

The Royal Academy of Engineering and are seeking applications from researchers, with strong entrepreneurial potential, to take part in their Leaders in Innovation Fellowships programme. This is a residential training programme in innovation and technology entrepreneurship that will take place, in the UK.

Introduction

Working with a select number of partner countries, the objectives of The Royal Academy of Engineering's Leaders in Innovation Fellowships (LIF) programme are:

- to build the capacity of researchers for entrepreneurship and commercialisation of their research;
- to create international networks of innovators and technology entrepreneurs.

The programme is aimed at researchers who are about to develop, or are in the process of developing, a business proposition for their innovation. A select cohort of researchers from the same country will benefit from a focussed period of training in the UK, access to expert coaches, and opportunities for international networking. In the short term they will develop, with the support of the programme, a commercialisation plan for their innovation. In the long term they will benefit from access to an international network of peer innovators, in taking their commercialisation plan forward.

The programme builds on the expertise of The Academy in supporting technology entrepreneurs within the UK through a variety of fellowships and prizes. Fellows supported through this programme will benefit from connectivity to The Academy's Enterprise Hub, a network of technology innovators, researcher entrepreneurs, and senior industrialists driving and supporting world class innovation.

The programme is part of the broader UK Newton Fund which seeks to build international science and innovation partnerships that promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries.

The Programme

Twelve successful applicants ('LIF Fellows') will be invited to attend a ten-day residential programme, in the UK, arranged and supported by the Academy.

Week 1 – An activity based learning week combined with external visits and master class sessions.

The first week of training involves getting familiar with Business Modelling and Customer Markets along with visits to a UK University Incubator and a site visit to an Industry Partner. The groups will start working with their coaches to start to develop their business plans.

Week 2 – Intensive training programme in entrepreneurship and innovation leadership.

The second week is more classroom style leaning with a training programme hosted by the Royal Academy of Engineering. It consists of a training programme in innovation leadership, delivered by expert trainers, and based on existing training programmes of the Academy for UK researchers. The course will focus on skills and knowledge in:

- Operations and leadership;
- Finance, IP and regulation;
- Presenting and pitching to investors and customers;
- Negotiation skills.

Importantly, over the course of both weeks, there will be time for each fellow to develop their own business plan and pitch decks, while receiving guidance and coaching. The week will conclude with a competitive pitch session to a panel of expert judges including senior Academy Fellows.

During the programme, LIF Fellows will also benefit from opportunities to network with coaches, representatives of technology driven organisations, and each other. All participants in the LIF programme will automatically join an international network of innovators and coaches clustered around the Academy's Enterprise Hub.

Please note that the residential programme will be conducted entirely in English.

Eligibility Criteria

Through their research, applicants must have developed (or co-developed), or be in the process of developing (or co-developing) a new technological innovation. Applicants should have the ambition to take a leading role in creating a new business to commercialise this innovation.

Specific eligibility criteria are as follows:

- Applicants must be citizens of, or have full resident status in their respective Newton Partner Country.
- The applicants must be those who get grant in the **first year funding only** of the IBT and PPBT PT incentive programs.
- 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: agricultural technology, biotechnology, chemical engineering, civil engineering, computer science, design engineering, electrical and electronic engineering, ICT, materials science, mechanical engineering, and 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.
- The primary application of the innovation must **NOT** be in the defence or military sector.

Note that previous experience of commercialisation or involvement with technology transfer is not required.

How to Apply/submit your information

All applications must be submitted via email to kimikapabelo@gmail.com.

Completing the Application Form

After logging in to the online and selecting the relevant scheme you should be presented with the ‘Instructions’ screen. Here you will see some general instructions on how to use the system as well as the 3 sections of the application form:

1. Applicant details.....
2. Your innovation.....
3. Declaration.....

Please find the attached file for application form.

<http://bit.ly/lif-appform-2017-2018>

Selection Process Timeline

The selection process for **Leaders in Innovation Fellowships** (LIF) programme will take until week 11 of November 2017.

Below is the timeline for LIF 2017:

TIME	WHAT HAPPEN
September 30 th 2017	Concept notes/applications submission close
October 2 nd , 2017	Shortlisting and share shortlist with RAEng
October 9 th , 2017	Notification to shortlisted candidates, invitation to prepare for pitching session
November 9 th , 2017	Pitching session
November 13 th , 2017	Notification to selected candidates, online submission to RAEng system

Contact

If you have any technical queries about the form, please contact:

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