



// INTRODUCTION

Launched in 2016 by Renault Sport Racing and Renault Sport Formula One Team, the Renault Sport Academy is tasked with discovering and nurturing young driver talent through the racing ranks, where, ultimately, Renault Sport Formula One Team aims to find drivers able to deliver the team world championship titles.

Drivers are selected on ability and potential, with the Academy able to draw upon Renault Sport Racing's vast experience in motorsport as well as its global markets to find such talent. Mia Sharizman manages the programme and has a range of experience in motorsport including at Formula 1, Formula 2 and GP3 level.

For 2018, the Academy has retained four drivers from its 2017 intake. Jack Aitken, a member since its inception in 2016, signs for a third year, as does Sun Yue Yang. Max Fewtrell and Christian Lundgaard both impressed in their first seasons with the Academy and both remain for a second year.

The Academy is delighted to welcome three new drivers to the programme. As part of his prize for winning the highly-competitive Formula Renault Eurocup, Sacha Fenestraz has agreed to accept a place with the Academy. Arthur Rougier, winner of the 2017 French Formula 4 Championship, is on-board for 2018, alongside Victor Martins, runner-up to Arthur in his rookie season of single-seater racing.

Four members will go wheel to wheel in the Formula Renault Eurocup in 2018 with Max, Christian, Arthur and Victor all set to contest the exciting series that races on nine Grand Prix circuits, including the streets of Monaco. »»



«« Jack, runner-up in the GP3 Series last season, will make the step up to Formula 2 this year, whilst Sacha will line-up in the European Formula 3 Championship. Sunny will continue his junior formula development in the British Formula 3 series.

The Academy was specifically created to help develop young driver talent within the environment of Renault Sport Racing. All seven members will be able to utilise the state of the art facilities at the Formula 1 team's base in Enstone to aid their progression up the motorsport ladder. Members will be educated across all elements that are required to make it to the top of Formula 1 including physical and mental training, media and marketing support, basic engineering and being taught the core values and proud history of Renault in motorsport.

Renault has a positive track record of discovering and developing future Formula 1 talent. Robert Kubica, Lucas di Grassi, Pastor Maldonado, Heikki Kovalainen, Jérôme d'Ambrosio and Romain Grosjean are amongst some of the names to make a mark at the pinnacle of motorsport. //



Cyril Abiteboul

Managing Director of Renault Sport Racing

// **The Renault Sport Academy is a unique resource for Renault Sport Formula One Team as it allows us to find exciting racing drivers and develop them through the Renault Sport Racing pathway.**

We are looking forward to tracking the progress of Jack, Max, Christian, Sunny, Sacha, Arthur and Victor and we will be keeping contact close when they visit Enstone for their training.

All seven drivers will reap the rewards of being a part of a Formula 1 team. Sessions on the simulator, as well as private Formula 1 test programmes will be critical for some of their progress and enables our engineers to understand their capabilities and plot a development plan. Attending Formula 1 test sessions and debriefs will allow the young drivers to be fully immersed in life as a racing driver and prepare them for the demands of a Grand Prix weekend.

We look forward to working hard with all seven drivers of the 2018 Academy and seeing them flourish in their respective championships. //





Q&A

Mia Sharizman

Director, Renault Sport Academy

// **What are the main objectives of the Renault Sport Academy?**

The plan has always been to prepare the drivers to take on a Formula 1 seat in the future and win the team world championships. In order to achieve that, drivers have to show their talent and ability and be above the competition across junior racing categories. The immediate targets of the Academy are for drivers to fight for titles in their respective series.

What are your thoughts on the 2018 line-up?

The line-up this year shows how far we have come in a short space of time. We have made good progress and we have a strong structure in place to utilise the talent in the programme. It's important to have a strong base of drivers at the lower levels of racing so there's a system in place to select the best drivers to progress to higher levels of racing. We have four drivers competing in Formula Renault this season, which is positive to see and we know we have some of the best talent out there.

Has the approach changed for 2018?

