ROYAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING

Leaders in Innovation Fellowships 2020-21

LIF7

Applicant guidelines

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING

Contents

Royal Academy of Engineering

Engineering matters. It underpins our daily lives, drives economic growth, plays a critical role in addressing major societal challenges and helps ensure our readiness for the future, from providing a sustainable supply of food, water and clean energy, to advancing healthcare, and keeping us safe and secure.

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.

Drawn half from business and half from academia, and from all branches of engineering including areas of emerging technology, our 1,600 Fellows give their time and expertise voluntarily.

Our overarching goal for 2025 is to harness the power of engineering to build a sustainable society and an inclusive economy that works for everyone.

We bring together engineers, policy makers, entrepreneurs, business leaders, academics, educators and the public in pursuit of this goal.

Engineering is a global profession addressing global challenges, so we work with partners across the world to advance engineering's contribution to society on an international, as well as national scale.

Introduction

The Leaders in Innovation Fellowships programme (LIF) is being delivered by the Academy as part of the UK Newton Fund which, through a variety of science and innovation activities, supports the economic development and social welfare of developing countries. We have worked with 17 Newton Fund countries: **Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, The Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, Turkey** and **Vietnam**.

The Leaders in Innovation Fellowships programme (LIF) brings together the emerging leaders in the global innovation community. It acts as a catalyst for individuals to commercialise engineering-based innovations that has the potential to contribute to the social and economic development of their country. The programme has five key objectives:

- Increased business starts, survival and performance
- New and decent jobs created
- Greater adoption of engineering innovation which addresses economic, social and environmental challenges
- Improved local ecosystems to support entrepreneurship and innovation
- Increased local and international collaboration between businesses and research institutions which will promote engineering innovation

The LIF programme aims to achieve these objectives by helping participants:

- adopt an entrepreneurial mindset and increase their business knowledge
- take steps towards commercialising their innovation
- share their knowledge and experience in their home organisations
- adopt evidence-based business practices
- build and expand a diverse networks of peers, mentors and partners.

The LIF programme overview

The LIF programme model consists of:

- In-country training events to provide an opportunity to connect with local LIF programme peers
- A UK-based entrepreneurship training and networking programme, to provide an opportunity to connect with the global LIF community
- 1:1 expert mentoring
- Intensive remote training, tailored to each participant's unique goals and challenges
- Lifelong membership of a thriving global LIF alumni community

The programme covers business fundamentals like business modelling, sales and marketing, leadership, value proposition and finance. The training is delivered in a dynamic, interactive format with a strong focus on peer-to-peer learning. The mentoring element of the programme will help participants apply these principles to their specific business. There will also be pitch building and practice sessions, and an opportunity to pitch in front of a panel of experts.

LIF7: programme structure

Due to the ongoing uncertainty related to travel restrictions, large international events, and other measures that may be necessary over the next year to contain the spread of Covid-19, we have had to adjust our programme delivery model for LIF7.

We will deliver all the elements and objectives of the core LIF programme, but the programme has been restructured this year to ensure that we can deliver value to our participants and alumni while safeguarding their health and safety, and that of our staff and contractors.

Ten successful applicants from each country (Leaders in Innovation Fellows) will be invited to participate in the programme, which will be delivered over three phases.

Please note that this structure is subject to change as we respond to any developments in the global Covid-19 situation, and we may not be able to guarantee all activities set forward in this document will be delivered as written. Every effort will be made to ensure learning, development and business support objectives will be met if the programme format needs to be adjusted.

