



Royal Academy
of Engineering

Leaders in Innovation[®]
Fellowships

LIF Global 2026

Application Guidance Notes

Stage 1: Eligibility Check

Applications open 14 August, 2025, 2PM BST

Applications close 11 September, 2025, 2PM BST

Stage 2: Application Form

Applications open 14 August, 2PM BST

Applications close 16 October, 2025, 2PM BST

All questions to be sent to

info-lif@lif.raeng.org.uk

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About the Academy

The [Royal Academy of Engineering](#) creates and leads a community of outstanding experts and innovators to engineer better lives. As a charity and a Fellowship, we deliver public benefit from excellence in engineering and technology and convene leading businesspeople, entrepreneurs, innovators and academics across engineering and technology. As a National Academy, we provide leadership for engineering and technology, and independent, expert advice to policymakers in the UK and beyond.

The world is changing rapidly, with economies, supply chains and security critically dependent on engineering capability. Engineers are uniquely placed to respond to that change and innovate solutions to the challenges it presents.

We have three goals:

Sustainable and Innovative Economy, where sustainability drivers, innovative industries and resilient infrastructures are aligned to drive growth and productivity that will support better lives for all.

Technology Improving Lives, where technology in all its forms is used to meet the most important human needs, avoid harm, support fairer societies and break down barriers to opportunity.

Engineering Community Fit for the Future, where our community reflects society in its diversity, commits to creating inclusive cultures to help drive engineering excellence, and has the skills to meet future needs safely, securely and ethically, and to keep pace with innovation.

Introduction to LIF Global

Leaders in Innovation Fellowships (LIF) Global is funded by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology.

LIF Global a bespoke, individual programme of relationship-building and business growth activities. This programme is open to innovators who are developing a business proposition for their innovation.



LIF Global brings together a cohort of innovators within emerging economies across the world and provides them with training, mentoring and networking opportunities, both internationally and in the UK.

Objectives

1. Increased business starts, survival and performance
2. New and high value jobs created
3. Greater adoption of engineering innovation which addresses social, environmental, and economic challenges
4. Improved local ecosystems to support entrepreneurship and innovation
5. Increased collaboration between businesses and research institutions which will support commercialisation
6. Enhanced connection of the most promising global innovation talent to the UK

Programme Structure

LIF Global has three pillars:

Individual needs analysis and goal setting

LIF Global is bespoke to each participant's needs, supporting each individual to identify pathways to commercial development. Participants will work with their mentors and trainers to define their goals and action plan.

Ecosystem integration

Participants will expand and diversify their networks within the academic and private sectors, creating deeper connections to their local economy. Participants will build new local and international collaborations, contributing to their ecosystem.

