**Royal Academy
of Engineering**

Northern Ireland Engineering Education Programme

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Higher Education Bursaries

Applicant Guidance Notes Deadline:
Wednesday 4th January 2023

Overview

The Northern Ireland Engineering Education Programme HE Bursaries support women finished their studies in June 2022 at eligible schools and FE colleges across Northern Ireland, who are studying engineering (or related subjects*) at degree level at higher education institutions across the UK and Ireland.

Women students from low-income households who studied A Levels, BTECs, OCRs and other vocational qualifications can apply for a £15,000 bursary to support their studies at any UK or Ireland higher education institution.

For women students progressing onto degree courses in STEM subjects*

Bursaries worth £15,000
You will receive £5,000 a year for three years.
If your course includes an integrated foundation year, your bursary will be paid in years one, two and three of your studies.

The Northern Ireland Engineering Education Programme HE bursary scheme supports young women on their journey through STEM education and into engineering, or engineering-related careers.

The main objectives of the bursary programme are:

1

To encourage women students from low-income households and those underrepresented in the engineering sector to become valuable members of the future STEM and engineering workforce

2

To support local students' progression from eligible schools and colleges in Northern Ireland to higher education as they continue their STEM studies at degree level

3

To help address the well-documented shortage of engineers by promoting greater diversity and inclusion in engineering across the UK and Ireland

Financial support

If you are successful in the application process, and provide proof your enrolment on your course, you will receive:

Year 1
February 2023
£3,500
May 2023
£1,500

Year 2
October 2023
£1,750
February 2024
£1,750
May 2024
£1,500

Year 3
October 2024
£1,750
February 2025
£1,750
May 2025
£1,500

Eligibility criteria

These bursaries are open to eligible women students who attended schools and FE colleges across Northern Ireland.

You will need to have been:

- **a resident of Northern Ireland - international students are not eligible to apply**
- **have begun a degree in engineering (or a related subject) at a higher education institution in the UK or Ireland in September/October 2022 - please see the following page for further details of suitable courses**

You must also be able to answer 'yes' to one, or both, of the following:

- You had been continually eligible for free school meals since the start of your post-16 studies - even if you didn't actually receive them
- You are in receipt of any kind of funding - scholarship, bursary or grant, either from your university or the government, that was award on your perosnal or household financial situation*

We particularly welcome applications from students who meet the criteria above and can also answer 'yes' to one or more of the following:

• You have spent time in, the local authority care system.

• Will be the first generation in your immediate family to attend university/higher education.

• Have not attended a fee-paying school at any time since the age of 11 (except where in receipt of a scholarship).

*This could include a low-income scholarship or bursary from your university either paid to you or towards your accommodation, a fee waiver, a hardship grant, a non-repayable maintenance grant, a means-tested maintenance loan from Student Finance NI, as long as the criteria on which these awards were made was low income or hardship.

To be eligible, you must:

- Have enrolled in a higher education institution in either the UK or Ireland to study **engineering, or a related subject, such as computer science or physics** and show an understanding of how your chosen subject can lead to a career in engineering
    - Engineering-related subjects include Computer Science, Technology with Design, Physics, and Maths
- Be able to demonstrate an interest in, and passion for, engineering and ideally be looking to pursue a **career** in the field after graduation

- Have the academic capability for the course you have applied for
- Submit your application by **4.00pm on Wednesday 4th January 2023**

If successful, you agree to do the following for the Royal Academy of Engineering:

- Be prepared to act as an ambassador for the scheme, attending events as requested by the Academy.
- Agree to take part in evaluation if requested to do so. This evaluation may happen either during or following completion of your studies and could be participation in a focus group and/or an interview and/or the completion of a questionnaire.

If you have any questions regarding your eligibility please contact **bronagh.ward@raeng.org.uk**

Three years of support

How to apply

You must apply for the scheme yourself - you cannot ask anyone to apply on your behalf.

All applications must be submitted via the Academy's Grant Management System (GMS) available here: https://grants.raeng.org.uk

If you are not already registered, you must first register on the system and provide some basic details to create a profile. When you first register, you will need to wait around 10 minutes before you can access the application form for the first time.

