

The Confederation of Australian Motor Sport (CAMS) has nominated Brendan to be considered for the second intake of the FIA Institute Young Driver Excellence Academy.

The FIA Institute programme is designed to prepare the most talented young drivers to compete at the pinnacle of their sport, while improving driver and road safety skills, fairness and responsibility.

Brendan, and 29 other finalists from around the world, including fellow Australian nominee, Formula Ford driver, Jack Le Brocq, will attend a selection event in Austria in November. Eighteen of the 30 finalists will be chosen to join the programme which consists of a number of workshops in Europe during 2012.

Brendan, who was part of CAMS' Young Driver Program at the Australian Institute of Sport in 2006, is already familiar with the various skills he will be tested on in Austria. Physical and media tests, as well as driving, will be taken into consideration at the November selection just as they were at the Pirelli Star Driver Shootout in Spain last October (which Brendan won) and the Fiesta Sporting Trophy Shootout in the UK in 2008 (where he finished third).

Brendan, from Wedderburn in Victoria, is currently competing in the World Rally Championship Academy Series – a development category running Ford Fiesta R2 rally cars. He is currently fifth in his first full season of international competition, having achieved three fourth-place finishes in his first three events in the championship.

CAMS' Chief Executive, David Morgan, said, "The FIA Institute Young Driver Excellence Academy represents an excellent opportunity for driver progression. The number of high-quality applications we received is a testament to the depth of young Australian motor sport talent in this country."

"It is also an indication of the regard with which these positions are held within the motor sport community – to be trained for a career in motor sport by the FIA itself is a significant opportunity."

"With the results that Brendan and Jack have already achieved – as well as the undoubted talent that they have shown in their young careers – we are confident that they will be excellent ambassadors for Australian motor sport."

Brendan is excited to have the opportunity to test himself against the best drivers of all motorsport disciplines from around the world. He is leaving no stone unturned in his bid to be one of the 18 drivers selected for the elite Young Driver Excellence Academy.

"It's great to be given this opportunity by CAMS and the FIA," Brendan said. "Whilst driving will certainly be a part of the selection process, I know that the selection panel will be looking for drivers who are both physically fit and also adept at dealing with the media."

"I have been training hard to make sure I am in the best possible physical condition when I get to Austria. This is a great chance to move one step closer to my goal of a full time career as a rally driver and I'll be giving it my all."