



**Royal Academy
of Engineering**

Royal Academy of Engineering

Research Chairs and Senior Research Fellowships 2025/26



Department for
Science, Innovation
& Technology

Research Chairs and Senior Research Fellowships 2025/26

Applicant guidance notes

Deadline: Thursday 26 March 2026, 4 pm

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1. Introduction to the Academy

The Royal Academy of Engineering creates and leads a community of outstanding experts and innovators to engineer better lives. As a charity and a Fellowship, we deliver public benefit from excellence in engineering and technology and convene leading businesspeople, entrepreneurs, innovators and academics across engineering and technology. As a National Academy, we provide leadership for engineering and technology, and independent, expert advice to policymakers in the UK and beyond.

We have three goals:

- **Sustainable and Innovative Economy**, where sustainability drivers, innovative industries and resilient infrastructures are aligned to drive growth and productivity that will support better lives for all.
- **Technology Improving Lives**, where technology in all its forms is used to meet the most important human needs, avoid harm, support fairer societies and break down barriers to opportunity.
- **Engineering Community Fit for the Future**, where our community reflects society in its diversity, commits to creating inclusive cultures to help drive engineering excellence, and has the skills to meet future needs safely, securely and ethically, and to keep pace with innovation.

Everything we do is underpinned by our values:

- Progressive Leadership
- Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
- Excellence for Impact
- Collaboration First
- Creativity & Innovation

2. Programme overview

The Royal Academy of Engineering (the Academy) offers Research Chairs and Senior Research Fellowships to strengthen the links between industry and academia. The scheme supports UK-based engineering academics to lead ambitious, applied research in collaboration with the industrial partner. Awardees receive five years of funding from the Academy, supported by an in-kind or financial contribution from an industry partner.

The schemes are funded by the **Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT)**. The scheme brings together academic excellence and industrial innovation to address real-world engineering challenges – supporting research that leads to new products, processes and services with societal and economic benefit

Why should I apply:

- Up to £450,000 over five years to establish or grow a leading research group

- Turn an existing industry relationship into a focused research programme
- Protected time through reduced teaching and administrative duties
- Part-time and flexible working options
- Training, networking and mentoring from leading engineers
- Flexible industry sponsorship (with cash or in-kind options available)

The Academy will fund up to one-third (1/3) of 80% of the full economic costs (fEC). The Research Chair/Senior Research Fellowship must be held at a UK higher education institution.

Recent changes to the scheme:

- **Increased support:** The contribution from the Academy has been increased to £450,000. The minimum contribution from the host university is £225,000.
- **Reviewing the scheme timeline:** The application and interview periods will avoid the long holiday breaks.
- **Part-time fellowships:** The awardee can choose to work part-time on their award while continuing to work in their role at the host university.
- **Flexible industrial sponsorship:** The contribution required from the industrial sponsor is proportionate to their size. The contribution could be cash or in-kind support.
- **Flexible start dates:** Awardees have the flexibility to start their award between 1 September to 31 October 2026.

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

- **Access mentoring:** additional support is available at the application stage for applicants from underrepresented groups in UK engineering (Women, Black people, and Disabled people) through the Access Mentoring scheme.
- **Expert mentoring support:** from an Academy Fellow to offer independent expert advice and guidance on research related matters throughout the duration of the award. The Academy Fellows range from pioneering academics and entrepreneurs to leaders of our biggest companies and outstanding engineering communicators, who have made extraordinary contributions to engineering and society.
- **Professional development and training:** awardees will have access to training opportunities such as media training, policy engagement, trusted research and also networking events, and additional Academy funding opportunities.
- **Focused research time:** reduction of teaching and administrative duties to enable the awardees to focus on delivering use-inspired research, that creates impact for their industrial sponsors.
- **Team growth and impact:** funding allows the awardees to grow the research team significantly and disseminate the research outcomes for academic and industrial use.
- **New collaborations:** the awardees can apply for other funding and bring new collaboration opportunities to the University.

- **Flexible adjustments:** the scheme offers flexibility, awardees can request any reasonable adjustment to accommodate their needs, such as changing the host institution, applying for a no-cost extension.
- **Awardee excellence community:** All awardees will have access to the Academy's network of awardees and alumni through the [Awardee Excellence Community](#). There are exclusive events and opportunities to get involved in the work of the Academy during and after the award ends.
- **Global talent visa:** If successful, awardees are eligible to apply for a [Global Talent Visa](#).

3. Equity diversity and inclusion

The Royal Academy of Engineering is committed to **equity, 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 progress on diversity and inclusion in Academy programmes.

Please note: The data collected by diversity monitoring questions information will be treated as strictly confidential, nonattributable and will not be seen by anyone involved in any selection processes. **It will only be used for statistical purposes with access restricted to staff involved** in processing and monitoring the data. **No information will be used or published 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.

You will need to complete the diversity monitoring section before you can submit the grant application form. The diversity and monitoring section is mandatory, however, you have the option to select "prefer not to say" as you respond to the questions in the form.

4. Access mentoring

The Royal Academy of Engineering recognises that input from engineers with a diverse range of backgrounds and perspectives is vital to achieving successful outcomes. We therefore particularly welcome applications from all underrepresented groups across engineering. 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 is contributing 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 for Research Chairs and Senior Research Fellowships applications, applicants from different career stages must be from one of the following groups:

- Women
- Black people (including any mixed ethnicity groups that include Black ethnic backgrounds)
- Disabled people

Access Mentoring is a resource-limited opportunity. Applicants do not need to wait until the deadline to submit and early submission is encouraged. Mentors will be assigned on a first come first served basis. For more information on Access Mentoring please see [guidance and how to apply](#). The deadline for Access Mentoring is 4pm, 12 March 2026.

Part-time and flexible working

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

The Academy will expect the full-time awardees to contribute no more than four hours per week towards administration/teaching duties during their award. Awardees may engage in other employment or academic activities outside of the time allocated to their award.

