Royal Academy of Engineering

Research Fellowships 2026/27

Applicant guidance notes
Invited Applications

Deadline: 10 December 2026, 5pm GMT

Royal Academy of Engineering

Contents

Introduction to the Academy 3

Programme overview 3

Eligibility criteria 5

Diversity and inclusion 6

Access Mentoring support 7

Part-time and flexible working 7

Mentoring and monitoring 8

How to apply 9

Application process 9

Completing the application form 11

- Section 1: Applicant and host institution details 12
- Section 2: Project details 15
- Section 3: Case for support 17
- Section 4: Collaboration, impact and engagement 19
- Section 5: Environment and Resources 22
- Section 6: Responsible research 26
- Section 7: Support and declarations 33

Assessment of applications 36

Assessment criteria 37

Why applications are unsuccessful 38

Grant agreement 39

Contact details 39

Appendix A: Engineering categories 40

Appendix B: Grant policies 42

- Academy's commitment to DORA principles 42
- Use of generative AI tools in funding applications and assessment 42
- National security 43
- Export control 43
- Subsidy control 44
- Research involving human participants or tissue 45
- Animals in research 45

Royal Academy of Engineering

Introduction to the Academy

The Royal Academy of Engineering[1] is a charity delivering public benefit, a National Academy providing progressive leadership, and a Fellowship bringing together an unrivalled community of leaders from every part of engineering and technology. Our Patron is His Majesty King Charles III.

The Academy's Strategy 2030, "Engineering Better Lives"[2], sets out a vision to unite a community of outstanding experts and innovators in engineering to drive positive societal impact. The strategy is built around three core goals: a sustainable and innovative economy, technology improving lives, and an engineering community fit for the future. The Academy's grant programmes support these strategic goals by investing in people, partnerships, and projects that advance engineering excellence, foster inclusion and diversity, and deliver meaningful societal impact in alignment with the Academy's vision and values.

Programme overview

Research Fellowships

The Royal Academy of Engineering (the Academy) offers Research Fellowships each year to outstanding early-career researchers to support them to become future research leaders in engineering. The scheme's objectives are to:

- Support the best early-career researchers in establishing their independence and international reputation.
- Provide long-term support enabling the pursuit of an ambitious programme of engineering research and impact.
- Develop ambassadors for the Academy and advocates for STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) disciplines.

The Academy welcomes applications from early-career researchers worldwide who have been awarded their PhD in the last four years. Applicants who have applied to this scheme before and were unsuccessful are eligible to reapply. These applications will be considered as new applications.
The scheme provides funding for five years. Each application is capped at a maximum contribution from the Academy of **£800,000 over the five-year period**, at 80% of the full economic costs (fEC).

[1] https://raeng.org.uk/about-us/
[2] https://raeng.org.uk/about-us/our-strategy/

Research Fellowships must be held at a UK higher education institution/university or a at UK research organisation that is eligible to receive UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) funding. See the UK Government website[3] for further information.

Research Fellowships must begin between **1 August 2027** and **31 October 2027**. The duration of a Research Fellowship is five years full time, calculated on a pro-rata basis for part-time awards. Requests for a shorter Research Fellowship are not accepted. Please note that all grant expenditure and activities must be within the start and end dates.

There are no nationality and age restrictions for applicants. The host institution is responsible for securing all necessary work permits and related costs for the Research Fellows.

In addition to the direct financial support, the scheme benefits include:

- Mentoring support from an Academy Fellow to offer advice on research and career development.
- Reduction of teaching and administrative duties to dedicate time to research.
- Training and additional funding opportunities.
- Networking opportunities with other Research Fellows and Academy Fellows.
- An opportunity to establish a strong research track record which will improve the chances of securing additional funding and expanding research teams.
- Being part of the Academy Awardee Excellence Community. See the RAENG Awardee Excellence Community Website[4] for more information.

The former Engineering for Development Research Fellowship (EDRF) route has been integrated into the main Research Fellowships scheme. Applications addressing engineering for development challenges are welcomed and will be assessed alongside all other applications.

From the 2026/27 round onwards, the Research Fellowship scheme has moved to a **two-stage application process,** replacing the single-stage full application model. The first stage required submission of an Expression of Interest (deadline: 25 June 2026), followed by a second stage where selected applicants receive an invitation to submit a full proposal (deadline: 10 December 2026). Please see the timeline below.

[3] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ukri-endorsement-employing-or-hosting-institutions-global-talent-visa/ukri-list-of-approved-research-organisations
[4] https://raeng.org.uk/about-us/awardee-excellence-community

The Academy is in discussions with UK-based medical charities to co-fund medical engineering research that improves the health and well-being of society. Our current co-founder is Rosetrees[5]. Applicants that are in the remit of these charities will be contacted at interview stage to confirm their interest in being co-funded. Please note that co-funded Research Fellows will be required to sign both Academy and medical charity terms and conditions.

The scheme is funded by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT).

Eligibility criteria

1. Research Fellowships must be held at one of the following eligible institutions that can show it is capable of fully supporting an engineering-focused research project and researcher:

   - a UK higher education institution/university or
   - a UK research organisation that is eligible to receive UKRI funding. A list of eligible research organisations is included on the UK Government website.[6]

2. The host institution must agree to provide the Research Fellow all the support normal for a permanent employee.

3. The proposed research project must be in an engineering subject area. Engineering is defined in its broadest sense, encompassing a wide range of diverse fields (refer to Appendix A for more information).

4. Applicants must have a PhD, which was awarded (or the PhD has been unconditionally approved) no more than four years before the submission deadline of the Expression of Interest. This period includes applicants' work experience in academia and/or in industry in the UK and/or worldwide.

   For the 2026/27 round only, a margin of up to six months beyond the four-year limit is acceptable and does not require justification or explanation of extenuating circumstances (for those six months). Therefore, the final PhD award cut-off date is the **25 December 2021.**

[5] https://rosetrees.org.uk/
[6] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ukri-endorsement-employing-or-hosting-institutions-global-talent-visa/ukri-list-of-approved-research-organisations

Beyond the four years and six months limit, extenuating circumstances will be taken into consideration, including maternity and paternity leave, extended sick leave, national service, caring responsibilities, and relocation due to fear of persecution or human rights violation. Please ensure the relevant dates and details are provided in the application form.

Please note that in a number of previous rounds, applicants could not hold a permanent academic position. This eligibility criterion has been removed and is no longer applicable.

We remind you also that:

- Research Fellowships cannot be jointly hosted by multiple institutions.
- It is the applicant's responsibility to contact the host institution to gain their formal approval before applying.
- There is a limit on the number of applications each host institution can submit at Expression of Interest stage.
- Any applications that are incomplete or do not adhere to the guidance will be rejected.

Diversity and inclusion

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[7] 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[8] 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 submit the grant application form, but can choose "prefer not to say" as responses.

[7] https://raeng.org.uk/media/flghp4gn/rae005-diversity-and-inclusion-policy-2024.pdf
[8] https://raeng.org.uk/media/duhjwap2/raeng-privacy-policy-grant-or-award.pdf

The Academy is committed to making reasonable adjustments to remove barriers that hinder applicants from applying. Please refer to the Contact details section for further information.

Access Mentoring support

The Academy aims to provide additional support to applicants from groups that are persistently underrepresented within UK engineering through the grant application process.

This positive action[9] will contribute to improving diversity in the talent pipeline and widening the diversity of applicants and awardees within the Academy's research grant schemes.

