



Royal Academy  
of Engineering

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**ENGINEERING**

# Lord Bhattacharyya Higher Education Scholarships

Supporting students from across the West Midlands to  
study engineering and related courses at university

**Applicant guidance notes**

Deadline: 4pm, 22nd July 2025

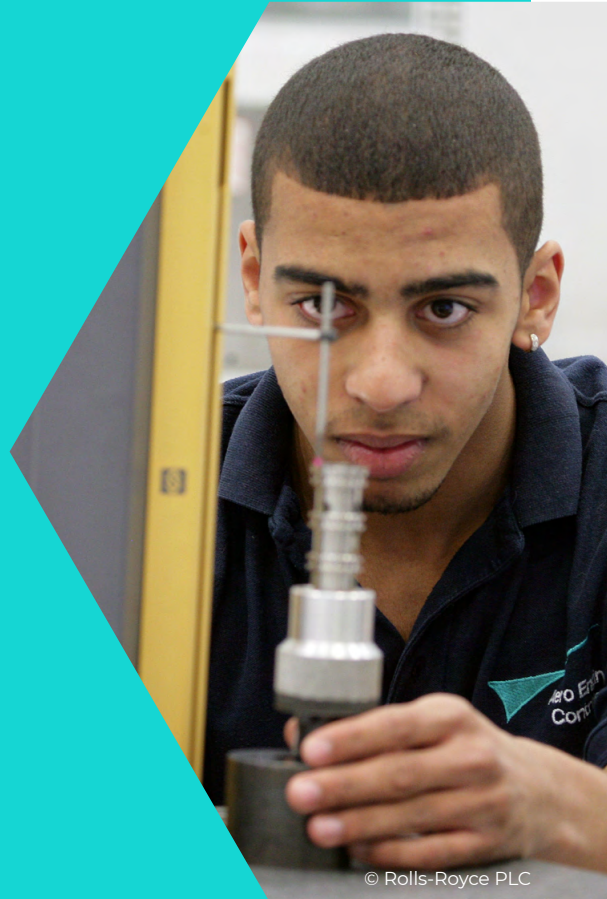
## Overview

The *Lord Bhattacharyya Higher Education Scholarships* support students from eligible colleges and sixth forms across the West Midlands who want to study engineering or a related course at university.

Students from low-income households and under-represented groups can apply for a £15,000 scholarship from the Royal Academy of Engineering to cover expenses related to going to university. By removing some of the financial barriers that can impact on progress, recipients can commit to their courses, make the most of the university experience, and stand the best possible chance of success. Successful applicants will also be enrolled onto the Academy's Graduate Engineering Engagement Programme (GEEP) which develops both technical engineering and transferable skills through a package of employability support, that includes immersive workshops and industry mentorship.

If you are successful, your funding will be awarded under the Scholarship Terms and Conditions found on the **Academy's website**.

This agreement has been developed to ensure funding aligns with our Academy values, is used for the purposes for which it was awarded, and is managed in compliance with our own funders' agreements, UK legislation and funding best practice.



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## Aims and objectives

The Lord Bhattacharyya Higher Education Scholarships support young people on their journey through education and into careers in the engineering field.

The main objectives are to:

1. Encourage students from low-income households and groups under-represented in the engineering sector become valuable members of the engineering workforce in the future
2. Support local students' progression from eligible colleges and sixth forms in the West Midlands to UK universities as they continue their engineering studies at degree level
3. Help address the UK's shortage of engineering by promoting greater diversity and inclusion in UK engineering

## Eligibility criteria

The Lord Bhattacharyya Higher Education Scholarships are only open to eligible students studying A Levels, T Levels and vocational qualifications at the following schools, colleges and academies which are part of the wider Lord Bhattacharyya Engineering Education Programme:

- Barr's Hill School, Coventry
- Blue Coat C of E School and Music College, Coventry
- Colmers School and Sixth Form College, Birmingham
- Coventry College, Coventry
- Ernesford Grange Community Academy, Coventry
- Grace Academy Solihull, Solihull
- Light Hall Sixth Form, Solihull
- Nicholas Chamberlaine School, Bedworth
- North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College, Nuneaton
- Rugby College, Rugby
- Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic School and Sixth Form, Birmingham
- Sidney Stringer Academy, Coventry
- Solihull College and University Centre, Solihull
- South and City College, Birmingham,
- Meadow Park School, Coventry
- WMG Academy for Young Engineers, Coventry
- WMG Academy for Young Engineers, Solihull

You will need to be a resident of the UK, eligible to pay UK home fees at university, and plan to begin your studies at a UK university in autumn 2025. At least one of the following must also apply:

- *You have been continuously eligible for free school meals since the start of your post-16 studies (even if you did not receive them)*
- *At least one of your parents/guardians is in receipt of means-tested benefits*

We particularly welcome applications from students who meet the criteria above, as well as one or more of the following:

- You are currently in, or have spent time previously in, the local authority care system
- Will be the first generation in your immediate family to attend university
- Have not attended a fee-paying school at any time since the age of 11 (unless you received a scholarship.)



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To be eligible for GEEP you must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Identify as of black, Asian, or other minority ethnic background
- Identify as a woman
- Have applied to a non-Russell Group university
- Come from a low-income household

If you are successful in your application for this scholarship, you agree to do the following for the Royal Academy of Engineering:

- Act as an ambassador for the programme, attending events as requested by the Academy
- Agree to take part in an evaluation of the programme if requested. This could happen during or following completion of your studies and could involve taking part in a focus group, interview, or completing a questionnaire.



The Royal Academy of Engineering is committed to diversity and inclusion and welcomes applications from all underrepresented 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, sex, or sexual orientation.

Before you commence your application, you will be asked a few diversity monitoring questions to help the Academy monitor and assess our diversity and inclusion policy. It will only be used for statistical purposes with access restricted to staff involved in processing and monitoring the data. No information will be published or used in any way that identifies individuals. The Academy will retain personal information as per our Data Retention Policy in line with the General Data Protection Regulations 2018.

The information will be treated as strictly confidential, nonattributable and will not be seen by anyone involved in any selection processes. You will need to complete the diversity monitoring section before you can see the grant application form, but can choose "prefer not to say" as responses.



If you have any questions regarding your eligibility please contact Becca Sanderson at [rebecca.sanderson@raeng.org.uk](mailto:rebecca.sanderson@raeng.org.uk)

## How to apply

You must apply for the scheme yourself – you cannot ask anyone to apply on your behalf.

All applications must be submitted using the Academy's grant management system (GMS) accessible at <https://grants.raeng.org.uk>

You will need to register on the system and provide some basic details to create a profile. Once you have registered, you will need to wait a short while before you can access the application form for the first time.

After logging into the GMS, click RAEng Portal and select 'Lord Bhattacharyya Higher Education Scholarships' which will bring up the application instructions. The form itself has six sections and should take around two hours to complete fully. You can save your progress at any time to come back to later.

This guidance document is also embedded on the website and on the GMS.

The main purpose of the application form is to identify whether you meet the eligibility criteria for the scheme, and whether your future plans align with the scheme's aims and objectives. Many of the questions have word counts which give you an indication of the level of detail expected.

You will have the option to download a copy of your application after submission, which may be useful to refer to if you are invited to interview.



## National Security

The Academy is the UK's National Academy for engineering and technology and seeks to increase the potential positive benefit that innovations can have for society, whilst reducing the risks of harm.

Hence, in all our activities, we seek to minimise the risk that technology developed as part of work that we support could be misused by a foreign state to build a capacity to target UK interests in a hostile fashion or to control or repress their population.

There is a risk that for some grant activities, failure to protect IP and a lack of due diligence into collaborators could result in sensitive technology being transferred to and misused by a hostile or repressive foreign state.

As such all applicants should ensure they are familiar with the Academy's Policy on National Security-Related Risks.

