



Royal Academy
of Engineering

Enterprise
Hub



Department for
Science, Innovation
& Technology

Regional Talent Engines

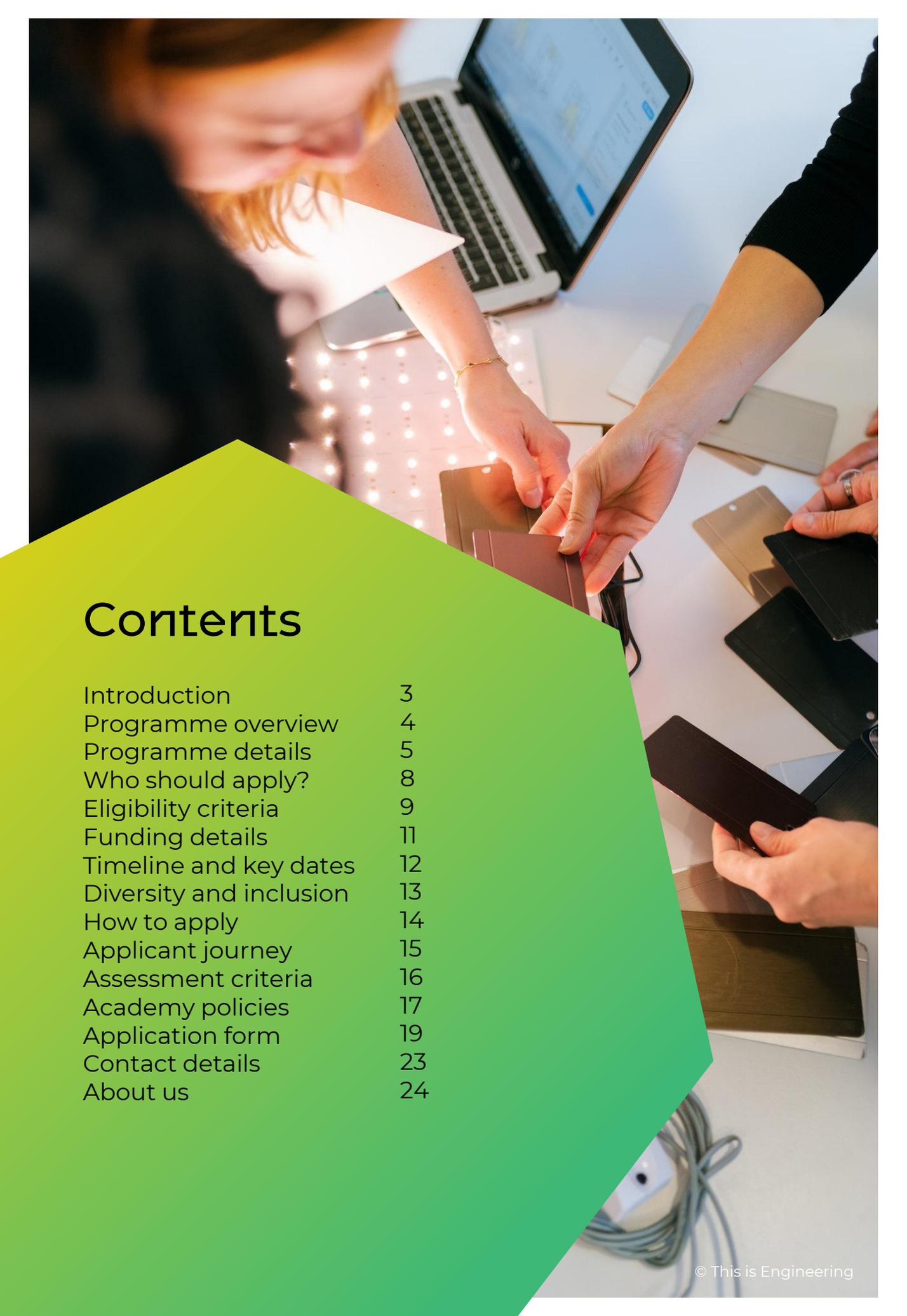
Applicant guidance notes
March 2025

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Applications open: **17 March 2025**

Application submission deadline: **6 May 2025**

Award start date: **15 September 2025**



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Introduction

Who we are

The Royal Academy of Engineering Enterprise Hub supports talented entrepreneurs and decision makers to transform breakthrough engineering innovations into disruptive spinouts, startups and scaleups.

We look for bold, IP-rich innovations from all areas of engineering and technology that can solve the world's most complex environmental, economic, and societal challenges.

Why are we different?

Our entrepreneurs benefit from the unique, prestigious national and global network of the Royal Academy of Engineering that brings together expert Academy Fellows, industry pioneers, like-minded innovators, funders, business leaders, researchers, and policy makers.

We have delivered over 10 years of success, enabling our members to form a powerful, thriving, and supportive community. We run four programmes at multiple stages, from ideation to scaleup, with support for entrepreneurial engineers at different career points. We don't take equity, fees or IP. Thanks to our charitable status, we can focus on supporting excellence in engineering by helping innovators to fulfil their potential, founding and leading enterprises.

What do we offer?

