

LOVE HORSES LOVE RACING



THE BRITISH RACING SCHOOL



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Careers Pack 2026

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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 11-24 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 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 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 a year, allowing students to live at home whilst they work towards their Level 1 Diploma in Horse care and riding. Having completed this, students are able to work towards their Level 2 Equine Groom Apprenticeship 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
- A one 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



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

Rosa's Story

Rosa had already attended an under 16 course at the British Racing School and wanted to get back riding racehorses having finished school. Having completed the seven week course at the British Racing School she is now working in a top British flat yard ahead of going to Australia in 2026. You can find out more about her story here:

Find out more about Rosa's story here.



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
- £950 for the seven week course + flights to Australia at student's own cost.



Flexible learning programme

About

This is a two year course offered to 14-16 year olds in years 10 and 11 on one day release from school per week and is also open to those young people who are home-schooled. It's a brilliant way for students to develop additional skills and start out on a career pathway, whilst remaining engaged with wider school work.

During this first year of the Flexible Learning Programme (FLP) students learn how to ride a quiet racehorse, including in jockey position, in addition to attending lectures and taking part in practical lessons about in horse care.

In the second year students continue to work towards their Level 1 Diploma in Racehorse Care. They will ride an ex-racehorse on the seven furlong straight canter, have practical lessons and lectures in all aspects of looking after a racehorse. The modules assessed range from preparing horses for exercise (both ridden and non-ridden) and examining the health and well-being of a horse. At the end of the course, students will be ready to begin their Level 2 Equine Groom Apprenticeship in a racing yard.

Finley's Story

Finley first learned to ride through our primary school programme and joined the FLP at 14. Throughout the programme his confidence gradually increased and he even secured a weekend and holiday job with racehorse trainer, James Ferguson, giving him invaluable experience riding different horses. Since then, Finley has completed his GCSEs in summer 2025 and has now signed up to his Level 2 Apprenticeship with us which he is completing at trainer Harry Eustace's yard. Finley's life has been transformed and he is now working full time in a job he loves. Find out more here:



At a glance

- Two-year programme for 14-16 year olds on day release from school once a week.
- Leading to a Level 1 Diploma in Racehorse Care
- On completion students are able to begin their Level 2 Equine Groom Apprenticeship.
- Riding experience required
- FREE to attend

Course dates

We have one Year 10 intake each year starting in September.

To find out more, please contact:
Jackie.Gill@brs.org.uk

Starts again in
September
2026



Pony Racing

About

Pony racing is a brilliant way to start out in racing and gain valuable experience, whilst also having a lot of fun! There are a range of different ways to get involved and you don't even need your own pony.

Pony Racing Academies (12-15 years)

Our pony racing academies are for young people without their own pony as they can ride one of ours. Students need to be able to walk, trot and canter unaided and fully commit to the programme which runs over 12 weekends at the British Racing School. At the end of the course, if students are ready and there is an upcoming pony race we will support them to take part.

Pony racing training days (8-15 years)

Our Levels 1-3 pony racing training days are a fun way to develop the skills to qualify and take part in a pony race. Levels 1-2 take place on a single day at the British Racing School where students will work on their jockey pose, train in the jockey training suite and learn to ride with a bridge and change their hands. On the Level 3, students progress onto the round and straight canters and learn to ride upsides.

At a glance

- A range of programmes catering for young people with their own pony or not
- Weekend sessions and week long camps
- See website for more details and costs:
<https://brs.org.uk/course-categories/pony-racing/>

Pony racing camps (11-15 years)

We have a number of pony racing camps during the year including at Easter and in the Summer holidays. They are open to students who have already passed their Levels 1 and 2. During the five day residential students have access to our world class facilities and have the chance to develop the skills of a young jockey.

Course dates

To find out more, please contact Jackie Gill: Jackie.Gill@brs.org.uk



Get in touch

-  British Racing School, Snailwell Road, Newmarket, Cambridgeshire, CB8 7NU
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-  careers@brs.org.uk
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