# Generative AI

## Use of generative AI tools in funding applications and assessment

The Academy has aligned with other UK funders around the use of generative AI tools in funding applications through the Research Funders Policy Group joint statement.

Regarding the use of AI, 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. 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.

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.*

Or,

*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.*



## Your application

### What to expect in your application

All applications must be submitted via the GMS, available at <https://grants.raeng.org.uk>

Once you have registered, the form should automatically use your name and contact details – you must ensure your email address and phone number are correct as the Academy will use these to contact you about your application. Your email address should also remain valid for the duration of your studies and after graduating.

The following pages outline the questions you will be asked, and notes to explain what is expected for each question.

You will also be required to upload documentation as proof of some of your answers before you can submit.

## Section 1: Eligibility

This section helps us understand whether you are eligible to apply, and assess your need for the support.

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<b>Your place of study</b>	Use the check box to tell us which of the eligible colleges or sixth forms you currently attend. If yours isn't listed, you are unfortunately not eligible to apply.
<b>Fees</b>	You will need to check a box to state that you are a UK resident and eligible to pay UK home fees at university. If you cannot answer 'yes' to this, you are not eligible for the award.
<b>Eligibility criteria</b>	<p>These scholarships are mainly aimed at supporting students from low-income households. You will need to tick the boxes to show which criteria you meet, and you will be asked to upload proof of these.</p> <p>If you don't strictly meet the eligibility criteria, but believe you have a good reason to apply for this scholarship, then you must explain why you want to apply. This could be that you belong to a group typically under-represented in the engineering sector, or that there are other financial circumstances which mean you would benefit from the support. This all help you build a case for why you should receive the award.</p> <p>Please give details of any additional bursaries or scholarships you might receive to support your university studies, or provide details of any funding you received during your time at college. This won't affect your eligibility to apply for this scholarship, but will help us understand your situation better.</p>

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## Section 2: Education

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<b>AS, A Levels, BTEC/ OCRs and T Levels</b>	<p>Please list the qualifications you will complete in 2025, including your predicted grades. Be sure to make it clear which are A Levels, which are BTECs and so on.</p> <p>If there are any additional subjects you dropped after Year 12, please list the subjects and grades achieved.</p>
<b>Your choice of course</b>	<p>Please list the universities and courses you have applied for, including the course codes. You will need to upload evidence of offers you have received, and tell us which one is your firm offer.</p> <p>If your course includes an integrated foundation year, tick a box to let us know. If you tick yes, the scholarship will be paid during the first three years of your studies.</p>
<b>Where do you hope that your university studies will lead you?</b>	Here you need to describe, in up to 200 words, what plans you may already have after you finish your university studies. What are your long-term plans and ambitions? Try to be as specific and individual as possible.

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## Section 3: Longer answers

**This section helps us to understand more about you as a person, your interest in engineering, and how you can make a difference to the world around you through engineering.**

**Each question has a word count of around 300 words and you should make good use of this and provide as much detail as possible. Consider drafting your answers somewhere else so you can review it before submitting.**

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**Q: Tell us why you think you should be awarded a scholarship.**

Tell us a bit about yourself, your goals and ambitions, and what sets you apart from others who might be applying.

What will you use the scholarship money for? How will this scheme help you to achieve the goals you described? What would you be able to do with the scholarship money, that you wouldn't be able to do otherwise?

We are also interested to hear what inspired you to choose engineering.

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**Q: Tell us how you think engineering can be used in the future to address at least one of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

Engineering is crucial to solving some of the world's greatest threats and challenges. The United Nations have developed 17 SDGs that will need to be addressed to ensure a sustainable future for the world and its population.

Review the list of SDGs at: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

Now choose at least one and tell us how engineering could be used to address the challenge and achieve the goal – try to be specific in your solution and think outside the box.

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**Q: How have you used engineering outside of school?**

We would like to understand how you have engaged with engineering outside of your school or college. Tell us about a time when you used engineering to solve a problem, and how you went about it. This could be a problem you identified at home, or a challenge set during an extra-curricular club or work experience.

