Racing) following the residential part of the course at the BRS.
- A Level 2 Equine Groom Apprenticeship through a paid work placement in a yard and completion of the end point assessment.

*for horse welfare reasons there is a weight limit of 11 stone



Foundation Course continued

Course dates

We have rolling courses throughout the year with the following upcoming provisional start dates:

- Course 394: 5 January - 8 May 2026
- Course 395: 16 February - 19 June 2026
- Course 396: 7 April - 7 August 2026
- Course 397: 11 May - 11 September 2026
- Course 398: 15 June - 16 October 2026
- Course 399: 23 August - 13 Nov 2026
- Course 400: 14 September - 15 Jan 2027
- Course 401: 28 September - 29 Jan 2027
- Course 402: 26 October - 26 Feb 2027

Application process

We recommend that applicants complete their application via the website around 6 months ahead of wanting to start a course. All applications will be reviewed by our team ahead of applicants being invited to an assessment day at the British Racing School. On the day you'll tour the BRS and meet the team, find out more about the course, take part in a fitness test and maths and English assessment and have an interview with one of our staff. To find out more and apply head to

brs.org.uk/course/foundation-course/

Lewis's Story

Our Foundation Course students come from all walks of life and with differing levels of experience, including Lewis who joined us with no experience of riding. Before attending the British Racing School Lewis used to care for and train greyhounds and was looking at how he could make his horse racing dreams a reality. He found the British Racing School and decided to apply for the Foundation Course.

Despite being a beginner, Lewis has quickly learned how to look after and ride the racehorses under the expert tuition of our coaching team. He said, "Being at one of the most prestigious locations in horse racing meant I was drawn to it straight away. I knew that if I didn't try I wouldn't know so I decided to give it a go." Lewis will shortly complete his Level 1 Diploma and will then start his Level 2 Equine Groom Apprenticeship in a racing yard.



Find out more about Lewis's story here.



Non-Residential

About

Our Non-Residential Course is for 16-18 year olds who attend the British Racing School on a day-student basis three times a week during term time, rather than living at the British Racing School. The course is spread over two years, allowing students to live at home whilst they work towards their Level 1 Diploma in Horse care and riding in the first year. In the second year students will either work towards their Level 2 Equine Groom Apprenticeship at the British Racing School or in a racing yard, fully supported by the BRS. The course covers all aspects of racehorse care and exercise and will include expert tuition on:

- Horse handling and grooming
- Stable management
- Feeding and watering
- Horse welfare
- Riding in all our facilities
- Racing industry knowledge
- Maths and English support (if required)
- Preparation for the workplace

Course dates

We have one intake per year in September and applications are open all year round for our next intake in September 2026. You can find out more and apply via the website

Application process

All applications will be reviewed by our team ahead of applicants being invited to an assessment day at the British Racing School. On the day you'll tour the BRS and meet the team, find out more about the course, take part in a fitness test and maths and English assessment and have an interview with one of our staff. To find out more and apply head to

brs.org.uk/course/level2racehorsecare

At a glance

- For 16-18 year olds who attend three times a week during term time
- Two year course leading to a Level 1 Diploma in Horse care and riding and the Level 2 Equine Groom Apprenticeship.
- Covers the same areas as the Foundation Course but allows students to complete over 2 years whilst living at home.
- FREE to attend.

Qualifications

- A Level 1 Diploma in Horse care and riding
- A Level 2 Equine Groom Apprenticeship

Apply now for
September
2026



Gap Year

About

The British Racing School's Horseracing Gap Year is a brilliant opportunity for students wanting to take a year out after finishing their A-Levels to experience British horseracing ahead of potentially going to university the following summer. It offers an amazing opportunity to receive worldclass training at the British Racing School, learning all the skills necessary to work with and ride racehorses. Thereafter, students have the chance to take up a paid placement at a British racing yard for the winter, followed by five months at a racing yard in Australia.

Course dates

We have one course per year and applications are open all year round for our next intake.

Application process

As an accelerated programme, applicants will already need to have riding experience and there will be a ridden assessment on the assessment day. There will also be a tour of the BRS, a fitness test and an interview with one of our staff. To find out more and register your interest head to the website.

brs.org.uk/course/horseracing-gap-year

Aleena's Story

Aleena had already attended an under 16 course at the British Racing School and wanted to get back riding racehorses ahead of starting her degree in 2026. She said, "I can't believe how much my riding has improved over the seven weeks and I can't wait to start working in a yard and then head to Australia!"

You can find out more about her story here:



**Applications
open for
2026**

At a glance

- A year-long programme for those who have completed their A-Levels.
- The course comprises
 - A seven week residential course
 - A five month placement at a British racing yard
 - A five month placement at a racing yard in Australia
- £250 for the seven week course + flights to Australia at student's own cost.



Get in touch



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