Research Chairs and Senior Research Fellowships can be held part-time (at no less than 25% of the full-time equivalent), for awardees who would like to keep their current roles at the University and other duties during the remainder of their time. This must be clearly stated within the application. The award value for part-time will be pro-rated to the time dedicated to the award. Please contact the Academy at research@raeng.org.uk to discuss the part-time arrangements.

Research Chairs and Senior Research Fellowships are entitled to maternity, paternity, adoption, sick or carers leave and any conversions to part-time working under the UK higher education institution's contractual conditions of employment. The Academy will extend the duration of the award pro-rated to take these requests into account.

5. Eligibility criteria

- Awards must be held at a UK higher education institution.
- The applicant must have an academic position or an unconditional offer of such a position. The host institution's letter of support must make clear that they have offered a position to the applicant stating the starting date.
- Awards made in this round must start between 1 September 2026 and 31 October 2026.

- Research Chairs are professorial appointments, so applicants should already be a professor or equivalent.
- Senior Research Fellowships are senior academic appointments, so applicants should already be reader or lecturer or equivalent.
- Applicants should be able to demonstrate an outstanding research profile including a proven track record in securing external grant income and developing collaborations.
- Applications are welcome from any engineering discipline. Engineering is defined in its broadest sense, encompassing a wide range of diverse fields. If you are unsure whether your collaborative research project falls within the Academy's engineering remit area, please contact research@raeng.org.uk
- The duration of an award is five years. This applies to both full and part-time awards. Applicants must have already identified an appropriate collaborative research project and secured the support of an industrial sponsor prior to submitting an application.
- The industrial sponsor must commit to fund the entire five-year period. Applications for shorter time periods will not be accepted.
- The industrial sponsor must have a significant operational site and core business activities in the UK, such as Research and Development, a management office. A maximum of two industrial sponsors per application are allowed. Please contact the Academy at research@raeng.org.uk to discuss the arrangements involving two industrial sponsors.
- The industrial sponsor must make a (cash or in-kind) contribution towards the research project that is proportionate to the size of the organisation. The industrial contribution for part-time applicants should be pro-rated on the time dedicated to the award. Please note that the amount of funding the industrial sponsor is willing to contribute is an important assessment criterion, being an indicator of the level of commitment to the post and the level of ambition for the group to be created.
- The host institution must make a (cash or in-kind) contribution towards the research project. The host institution's contribution for part-time applicants should be pro-rated on the time dedicated to the award.
- The proposed research programme should naturally align with the interests of the industrial sponsor and its 'use-inspired research' should be underpinned by world-class research. The collaborative research proposal must be of mutual benefit to both industrial sponsor and host institution. Please note the proposal should not be consultancy work.

6. Cost and funding guidelines

The Academy: will fund up to one-third (1/3) of 80% of the full economic costs (fEC) for the full-time award. The value will be pro-rated for the part-time award. The allowed costs are gross salary, indirect costs, estates costs and other costs. The Academy's contribution will be capped at a maximum of £90,000 per annum, which equates to a total of £450,000 over five years.

The industrial sponsor: must make an auditable cash or in-kind contribution towards this collaborative research project over the five-year period. The industrial sponsor may be another funding body such as a charity or government department. In such cases, the funding body is subject to the same terms and conditions as an industrial sponsor and must also demonstrate suitable pathways to exploit research outcomes and impact. The required contribution should be proportionate to the size of the industrial sponsor, which could be found below. The industrial contribution would be pro-rated for the part-time award.

- Small enterprises are required to contribute a minimum of £125k.
- Medium enterprises are required to contribute a minimum of £175k.
- Large enterprises are required to contribute a minimum of £250k.

The host institution: should contribute a minimum of £45,000 per annum, which equates to a total of £225,000 over five years. The contribution would be pro-rated for the part-time award.

This can be used flexibly to support the project and may include both cash and in-kind contributions (for example provision of PhD studentships, postdocs, equipment, consumables). In-kind support should be fully costed. The host institution is expected to make up any shortfall in the total cost (fEC) of any proposed application.

7. Additional programme details

Mentoring, engagement and monitoring

Awarded Research Chairs and Senior Research Fellows will work with the Academy to identify an Academy Fellow to be their mentor. The mentor will provide independent expert advice and guidance on research-related matters throughout the duration of the award. The mentor will also formally monitor the progress of the awardee on behalf of the Academy.

Awarded Research Chairs and Senior Research Fellows are eligible to be members of the [Awardee Excellence Community](#). As a member, you have the opportunity to:

- Meet, learn from, and support other awardees beyond your immediate cohort, as well as a broader cross-section of Academy Fellows through a programme of events and opportunities to connect online and in-person.
- Keep up to date with news and opportunities from the Academy and the Community through the Awardee Excellence Community newsletter, emails and the Community noticeboard.
- Shape the Academy's work through opportunities to join Academy committees, speak at our events, and share your expertise to inform our policy work.

The awardee must submit an annual progress report to the Academy, which will be reviewed and evaluated by the assigned mentor. At the annual review meeting, the awardee, the host institution's head of department/school, a representative of the industrial sponsor, the mentor, and a member of Academy staff will discuss progress and agree future plans.

Annual reports should follow the reporting guidelines [here](#), which will cover aspects such as: the progress made against the proposed programme, performance indicators, team size, realised impact and exploitation, and any dissemination activities undertaken over the past year.

8. Timeline and deadlines

Process	Date
Applications for Access Mentoring support deadline (optional support)	4.00pm on Thursday 12 March 2026
Applications deadline	4.00pm on Thursday 26 March 2026
Stage 1 – expert review	April - June 2026
Applicants are informed of the Stage 1 outcomes	By the end of June 2026
Stage 2 – interview	13 July 2026 and 14 July 2026
Interviewed applicants are informed of the Stage 2 outcomes	By the end of July 2026
Awards start	1 September 2026 – 31 October 2026

9. Resubmissions

The Academy accepts resubmissions of Research Chair and Senior Research Fellowship with the same proposals by invitation only.