This is a chance to show your interest, reflect on your skills, and explain how you relate engineering to your experience of solving a problem. You may not have used engineering to solve a problem specifically, but you may have improved, adapted, invented or been creative with something. All of these are characteristics of an engineer!

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## Section 4: Reference

**You will need to get a reference from one of your tutors in support of your applications. Do not leave it too late to ask them for this, as we cannot extend the application deadline.**

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**Referee details** Provide your referee's name and contact email address. Please talk to them before applying and get their permission to use them as a referee.

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**Upload the reference** The reference must be signed, dated, and on letter-headed paper. Please ask your referee to comment on your attendance, academic capability, confirm the qualifications you are completing this year, and include anything else they feel will support your application. If you do not meet the full eligibility criteria set out earlier, your referee could endorse you and explain why you want to apply.

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## Section 5: Check your submission

**In this final section you need to confirm that all information provided in the application is completely accurate at the time of submitting it.**

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You must also confirm that you have permission from anyone whose contact details you have included, or who has provided evidence in support of your application.

Please note that the Royal Academy of Engineering will undertake checks as appropriate, and that any false information will disqualify you from receiving the scholarship.

Good luck!

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A woman with dark curly hair, wearing a colorful patterned top and black pants, is pointing at a large technical drawing held by a man. The man has a beard and is wearing a dark blue shirt. They are standing outdoors near a body of water with a metal railing. The drawing they are looking at appears to be a site plan or architectural drawing with various lines and text.

## Application timeline

**Applications must be submitted electronically on the Academy's GMS, and will then be reviewed and assessed by an external review panel.**

- **Application deadline:** 4.00pm on Tuesday 22nd July  
Late submissions cannot be accepted.
- **You will be notified** whether your application has been shortlisted for interview in the week beginning 4th August
- **If shortlisted**, you will be invited to attend an online interview, expected to take place on the 14th and 15th August.
  - **Successful applicants** will be informed by Friday 29th August.

Interview and decision dates may change depending on the review panel's availability, but the above should be taken as an indication.

## About the programme

### What is the Lord Bhattacharyya Engineering Education Programme?

These scholarships are part of the wider Lord Bhattacharyya Engineering Education Programme, which is led by the Royal Academy of Engineering in partnership with WMG at the University of Warwick.

The programme is a tribute to the late Professor Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya Kt CBE FREng FRS, who was an engineer, academic, educator and government advisor. Lord Bhattacharyya was passionate about inspiring the next generation of engineers and technicians, and established WMG

at the University of Warwick in 1980, which promotes collaboration between industry and academia. With funding from the UK Government Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, the Lord Bhattacharyya Engineering Education Programme was established in his memory after his passing in March 2019.

The programme is working with a network of secondary schools and further education colleges across the West Midlands, providing opportunities to experience engineering first-hand, sparking interest in the subject, and supporting young people's progression through education and into engineering and technician careers.

## Contact

If you have any questions about your eligibility, the programme, or problems with your application, please contact Becca Sanderson at [rebecca.sanderson@raeng.org.uk](mailto:rebecca.sanderson@raeng.org.uk)



**Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya**  
CBE FREng FRS



# Royal Academy of Engineering

**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.

## What we do

### Talent & diversity

We're growing talent by training, supporting, mentoring and funding the most talented and creative researchers, innovators and leaders from across the engineering profession.

We're developing skills for the future by identifying the challenges of an ever-changing world and developing the skills and approaches we need to build a resilient and diverse engineering profession.

### Innovation

We're driving innovation by investing in some of the country's most creative and exciting engineering ideas and businesses.

We're building global partnerships that bring the world's best engineers from industry, entrepreneurship and academia together to collaborate on creative innovations that address the greatest global challenges of our age.

### Policy & engagement

We're influencing policy through the National Engineering Policy Centre – providing independent expert support to policymakers on issues of importance.

We're engaging the public by opening their eyes to the wonders of engineering and inspiring young people to become the next generation of engineers.