The approach for this year is continuing on from last year, which focuses on a lot of off-track preparations such as simulations and physical and mental training. We want to enhance the transition between one season to the next and this year we will have a strong focus with on-track programmes, especially towards the end of the year when drivers begin to switch focus to changing championships. It's always good to prepare drivers as much as possible during the winter, not only for this year but for next season too.

What's in store for the 2018 members?

We have a number of training camps planned which serve an array of purposes. We are excited to announce our collaboration with Aspire in Doha, Qatar, where our drivers will train in January. We will also have a mid-season training camp in August as well as various programmes with our various partners such as Formula Medicine and Base Performance Simulators. We want the seven members to work together and build on team work, instill communication skills and discipline and build loyalty to Renault Sport Racing. //

// Jack Aitken

FIA Formula 2 Championship, ART Grand Prix

 @JaitkenRacer

 jaitkenracer

Age: 22

Nationality: British/Korean

2017 Season: Runner-up in the GP3 series with ART Grand Prix

2017 Wins: 1

2017 Podiums: 6

2018: FIA Formula 2 Championship, ART Grand Prix

Previous Championships:

2017: 2nd GP3 Series

2016: 5th GP3 Series

2015: 1st Formula Renault 2.0 Alps,
1st Eurocup Formula Renault 2.0,
1st Pro Mazda Winterfest

2014: 7th Eurocup Formula Renault 2.0

2013: 2nd Formula Renault 2.0 NEC

2012: 3rd Dunlop InterSteps Championship

Jack is into his third year with the Renault Sport Academy and will contest the 2018 season with French outfit ART Grand Prix in the FIA Formula 2 Championship.

Since joining the Academy in 2016 on the back of a hat-trick of titles in Formula Renault Eurocup and Alps as well as ProMazda Winterfest, Jack has completed two seasons in the GP3 Series. He finished a strong fifth in 2016 with Arden International, taking an impressive six podiums from the final seven races, before clinching runners-up spot in 2017.

The 22-year-old British-Korean took one victory last year after winning from pole position in Hungary, becoming the first GP3 driver of the season to record the maximum 31 points from a race as he also clinched the fastest lap.

He managed a further five podium visits throughout the year and grabbed two pole positions to finish the championship on 141 points.

Last September, Jack became the first active Academy member to test Formula 1 machinery when he got behind the wheel of a Renault powered 2012-spec E20 Formula 1 car at Jerez. //

Q&A

// **How happy are you to be continuing with the Renault Sport Academy for a third season?**

It's always nice to continue and I think 2018 will be very exciting as I'm moving up to Formula 2 and taking another step towards Formula 1, which is the ultimate goal. I'm happy as always and it's nice to have settled in at Enstone after a couple of years. To be here for 2018 means a lot and I'm looking forward to the start of the season.

Are you looking forward to being the senior member of the Academy?

It all comes down to the results and I need to be the senior driver in terms of showing the way and getting the results in any championship I'm in. It's the same for the drivers who have just entered and are the youngest in the Academy so it doesn't change too much. You want to be next in line to get into the Formula 1 car so it's all about results.

What advice can you give to the new drivers?

Take as much advantage as you can of the chance you have got as it's something not a lot of drivers will get to do. You have access to so much in terms of know how, resources, people who have been there and done it all and it's a real opportunity to learn and progress.

What are your targets for 2018?

I'd like to be on the pace straight away so that means when everything falls into place we will be challenging for outright pole positions and victories. A bit of experience, especially at the level of Formula 2, does help so it will be a challenge to find some consistency and learn about the tyres and the new car. I will be aiming to keep scoring points and chip away at podiums and wins here and there. I'd like to be finishing in the top five in what will be a strong grid. //



// Max Fewtrell

Formula Renault Eurocup, R-ace GP

 @Max_Fewtrell

 maxfewtrell

Age: 18

Nationality: British

2017 Season: Top rookie in the Formula Renault Eurocup with Tech 1 Racing

2017 Wins: 1

2017 Podiums: 1

2018: Formula Renault Eurocup, R-ace GP

Previous Championships:

2017: 6th (1st Rookie) Formula Renault Eurocup

2016: 1st FIA MSA British F4

2015: 11th MRF Challenge Formula 2000

After a successful rookie season in the Formula Renault Eurocup, Max is retained by the Renault Sport Academy for a second year and will compete in the Eurocup with reigning champions R-ace GP.

