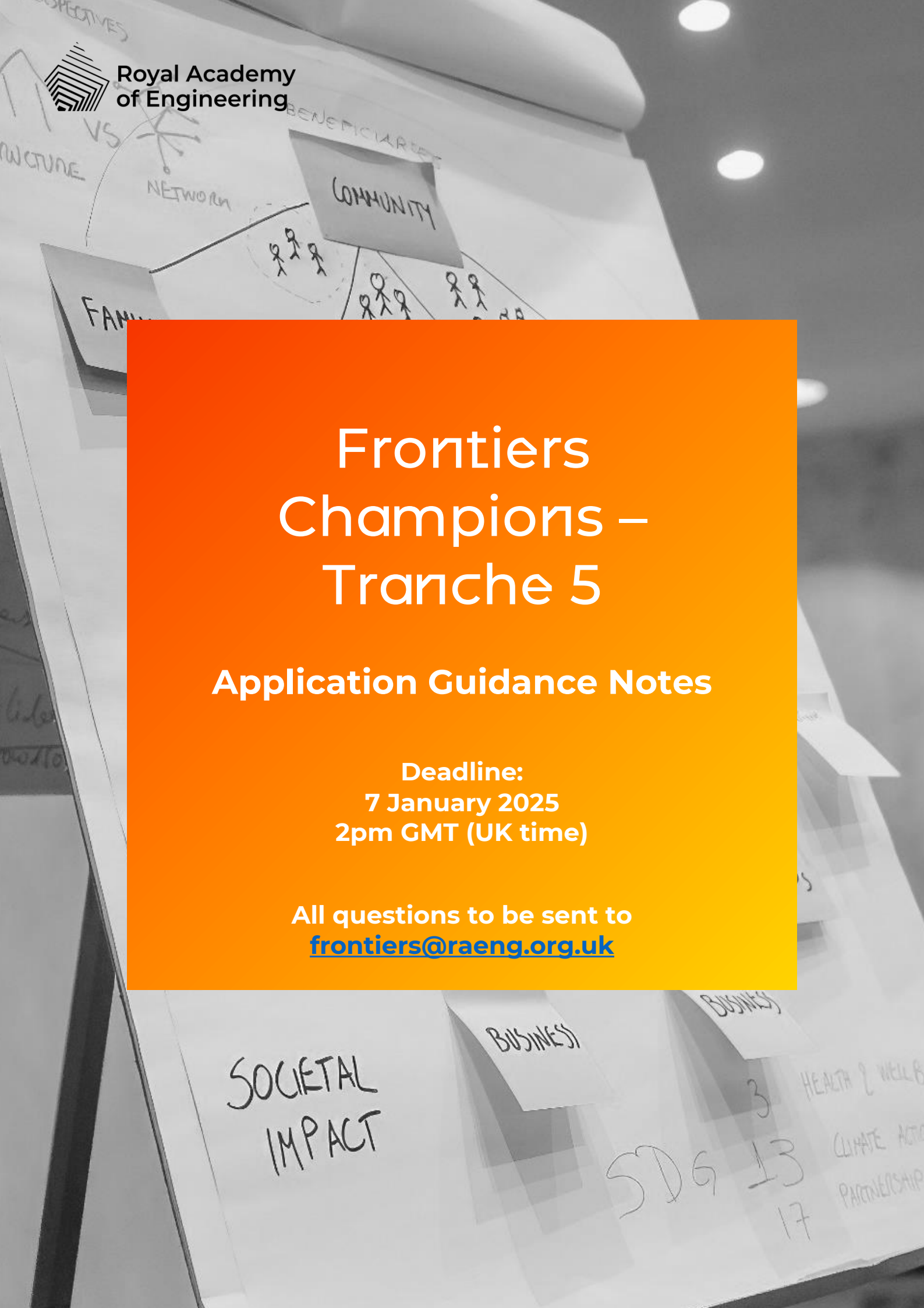

Frontiers Champions – Tranche 5

Application Guidance Notes

Deadline:
7 January 2025
2pm GMT (UK time)

All questions to be sent to
frontiers@raeng.org.uk

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Introduction to Frontiers and the Royal Academy of Engineering

The UK's 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 its Fellows and partners, the Academy is growing talent and diversity, developing skills for the future, driving innovation and building global partnerships, and influencing policy and engaging the public. Together we are working to tackle the greatest challenges of our age.