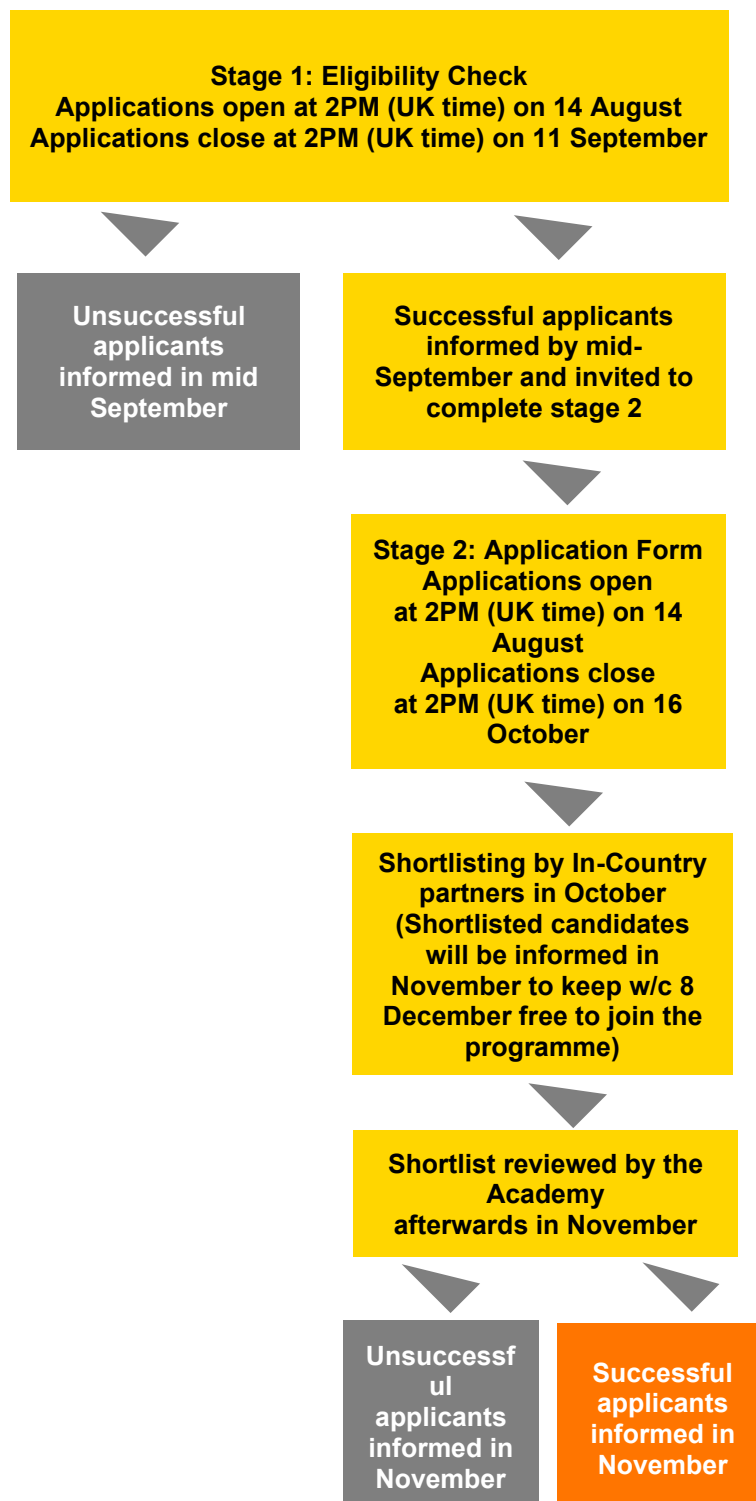
Cohort formation and streaming

The emphasis in LIF Global is on the formation of a strong cohort. Participants benefit from relationships and shared experiences with their LIF peers.

Application Timelines

LIF Global 2026 applications consist of two stages. Stage 1- eligibility checks and stage 2 application. Applications will open on 14 August 2025. Applicants are encouraged to apply as early as possible. Applicants who successfully pass the Stage 1 Eligibility Check will be invited to complete the Stage 2 Application Form immediately.

The application and selection processes are outlined as follows:



Application Process- Stage one- Eligibility Check

In this short application form you are asked to give us a brief outline of your background, personal details, your innovation and its impacts. This stage is about 200 words long, with some tick boxes and drop-down lists to select from. It is designed to be quick and easy to complete.

This stage does not assess how good the idea is, but whether you and the innovation are suitable for our programme. It will be considered by Academy staff, so please write for someone who is not an expert and avoid technical jargon.

Application Process- Stage two- Application Form

This part of the application is more detailed and will consider your motivation as an entrepreneur, the credibility and novelty of your innovation, and the potential of your business. You will need to provide information about yourself, the technology and the business model. This part of the application will be reviewed by our in-country partner and a panel of experts.

Eligibility Criteria

Specific eligibility criteria are as follows:

- Applicants must be a citizen or resident of **Brazil, India, Jordan, the Philippines, or Vietnam**. Candidates must be in these countries during the time of the programme (December 2025 to July 2026), except during the UK residential in July 2026.
**For Filipino applicants: if you are attending the LIF Launchpad Philippines programme this year, you are ineligible to apply for LIF Global 2026.*
- The innovation must be at technology readiness level 4 (TRL 4) or above. Evidence of a prototype must be provided in the application. To learn more about technology readiness levels, please see the link below:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/18EDZfgc8-vitBY7LAWfhBUwop-A_XunB/view
- The applicant's innovation can be any new product, technology or service 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.

Applicants do not need to have an engineering degree to apply.