Indicative session content

	PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3
	Remote onboarding, training and mentoring	In-country training / virtual training	UK residential training event (TBC)
a. Live sessions	Welcome Drop in sessions Technical introduction to virtual platform Social introduction to tools and chats Webinars	Training content delivery Peer learning Live group tasks Pitching skills Pitch session	External speakers Peer learning Panel sessions Unconference
b. Individual learning	Mentoring sessions Individual tasks Personal action plan Complete preparation tasks for phase 2	Mentoring sessions Personal action plan	Mentor sessions Personal action plan
c. Group activities	Icebreaker sessions Learning team intros & check ins Coffee breaks Networking practise Whiteboards Special interest groups	Mentoring group session Networking Special interest groups Whiteboards	Mentoring group session Networking Special interest groups
Time commitment	Ongoing ~8-10 hours during the first introduction week	~5 days (in-country) OR ~8 days (virtual)	1 week

LIF7: Programme structure

Phase One – Remote onboarding

Starts February 2021

The first phase will be conducted remotely. Participants will receive an induction to the tools that will be used throughout the programme to deliver the remote training, and they will be asked to create a profile to facilitate connections between LIF fellows from all participating countries.

Individual engagement with remote learning resources and preparatory tasks will introduce topics such as:

- Business model development
- Finance
- Fundraising
- Intellectual property protection
- Founders' wellbeing

This is also where the participants will be introduced to their mentors, who will be a key source of support throughout the whole programme.

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LIF7: Programme structure

Phase Two – In-country training OR virtual accelerator

March-May 2020

Participants will receive in-person training in their home countries, facilitated by the relevant in-country delivery partner with support from the Academy's expert trainers. This will be highly interactive, using a wide range of bespoke and experiential learning techniques including the use of real-life case studies, peer-to-peer learning, and applying new knowledge to your specific business challenges.

Being an entrepreneur makes many – sometimes competing – demands on a person's physical, mental, professional and financial wellbeing, and the programme aims to take a holistic approach to building participants' entrepreneurial capacity by combing 'hard' business skills training and 'soft' skills training. In addition to the fundamental skills needed to run a successful business, there is a focus on interpersonal skills, presentation and communication, leadership and team-building skills.

This phase will build on the topics and training in the previous phase, and give participants an opportunity to apply them to their specific business. They will test and interrogate their business model and use these exercises to build towards a pitch.

Please note that if it is not possible to hold a training event in-country due to the COVID 19 situation at the time, this part of the training will be delivered online using a variety of learning methods and tools.

LIF7: Programme structure

Phase Three – London residential

June 2020 TBC

The final phase of the LIF programme will be held in London for five days. There will be two cohorts, each spending a week in the UK. The focus of this phase will be to showcase the innovations supported by the LIF programme, further develop soft skills, and it will be a culmination of the work undertaken over the previous two phases. Participants will be encouraged to engage with the UK innovation ecosystem.

This residential week will also provide opportunities to connect with the global LIF7 community. There will be a strong focus on peer-to-peer learning and engagement, community building, and fostering collaboration. There will also be a one-day overlap event which LIF7 participants from all countries will attend, giving participants to connect with the global LIF7 cohort.

International flights, airport transfers, and other UK travel incurred for this phase of the programme, plus hotel accommodation, breakfast and evening meals, will be paid for by the Academy. However, please note that successful applicants will be responsible for arranging and paying for their travel insurance and visa, as required, and covering any other expenses incurred during the programme.

Please note that if it is not possible to hold a training event in the UK due to the COVID 19 situation at the time, we will seek to deliver an alternative event online.

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Diversity and Inclusion

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

We especially welcome applications from women because we want to accurately represent the gender diversity of the research and engineering ecosystems in Newton Fund countries.

We would like to support successful participants to meaningfully participate in the programme, and achieve a balance between your personal and programme demands. We are happy to discuss individual requirements. Please let us know if there is any support that we can offer during your time at the Academy (such as access, assistance, alternative formats, or participating flexibly around childcare or other commitments).

