



2025 BMW Scholarship FAQs

What is the BMW Race Driver Series Scholarship?

The BMW Race Driver Series Scholarship is a fully equipped motorsport experience, spanning the 2025-2026 NEXEN TYRE E46 Championship season, granted to the selected Scholarship Recipient. Applications for entry to the Scholarship are open to anyone who has neither raced in the BMW Race Driver Series previously nor an official of its sponsors. Previous driving and/or racing experience are preferred but are not criteria for application of entry to the Scholarship.

All Scholarship Entrants must attend the Scholarship Event at **Hampton Downs Motorsport Park** on **Saturday, 16 August 2025** where they will be evaluated on a variety of disciplines including, but not limited to driver ability, driver development potential and panel interview skills. The Scholarship Event will close with the announcement of the Scholarship Recipient.

How do I apply?

[Download](#) and complete an application form from www.bmwraceseries.co.nz and send to scholarship@bmwraceseries.co.nz along with a copy of your motorsport résumé and the licence/s you hold. Applications close **Friday, 8 August 2025**.

How much does it cost to enter?

An entry fee of \$720 including GST applies on entry and is payable once your application has been accepted. Note \$50 discount if entry paid by 1 July 2025.

Do I need an NZ Driver Licence to enter?

No, you are not required to hold a NZ Driver Licence to apply for the BMW Race Driver Series Scholarship. The selected BMW Race Driver Series Scholarship Recipient will also be required to obtain the appropriate MotorSport NZ Licence prior to the first event date, with which the BMW Race Driver Series will assist.

Am I eligible for entry if I have raced before?

Yes. You are eligible provided you have neither entered the BMW Race Driver Series before nor an agent, employee or official of its sponsors, including the BMW Car Club New Zealand.

Do I need any special equipment for the Scholarship Day?

Applicants are recommended to bring their own approved race apparel for the BMW Race Driver Series Scholarship Event. This safety equipment is available for hire on the day: NexGen FHR \$30, Open face helmets to suit NexGen FHR \$20, Overalls \$30, Boots \$20 and Gloves \$10. If you need rentals, they will be allocated in order of Application receipt. Limited supply, so apply now. Minimum overall requirement is a single layer suit (no cotton overalls or karting overalls).

For safety reasons, non-synthetic (ie. cotton) garments should be worn underneath overalls along with sturdy, closed footwear. All motorsport parks are exposed to the elements, so the use of both sunscreen and a warm, wind-proof over-garment are recommended between in-car sessions.



What is the format of the Scholarship Day?

The morning driving session will determine which applicants will be selected for the afternoon Top 10 evaluation. With a race instructor onboard observing; 1 out lap, 2 full racing laps, 1 in lap.

All applicants can take part in:

- Race Control room tour
- Technical session on BMW E46 series racecar
- Hot laps from BMW Race Driver Series competitors

Top 10 applicants will progress through:

- Race Driver tuition with instructor driving; 4 laps
- Race Driver evaluation with applicant driving; 1 out lap, 4 full racing laps, 1 in lap
- Panel Interview

Scholarship Selection and Presentation

- Top 3 applicants will receive presentations
- Scholarship recipient will receive the BMW Race Driver Series Scholarship
- *** The above format may be changed at the discretion of the BMWRDS*

What is included in the BMW Race Driver Series Scholarship?

The following vehicle is provided for the 2025-2026 NEXEN TYRE E46 Championship season:

- BMW E46 320i, manual transmission
 - Race-ready and compliant with E46 technical regulations

The following items are included for use with the provided vehicle for the 2025-2026 NEXEN TYRE E46 Championship season:

- BMW Race Driver Series Annual Registration fee
- BMW Race Driver Series Round Entry fees
- BMW Car Club New Zealand Membership
- Signage and livery are limited to the BMW Race Driver Series and its official Sponsors
- Mechanical engineering professional in attendance each round
- Mechanical engineering professional available for general servicing between rounds
- Labour and consumables included for general wear and tear
- Four brand new series control tyres
- One set of race brakes (front and rear)
- Driver tuition, race car setup and data logging training

What is excluded from the BMW Race Driver Series Scholarship?

The following items are not included with the provided vehicle for the 2025-2026 NEXEN TYRE E46 Championship season:

- MotorSport NZ Competition Licence fee
- Any fuel required for each round (98 Octane fuel is mandatory)
- Any tyres exceeding the four provided



- Any race brake pads exceeding the set provided
- Transport of the provided vehicle to and from each round
- Travel to and from each round and ancillary accommodation expenses
- Approved race apparel and safety equipment
- Any and all remedial charges arising from any breach or failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the BMW Race Driver Series Scholarship Contract, including but not limited to:
 - Mechanical repairs, automotive parts, and labour costs.
 - Panel, paint, or vinyl wrap repairs
 - Fines or penalties, if incurred

Is a bond required?

Yes. The Scholarship Recipient is required to secure a bond of \$7,500, which will be held in accordance with the BMW Race Driver Series Scholarship Contract for its duration. We will consider, on a case-by-case basis, a personal guarantee or otherwise legally binding security document for this bond of \$7,500 – please contact us if you wish to discuss this in more detail.

Is there a minimum age to apply?

- 16years or older with a minimum of a Restricted Drivers' licence
- 12-16years with a Motorsport NZ C Grade Licence
- For 12-16 refer to [Motorsport NZ Manual #36, Schedule L](#), Article 3

I don't have a motorsport résumé. Why do I need this?

It's quite normal to not have a motorsport résumé; Many of the BMW Race Driver Series' existing members don't have one. However, much like a job application, a motorsport résumé is your opportunity to tell us who you are, what you are interested in and why you want to pursue a motorsport scholarship. It is a brief, yet formal document which you can use to market yourself within the realm of motorsport, and this is an excellent reason to write one. It need not be more than a single page and you're welcome to include a photograph of yourself if you like, but this is not necessary.

When does the racing season start?

The BMW Race Driver Series 2025-2026 season starts September 2025, the first round being "Icebreaker" at Hampton Downs Motorsport Park. The full 2025-2026 calendar is in the final stages of being confirmed and will be uploaded to our website very soon at www.bmwraceseries.co.nz.

Where can I buy lunch on the day?

While endorsed hospitality traders do operate at Hampton Downs Motorsport Park, the BMW Race Driver Series Scholarship Event is an exclusive event for which on-site hospitality is not guaranteed by Hampton Downs Motorsport Park.

There is a local café within walking distance of Hampton Downs Motorsport Park. However, the Scholarship Event schedule is not conducive to leaving site during the allocated lunch session. We recommend you arrive with a prepared lunch.



Have we missed anything?

If you have any burning questions about the BMW Race Driver Series Scholarship, please contact us at scholarship@bmwraceseries.co.nz. We're very happy to help with anything we can and will come back to you as quickly as we can.