We offer smart and flexible training, and access to the unique mentoring capability of the highly talented engineers and business leaders that make up the Fellowship of the Academy, and the Hub's network of experts. The Enterprise Hub provides a dedicated presence across the UK, with hubs located in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, that embed training and opportunities into the local ecosystem. Hub Members gain long-lasting benefit and support from the Academy's global network

and unmatched convening ability. Once you're part of the community, you're a Hub Member for life.

Background

The Enterprise Hub was formally launched in April 2013. Since then, we have supported over 500 researchers, recent graduates, and leaders of SMEs to start and scale up businesses that can give practical application to innovative engineering solutions. We've awarded over £18 million in grant funding, and our Hub Members have raised £3.4 billion in additional funding, including £2.5 billion since receiving our support and have created 5,600 jobs, including 2,600 new jobs since joining the Enterprise Hub.

Further information about the Enterprise Hub can be found here: <https://enterprisehub.raeng.org.uk>



Programme overview

The Regional Talent Engines programme aims to support the retention and circulation of engineering talent within local ecosystems and help ambitious and technically minded individuals to upskill, gain confidence and launch new careers as entrepreneurs. In the long term, the programme aims to support new business and job creation in regions across the UK and develop a community of successful engineering entrepreneurs from each region to inspire the next generation.

The programme's objectives are to:

- Enable talented and ambitious individuals to venture successful and scalable new engineering or technology businesses;
- Develop and support enterprise initiatives that strengthen and enhance existing capability within UK regional ecosystems;
- Facilitate the development and delivery of more and better engineering solutions that materially benefit the environment and regional communities.

The programme runs in **Northern England, Northern Ireland and Wales** with training sessions delivered in **Newcastle, Leeds, Liverpool, Belfast and Swansea**. The programme will support those at an early stage of their business journey and help transform great ideas into new engineering solutions, getting businesses off the ground and ready to pursue further support.

Applicants must show commitment to and fit with the objectives of the programme and may only use the award to establish or to further a business that develops an innovative product or service emerging from their past research, projects or ideas. Applicants must have appropriate intellectual property rights to use the innovation as envisaged.

Our support includes:

- Equity-free funding of up to £20,000 to support living costs
- A tailored training programme with workshops, roundtables and speaker events
- One-to-one personal development coaching
- A cohort of entrepreneurs to learn from and share best practice with
- Access to our unrivalled network of investors, experts and advisors

The programme is funded by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology. It is completely free to join – we do not charge fees or take an equity stake.

Places on the programme are awarded through a **competitive application process**, with the most promising entrepreneurs gaining a place.



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Programme details

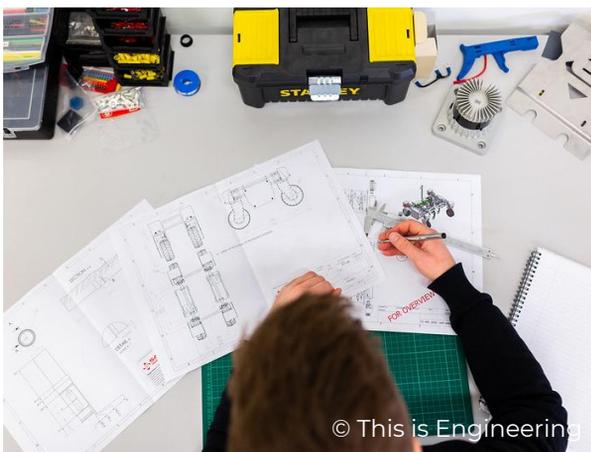
Regional Talent Engines is a six-month programme that includes training, coaching and wider support. In your day to day, you will be working on your innovation from your own location, whether at home or in an office or lab space.

The programme is designed to accelerate your startup journey and provide you with the confidence, skills and support to enable you to progress your innovation.

Training, coaching and wider support will be delivered over a six-month period.

Training sessions are delivered in-person in: **Belfast, Newcastle, Liverpool, Leeds or Swansea.** You will need to choose a location when completing the application form.

The programme content is focused on increasing business knowledge and skills to enable you to launch or further a new startup; we expect you to already have the technical skills to take forward your innovation. This programme will not provide technical or engineering know-how beyond general support.



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In Northern England and Wales, topics covered will include:

- Leadership, operations and building a team
- Developing and marketing plan and digital marketing
- Communication, pitching and storytelling
- Finance, funding sources and getting investor ready
- Understanding the innovation landscape
- Methods to test and validate ideas
- Business development, sales skills and securing customers
- Design thinking, business modelling, value proposition

In Northern Ireland, topics covered include:

- Vision, problem identification, delivery and execution
- Learning from experts in their field
- Product strategy, team, low code/no code
- Real world ventures expertise
- Storytelling, communication and pitching
- Go to market: online presence, generating leads, website creation
- Get investor ready

There will be 7-8 days of group training sessions held during the first four months of the programme. On the first day of the programme, there will be a welcome session for cohort members in each location. Training sessions will be delivered by different trainers in each of the stated locations, so there will be some difference to the content but the objectives will be the same.