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Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility criteria

Specific eligibility criteria are as follows:

- Applicants must be a citizen in or resident of one of the LIF programme's Newton Fund partner countries.
- Applicants must be in the process of developing a business proposition of their innovation. Projects at the basic research stage are not supported through the current programme.
- The applicant's innovation can be any new product, technology or service, based on research in engineering defined in its broadest sense to encompass a wide range of fields, including – but not limited to –
  - agricultural technology
  - biotechnology
  - chemical engineering
  - civil engineering
  - computer science
  - design engineering
  - electrical and electronic engineering
  - materials science
  - mechanical engineering
  - medical engineering.
- The innovation should have the potential to benefit the applicant's country, or other developing countries, in terms of improving social welfare and driving economic growth, and they should contribute one or more of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- The primary application of the innovation must **NOT** be in the defense, military, or fossil fuel-based energy sectors.

Note that previous experience of commercialisation or involvement with technology transfer is not required. However, a strong interest in commercialisation and an entrepreneurial attitude are essential to successfully completing the programme, and these will be a key assessment metric.

Please note that the residential programme will be conducted entirely in English, and candidates will need to demonstrate reasonable fluency in English in order to participate. This will be a key assessment metric.

Applications will be received through the Academy's Grants Management System

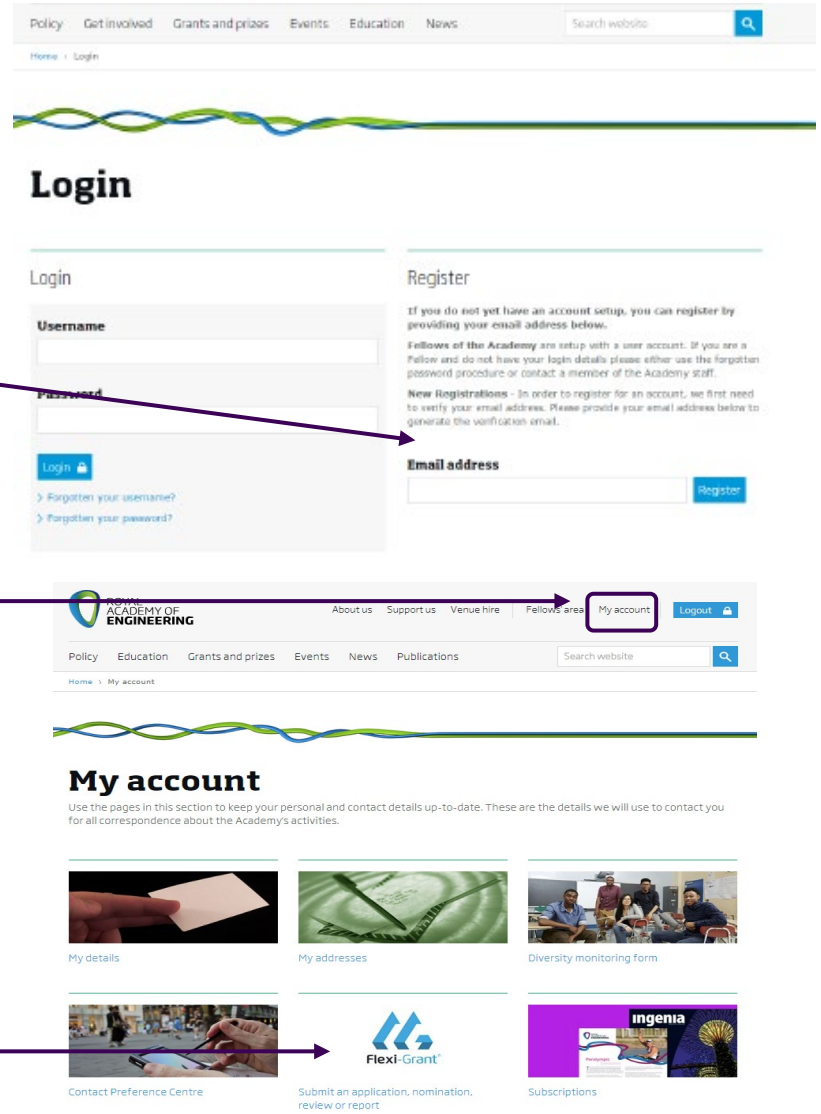
How to register

URL:
https://grants.raeng.org.uk

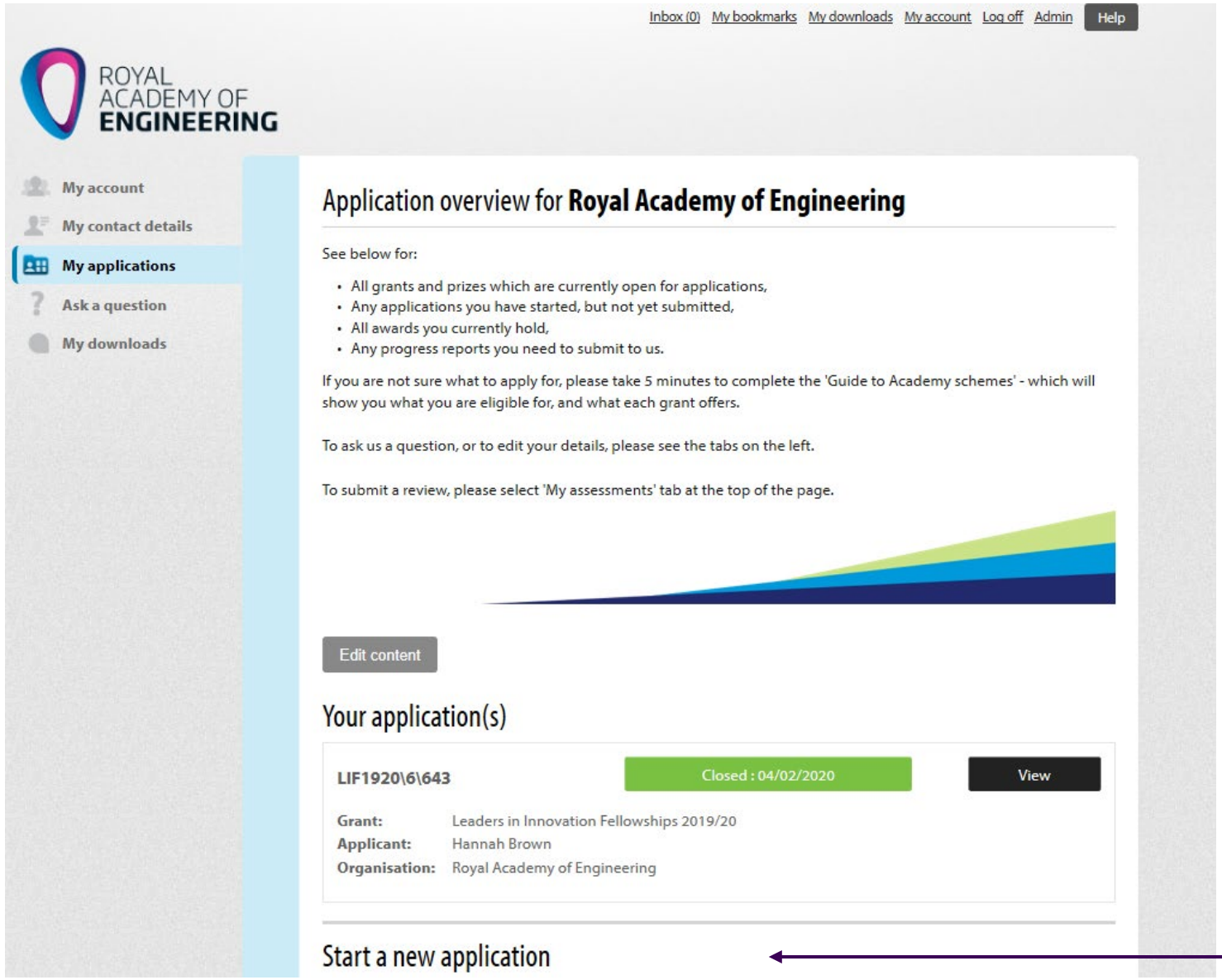
1 Register an account here

2 Once logged in, go to ‘My account’ at the top right corner of the home page

3 Go to ‘submit an application or review’, as pictured left



Application form



Please select the scheme titled **Leaders in Innovation Fellowships 2020/21 (LIF7)**

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING

Application form questions

1: Applicant details

Please provide your name, institution, and preferred correspondence details.
This section requests additional details about yourself and your suitability for the Leaders in Innovation Fellowship Programme. You will need to answer some questions and upload your CV.