To be eligible for Access Mentoring support, applicants need to be invited to participate in the **second stage of the application process** to submit a full proposal. They must meet the eligibility criteria for the Research Fellowships scheme and must be from one of the following groups:

- **Women**
- **Black people (including those with any mixed ethnicity with Black ethnic backgrounds)**
- **Disabled people**

The Academy accepts applicants' self-declaration on the above identified underrepresented groups.

Access Mentoring is a resource-limited opportunity. Applicants will need to wait to be invited to the second stage of the application process, but do not need to wait until the invited application stage deadline (10 December 2026) to submit their application. Early submission is encouraged and mentors will be assigned on a first come first served basis as soon as the application is approved. For more information on Access Mentoring, please see guidance and how to apply[10].

Part-time and flexible working

The Academy wants to support applicants to achieve a balance between their personal and work demands and is happy to discuss individual requirements and consider part-time and other flexible working arrangements.

[9] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/section/158
[10] https://raeng.org.uk/access-mentoring

Previously, Research Fellowships could only be held part-time in exceptional circumstances (e.g. caring responsibilities), and Fellows were not permitted to undertake additional employment alongside a 0.5 FTE award. This restriction has since been removed.

Fellows may now hold a part-time fellowship at 0.5 % FTE or above (subject to the minimum requirement) and may undertake additional paid work alongside their fellowship, provided this is with an organisation external to their host institution (e.g. industry, government, or other relevant stakeholders). Part-time fellowships must be held at no less than 0.5% FTE.

The Research Fellow should be based at the host institution for at least 50% of the Research Fellowship. If the Research Fellow needs to work more than 50% of the Research Fellowship outside the host institution, justification must be provided in the application form (in the 'Choice of host institution' section).

Research Fellows are entitled to maternity, paternity and adoption leave under the host institution's normal conditions of employment. The Academy will extend the duration of the Research Fellowship pro-rata to take into account such periods of leave and any conversions to part-time working. Research Fellows with caring responsibilities should liaise directly with the host institution if they wish to apply for part-time or flexible working.

Mentoring and monitoring

Awarded Research Fellows will work with the Academy to identify an Academy Fellow to be their mentor. The mentor will provide expert, independent advice and support for the duration of the Research Fellowship and will also formally monitor the Research Fellow's progress for the Academy.

Research Fellows must submit an annual progress report and expenditure statement to the Academy. At the annual review meeting the Research Fellow, mentor and Academy staff will discuss the report, progress made and future plans.

Research Fellows will also be asked to provide some key data on their annual performance (e.g. publications and additional research funding) for the purpose of auditing and reporting to the Academy's funders.

Royal Academy of Engineering

How to apply

All applications must be submitted via the Academy's online grants management system[11] (GMS). Applicants must first register and provide some basic login details to create a profile.

The application should be submitted by the applicant. We recommend leaving plenty of time to complete the application form ahead of the deadline and thoroughly going through your application prior to submission.

While the guidance notes are embedded within the system itself, we recommend you keep this document to hand when completing the application form. Please also read the Academy's Grant Policies in Appendix B and on our website[12] before starting your application.

Many of the questions have prescribed word limits, which are designed to keep answers focused and give applicants an indication of the level of detail required. In such cases the number of words used will be displayed beneath the question and updated in real time.

Applicants can download a PDF of their application after submission, which is recommended for reference.

Application process

Applications will be assessed through a two-stage application process.

Stage one: Expression of Interest (currently closed for applications)

Stage two: Invited Application (deadline 10 December 2026)

These Guidance Notes relate to Stage two: Invited Application and are aimed at applicants who have been successful at Stage one: Expression of Interest and invited by the Academy to submit a full application.

The Invited Application requires applicants to elaborate on the information provided in the Expression of Interest and provide more comprehensive information on the proposed project.

[11] https://grants.raeng.org.uk
[12] https://raeng.org.uk/about-us/our-policies/grant-policies/

At this stage, it is particularly important that the application clearly sets out the engineering contribution and the research vision, supported by a detailed and coherent programme of work. Applicants should explain the goals and objectives, the timeliness and novelty of the research in the context of the wider field/state-of-the-art, and provide sufficient methodological detail, milestones and a project timeline to demonstrate feasibility within the Fellowship period. Applicants are also expected to provide a considered assessment of the project, including key risks and mitigation, as well as a clear explanation of the beneficiaries and pathways to impact, the role of any collaborations, and the resources and host support required to deliver the Fellowship.

Invited Applications will be assessed by expert reviewers, who will be asked to provide written comments and scores against the assessment criteria. Reviewers may also highlight areas where clarification is required. Please refer to the Assessment Criteria for full details.

Timeline



For the Invited Application stage, applicants can only access the application via a personalised link. This link will be sent directly to applicants via an email from the Academy.

Please use the same login details that you used when you submitted your expression of interest. If you need to update your contact information, please contact research@raeng.org.uk.

Royal Academy of Engineering

Completing the application form

After receiving an email inviting you to submit a stage two application, you must log into the grants management system (GMS) BEFORE clicking the link to start the full application that is provided in the email. Once you are logged in, the link should take you to the appropriate page to complete your application. Please do not copy and paste the link or you may lose some of your data.

You will be able to see some general instructions on how to use the system, as well as links to each of the seven sections of the application form listed below. Some of the responses will be extracted from the Expression of Interest form and applicants will not need to complete the information again. However, the system does allow the applicant to edit the information that has been extracted.

1. Applicant profile and host institution details (All questions except 1.9 extracted from EOI form)
2. Project details (Questions are all extracted from EOI form)
3. Case for support (Questions 3.1 and 3.2 are extracted from EOI form)
4. Collaboration, impact and engagement (Questions 4.1, 4.2 and 4.4 are extracted from EOI form)
5. Environment and resources (Question 5.1 is extracted from EOI form)
6. Responsible research
7. Support and declarations

You can save your work at any stage in the application process and return to it later. You can answer the questions in any order you like, so you can freely skip some sections and return to them later. **Please read the guidance provided in this document in detail as well as the Grant Policies in Appendix B before starting an application**. You should also ensure that you have all the necessary documentation to complete the application, such as a copy of your CV and supporting letters.

Royal Academy of Engineering

Section 1: Applicant and host institution details

1.1 Applicant name and contact details

Please confirm your name and preferred contact details. Please ensure that the contact email address is correct and will be valid for the entire remainder of the application process.

ORCID identifier

Applicants are welcome to use data from their ORCID[13] (Open Researcher and Contributor ID) identifier in this application. Usage is optional and available to minimise your manual data entry. You may add your ORCID identifier on the Contact information page or by clicking on the Retrieve/Update link within a relevant question. A pop-up will appear allowing you to provide your ORCID details and authorise access. The existence and use of an ORCID identifier will **not** have an impact on how an application is assessed.

1.2 Please provide a full list of your employment appointments since your university graduation in reverse chronological order

Please provide full details of any periods of part-time working (noting what percentage part-time), career breaks, extended sick leave or maternity/paternity/adoptive leave as your eligibility may depend on the accuracy of this information.

The depth of information you provide is up to you. As this information will represent you in the eligibility and assessment process, it is worthwhile to include as much good evidence for your merit as possible.

You can retrieve your career history information from your ORCID profile to complete this section of the application form. If you do not have an ORCID identifier, please use the below format:
Organisation: City
Year Started | Year Ended | Role Title

1.3 Please list all your qualifications in reverse chronological order

The depth of information you provide is up to you, but this will represent you under assessment and so it is worth including as much good evidence of your academic merit as possible and as appropriate for the funding for which you are applying.

