



Royal Academy
of Engineering

Leaders in Innovation
Fellowships

Advance 2023 - 2024

Application Guidance Notes

Applications open,
18 September 2023, 12:00PM (BST)

Deadline,
31 October 2023, 4:00PM (GMT)

All questions to be sent to
info-lif@raeng.org.uk

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About the Academy

The [Royal Academy of Engineering](#) is harnessing the power of engineering to build a sustainable society and an inclusive economy that works for everyone. In collaboration with our Fellows and partners, we're growing talent and developing skills for the future, driving innovation, and building global partnerships, and influencing policy and engaging the public. Together we're working to tackle the greatest challenges of our age. By 2025 we will have helped to build a sustainable society and inclusive economy through:

Talent & Diversity

We'll grow talent by training, supporting, mentoring and funding the most talented and creative [researchers](#), innovators and leaders from across the engineering profession – with an aim to help over 7,500 professionals to enhance their leadership skills.

We'll develop skills for the future by identifying the challenges of an ever-changing world and developing the skills and ideas we need to build a resilient and diverse engineering profession. We've set ourselves a target to work with over 500 engineering businesses and organisations to [champion diversity and inclusion in the workplace](#).

Innovation

We'll drive innovation by investing in some of the UK's most creative and exciting engineering ideas and businesses. In partnership with industry, entrepreneurs, and academia, we're on course to support the growth of more than 500 companies through our [Enterprise Hub](#).

We'll [build global partnerships](#) that bring the world's best engineers from industry, entrepreneurship, and academia together to address the greatest global challenges of our age. As a leading voice in engineering and technology, we're working to build networks and partnerships in over 40 countries, across six continents.

Policy & Engagement

We'll influence policy through the [National Engineering Policy Centre](#) – providing independent and expert guidance to government, drawing on the expertise and creativity of over 450,000 engineers. In our 2020-25 strategy we've committed to working with over 1,000 policymakers in the UK and internationally to improve people's lives.

We'll engage the public by opening their eyes to the wonders of engineering and inspiring young people to become the next generation of engineers. Through campaigns like [This is Engineering](#), we're changing perceptions of the profession and by 2025, we'll have helped a million young people – from every background in the UK – to explore a career in engineering.

Introduction to Advance

Advance is a bespoke programme of relationship-building and business growth activities for engineering and tech entrepreneurs who are ready to scale internationally.

The programme supports participants grow their businesses responsibly and sustainably, develop their leadership, and soft skills, and expand their networks into the UK. It achieves this by bringing together a cohort of innovators [from the Leaders in Innovation \(LIF\) Community](#), [Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation \(APEI\) Community](#), and innovators from emerging economies across the world providing them with bespoke training, mentoring and networking opportunities, both internationally and in the UK.

Objectives

1. Support the best engineering talent to achieve their full commercial potential and equip them to grow and scale their business.
2. Provide a landing opportunity into the UK innovation ecosystem for participants who might wish to establish a business in the UK or partner with relevant UK organisations.
3. Support Advance participants to take on leadership roles back to the LIF and APEI Community.

Programme Structure

The Advance programme has three pillars:

Individual pre-diagnostic and needs analysis, and goal setting.

The Advance programme is specific to the needs of the participants, supporting them to overcome the barriers and challenges intrinsic to commercial growth and development. Participants will work closely with their peers, mentors, and trainers to define short- and medium-term goals, and action plans to achieve them.

Cohort formation and streaming.

The emphasis in Advance is on the formation of a strong cohort. While all participants receive bespoke support, they will also benefit from relationships and shared experiences with programme peers. The 2023-2024 cohort is aligned with two themes of global importance. The cohort will work together on business principles and as two groups on thematic aims.

Strategic relationship-building support.

Advance participants will be expected to have made significant progress in their business model and product design since their prior participation in Academy's programme. The next steps in their commercialisation journey will require advice from and connections with key stakeholders in their industry, including investors, regulatory authorities, manufacturers, and distributors. Advance will provide the tools and opportunities to meet with these key stakeholders in the UK and open the doors them to be able to move forward into the next stages of growth for their business venture.