Frontiers connects and empowers enthusiastic and proactive researchers, innovators and practitioners from the UK and around the world to work together on new ways to solve complex global challenges. Putting collaboration and interdisciplinary thinking at the heart of development catalyses creative solutions that deliver impact and build a global community equipped to achieve a sustainable and inclusive society. There are four strands of activity to the Frontiers programme:

- **Frontiers symposia**

These highly interactive and curated symposia bring together academics, industry professionals, NGO staff, and policymakers around a topic related to the Sustainable Development Goals in a welcoming and inspiring format.

- **Frontiers seed funding**

After each Frontiers symposium, we award seed funding grants of up to £20,000 to successful collaboration bids from the symposia. These are designed to strengthen collaborations developed at the event. These projects must address specific challenges based on community needs.

- **Frontiers follow-on funding**

Funding of up to £300,000 over three years is available to scale up seed funded projects into fully formed collaborative research projects.

- **Frontiers champions**

Previous Frontiers programme participants are offered champions grants of up to £10,000 for one year to undertake activities that expand on the Frontiers networks. Awardees convene their peers through regional or thematic events, building communities of people with the right networks to tackle global challenges.

Frontiers Champions Overview

Frontiers Champions will:

Bring together global and regional networks of researchers, practitioners, and innovators

Convene a community of peers who are tackling global challenges

Become leaders of their community and inspire engagement in international development challenges

These grants support Frontiers community members in building and expanding their professional networks. Champions will convene peers via regional or thematic events, fostering a diverse, international community of researchers, innovators, and practitioners. Networks are vital for addressing complex global challenges: while the Frontiers Symposia initiate connections, the Champions take ownership of advancing and broadening these networks for lasting impact.

Frontiers Champions undertake community building activities such as networking events, webinars, meet-ups, and workshops. This benefits the communities and is an excellent opportunity for professional development. For example, it may be used as evidence for professional accreditation systems.

Each Champion arranges at least one event, employs innovative methods for inclusive, impactful gatherings, and engages in quarterly calls with Academy staff and their peers to share lessons learned from their project. The Academy supports Champion events with promotion, peer-to-peer learning opportunities, and access to the Academy's fellowship when appropriate.

This scheme is only open to existing Frontiers alumni (Symposia participants). Do not apply if you are not already a Frontiers alumnus or alumna, as your application will not be eligible.

Award
up to £10,000

Funded period
up to 12 months

Application deadline
7 January 2025,
2.00pm (GMT)

Projects addressing challenges in the target countries will be prioritised

Projects are to start on 24 February 2025 and end on 24 February 2026

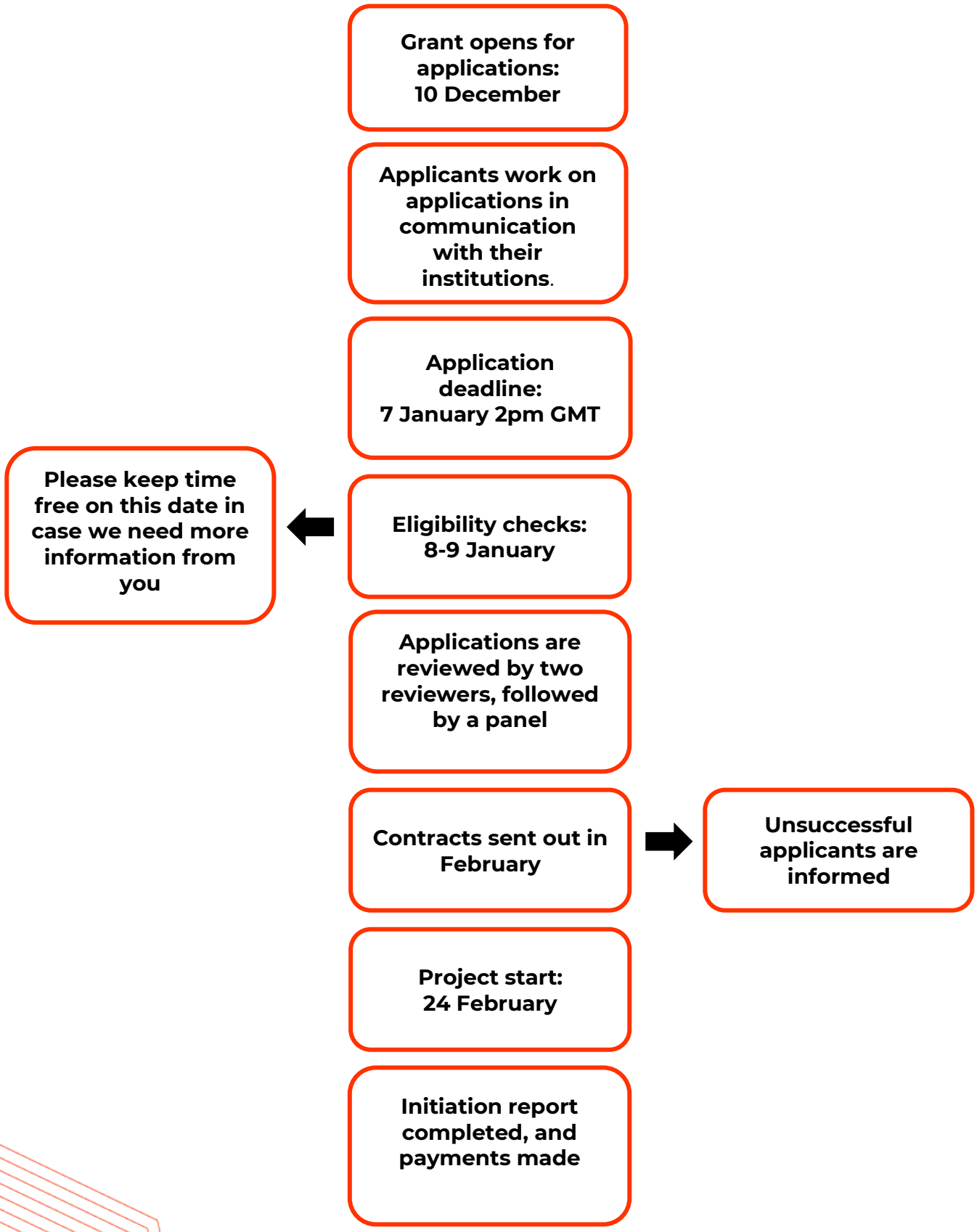
Frontiers Champions will commit to:

- Arrange at least one event, online or in person.
- Participate in quarterly calls with the Academy to update on project progress and connect with your fellow Champions.
- Complete all required reporting and contracted activities on time – stay in touch with the Academy if things change.
- Be proactive members of the Frontiers community, participating in and launching community activities and networking events, providing feedback on the programme and contributing to decision-making, engaging in community life and promoting the programme and its values to a broader audience.
- Stay in regular contact with the Academy, strive to be a role model to others, and engage with peers around the world.

The Academy will provide support to the Frontiers Champions, including:

- Help to build your profile, including development of a Frontiers Champions profile and promotion via social media. We will actively put you forward for other opportunities offered by the Academy and our partners.
- You will have the opportunity to input into the Frontiers newsletters to promote your activities, ask for input, and access the 1600+ strong Frontiers' network of innovators, researchers, and practitioners in more than 60 countries around the world.
- In addition to joining the Academy's Awardee Excellence Community, you will have the opportunity to grow and build the Frontiers alumni community and connect with wider Academy international networks and Academy Fellowship on request.
- If there are other ways we can support our network of Champions, we will remain open to suggestions

Application and award process



Eligibility Criteria – Who can apply for funding?

1. The Frontiers Champion must have attended a Royal Academy of Engineering Frontiers Symposium (including Frontiers of Engineering for Development and Frontiers of Development events) since November 2016.
2. The applicant must be affiliated with an organisation, institution or University that can help administer the funding. Please note that, on award offer, applicants may be required to undergo due diligence checks before the award is confirmed.
3. The projects should primarily focus on and benefit one or more **ISPF target countries (the list of countries can be found in Annex A at the end of this document)**. Some projects may be global, and others may focus on countries not included in Annex A. However, please note that the majority of the projects funded are expected to benefit ISPF target countries.
4. The proposed activities must be designed to convene a community of researchers, innovators and practitioners who are working to tackle one or more Sustainable Development Goal (SDG). Events should be interdisciplinary and inclusive in nature.
5. Events **must not** be closed and exclusive to a specific, invite-only group – they should be open to as many previous Frontiers event participants as possible, appropriate, or practical.
6. Individuals are limited to **one application**.
7. There is no requirement for applications to focus on engineering, or for the Frontiers Champions to be engineers. However, applicants should consider how they will innovatively use technology to engage people in their activities.
8. Efforts towards gender equity and equal representation will be looked upon favourably. Projects must not harm gender equality, and where possible must promote it (even when impacting gender equality is not the primary research or innovation objective). This will be considered in the application review. *Note: Applications assessed as failing will have the opportunity to amend their response. A “fail” score after the chance to revise will result in the application being rejected.
9. The eligible costs are detailed on page 9 of this document.
10. To apply for the Frontiers Champions Tranche 5 funding, you **must not currently hold another active Frontiers Champions award**. Any previous award must have an end date before 7 January 2025.

