Royal Academy of Engineering

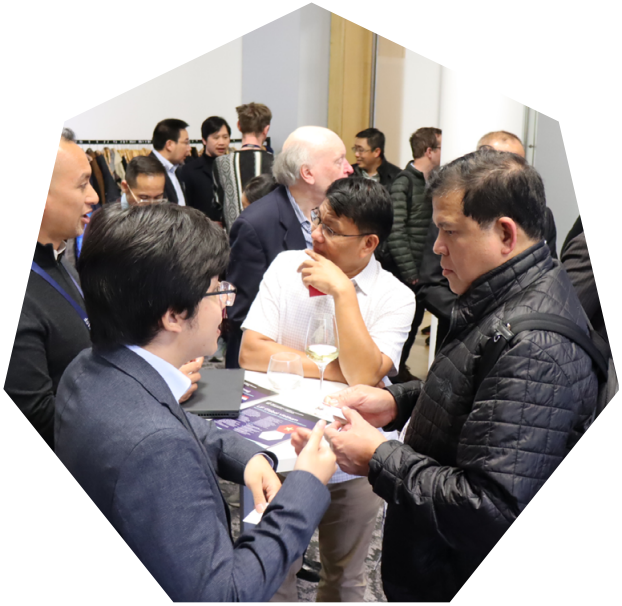
Technology Transfer Training

Leveraging academic research for commercialisation and increased opportunities for spinouts.

Entrepreneurship at the Royal Academy of Engineering

Over the past 10 years, the Leaders in Innovation Fellowships (LIF) programme and the Enterprise Hub have built a rich community of entrepreneurs, business leaders, Academy Fellows and technology transfer experts across the UK and the world, strengthening local innovation ecosystems in the process. We offer a unique insight and an independent voice on university spinouts built on experience and our network of experts.

The LIF programme supports talented entrepreneurs from around the globe to turn their engineering innovations into impactful, sustainable businesses. We work with partners across the 19 countries in which we operate, including government agencies and incubators, and work closely with the Science and Innovation Network (SIN) Officers at the British Embassies in those countries. LIF supports innovators to commercialise a validated technology that provides a positive impact to their communities, with a view to potentially scaling up globally.



The Enterprise Hub supports talented UK-based entrepreneurs and decision-makers to transform breakthrough engineering innovations into disruptive spinouts, startups and scaleups. In 2024, the Financial Times and Statista named the Hub as one of the top 10 startup hubs in Europe – their first-ever rankings of such organisations.

The problem

A recent evaluation we carried out of LIF found that many potentially impactful technologies never make it to market. Research developed in universities and research institutions can be difficult to translate to business because of factors including IP ownership, policy maturity and general understanding of the pivotal role spinouts can play in society.

Our Technology Transfer Training brings together LIF's international experience and the Enterprise Hub's focus on startups and scale-ups in the UK, allowing you to understand the current state of the spinout landscape and to learn best practices in IP and commercialisation in the UK and globally.

Why us?

The Academy's Enterprise Hub supports researchers make the transition from academia to entrepreneurship through knowledge, skills and confidence. Since the programme launched in 2011, we have supported 207 entrepreneurs, who have grown from initial founding teams to companies valued at nearly £700 million.

The Academy has experience researching how the UK can accelerate the commercialisation of innovative ideas from its world leading university sector – as well as how the government can ensure that those innovative businesses can take root in the economy and thrive.

The Academy provides policy advice to accelerate the commercialisation of university research and growth of engineering businesses in the UK. Our fourth annual Spotlight on Spinouts report (**https://raeng.org.uk/media/0replytx/spotlight-on-spinouts-2024-beauhurst.pdf**) showcases the state of the UK's spinout economy and shares important evidence to help inform and contribute to national discussions on the wider debate and future policy in this area.

Through the Technology Transfer Training, the Academy will share its expertise ranging from commercialising engineering research into successful, scalable businesses, to ensuring that commercialisation of university research is at the heart of policy-making.

The offer

The programme includes online mentoring, practical workshops and expert lectures, including a UK residential phase. It aims to give you the skills and competences to promote innovation and entrepreneurship and increase the market and societal impact of research. You will also build an extensive international network, opening further and deeper opportunities for collaboration.