Application and Programme Timelines

Application Process 2023



Programme Timeline 2023-2024



The Advance Programme

Up to 20 applicants will be selected to join the 2023-2024 Advance cohort, and receive a bespoke package of training, mentoring, and networking support. The programme will start in **January 2024** and run for 6 months to **July 2024**. The programme is organised into three phases:

Phase	Main Goals	Activities
1. Onboarding and pre-diagnostic. January 2024 - February 2024	Pre-diagnostic of where you and your organisations are Set common ground Cohort building	Participants will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop relationships with their fellow Advance-4 participants, building a strong cohort identity. • Boost their confidence and soft skills. • Enhance their leadership and entrepreneurial skills. • Understand the value of building a diverse and inclusive team. • Commit to solving global issues around sustainability
2. Training and mentoring. February 2024 – June 2024	On-line Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build a strong and detailed strategy for their business having a clear ‘ask’ for stakeholders at the UK residential. • Develop relationships with their mentors and trainers. • Participate in an individualised stream of meetings, training, and network-building events. • Build up their knowledge of the UK ecosystem overall, including a nuanced understanding of the key players and organisations in their own sector.
3. UK Residential 26 June – 6 July (TBC)	Live sessions Impact and results measurement Individual tracks Connect with the UK ecosystem.	Participants will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel to the UK for an in-person residential. • Work on their engineering baseline processes. • Establish metrics to measure outcomes and impact. • Strengthen connections and partnerships developed at the UK residential.
Post-programme	Networking and partnership development	Participants will, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to scale and grow an impactful global business. • Create accountable actions and partnerships with their fellow awardees. • Engage with training opportunities for alumni.

2023-2024 Programme Themes.

Advance programme is open to participants whose innovation leverages “Inclusive Economies” and “Medical Technologies” for the ultimate benefit of society. In addition to supporting participants to achieve their full commercial potential, the Advance programme will also equip participants with the skills and knowledge they need to address the challenges of these fields while ensuring the benefits they bring can apply to everyone.

Inclusive Economies

Inclusive economies offer a myriad of concepts and actions to improve the local economic development by addressing fundamental causes.

The foundation of this concept is based on the creation of systems and fair solutions allowing people access to equitable, participatory, and sustainable opportunities, including everyone regardless of age, ethnicity, gender, educational or personal background, and disabilities status. It will support everyone with opportunities to build, maintain, and pass on wealth¹.

The re-design, creation, and management of an inclusive economy requires a set of key components that need to be addressed and improved:

- Education: provide access for all and skills for life.
- Jobs: engage in activities that offer a fair wage and economic stability, reduce inequalities at work and training the staff anticipating the radical changes and gaps technology creates i.e., digitalisation, Artificial Intelligence, Virtual Reality.
- Financial security: access to financial services, making the tax systems fairer and more effective, and fight tax evasion.
- Entrepreneurship and business: provide tools to people to start a business.
- Community development; facilitating access to education, housing, healthcare, and criminal justice reform to rural and urban communities.
- Global interconnectedness: harness globalisation as a stage for collaboration, innovation, and exchange, where everyone is included, engaged, and treated as valued member.

These key components are interconnected by participation, equity, growth, sustainability, and stability².

¹ Definition by the [Aspen Institute](#)

² Characteristics introduced by [Rockefeller Foundation](#)

Medical technologies

Medical technology ('med-tech') is essential "to helping people live more independent, healthier lives for longer. As an integral part of our health and care system it has a vital role in our ability to deliver the best care for patients"³.

Medical technologies are products, services, general medical devices, active implantable devices (AIMDs), in-vitro diagnostics (IVDs), or digital solutions used to save and improve people's lives and contribute to sustainable, safe, and effective access to a high-quality healthcare.

An innovative solution could be from prevention to care:

- Prevention: support the prevention of diseases, injuries, or other conditions.
- Diagnosis: testing and results aiming to identify a specific condition.
- Monitoring: supporting in checking the status of a disease, injury, or other conditions.
- Treatment: helping patients overcome or control injuries or diseases aiming to advance to a recovery stage.
- Care: across to the whole path, it accelerates the recovery stage and maintains people's health.

This thematic area could cover medical technologies deployed across, but not limited to, artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, wearables, applications, telemedicine, 3D-printing to Virtual Reality (VR), and deep tech.

In an ideal scenario, innovators are working on medical technologies that comply with the three main components of the UK's vision, right product, right price, and right place.