Following an impressive season in 2016 where he claimed the British Formula 4 Championship, Max was signed by the Academy and entered the highly-competitive Eurocup series. He lifted the rookie title driving for Tech-1 Racing, finishing the championship sixth in the overall classification.

The 18-year-old British talent recorded his first Eurocup victory at the Red Bull Ring, Austria, in July which proved to be his only podium visit of the season.

As in his British F4 championship-winning year, consistency was pivotal to Max's 2017 success as he finished in the top ten in all but four races throughout the 23-race series. He was the rookie winner on eight occasions, amassing 164 points, 30 more than his nearest rival.

Max has set his sights on winning the 2018 Eurocup crown, with his season beginning at Paul Ricard in April. //

Q&A

// **Are you pleased to be retained by the Renault Sport Academy?**

It's a huge honour to be continuing with the Academy this year. They've helped me so much in a short space of time so to carry that support into this year is going to be great in helping me achieve my goal of winning the Eurocup championship.

What are the goals for 2018?

I want to keep developing and be the best driver I can be and aim for that complete package. I want to improve in all areas and I'm sure the Academy will continue to help me do that. Picking up a title is the concrete goal and will underline my intentions in racing.

What are your plans for the off-season?

We're going to Qatar which will be really good and an excellent way to start everything off. I'll do some simulator work after that and go through all the standard off-season work which we need to do.

What tips can you pass on to the new members of the Academy?

It's important to listen to what the Academy staff members say. They've been in the sport a long time and it's good to listen how they've progressed drivers through the ranks and all their past experiences. The facilities are excellent at Enstone, there's everything you need. //



// Christian Lundgaard

Formula Renault Eurocup, MP Motorsport

 @Clundgaard5

 lundgaardofficial

Age: 16

Nationality: Danish

2017 Season: Double drivers' champion in SMP F4 NEZ and Spanish F4 with MP Motorsport

2017 Wins: 17

2017 Podiums: 31

2018: Formula Renault Eurocup, MP Motorsport

Previous Championships:

2017: 1st SMP F4 NEZ, 1st Spanish F4

Christian goes into his second year with the Renault Sport Academy on the back of an impressive rookie season in single-seaters where he stormed to two Drivers' titles.

The Danish teen clinched the SMP F4 NEZ championship in August with a round to spare before lifting the Spanish F4 crown at the final round in November. Christian will step up to the Formula Renault Eurocup in 2018 driving for MP Motorsport, the team who guided him to his championship double.

Fresh from a successful karting career, Christian, son of former rally driver Henrik, began life in single-seaters with a brace of victories in the NEZ championship in Sochi. A further ten podiums would follow – including seven wins – meaning he claimed the title in Moscow with a round to spare.

Christian also competed in the Spanish F4 series and took an impressive hat-trick of wins at the opening round in Aragon, which ultimately set the tone for what he was destined to achieve. He failed to finish on the podium just three times all season and lifted his second championship following a final round showdown at Estoril where he won the final two races of the season. //

Q&A

// **How pleased are you to be returning to the Renault Sport Academy this year?**

I'm very excited to continue. I knew what I had to do last year to be retained by the Academy and I focused as much as I could on reaching my target of winning the SMP F4 NEZ Championship. Then we had another target of winning the Spanish F4 title and that has really helped me get a place in 2018, which is important and really means a lot.

How do you reflect on 2017?

We were quite strong throughout 2017. There was so much to learn from the first race to the last, especially being a rookie in single-seaters. We were strong at the beginning and I managed to build leads in both championships. I won the NEZ title with a round to spare and won the Spanish one at the final round; I was delighted to win two titles in one season.

What are your thoughts on Formula Renault?

The winter testing has been very positive. We've progressed through from the first test to the last and my speed got better throughout each one. Qualifying is important in Formula Renault so I need to ensure my one-lap pace is good and after that I hope to be up there and competing for podiums. It's an interesting car to drive, I have to be one-hundred percent all the time if I want to win.