How to apply

The application form has **six sections**. It takes around three hours to complete. We recommend you compose answers offline and copy them in, rather than writing as you go to avoid accidental data loss.

All applications must be submitted via the Academy's online application system at **https://grants.raeng.org.uk.** The applicant must register first. They must provide basic log-in details to create a profile.

The **applicant** must provide a letter from an organisation confirming approvals. Details on page 29. You should request the letter **as soon as possible to avoid delays.**

Once logged in to the grant management system, select 'Frontiers Champions – Tranche 5'. There will be general instructions, and the application form

At any stage in the process you can save and return to the application later. You can answer questions in any order, skip sections and return to them later. **Make sure you save every question** as you go, to avoid losing work.

Submit the application before the deadline **(7 January 2025, 2.00pm, GMT)**

Project budget

Projects may be awarded up to £10,000 per award. The total project budget may exceed the maximum funding participants can request under this scheme. The participating institutions or other sources must meet additional costs. If this is the case, the contribution of each institution/source should be stated.

Please note that the funding provided by this scheme is ***not*** calculated on the basis of full economic costs. There is no set limit on how much you can claim between the directly incurred cost headings.

Eligible expenses include the following:

Travel costs

- This should include local or international travel costs for the project lead, and any attendees, speakers or event staff.
- This line can include accommodation, subsistence and visas.
- Subsistence costs should reflect the normal rates applied at the host institution/s. All costs should be based on the best value option available.

Event costs

- This should include venue hire and catering, and should reflect normal rates applied by the host organisation or institution. All costs should be based on value for money.
- This budget line can include staff costs directly related to event logistics or translation services.
- Small stipends, typically not exceeding 5% of the total grant, can cover expenses enabling local community groups, indigenous people, women, young people, or students to participate in the project.

Marketing costs

- This cost line should include any cost related to social media, marketing or advertising. This can include consultancy (based on the best value for money options).

Website and design costs

- This includes webinar and website hosting, including membership to online services and costs for hosting an online event.
- This line can also include design costs related to your project.

Administrative fees

- The host institution(s) can include up to 10% of the grant as a contribution to project management, administrative and other running costs.

Other Costs

- This may include costs realted to printing, distribution, or disemination of project outputs.

- Competition prizes (up to 10% of the grant).
- This line can also include a range of other relevant costs – details should be given in the "justification of costs section."
- Other necessary service provisions directly related to the project, such as translation or IT services, are eligible up to 5% of the grant.

If your proposed costs deviate from these parameters, please contact the Academy for a case-by-case discussion of potential eligibility

The following costs are not eligible:

- Funding activities outside of the project objectives and scope.
- Funding activities contrary to the values of the Royal Academy of Engineering.
- Research costs.
- Purchasing equipment.
- Loans, further grants or revolving funds.
- Infrastructure, buildings, large physical assets and vehicles over the value of £5,000.
- Facilities, such as air conditioning units, office buildings, furniture, etc.
- The funding cannot cover any indirect costs or overheads related to staff costs.

Things To Consider

Interdisciplinarity

Interdisciplinary research is defined as "a mode of research by teams or individuals that integrates information, data, techniques, tools, perspectives, concepts, and/or theories from two or more disciplines or bodies of specialised knowledge to advance fundamental understanding or to solve problems whose solutions are beyond the scope of a single discipline or area of research practice."[1] The Symposium can help you find collaborators from different disciplines by filtering by discipline on the networking page. Alternatively, speak to one of the Frontiers team for support.

Some things to consider when designing your project:

- Take time to learn the language of other disciplines, don't assume that your collaborators understand the language of your field.
- Take note of all the collaborators different expectations and motivations for the project, as well as how each collaborator would define 'success'.

Diversity policy and monitoring

The Royal Academy of Engineering is committed to diversity and inclusion and welcomes applications from all underrepresented groups across engineering. It is the Academy's policy to ensure that no applicant is disadvantaged or receives less favourable treatment because of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

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

The information will be treated as strictly confidential, nonattributable and will not be seen by anyone involved in any selection processes. You will need to

[1] Committee on Facilitating Interdisciplinary Research, Committee on Science, Engineering, and Public Policy (2004). *Facilitating interdisciplinary research*. National Academies. Washington: National Academy Press, p. 2

complete the diversity monitoring section before you can see the grant application form, but can choose “prefer not to say” as responses.

In addition, in this round, we ask all applicants to consider the impact of their proposed activities on people of different genders. This could include any measures you have put in place to ensure equal opportunities, any expected impacts on different groups, or any outcomes or outputs you will measure disaggregated by gender. Please consider this all the way through your project planning, especially in the scoping stages, so that it is embedded from the beginning.