Training summary

This Technology Transfer Training was developed to share best practices from the UK and from around the globe. This training will give you the tools to influence change at a policy and institutional level in your country.

You will benefit from mentoring sessions. Your mentor will guide you to reflect on the challenges and opportunities in your country and to set goals at an individual and country cohort level in preparation of your residential week in the UK.

You will gain knowledge of technology transfer policy and practices in the UK, such as the incentives at a government level, the role of technology transfer in university research, and the fundamentals of technology transfer team operations.

You will have access to the Academy's unique national and global network of Fellows, industry pioneers, innovators, funders, business leaders, researchers, and policymakers.

Programme details

- Duration: eight months
- Time commitment:
  - Online: approximately four hours per month
  - Residential: five days in the UK
- Flights, hotels in London, and airport transfers are an additional cost covered by the delegates and are variable based on the standards required and the countries of origin of flights.
- A minimum of 20 delegates required per programme cycle.
- Format and length:
  - 16 hours of interactive learning
  - Six networking opportunities
  - Three visits to University visits
  - 10 hours of mentoring

Who is this training for?

- Senior government officials working in technology and innovation agencies.
- Technology transfer teams from Universities.
- Incubators and accelerators.

Learning objectives

Module 0: Introduction to technology transfer

1. Map the wider policy environment in your jurisdiction

2. Identify opportunities and challenges of your national context

3. Create opportunities for academic entrepreneurs

Module 1: Create a flourishing environment

1. Define the role of Technology Transfer and research commercialisation within university environment

2. Understand UK Technology Transfer policies

3. Describe the different commercialisation route

Module 2: Experience it first hand

1. Understand the operational aspect of running a Technology Transfer Office

2. Compare different approaches to licensing and spin outs

3. Understand the support offered to innovators

Module 3: Build your network

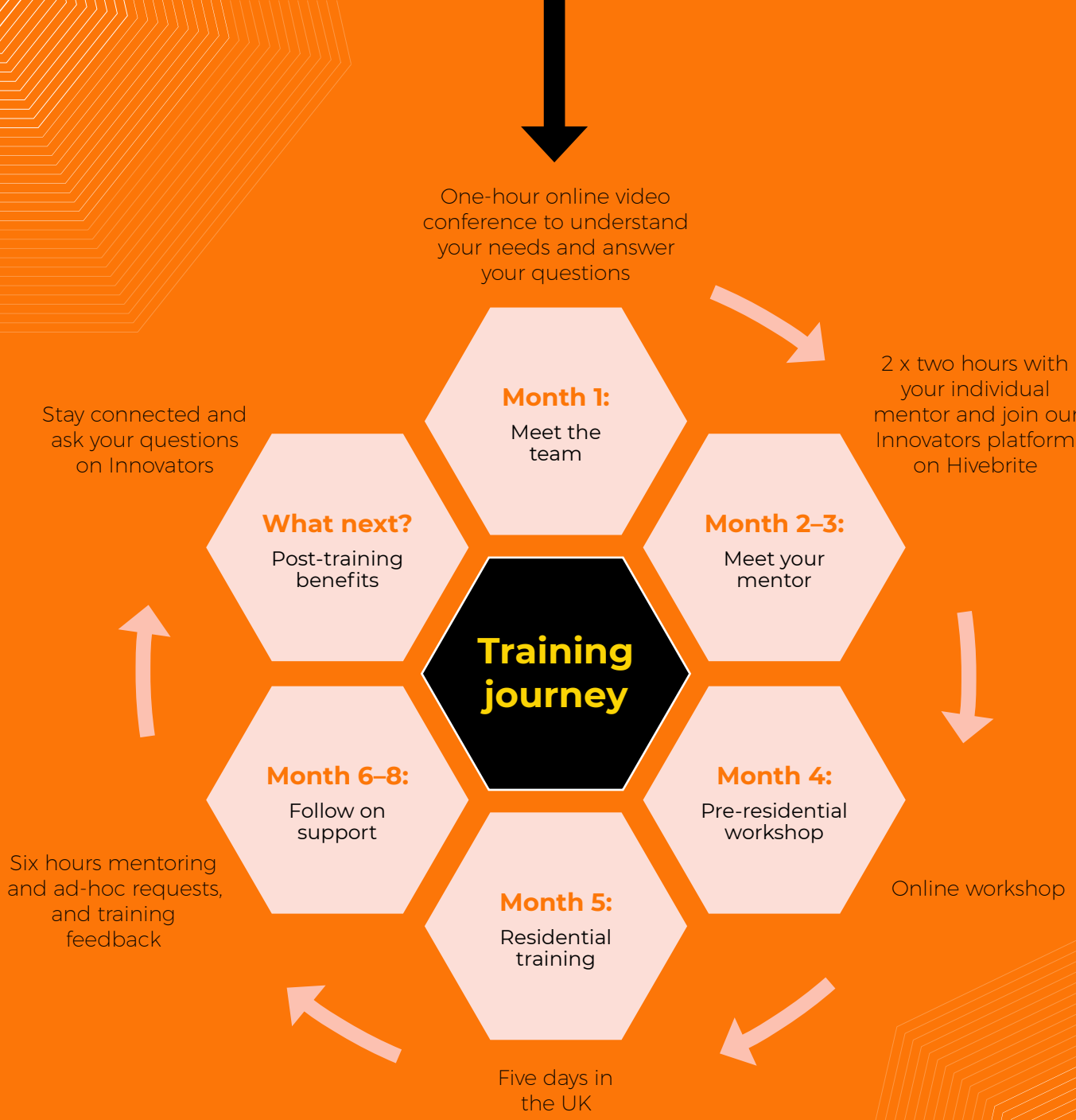
1. Understand the ecosystem

2. Know who your key stakeholders are that can support you

Module 4: Broaden your horizons

1. Engage with UK and international Technology Transfer offices

2. Compare UK and global Technology Transfer best practices


One-hour online video conference to understand your needs and answer your questions
Month 1:
Meet the team
2 x two hours with your individual mentor and join our Innovators platform on Hivebrite
Month 2–3:
Meet your mentor
Online workshop
Month 4:
Pre-residential workshop