Are you excited to race on Grand Prix circuits?

I'm really looking forward to racing on Grand Prix circuits. Monaco is going to be quite an experience and different to what I'm used to, especially supporting Formula 1. It's going to be a really big step! //



// Sacha Fenestraz

FIA European Formula 3 Championship, Carlin

@sachafenestraz

sachafenestraz

Age: 18

Nationality: French/Argentine

2017 Season: Formula Renault Eurocup Champion with Josef Kaufmann Racing

2017 Wins: 7

2017 Podiums: 17

2018: FIA European Formula 3 Championship, Carlin

Previous Championships:

2017: 1st Formula Renault Eurocup

2016: 5th Formula Renault Eurocup,
5th Formula Renault NEC

2015: 2nd French Formula 4

Sacha signed with the Renault Sport Academy after securing the 2017 Formula Renault Eurocup title following an excellent second season in the series.

Born in France but raised in Argentina, Sacha flies the flag for both nations and will race in the FIA European Formula 3 Championship in 2018 with Carlin.

Sacha's single-seater career began in 2015 when he finished second in the French Formula 4 Championship. In 2016, Sacha graduated to the Eurocup series with Tech-1 Racing, coming fifth in the overall classification and second rookie. A standout moment came at Monaco on the Grand Prix weekend where Sacha claimed his first Eurocup victory on the streets from pole position.

In 2017, Sacha lifted the Eurocup Drivers' title by 69.5 points courtesy of seven wins and a further ten visits to the podium. A second victory around Monaco in May further underlined Sacha's ability. He also competed in the Macau Grand Prix in November, finishing seventh. //

Q&A

// **How much are you looking forward to joining the Renault Sport Academy?**

I'm really happy to join such a big Academy. I think all the drivers in the Academy have benefitted well and I'm looking forward to getting started. European Formula 3 will be challenging, we have a lot of work to do but I'm very happy to join Renault and relishing the opportunity to have their support.

Is there anything in particular you are excited for?

I'm excited for all the training camps like Doha and all the simulator work at Enstone, which is really amazing. My dream is to be in Formula 1 one day so to already drive a simulator is very good for me. It's going to be a nice year and I hope to do the best I can to fly the Renault colours at the top.

What's it like to win around the streets of Monaco?

Winning in Monaco is amazing and I feel privileged to have done that twice. I like the street tracks, I did Macau in November which was also cool. Monaco, though, is great and it carries a lot of history so to win there twice on the Grand Prix weekend is very special.

What are your targets for 2018?

I try not to focus on specific targets. I will do my best and keep learning every time I go on track. I want to keep battling for front rows and podiums. I have some new circuits to learn so that will be a fresh challenge, but we will work as hard as possible to get these good results. The F3 cars are amazing, I see why Formula 1 drivers like them. They are so fast in corners and on the straights; it's nearly a perfect car. There's much more downforce compared to Formula Renault and very different to what I've been used to racing. //



// Arthur Rougier

FIA European Formula 3 Championship, Carlin

 arthur_rougier

Age: 18
Nationality: French

2017 Season: French Formula 4 Champion
2017 Wins: 5
2017 Podiums: 12

2018: Formula Renault Eurocup, Fortec Motorsport

Previous Championships:
2017: 1st French Formula 4
2016: 10th French Formula 4

Reigning French F4 champion Arthur joins the Renault Sport Academy after holding his nerve to lift the 2017 title.

Arthur had to battle hard last year but did enough to hold off Victor Martins in the French championship and win by four points.

The 18-year-old recorded five victories on his way to the championship, including a hat-trick of wins at round four at Spa-Francorchamps. A further seven podiums further cemented his title charge, which he sealed at the final round at Paul Ricard with three podium finishes.

In 2016, Arthur finished tenth in French F4 but outlined his talent with a maiden victory at the final race of the season in Catalunya. //

Q&A

// **Are you looking forward to joining the Renault Sport Academy?**
It's a really good opportunity for me as it's going to be extremely beneficial for my career. It's a dream come true to join a French team, especially being a French driver coming from a French championship; it all adds up nicely. I'm excited to see Enstone and look around the factory and make use of the facilities they have there.