Programme details

8 training days

In person, central venue, lunch and refreshments provided

1-2-1 coaching sessions

Online or in person, 1-2 hours each

Two cross regional events

Extra workshops and webinars

External visits

Graduation event in central London

Programme details

Signposting

We will be on hand throughout the award period and beyond to signpost additional opportunities available through the Academy and our network, such as:

- Grant/funding programmes
- Networking events
- Pitching opportunities
- Introductions and connections to peers and experts

If you successfully complete the programme you will be invited to become a Hub Member, and you will continue to receive an exceptional package of lifetime support, including:

- Lifelong access to our co-working spaces in the Taylor Centre in London, the Ormeau Labs in Belfast, Tramshed Tech Palace in Swansea, the Stamp Exchange in Newcastle and our new Hubs in Liverpool and Glasgow.
- Networking opportunities with investors, experts and Academy Fellows
- Further training, PR and media support.

We ask all Hub Members to help support UK engineering by passing on the skills they have learnt during the programme and taking part in events or other activities to help communicate the importance of engineering and entrepreneurship to wider audiences.

Awardee endorsements

Judith McMinn, Founder and CEO, Rezon

The Royal Academy of Engineering's Regional Talent Engines programme is a must for every aspiring and talented entrepreneur. I am grateful to the support offered to Rezon; the learning, insights, networks, and connections, these have been invaluable to Rezon's growth.

Stephen Mitchell, Founder and CEO, SQCDP.co.uk

The Royal Academy of Engineering accelerator programme has been invaluable for SQCDP.co.uk to continue on our startup journey. We now understand more about our target marketplace and how to reach our customers. We also learned a lot about ourselves and the things we need to do as the business scales.

Dr Ruth Brown-Shepherd, Managing Director, Responsive Learning CIC

It has been a truly enjoyable experience working with everyone throughout the Regional Talent Engines programme. For anyone wanting to take the next steps on their journey as an entrepreneur, it is an opportunity to get fully funded, tailored support to validate your innovative ideas and grow your business.

Who should apply?

We're looking for aspiring entrepreneurs who have an innovative engineering idea and the technical skills to make it a reality. You should be committed to pursuing your project as a new startup, ready to be established in the region. We will be supporting experienced engineers through this programme who have the technical expertise but do not have the business experience needed to launch a new venture:

- Experienced engineers and skilled tech professionals who have worked in a technical environment for at least 5 years and are seeking a career change as an entrepreneur
- No age limit
- No qualification requirement
- No sector preference

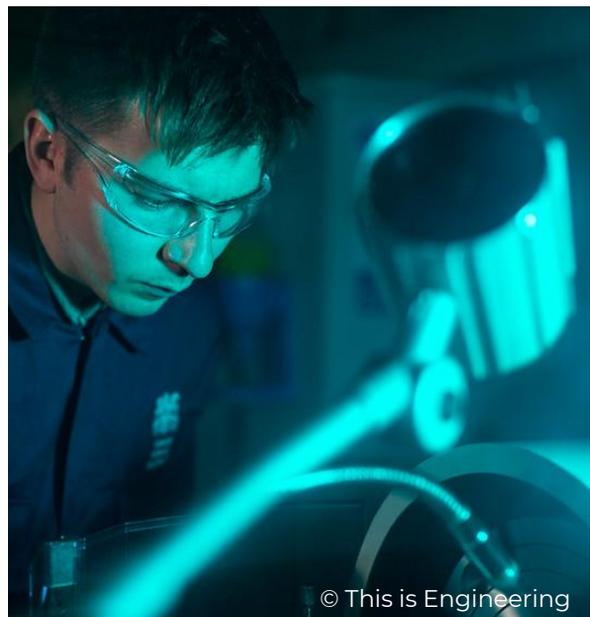
Please note you cannot be a recent university graduate (graduated since 1 January 2020) or a university academic or research employee (see Enterprise Fellowships programme). Technical employees (e.g. lab technicians) with sufficient experience are eligible.

The Academy defines engineering in a broad sense, covering Artificial Intelligence (AI), robotics, space, medical, agriculture, clean energy and more. Software innovations must exhibit engineering as their core component and should be innovative and protectable.

We cannot accept ideas for mobile apps, websites or pure software-based creations unless they are underpinned by an innovative technology, such as AI, blockchain or machine learning.

The programme is intended for individuals who do not have the support structure to establish a startup and need support to become business-ready. All awardees accepted onto the programme will be **expected to commit the vast majority of their time to the project** and cannot be in full time employment. Individuals should have essential engineering or technical know-how and an aptitude for creativity, problem solving and design. They should be passionate about the problem they are aiming to solve.

We do not expect applicants to have previous experience of running a business. This programme is intended to support those who are at an early stage with their startup to gain new skills and progress their idea. You must clearly demonstrate why the business training will be beneficial. If you have significant commercial experience, particularly with startups, you are unlikely to benefit from this scheme.



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Eligibility criteria

You

- You must be 18 or over to apply
- You must be resident in the region that you are applying to take part in the programme or based in a nearby area and able to attend training sessions in one of the stated locations within a reasonable travel distance. We cannot accept applicants from the Midlands, the South of England or Scotland for this programme.
- You must have technical understanding in the area of your innovation
- You must have the right to live and work in the UK and be based in the UK full time
- You should normally be an experienced engineer or tech professional
- You must be able to commit time to taking part in the programme full time from October 2025
- You cannot be in full-time study, employment or taking part in another accelerator if accepted onto the programme
- Previous experience of commercialisation or enterprise is not required. This programme is intended for those who are new to starting up a business.

