



Policy Fellowships Programme

Engineering better policy

As a national academy, the Royal Academy of Engineering provides progressive leadership for engineering and technology, and independent expert advice to government in the UK and beyond.

The Policy Fellowships programme is an inspiring professional development programme that supports better evidence-based policymaking. It advances policymaking and policy through engineering perspectives and systems approaches.

Twice a year the Academy will select exceptional policymakers to become Policy Fellows. We welcome applications from civil and public servants who have a variety of insights, expertise and backgrounds from across the policy community.

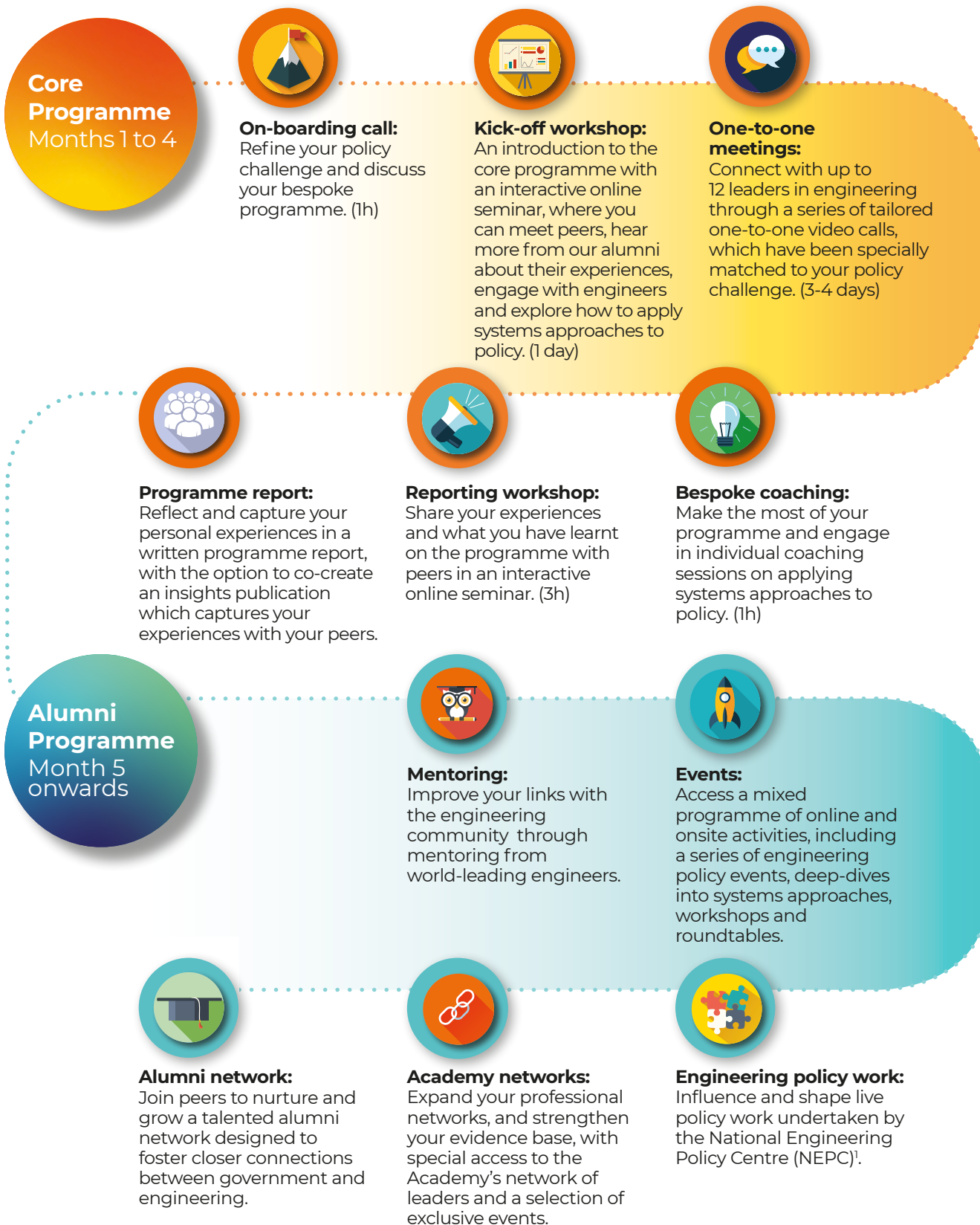
“The Royal Academy of Engineering’s Policy Fellowship programme could not be more timely with its mission to develop the ability of policy professionals to connect with leaders in engineering. We welcome the creation of a generation of high-calibre Policy Fellows across all levels of government. They will champion the role of engineering approaches such as systems thinking to develop better, evidence-based policy.”