You can retrieve your education information from your ORCID profile to complete this section of the application form. If you do not have an ORCID identifier, please use the below format:

[13] https://orcid.org/

University: City
Year Started to Year Completed | Degree Type

1.4 Please provide details of authors, titles and references of your key preprints and publications in refereed journals, in reverse chronological order

You should include those outputs most relevant to the application to support your case. Please note that publications will be reviewed on the basis of scientific content, rather than publication metrics or the identity of the journal.

Your list can be divided into three sections: (i) refereed papers in primary journals, (ii) contributions to symposia and compiled volumes (refereed only); and (iii) preprints.

For publications arising from large collaborative programmes clearly specify the exact role and contribution made towards large collaborative research programmes that have resulted in multi-authored publications.

If your field of research differs in any way from normal conventions, e.g. lead author, first author, and publications in journals being the main gauge of success, please provide a brief explanation at the top of your publication list.

If appropriate, give the publisher or where each publication may be obtained, providing a URL if available. Citations for preprints must state "Preprint", the repository name and the articles persistent identifier (e.g. DOI).

You can retrieve your published works from your ORCID profile to complete this section of the application form. If you do not have an ORCID identifier, please use the below format:
Publication Title
Publication
Year | Publication type

1.5 Please list your current and previous research and/or other investment funding in reverse chronological order

The depth of information you provide is up to you, but this will represent you under assessment and so it is worth including as much good evidence of your merit as possible and as appropriate for the funding for which you are applying.

You can retrieve your funding information from your ORCID profile to complete this section of the application form. If you do not have an ORCID identifier, please use the below format:
Title
Funder

Amount
Year Started to Year Completed | Type of funding (grant, investment, etc)

1.6 What date was your PhD certificate awarded?

Applicants must have a PhD, which was awarded **no more than four years and 6 months** before the Expression of Interest submission deadline. Please enter the date your PhD certificate was awarded or the date your PhD was unconditionally approved by the university.

1.7 Extenuating circumstances **(optional question, not visible to reviewers)**

If your PhD certificate was awarded more than four years and six months before the Expression of Interest submission deadline (25 June 2026), please provide details of extenuating circumstances. Please cover any periods of maternity/paternity leave, extended sick leave, national service, part-time employment for caring responsibilities or any other activity that you feel should be considered when assessing your eligibility for this Research Fellowships. The Academy's decision on eligibility is final.
(200 words maximum)

1.8 Host institution details

Please confirm the details of the host institution where the Research Fellowship will be held and confirm that this is still the 'lead organisation'. If you are not currently employed by the host institution, you should also add your current employer.

1.9 Track record and achievements

Please describe up to three examples of your most significant achievements in your research career.

We would like to emphasise that all achievements and outputs are welcome and considered valuable to the Academy, not just peer-reviewed publications. Outputs also include, and are not limited to, code, patents, spin-out companies, events, public engagement and policy impact.

Please briefly explain the significance of each achievement.
(500 words maximum)

Royal Academy of Engineering

Section 2: Project details

2.1 Please provide a title for your proposal

The essence of the research should be captured in the title and should be as informative as possible. Please ensure that it is understandable to a non-specialist reader and does not contain any confidential or sensitive information.
(15 words maximum)

2.2 Please provide a summary of your proposal

Please provide a summary of the proposed activity, including key goals and expected impact. Your summary should be understandable to the non-specialist reader.

We may make this summary publicly available if successful, so please do not include any confidential or sensitive information.
(250 words maximum)

2.3 Please outline your engineering research vision

Further to the summary of your research goals and objectives provided above, please include short, accessible explanations on the following points:

- the challenge or opportunity your research addresses (in an engineering context)
- why it is important now (timeliness)
- how your approach differs from or advances existing work (novelty)
- the wider societal context
- what success would look like at the end of the Fellowship.

(500 words maximum)

2.4 What is the proposed start date?

Research Fellowships must begin between **1 August 2027** and **31 October 2027**. You must agree these timescales with the host institution. The exact dates you provide here are indicative and there will be an opportunity to confirm or amend them, within the permitted timeframe, if successful.

2.5 What is the proposed end date?

For example, if your project starts on 1 September 2027, it will need to finish five years later (on 31 August 2032). The duration of a Research Fellowship is five years full time, calculated on a pro-rata basis for part-time awards. Requests for a shorter Research Fellowship are not accepted. Please note that all grant expenditure and activities must be within the start and end dates.

2.6 Select one single broad engineering category that best aligns with your proposal

If your research proposal fits into several categories, please pick the category that is most applicable to your proposal. The category selected will be used to help identify reviewers and panel members.

Details of the engineering categories can be found in Appendix A at the end of this document and are also available under the 'List of Panels' on our website[14].

2.7 Please provide a maximum of 10 keywords that describe your proposal

The keywords provided help the Academy identify suitable reviewers.
(10 words maximum, separated by a comma)

2.8 List all organisations that you will collaborate with as part of the project

Please list any collaborators from universities and industry in the UK or worldwide. This will help avoid any conflicts of interest during the assessment process**.** You should not explain the extent or nature of the collaboration here, as that is covered later.

Collaborations can take many forms, including financial contributions, access to facilities and equipment, provision of equipment/materials/supplies/services, access to data and results, provision of staff (e.g. a secondment), advice, mentoring, participation in a steering group, expertise, networking/introductions. This covers both internal and external collaborations.
(50 words maximum)

[14] https://www.raeng.org.uk/about-us/fellowship/election-to-the-fellowship

Section 3: Case for support

3.1 Motivation, profile and fit

- How do your research experiences, contributions and progression to date demonstrate your potential for research independence and leadership in engineering?
- What motivates you to apply for this Fellowship, and how does it align with your long-term aspirations and research interests?

Use this section to present the strongest evidence of your progression, independence and leadership potential, and to explain why a Research Fellowship is the right next step.

You should highlight the aspects of your track record that indicate research independence and your potential to become a future research leader in your chosen field and explain how the Fellowship aligns with your long-term research direction and career goals.
(500 words maximum)

3.2 Engineering contribution

- What is the engineering contribution of your proposed research, and how does it advance engineering knowledge or practice?
- What contribution will your research make to the engineering capability or practice and how will this benefit the engineering profession or wider society?

Clearly state the core engineering advance your research will deliver and how this progresses the state-of-the-art in engineering knowledge, capability or practice.

You should make the novelty explicit and explain, in practical terms, who will benefit and how, including any relevance to the engineering profession and/or wider society.
(200 words maximum)

3.3 Goals and objectives

Please state the goals and objectives for your research project. You should include details on how novel, realistic and ambitious the project is.

Please note that, if awarded, your performance will be assessed against these objectives.
(200 words maximum)

3.4 Timeliness and novelty

Describe why this research is important and why it should be conducted now.
(250 words maximum)

3.5 Methodology

Please provide a detailed description of the exact work to be completed. Describe the programme of work, indicating the research to be undertaken and the milestones that can be used to measure progress.

Detail the methodology to be used in pursuit of the research and justify this choice. What similar research is being/has been undertaken nationally and internationally and how does your project differ?
(1,500 words maximum)

3.6 Images and diagrams **(optional question)**

Upload any images and/or diagrams related to your project that add value to your application.
Images/diagrams must be referenced in the application form and **uploaded as a single PDF** in the order they should be viewed**.**

3.7 Reference list

List the reference material referred to in your application, including web links to open access articles where possible. Upload as a single PDF (maximum two pages).

3.8 Project timeline

Upload a Gantt chart or equivalent showing the schedule of activities for the duration of the Research Fellowship, with major milestones clearly indicated. You may wish to include a diagram showing how the work packages and your collaborations will interact. This must be collated and **uploaded as a single PDF**.