If you have graduated with your first university degree since 1 January 2020, you are not eligible for this scheme and should see instead [Enterprise Fellowships](#)

Your innovation

You must have an innovative engineering or technology-based solution to an identified problem or market need that you have been involved in the development of

Your innovation should be beyond invention stage (TRL2 or above) with a practical application identified, the concept formulated and the desire to develop a business proposition. If you already have an MVP (minimum viable product) then you are likely too advanced for this programme.

Your startup should have the potential to be self-sustaining and scalable

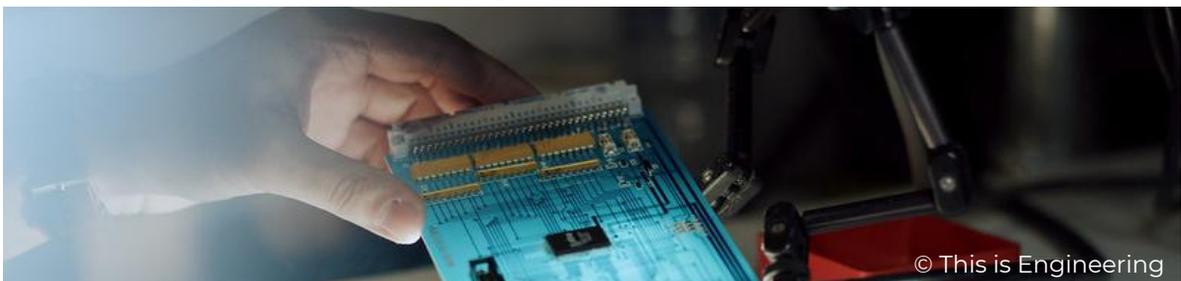
If you have already registered a new business, the innovation should not currently be available to the market other than as a prototype with limited sales

The innovation must be your own and you must have the rights to use it

You must be committed to establishing your new startup in the region where you are applying to take part in the programme or your nearby area

You should not normally have raised substantial amounts of funding for your innovation, as you will be too advanced for this programme

We cannot accept applications from individuals wishing to start a consultancy business.



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Eligibility criteria

Continued

You must have a protectable, IP-rich engineering and/or technology innovation idea. Engineering is defined in its broadest sense, encompassing a wide range of diverse fields.

As the applicant, you must be directly contributing to the development of the innovation, either as the inventor or as a leading member of the development team. You must be able to justify having a clear route to the continuing enhancement and protection of the relevant intellectual property.

In the case of innovations relying significantly upon AI, you should describe whether you are, or propose to:

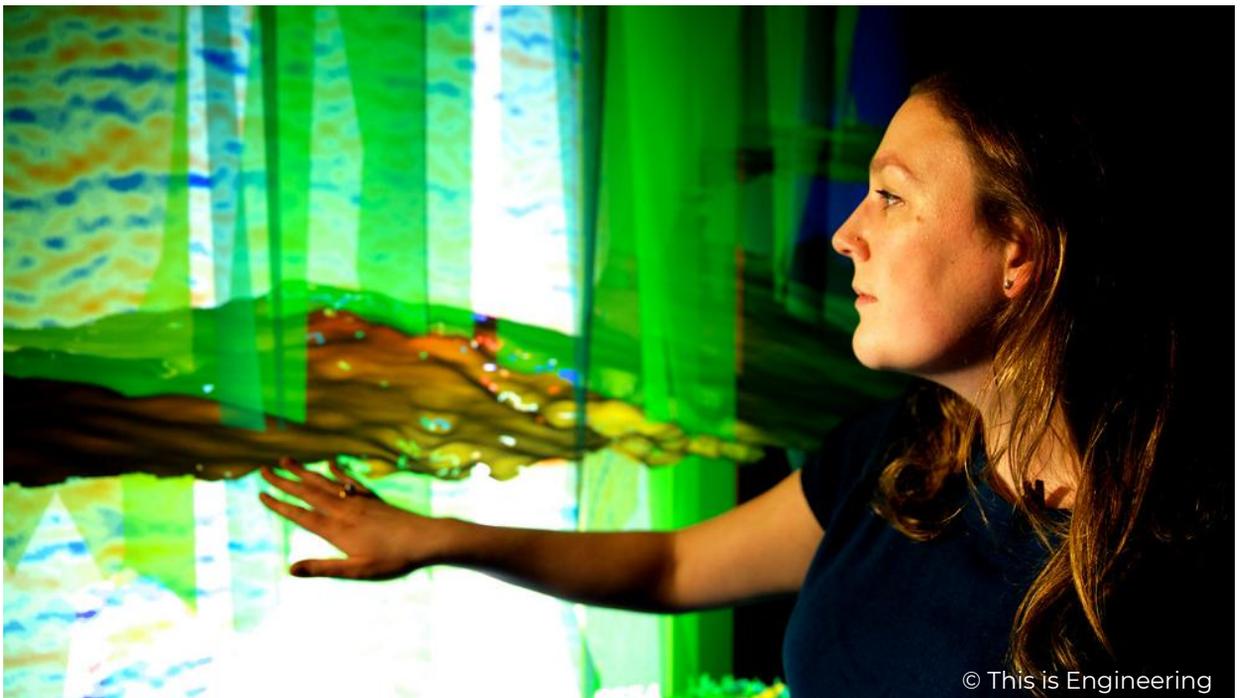
- develop new models yourself or train existing AI models in a new way
- develop an existing model in a non-obvious and novel way

The application

- One person per application
- Only one application can be submitted by each individual
- Only individuals can apply
- Applicants can only re-apply **once** with the same innovation

Visa requirements

The Academy cannot take any responsibility for applying for visas/work permits required and cannot provide advice. There is no restriction on applicant nationality, but applicants must be able to remain and work legally in the UK for the duration of the programme..