Equitable partnerships

The Academy is committed to promoting equitable practices in the design, delivery and dissemination of research and innovation projects.

For further resources on equitable partnerships please visit the UKCDR Equitable partnerships resource hub and refer to the Global Code of Conduct for Research in Resource Poor Settings.

Learn from previous Frontiers awardees!

The Frontiers programme has developed resources in collaboration with programme alumni, that cover diverse topics relating to how projects work best. Visit the Frontiers resource library to learn from those who went before you, from tips and tricks that enable remote research, how to get your project off the ground, and how to work across sectors, disciplines and cultures.

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.

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 the application stage.

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

Animals in research

The Academy acknowledges that, at present, the use of animals remains the only way for some research areas 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 the 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.

Using Artificial Intelligence to draft your application

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 utilised. 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."

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.

Grant agreement

If you are successful, your funding will be awarded under the Basic 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.

Application Questions

1. Applicant and Institution Details

Question	Information
1.1. Applicant details	This should be the contact information of the lead applicant, who is the prospective Frontiers Champion.
1.2. Institution or Organisation details	This should be information related to the organisation that will administer the grant on your behalf – for example, if you are a UK-based academic, this will usually be your university.
1.3. Institution/organisation website	Input a link to the website of the institution or organisation that will administer the grant on your behalf.
1.4. Please submit your CV	Your CV must be no longer than three pages. You do not need to include your contact details. It must be submitted in PDF format.
1.5. Which stage of your career best describes your current position and experience?	
1.6. Have you received any other grant funding from the Academy?	Provide a list of any other grant funding that you are a named lead applicant or collaborator on, given by the Royal Academy of Engineering. If none, please leave this blank (maximum 100 words). .
1.7. Which Frontiers Symposium did you attend?	Select which Frontiers event you attended, from the list. You may select more than one.

1.8. Why do you want to be a Frontiers Champion?	Tell us why you are the right person for the role. Outline the aspects of your expertise that will make you a good Frontiers Champion , engaged in the Frontiers community life and promoting the programme and its values to a broader audience. Tell us what you believe you will get out of the programme and what you would contribute to Frontiers (maximum 300 words).

2. Project Details

Question	Information
2.1. Project Title	The essence of the project should be captured in the title and should be as informative as possible. Ensure that it is understandable to a non-specialist reader. (maximum 10 words)
2.2. Abstract	The project summary should provide the problem statement, project purpose and expected results. Ensure that it is understandable to a non-specialist reader. (maximum 300 words)
2.3. Total grant sought from the Academy	The value requested should be up to £10,000.
2.4. Project start date	Projects must start on 24 February 2025
2.5. Project end date	Projects can be up to 12 months long and must finish on, or before, 24 February 2026

3. Challenge details

Question	Information
3.1. Please select the primary Sustainable Development Goal that your project will address from the list below.	You must select one SDG – this should be the SDG that your project will primarily address. There is also an option to select up to two additional SDGs that your project will impact.
3.2. Indicate the country and region that your project will primarily focus on	The projects should primarily focus on and benefit one or more **ISPF target countries (the countries list can be found in Annex A at the end of this document)**. Some projects may be truly global – if you believe that this is the case, you may write "global" here. Some projects may also be focused on other countries, which are not included in Annex A. However, please note the majority of the projects funded are expected to benefit ISPF target countries. Example: Nigeria, Lagos state.
3.3. How will your project address this SDG(s)?	Explain how your project will address the Sustainable Development Goal(s) that you have selected, and why it is needed to address this goal(s), in the country, countries, or region(s) indicated above. (maximum 400 words)

4. Goals, Activities, Outputs, Outcomes, and Impact

Question	Information
4.1. The project objectives	Please describe your project's objective/objectives: the changes the project hopes to achieve or contribute to within its lifetime (maximum 200 words). For more information on setting objectives, please use **this resource**.

<table>
<tr><td>4.2. The project activities, outputs, outcome, and impact</td><td>This section outlines the logic of planned activities and their impacts. For more information, please refer to this resource.