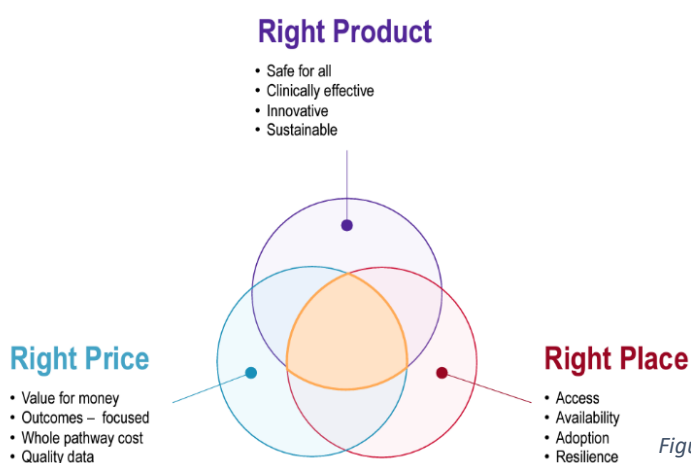


Figure 1. Three core components of Med-tech vision. Taken from DHSC.

Full thematic eligibility criteria are described in the following section.

³ Definition by the [UK's Department of Health and Social Care](#).

Eligibility Criteria

All applicants should:

- **Applicants must be working on an innovation that meets any or both of the themes. We are encouraging members of the LIF alumni community (LIF 1-7, LIF Global 22-23) or the APEI alumni community (Cycles 1-9),** as well as other entrepreneurs working on exceptional solutions that meet the criteria from the following countries: Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, Türkiye, Vietnam.
- **Have progressed the innovation with which they are applying to the programme to at least [TRL Level 7](#).** The innovators must show evidence of a prototype in the application.
- The applicant's innovation can be any new product, technology, or service, which must address the following themes:
 - Inclusive Economies
 - Medical Technologies
- **Have established a business around their innovation.** Applicants will be required to provide evidence of business incorporation in their application. Candidates must be the original innovator and own majority of the shares in the company created.
- The innovation should have the potential to benefit the applicant's country, and global benefit, in terms of improving social welfare and driving economic development.
- The primary application of the innovation must NOT be in the defence, military, or fossil fuel-based energy sectors.
- Applicants must be able to commit to Advance for a minimum of 10 hours during the 'welcome week' of the onboarding and beginning of the remote training (early-January), and at least 20 days for training and mentoring between January and July, including a minimum of 12 days for the UK Residential in June-July 2024. This implies being able to secure availability to attend the programme if selected. The Academy will provide documentation on Advance counting as training or continuous personal development if required once you have joined the cohort.
- Applicants must be able to commit to travel internationally. All costs associated with the Advance programme will be paid for by the Royal Academy of Engineering, with the exception of visas and travel insurance. Participants will be asked to purchase a travel insurance covering as a minimum: GP access⁴, medical emergencies, and personal accidents⁵. The Academy will consider covering the costs of any caring needs related to travel on a case-by-case basis⁶.

⁴ Access to a General Practitioner in the UK.

⁵ Coverage if following an accident your injuries lead to death, total loss of sight/limb or permanent disability. An accident must be caused by something external and visible.

⁶ Please contact the Academy if assuming the cost of visas and travel insurance would prevent you from taking part in the Advance programme.

- Applicants will not need to cover any costs associated with the training programme, the residential phase in the UK.
- **Candidates will need to demonstrate fluency in English** to participate. This will be a key assessment metric. Make sure to write your application and upload materials fully in English to avoid being unable to gain a place on the programme. Please note that the residential programme will be conducted entirely in English.
- Applicants must be committed to [LIF](#), [APEI](#) goals around **sustainable development and responsible innovation**.
- **Applicants must be aligned to the [Academy values](#)**, progressive leadership, diversity and inclusion, excellence everywhere, collaboration first, and creativity and innovation.
- Applicants must be **interested in exploring partnership, funding, or other development opportunities in the UK innovation ecosystem**, or establishing their business in the UK.

Diversity Statement

The Royal Academy of Engineering is committed to diversity and inclusion and welcomes applications from all under-represented groups across engineering.