Funding details

Funding details

Candidates who receive an award will be provided with funding of £20,000. This is to support the awardee's living costs for the duration of the programme so that they can commit to pursuing their venture full time.

Eligible costs

Personal award: The award should be spent to support your living costs and your growth as an entrepreneur while working on the programme. There are no restrictions on the way you use the money however, we will ask you for reports on your expenditure.

Travel costs for attending mandatory programme activities will be eligible for reimbursement in line with the Academy's expenses policy.

Reporting

If successful, you will be expected to provide progress reports and regular updates to the programme team. Formal reporting will include:

- An initiation report
- A final report at the end of the programme
- Short follow up reports on an annual basis

You will be required to provide an expenditure statement at the end of the award detailing how you used the grant funding.

Your commitment

- Awardees are expected to be fully engaged and committed
- All mandatory training days must be attended and prioritised
- Awardees are expected to keep in regular contact with the Enterprise Hub team, strive to be a role model, adhere to the Enterprise Hub Code of Conduct and seek to engage with their peers in the cohort



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Time commitment and key dates

The submission deadline is 4.00pm (BST) on Tuesday 6 May 2025

If you are selected to attend an interview, you will be invited to three online training sessions to help you prepare. These sessions are provisionally scheduled for the week of 23 June – 4 July. Each session will last approximately 2 hours. Applicants will be notified during the third week of June whether they have been selected to attend. The sessions will not be recorded so please hold the dates in your diary once you have been informed.

The interviews will either be held in person at a central location in the delivery cities or will be held online via video conferencing. Interview panels may interview candidates from several regions. Interview panels are scheduled to take place between 1 July to 25 July 2025. An interview will last 25 minutes.

Applicants will be notified in August 2025 if they have been successful in receiving an award and a place on the programme. Welcome days and training days will be scheduled to take place from 6 October 2025. Applicants must be able to commit for the six-month programme if successful.



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Diversity and inclusion

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, non-attributable and will not be seen by anyone involved in any selection processes. 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.

Requesting adjustments to support your participation

The Academy is committed to making adjustments (changes) that remove barriers for applicants, enabling everyone to participate effectively.

Adjustments focus on an individual's needs and requirements, by considering the issues someone is experiencing and how to resolve them. There is no standard approach to what adjustments we can offer but examples include:

Application phase: assistance with filling out the application

Training phase: providing training materials are available in multiple formats, supplying assistive technologies, such as captions

Interview phase: scheduling interviews at an appropriate time, ensuring the interview space is accessible, extended time to complete tasks or answer questions

We encourage you to contact us to discuss your individual needs, to ensure adjustments are effective.

If you would like to request an adjustment, please email regionaltalent@raeng.org.uk no later than 21st April 2025. We will contact you to discuss how we can support you.



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How to apply

Online application system

All applications must be submitted 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.

The application should be submitted by the applicant. 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.

Once logged in, select **My Applications** in the top-left corner, and choose an application from the list of currently open programmes.

At any stage in the application process you can save your work, log-off and return to it later. The application has four main sections.

The questions in the application form are listed in the following pages. Many of the questions have prescribed word limits that are designed to keep your answers focused and to give you an indication of 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.

You will have the option to download a pdf of your application after submission, which may be useful for future reference. The Academy will retain personal information as per our [Data Retention Policy](#)

Confidentiality

The panel of experts who review applications are external to the Academy. They are carefully chosen for their expertise and reputation in the sector but might not have entered into a confidentiality agreement for their role as, given the scale and nature, it is often impractical or disproportionate to do so. It is at your discretion to decide on the information you are comfortable sharing in the application form.

While applying for and taking part in any Enterprise Hub activities, make sure you only share information with the Academy or any external parties which you're free to share. For example, you might have agreements with co-founders, shareholders etc. where you need their consent before sharing certain information.

Applicant support webinars

We will hold a number of webinars for applicants who wish to apply to the programme to provide information and tips on submitting your application. Please see up to date details on [our website](#).

