

## **INFINITI Engineering Academy Welcomes Latest Winners**

The seven winners of 2016's INFINITI Engineering Academy began their placements recently at the INFINITI Technical Center in Cranfield and at the Renault Sport Formula One™ Team in Enstone, Oxfordshire.

More than 4,000 engineering students applied for the positions, with the best battling it out at Regional Finals across the globe. The final seven who won places are: Caitlin Bunt, 24, from the U.S.; Felix Lamy, 21, from Canada; Alexandros Palaialogos, 24, from Mexico; Riccardo Manfredini, 24, from Europe; Xuezi Li, 23, from China; Shihab Solaiman, 23, from UAE; and Jaden Partridge, 21, from the Asia-Oceania region.

Each will spend the next 12 months working alongside some of the finest automotive and Formula One engineers in the world, at INFINITI and the Renault Sport Formula One Team. The placements also include accommodation, a full salary and the use of an INFINITI Q30 company car.

"I anticipated the inner workings of a Formula One team to be incredible, but I still found myself blown away," said Jaden Partridge, who started his six-month placement at the Renault Sport Formula One Team in Enstone. "On Friday I had the very exciting opportunity to sit in on the Workshop Support room during practice one and two of the Brazilian Grand Prix at Interlagos. Being a part of the trackside briefing via radio link was an incredible insight I never thought I would get to be a part of in my short six months... let alone my first week!"

"Being part of a leading automobile manufacturer and learning how they efficiently streamline workflow between the various departments at such a large scale was awe-inspiring," said Shihab Solaiman, whose placement began at the INFINITI Technical Center in Cranfield. "Obviously most of what my department does is highly confidential and being here, behind the scenes and contributing to these exciting projects is a dream come true."

This is the third successive edition of the INFINITI Engineering Academy, and the biggest to date. All the INFINITI Academy Engineers began their time in the UK by attending induction sessions at each of the engineering centres before their first day of work on Monday, November 7. The induction days included meetings with assigned mentors for their upcoming placements at both INFINITI and the Renault Sport Formula One Team.

A key pillar of the INFINITI Engineering Academy is exploring crossover opportunities and the sharing of technology between INFINITI road cars and Renault Sport Formula One race car projects. As the seven INFINITI Academy Engineers split their placements in half between each company, they will be the driving forces behind this technology transfer. These exchanges of key data will benefit INFINITI road car customers and the Renault Sport Formula One Team.