It is [the Academy's policy](#) to ensure that no applicant is disadvantaged or receives less favourable treatment because of:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Gender and sexual orientation

The Advance programme welcomes applications from everyone in APEI and LIF alumni communities who meets the eligibility criteria, and particularly encourages women to apply.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Guidelines

Applicants must:

1. **Take responsibility for content:** Applicants are fully responsible for all the content presented in their grant applications. The grant process does not penalise the use of generative AI tools, but it is imperative to ensure that the application reflects the applicant's own voice and ideas. For applicants whose first language is not English, machine translation may be used, but care should still be taken to ensure the accuracy of this translation, especially for technical vocabulary.
2. **Have a rigorous approach:** Applicants should exercise caution when using generative AI tools to avoid the inclusion of 'hallucinated' references or factual errors. These often become more common when up to date content on a very specific topic is required, which is typical for most of our application areas. Such inaccuracies will be perceived as indications of a lack of rigor and will negatively impact the assessment of the application.
3. **Avoid partial use of AI tools:** It is not acceptable to solely rely on generative AI tools to write the entire grant application from start to finish. While these tools may be used to assist in various aspects, the application must primarily represent the applicant's own work.
4. **Consider it plagiarism:** Applicants should be aware that the output generated by some AI tools may utilize ideas from other human authors without proper referencing. As this is considered a form of plagiarism, it is essential to ensure that all sources are appropriately attributed.
5. **Acknowledge properly usage of AI tools:** Applicants must provide clear acknowledgement if they have used generative AI tools in the process of writing their grant applications. This includes disclosing the name of the tool used and describing how it was utilized. The following style should be employed for referencing:

I acknowledge the use of [insert AI system(s), version number and link] to generate materials for background research, styling, proofreading, etc.

I acknowledge the use of [insert AI system(s), version number and link] to generate materials that were included within my final assessment in modified form.

6. **Disclose it within GMS:** Explicit statements that the ideas presented are the applicant's own and not plagiarised or containing intellectual property they do not have rights to use, and that all contributions have been appropriately referenced or credited including the use of any machine intelligence tools used in developing the application. An inaccurate declaration will be grounds for immediate rejection of the application and potentially exclusion of the applicant and their organisation from future opportunities.

How to Apply

All applications must be submitted via the online Grant Management System (GMS), available here: <https://grants.raeng.org.uk/>

You must register through the system before you can apply. If you applied to the APEI or LIF programme through GMS before, you may already have a GMS account. Please use your existing GMS account if possible or follow the instructions on the [Login Page](#) if you cannot remember your username or password from previous application cycles.

The application form has six sections and will take approximately 1 – 1.5 hours to complete on GMS. More time will be required to gather relevant supporting documentation and prepare answers offline.

After logging in to GMS, please select **LIF Advance**. This will take you to the 'Instructions' screen.

On the Instructions screen, you will see some general instructions on how to use the system as well as the six sections of the application form.

1. Personal details
2. Innovation
3. Business
4. Advance
5. Statements and declaration
6. Marketing

Don't forget to save your work!

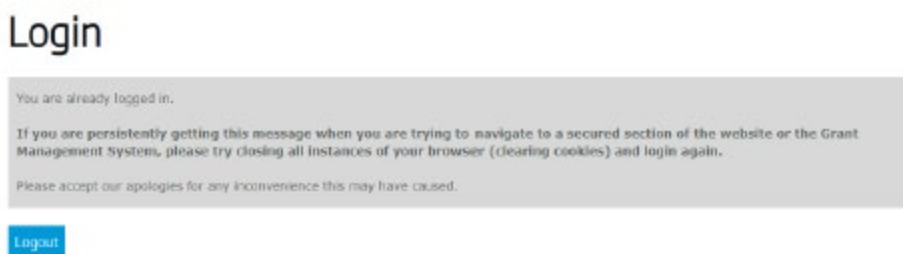
At any stage in the process, you can save your work and return to it later. The system will automatically save your work when you change pages, but we recommend that you also save your work manually to avoid loss of data.

You can answer the questions in any order, so you may skip sections and return to them later if you wish. You may prefer to compose your answers offline and copy and paste them into the form.

To submit your application, all sections and all required questions must be completed. Once you have completed all sections and required questions, a 'Submit Application' button will become available at the bottom of the summary page.

Troubleshooting

If you try logging in and the GMS displays the below message, please try clearing your cookies and browser history, closing the window, and opening the page again in a new window.



Alternatively, you can try using a different browser or opening your application in an incognito window.

If you are still having issues after trying the above steps to resolve the problem, please contact the LIF team [at info-lif@raeng.org.uk](mailto:info-lif@raeng.org.uk) esteban.jaramillo@raeng.org.uk or the APEI team at alice.radley@raeng.org.uk

Application Questions

1. Personal Details

This section asks for your details, such as your name, contact details and LIF or APEI year.