Sir Patrick Vallance FRS FMedSci FRCP
Government Chief Scientific Advisor

Professor Sir Jim McDonald FREng FRSE
President of the Royal Academy of Engineering

An inspiring development programme

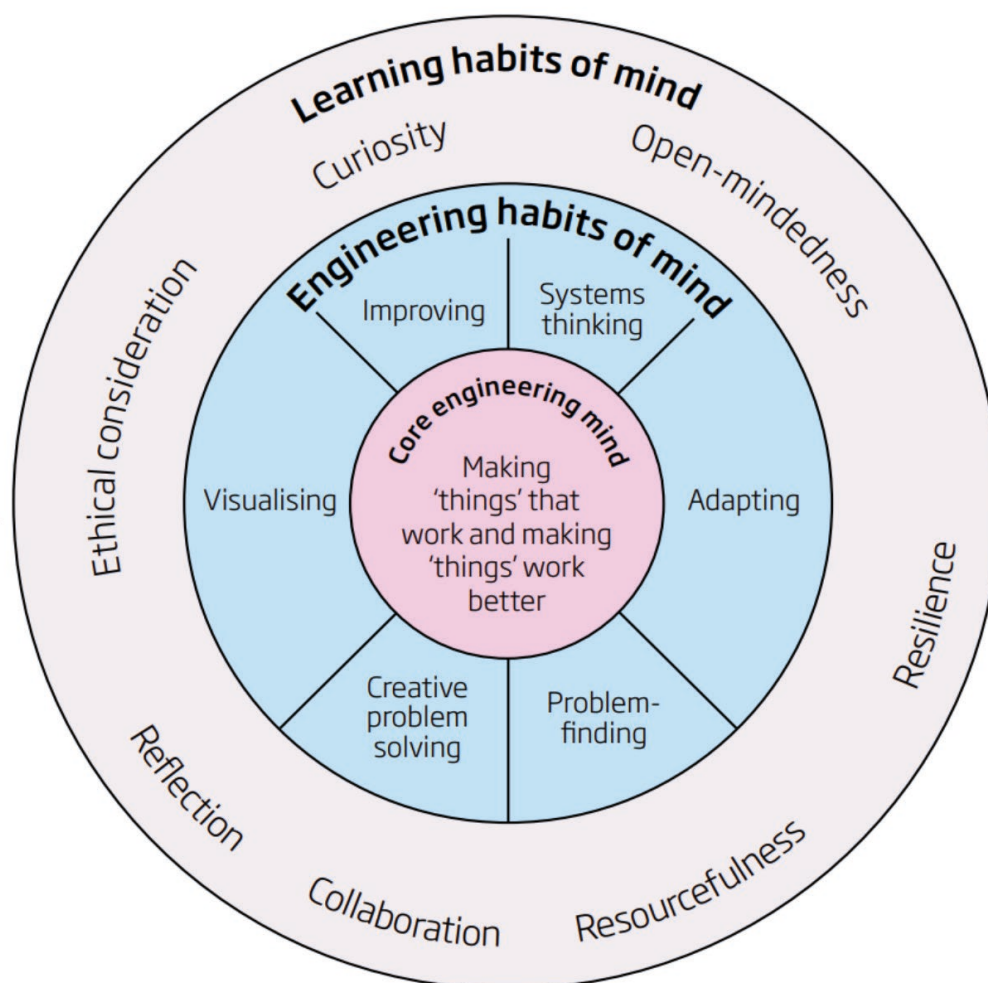
The Core Programme consists of six days of online individual and group-activities over a four-month period tailored to your policy challenge. Graduates of the programme then immediately join our Alumni Programme which includes further development opportunities such as building new networks, alumni-led events and the chance to shape the Academy's policy work. All Policy Fellows are expected to play an active role in this alumni experience.