3.9 Project management

Describe how your research project will be managed. You may wish to refer to the project timeline / Gantt chart. You should include suitable milestones and identifiable deliverables. Your progress will be reviewed against this plan.
(200 words maximum)

3.10 Risks and mitigation

Identify and assess any risks that may jeopardise the project's success.

Risks will not necessarily be perceived as weaknesses; this is an opportunity to demonstrate awareness and management of potential problems.
(200 words maximum)

Section 4: Collaboration, impact and engagement

4.1 Collaborations

Outline the collaborators you intend to work with during the Fellowship and the role they will play in supporting your research and impact.

Describe the collaborations that will enhance the quality of your research and/or strengthen the pathway to impact. You should explain who you will work with, why they are appropriate, and the specific contribution each collaborator will make.

Collaborations should be clearly justified and proportionate to the Fellowship; where letters of support are necessary to evidence a collaborator's commitment, these should be provided.
(200 words maximum)

4.2 Beneficiaries and pathways to impact

- Who will benefit from your research, and how?
- How could the outcomes of your work be used, adopted, or translated beyond academia?
- How do you plan to communicate your research and engage audiences outside the academic community?

Identify the main beneficiary groups and describe how they could benefit from your research outcomes. You should outline credible routes through which outcomes could be used, adopted or translated beyond academia, and describe how you will communicate your work and engage with audiences outside the academic community.
(300 words maximum)

4.3 Dissemination and public engagement

Indicate the proposed methods of dissemination and public engagement.

Explain how results and outputs will be shared and how you will engage audiences beyond academia and the engineering community.
(200 words maximum)

4.4 Diversity, inclusion and research culture

- What does diversity and inclusion mean to you, and how will you embed these principles in your research, collaborations, and team development?

Explain what diversity and inclusion mean to you in the context of your research and working practices. You should describe how you will embed these principles

in your research design and delivery, in your collaborations, and in any team development, and how this will contribute to a positive research culture in which people can thrive.
(200 words maximum)

4.5 Letters of support from collaborators (optional, but an opportunity to demonstrate wider support for you and your project)
Please ensure the letters of support are collated and submitted in a **single PDF document**.

Each letter of support must:

- Be on headed paper and clearly state who they are from.
- Be from external collaborators i.e., people and organisations NOT working at the host institution and its affiliates.
- Be signed.
- Confirm that the author knows the applicant.
- Explain why they are interested in the project.
- Provide details on what form the collaboration will take.
- Clearly demonstrate the nature of the collaboration and how it will be beneficial to the applicant and the project.
- **Be no more than two pages**.

As reviewers are asked to assess these alongside your plans for collaboration, aim for quality over quantity and keep the letters short and concise to better enable the reviewer to identify the salient information. A bullet-point list of contributions is a highly effective method of making the reviewers' role easier.

4.6 To assist with subsidy control compliance, please confirm whether your research project is a piece of non-economic scientific research (with or without commercial collaborators) in respect of the Statutory Guidance on Subsidy Control (Yes/No)
Statutory Guidance on Subsidy Control[15]: "Non-economic scientific research may be carried out in collaboration with commercial organisations, as long as the commercial organisation does not receive a specific benefit from the financial assistance given to the research organisation. This would be the case, for example, where the commercial organisation pays the full cost of the project; or where results that do not give rise to intellectual property rights may be widely disseminated and where any intellectual property rights arising from the project are allocated to the organisations involved in a manner which reflects their contributions (i.e. intellectual property rights resulting from the activities of the research organisation are fully allocated to it). The commercial organisation is also

[15] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/688c952b486754ec28878345/UK_subsidy_control_statutory_guidance_august_2025.pdf

unlikely to benefit if the research organisation receives compensation equivalent to the market price for the intellectual property rights which result from their activities."

4.7 To assist with subsidy control compliance, please confirm whether your research project is for Industrial Research with or without identified commercial collaborator(s) (Yes/No)

"Industrial Research means the planned research or critical investigation that is aimed at the acquisition of new knowledge and skills for developing new products, processes or services; or that is aimed at bringing about a significant improvement in existing products, processes or services". For more details, see RD&I Streamlined route guidance[16].

4.8 Are you collaborating with one or more UK commercial/industry organisations on this project? (Yes – see questions below / No)

i. How many commercial organisations are you collaborating with on this project?

ii. Can you confirm that when working with the commercial organisation(s), that results that do not give rise to intellectual property rights will be available to be widely disseminated, and that any intellectual property rights arising from the activities of the research organisation fully allocated to it?

If you respond yes to this question this should also be confirmed by the Host Organisation in their letter of support.

iii. Please provide further details of the intellectual property rights arrangements either agreed, or being negotiated, between the collaborating commercial organisations.

The Host Organisation must ensure that the assignment of intellectual property with any collaborators is allocated under a formal agreement. Please describe the arrangements here and whether these are already agreed at point of submission. You may find the Lambert Toolkit[17] useful for guidance.

(250 words maximum)

[16] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67e57ad587cebda7c4ca4ce6/research-development-innovation-streamlined-route-guidance.pdf

[17] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/university-and-business-collaboration-agreements-model-agreement-guidance/university-and-business-collaboration-agreements-model-agreement-guidance

Section 5: Environment and Resources

5.1 Choice of host institution

Explain your choice of host institution. You may wish to comment on the facilities and expertise that will be available to you.

You should also cover what experience you have had and/or plan to gain from other institutions and alternative working practices. For example, any time spent on secondment or on extended visits.
(150 words maximum)

5.2 Costs table

Applicants must consult with the host institution for support in completing the costs table. Please ensure that you allow plenty of time for the host institution to prepare the costings.

The below categories explain what costs should be included in your application. You must be able to demonstrate that the resources requested are justified and appropriate for delivering the proposed research.

Each application is capped at a maximum contribution from the Academy of £800,000 over the five-year period, at 80% full economic costs (fEC). The host institution is expected to provide any shortfall from its own funds or other grants.

When completing the costs table, some of the cells are auto-calculated. Applicants should enter costs at 100% full economic cost (fEC). The table will display both the total cost at 100% fEC and the Academy contribution at 80% fEC. The total funding requested from the Academy cannot exceed £800,000 at 80% fEC, which equates to a maximum project cost of £1,000,000 at 100% fEC.

Directly incurred costs

Staff

The Research Fellowship's aim is to support researchers at an early stage of their research career. Salary should be at a level commensurate with skills, responsibilities, expertise, and experience. It is expected that requested salary will be comparable to postdoctoral researcher or early-stage lecturer salary scale points. The Academy reserves the right to provide support at a different level if it is considered appropriate.

The Research Fellow's salary can be requested for a period of five years full-time equivalent. Salary increments over the period of the Research Fellowship should

be considered in the costs, but possible future pay awards should not be anticipated. **Please note that the Academy does not pay inflation, and inflation should not be applied to the costs**. In addition, the Academy is not able to cover the costs of the apprenticeship levy on research grants. Salary costs do not need to be justified in the 'Justification of costs' section.

Research Fellowships may be held on a part-time basis if the applicant is employed part time (minimum 50%). Applicants wishing to hold the award on a part-time basis must state the percentage of time in the 'Justification of costs' section and explain why part-time working is requested. The costs table should be completed as if for a full-time fellowship and costs will be adjusted accordingly if the award is offered.

PLEASE NOTE:

- No other staff salaries or PhD studentships can be requested as part of a Research Fellowship.
- Research Fellows are encouraged to apply for further funding. However, any additional funding must not result in a reduction in the Research Fellow's time working on the Research Fellowship and cause a delay in the completion of the Research Fellowship.