<table><tr><td>Activity
Activities of the project</td><td>Output
The tangible products or services the project will produce. Please keep in mind that each activity might have one or several outputs.</td><td>Outcome
The short-term and medium-term effects of outputs. The changes the project achieves within its lifetime. Please remember that several activities and outputs can contribute to one significant outcome, and outputs can also contribute to several outcomes.</td><td>Impact
The long-term effect or change the project aims to create. The project might have one or several impacts. Please think about expected impact of the network more broadly, including who will benefit from the project.</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table></td></tr>
<tr><td>4.3. Timeline of activities</td><td>Please indicate when each activity will be taking place. (maximum 500 words)</td></tr>
<tr><td>4.4. Pictures and diagrams (optional)</td><td>Upload any pictures and/or diagrams related to your project. These should be formatted as a single document where possible.</td></tr>
<tr><td>4.5. How will your project include the wider Frontiers alumni community in project design and implementation?</td><td>In addition to your network of Symposium delegates, the Frontiers team is ready to facilitate connecting with other Frontiers alumni and share your updates in newsletters and via other channels and future activities (maximum 400 words)</td></tr>
</table>

4.6. How will the project achieve an interdisciplinary approach?	Detail how you will focus on and achieve interdisciplinarity throughout the project. Successful interdisciplinary networks comprise of two or more disciplines or bodies of specialised knowledge to advance fundamental understanding of to solve problems whose solutions are beyond the scope of a single area of research practice. Please show how your project will include perspectives and use methods from other disciplines. (maximum 200 words)
4.7. Measuring success	Describe how you will monitor the project and measure success (Guide: 300 words)
4.8. How have you considered gender equality in the project or activity design?	In line with the UK Government's Gender Equality in Research and Innovation Policy, all successful applications to this scheme must demonstrate consideration of the activities on gender. All funded activities will, and at a minimum, ensure that no harm is done to gender equity. To this end, please outline any specific gender considerations and implications for your proposed project. This could include any measures you have put in place to ensure equal opportunities, any expected impacts on people of different genders, or any outcomes or outputs that you will measure disaggregated by gender (maximum 400 words). Please see page 7 of the applicant guidance notes for details on how this will be checked.
4.9. 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. Please respond to the following. 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. **4.9.1. Does your proposal involve the use of animals or animal tissue as defined by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986?** a. No – end of questions b. Yes, and my work is taking place within the UK i. Why is animal use necessary; are there any other possible approaches? ii. Does your proposal involve the use of non-human primates (NHPs), cats, dogs or equines, which are specially protected species under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 iii. Please provide details of the animal species and number(s) to be used: iv. Why is the species/model to be used the most appropriate? v. Please explain how you have considered the NC3Rs in the design of your proposal? You will also have the opportunity to upload any supporting evidence. vi. Please provide information on your plan and the timeline to acquire all relevant ethical approval and licenses. vii. (Optional) Please upload any support documentation below. We recommend the use of the Experimental Design Assistant to help with the design of your experiment which you can upload here. c. Yes, and my work is taking place outside the UK i. Please confirm the country where the animal work will be conducted

	ii. Please provide details of the local legislation and ethical review procedures iii. Why is animal use necessary; are there any other possible approaches? iv. Does your proposal involve the use of non-human primates (NHPs), cats, dogs or equines, which are specially protected species under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 v. Please provide details of the animal species and number(s) to be used: vi. Why is the species/model to be used the most appropriate? vii. Please explain how you have considered the NC3Rs in the design of your proposal? You will also have the opportunity to upload any supporting evidence. viii. Please provide information on your plan and the timeline to acquire all relevant ethical approval and licenses. ix. (Optional) Please upload any support documentation below. We recommend the use of the Experimental Design Assistant to help with the design of your work which you can upload here.
4.10. Human Participants in Research, Development, and Innovation	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.

	4.10.1. Does your proposal involve human participants according to the WHO definition? a. NO – end of question b. Yes – and my work is taking place within the UK i. Please provide information on your plan and the timeline to acquire all relevant ethical approval and licenses. ii. Please explain you will protect the dignity, rights, safety and wellbeing of all participants, particularly when involving vulnerable groups? c. Yes - and my work is taking place outside of the UK. i. Please confirm the country where the work will be conducted. ii. Please provide details of the local legislation and ethical review procedures if the work is to be conducted outside the UK. iii. Please provide information on your plan and the timeline to acquire all relevant ethical approval and licenses. iv. Please explain how you will protect the dignity, rights, safety and wellbeing of all participants, particularly when involving vulnerable groups? **4.10.2. Does your proposal involve the use of human tissue or other human materials?** a. NO – end of question b. Yes – and my work is taking place within the UK i. Please provide information on your plan and the timeline to acquire all relevant ethical approval and licenses. ii. Please explain how you will safeguard the collection and/or storage of human tissue and comply with all relevant legislation. c. Yes - and my work is taking place outside of the UK.