Applicants who are not invited for resubmission may apply again in future rounds, provided their application is based on a different research topic or involves a new industrial sponsor.

The application will be considered as a new application and the ranking of applicants at the preceding round of applications will have no bearing.

10. How to apply

All applications must be submitted by the applicants themselves via the Academy's online grants system, available here: <https://grants.raeng.org.uk>. All applicants must first register and provide some basic login details to create a profile.

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. Many of the questions have prescribed word limits which are designed to keep your answers focused and indicate the level of detail we require. In such cases, the number of words you have 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. There is only one application stage and those meeting the eligibility criteria will enter the assessment stages.

11.Academy's commitment to DORA (Declaration on Research Assessment) principles

The Academy's research programmes are aligned with the principles of the Declaration on Research Assessment (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 in order to make awards - it is thus 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.

12.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.

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. 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. If your proposal includes the use of human participants, human materials or personal data you will be asked to provide details of your work at application stage.

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 and a clear plan to achieve this at application stage.

16. 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 work involving the use of animals in the UK which complies with our [Animals in RD&I Policy](#). If your proposal includes the use of animals you will be asked to provide details at application stage.

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 and a clear plan to achieve this at application stage.

17. Export Control

The UK [Government's Export Control Joint Unit \(ECJU\)](#) administers the UK's system of [export controls and licensing](#) 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. The Academy is required to consider [export controls](#) 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](#). Should you flag that the content of your application is subject to Export Control we will manage the review of your application accordingly.

18. Supporting information

You will need to provide the following supporting information, guidance on the content could be found under Section 19 Application

1. Applicant's CV
2. Images and pictures (optional)
3. Project timeline
4. Reference list (optional)
5. Host institution letter of support
6. Industrial sponsor letter of support
7. Host institution declaration letter
8. Mandatory sections

To ensure that all applicants are treated fairly and the Academy's standards and values are upheld, applicants should be aware of our wider policies and practices as they apply to their application.

19. Application form

After logging into the online grants management system and selecting 'Research Chair and Senior Research Fellowships' in the 'Start application' section, you should be presented with the 'Instructions' screen.

Here you will see some general instructions on how to use the system, as well as links to each of the nine sections of the application form given below:

- 19.1 Contact details and application grade
- 19.2 Applicant details / person specification
- 19.3 Project details
- 19.4 Case for support
- 19.5 Potential Impact
- 19.6 Subsidy Control
- 19.7 Funding requested
- 19.8 Responsible Research
- 19.9 Letters of support and declaration

At any stage in the application process, you can save your work and return to it later. You can answer the questions in any order you like, so you may skip some sections to return to later if you wish. We recommend viewing the application early on to understand what is required. You should also ensure that you have all the necessary documentation to hand when you start completing the application, such as a copy of your CV or letters of support.

Once submitted the application form cannot be edited and updated.

19.1 Contact details and application grade

Q. Applicant grade

Select from the options from the dropdown menu to indicate the grade of application you are making, for example Research Chair (professor) or Senior Research Fellow (reader/lecturer).

The applicant must have an academic position or an unconditional offer of such a position. The host institution's letter of support must make clear that they have offered a position to the applicant stating the starting date.

Q. Applicant contact details

Please provide your name, current job title and contact details including postal address and a telephone number. Some of your details and those of your institution should be automatically generated by the system, as you provided these at registration. Please ensure the contact email address is correct and will be valid for the entirety of the application process as this will be the main method of communication for your application.

Q. Contact details of the host institution and industrial sponsor

Please provide the name and contact details for both your host institution and industrial sponsor in this section. Please mark the host institution as the 'lead organisation'.

Q. Industrial sponsor size

Please indicate the size of the industrial sponsor that you will be collaborating with by selecting one of the options below. Please use **Table 1** Industrial sponsor size as reference for completing this section.

Two or more of the requirements must be met to determine industrial sponsor size. If two requirements are not met and the number of employees is <10 you should contact the Programme Manager for assistance with your application.

Table 1. Industrial sponsor size

Company size*	Must meet two or more of these requirements
Small	Turnover: No more than £15 M Balance Sheet total: No more than £7.5 M Number of employees: 10-49
Medium	Turnover: No more than £ 54M Balance Sheet total: No more than £ 27M Number of employees: 50 - 249
Large	If it exceeds the medium size limits

*The size definitions defined by "Research, Development and Innovation Streamlined Route" which references the Companies Act 2006 section 382 and 465.

19.2 Applicant details / person specification

This section asks for details about your suitability and eligibility for the Research Chairs and Senior Research Fellowships. You will need to answer some general questions on your experience and upload your CV.

Q. Applicant's CV

The format and content of your CV is left to your discretion. You do not need to include contact details here again as these are included earlier in the application. As a minimum, please include the following in your CV:

- Your research track record.
- Details of external grant income secured.
- List of key publications and conference presentations.
- PhD students supervised, and awards/prizes received (if any).
- Please ensure you acknowledge any career breaks if you would like the panels to take this into consideration when reviewing your application.

Please do not include personal information (e.g., gender, date of birth, and nationality) in the CV. The CV must be uploaded in a single PDF and the file size should be less than 5MB.

Q. Career break (optional)

If you have any career break, please put them in the comment box.

Q. Applicant's track record

Outline how your professional experience and academic track record makes you suitable for this award. Include details of any relevant experience you believe demonstrates this and a summary of results and outcomes of your recent research. You may also wish to include:

- Any relevant previous collaborative work/partnerships with other researchers, research organisations, industries, or other beneficiaries, both nationally and internationally.
- The economic and/or societal impact of your research.
- Details of any external grant income secured (funder, value, PI/CoI).
- Any other information regarding your research track record.