Five days in the UK
Month 5:
Residential training
Six hours mentoring and ad-hoc requests, and training feedback
Month 6–8:
Follow on support
Stay connected and ask your questions on Innovators
What next?
Post-training benefits
Training journey

By the end of the training, you will be able to

- Engage and form links with the UK and the wider international technology transfer network
- Apply best practices and learnings in technology transfer to your own jurisdictions
- Identify ways to influence policy for the benefit of academic entrepreneurs who want to spin out
- Understand how to measure the impact of your interventions.

The UK residential phase includes

- Workshops from external experts on the UK ecosystem, technology transfer frameworks, best practice examples and group work on a country-based SWOT analysis with **actions to take forward**
- **Visits to a select group of UK university technology transfer teams** to discuss the development of policy and IP management, meet and network with a variety of leaders of technology transfer policy and meet innovators benefiting from progressive spinout policy
- **Panel discussions, talks, masterclasses and networking** by external experts, Academy staff and Fellows:
  - A panel with technology transfer experts from around the globe
  - An external event with the participants describing their own policies and issues
  - Fundamentals of policymaking and influencing
  - Leadership masterclass and a discussion on soft skills
  - Leading diversity & inclusion initiatives for businesses
  - Supporting talented engineers across the UK through the Academy's regional engagement
  - Introduction to a regional innovation ecosystem
  - Lessons learnt from the Enterprise Hub.

Requirements

- Internet connection
- Time commitment
- Fluency in English

Training certification

- You will receive a certificate of completion from the Royal Academy of Engineering at the end of the training.

Please contact **clementine.flack@raeng.org.uk** for more information.

Royal Academy of Engineering

The Royal Academy of Engineering is harnessing the power of engineering to build a sustainable society and an inclusive economy that works for everyone.

In collaboration with our Fellows and partners, we're growing talent and developing skills for the future, driving innovation and building global partnerships, and influencing policy and engaging the public.

Together we're working to tackle the greatest challenges of our age.

What we do

Talent & diversity

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

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

Innovation

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

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

Policy & engagement

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

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

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