How important was it to win the French F4 title?
2017 was a really great year and it was a good battle with Victor. I learned a lot, the title was the best thing I could have and ultimately a reward for a challenging season. The level of drivers was tough so to win was just an amazing feeling.

What are your targets for 2018?
For sure my target will be to be in the top five of the Formula Renault Eurocup. I've learned a lot about the Formula Renault car during winter tests and the feeling was really good. There's still a lot to learn but I think it can be a good year if I can progress and adapt myself well. //



// Victor Martins

Formula Renault Eurocup, R-ace GP

 @MARTINS_Victor_
 victor_martins_officiel

Age: 16
Nationality: French

2017 Season: French Formula 4 Runner-up
2017 Wins: 4
2017 Podiums: 11

2018: Formula Renault Eurocup, R-ace GP

Previous Championships:
2017: 2nd (1st Rookie) French Formula 4

Victor Martins signs with the Renault Sport Academy after an excellent rookie season in single-seaters, where he clinched the Junior Championship in French F4.

Victor, a former French champion gymnast, narrowly missed out on the Drivers' title to fellow new Academy recruit Arthur, but nonetheless made a mark in his rookie year.

A successful karter, he won the CIK-FIA World Championship in 2016. Victor later entered as a guest driver for the Le Mans round of the French F4 championship that year and recorded two podiums.

In 2017, he entered the series for the full season, finishing on 299 points courtesy of eleven podiums, four wins and nine pole positions along the way. //

Q&A

// **How happy are you to join the Renault Sport Academy?**

I'm very happy and aware of the great chance I have this year being part of a Formula 1 setup. I'm looking forward to seeing the team base at Enstone, meeting all the staff and using the facilities there. This is a childhood dream coming true and a step closer to Formula 1.

How exciting is it to be a French driver joining a French Formula 1 team?

It's certainly an honour for me and I have great satisfaction in representing France in a French team. It's a really excellent reward for a couple of years of hard work, starting with karting through to single-seaters in French Formula 4. I always dream of Renault, especially when I drive past the factory at Viry Châtillon in Paris I think 'someday I want to race for them' and now I'm in their junior programme!

What are your goals for 2018?

I can't wait for the season to start and I want to make sure I'm ready for the first race in Paul Ricard. My target for the 2018 season is to win the Formula Renault Eurocup. I'm really looking forward to competing in this category as it's highly-competitive and most of the rounds are on Grand Prix circuits, which will be a fantastic experience. I need to continue my preparation in the coming months and ensure I'm ready for the challenge. //



// Sun Yue Yang

British Formula 3 Championship, Carlin

Weibo: @赛车手孙越扬

Age: 17

Nationality: Chinese

2017 Season: Formula Renault Eurocup with JD Motorsport

2018: British Formula 3 Championship, Carlin

Previous Championships:

2017: 31st Formula Renault Eurocup

Sunny is retained by the Renault Sport Academy as he gears up for his second full season in single-seater racing.

The Chinese driver signed with the Academy in the autumn of 2016 following a positive karting career. He competed in the Formula Renault Eurocup in 2017 and also entered two rounds of the NEC series where he recorded a season-best result of fourth in Monza. Sunny also claimed further points at the third round of the NEC series at the Nürburgring.

In 2018, the 17-year-old will continue his development in racing as he embarks on a new challenge in the British Formula 3 Championship. //

Q&A

// **Are you pleased to be continuing with the Renault Sport Academy in 2018?**

I'm really honoured to continue with the Renault Sport Academy for this year and I'm excited for the season to begin. I'm very much willing to work hard and really push for better results in 2018.

Are you looking forward to a new challenge in British F3?

I can't wait to begin the season in British F3. I have already tested for seven days on different circuits around the United Kingdom. I've improved my brake shape and found that the F3 car is more suited to my style than Formula Renault.

What do you hope to achieve in 2018?

I've been working hard over the winter and I will continue with my preparations. I try not to set specific goals, but I will be giving it everything this season. //