	Question	Information
1.1	Preferred Name*	Please give your preferred first name(s) and surname(s). Please include any titles you want to appear and ensure it is spelt correctly. For Example: Dr Michaela Jones
1.2	Contact details*	Please enter your most up-to-date contact email. Any communications about and during the Advance programme will be sent to the email address provided here.
1.3	Which country are you from?*	Please select your country from the drop-down list.
1.3a	In which city are you based?	Please state in which city in your country are you working in your innovation.
1.4	Which year of LIF or APEI did you participate in? *	<p>Please select the year of LIF or APEI that you participated in.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LIF1: 2014/15 – APEI Cycle 1 [2014 - 2015] • LIF2: 2015/16 – APEI Cycle 2 [2015 - 2016] • LIF3: 2016/17 – APEI Cycle 3 [2016 - 2017] • LIF4: 2017/18 – APEI Cycle 4 [2017 - 2018] • LIF5: 2018/19 – APEI Cycle 5 [2018 - 2019] • LIF6: 2019/20 – APEI Cycle 6 [2019 - 2020] • LIF7: 2020/21 – APEI Cycle 7 [2020 - 2021] • LIF Global: 2022 – APEI Cycle 8 [2021 - 2022] • LIF Global: 2023 – APEI Cycle 9 [2022 - 2023] • If you have participated in both, please choose "I have participated in both". You will be asked to state which years you participated. • If you are not an alumnus. Select the option "I am not alumni from LIF or APEI"
1.5	Have you participated before in an accelerator programme? *	Please state your answer and elaborate where, when, and in which organization did you participate.
1.6	English skills *	<p>Please indicate by skill your current English level: beginner, intermediate, advanced, or fluent/proficient. link for some guidance on language levels: English proficiency Levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaking • Reading • Writing • General Understanding <p>Based on the answer provided about your English proficiency you might be not eligible to participate in the programme.</p>

	Question	Information
1.7	Do you have a valid international passport for travelling abroad with one year validity remaining? *	Please note that you will need at least one year validity on your passport to enter the UK in July 2024.
1.8	Would you require any special assistance during in person or remote training due to a health condition or disability? *	This question will not impact the outcome of your application; its purpose is to allow the LIF team to make adjustments when needed. Please detail the nature of your condition or disability if applicable. If not applicable, please leave this field empty.

Questions with an asterisk (*) next to them are required and must be completed.

2. Your Innovation

In this section, please provide the key details on your innovation and the technology behind it.

	Question	Information
2.1	Innovation title*	Please provide the title of your innovation.
2.2	Business name*	Please give the name of your business or company.
	Current team details*	Please give your details and those of any other key team members who are currently working with you on your innovation. If you are applying as an individual, please complete your own details here.
2.3	Is this the same business/innovation with which you originally came to the LIF programme? *	If you are working on a different innovation to the one you brought to the LIF programme originally, you will be asked to briefly describe why you decided to change projects.
2.4	Is this the same business/innovation with which you originally came to LIF or APEI? *	If you are working on a different innovation to the one you brought to LIF or APEI originally, you will be asked to briefly describe why you decided to change projects. If you have not participated in LIF or APEI before, please answer "Never been involved with either". You will be asked to state if you have applied before to either or both
2.5	Do you have a full or part-time job outside of your innovation? *	Please state what is/are the other job(s), position, and provide your time availability
2.6	One-line pitch *	Please provide a one-line pitch for your business. Use the following questions as a prompt: what is it, who is it for and how will it change the world?
2.7	Which of the themes are you representing?	Select Inclusive Economies and/or Medical Technologies
2.8	What problem does your innovation address related to the themes "Medical Technologies" or "Inclusive Economies"? *	You can describe the problem in any way you like, but you may want to address the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the scale of this problem? • How urgent is this problem? • Who is experiencing this problem?
2.9	Innovation Summary *	Please describe your innovation. How does it solve the problem you outlined in the previous question? What are the benefits of your innovation, and for whom?
2.10	How does your innovation work? *	Please give a brief description of the science or technology that underpins your innovation. Please avoid over-technical language – keep the text simple and at an appropriate level for a non-technical audience