- **Candidates must be the original innovator.** If applicants already have a company, they must own shares in the company created. However, having a company is NOT a requirement at the time of the application.
- The innovation should have the potential to benefit the applicant's country, and/or other low and middle income countries, in terms of improving social welfare and driving economic development, and they should contribute one or more of the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#).
- The primary application of the innovation must NOT be in the defence, military, or fossil fuel-based energy sectors.
- **LIF alumni can't apply to LIF Global.** They can, however, apply to [Advance](#) provided their technology are aligned with the programme's thematic areas.
- **Candidates can't apply with an innovation/business that has been supported by LIF before** (LIF 1 to 7, LIF Global 2022, LIF Global 2023, LIF Global 2024, LIF Global 2025).
- **Only one candidate per founding team can attend the programme.**

If multiple individuals from the same team apply for the programme, they must collaborate on one single application. They will need to nominate a single representative to participate in the programme.

Separate applications from the same research team — even if for different projects or innovations — will still be considered ineligible. **LIF Global supports a team only.**

- **Applicants must be able to commit to LIF Global for**
 - **a minimum of 4 hours in the w/c 8 December** for the onboarding
 - **a minimum of 20 days for training and mentoring** between January and July 2026, including
 - **4 days for the in-person training in their country** (between January and March 2026),
 - **a minimum of 14 days for the UK Residential** in July 2026.

This implies being able to secure permission from all relevant employers to attend the programme if selected. It also means making required arrangements for personal commitments. The Academy will provide relevant documents if required.

- **Applicants must be able to commit to travel internationally.** All costs associated with the LIF Global programme will be paid by the Royal Academy of Engineering, with the exception of visas and travel insurance¹. The Academy will consider covering the costs of any caring needs related to travel on a case-by-case basis.
- Applicants will not need to cover any costs associated with the training programme in the UK.
- **Candidates will need to demonstrate fluency/proficiency in English** to participate. This will be a key assessment metric. Make sure to write applications and upload materials fully in English; otherwise your application will not be considered. Please ensure that all parts of the application are completed by you personally. Please note that the whole programme, including mentoring and training at various phases, will be conducted entirely in English.
- **Applicants must be committed to [Academy goals](#) around sustainable development and responsible innovation.**
- Applicants must have a strong commitment to commercialising the innovation they are working on. Though previous experience of commercialisation or involvement with technology transfer is not required, this criterion is essential to successfully completing the programme, and will be a key assessment metric.

¹ Please contact the LIF team at the Academy if assuming the cost of visas and travel insurance would prevent you from taking part in LIF Global.

Diversity & Inclusion

The Royal Academy of Engineering is committed to diversity and inclusion and welcomes applications from all under-represented groups in innovation.

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

LIF Global welcomes applications from everyone who meets the eligibility criteria, and particularly encourages women to apply.

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, nonattributable 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.

If you are successful, we would like to support you to achieve a balance between your personal and programme demands. We are happy to discuss individual requirements and consider flexible arrangements.

How to Apply

All applications must be submitted via the online Grant Management System (GMS), available here: <https://grants.raeng.org.uk/>

Account Creation

Applicants must register through the system before applying. Once you have **created** your account, you will automatically be sent a **verification email**. Please use the link to **verify your account**. Once verified, please log in to the [GMS](#) to activate the account.

If you have applied to an Academy programme before, you may already have a GMS account. Please use your existing GMS account if possible or follow the instructions on the [Login Page](#) if you cannot remember your username or password.

Application

After logging in to GMS, please select **LIF Global 2026 Stage 1**. **If you have successfully passed the first stage, you will be invited to complete LIF Global 2026 Stage 2.**

On the Instructions screen, you will see some general instructions on how to use the system as well as the two sections of the Stage 1 application form, and six sections of the Stage 2 form.

Don't forget to save your work!

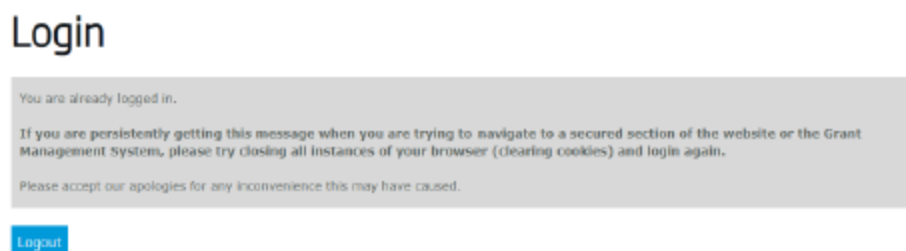
At any stage in the process, you can save your work and return to it later. The system will automatically save your work when you change pages, but we recommend that you also save your work manually to avoid loss of data.