After logging in to the GMS via the Academy website, click the RAEng Portal on the top left, and select 'Northern Ireland Engineering Education Programme - HE bursaries 22/23' which will bring up the application instructions.
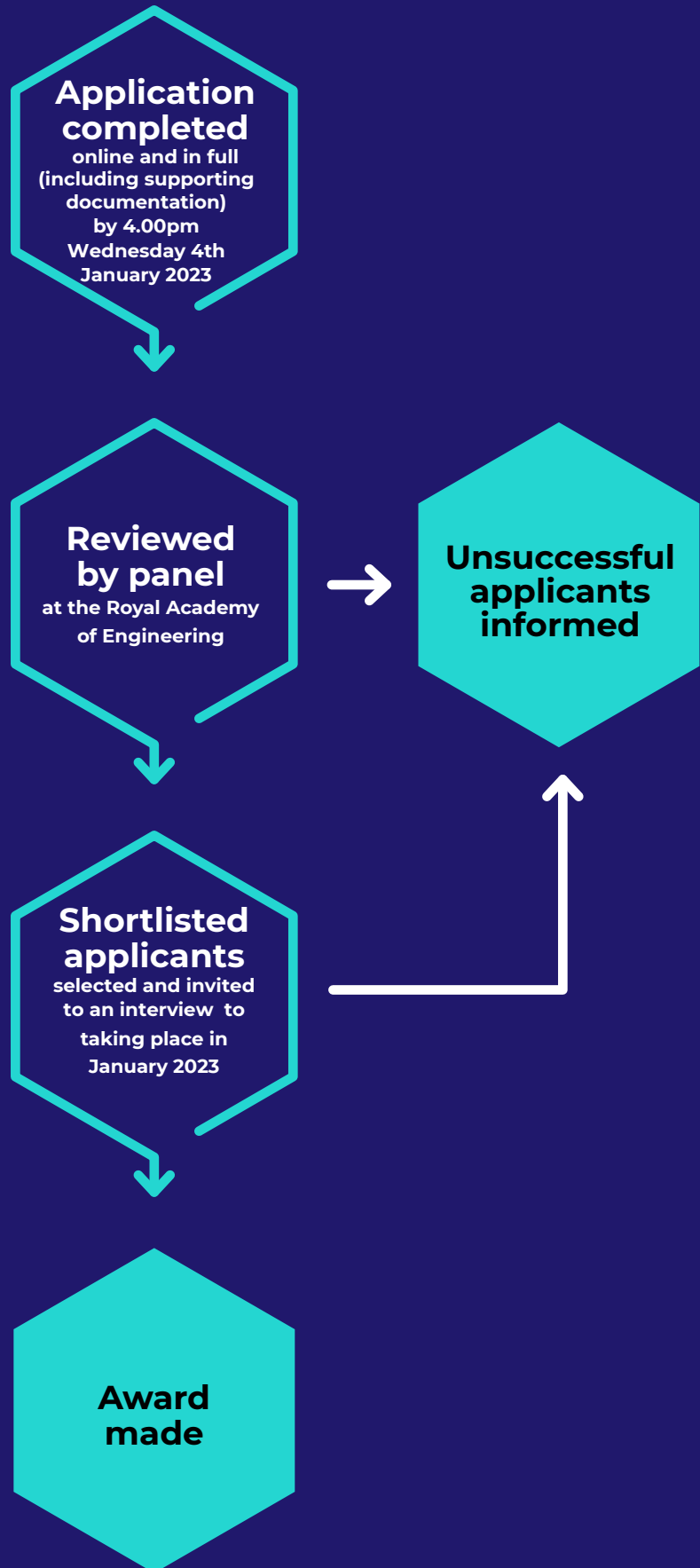
The application form has six sections and should take two to three hours to complete fully. You can save your progress at any time and come back to it later.

A summary of the guidance notes is embedded within the system itself, but the notes in this document are more detailed so we recommend you keep this document to hand when completing the form.

The main purpose of the application form is to identify whether you meet the eligibility criteria and the aims and objectives of the scheme.

You will have the option to download a PDF of your application after submission, which may be useful for future reference if you are invited to interview.

Application process

Application completed
online and in full
(including supporting
documentation)
by 4.00pm
Wednesday 4th
January 2023

**Reviewed
by panel**
at the Royal Academy
of Engineering

→ **Unsuccessful
applicants
informed**

**Shortlisted
applicants**
selected and invited
to an interview to
taking place in
January 2023

**Award
made**

What to expect in your application

All applications must be submitted via the GMS, available here: https://grants.raeng.org.uk

Once you access the application form as a registered user, it should autocomplete your name and contact details. You must ensure your email address and telephone number are recorded accurately, as the Royal Academy of Engineering will use this to contact you regarding your application. You must also provide an email address that will remain valid for the entire duration of your studies and after graduating. The following pages outline the questions you will be asked to answer and notes to explain what is expected from you in each.

Please note that you will also be required to upload documentation as proof of some of your answers before submitting your application.

Questions

First things first!
Personal Information

Q - Contact details
These are pulled from your registration. Check they are correct, and that your email address is the one which you can be contacted on (and that you will check) throughout your course and after graduating.

Q - Your school/FE college
Please enter the full, legal name of the sixth form or FE college in the box, and provide its location.