Travel and subsistence

Travel and subsistence costs can be requested for the Research Fellow and the research team members, who are directly related to the Fellowship research and dissemination. Costs must be for activities directly related to the research project. Travel costs should be based on the most suitable, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly form of travel. Subsistence costs should reflect the normal rates that apply in the host institution. Commuting costs for working at the host institution cannot be requested.

Costs for attending national and international conferences may also be included where such attendance will directly benefit the research project. Conferences should, as far as possible, be individually identified in the proposal with attendance costs and fees fully justified in the 'Justification of costs' section.

Other costs

Other costs should be specified and justified in the 'Justification of costs' with details provided in terms of their requirement for the research project. Examples include purchase or hire of equipment, computer software licences, cloud computing/ computing time at external facilities, laboratory consumables, purchase of specialist publications, open access costs, publication/ printing costs, professional membership subscription fees, training costs, database subscription or upgrade to existing equipment. For any equipment worth over £10,000 funded

from the grant, the Academy must give permission for any disposal or change of use to outside of the programme work proposed.

Other costs may also include costs necessary to support the commercialisation of research arising from the Fellowship. This may include patents and other knowledge assets bought or licensed from third parties, and external legal and professional fees necessary to secure, protect or license intellectual property arising from the research, or to prepare for and establish spin-out companies formed to commercialise the research. Any such costs must be necessary to deliver the research, appropriately justified and included within the project budget.

Costs for major facilities not owned by the host institution, such as those supported by STFC, cannot be requested. If such facilities are required for the project, the applicant should contact the specific facility to determine access requirements. If access to a facility is essential to the research project, both access to and external funding for the cost of the facility must be secured within one year of the proposed start date of the Research Fellowship.

Research Fellows are expected to make full use of any equipment that is available at the host institution and should therefore only request funding for equipment that is necessary and not currently available.

Directly allocated costs

Estates

Research Fellows may apply for estates costs for the duration of the Research Fellowship. Estates costs do not require justification in the 'Justification of costs' section. Where the Research Fellow will be away from the host institution for six months or more in total, estates costs should not be requested for that period. In such situations, this should be confirmed in the 'Justification of costs' section.

Other directly allocated

Other directly allocated costs can be requested, calculated based on estimates and should be justified in the 'Justification of costs' section. Potential costs include the host institution's research/ technical staff whose time is shared across several projects and charge out costs for existing equipment owned by the host institution, for example access to departmental SEMs and analytical facilities. Salary costs for specific technicians cannot be requested, but costs for pool technician time for the use of facilities/equipment at the host institution can be requested.

Indirect costs

Indirect

Please consult with the host institution for guidance on these costs. Research Fellows may apply for indirect costs for the duration of the Research Fellowship. Indirect costs do not require justification in the 'Justification of costs' section. Please refer to the efficiency savings published by RCUK[18] in March 2011 when submitting figures for indirect costs.

5.3 Total funding requested

Please state the total value of the funding you are requesting from the Academy. This is the value of the five years at 80% fEC, up to a maximum of £800,000.

5.4 Do you intend to hold the award on a part-time basis?

Please select 'yes' or 'no' from the drop-down menu.

If you intend to hold the award on a part-time basis, please state the percentage of full-time equivalent and provide further details in your justification of costs in the question that follows.

5.5 Justification of costs

Please provide a narrative description of what resources are being requested and why. Ensure you have adhered to the guidance provided for allowable costs as detailed above. The justification should include:

- All necessary justifications for costs included in the costs table.
- To what extent the equipment requested will be used by other researchers and what equipment you are not requesting funding for (or for which you are requesting funding at a reduced rate) because suitable equipment is already available to you.
- What costs will be covered by other sources, for example industry or existing grants, so are not being requested as part of the application.
- If relevant, an explanation of why you wish to work part time and at what rate.

(400 words maximum)

18 https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20180322124032/http:/www.rcuk.ac.uk/research/efficiency/efficiency2011/

Section 6: Responsible research

These questions address responsible research practices in alignment with the Academy's Animals in Research Policy[19] and Humans in Research Policy[20] .

For proposals involving animals or animal tissue, and for research involving human participants, tissue, or personal data, you must provide detailed information to ensure compliance with ethical and regulatory standards. While applicable approvals and licenses are not required at the point of application, all necessary approvals must be secured before the work begins, with a clear plan outlined at the application stage.

For further guidance, please refer to the linked policies.

Animals in research, development and innovation

Animals in research, development and innovation – policy statement

The Academy acknowledges that, at present, the use of animals remains the only way for some areas of research to progress. Research involving animals is regulated by comprehensive and strict legislation in the UK and must be conducted with a high regard for animal welfare. The Academy will fund work involving the use of animals in the UK which complies with our Animals in Research, Innovation and Development Policy[21].

If your proposal involves the use of animals and takes place outside of the UK, the Academy will generally not fund this work. Please contact the Academy before proceeding with your application. If we are able to fund it, we will also ask you where it will take place and provide details of the local legislation and ethical review procedures.

6.1 Does your proposal involve the use of animals or animal tissue as defined by the Animals (Scientific Procedure) Act 1986[22]?

Academy funded research involving international partners, or work undertaken outside of the UK, will generally not be allowed to engage in research involving animals as defined by the UK Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

[19] https://raeng.org.uk/media/ctelvlvi/animals-in-research-innovation-and-development-policy.pdf
[20] https://raeng.org.uk/media/4qmhhqf4/human-participants-in-research-development-and-innovation-policy.pdf
[21] https://raeng.org.uk/media/ctelvlvi/animals-in-research-innovation-and-development-policy.pdf
[22] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consolidated-version-of-aspa-1986

a. No – end of question

b. Yes, and my work is taking place within the UK

i. Please explain why animal use is necessary within this proposal; are there any other possible approaches?
Applicants are expected to develop their project design using NC3Rs guidelines[23] in alignment with the principles of replace, reduce, and refine.

Work using animals must employ an appropriate design and use the minimum number of animals consistent with ensuring that the objectives will be met, as well as ensuring that distress and pain are minimized and the severity level for all procedures is the lowest possible. All programmes must only use animals where there are no alternatives.
(200 words maximum)

ii. Does your work involve the use of non-human primates (NHPs), cats, dogs or equines, which are specially protected species under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986[24]?

iii. Please provide details of the animal species and number(s) to be used
(30 words maximum)

iv. Why is the species/model to be used the most appropriate?
Please discuss the relevance of your species/model(s) along with any limitations and how you have accounted for this within your study design.
(200 words maximum)

v. Please explain how you have considered the NC3Rs in the design of your proposal.
Applicants are expected to develop their study design using NC3Rs guidelines[25] in alignment with the principles of replace, reduce, and refine. We recommend the use of the Experimental Design Assistant[26] to help with the design of your work.

You will also have the opportunity to upload any supporting evidence later in the form.
(300 words maximum)

[23] https://nc3rs.org.uk/3rs-resources
[24] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1986/14/contents
[25] https://nc3rs.org.uk/3rs-resources
[26] https://nc3rs.org.uk/our-portfolio/experimental-design-assistant-eda

vi. Please provide information on your plan and the timeline to acquire all relevant ethical approval and licenses for work involving animals
(200 words maximum)

vii. Please upload any supporting documentation (optional question)
We recommend the use of the Experimental Design Assistant[27] to help with the design of your proposal which you can upload here. You may also use this space to upload power calculations, if applicable.

c. Yes, and my work is taking place outside the UK

i. Please confirm the country where the animal work will be conducted

ii. Please provide details of the local legislation and ethical review procedures

iii. Please explain why animal use is necessary within this proposal; are there any other possible approaches?
Applicants are expected to develop their project design using NC3Rs guidelines[28] in alignment with the principles of replace, reduce, and refine.