You can answer the questions in any order, so you may skip sections and return to them later if you wish. You may prefer to compose your answers offline and copy and paste them into the form.

To submit your application, all sections and all required questions must be completed. Once you have completed all sections and required questions, a 'Submit Application' button will become available at the bottom of the summary page.

Troubleshooting

If you try logging in and the GMS displays the message below, please try clearing your cookies and browser history, closing the window, and opening the page again in a new window.



Alternatively, you can try using a different browser or opening your application in an incognito window.

If you are still having issues after trying the above steps to resolve the problem, please contact [the LIF team](#).

Completion

Please note that even if your application shows as 100% complete, it is not considered submitted until you click the '**Submit**' button. You will receive a confirmation email once your application has been successfully submitted. If you do not receive this email, it means that your application has not been submitted.

Support

We want to ensure all applicants can participate and present their best selves during the application process. Please let us know if you are experiencing any barriers as part of the application process so that it is comfortable for you.

Contact us at info-lif@lif.raeng.org.uk so we can identify how best to support you throughout your application.

Stage 1: Eligibility Check

1. Applicant Details

	Question	Information
1.1	How did you hear about the LIF Global programme?	<p>Please choose the source of your information from the following options: Royal Academy of Engineering, In-country partner, Alumni, or Other. If you select "Other," please provide additional details. (50 words max)</p> <p>This is for information only and will not affect your current application.</p>
1.2	Please select your country	<p>Please note that applicants must be citizens of, or have full residential status in, one of the countries listed below. If you are not a citizen or resident of one of the following countries, your application can not be considered for LIF Global 2026: Brazil, India, Jordan, the Philippines, Vietnam.</p> <p>For Filipino innovators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are you currently attending the LIF Launchpad Philippines? If so, you are ineligible to apply for LIF Global 2026.
1.3	Will you be staying in the country that you selected during the whole length of the programme? (Yes/No)	<p>Check this box if you will be staying in the country where you selected during December 2025 to July 2026, except during the UK residential in July 2026.</p> <p>Applicants who will be residing in another country will be ineligible to participate.</p>
1.4	If you are selected, are you able to commit to the programme for the required amount of time? (Yes/ No)	<p>Check this box if you are able to commit to the required time period and can commit to travel internationally.</p> <p>Applicants must be able to commit to LIF Global for a minimum of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 hours in the week of 8 December 2025,

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 days between January and July 2026, including 4 days between January and March (excluding travel) and 14 days in July 2026. <p>This implies being able to secure permission from all relevant employers to attend the programme if selected. The Academy will provide documentation on LIF counting as training or continuous personal development if required once you have joined the cohort.</p> <p>Failure to commit will result in your immediate removal from the programme.</p>
1.5	Have you been on the LIF programme before? (Yes/No)	<p>Please state whether you have been selected to be part of any of the LIF programme (LIF 1-7 or LIF Global 2022-2025) in the past.</p> <p>Please note that LIF alumni can't apply for LIF Global 2026. They can, however, apply to Advance provided their technology are aligned with the programme's thematic areas.</p>
1.6	Has your innovation or business been on the LIF programme before? (Yes/No)	<p>Please indicate whether the innovation or business you are applying with has been supported through LIF (LIF 1-7 or LIF Global 2022-2025). Please note that LIF Global supports businesses or innovation only once; but you may be eligible for Advance provided your technology are aligned with the programme's thematic areas.</p>
1.7	Is anyone else applying to LIF Global 2026 with the same technology? (Yes/No)	<p>Please note that a business or technology can only be represented by one person on the programme and co-founders can't both apply.</p>
1.8	As part of the commercialisation process, is anyone else from your research team applying to LIF Global 2026? (Yes/No)	<p>Please note that a research project/prototype can only be represented by one person and co-researchers can't submit separate applications.</p>
1.9	English language skills	<p>Please indicate what your English language skill level is: beginner, intermediate, advanced or fluent/proficient. Click on the following link for some guidance on language levels: The-six-English-language-proficiency-levels-and-their-general-description-Council-of.png - Google Drive.</p>