To be eligible to apply, your school or college **must** have been located in Northern Ireland.

Questions

Sections one and two
Eligibility and Education

These sections ensure you are eligible for the bursary, and ask you questions about your past studies and where you hope your future studies will lead you.

Eligibility

You will need to check a box to state that you usually reside in Northern Ireland and that you are not an international student (international students are are not eligible for the award.)

You must also be able to demonstrate <u>at least one</u> of the following:

- Continuous eligibility for free school meals since the start of your post-16 studies (you don't have to be claiming them, just eligible, and will need to upload a letter-headed statement from your place of study to demonstrate this)

- You are in receipt of any kind of funding - scholarship, bursary, grant - either from your university or the government, that was awarded based on your personal or household financial situation.

In addition, please tick any of the following that apply to you:

- You have spent time in, the local authority care system

- You are the first generation in your immediate family to attend university/ higher education

- You have not attended a fee-paying school at any time since the age of 11, (except where you received a scholarship.) There is also space to explain why you may have attended a fee-paying school, if necessary

Education
Q – AS, A levels and BTEC/OCR qualifications
Please list the A levels, BTECs, OCRs or other vocational qualifications you completed in 2022, include your grades.

If you also have AS levels in subjects you dropped after lower sixth please list the subjects and grades achieved. Please also list any existing OCR qualifications and grades.

Make sure that you clearly indicate what these are, ie. which are A Levels, which are BTECs, and so on.

Q - Which higher education institution and courses

Please provide details of the higher education institutions and courses you have enrolled on, and provide the course code. This needs to be engineering, or engineering-related subjects such as (but not limited to) computer science or physics. You will also need to upload proof of offer, which should ideally be your letter from UCAS confirming your place, and proof of enrolement, which will be a letter from the university.

Q - Does your course include an integrated foundation year?
If your course is a three-year degree course, please tick 'no'.

If your course is a four-year course with an integrated foundation year, please tick 'yes'. Please note that an integrated foundation year, is NOT a foundation degree.

Q - Where do you hope this qualification will lead you?
Here you need to describe, in up to 150 words, what plans you have after you finish your studies. You should be able to demonstrate an interest in engineering, and show an understanding of how your chosen course is relevant to engineering.

Questions

Section three

Longer answers - your passions and interests

This section will help the selection panel understand more about you as a person, your interest and passion for engineering, and how you want to use it to make a difference to the world around you. Each question has a word count of 250-300 words, so it is important that you think about your answers to these questions carefully and make the most of the word count. Consider drafting your answer somewhere else, giving you an opportunity to review and finalise it before submitting your answer on the GMS.

Q - Why should you be awarded a bursary?

This is your chance to sell yourself! Tell us a bit about yourself, your goals and ambitions, and how this bursary will help you to achieve them. What sets you apart from others who might apply, and what would you use the bursary for? We are also interested to hear about what has inspired you to choose your degree course.

Q - Tell us how you think engineering, computing and technology could be used in the future to address at least one of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Engineering is the practical application of science, technology and maths, and is crucial to solving some of the world's greatest threats and challenges. The UN has developed 17 SDGs that must be addressed to ensure a sustainable future for the world and its population. Review the list of SDGs at https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/# Choose at least one and tell us how you think engineering, computing and technology could be used achieve the goal and address the challenge(s) - don't be afraid to think outside the box!

Q - How have you used engineering outside of school or college?

We would like to understand how you have engaged with engineering outside of school or college. Tell us about a time when you used engineering to identify/solve a problem, and how you went about it. This is a chance to show your interest and explain how you relate engineering to your experience of solving a problem. You may not have used engineering to solve a problem specifically, but you may have improved, adapted, invented or been creative with something. **These are all characteristics of an engineer!**

Questions

Section four
Reference

You will need to provide a reference from one of your school, college or university tutors in support of your application. Please talk to them before applying, and get their permission to use them as a referee.

Referee details

Please write your referee's name once you have talked to them and have received their approval. Ideally they will let you have their work email address so that the Royal Academy of Engineering can contact them if needed but, if they do not want to share this with you, you will need the telephone number of your school/college/university.

Please upload your reference here

In this box, you need to upload the reference that has been provided for you. The reference must cover the following: attendance rate, academic capability, confirmation of A-levels, BTECs, OCRs or other vocational qualifications you are completed, and anything else they feel is relevant to your application.

Your reference **MUST** be signed and on official headed paper. If successful, we will contact your referee to confirm your reference before we can offer you a bursary.

Please note: If you have difficulty obtaining the reference, please submit your application anyway, but do provide the contact details of the person you plan to approach. The reference would then need to be received at a later date before we can finalise the award.