500 words maximum

Q. Applicant's most significant achievements

Please describe three to five 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 the achievement in a way that will explain it to a researcher from your discipline who may not be familiar with the latest work in the particular field.

The Academy's research programmes are aligned with the principles of [DORA](#). If research articles published in peer-reviewed journals are to be included in an

application, we would therefore like to emphasise that the scientific content of a paper is much more important than publication metrics or the identity of the journal in which it was published.

500 words maximum

19.3 Project details

Please provide details on your proposed project.

Q. What is the proposed start date?

Please note: all grant expenditure and activities must be within the start and end dates.

Award start dates must be between 1 September 2026 – 31 October 2026

Q. What is the proposed end date?

Please note: all grant expenditure and activities must be within the start and end dates.

Q. Type of award – full-time or part-time

Pick from the drop-down menu the average percentage of working time you anticipate dedicating to the project: 25-100%.

Q. Work pattern during the fellowship

If your fellowship will be held part-time, please provide details of the format of the fellowship including anticipated part-time working pattern, how many hours will be dedicated to the award, any travel and accommodation arrangements, and how you propose to balance your university and industry commitments.

250 words maximum.

Q. Please provide a title for your proposal

Please provide a non-specialist title summarising your proposal.

We may make this title publicly available if successful, therefore please do not include any confidential or sensitive information. Please note that the position will be known as the 'Industry Sponsor/Royal Academy of Engineering Research Chair (or Senior Research Fellow) in [project title]'. A succinct title will be beneficial for media/outreach activities.

Q. Please provide a summary of your proposal

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, therefore, please do not include any confidential or sensitive information.

Q. Resubmission (optional)

Have you previously applied to the Research Chairs and Senior Research Fellowships programme and the Academy has invited you to resubmit your proposal? If answering yes, please clearly articulate how your proposal differs from the previous submission.

200 words maximum.

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

If your proposal fits into several categories, please pick the category that is most applicable. Further detail around each engineering category can be found on our website www.raeng.org.uk/about-us/fellowship/election-to-the-fellowship, or you can refer to Annex 1 for further information. The category selected will be used to help identify reviewers and panel members.

Q. Please provide a maximum of 10 keywords that describe your proposal

Please separate each keyword by a comma, for example: carbon, oil, engines

19.4 Case for support

This section forms the main part of your application and asks you to provide details on your project and the activities you intend to undertake as part of the Research Chair/Senior Research Fellowship.

Q. Goals and objectives

Please state the goals and objectives for the project, in order of priority. Please note that if awarded, the awardee's performance will be assessed against these objectives.

250 words maximum.

Q. Timeliness and novelty

Outline why the proposed project is of sufficient novelty to warrant consideration for this prestigious Research Chair/Senior Research Fellowship. Describe why this research is important and why this is an opportune time to pursue it.

250 words maximum.

Q. Programme, methodology and key deliverables

Describe the five-year work programme, indicating the research to be undertaken and the methodology to be used in pursuit of the research. Outline specific deliverables anticipated. Also include details on how novel, realistic/ambitious the project is, and include milestones by which to measure progress. The plan should be realistic and robust over the 5-year award.

2,000 words maximum.

Q. Images and pictures (optional)

Upload any images and/or diagrams related to your project that add value to your application. Any images/diagrams uploaded must be referenced in the application form. The images/diagrams must be collated and uploaded as a single PDF in the order you wish them to be viewed. The file size should be less than 5MB.

Q. Project timeline

Upload a Gantt chart or equivalent to show the schedule of activities for the duration of the project. Please ensure major milestones are clearly plotted. You

may wish to include a diagram showing how the work packages and your collaborations will interact. The chart/diagram must be collated and uploaded as a single PDF.

Q. Reference list (optional)

Upload a list of the reference material referred to in your application. Where possible include web-links to any open access articles. You may want to highlight the most relevant ones. The reference list must not exceed one page and should be uploaded in a single PDF.

Q. Choice of industrial sponsor and host institution

Provide justification for the choice of industrial sponsor including the strategic importance of this relationship to your institution. Outline what would be the expected benefits for the company by co-funding this appointment. Provide details of what has been achieved so far through any existing collaborations and what the overall perceived long-term vision is.

Provide justification for the choice of your host institution and background to the research group/centre of excellence, including comparison with other centres in the UK and its scale (including how large it is, staff numbers, funding, research facilities).

400 words maximum.

Q. Why the Academy should support this application

A statement outlining the added value that would accrue from the Academy funding, for example how will the support from the Academy benefit your research programme, the awardee, the industrial sponsor, the centre at the host institution and the UK?

400 words maximum.

Q. Team development

Identify routes for expanding the awardee's research team and career. What training/skills will be provided and how will they be obtained? What will be the anticipated make-up of the team created (for example, numbers of PhDs and postdocs)?

200 words maximum.

Q. Risk management

Identify and assess any risks that may jeopardise the success of the project. Outline any contingency plans designed to mitigate these risks.

200 words maximum.

19.5 Potential impact

In this section, you are required to describe your future plans, ambitions, dissemination strategies and the related impact.

Q. Strategic collaborations

Describe any existing and future collaborations, in addition to your industrial sponsor on this project, and how these will contribute to or enhance the project.

200 words maximum.

Q. Beneficiaries and impact

Identify the groups in society that will benefit from the research, as well as any positive societal and economic impacts it will have. What are the benefits of this research and for who?

Quantify the extent of the benefits and identify potential beneficiaries. If the benefits do not directly relate to wealth creation and/or to improving the quality of life, give details of other beneficiaries and explain their importance. Also indicate when these impacts will become apparent. Beneficiaries should extend to a wider community than those of the applicant's immediate professional circle and the industrial sponsor.

300 words maximum.