		<p>It is important that you answer 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.</p> <p>If you have selected Beginner or Intermediate you are ineligible for this programme.</p>
1.10	Your Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) details (Yes/No)	<p>Have you completed the EDI form? Access the form via the link: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/Xkdrn5Ya4j</p> <p>The LIF team uses this form for research purposes to better understand the diversity of LIF Global applicants. Your responses will help shape a more inclusive programme for innovators from all backgrounds.</p> <p>Your responses are anonymous, will not be seen by reviewers and are not linked to your application.</p>

2. Your Innovation- to be filled in English

2.1	One-line pitch (50 words max)	<p>Please provide a one-line pitch for your business. This is a written response; Please do not submit a video link.</p> <p>Use the following questions as a prompt:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -What is it? -Who is it for? -How will it change the world?
2.2	Are you the author of the innovation? (Yes/No)	Candidates must be the originator/owner of the technology.
2.3	Technology Readiness Level	Please enter the technology readiness level (TRL) number that best describes your innovation at your current stage. Guidance on TRL levels is available here . The innovation must be at TRL 4 or above.
2.4	How does your innovation promote social welfare	Please note that innovations that do not promote social welfare development and/ or economic development are ineligible.

	development and/or economic development in your country? Please provide a detailed answer (150 words max)	<p>You may wish to cover the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the problem that you are addressing, what is its scale and/or urgency? • Who are the key beneficiaries of your solution? Are these populations located in your country, or are they in low-and-middle income countries at large? • In what ways will your innovation contribute to the economic development, social or environment responsibility? • Are there any evidence or assumptions that can support these claims of impact?
2.5	Does your innovation have defence or military applications?	<p>Please select Yes or No. If you select 'Yes', please provide additional details. (150 words max)</p> <p>Please note that the primary application of the innovation MUST NOT be in the defence, military, or fossil fuel-based energy sectors.</p>
2.6	Primary SDG	Please select from the drop-down list the main UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) your innovation is contributing towards achieving.

Stage 2: Full Application

1. Applicant Details- to be filled in English

	Question	Information
1.1	Innovation summary (300 words maximum)	<p>Please give an overview of the product or service you have developed. 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. You may wish to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What problem are you trying to solve? Who experiences this problem? • What is your solution to this problem? What does it offer (product, service, etc) and how does it work? • Why is it effective? • What impacts has it had so far, or what impact do you expect it to achieve?
1.2	Preferred name	<p>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 and ensure it is spelt correctly.</p> <p><i>For Example: Dr Michaela Jones</i></p>
1.3	Please select your country	<p>Please note that applicants must be citizens of, or have full residential status in, one of the countries listed below. If you are not a citizen or resident of one of the following countries, your application can not be considered for LIF Global 2026: Brazil, India, Jordan, the Philippines, Vietnam.</p>
1.4	Have you had previous entrepreneurship training? (Yes/No)	<p>Please tell us your past entrepreneurship training experience.</p> <p>If you select Yes, please specify the programme and briefly describes what it offers. This is to ensure that our programme adds value to your entrepreneurship journey.</p>

		<p>If you have participated in a similar entry-level accelerator programme, we highly recommend you applying to an accelerator that supports scale-up stage businesses.</p> <p>If your technology falls within the field of assistive technology, you may wish to consider applying for Advance 2026.</p>
1.5	Are you currently onboarded on an entrepreneurship programme or planning to join one other than LIF Global 2026 in the next 6 months? (Yes/No)	Please share your current experience with or your future plans in entrepreneurship training. If you select Yes, please specify the name and duration of the programme, as well as its required time commitment.
1.6	English language skills	<p>If you have previously taken any English exam, such as IELTS, TOEFL, PTE, or an equivalent test, please upload your results using the link below.</p> <p>Alternatively, if you are receiving or have received education in an English-taught university or programme, please provide relevant certificates.</p> <p>This is not a mandatory requirement and candidates who haven't taken the exam will not be penalised.</p>

2. Experience and Motivation- to be filled in English

	Question	Information
2.1	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.
2.2	Why are you/do you want to become an entrepreneur? (200 Words maximum)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What draws you to starting or leading a company? - Why is now the right time for you to participate in an entrepreneurship training? - What inspired this path? - How do you see yourself growing through your startup experience?

