



Distinguished International Associates programme

Programme Guidance

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Introduction

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.

Overview

Distinguished International Associates Programme

The Distinguished International Associates Programme is a new programme for excellent international engineers working across all sectors, who are at the cutting edge of engineering research or innovation, and have existing collaborations or connections to the UK that they would like to intensify.

Awardees will be offered a grant of **£10,000** to amplify the impact of their collaboration with the UK in an area that aligns with the Academy's new strategic priority themes. The grant would enable awardees to develop or strengthen their research, innovation, and policy links to the UK and to improve and deepen links between the UK and their country of residence, through visits, workshops, communication and public engagement activities.

The programme aims to develop a broad international community or network of excellent diverse engineers across countries and disciplines, with research and innovation links to the UK, to work alongside the Academy to enhance progress towards achieving its goals for an inclusive economy and sustainable society.

Programme Objectives:

The programme aims to:

- Strengthen existing collaboration and engagement between awardees, and their peers in the UK engineering community.
- Empower Associates who can further broaden and demonstrate meaningful links with the UK and the Academy to promote their activities where they align with the Academy's objectives.
- Build a peer support network of 'International Associates' to facilitate international cooperation and to stimulate the engineering communities in participants' home countries.
- Facilitate opportunities for alumni to create and strengthen their own research, innovation, or policy links to the UK engineering community.

Funding

Award value: Successful awardees will receive funding of **£10,000**

Duration: Projects must be for approx. 24 months and must start in March 2022.

Number of awards: Up to 12 awards will be made

Programme details

The Academy will support proposals that contribute to the Academy's strategic priority themes of:

1. Harnessing the power of engineering to build an inclusive economy that works for everyone

2. Harnessing the power of engineering to build a sustainable society that works for everyone

Key dates

Open call for applications	13 September 2021
Deadline for the submission of proposals	08 November 2021, 16:00 GMT
Eligibility checks	10 – 19 November 2021
Review of submitted proposals	December – January 2022
Decision announcement and contracting	February – March 2022
Contract commencement	March 2022
End of contract	March 2024

What to expect

Participation

Successful applicants will:

- be ambassadors seeking to inspire and engage peers in building an inclusive economy and a sustainable society, sparking collaboration and communicating the value of these partnerships
- enhance existing international engineering research and innovation collaborations between the UK and other countries, delivering societal benefit from these research and innovation projects
- have a commitment to playing an active role as a Distinguished International Associate.

Signposting, promotion and network building

The Academy team will be on hand throughout the award period and beyond to signpost additional opportunities, including networking opportunities, and further funding options. Examples of how the Academy will support Distinguished International Associates include:

- Awardees will automatically be enrolled into a growing network of International Associates.
- Where appropriate, the Academy can make introductions between Associates, the Fellowship, and its networks.
- Associates' projects and profiles will be promoted through the Academy's publications and social media channels.

We hope that through the programme Associates will be able to showcase their excellence in their field.

We are hopeful that being a Distinguished Associate will be regarded prestigiously and act as an indicator of excellence.

Eligibility criteria

- All lead applicants must be based outside the UK
- The programme is aimed at experienced researchers. As a guide, applicants should have approximately 10-25 years post-doc or equivalent experience. We anticipate that applicants will already have established a significant international track record in their discipline, and be recognised as international leaders or emerging leaders in their field. We will make appropriate allowance for applicants who have had career breaks.
- Applicants are expected to have an existing collaboration with the UK, which the award will deepen, in an area that contributes to at least one of the Academy's strategic goals: **sustainable society or inclusive economy**.
- While the project can include measures to improve links with policy-makers or the general public, at its heart it must have the objective of strengthening collaboration between excellent researchers, innovators and practitioners who are working at the cutting edge of engineering research or innovation.
- They should be affiliated with an organisation, institution or university that can help administer the funding (the Academy cannot send funding to individuals). Please note that, on award offer, non-UK applicants will be required to undertake due diligence checks before the award is confirmed.
- Individuals are limited to one application.
- The proposed activities and collaboration must highlight the value of the strengthened links for their home country's engineering community, in addition to them as individuals and the UK community. There is an expectation that Associates will engage with the Academy in actively promoting and communicating this value. However, applicants should consider how they will innovatively use technology to engage people in these activities.

Please note – this is a new programme in the pilot phase, and we may not have considered every set of circumstances. If you think you should be eligible but fall outside of this list, please contact us to discuss your particular case.

Diversity

We are committed to diversity and inclusion and we welcome 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, gender and sexual orientation.

For more information, please visit:

www.raeng.org.uk/publications/other/academy-diversity-policy

Before you commence your application, you will be asked a few diversity monitoring questions. The answers will not be visible to the reviewers and will not impact your chances of having your application selected. You will need to complete the diversity monitoring section before you can see the grant application form, but can choose “prefer not to say” as responses.

Cost and funding guidelines

Eligible costs under this scheme:

Up to 100% directly incurred activities costs:

- virtual events management and collaboration software subscription
- costs related to event logistics (venue hire, AV hire, catering)
- travel costs (reasonable economy class) and any basic accommodation necessary for activities participants to attend activities
- project specific consumables (printed materials, paper, etc.)
- professional services, such as translation or expert training services, but only if offered by registered companies or organisations and can be accounted for by providing receipts and copies of invoices.

Other costs specific to the project activities:

- Website design and hosting, social media or advertising.
- Reasonable design costs for marketing materials.
- Internet allowance or connectivity equipment(s) under £400, where internet access may be a barrier to Associates engagement in virtual activities.

The following costs are NOT eligible:

- Indirect costs, including overheads, administrative or staff costs. For example, salaries or stipends for individual DIA awardees, or administrative interns are **NOT** eligible.
- Purchasing of equipment(s) with a total cost of more than £400.
- Research costs.
- Purchasing of alcohol.
- Any expenditure that only benefits the project team or a single individual.

You will need to provide the rationale and justification for all requested costs in your application form. If you have any affiliation with the providers of any services you are requesting you must detail this in your application.

Beyond the funding

Promotion and support materials

Distinguished Associates will have the opportunity to input into the Associates Network, and may share updates and may request space to share upcoming activities or events.

When Associates have exciting news to share, related to their project activities, it can be shared through the Associates Network and the Academy's social media channels to support building their profile.

The Academy will provide toolkits and resources where possible to support Associates in implementing their projects:

If there are other ways we can support our network of associates, we will remain open to suggestions!

Your commitment

As a lead applicant, you will act as the point of contact for the Academy in relation to all activities included in your grant application.

Updates and coordination: you will provide regular updates and share any challenges at the Associates quarterly coordination calls monthly.

Reporting: You will submit an initiation report at the start of your project and a final report on both the finances and achievements at the end of your grant.

Associates will commit to running at least one event, online or in person. The award can be used to support activities such as visits, workshops, communication and public engagement activities hosted in-country that broaden research, innovation and policy links to the UK.

In addition to quarterly coordination calls, you are encouraged to strive to be a role model to others across the Associates Network and engage with peers around the world.

Awards will begin in March 2022 and run for 24 months until March 2024.

An initial payment of 80% of the total grant will be disbursed upon receipt and acceptance of the project initiation report. The final payment of 20% of the total grant will be disbursed at the end of project, upon receipt and acceptance of the final report and full financial and expenditure report.

Lead applicants will be asked to complete a survey six months into their award which will provide a summary of their project to be used by the Academy for communications about the programme.

At the end of the contract, a final report will be due two weeks after the project end date. The Academy will offer a template for final reporting and the lead applicant will need to provide a complete financial expenditure report, the Academy may request receipts for any expenses noted in expenditure reports at any time.