	i. Please confirm the country where the work will be conducted. ii. Please provide details of the local legislation and ethical review procedures if the work is to be conducted outside the UK. iii. Please provide information on your plan and the timeline to acquire all relevant ethical approval and licenses. iv. Please explain how you will safeguard the collection and/or storage of human tissue and comply with all relevant legislation. **4.10.3. Does your proposal involve the use of personal data?** a. No – end of question b. Yes – and my work is taking place within the UK i. Please explain how you will safeguard the collection and/or storage of personal data and comply with all relevant legislation. c. Yes - and my work is taking place outside of the UK. i. Please confirm the country where the work will be conducted. ii. Please provide details of the local legislation and/or ethical review procedures if the work is to be conducted outside the UK. iii. Please explain how you will safeguard the collection and/or storage of personal data and comply with all relevant legislation.
4.10. Human Participants in Research, Development, and Innovation	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. **4.10.1. Does your proposal involve human participants according to the WHO definition?** a. NO – end of question b. Yes – and my work is taking place within the UK iii. Please provide information on your plan and the timeline to acquire all relevant ethical approval and licenses. iv. Please explain you will protect the dignity, rights, safety and wellbeing of all participants, particularly when involving vulnerable groups? c. Yes - and my work is taking place outside of the UK. v. Please confirm the country where the work will be conducted. vi. Please provide details of the local legislation and ethical review procedures if the work is to be conducted outside the UK. vii. Please provide information on your plan and the timeline to acquire all relevant ethical approval and licenses. viii. Please explain how you will protect the dignity, rights, safety and wellbeing of all participants, particularly when involving vulnerable groups? **4.10.2. Does your proposal involve the use of human tissue or other human materials?** a. NO – end of question b. Yes – and my work is taking place within the UK iii. Please provide information on your plan and the timeline to acquire all relevant ethical approval and licenses.

	iv. Please explain how you will safeguard the collection and/or storage of human tissue and comply with all relevant legislation. c. Yes - and my work is taking place outside of the UK. v. Please confirm the country where the work will be conducted. vi. Please provide details of the local legislation and ethical review procedures if the work is to be conducted outside the UK. vii. Please provide information on your plan and the timeline to acquire all relevant ethical approval and licenses. viii. Please explain how you will safeguard the collection and/or storage of human tissue and comply with all relevant legislation. **4.10.3. Does your proposal involve the use of personal data?** a. No – end of question b. Yes – and my work is taking place within the UK ii. Please explain how you will safeguard the collection and/or storage of personal data and comply with all relevant legislation. c. Yes - and my work is taking place outside of the UK. iv. Please confirm the country where the work will be conducted. v. Please provide details of the local legislation and/or ethical review procedures if the work is to be conducted outside the UK. vi. Please explain how you will safeguard the collection and/or storage of personal data and comply with all relevant legislation.

5. Funding Requested

5.1. Cost breakdown

Provide a breakdown of the funding requested using the table in the application form. Give a narrative description of what resources are requested and why.

Category	**Cost**	**Description/Further details** Give a narrative description of what resources are requested and why.
Travel, subsistence, accommodation and visa fees	£	
Event costs	£	
Marketing costs	£	
Website and design costs	£	
Administrative fees	£	
Other Costs		
Total	£	

Please see eligible and ineligible costs on page 9-10

Please provide a cost breakdown in the pound sterling, GBP, and use this converter if you are outside of the UK: https://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/

5.2. Other funding or in-kind contributions

Optional: if you have other funding, an offer of funding, or any in-kind contributions that will supplement the funding from this grant and contribute to the success of the project, please detail them here.

5.3. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your budget? This may include expected in-kind support, additional funding, projected costs per goal/milestone, etc. (maximum 400 words)

At the end of the project, any unspent funding awarded will be repayable to the Academy.

6. Support and Declarations

Organisation/Institution/university declaration

The purpose of the declaration is to confirm that the application is acceptable in principle to the organisation, institution, or University, and that it has received all necessary internal authorisations.

The declaration terms must be on headed paper and be signed by an appropriate officer from the Research Grants Office or equivalent (for example, the person or people that will administer the grant funding) of the applicant's institution, university, or organisation. Digital signatures are allowed. A scanned copy or PDF of the letter should be uploaded onto the online form. The terms that the declaration must contain are as follows – it is important that the **exact phrasing is used. Please copy this table directly into the declaration**:

The applicant will be employed by the organisation/research institution/university for the duration of the award. ***OR*** The organisation/research institution/university commits to maintaining a relationship with the awardee such that the organisation/research institution/university will administer the grant funds on their behalf.	
The applicant will be given full access to the facilities, equipment, personnel, and funding as required by the application.	
The costs submitted in the application are correct and sufficient to complete the award as envisaged. Any shortfall in funding will be met by the institution/university/organisation.	

Applicant declaration

The applicant is required to make the following 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 have read and understood the Application Guidance .