		Please explain your motivation for pursuing entrepreneurship or focusing on the commercialisation of your innovation.
2.3	Why are you applying to the LIF Global programme? (200 word maximum)	- What do you want to get out of the programme? - How do you hope the programme will help you achieve your goals?
2.4	What are your priorities for development in the next 6-12 months? (100 words)	Please elaborate on any important business or professional milestones you want to achieve.
2.5	What kind of impact or legacy would you like your career to leave behind? (150 words)	This can be related to impact, leadership, or contribution to your community, your country or low-and-middle-income countries at large.

3. Innovation – to be filled in English

	Question	Information
3.1	Due diligence	Please provide names and contact details of all originators/collaborators who have been involved in the development of the innovation. Failure to do so could lead to immediate removal from the programme. You are responsible for ensuring the details provided for each team member are correct, including the email address, to ensure that we are able to reach them for any corroboration.
3.2	Innovation/business title (50 words maximum)	Please provide the name(s) for your innovation and/or business or project. If they are different, please specify both names.
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.
3.4	Technology behind your innovation (200 words maximum)	Describe the technology or innovation that underpins the proposed business, its status, any risks, and the development required.

3.5	What makes your innovation stand out? (200 maximum)	<p>Describe the unique strengths of your innovation. Please address each of the items below, as overlooking them may penalise your application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does your innovation compare to others currently available? Is it/ Will it be more effective, more efficient, more accurate, scalable, more user-oriented, or beyond? • Why is your technology particularly suited to solving the problem? • What evidence or feedback supports its value (if applicable)? <p>Please provide relevant statistics if applicable.</p>
3.6	Challenging areas about your innovation (200 words maximum)	What are some of the challenges you are facing or / and have faced with your innovation, and how do you solve them?
3.7	Material about your innovation	<p>Please upload or link to any documents that further describe your innovation or demonstrate how it works.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical videos, schematics, and diagrams that show how your innovation works. • Short videos or pictures that show your innovation in action.
3.8	Website, social media, LinkedIn	<p>If you have a website and/or social media page for your business and/or innovation, please provide the link(s). Please only provide links to active business accounts. Do not provide links to personal accounts or inactive pages.</p>
3.9	How have you considered diversity and inclusion in the project or activity design? (400 words maximum)	<p>In line with the UK Government's Gender Equality in Research and Innovation Policy, and the Academy's value of Equity Diversity and Inclusion all successful applications to this scheme must demonstrate consideration of the activities on gender and all other protected and unprotected characteristics. All funded activities will, and at a minimum, ensure that no harm is done to gender equity.</p> <p>To this end, please outline any specific equity, diversity and inclusion considerations and implications for your proposed project. This could include any measures you have put in place to ensure equal opportunities, any expected impacts on people of different genders, or any</p>

		outcomes or outputs that you will measure disaggregated by characteristic.
3.10	<p>Please upload a 2-minute video of yourself presenting the following in English:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -What your solution is, and who it is for, -What is the unique value proposition, -And what is the potential commercial value and social impact for this technology 	<p>Please upload a 2-minute video (or provide a document containing a link to a YouTube or similar video) produced in support of your application. Please make sure to record the video in English yourself (no voice over). We would recommend that this be 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.</p> <p>Do not submit overly long videos or they will be rejected, it should be short and concise.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Please make sure that ONLY the applicant is speaking English in the video.</p>

4. Business Potential – to be filled in English with all amounts in GBP

	Question	Information
4.1	Organisation/Company type	From the drop-down list, please select the type of organisation that best fits your business.
4.2	Your role in the company (if applicable) and responsibilities	<p>Role: What is your position or title within the team or company? (E.g., CEO, CTO, COO, Managing director)</p> <p>Responsibilities: what areas do you lead or manage?</p>
4.3	Current team details	Please give details of yourself and any other key team members who are currently working with you on your innovation. Please ensure that the different percentages of equity entered in the table adds up to 100%. Guidance on equity is available here .

