

## MEDIA INFORMATION

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# INFINITI GIVES EUROPEAN STUDENT THE FORMULA ONE™ CAREER OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME

- **Riccardo Manfredini is the European winner of the INFINITI Engineering Academy 2016**
- **He secures one of just seven, year-long placements with INFINITI Motor Company and the Renault Sport Formula One™ Team**
- **24-year-old Riccardo Manfredini will begin his 12-month F1 placement in the UK this November**

Enstone, UK – A university student from Italy has been awarded the career opportunity of a lifetime in Formula One™, as INFINITI announces Riccardo Manfredini as the European winner of the INFINITI Engineering Academy 2016.

Having been selected from thousands of entries and beating nine other finalists from around the continent in an intense shootout event at the Renault Sport Formula One Team Technical Center in Enstone, 24-year-old Riccardo Manfredini from Brescia, Italy, becomes the INFINITI Engineering Academy 2016 European winner and the first ever Italian winner.

Riccardo will spend six months working at the Formula One™ team's headquarters in Enstone and six months working at INFINITI's European Technical Center in Cranfield. With F1 Technology more relevant to the automotive industry than ever, he will play a key role in the ongoing transfer of technical knowledge and expertise between the Renault Sport Formula One™ Team and INFINITI.

The INFINITI Engineering Academy, now in its third year, is a one-of-a-kind global search for the world's best up-and-coming engineers. For 2016 seven placements have been made available with one winner chosen each from USA, Canada, Mexico, Europe (incl. Russia), United Arab Emirates, China and Asia-Pacific to work with the team.

This unique automotive-to-motorsport training program for brilliant young engineers, possible thanks to INFINITI's Technical Partnership with the Renault Sport Formula One™ Team, has attracted 4,108



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registrations from 44 different countries. A number of previous winners have gone on to secure full time careers in the automotive and motorsport industries.

After a series of interviews, ten European finalists were selected to attend a grueling assessment day at the Renault Sport Formula One Team Technical Center in Enstone. They were put through their paces individually and as groups, by a panel of judges from INFINITI and Renault Sport Racing, including: Tommaso Volpe (Director, INFINITI Global Motorsport), Andy Todd (Body & Exterior Design Team, INFINITI), Bob Bell (Chief Technical Officer, Renault Sport Racing) and Charlie Martin (Composites Design Engineer, Renault Sport F1).

Commenting on his win, Riccardo Manfredini said: "It's an incredible feeling, I still can't believe that I have won! Especially because all the other contestants were extremely prepared and competitive. I now have to concentrate and do my very best to prove that I am a worthy winner, and make the most of this fantastic opportunity."

Tommaso Volpe, Global Director, INFINITI Motorsport, commented: "The extraordinary level of interest in this year's INFINITI Engineering Academy has been absolutely fantastic. Students have seen the accomplishments of our Academy's graduates, who have gone on to forge successful careers in the automotive industry. This has meant that more students than ever want to use the Academy to gain vital engineering experience and launch their own careers.

"With F1 becoming more and more relevant to the automotive industry and an increased focus of the placements this year being on the road car development, we are training a new generation of engineers who will play a key role in the crossover between the two industries", concluded Volpe.

#### **INFINITI Engineering Academy European Winner 2016 profile:**

**Name:** Riccardo Manfredini

**Age:** 24

**University:** Brescia University

**From:** Brescia, Italy

**Biggest positive impact in life:** My family, girlfriend and friends all have a positive impact on my life since I always try to keep up with them and get the best from them.

**Most looking forward to about living/working in the UK:** I really look forward to this experience. It is a unique opportunity to growth as a person, as an engineer, to know new people and to work in a fascinating environment.

**Greatest strength:** Determination

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### **About INFINITI:**

INFINITI Motor Company Ltd. is headquartered in Hong Kong with sales operations in over 50 countries. The INFINITI brand was launched in 1989. Its range of premium automobiles is currently built in manufacturing facilities in Japan, the United States, United Kingdom and China. INFINITI plans to also expand manufacturing into Mexico by 2017.

INFINITI design studios are located in Atsugi-Shi, near Yokohama, London, San Diego and Beijing. INFINITI is in the middle of a major product offensive. The brand has been widely acclaimed for its iconic design and innovative driver-assistance technologies.

More information about INFINITI and its industry leading technologies can be found at [www.INFINITI.com](http://www.INFINITI.com). You can also follow us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and see all our latest videos on YouTube.

### **About the INFINITI Engineering Academy:**

The INFINITI Engineering Academy is INFINITI's global search for the best and brightest engineering talent to work at INFINITI Motor Company and the Renault Sport Formula One™ Team.

In an era where automotive and Formula One™ technologies are growing ever closer, the Academy offers a unique opportunity to train young talents across the two industries. This is the third year for the academy and, with the involvement of our Renault-Nissan Alliance Partner, promises to be more exciting than ever.

The Academy offers seven students a unique opportunity to secure a once in a lifetime work placement. Selected students will go through an integrated training and mentoring program with world leading engineers. The placement includes return travel to the UK, shared accommodation, a shared INFINITI premium executive vehicle, full salary and all necessary employment processing and permits.

Regional Final selection events are taking place in the following locations:

| <b>Date</b>        | <b>Region</b> | <b>Location</b>     |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 14 July            | USA           | Nashville           |
| 28 July            | Canada        | Montreal            |
| 11 August          | Mexico        | Mexico City         |
| 22 August          | Europe        | Enstone, Oxford, UK |
| 08 September (TBC) | China         | Beijing             |
| 22 September (TBC) | UAE           | Dubai               |
| 05 October (TBC)   | Asia-Pacific  | Hong Kong           |

More information about the INFINITI Engineering Academy can be found at [academy.infinit.com](http://academy.infinit.com)



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