

Crossgar student part of team bidding to bring home Formula One prize

A CROSSGAR university student is heading to Germany today in a bid to become a Formula One student champion.

Brian Matthews is a member of a University of Ulster team which has teamed up with engineering company, Schrader Electronics, in a bid to become the 2008 **Formula Student Champions**.

The Crossgar man is part of the UUJ team which has just returned from the Silverstone leg of the competition and today Brian is travelling to Hockenheim — home of the German Grand Prix — to take part in Europe's biggest student motor sport event.

The competition, which is run in the UK by the Institute of Mechanical Engineers, challenges students to design, build and race a Formula One style racing car and the team from UUJ will compete against other students from across Europe in a four day contest for a chance to win this coveted title.

The car which has been built from scratch by the students will participate in both static and dynamic events and it is important that the team have the skills to both

present and drive. The skills learned through participation in the competition are central to the successful transition for the student from academia to industry.

Brian described the project as "fantastic," explaining it challenges students to work as a team and to put the skills taught in lectures into practice.

"We also have to present the car as a business, with full cost analysis which looks very good on your CV if you are pursuing a career in motor sport," he continued.

"On behalf of the team, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Schrader for their support in this project as it enabled the team to travel to the competitions. In addition, the financial assistance from Schrader enabled us to carry out vital repairs to our engine after our race at Silverstone to ensure we will definitely get off the starter grid this week."

Brian added: "We are proud to be representing both the University and Northern Ireland in Germany and look forward to competing against world class engineers."



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Crossgar's University of Ulster student, Brian Matthews (second left), who is travelling to Germany today to take part in Europe's largest student motor sport event, Formula Student. Included with him at the Formula Student event in Silverstone are his fellow UUJ team members with Chris Robb (left) from Nutts Corner. Included are Ronan Lavery from Glenavy (team captain), Andrew Boyd from Coleraine and Newry's Sean Connolly.