Q. Academy's strategic goals (optional)

How do you align with the Academy's strategic priorities? Note this is not an assessment criterion and is for staff use only. We want to understand the extent to which our programmes as a whole meet our strategic aims, but your answer will not influence the decision and applications are judged purely on merit. The strategic plan is available on our website [here](#).

Select the answer that best describes the strategic aims your research will address:

- **Sustainable and Innovative Economy**, where sustainability drivers, innovative industries and resilient infrastructures are aligned to drive growth and productivity that will support better lives for all.
- **Technology Improving Lives**, where technology in all its forms is used to meet the most important human needs, avoid harm, support fairer societies and break down barriers to opportunity.
- **Engineering Community Fit for the Future**, where our community reflects society in its diversity, commits to creating inclusive cultures to help drive engineering excellence, and has the skills to meet future needs safely, securely and ethically, and to keep pace with innovation.
- All of the above
- None

Please give a short explanation for the answer you have selected.

100 words maximum.

Q. Diversity and inclusion

The Academy strives to create cultures in which everyone can thrive, and we believe that diverse perspectives enrich our collective performance. You could refer to Section 3. Equity diversity and inclusion for more information.

What does diversity and inclusion mean to you, and your team? Why is it important in your research? *(Think about your values, your team culture, and how diverse perspectives contribute to your research.)*

How are you actively fostering diversity and inclusion in your team and collaborations with different stakeholders *(Consider recruitment, partnerships, mentoring, or other inclusive practices)*

500 words maximum.

Q. Exploitation

How will the results be exploited, both in general terms and more specifically by the industrial sponsor? You have already explained what the benefits of the research are. Here you should also explain how the benefits and exploitation mentioned will be achieved. Identify what mechanisms are in place for identification, protection and subsequent exploitation of any deliverable that may arise from the research (including details of any specific collaborative agreement, where relevant). You should also indicate when these routes to exploitation are likely to be implemented, including your plans beyond the period of the award.

300 words maximum.

Q. Intellectual property rights

State the intellectual property rights arrangement agreed between the host institution and industrial sponsor. Please note that we expect that all projects should aim to produce some substantial publishable research results that are available in the public domain. Publication may be delayed until equally shared intellectual property has been suitably protected.

200 words maximum.

19.6 Subsidy Control

Subsidy control compliance

To ensure that the Academy is compliant with the [Subsidy Control Act 2022](#), the next few questions follow as standard within our research programme calls to ensure that the Academy appropriately determines whether the grant is a subsidy.

In the event that your application/award is deemed to be a subsidy, further investigations and requirements will need to be implemented and carried out to ensure that we comply with funder regulations as per section 14 of the '[Research, development and innovation streamlined route](#)' guidance pertaining to the [Subsidy Control Act 2022](#). For definitions and more information, please refer to Annex 2 of this document. Alternatively, please use the links provided for full terms and conditions.

Q. 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](#):

[Statutory Guidance on Subsidy Control](#): “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 unlikely to benefit if the research organisation receives compensation equivalent to the market price for the intellectual property rights which result from their activities.”

Q. Are you collaborating with one or more UK commercial/industry organisations on this project?

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

If you have collaborating one or more UK commercial/industry organisations on this project, please indicate the number of organisations

Q. To assist with subsidy control compliance, please confirm whether your research project is for Industrial Research with or without identified commercial collaborator(s):

“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](#).

Q. 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 Recipient Organisation in their letter of support.

Q. 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](#) useful for guidance

250 words maximum.

19.7 Funding requested

Please provide a breakdown of the funding requested. You must consult with the host institution for support in completing this section. **Each application is capped at a maximum contribution from the Academy of £450,000 over the five-year period.** All values submitted should be rounded up to the nearest pound.

The Academy will fund up to one-third (1/3) of 80% fEC and the host institution is expected to cover for the remaining balance. For part-time awards, the Academy's contribution will be calculated as pro-rated of one-third (1/3) of 80% fEC. The funding requested can be used flexibly in the following cost categories:

- Salary costs
- Indirect costs
- Estates costs
- Other costs

The Academy expects the awardees to gain additional funding from other sources. Where applicants hold existing grants that cover for specific spend, such as salary, to avoid double counting the Academy's funds can be reinvested into the Research Chair/Senior Research Fellowship programme in another way, providing it is sensible and justified.

Please note, one of the assessment criteria will be the level of support that the university and industrial sponsor is willing to contribute towards the award.

Given the launch of the [Subsidy Control Act 2022](#), after the decision in principle to fund and prior to grant offer we may require a revised costing of the proposed project or other changes or assurances to be compliant with the revised requirements.

Table A: Total cost (100% fEC) of Research Chair/Senior Research Fellowship

Please provide a full cost breakdown (fEC) in terms of gross salary, indirect costs, and estates costs. Additionally, to comply with subsidy control guidelines, please use the definitions below to complete the "other costs" section.

The following can be considered as other costs:

- Personnel costs (not your salary so that it's not double counted); researchers, technicians and other supporting staff to the extent employed on the project.
- Costs of equipment and instruments, to the extent utilised on the project.
- Costs of conducting research and of external consultancy and contractual research or other knowledge assets, including patents bought or licensed from outside sources.

Applicants should consult with their host institution research support office regarding the completion of the required costings table (see below).

Salary increments over the period of the project data should be considered, 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.

Table A

	Year one	Year two	Year three	Year four	Year five	Total
Salary costs						
Indirect costs						
Estates costs						
Other costs						
Total						

Q. Please state the total value of the funding you are requesting from the Academy.

Each application is capped at a maximum contribution of £450,000 over the five-year period.

If you choose to work part-time, the contribution should be proportionate to your dedicated time to the Fellowship.