¹The National Engineering Policy Centre connects policy makers with critical engineering expertise to inform and respond to policy issues of national importance, giving policymakers a route to advice from across the whole profession, and the profession a unified voice on shared challenges.

Benefits of engineering perspectives applied to policy

The programme helps those interested in progressing a policy challenge through exposure to engineering expertise, including the application of systems approaches. It injects the fresh and practical perspectives of the *'engineering habits of the mind'*² into policy work and explores new ways of working between policymakers and engineers.



Benefits of becoming a Policy Fellow

Policymakers confront increasingly complex and connected challenges, often with a strong technical element. The Policy Fellowships programme equips policymakers to meet those challenges in three ways:

Better Policy

- Identify blind spots and make rapid progress through your policy challenge.
- Test different approaches to define and solve problems. Source new insights to support your evidence base.
- Share and apply learning with your team and organisation.

Strengthening Networks

- Expand your personal network with our community of innovators and leaders.
- Engage with and influence the work of the Academy and its partners.
- Build a network of contacts to support you and your team's future policy work.

Developing Professional Skills

- Learn how engineers solve problems and use techniques such as systems thinking.
- Leverage advice and support from across the technical community.
- Benefit from mentoring and engineering advice to rapidly develop your knowledge and skills.

Who should apply

Successful Policy Fellows are senior civil servants or public servants with responsibility for policy or service design in any sector. The Academy is committed to diversity and inclusion, and we welcome applications from a range of backgrounds for example: economics, politics, sociology, planning, digital, science or engineering.

How to apply

Policy Fellows are selected through a competitive process on the strength of their application. We may offer deferred places on the programme to help with the balance of a cohort.

Successful Policy Fellows will have:

- A well-defined policy challenge which will benefit from engineering expertise.
- Clear expectations for how they intend to apply their learning within their organisation.
- The support of a sponsoring manager.
- A commitment to play an active role as a Policy Fellow and future alumni of the programme.

Key dates

We will be running two cohorts each year, typically starting in March and September. Key dates and fee for the next confirmed Policy Fellowship cohort:

Applications deadline 28 June 2022	Programme starts September 2022	Programme fee £3,100
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For more information about the benefits of the programme, please see Engineering Better Policy <https://www.raeng.org.uk/publications/reports/engineering-better-policy> an insights report written by five Policy Fellowships alumni.

For more information, please visit: www.raeng.org.uk/policyfellowships or email policyfellowships@raeng.org.uk.

Case studies

Embedding public sector equality duty (PSED) in policymaking



Louise Dunsby
Deputy Director,
Innovation Policy, BEIS

My background inspired me to join the Policy Fellowships programme and ensure civil servants take equality and inclusivity into account while developing and implementing new policies. Following discussions with experts I identified inclusion as aligning with the systems-based approach advocated by engineers. The programme helped me demonstrate that the promotion of PSED is an opportunity for civil servants to become better policy professionals.

Since completing the programme, I have created a PSED Champion role helping policy officials consider the PSED implications of their actions.

Accelerating and improving the delivery of major infrastructure projects



Hannah Pullen
Senior Policy Adviser,
Infrastructure and Projects Authority
(IPA)

I wanted to identify lessons and good practices from a variety of different sectors, especially from outside of government, that could provide valuable insight to improve the delivery of infrastructure.

My Policy Fellowship helped me identify new ways to approach this challenge by embracing its complexity and focusing on the outcomes I was seeking to deliver. Since completing the programme, IPA has published **Transforming Infrastructure Performance: Roadmap to 2030** a vision for how we seek to lead system change in the built environment.

“The Policy Fellowship is an important collaboration to promote closer working between policymakers and engineers as government confronts increasingly complex and connected challenges.”

Simon Lawrence

Head of Project Futures,
Infrastructure and Projects
Authority (IPA)

“The Policy Fellowship has supported members of my team to forge meaningful connections outside of the department and bring new and diverse ways of thinking into their work.”

Jo Shanmugalingam

Director General, Industrial
Strategy, Science &
Innovation, BEIS

Royal Academy of Engineering

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Registered charity number:
293074