1.1
Preferred Name
Please give your preferred first name(s) and surname(s). This is how your name will appear in the welcome pack, on your name badge, and your certificate of participation. Please include any titles you want to appear on your badge or certificate, and ensure it is spelt correctly.
For Example: Dr Michaela Jones

1.2
Please select your Partner Country
Please note that applicants must be citizens of, or have full residential status in, one of the Newton Fund partner countries. If you are not a citizen or resident of one of the following countries, your application can not be considered for the Leaders in Innovation Fellowships programme:

- Brazil
- China
- Colombia
- Egypt
- India
- Indonesia
- Jordan
- Kenya
- Malaysia
- Mexico
- Peru
- Philippines
- South Africa
- Thailand
- Turkey
- Vietnam

1.3
English language skills
Please indicate for each skill what your level is: beginner, intermediate, advanced or fluent. It is important that you answer these language questions as honestly and openly as possible because the whole programme will be conducted in English including application, training, and follow-on support. You will be required to interact with others in English and present in English.
This is a key selection criteria. In order to be able to fully take part in the programme adequate English language skills are critical.
- Speaking
- Listening/Understanding
- Reading
- Writing

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- China
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This is a key selection criteria. In order to be able to fully take part in the programme adequate English language skills are critical.

1.4
Do you have a valid international passport for travelling abroad with six months validity remaining?
Please note that you will need at least 6 months validity on your passport to enter the UK.

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2: Career, Achievements and Motivation

2.1
Your photograph
Please upload a photograph. If your application is successful, we will use this photo in the introductory pack for participating fellows and in materials for wider publicity of the Leaders in Innovation Fellowships programme. Please ensure it is suitable and professional. We will not be able to use blurry, low-resolution, or dark photographs.

2.2
Your CV
Please upload your CV. The format and content of your CV is left to your discretion. Your CV should not exceed two (2) pages, and should be uploaded electronically as a PDF document.

2.3
Your short biography
(100 words maximum)
Please give a brief narrative summary of your career and achievements to date, to give us some context about your background and experience.

2.4
Why do you want to become an entrepreneur?
(200 word maximum)
Why are you interested in entrepreneurship training, and how is it relevant to your work? Please explain why you have chosen to work on entrepreneurship and the commercialisation of your innovation rather than further academic research.

2.5
What do you want to gain from the programme?
(200 word maximum)
Describe which aspects of the LIF programme will be particularly valuable to you in commercialising your innovation, and explain why.
In which areas, topics and activities do you expect the Leaders in Innovation Fellowship programme to support you?
In which areas, topics and activities do you expect to be supported by your own country partner organisation?

2.6
Challenge Areas
(200 words maximum)
Thinking about some of the challenges you are facing or have faced with your innovation, where do you think you need most support and/or training?

2.7
How can the LIF programme help you?
(200 words maximum)

2.8
Please upload a 60-second video, summarising the following:
- **What your solution is, and who it is for**
- **What are your reasons for wanting to participate in the LIF programme**

Please provide a link to a YouTube (or similar) video produced in support of your application.(We would recommend that this is a link to an unlisted video, which is hidden unless you have the specific link. Please ensure it is accessible using the link you provide here).
Do not submit overly long videos or they will be rejected, it should be short and concise.
The use of visual aids and displaying your product is encouraged. Remember, video is a visual medium.
You may use any type of recording equipment available, such as mobile phones, webcams etc.