Table B: Contribution from the Royal Academy of Engineering

The Academy will fund up to one-third (1/3) of 80% of the full economic costs (fEC) in Table A. The award value for part-time will be pro-rated to the time dedicated to the award. For part-time awards, the Academy's contribution will be calculated as pro-rated of one-third (1/3) of 80% fEC. The allowed costs are gross salary, indirect costs, estates costs and other costs. Please use the 'Total' from Table A for this calculation.

The Academy's contribution will be capped at a maximum of £90,000 per annum, which equates to a total of £450,000 over five years, and it will be pro-rated for the part-time award. Please contact the Academy at research@raeng.org.uk to discuss the part-time arrangements.

Table B

	Year one	Year two	Year three	Year four	Year five	Total
Salary costs						
Indirect costs						

Estates costs						
Other costs						
Total						

Table C: Contribution from the industrial sponsor

The industrial sponsor must make an auditable cash or in-kind contribution towards this collaborative research project over the five-year period. The required contribution should be proportionate to the size of the industrial sponsor.

- Small enterprises are required to contribute a minimum of £125k.
- Medium enterprises are required to contribute a minimum of £175k.
- Large enterprises are required to contribute a minimum of £250k.

The contribution should be pro-rated for part-time award. This can be used flexibly to support the project and may include both cash and in-kind contributions (for example access to facilities, technical staff, equipment, data, consumables). In-kind support should be fully costed.

Table C

	Year one	Year two	Year three	Year four	Year five	Total
Cash contribution						
In-kind support						
Total						

Q. Provide details of in-kind support from the industrial sponsor

Include any in-kind support that the industrial sponsor is willing to provide. This can include, for example, access to facilities, technical staff, equipment, data, consumables.

200 word maximum.

Table D: Contribution from the host institution

The host institution should make at least £225,000.00 cash or in-kind contribution for full time award. The contribution should be pro-rated for part-time award.

This can be used flexibly to support the project and may include both cash and in-kind contributions (for example provision of PhD studentships, postdocs, equipment, consumables). In-kind support should be fully costed. The host institution is expected to make up any shortfall in the total cost (fEC) of any proposed application.

	Year one	Year two	Year three	Year four	Year five	Total
Cash contribution						
In-kind support						
Total						

Q. Provide details of in-kind support from the host institution

Include any in-kind support that the host institution is willing to provide. This can include, for example, provision of PhD studentships, postdocs, equipment, consumables.

200 words maximum.

19.8 Responsible research

The following questions address responsible research practices in alignment with the Academy's [Animals in Research](#) and [Humans in Research](#) policies.

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

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](#).

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: regulatory approval and licenses are not required to be in place at point of application, but all approvals must be in place before the work begins and a clear plan to achieve this at application stage.

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

Please note: 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.

We recommend that applicants proposing research involving animals to be undertaken outside of the UK should contact us before beginning their application to discuss whether their proposal would be considered.

Q - Please confirm the country where the animal work will be conducted

Q - Please provide details of the local legislation and ethical review procedures

Q - Please explain below 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 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.

Q - 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](#)?

Q - Please provide details of the animal species and number(s) to be used?

Please also provide details of sex, if relevant

Q - Why is the species/model to be used the most appropriate?

Please discuss the relevance of your model(s) along with any limitations and how you have accounted for this within your study design.

Q - 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 in alignment with the principles of replace, reduce, and refine. We recommend the use of the Experimental Design Assistant to help with the design of your work.

You will also have the opportunity to upload any supporting evidence later in the form.

Q - Please provide information on your plan and the timeline to acquire all relevant ethical approval and licenses for working involving animals

Q - Please upload any supporting documentation below (optional)

We recommend the use of the Experimental Design Assistant 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 in Research, Development, and Innovation questions

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](#).

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 and a clear plan to achieve this at application stage.

Q - Does your proposal involve human participants, as according to the WHO definition?

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

(For any work to be conducted outside of the UK)

Q - Please confirm the country where the work will be conducted.

This and the following two questions provide us sufficient details to ensure that you have aligned your proposed work with the Academy's policy, particularly our requirement that research complies with relevant legislation and the governing principles of the Declaration of Helsinki, the Nuremberg Code, and the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS) guidelines, all of which set out requirements with regard to the rights and safety of research participants and standards for research design and conduct.

(For proposals involving human participants or human tissue)

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

Q - For proposals involving human participants, please explain you will protect the dignity, rights, safety and wellbeing of all participants, particularly when involving vulnerable groups.

This question assesses whether your proposed work protects the dignity, rights, safety and wellbeing of all participants, particularly when involving vulnerable groups and avoids exploitation and undue inducement of participants.

Q - For proposals involving human tissue and/or other human material, please explain how you will safeguard the collection and/or storage of human tissue/other material and comply with all relevant legislation.

This question seeks to ensure that your proposed work involves the suitable safeguarding or the collection, storage and access of human tissue in compliance with the appropriate legislation (the Human Tissue Act 2004 for England, Wales and Northern Ireland and the Human Tissue (Scotland) Act 2006 for Scotland).

Q - Does your proposal involve the use of personal data?

These three questions require you to declare if your proposal involves the use of human participants, human tissue and/or other human material or personal data. The questions are all multiple-choice, and depending on your responses, you will be asked further questions providing details on the location, regulatory regime and research plan.

Q - For proposals involving personal data, please explain how you will safeguard the collection and/or storage of personal data and comply with all relevant legislation.

This question seeks to ensure that your proposed work involves the suitable safeguarding of personal data and compliance with all relevant legislation, including UK General Data Protection Regulations (UK GDPR) for research conducted in the UK, and the duty of confidentiality and informed consent.

Export Control

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

Please refer to the [Government Export Control Joint Unit \(ECJU\)](#) who administers the UK's system of export controls and licensing for military and dual-use items for further information where needed. *Please note that a response of 'don't know' may mean we need to delay processing your application until such a time as we have clarified this position.*

National Security

Is the proposed work in an area with direct military applications or in an area with potential for a dual use application.