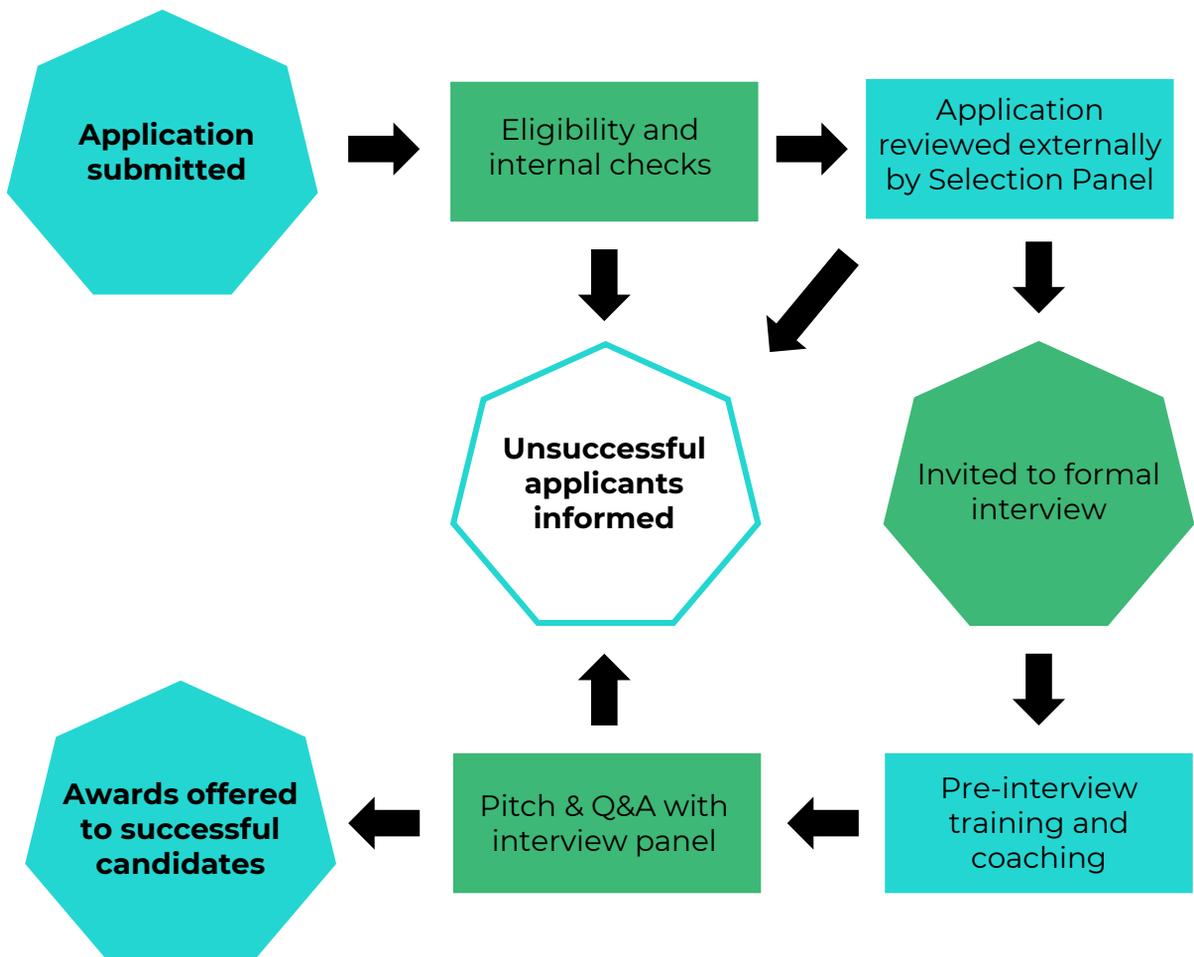
Applicant journey

Application form

Your application is designed for you to tell us about yourself and your innovation, so we can assess your suitability and potential for the programme.

Process

- We will perform eligibility checks to assess if you and your idea are suitable for the programme.
- If you pass the eligibility stage, your application will be reviewed by expert reviewers.
- If selected, you will be invited to prepare for a formal 25-minute interview. At interview, you will be able to present your project proposal in some detail to an interview panel and take part in a Q&A session, either in person or online. The panel will assess your proposal against programme criteria, and also the feasibility of next steps and your project plan. *Note: a short series of online training and 1-to-1 coaching will be offered to all candidates in the 2 weeks leading up to interviews to help with pitch preparation.*
- Each interview panel will select the top candidates to progress onto the programme.



Assessment criteria

Each application will be reviewed by the Selection Panel, which includes Fellows of the Academy and representatives from the entrepreneurship and engineering community. Each application will be reviewed by at least two panel members, who will each give a score out of five, and then discuss the merits of the application. All panel members will have access to all applications and can contribute to the discussion, before an overall score is agreed upon. Candidates with the highest scores will then be invited to interview. Panel scores do not count at the interview stage, but review comments will be made available to the interview panel. The same criteria is used at both review and interview stage. Each application will be assessed against the criteria below:

1 – The applicant

- Their ambition and commitment
- Fit with the aims of the programme
- Nature and level of past achievements relevant to their innovation and the problem they are solving
- Evidence of their entrepreneurial motivation, desire to learn, business awareness, potential to act as a role model
- Commitment and passion to solving the identified problem
- Their potential to be coached and mentored, awareness of weaknesses
- Expertise that is noticeably absent, and plans to address this
- Expected benefits of the programme to the applicant.

2 – The innovation

- Technological credibility of the idea
- Quality and potential of the innovation
- Likelihood of the innovation being effective against competing technologies
- Potential to be delivered at scale
- The potential for benefits to the region, the UK economy and to wider society.

3 – Commercial credibility

- Potential for a self-sustaining and scalable business
- Evidence of market need and scale of the problem
- Identification of a suitable target market
- Access to/identification of necessary facilities and expertise
- Potential to secure any necessary additional funding (grants/investment/boot-strap)
- Expected benefits to the region, the UK economy and to the wider public.
- The overall likelihood of success

Places on the programme are awarded through a competitive application process, with the most promising entrepreneurs gaining a place. Please ensure you read the aims of the programme and the eligibility prior to applying.