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3: Your innovation

3.1
Project title/business name
Please enter the business name and - if different from the business name - your product or innovation name.

e.g.
Apple - iPhone

3.2
Project description
(150 words maximum)
This is the description we will use to feature your project in the welcome pack or in any social media publicity, so please ensure that it represents your innovation clearly to a non-technical audience.

3.3
Technological sector or research area
Please select the major technological sector or research area that your innovation derives from. If it fits into more than one area, please choose the one that is most relevant.

3.3b
Specific technological sector tags
You can use this question to let us know more about the specific sector your innovation belongs to. Please select all the relevant tags for your innovation.

e.g. If your innovation relates to reducing the environmental impact of waste management services, the tag could appear in 'Environmental' or "Civil". Please choose the most relevant.

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3: Your innovation

3.4
Are there any other key words that are relevant to your innovation?
Please note any other tags that do not fit within the above categories but you feel are relevant to your project.

3.5
Sector for application
What is the anticipated application of your technology?
i.e. where is it most likely to be used? This may be different from the sector the technology derives from.
If you think your technology has multiple possible applications, select the one that is most likely to be your first market.

3.6
About your innovation/product/service: What does it do? (150 words max)
For example, what is the problem that your invention is intended to solve? Who experiences this problem?
Why is the proposed solution better than other existing solutions?
Why are improvements necessary or desirable? What are the benefits of your approach?

3.7
About your innovation/product/service: How does it work? (150 words max)
Give a brief description of the science or technology that underpins your innovation. Please avoid over-technical language and keep the text simple.
What is its novelty, and what further development is required to get it to market?

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3: Your innovation

Sector tags:
(For questions 3.3 and 3.5)

Materials	Medical	Biotechnology / Bioengineering
Textile	Medical equipment	Food technology
Polymers	Drugs	Medical equipment
Mining	Diagnosis	Drugs & Medical
Ceramics		Agriculture
Metallurgy		
Structural & building materials		

Energy & Power	Systems & Computing	Mechanical
Transport	Communications and networks	Manufacturing and design
Renewable energy	Robotics & Artificial Intelligence	Aerospace
Energy-saving	Internet of Things	Vehicle & transport
Energy generation & storage	Coding, cryptography & data protection	
	Medical equipment	
	Software	
	Hardware	

Civil	Chemical & Process	Environment
Public health & Sanitation	Food technology	Public health & Sanitation
Waste management systems	Air & water pollution	Water resource management
Transport	Biochemical	Ecological engineering/agriculture
Coastal engineering	Drugs & Medical	Environmental impact mitigation
Infrastructure	Agriculture	Agriculture

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3: Your innovation

3.8
Does your innovation promote economic development and/ or social welfare development in your country?
Please state whether the primary purpose/outcome of your innovation is to enhance your country's economic development and/or social welfare development. Yes/No

3.9
How does your innovation promote economic development and/ or social welfare development in your country? (250 words max)
How could your innovation promote economic development and/or social welfare development in your country?

One of the broader aims of the Newton Fund is to promote economic and social welfare development in developing countries. Please outline the potential benefits of your innovation in terms of promoting economic growth and/or improving health and social wellbeing in your country and internationally.
A page on what issues should be considered when making an argument for ODA is provided at the end of this document.

If you are still unsure, please contact your in-country organisation team.

3.10
Sustainable Development Goals
Of the UN's Global Goals for Sustainable Development, which is most relevant to the challenge your innovation addresses? More information and guidance on each challenge can be found at the end of this document. If you want to, you can choose up to two other secondary goals.

More information on the SDGs can be found here.

