



PGA Trainee Program

“

The Trainee Program has provided me with a solid grounding for my future golf endeavours and I look forward to building a long and prosperous career in the golf industry.

”

Kevin Conlong,
2010 Trainee of the Year

PGA Trainee Program

About the PGA

The Professional Golfers Association of Australia is a not-for-profit organisation representing professional golfers in Australia. It is the one of the oldest PGA's in the world and this year celebrates 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 the cornerstone of golf and 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 the masses.

Our members continue to play a significant role in servicing the 1.12 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 education, training and professional development. This includes the delivery, administration and management of the PGA Trainee Program.

The PGA Academy currently operates as a Recognised Training Organisation (RTO) and provides nationally recognised training.



**NATIONALLY RECOGNISED
TRAINING**

Vocational qualifications are derived from the Sport, Fitness and Recreation Training Package and delivered under the standards of the Australian Quality Training Framework.



PGA Trainee Program

The PGA Trainee Program

• Is ideal for

The PGA Trainee Program is ideal for both male and female golfers who have a passion for a career in golf. PGA Trainees work alongside 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 (NCAS)
- 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 include:

- Professional Skills – skills for the modern workplace
- Retail & Business Management – strategic and operational skills for successfully operating a business in the golf industry
- Coaching – industry best practice approaches to coaching, leading to the highest level of coach accreditation
- Club Technology – techniques and applications for dealing with the ever evolving technologies in golf equipment and apparel

These areas 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 ongoing professional development program.



2010 Graduates of the Queensland Division



PGA Trainee 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 you with the opportunity to compete against your peers – male and female - for substantial prize money.



Shane Butler, winner of
2010 National Futures Championship

• 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 are in a range of subject areas and often include interactive workshops and assessment related 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 ways in which the Academy will assess the progress of a trainee throughout their time in the Program. Some of these assessment methods include examinations, written assignments, training tasks and practical assessments. The subject area, assessment type and assessment weightings are published at the beginning of each calendar 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

Some members also transition into golf management or other industry related roles and seek additional skills through the completion of professional development programs or external courses.



PGA Trainee Program

• Testimonials

Tour Professional

"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**

Head 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 is a lifelong career that can prepare you for many different roles.

I have seen great golfer's 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 managerial 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.**

Director of Golf

"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,
Director of Golf,
Oatlands Golf Club**

Teaching Professional

"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 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,
Head Coach,
NSW Institute of Sport.**

General Manager

"I was fortunate enough to be a student of the PGA Academy graduating in 1990. The PGA Traineeship provided me with the tools necessary to be successful in the golf industry initially as a club professional / golf instructor and then working my way through various levels of club management resulting in my current role as General Manager of the Bayview Golf Club in Sydney.

I would certainly recommend the PGA Traineeship to any person looking to gain the skills required for a career in the golf industry."

**Nigel Gibson,
General Manager,
Bayview Golf Club**



PGA Trainee Program

• 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 both playing and academic subject areas.

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 the top 10 eligible for substantial product endorsement agreements.



Walkerden Golf through their association with Eyeline Golf also offer the **Eyeline Rookie of the Year Awards** and **Walkerden Trainee Achievement Award**.



The Walkerden Trainee Achievement Award recognises outstanding contributions to the golf industry, whilst the Eyeline Rookie of the Year is awarded to the Year 1 trainee with the lowest annual playing average from each of the State Divisions.

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 as required
- 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

Contacts

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