Academy policies

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](#).

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:

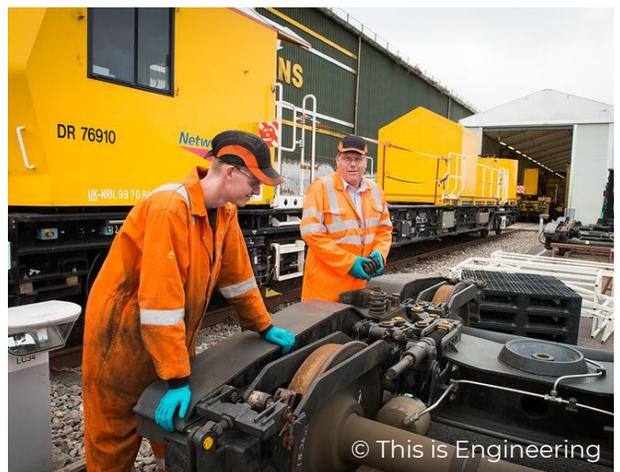
I acknowledge the use of [insert AI system(s), version number and link] to generate materials for background research, styling, proofreading, etc.

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.

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. Regional Talent Engines is considered to be a Subsidy Scheme and for this a [principles assessment](#) has been conducted to ensure subsidies issued are compliant with the principles of the Subsidy Control Act.



Academy policies

Animals in Research, Development and Innovation (RD&I).

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 research 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 declare this at application stage and provide further details of your proposal if you are shortlisted.

If your proposal involves the use of animals and takes place outside of the UK, the Academy will 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.

Human Participants in Research, Development, and Innovation (RD&I).

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](#)

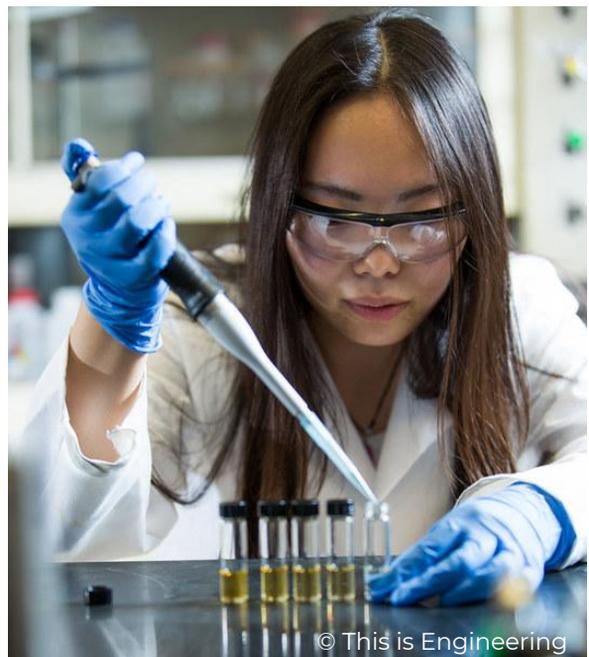
If your proposal includes the use of human participants, human materials or personal data you will be asked to declare this at application stage and provide further details of your proposal if you are shortlisted.

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.

Terms and conditions of the award

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.



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Application form

After logging into the online grants system and selecting Regional Talent Engines 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 sections of the application form given below:

Section 1 – the Applicant

Lead applicant details

The form should auto complete your details once you have registered with the system, but it is worth checking the details are correct and up to date.

Business details

If you have already registered a business, you will need to add the business address. (Note, you do not need to have registered a business at this stage).

Eligibility: you must meet eligibility criteria to apply and confirm by checking the box.

Are you an experienced engineer or tech worker with more than 5 years' experience working in a skilled engineering/technology job? If you choose 'other' you must clarify your technical skills in the next question box.

Technical expertise

Tell us more about your experience, knowledge and skills in the field of technology that underpins your innovation.

Is this a reapplication?

If you tick yes, you will need to provide a brief update of what has changed since your previous application.

In which region are you applying to participate in the Regional Talent Engines programme?

Select one of the regions in the dropdown where you would like to participate in the training activities. You should be a resident in or near the region where you are applying to participate. Please note, you can choose the location closest to you where you would attend training even if you live in one of the other regions (eg if you live in Cumbria and would like to attend in Newcastle).

In which local authority area are you based?

Select the relevant local authority area where you have your permanent residence. You can select 'other' if your area is not listed, for example if you have selected to participate in a different region to where your normal residence is because it is closer. Some awardees based in northern Cumbria have previously attended our Newcastle sessions, for example.

If you are not resident in the region but you are applying to participate in the programme there or set up your business there, please provide clarification details

If your address is not near to one of the regions or cities where we deliver the training, please explain your reasons here. For example, if you are relocating. Please note that you must be within a reasonable travel distance.

Application form

What is your current employment status?

If accepted onto the programme you will not be able to be in full time employment. Depending on your answer, you may be asked further questions about whether the innovation you are applying with is a spinout from the company you are currently working for.

Are you currently studying?