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3: Your innovation

1: No Poverty
End poverty in all its forms everywhere
2: Zero Hunger
End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
3: Good Health and Well-being
Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
4: Quality Education
Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
5: Gender Equality
Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
6: Clean Water and Sanitation
Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
7: Affordable and Clean Energy
Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
10: Reduced Inequality
Reduce inequality within and among countries
11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
12: Responsible Consumption and Production
Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
13: Climate Action
Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
14: Life Below Water
Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
15: Life on Land
Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions
Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
17: Partnerships to achieve the Goals
Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

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3: Your innovation

3.11
What is your stage of technology development?

Please select the option which best describes the stage of development of your product

- Concept/idea
- Laboratory development
- Prototype
- Final product
- Mass production

3.12
What are the next steps you are working on for your innovation?

What steps do you need to take for your technology to be ready for production and commercialisation and when do you need to achieve them by? Bullet points are encouraged.

4: Your business plan

4.1
Customer base (150 words)
Please give an outline of who you think will be the customer for your new product, technology or service.
Use the following questions as a prompt:
- Who will buy/use this innovation/product/service? (for example: businesses, individuals, government agencies)
- Is there evidence that customers will pay for this innovation/product/service at commercially profitable levels?
- Is anybody else providing a similar product/service? Why will customers choose to buy from you?

4.2
Market research (150 words)
What market research have you undertaken? Use the following questions as a prompt:
- What market are you addressing and why?
- Who are your competitors? Is anybody else providing a similar product/service? What is the unique selling point/competitive advantage of your technology?
- What is happening in your local environment, and how might this affect your customers' ability or desire to pay for your innovation/product/service?

4.3
Business Plan Summary (150 words)
Please provide a short description of your business idea/plan.
Use the following questions as a prompt:
- What are you offering? (e.g. hardware, software, service, intellectual property)
- How will your product/service/innovation reach the customer? (e.g. direct sales, distributors)
- How will you make money? (e.g. direct sales, rental, subscription)

4.4
One line pitch (50 words)
Please provide a one-line pitch for your business. We will use this one line to showcase your innovation in networking events etc.
Use the following questions as a prompt:
- what is it?
- who is it for?
- how will it change the world?

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4: Your business plan

4.5
Primary Sales Strategy
Please select the option which best describes the sales strategy of your business.
- Direct sale to customers/clients
- Sale to governmental/municipal organisations
- Sale to non-governmental/commercial organisations
- Undecided/ Not sure

4.6
What is the status of your intellectual property?
For each of the following methods of protecting your intellectual property, please let us know the status:
- National patent
- International patent
- Licensing
- Copyright
- Know-how

Please also let us know if you do not yet have any intellectual property protection in place.

4.7
Source of Funding
Please select the option that indicates the source of funding you are next seeking for your business/project:
- Research grant
- Proof of concept funding
- Seed funding (for operations and manufacturing)
- Scale-up funding (for expansion)
- Other

4.8
Have you ever raised commercial investment capital before?
Yes/No. If yes, please specify the amount in $USD

4: Your business plan

4.9
Do you intend to raise commercial capital in the near term?
Yes/No. If yes, please specify the amount in $USD

4.10
Please describe any other sources of funding you have received.
This could include research grants, seed funding and prizes

4.11
Business Profile
Please fill out the table with relevant or available details.
- *How long have you worked on this idea for?*
- *How many full-time researchers are working on this innovation (in addition to yourself)?*
- *Has the business been incorporated?*
- *If your business has any paid employees (other than yourself), please state how many there are.*
- *What is the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of the product/service? (For more information about TRL, please see the end of this document.)*
- *How much grant funding have you raised to date?*
- *How much equity funding have you raised to date?*
- *How soon could you get the product/service to market?*
- *Are any external organisations supporting your project?*

4.12
Route to commercialisation
Please select the option which best describes how you wish to commercialise your product/service:
- Commercialising my innovation myself (Spin-out/Start-up)
- Licencing my innovation

4.13
Major risks (70 words)
Please identify what you think will be the major risks and challenges that you will have to overcome in taking the business plan forward (e.g. lack of funding or securing intellectual property).

5: Entrepreneurship skills

Please indicate your level of confidence with each of the skills and subject areas listed. This question will not impact your application; it is designed to help us group participants for the training, assign coaches and tailor the curriculum to the groups attending.