Section five
Check your submission

In this final section you need to confirm that all information provided in the application is completely accurate at the time of submitting it. You must also confirm that you have got permission from anyone whose contact details you have included, or who has provided any evidence you have uploaded.
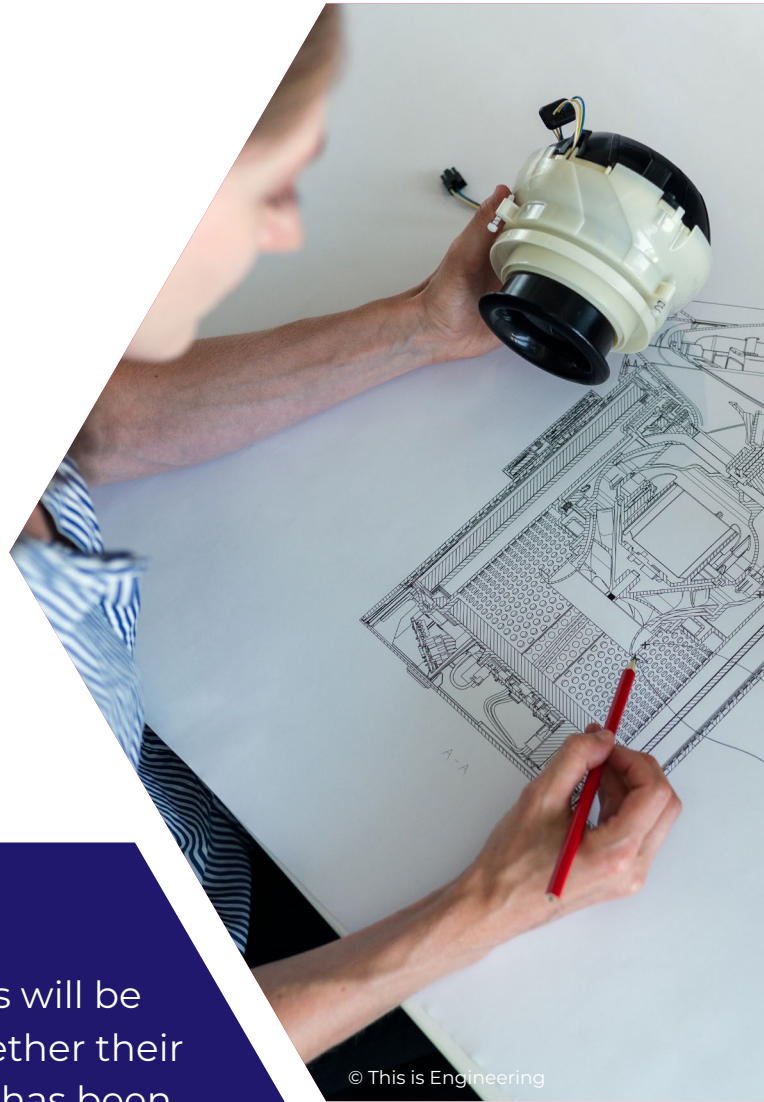
The Royal Academy of Engineering will undertake checks as appropriate, and that any false information will disqualify you from receiving the bursary.

Good luck!

Application timeline

Applications will be submitted electronically on the Academy's GMS, and then reviewed and assessed by a selection panel comprising partners and Fellows of the Royal Academy Engineering.

Application deadline
4.00pm on
Wednesday 4th January 2023

Applicants will be notified whether their application has been shortlisted **in early January**

If shortlisted, you must be available to attend an online interview held **late January**

Applicants will be informed of the Royal Academy of Engineering's decision **in early February**

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Contact
If you have any questions about your eligibility, the programme, or problems with your application, please contact
bronagh.ward@raeng.org.uk

What is the Northern Ireland Engineering Education Programme?

These higher education bursaries are part of the wider Northern Ireland Engineering Education Programme, which is a one-year pilot programme being delivered by the Royal Academy of Engineering, and developed in partnership with the Department for the Economy in Northern Ireland.

There is a well-documented STEM skills shortage in Northern Ireland, and a major contributing factor to this is a significant gender imbalance across the STEM skills pipeline. With this in mind, the Programme is working to encourage more young people, especially young women and those from socially disadvantaged backgrounds and other under-represented groups to progress towards engineering technicians and professional engineering roles in industry.

In order to achieve this, the Programme has established a network of primary and secondary schools and FE colleges across Northern Ireland, who are supported by local engineering industries. Young people are provided with opportunities to experience engineering first-hand, sparking interest in the subject, and are later supported through further and higher education. Teaching staff also benefit from peer-to-peer support and CPD opportunities to increase their own levels of knowledge and confidence to deliver an engaging STEM curriculum.

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.

What we do

Talent & 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 & 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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