	Question	Information
2.11	Technology Readiness Level	<p>Please choose from the drop-down list the Technological Readiness Level (TRL) that best describes your innovation at your current stage. The innovation must be at TRL 7 or above.</p> <p>If your TRL is less than four, you are ineligible to continue with your application. If it is between 4 and 6, your application will be examined and might recommend you a different programme.</p>
2.12	What is the intellectual property and how is it protected?	Please describe what you have done to date to identify and protect the intellectual property for your innovation. Provide details of any patents, trademarks, licence agreements and/or copyrights you currently hold or are in the process of applying for. Please also specify where this intellectual property protection applies.
2.13	Primary technological sector or research area	Please select from the drop-down list the main technological sector or research area that describes your innovation
2.14	Which of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is most relevant to the problem your innovation addresses? *	Please select from the drop-down list the main United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) your innovation is contributing towards achieving.
2.15	Secondary Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)	If required, indicate which other SDG your innovation is relevant to.
2.16	Additional material about your innovation *	<p>Please upload or link to any documents that further describe your innovation or demonstrates how it works. You may wish to share:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical videos, schematics, and diagrams that show how your innovation works. • Short videos or pictures that show your innovation in action • Your organisation's Logo
2.17	Website and social media	If you have a website or social media page for your business and/or innovation, please provide the link(s). Please only provide links to active, business accounts. Do not provide links to personal accounts or inactive pages.

3. Your Business

In this section, please provide details on your business strategy or business plans, including a detailed business model, customers, market, stakeholders, and sales pipeline.

	Question	Information
3.1	Business stage*	Please select from the drop-down list the stage that best fits your business.
3.2	Organisation type*	From the drop-down list, please select the type of organisation that best fits your business.
3.3	Your role in the company*	You should hold a C-level or managerial position in the company. e.g., CEO, CTO, COO, Managing director.
3.4	Employees*	Please tell us how many full-time and paid employees are currently working for your business. If none, put 0.
3.5	Other employees*	Please tell us how many others, including part-time staff, volunteers or consultants , are working in your business. If none, please put 0.
3.6	How much funding have you raised for your business/innovation to date? *	Please enter the amount of funding raised in each of following categories to date. If none, put 0. Please provide this number in GBP, you can convert local currencies to GBP at: https://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal savings/Family & friends • Academic grants • Other grants or awards (from governments, corporates, foundations, etc.) • Angel investors • Business incubators and accelerators • Crowdfunding • Venture Capital funds • Bank loans • Other
3.7	Type of funding sought	Please select all the types of funding you will be pursuing in the next two years to achieve your business/innovation goals
3.8	Desired amount of funding	Please tell us how much total funding from the above sources you aim to raise for your business/innovation in the next 2 years, in GBP

	Question	Information
3.9	Profit margin	If relevant to your stage, please provide your profit margin in GBP (https://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/).
3.10	Business valuation	Please give an estimation of the business value before external investment, in GBP (https://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/).
3.11	What is your business model? *	Please outline your business model, providing details on the following aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main revenues • Your value proposition • Cost structures • Why you think it will succeed
3.12	Please describe the current market, the market opportunity, competitors, and your competitive advantage. *	Please describe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The market size for your innovation • What is already available (competitors) • Why is your solution better • Any opportunities to scale.
3.13	Who are your customers? *	Please describe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who your customers are • Your preferred route to market • What channels you will use to reach your customers • What evidence can you share that customers are willing or committed to buying or using your solution? • Any details on customer research you have done (if applicable).
3.14	What is your marketing plan? *	Please provide details on the current status or stage of your business, and your business plan.
3.15	Please upload your one-pager business plan. *	It could be a Business Model Canvas or any other templates available to illustrate it
3.16	What major risks or challenges are you facing? *	What major risks or challenges are you facing?
3.17	Business documents	If relevant, please upload any documents to further support your application e.g., pitch decks, awards, or grants.

4. Advance

In this section, please describe why you are interested in the Advance programme and how it might benefit your business.

	Question	Information
4.1	What are your priorities for development in the next 6-12 months? *	<p>Tell us about your plans for the coming year. Please elaborate on any important business or professional milestones you want to achieve, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability • Soft-skills enhancement • Open new markets • Distribution channels • Team growth • Diversity and Inclusion • Registration/regulatory approval • Engineering processes • Patents and IP development • Measurements • Other
4.2	What do you hope to gain from Advance? *	<p>Advance journey has been designed for you to grow, scale, and connect your business globally. First, enhancement of the entrepreneurial, leadership, and soft skills; followed by strategic thinking and stakeholder mapping. Then, we will work on improving the engineering skills, to finally work in measurements on impact and communication skills.</p> <p>Please reflect on the Advance journey and describe how the programme activities might support you to achieve your goals.</p>
4.3	What connections are you hoping to make with the UK's tech ecosystem, and how will they support your business? *	<p>You may list specific individuals or organisations you wish to connect with, or specific programmes you would like to apply for (e.g., UK Innovators Visa). If you do not yet have specific connections in mind, please share industries, universities, governmental departments, researchers, or any one you might want to connect in the UK.</p> <p>Please describe any general opportunities, connections, programmes, or grants you would like to explore in the UK that will support the growth of your business.</p>

5. Statements and Declarations

In this section, you must declare that you adhere to the terms and conditions of the Advance programme in order to submit your application.