- CANVAS business model
- Market Research
- Financial Forecasting
- Valuation
- Presentation and Communication
- Negotiation
- Pitching
- Intellectual Property

6: Declaration

In this section, you will also be asked to declare that:

- The information you have provided is accurate.
- You understand that if you participate in the programme, it is entirely at your own risk. It is the responsibility of all participants and/or their employers to arrange suitable travel insurance *before* participants travel to the UK for the residential programme.
- You understand that it is your responsibility to obtain the necessary visa to travel to the UK.
- That you will allow the Royal Academy of Engineering to share this material with its Fellows, Funder and subcontractors for the purposes of preparing the training for the Leaders in Innovation Programme and reporting.
- Confirm that you have permission from all relevant employers to attend the Fellowship if selected to participate and that completion of the programme will depend on satisfactory attendance and participation in sessions and activities.
- You have read, understood and agree to the Royal Academy of Engineering's Privacy Notice
- You have the permission of any person or persons I have included contact details for, to share their details with the Royal Academy of Engineering for the purposes of administering this application.

All participants in the programme will join a global network of innovators and technology entrepreneurs, centred around the Royal Academy of Engineering's Enterprise Hub. As part of this network, we will endeavour to maintain contact with all participants in the programme and may periodically offer further opportunities for international networking and mentoring. We may also contact you for further updates about the progress of your business.

Contact
If you have any technical queries about the form, please contact info-lif@raeng.org.uk

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Additional Information

Is it ODA?

The following guidance has been developed to provide general guidance on ODA compliance for the Academy's Newton Fund activities.

How the Newton Fund relates to the UK's Official Development Assistance
The Newton Fund forms part of the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitment which is monitored by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). ODA funded activities focuses on outcomes that promote the long-term sustainable growth of countries on the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list and is administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective. Newton Fund Partner Countries represent a sub-set of this list.

All applications under Leaders in Innovation Programme must be compliant with the ODA guidelines.

What activities can be funded under the Newton Fund?
Within the paper 'Is it ODA?', the OECD defines ODA compliant research activities as follows:

"Research includes financing by the official sector, whether in the donor country or elsewhere, of research into the problems of developing countries. This may be either (i) undertaken by an agency or institution whose main purpose is to promote the economic growth or welfare of developing countries, or (ii) commissioned or approved, and financed or part-financed, by an official body from a general purpose institution with the specific aim of promoting the economic growth or welfare of developing countries. Research undertaken as part of the formulation of aid programmes in central or local government departments or aid agencies is considered as an administrative cost."

Some other categories of activity similar to potential Newton Fund activities are also counted as ODA by OECD:

"Development-oriented social and cultural programmes provide basic facilities or training to enhance the social and cultural development of nationals of developing countries… As well as educational services, they will typically…include finance for the provision of books, periodicals, the creation or operation of libraries, provision of prizes, and the running of seminars, philosophy and humanistic studies, the consolidation of a recipient country's cultural heritage (including archaeological projects)…"

Any Newton Fund project therefore must make it clear that its primary purpose is to promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries. They should also consider how strengths of UK will be used to address the issue identified.

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Technology Readiness Level

The technology readiness level (TRL) is an indication of the maturity of your innovation.

Innovations at TRL 4 or below are generally not suitable for the LIF programme. This is because an innovation at this level may need several more years of technological development before the commercialisation principles and mentoring support that you will get through the LIF programme will be relevant and actionable.

You can find more information about TRL scales and a link to a calculator here.

TRL 1
Basic principles observed

TRL 2
Technology concept formulated

TRL 3
Experimental proof of concept

TRL 4
Technology validated in lab

TRL 5
Technology validated in relevant environment

TRL 6
Technology demonstrated in relevant environment

TRL 7
System prototype demonstration in operational environment

TRL 8
System complete and qualified

TRL 9
Actual system proven in operational environment