Please indicate if you are currently studying and if it is full or part time. You will also need to indicate if you have graduated with a first undergraduate degree in the last five years. If you have graduated since 1 January 2019 you are not eligible for this scheme.

CV

Upload a copy of your CV (two pages maximum) that details your experience and qualifications.

Tell us about yourself and why you want to be an entrepreneur

What is it that appeals to you about being an entrepreneur, and why do you want to pursue this career path now? What have you done that demonstrates your determination and passion to succeed? What knowledge, experience, skills and qualities do you possess that could help you create a successful business?

Tell us about any previous entrepreneurship experience

Previous experience in commercialisation is not essential. We

expect the majority of applicants to be starting a business for the first time. If you do have any previous experience, please tell us here. If not, tell us what you might expect and why you are interested in it.

Why are you applying to the Regional Talent Engines programme?

What do you want to get out of this programme? How do you think it can help you to achieve your business goals? There are hundreds of accelerator programmes in the UK – what is it about this specific programme that motivates you?

Section 2 – the Innovation

Project title

Enter the name of your project or business.

‘Elevator pitch video’

Record a short video on any device telling us about the problem you’re solving and your solution. Please provide a link to your 3 minute video using a video sharing platform link (eg vimeo or youtube). Please make sure the link permission is set to accessible to those with the link and it will not expire shortly after it’s been uploaded. We will not have time to chase individual applicants for video links. It can be filmed using any equipment, eg mobile phone.

If you wish to restrict viewing of your video, feel free to make it ‘unlisted’ in settings. Please do not designate it as ‘private’ as that will make it inaccessible to reviewers. Do not password protect it or require the video to be downloaded.

Application form

Tips:

DO: appear in the video, the application is about you. Be enthusiastic, tell us why you want the award. Show the problem and give an overview of your innovation, explain why we should want to support it.

DON'T: use a video created for another purpose; the video should be for this specific grant. Don't have someone else pitch on your behalf. Don't have background noise or music, it can be a distraction.

What to cover:

3 minutes is not a long time, so you will need to be concise. Tell us about yourself, what problem you're solving, what your solution is, a market or customer base that you've identified, and why we should support it.

Project start and end date

The award period is from 15 September 2025 to 15 March 2026.

What problem are you solving?

Tell us more about the problem – who experiences it, why it's a problem, how big it is, why it's important.

What is your engineering or technology solution?

Describe your innovation, whether it's a product or service, how it works, who it's for, why it's important. Please see pages 9 and 10 regarding the innovation's eligibility, particularly in the field of AI.

Sector theme and engineering discipline

Choose one of the themes and one of the disciplines which best aligns with your technology solution.

Why is your solution better than what's currently available?

How is your innovation better than the competition? Will it be more effective, more efficient, more accurate? What are the USPs?

Tell us about the market opportunity you've identified and the practical application of your innovation

What market are you addressing and why? Who are the competitors? What do you know about your customers and any other key players?

How well developed is the technology

Select all the options which apply to describe the stage you are at with the development of your innovation. If you are further than prototype stage than it is likely you are too advanced to benefit from this programme.

Do you own the Intellectual Property of this innovation?

Tell us if you have the rights to the innovation and if the idea is your own. You should only apply with an idea that you have been involved in developing. If you have already registered IP, tell us the details (however, this is not a prerequisite to applying).

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Have you already registered a new company?

If you select 'yes' you will be asked if the company is already trading or has received investment. If you have already set up a company, the innovation should not currently be available to the market other than as a prototype with limited sales. You should not have raised significant investment, as the programme aims to help early-stage companies get business-ready and you will be too late-stage.

Why are you committed to starting up a new company in your region in particular?

Tell us why you want to establish your new company in the region. What support can you access, and what difference can your startup make in the longer term (e.g. new jobs, new products). Consider the resources available in the area and the ways in which you and your business can contribute.

Project plan

What goals are you working towards and what tasks do you need to complete to achieve them? Please complete the table filling out your planned goals and activities for the programme period and beyond.

What do you feel you most need help with to progress your idea?

What support do you most need from the programme? What barriers are you facing to moving things forward? Why will you benefit from the training and coaching programme?

How do you think you would grow your business in the longer term?

You are currently at the beginning of your journey, but think ahead to how you might grow your business over the next few years. What do you want it to look like? What role will you play in it? What is your vision?

Section 3 – Responsible Research, Development and Innovation

Animals and humans in research, development and innovation

These questions align with the Academy's policy and are referenced on page 18 of this guidance document. If you are using animals or humans in your proposal (for example, in healthcare trials) you must declare it here. If you select 'yes' we will be required to ask for further information from you regarding your research and ethical approval timelines.

The personal data question includes the collection and/or storage of personal data, for example contact information, so if you select 'yes' you will need to have some awareness of the GDPR regulations (see here for resources <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/uk-gdpr-guidance-and-resources/>).

Section 4 – Applicant declaration

Marketing – where did you first hear about the scheme?

Please tick one of the options.

Applicant declaration

Please read and confirm that you agree with the text in the declarations.

Contact details

The programme team can assist with any queries related to the programme, including eligibility and any issues accessing the application system. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Programme Managers

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Further information and FAQs are available on our [website](#).

About us

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.

Talent and 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 everchanging 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 and 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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