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

19.9 Letters of support and declaration

This section seeks confirmation for the support that both the industrial sponsor and the host institution will provide. A declaration of support is also required from the applicant's host institution grants/research office or equivalent. The submission deadline will not be extended due to an individual's unavailability.

Once your application is complete a "submit application" button will become available at the top of this page.

Applicants can download a pdf of their applications after submission, which is recommended for reference.

Q. Host institution letter of support

A pro-vice-chancellor, dean or equivalent at the host institution must provide a letter of support. It should be on headed paper, signed by the author and uploaded by the applicant as a PDF.

The letter should address the following points:

1. Details of how the candidate's current teaching (and related) duties will be covered during the award (note: contractually, the Academy will expect the awardee to contribute no more than four hours per week towards administration/teaching duties, as this is a full-time award. For a part-time award, the anticipated weekly working hours on the award must be clearly specified).
2. The host institution's commitment to the proposed collaborative research project and partnership with the chosen industrial sponsor. The strategic alignment with institution strategy and research priorities including details of previous and planned investment and support to facilitate the development of this research group.
3. Details of how the host institution intends to reinvest any salary savings back into the research project (provision of PhD studentships, postdocs, teaching replacement).
4. Details confirming that when working with the industrial sponsor(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 these areas are not clearly addressed, the letter will be returned for revision prior to review.

The Academy expects institutions to be committed to, and provide support that aligns with, principles set out in The Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers, The Concordat for Engaging the Public with Research, and [DORA](#).

Q. Industrial sponsor letter of support

A letter of support must be included from the industrial sponsor that outlines their commitment and contribution to the award. The letter should be on headed paper, signed by the author and uploaded by the applicant as a PDF. The letter should address the following points, referring to the numbers will aid identification:

1. Outline the industrial sponsor's commitment and support for the collaborative research project and how this aligns with their research and development strategy.
2. Explain why the industrial sponsor decided to partner with the host institution and the Academy.
3. Outline how the applicant will contribute the industrial sponsor's operational objectives.
4. Outline the expected outcomes and deliverables during and beyond the five-year period.
5. Provide a brief background about the industrial sponsor, its turnover, and staff numbers.

6. Confirm the financial contributions and any in-kind support that the industrial sponsor will make to this research collaboration over the five-year period of the award.
7. Outline other possible benefits to the industrial sponsor, such as industrial strategy, policy, and access to graduates.
8. Declaration of results that do not give rise to intellectual property rights are available to be widely disseminated and any intellectual property rights arising from the activities of the research organisation are fully allocated.

Q. Host institution declaration letter

The host institution declaration letter must be completed by an appropriate individual from the host institution's research support office or equivalent. The letter must be on headed paper and should carry the signatory's name, position, contact details, and the institution's official stamp (if available). The letter must confirm the application has been approved by the institution and **must contain the wording given in the box below**, as well as any remarks that the institution wishes to make. **Please note that the wording provided in the box below is specific to the Research Chairs and Senior Research Fellowships scheme, and the wording is updated and different to previous rounds. It should be on headed paper, signed by the author and uploaded as a PDF.**

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, and I also confirm that:

- The costs provided in this application are correct and sufficient to complete the project as envisioned.
- Any shortfall in funding discovered after the award has been made will be covered by the institution, potentially through other grants.
- If awarded, the applicant will be given full access to the facilities, equipment, personnel, and funding as required by the application.
- The applicant will be employed by the institution for the duration of the award.
- Results that do not give rise to intellectual property rights are available to be widely disseminated and any intellectual property rights arising from the activities of the research organisation will be fully allocated.
- The applicant's teaching and administrative and non-research duties will be restricted to a maximum of four hours per week during their award (this will be pro-rated for part-time awards).
- I am authorised to approve the submission of applications for funding and confirm this application has successfully met the eligibility criteria and all of our internal approval procedures.
- The institution will have an appropriate bilateral agreement or equivalent in place with the industrial sponsor by the proposed start date as stated in the application and agrees to share this with the Academy.

Q. Applicant declaration

I confirm here and by submitting this application that:

- All information is accurate at the time of submission, and I will update the Academy of any material changes which may affect the project
- The ideas presented are my own and not plagiarised or containing IP that is not owned by myself, except for that IP that I have express permission to utilise in this way
- All contributions have been appropriately referenced or credited including the use of any online tools such as AI generative tools used in developing my application
- I understand that failure to cite and declare references or sources for material information will result in my application being removed from the process, or the uncorroborated information disregarded
- I understand that The Royal Academy of Engineering will disclose the information submitted in this application to reviewers for the purpose of assessing this application. Any external reviewer we ask to assist us has agreed to keep this information confidential
- I have the express permission of any individuals whose contact details I have shared as part of this application process, to share these details with the Royal Academy of Engineering for the purposes of administering the application
- I understand that The Royal Academy of Engineering or other third party evaluators may contact me for the purposes of Monitoring and Evaluation of this programme
- I have read and understood the Application Guidance

Q. Marketing: how did you hear about this scheme? (optional question)

This question is optional but helps us to understand which marketing materials are most successful at reaching the academic community to improve future communications work.

20. Assessment of Application

The review stages that will happen following submission are as follows:

Stage 1: expert review

The full application will be assessed by a minimum of three expert reviews (usually Academy Fellows). Expert reviewers will provide comments and score against each of the following assessment criteria, the overall quality of the application and a recommendation on whether they should proceed to interview. Full reviewer guidance notes are available [here](#).

Quality of the applicant

- Quality of the applicant's research track record and the academic quality of the underpinning basic research.

- Quality of the applicant's research vision and their potential to establish or enhance a world-leading research group at the host university in their chosen field of engineering.