Question	Information
LIF Applicant declaration	Please read the declaration carefully, write your name and position and tick the checkbox to proceed, confirming you agree with the conditions of the Advance programme.
Enterprise hub Applicant Declaration	Please read the declaration carefully, write your name and position and tick the checkbox to proceed, confirming you agree with the conditions of the Advance programme.
How have you considered gender equality in the project or activity design?	In line with the UK Government's Gender Equality in Research and Innovation Policy, all successful applications to this scheme must demonstrate consideration of the activities on gender. All funded activities will, and at a minimum, ensure that no harm is done to gender equity
Please state the name and position of the person who has made the declarations above.	By ticking the above checkboxes, you acknowledge the conditions outlined above, and agree to them for the purposes of participating in Advance.

6. Marketing

The answers you provide in this section will help the LIF team market the programme in the future.

Please note that any answers you provide in this section **will not** impact your application.

Question	Information
Have you applied to LIF programmes before?	Please select 'Yes' or 'No' from the drop-down list. This is for information only and will not affect your current application.
Have you applied to The Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation (APEI) scheme before?	Please select 'Yes' or 'No' from the drop-down list. This is for information only and will not affect your current application.
Have you applied or participated in any other Academy schemes (excluding LIF and APEI)?	Please list any other Royal Academy of Engineering schemes you have applied to or participated in, or any other previous involvement you've had with the Academy. There is no need to include your involvement with LIF or APEI. This is for information only and will not affect your current application.
If you are an Africa Prize Alumni, have you completed the Africa Prize Alumni Survey 2022/23?	By ticking this box, I confirm that, I have completed it. If you have not completed the survey, please save your application, and complete the survey here: https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/8DGQIS/ If you are unsure if you have completed the survey, please reach out to a member of the Africa Prize team. Failure to complete this survey may result in your application being withdrawn
How did you hear about this scheme?	Please select the primary source from the list below.

FAQs

Q: What kind of innovations fall under the themes ‘Inclusive Economies’ and ‘Medical Technologies’?

A: The main eligibility criteria and thematic eligibility criteria for the programme are set out in the above sections. In general, you should ask yourself:

- Does my innovation depend on or significantly leverage a medical technology such as (and not limited to) artificial intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), robotics, machine learning, wearables, applications, telemedicine, 3D-printing, Virtual Reality (VR), a deep tech, or does it produce the underlying hardware that makes such technologies possible?
- Does my innovation address inequalities faced by individuals or communities who are not always reached because of geography, socioeconomic status, gender or other social or cultural reasons? And helps providing access to essential services (education, social mobility, financial security, entrepreneurship and business services, and global interconnectedness?)

If you are still unsure, you are welcome to contact the LIF team at info-lif@raeng.org.uk or the APEI team at alice.radley@raeng.org.uk to discuss your application. As with the main LIF programme, we do not accept innovations with a primary application in the defence, military, or fossil-fuel-based energy sectors.

Q: What is the review process for Advance applications?

A: All applications to the Advance 4 programme are first checked for eligibility by Academy staff members. Eligible applications will go to a Selection Panel comprising of the Fellows of the Academy and other subject matter experts who will perform an in-depth review into the application, including reviewing the innovation, business, and reasons for wanting to participate in Advance. Sometimes, some candidates may be contacted for further information that is required by the Selection Panel before they can make their decision.

The Selection Panel will consider:

- Adherence to all entry and eligibility requirements
- The potential social, economic, or environmental benefit of the innovation to socially excluded groups
- The benefit that Advance could provide for the applicant, their business and/or their team.

Q: If I am accepted on to the Advance programme, will I need to travel?

A: Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Advance programme will be carried out remotely (online). Phase 3 of the programme is the UK residential stage. For phase 3, yes.

The LIF and APEI Team appreciate the importance of meeting in-person, and the benefits that come with in-person networking and relationship-building opportunities. Our primary goal is to find a way to provide an in-person experience for all participants on the Advance programme.

