



## **Student exchange programme honours legendary amateur golfer**

University of St Andrews students have the opportunity to take part in an exchange programme to the US through the Robert T Jones Memorial Trust.

The trust was established nearly 50 years ago in memory of legendary American amateur golfer Bobby Jones, who completed his unique "Grand Slam" of the-then four major tournaments in a single calendar year at St Andrews in 1930.

Set up by his friends and family, the Robert T Jones Memorial Trust funds an exchange programme between scholars of the University of St Andrews and scholars of Emory University in Atlanta, where Jones was an alumnus. Since 2013, the Alfred Dunhill Links Foundation has given grant money to this trust, which is administered through the university.

"Four students are selected from each university, to switch places essentially, and it is fully funded," said Heather Edie, Head of Campaign & Donor Relations at the University of St Andrews. "This exchange is at postgraduate level so the students we send to Emory will have completed their undergraduate degree at St Andrews, and vice versa. And the exchange students, on both sides of the pond, all tell us that they have an amazing experience."

Yurok Song, a 2026-27 Robert T Jones Memorial Trust Scholar from Emory who is currently in the Msc Mathematical Biology programme, is a prime example.

"A famous quote by Bobby Jones stood out to me when I was thinking about applying for the scholarship - *I could take out my life everything except my experiences at St Andrews and I would still have a rich, full life,*" said Yurok who has only been at the uni for several weeks. "Already I feel my St Andrews experience is everything he said, and more. It's been amazing, its breathtaking, I've had wonderful experiences with wonderful new people."

"I have a great affection for Emory University too, it is a rich and vibrant community of Atlanta offering connections in this modern rapidly changing world where intercultural

collaborations are so important and getting to meet new people in new countries and new environments is an opportunity you can't pass up on."

2027 will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the exchange programme which will culminate in celebrations at both Emory and St Andrews.

## **The University of St Andrews**

Founded in 1413, the University of St Andrews is Scotland's oldest university and the third oldest in the English-speaking world. Today, it is globally recognised for its academic excellence, research impact, and distinctive student experience.

Under the leadership of Principal and Vice-Chancellor Professor Dame Sally Mapstone FRSE, St Andrews is guided by a forward-looking strategy focused on expanding international partnerships, advancing digital education, and fostering a diverse, inclusive community.

The University is deeply committed to sustainability and social responsibility, aligning research and operations with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and aiming to achieve carbon Net Zero by 2035.

With world-leading research in areas such as climate science, energy ethics, and global health, St Andrews continues to shape solutions to some of the most pressing challenges of our time. Our vibrant international community and growing digital footprint ensure that a St Andrews education reaches learners across the globe.

The University of St Andrews has reaffirmed its position as a leader in UK higher education, maintaining its reputation for outstanding student experience, learning, and teaching. St Andrews was named the UK's top university in *The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2027*., for the third time in six years. It was also named *Scottish University of the Year* and runner-up UK *University of the Year for Teaching Quality for 2027* in the definitive University Guide.

Schools also performed well in the subject rankings with five subjects ranked top in the UK: English, Modern Languages, History, Art History and Physics. All subjects at St Andrews were ranked in the top six in the UK.

In *The Guardian University Guide 2027*, St Andrews led the UK in History, Art History, Divinity, and Film Studies, all were ranked number one, with a further 15 subjects ranked in the top ten.

The *Daily Mail University Guide 2027* named St Andrews University of the Year for Teaching Excellence 2027.