Quality of the collaborative research programme

- The quality and significance of the proposed 'use-inspired' collaborative research programme (including timeliness, novelty, vision, and ambition).
- Quality and effectiveness of the proposed planning and management and whether the requested resources are appropriate and have been fully justified.
- Consideration of equity, diversity and inclusion in research and team development, such as how the applicant's understanding of EDI affects Team composition and collaboration
- Quality and appropriateness of research methods and ethical and inclusive experimental design (including, if relevant, alignment with the Academy's Animal Use and Human Participants in Research, Innovation and Development Policies).

Strength of the strategic partnership

- The strength and long-term sustainability of the strategic partnership between the company and the host institution.
- The commitment and level of support from both the host institution and the industrial sponsor.

Beneficiaries and impact

- Extent to which the industrial sponsor and other beneficiaries will benefit from the proposed collaborative research programme.
- The potential to translate research outcomes into societal and economic impact.

Financial costing of the proposal

- Quality and level of the financial contribution from the industrial partner and host institution.

Sift panel

The Academy staff will collate all reviewers' comments and scores into a summary table and rank the applications by overall score and the Yes/No recommendations. These are presented to the sift panel for a final decision on which applications should proceed to interview stage. Those applicants not asked to attend an interview will be informed of this decision as soon as possible following the sift panel's decision.

Stage 2: interview

The interview will be conducted by a generalist panel consisting of at least three Academy Fellows. Each interview will take about 50 minutes. Panellists will provide comments against the assessment criteria outlined above.

The ranking of candidates during the preceding sift panels will have no bearing at interview. 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.

Interviews will take place virtually on 13 July and 14 July 2026.

Please ensure that the interview dates are added to your diaries and to the ones of pro-vice chancellor (Research) and/or dean as well as a representative from the industrial sponsor. **All the parties are required to attend the interview.**

Shortlisted applicants will be invited for interview by the end of June 2026.

The applicants will be notified of the outcome of the interview by the end of July 2026.

Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA)

The Academy's research programmes are aligned with the [Declaration on Research Assessment \(DORA\)](#), 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.

In the assessment of research output, 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. With regard to research articles published in peer-reviewed journals, the scientific content of a paper is much more important than publication metrics or the identity of the journal in which it was published.

We value and appreciate the time and effort that reviewers give to support our research programmes. A good, helpful review for the Academy is one that assesses research on its own merits rather than by surrogate measures, such as on the basis of the journal in which research is published.

21. Grant agreement

If you are successful, your funding will be awarded under the RD&I 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.

22. Contact details

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

23. Annex 1 – Subject category

1) Civil, construction and environmental

Including aspects of civil and structural engineering; construction materials; earthquakes; wind and 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 and development of mineral resources; extraction and 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; oil; coal and gas technologies; carbon; carbon sequestration; clean technology; combustion; 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

Including all aspects of mechanical engineering; automotive; rail and marine engineering; transportation infrastructure; engines; turbomachinery; mechatronics; acoustics and vibrations; ultra-sonics; heat and thermodynamics; fluid dynamics.

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; 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; telecommunications; mobile telephony; broadband; wireless spectrum; signal processing; television, film, and broadcasting; computer and video games; special effects.

11) Special, including engineering management and Multi-disciplinary

New, emerging or multi-disciplinary areas of engineering; leadership and management of engineering business; engineering project management; business improvement and reengineering; also including engineers working in government and the armed services; engineers who have made outstanding contributions to engineering law, education or in public engagement; sectors of engineering not covered elsewhere.

24. Annex 2 – Subsidy control guidance and definitions

This programme most commonly awards grants on the basis that they are for non-economic research conducted with a collaborating industrial organisation. However, should a research organisation declare that an industrial organisation is

to gain a direct benefit from the project then the Academy would award the grant under the [Streamlined route for RD&I \(SC10780\)](#) on the basis that it is an industrial research project that represents an indirect subsidy to the industrial organisation. The Academy will not fund projects that would be classified as feasibility studies or experimental development projects as defined in the Research, Development and Innovation Streamlined Subsidy Scheme guidance.

Should the project be classified as an Indirect Industrial Research project and subsequently awarded as an indirect subsidy to the collaborating industrial organisation then the Academy will need to seek assurances about the level of funding already received by that commercial organisation in respect of the project to ensure compliance with the cumulation rules of the streamlined route, and ensure that funding for that project has not nor will exceed the £3M cap by awarding of the proposed grant. Per the streamlined route, the subsidy ratios allowed for an Industrial Research Project are: 85% for small enterprises, 75% for medium-sized enterprises, and 65% for large enterprises with the enterprise required to commit to, and demonstrate input at, the required level to comply with those ratios i.e. if the Academy awarded 85k for a grant and the collaborating commercial organisation was a small enterprise they would be required to commit and evidence on request the required input 15k of funds for eligible costs under the streamlined route.

The Academy will need to review the particulars of the benefits to the industrial organisation. Further investigations will need to be carried out to ensure that we comply with funder regulations as per section 14 of the Research, development and innovation streamlined route guidance pertaining to the [‘Subsidy Control Act 2022’](#).

Definitions:

This scheme will only fund collaborative engineering research projects between industry and academia. Research projects must include “industrial research” with a focus on “research and development” and “innovation”.

***“Industrial research”** means the planned research or critical investigation aimed at the acquisition of new knowledge and skills for developing new products, processes or services or for bringing about a significant improvement in existing products, processes or services.*

***“Research and development”** means activities which must be novel, creative, uncertain in outcomes, systematic and transferable and/or reproducible. All five criteria are to be met every time a research and development activity is undertaken whether on a continuous or occasional basis.*

***“Innovation”** means a new or improved product or process (or combination thereof) that differs from the previous products or processes and that has not been made available to potential users (product) or brought into use (process).*

***“non-economic scientific research”** means a commercial organisation does not receive a specific benefit from the financial assistance given to the research organisation.*

Definitions provided from the 'Research, development and innovation streamlined subsidy scheme' document pursuant to section 10 (5) of the '[Subsidy Control Act 2022](#)'