Ideally, our residential programme would take place in the UK so that participants can take advantage of proximity to the UK tech ecosystem to build connections and develop networks.

Q: What is the cost to participate in Advance?

A: There is no fee or tuition for the Advance programme.

All travel costs related to Phase 3 will be covered by the Royal Academy of Engineering, **with the exception** of visas and travel insurance which participants must organise and cover independently.

If the cost of obtaining a visa and arranging travel insurance would prevent you from taking part in the programme, please contact the LIF Team on info-lif@raeng.org.uk or the APEI team at alice.radley@raeng.org.uk

Q: What is the Academy's policy around sustainable travel?

A: The Academy acknowledges its responsibility and commitment to minimising the impact of its activities on the environment as an intrinsic part of its ambition to harness the power of engineering to build a sustainable society and inclusive economy that works for everyone.

All participant flights will be carbon-offset at no cost to the participant.

Q: My internet is sometimes unstable. Can I still participate in the Advance programme if it is delivered virtually?

A: The LIF team will support applicants where possible to ensure an unstable internet connection does not become a barrier to application to the programme. If you think you will have a problem connecting to the online training programme, please let us know by contacting info-lif@raeng.org.uk or the APEI team at alice.radley@raeng.org.uk

Q: I was unsuccessful last year. Can I apply again?

A: Yes. You may submit a new application every year, provided your innovation meets the thematic and general eligibility criteria for the new Advance programme round.

Q: I have multiple products or innovations. Can I apply more than once?

A: No. Applicants may only submit one application per Advance round.

Q: I am working on a different innovation to the one I brought to the original LIF or APEI programme. Am I still eligible to apply?

A: Yes. If your innovation meets the thematic and general eligibility criteria, you are welcome to apply to the Advance programme.

Q: I was either on the LIF Global 2023 or APEI Cycle 9 programme. Am I still eligible to apply?

A: Yes. All LIF or APEI participants whose innovations meet the thematic and general eligibility criteria are invited to apply for the Advance programme. LIF Global 2023 or APEI Cycle 9 participants considering applying to the Advance programme may wish to take the following into account:

- The Advance programme is bespoke to each participant. The programme delivery team will work with you to co-design a programme that meets your individual needs. You will have a willingness to scale and grow your business and goals for the future in order to fully participate in this process.
- Getting the most out of the Advance programme will require a significant time commitment, including international travel. You may want to reflect on whether you have the time to devote to this.

Terms and Conditions

This section sets out the terms and conditions under which the Advance programme is being offered. Please ensure you fully understand the eligibility criteria and have read this document in full before applying.

General

The Advance programme is run by the Royal Academy of Engineering. The Academy is not-for-profit entity and takes no stake in any business or innovation accepted onto the programme.

The Selection Panel has been convened by the Academy solely for the purpose of selecting participants for the Advance programme and will make the final decision.

There is no cash award available for any participants on the Advance programme.

Applications

By applying for the programme, applicants will be deemed to have accepted and agreed to be bound by these Terms and Conditions.

Any applications that are incomplete, late, do not adhere to the guidelines or contain false information will be rejected.

By applying to be considered for selection on to the programme, applicants warrant that all information submitted is true, current, and complete. The Selection Panel reserves the right to verify the eligibility of all entrants and the veracity of all statements made.

Publicity and further activities

All Advance participants will be expected to participate in promotional activities where appropriate.

Liability

Protection of any intellectual property rights in any content submitted is the sole responsibility of the owner of such rights. The Academy recommends that no application is made before the protection of any such rights has been considered. All applications are made at the applicant's own risk and the applicant agrees to release the Selection Panel, the Academy, its employees, and all other connected persons from any liability relating to infringement (whether actual or threatened) of any such rights by a third party anywhere in the world.

The applicant is solely responsible for the content of their application.

In submitting an application to be considered for the Advance programme, applicants agree to fully indemnify the Selection Panel, the Academy, its employees and all other connected persons in respect of all actions, claims, costs, damages, demands, expenses, fines, liabilities, losses, penalties, sanctions, amounts paid in settlement, out of pocket expenses, interest, penalties, and all legal and other professional costs and expenses that may be incurred by any of them in respect of any claims that the nomination and the content that it contains infringes the proprietary rights of a third party.

Data protection

The Academy will hold all personal data in confidence and will not release it to any third parties without consent, except to those involved in the delivery, audit, review, and evaluation of the LIF Global, APEI, and Advance programmes.