Acknowledgement of using AI tools

If you do use generative AI tools to help write your application, you must acknowledge the name of the tool you used, and tell us how you used it. For example:

- "I acknowledge the use of [insert AI system, version number and link] to generate materials for background research / styling / proofreading."
- "I acknowledge the use of [insert AI system(s), version number and link] to generate materials that were included within [insert section titles] in modified form."

Academy Marketing

- You will be asked to select, from a list, how you heard about this scheme. In this context please answer based on how you heard about the Frontiers Symposium and the Seed funding.

Submission

- Once you have completed all sections and pressed save on all the pages, a "submit" button will appear on the summary page. This button is greyed out until all sections are complete. If you have completed and saved all sections but the button is still greyed out, please ask all your collaborators to save and complete all sections and sign out of the system. Contact the Frontiers team with any issues or questions about the form.

Assessment of applications

Applicants will be evaluated by a panel including Academy fellows and experts from relevant disciplines. Each application will be assessed by a minimum of two panel members. Reviews are followed by a Sift Panel, where the final decision will be made and communicated to applicants in February.

All applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

The quality of the project

- The proposed project including the objectives, interdisciplinary approach, pathway to impact, and dissemination.
- The potential of the proposed project to build relevant and inclusive networks.
- The ability of the proposed project to ensure equitable partnerships, and to achieve the project objectives.

The outcome and impact

- Potential benefits and impact of the project.
- Potential impact on an identified sustainable development challenge.

Suitable and realistic budget

- A suitable and realistic budget has been included, including a breakdown of the costs involved in the project.

Community engagement and network-building

- The proposed project's potential is to build relevant networks and foster a sense of community.
- The extent to which the community is engaged in project design and implementation.
- The extent to which the project could engage other delegates from the symposium you attend or the broader Frontiers community

Project implementation and monitoring

Award start date: 24 February 2025

Initiation report deadline: 25 February 2025

This report is to confirm that the project has started as planned initially

Payment: on initial reports acceptance

100% of the award

Mid-term report deadline: 24 August 2025

This report is to track progress and note any project changes and challenges

Award end date: 24 February 2026

Final report deadline: 24 March 2026

A comprehensive final report with an accompanying expenditure statement

Follow-up report deadline: 24 March 2027

To assess the impact of activities beyond the grant period

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FAQs and further questions

If you have questions about the application or assessment process, please email Frontiers@raeng.org.uk.

Visit our FAQs page to check answers for the frequently asked questions on Frontiers Champions.

Annex A

ODA recipient countries include:

Afghanistan	Albania	Algeria	Angola	Argentina
Armenia	Azerbaijan	Bangladesh	Belarus	Belize
Benin	Bhutan	Bolivia	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Botswana
Brazil	Burkina Faso	Burundi	Cabo Verde	Cambodia
Cameroon	Central African Republic	Chad	China (People's Republic of)	Colombia
Comoros	Congo	Costa Rica	Côte d'Ivoire	Cuba
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Djibouti	Dominica	Dominican Republic
Ecuador	Egypt	El Salvador	Equatorial Guinea	Eritrea
Eswatini	Ethiopia	Fiji	Gabon	Gambia
Georgia	Ghana	Grenada	Guatemala	Guinea
Guinea-Bissau	Guyana	Haiti	Honduras	India
Indonesia	Iran	Iraq	Jamaica	Jordan
Kazakhstan	Kenya	Kiribati	Kosovo	Kyrgyzstan
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Lebanon	Lesotho	Liberia	Libya
Madagascar	Malawi	Malaysia	Maldives	Mali
Marshall Islands	Mauritania	Mauritius	Mexico	Micronesia
Moldova	Mongolia	Montenegro	Montserrat	Morocco
Mozambique	Myanmar	Namibia	Nauru	Nepal
Nicaragua	Niger	Nigeria	Niue	North Macedonia
Pakistan	Palau	Panama	Papua New Guinea	Paraguay
Peru	Philippines	Rwanda	Saint Helena	Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Samoa	Sao Tome and Principe	Senegal	Serbia
Sierra Leone	Solomon Islands	Somalia	South Africa	South Sudan
Sri Lanka	Sudan	Suriname	Syrian Arab Republic	Tajikistan
Tanzania	Thailand	Timor-Leste	Togo	Tokelau
Tonga	Tunisia	Türkiye	Turkmenistan	Tuvalu
Uganda	Ukraine	Uzbekistan	Vanuatu	Venezuela
Viet Nam	Wallis and Futuna	West Bank and Gaza Strip	Yemen	Zambia
Zimbabwe				