Work using animals must employ an appropriate design and use the minimum number of animals consistent with ensuring that the objectives will be met, as well as ensuring that distress and pain are minimized and the severity level for all procedures is the lowest possible. All programmes must only use animals where there are no alternatives.
(200 words maximum)

iv. Does your proposal involve the use of non-human primates (NHPs), cats, dogs or equines, which are specially protected species under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986[29]?

v. Please provide details of the animal species and number(s) to be used
Please also provide details of sex, if relevant.
(30 words maximum)

vi. Why is the species/model to be used the most appropriate?
Please discuss the relevance of your species/model(s) along with any limitations and how you have accounted for this within your study design.
(200 words maximum)

[27] https://nc3rs.org.uk/our-portfolio/experimental-design-assistant-eda
[28] https://nc3rs.org.uk/3rs-resources
[29] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1986/14/contents

vii. Please explain how you have considered the NC3Rs in the design of your proposal? You will also have the opportunity to upload any supporting evidence.

Applicants are expected to develop their study design using NC3Rs guidelines[30] in alignment with the principles of replace, reduce, and refine. We recommend the use of the Experimental Design Assistant[31] to help with the design of your work. You will also have the opportunity to upload any supporting evidence later in the form.

(300 words maximum)

viii. Please provide information on your plan and the timeline to acquire all relevant ethical approval and licenses

(200 words maximum)

ix. Please upload any supporting documentation (optional question)

We recommend the use of the Experimental Design Assistant[32] to help with the design of your proposal which you can upload here. You may also use this space to upload power calculations, if applicable.

Human participants, materials and personal data in research, development, and innovation

Human participants, materials and personal data in Research, Development and Innovation - policy statement

Research, development and innovation involving human participants, human material or personal data can contribute to a better understanding of human health and disease as well as the technological efficacy of new and evolving innovations. The Academy will fund research, development and innovation involving the use of human participants, human material or personal data which complies with our Human Participants in Research, Innovation and Development Policy[33].

6.2 Does your proposal involve human participants according to the WHO definition[34]?

[30] https://nc3rs.org.uk/3rs-resources
[31] https://nc3rs.org.uk/our-portfolio/experimental-design-assistant-eda
[32] https://nc3rs.org.uk/our-portfolio/experimental-design-assistant-eda
[33] https://raeng.org.uk/media/4qmhhqf4/human-participants-in-research-development-and-innovation-policy.pdf
[34] https://raeng.org.uk/media/4qmhhqf4/human-participants-in-research-development-and-innovation-policy.pdf

a. No – end of question

b. Yes – and my work is taking place within the UK

i. Please provide information on your plan and the timeline to acquire all relevant ethical approval and licenses relating to work involving human participants
(200 words maximum)

ii. Please explain you will protect the dignity, rights, safety and wellbeing of all participants, particularly when involving vulnerable groups?
(200 words maximum)

c. Yes - and my work is taking place outside of the UK.

i. Please confirm the country where the work will be conducted.

ii. Please provide details of the local legislation and ethical review procedures for the country where the work involving human participants is taking place
(200 words maximum)

iii. Please provide information on your plan and the timeline to acquire all relevant ethical approval and licenses relating to work involving human participants
(200 words maximum)

iv. Please explain how you will protect the dignity, rights, safety and wellbeing of all participants, particularly when involving vulnerable groups?
(200 words maximum)

6.3 Does your proposal involve the use of human tissue or other human material?

a. No – end of question

b. Yes – and my work is taking place within the UK

i. Please provide information on your plan and the timeline to acquire all relevant ethical approval and licenses relating to work involving use of human tissue or other human materials
(200 words maximum)

ii. Please explain how you will safeguard the collection and/or storage of human tissue and other human materials, and comply with all relevant legislation
(200 words maximum)

c. Yes - and my work is taking place outside of the UK

i. Please confirm the country where the work involving use of human tissues and/or other human materials will be conducted

ii. Please provide details of the local legislation and ethical review procedures for the country where the work involving use of human tissues and/or other human materials is taking place
(200 words maximum)

iii. Please provide information on your plan and the timeline to acquire all relevant ethical approval and licenses relating to work involving use of human tissue or other human materials
(200 words maximum)

iv. Please explain how you will safeguard the collection and/or storage of human tissue and other human materials, and comply with all relevant legislation
(200 words maximum)

6.4 Does your proposal involve the use of personal data?

a. No – end of question

b. Yes – and my work is taking place within the UK

i. Please explain how you will safeguard the collection and/or storage of personal data and comply with all relevant legislation
(200 words maximum)

c. Yes - and my work is taking place outside of the UK

i. Please confirm where the work involving use of personal data will be conducted

ii. Please provide details of the local legislation and ethical review procedures for the country where the work involving use of personal data is taking place
(200 words maximum)

iii. Please explain how you will safeguard the collection and/or storage of personal data and comply with all relevant legislation
(200 words maximum)

Section 7: Support and declarations

7.1 Is the proposed work in an area with direct military applications or in an area with potential for a dual use[35] application?

Please note that failure to declare any potential dual use application of your work may lead to your application being automatically rejected.

7.2 Is any information contained within your application necessary for the development, production or use of controlled goods and therefore subject to export control rules[36]?

Please refer to the Government Export Control Joint Unit[37] (ECJU) who administers the UK's system of export controls and licensing for military and dual-use items for further information where needed. **(Yes – see question below / No / Don't know)**

Please note that this question relates only to the information included in your application form, not your wider area of work or research activity.
We will be unable to progress submissions until a Yes/No response is confirmed.

> **i. Please identify the specific part(s) of your application that contain information subject to UK export control regulations[38].**
> This information is required so that we can manage the review process appropriately. Please reference the relevant question(s) and/or section(s) of the application form that contain export-controlled information.
>
> Please note that this question relates only to the information included in your application form, not your wider area of work or research activity.

7.3 Have any generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools been used in the preparation of this application? (not visible to reviewers)

The Academy has aligned with other UK funders around the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools in funding applications through the Research Funders Policy Group joint statement[39]. **(Yes – see question below / No)**

Applicants are fully responsible for all of the content presented in their grant application(s). While these tools may be used to assist in various aspects and the

[35] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/export-controls-dual-use-items-software-and-technology-goods-for-torture-and-radioactive-sources#dual-use-items-software-and-technology
[36] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-strategic-export-controls
[37] https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/export-control-joint-unit
[38] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-strategic-export-controls
[39] https://wellcome.org/about-us/positions-and-statements/joint-statement-generative-ai

grant process does not penalise the use of generative AI tools, applications **must** reflect the applicant's own ideas, work and voice.

i. Please provide details on how generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools were used in the preparation of your application (not visible to reviewers)

Details should be provided on the following:

- specify the generative AI tool or platform used
- describe how the tool(s) were used
- where possible include any prompts that were used and how the resulting outputs were incorporated into this application

Applicants must provide clear acknowledgement if they have used generative AI tools in the process of writing their grant application and a failure to declare use may result in your application being removed from the review process.

7.4 Host institution letter of support

The Head of Department or School, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Dean or Director at the host institution must provide a statement in support of the application. **The submission deadline will not be extended due to an individual's unavailability**.

The statement must be on headed paper, signed, and should clearly state the **correct date/year, applicant's name, and host institution name**. The statement should be a **maximum of two pages, PDF format**, and address the following areas:

Suitability of the applicant:

- Quality of the applicant's research track record.
- Potential of the applicant to become a future leader in their chosen field.
- Potential to act as an ambassador and advocate for engineering research.
- Details of the host institution's mechanisms to ensure only the highest calibre of candidates are submitted to this scheme.

Support and commitment from the host institution:

- Alignment of the proposed Research Fellowship with the host institution's research strategy and priorities.
- Details of mentoring, resources and support that will be provided to the applicant should the application be successful.
- Other activities the applicant will be expected to undertake.
- Details of the career development support that the applicant will be offered.
- Details of how the host institution adopts a proactive approach in encouraging researchers from underrepresented groups to apply.
- Evidence of the host institution's commitment to equality and diversity.

7.5 Host institution declaration

The host institution's declaration letter must be completed by an appropriate individual from the institution's research support office or equivalent. **The letter must be on headed paper and should carry the signatory's name, position, contact details, date, scheme name, applicant's name**, and the institution's official stamp (if available). **Must be in PDF format.**

The purpose is to check that the host institution is in principle willing to host a Research Fellow, subject to contract. The letter must confirm the application has been approved by the institution and **must contain the exact wording given in the box below**, as well as any further remarks the host institution wishes to make. **Please note that the wording provided in the box below is specific to the Research Fellowships scheme, and the wording is updated and may be different to previous rounds.**

On behalf of the host institution, I can confirm that I have read and accept the application guidance and other information regarding this award scheme, which is provided on the Royal Academy of Engineering's website. I also confirm that:

- The applicant will be employed by the institution for the duration of the award.
- If awarded, the applicant will be given full access to the facilities, equipment, personnel, and funding as required by the application.
- The applicant's teaching, administrative, and non-research duties will be restricted to enable them to dedicate their time to research.
- The applicant will be provided with all the support normal for a permanent employee.
- The costs submitted in the application are correct and sufficient to complete the project as envisaged. Any shortfall in funding discovered after the award has been made will be covered by the institution, potentially through other grants.
- I am authorised to approve the submission of applications for funding and confirm this application has successfully met the eligibility criteria, including adherence to the application limit and all our internal approval procedures.

Please delete the following statement if not applicable:

- I agree that the Academy may share this application with UK-based medical charities for the purposes of assessing the suitability of the research project for co-funding.

7.6 Applicant declaration

Please tick the checkbox once you have read and understood the declaration included in the application form.

7.7 Marketing consent **(optional question)**

Please tick the checkbox if you are happy to receive emails from the Academy regarding funding opportunities.

Submitting the application

A grey **'submit application'** button will become available once the application form is completed. **Please note that once submitted the application cannot be edited and updated**, but you may view it from your GMS account.

Assessment of applications

Stage one: Expression of Interest
Each eligible expression of interest application is assessed by two Academy Fellows who are part of the Research Fellowships sift panel in a general reviewer capacity.

These reviews are considered by the Academy Fellows in a sift panel meeting with the purpose of selecting the applications to proceed to the stage two of the application process (Invited Applications).

Stage two: expert review
Each invited application will be assessed by three expert reviewers. The expert reviewers will be asked to provide comments, score, and key technical questions (if any) that the applicant should clarify. Applicants will be given the opportunity to respond to the technical questions in March 2027.

The shortlist panel will then moderate the expert reviewers' comments and scores along with the applicants' responses to the technical questions to select strong candidates for stage three: interview. Applicants will be informed of the stage two outcome in late April 2027.

Stage three: interview
Interviews will take place online **Wednesday 5 May – Friday 7 May 2027**.

Each interview will be conducted by a panel of four Academy Fellows and will last 30 minutes. This includes a five-minute presentation from the candidate. All shortlisted applicants must be available to attend, as alternative dates cannot be arranged. Please reserve these dates at the time of application.

The ranking of candidates at the preceding shortlist panel will have no bearing at the interview stage. All interview candidates are considered to have equal standing. Following the interviews, the panel will rank the applications and select the top ranked candidates for awards.

Assessment criteria

At the assessment stage 2 (expert review), each reviewer will be asked to provide comments against the following assessment criteria, a score of the overall quality of the application, and where possible any points that require clarification and provide a recommendation on whether the application should proceed to the next assessment stage.

The panel will moderate the reviewers' comments and scores and select the applications that will proceed to the next assessment stage. The assessment criteria at stage 2 include:

1. Candidate quality

- Quality of the applicant's research track record
- Potential of the applicant to become a future leader in their chosen field
- Potential of the applicant to be an advocate for engineering research

2. Research vision

- Quality of the applicant's research vision and their ability to articulate their near, mid, and long-term goals
- Potential of the applicant to establish an independent research career in their chosen field
- Quality of the proposed research project including timeliness, novelty, appropriateness of research methods and whether the ambitions and outcomes are achievable within the five-year timeframe
- Mechanisms and ambition for how the applicant will develop their team, including the importance of equality, diversity and inclusion and how well this aligns to the proposed developmental pathways for their team
- Applicant's consideration of equality, diversity and inclusion in their research

3. Research environment

- Quality of the research environment and resources provided by the host institution
- Quality of the support and commitment of the host institution to the career development of the Research Fellow

- Quality and the level of support and commitment from the collaborators

4. Project and risk management

- Quality and effectiveness of the proposed planning and management and whether the resources requested are appropriate and justified
- Applicant's ability to articulate the project plan to demonstrate that their vision is achievable (including milestones and deliverables)
- Applicant's ability to identify the main risks and how they will be mitigated

5. Beneficiaries and impact

- How well the applicant has identified the beneficiaries of the proposed research
- How well the applicant has articulated how these stakeholders and partners will benefit from research outcomes
- Quality of the planned pathways to translate research outcomes into societal and economic impact

Why applications are unsuccessful

The most common reasons applications are unsuccessful:

- Lack of novelty in research.
- Lack of independence in research.
- Poor communication skills, both written and verbal.
- Unrealistic research proposal (for example, overstating the potential for impact of the research and the applicant's reputation).
- Lack of ambition and vision that shows great potential to become future research leaders.
- Weak letters of support from the host institution or important collaborators.
- No industrial/clinical collaborations planned.
- Inconsistent information provided in the application form.

Royal Academy of Engineering

Grant agreement

If you are successful, your funding will be awarded under the Research, Development and Innovation Terms and Conditions found on the Academy's website[40] .

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.

Contact details

If you have any questions, please refer to our Research Fellowships FAQs[41] or contact the Royal Academy of Engineering's research programmes team at research@raeng.org.uk.

Reasonable adjustments

We want to ensure all applicants can participate and present their best selves during the application process, and for the duration of the award if you are successful.

If you need any adjustments or changes to support your participation in the process or throughout the programme, please contact Erhan Yavas (Programme Manager) by telephone (+44) 020 7766 0600) or email (Erhan.Yavas@raeng.org.uk) to discuss your needs.

All information shared will be treated confidentially in line with GDPR principles. For more details, please see the Academy's privacy policy[42].

We encourage you to **get in touch at least 10 working days before the submission deadline**, so we can respond accordingly and tailor possible adjustments to your circumstances.

[40] https://raeng.org.uk/grants-policies
[41] https://raeng.org.uk/programmes-and-prizes/programmes/uk-grants-and-prizes/support-for-research/research-fellowships/faq
[42] https://raeng.org.uk/privacy-policy/

Appendix A: Engineering categories

As described under the 'List of Panels' on our website[43].

1) Civil, construction and environmental
Including aspects of civil and structural engineering; construction materials; earthquakes; wind & fire engineering; building engineering physics; construction management; numerical modelling; environmental engineering; water resources and flooding; offshore and coastal engineering; hydraulics; climate change and sustainability; waste management; geotechnical engineering; geomatics/surveying.

2) Materials and mining
Including metallurgy; metal forming; corrosion; failure analysis; structural integrity; non-destructive testing; inspection technologies; failure prevention; fabrication and repair technologies; welding and joining technologies; discovery & development of mineral resources; extraction & processing of minerals; mining engineering; materials performance; materials research; plastics and composites; structural materials (excluding materials specifically covered elsewhere).

3) Chemical and process
Including all aspects of chemical and process engineering; aspects of fuel technology; petrochemicals, oil, coal and gas technologies; petroleum engineering; carbon; carbon sequestration; clean technology; sustainability; catalysis; particulates; food processing; fermentation processes; pharmaceutical engineering; biotechnological processes.

4) Aerospace
Including all aspects of aeronautical engineering and aerospace manufacturing; turbomachinery and aerothermal engineering, avionics; radar systems; antennae; satellite systems; autonomous systems; aspects of systems engineering; airlines; materials for aerospace.

5) Transport and mechanical
Aspects of mechanical engineering including automotive; rail and marine engineering; transportation infrastructure; engines; combustion; turbomachinery; mechatronics; acoustics and vibrations; ultrasonics; heat & thermodynamics; fluid dynamics and CFD.

[43] https://www.raeng.org.uk/about-us/fellowship/election-to-the-fellowship

6) Manufacturing and design
Including manufacturing management and manufacturing process innovation; manufacturing business improvement and re-engineering; CAD/CAM; robotics for manufacturing; engineering design.

7) Electrical and electronic
Including electrical, electronic and control engineering; design for electronics; aspects of nanotechnology and semiconductor engineering; lasers; optoelectronics; photonics; microwave engineering; instrumentation; display technology; solid state electronics.

8) Energy and power
Including energy technologies; including electric power and energy systems engineering; nuclear and renewable energy generation; energy infrastructure; management of energy and energy resources for generation, storage and transmission; distribution and conversion of electric energy and power; electricity supply and energy conservation; hydrogen power; fuel cells.

9) Medical and bioengineering
Including all aspects of medical and biomedical engineering; orthotics; prosthetics; ultrasound for medicine; medical scanning and imaging; drug delivery; biomedical materials; tissue engineering; medical devices; medical robotics and computer assisted surgery.

10) Computing and communications
Including computational and software engineering; informatics; web and data science; artificial intelligence; machine learning; computer vision; robotics; telecommunications; mobile telephony; broadband; wireless spectrum; signal processing; television, film and broadcasting; computer and video games; special effects.

11) Emerging and multi-disciplinary
New, emerging or multi-disciplinary areas of engineering.

12) Other
Sectors of engineering not covered elsewhere.

Royal Academy of Engineering

Appendix B: Grant policies

Please also refer to our website[44].

Academy's commitment to DORA principles

Declaration on Research Assessment

The Academy's research programmes are aligned with the principles of the Declaration on Research Assessment[45] (DORA), which is a set of principles aiming to improve the ways in which the output of research is evaluated by funding agencies, academic institutions, and other parties.

The outputs from research are many and varied, and as a funder of engineering research the Academy needs to assess the quality and impact of these outputs to make awards. It is imperative that research output is measured accurately and evaluated wisely.

For applicants and reviewers, we would like to emphasise that all outputs are welcome and considered valuable to the Academy. Outputs can include open data sets, software, publications, commercial, entrepreneurial or industrial products, clinical practice developments, educational products, policy publications, evidence synthesis pieces and conference publications that you have generated.

With regard to research articles published in peer-reviewed journals, we ask applicants to use a range of article metrics and indicators on personal/supporting statements as evidence of the impact of individual published articles and other research outputs. The Journal Impact Factor in particular is unacceptable for inclusion in any part of an application, and applicants may be asked to resubmit if anything is found to contradict this as part of the eligibility checks.

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[46].

[44] https://raeng.org.uk/grants-policies
[45] https://sfdora.org/read/
[46] https://wellcome.org/about-us/positions-and-statements/joint-statement-generative-ai

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.

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[47].

Export control

The UK Government's Export Control Joint Unit[48] (ECJU) administers the UK's system of export controls and licensing[49] for military and dual-use items. The Export Control Act 2002 and its related legislation establishes the strategic export controls of military and dual-use goods and technologies.

[47] https://raeng.org.uk/policies
[48] https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/export-control-joint-unit
[49] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-strategic-export-controls

The Academy is required to consider export controls[50] when assessing and reviewing relevant applications and we therefore need to know whether the information contained within your application is subject to such laws.

As part of our review process, your submitted application will be sent out for review by independent reviewers and/or members of our review panel(s). Please be aware of this when considering the information you include within your application. We particularly want to flag considerations with respect to your/others Intellectual Property and research that is subject to UK Strategic Export Control Laws[51]. Should you flag that the content of your application is subject to Export Control we will manage the review of your application accordingly.

Important Note: If your application response includes a "don't know" answer regarding export control, please be aware that this may result in a delay in processing your application. This is because we will need to clarify your position and, if necessary, consult with the ECJU to confirm whether any export licensing requirements apply to your work.

We encourage you to take the necessary steps to confirm whether export controls are relevant to your application before submitting it, as this will help us process your application without unnecessary delays.

Subsidy control

The UK subsidy control regime began on 4 January 2023. As part of this regime, the Academy is required to report to the UK Government on how award funding is being used when applications collaborating with commercial enterprises are awarded. The regime determines the lawfulness of monetary awards made using public sector resources when given to businesses and other organisations that are engaged in economic activity.

To assist with subsidy control compliance, applicants who are successful at Stage one: Expression of Interest and are invited to submit a full application will then need to confirm whether their research project is either a piece of non-economic scientific research (with or without commercial collaborators) in terms of the Statutory Guidance on Subsidy Control[52] clause 15.33 or an Industrial Research project with identified commercial collaborator(s).

Additional confirmations will be requested at the award stage.

[50] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/export-controls-applying-to-academic-research
[51] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-strategic-export-controls
[52] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-subsidy-control-statutory-guidance

Research involving human participants or tissue

Research, development and innovation involving human participants, human material or personal data can contribute to a better understanding of human health and disease as well as the technological efficacy of new and evolving innovations. The Academy will fund research, development and innovation involving the use of human participants, human material or personal data which complies with our Humans in RD&I Policy[53]. If your proposal includes the use of human participants, human materials or personal data you will be asked to declare this at application stage and provide further details of your proposal if you are shortlisted.

Please note: applicable regulatory approval and licenses are not required to be in place at point of application, but all necessary approvals must be in place before the work begins.

Animals in research

The Academy acknowledges that, at present, the use of animals remains the only way for some areas of research to progress. Research involving animals is regulated by comprehensive and strict legislation in the UK and must be conducted with a high regard for animal welfare. The Academy will fund research involving the use of animals in the UK which complies with our Animals in RD&I Policy[54]. If your proposal includes the use of animals you will be asked to declare this at application stage and provide further details of your proposal if you are shortlisted.

If your proposal involves the use of animals and takes place outside of the UK, the Academy will generally not fund this work. Please contact the Academy before proceeding with your application.

Please note: applicable regulatory approval and licenses are not required to be in place at point of application, but all necessary approvals must be in place before the work begins.

[53] https://raeng.org.uk/media/4qmhhqf4/human-participants-in-research-development-and-innovation-policy.pdf
[54] https://raeng.org.uk/media/ctelvlvi/animals-in-research-innovation-and-development-policy.pdf