4.4	Employees	Please tell us how many full-time and paid employees are currently working for your business. If none, put 0.
4.5	Other employees	Please tell us how many others, including part-time staff, volunteers, or consultants , are working in your business. If none, please put 0.
4.6	How much funding have you raised for your business/innovation to date? (All amounts in GBP)	<p>Please enter the amount of funding raised in each of following categories to date in GBP. If none, put 0.</p> <p>If you have already raised private investment (not grants) over £500,000, we strongly recommend you applying to an accelerator that supports scale-up stage businesses.</p> <p>If your technology falls within the field of assistive technology, you may wish to consider applying for Advance 2026.</p> <p>Converter: https://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal savings/Family & friends • Academic grants • Other grants or awards (from governments, corporates, foundations, etc.) • Angel investors • Business incubators and accelerators • Crowdfunding • Venture Capital funds • Bank loans • Other
4.7	Revenue	Please enter the amount of revenue that you have had in 2025, and the expected amount for 2026.
4.8	Intellectual property	<p>Please tick all those that you have been granted or completed for your innovation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National patent • International patent • Licensing • Copyright • Know-how • No intellectual property protection in place

4.9	Intellectual property (continued)	<p>Please tick all those that you have applied for but not yet been granted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National patent • International patent • Licensing • Copyright • Know-how
4.10	What is your business model? (200 words max)	<p>Please outline your business model, addressing each of the aspects below if you can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model: licensing/customers/government/ social enterprise, etc • Main revenues • Cost structures • Why it succeeds or why you think it will succeed.
4.11	Market opportunity (200 words)	<p>Please describe each of the items below, as overlooking them may penalise your application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the market size of your innovation? • What key trends (technological, regulatory, behavioural, risks, etc.) are happening in this industry that can support your innovation? • How does your innovation fit within this market? • Any opportunity to scale
4.12	Competitors analysis (150 words max)	<p>Please describe each of the items below, as overlooking them may penalise your application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who are your main competitors? What specific problems are they addressing? • what do you know or understand that your competitors don't? • What value do you offer that your competitors don't?
4.13	Customers, customer engagement (200 words max)	<p>Please describe each of the items below, as overlooking them may penalise your application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who your customers or your users are? Please be specific. • Your preferred route to market • What channels (platforms, partnerships, etc) are you using or plan to use? • Any details on customer research you have done (if applicable)

4.14	Major risks (100 words max)	Please identify any major risks or challenges you are likely to face within the next 2 – 5 years, and any steps you will take to mitigate or overcome these.
4.15	What do you feel you most need help with to progress your business? (100 words max)	For example, finance, technology appraisal, mentoring, coaching, fund raising, building a team, connections, partnership, etc.

5. Declaration

Question	Information
Applicant declaration	<p>Please declare that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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 Fellowships Programme and reporting. • Confirm that you have permission from all relevant employers to attend the programme if selected to participate and that completion of the programme will depend on satisfactory attendance and participation in sessions and activities. If selected, you must be able to commit to LIF Global for a minimum of 4 hours the week of 8 December 2025, and at least 20 days for training and mentoring between January and July 2026, including 4 days (excluding travel) between January and March 2026 and a minimum of 14 days for the UK Residential in July 2026. This implies being able to secure permission from all relevant employers to attend the programme if selected; The Academy will provide documentation on LIF counting as training or continuous personal development if required once you have joined the cohort. • You have read, understood and agree to the Royal Academy of Engineering's Privacy Notice

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have the permission of any person or persons that you have included contact details for, to share their details with the Royal Academy of Engineering for the purposes of administering this application. <p>All participants in the programme will join a global network of innovators and technology entrepreneurs. 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.</p>
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6. Accessibility and Marketing

The answers you provide in this section will help the LIF team adjust to your needs before the programme and market the programme in the future. Please note that any answers you provide in this section **will not** impact your application.

	Question	Information
6.1	Do you have stable internet access during the remote training and mentoring phase of the programme? (December 2025 to June 2026)	<p>Please select 'Yes' or 'No' from the following list. Please select 'Yes' or 'No' from the following checkbox list. If you select 'No', please propose a few ways we could support you. This is for information only and will not affect your current application.</p> <p>The LIF team will support applicants where possible to ensure an unstable internet connection does not become a barrier to participation in the programme.</p>
6.2	Have you applied to the LIF programme before? (Yes/No)	<p>Please select 'Yes' or 'No' from the following list. If you select 'Yes', please specify when and briefly describe how your business/innovation has progressed since you applied last time (100 words).</p> <p>This is for information only and will not affect your current application.</p>
6.3	Have you applied to or participated in any other Academy programmes (excluding	Please list any other Royal Academy of Engineering programmes you have applied to or participated in, or any other previous involvement you've had with the Academy.

	<p>LIF)? (100 words max)</p>	<p>There is no need to include your involvement with LIF. This is for information only and will not affect your current application.</p>
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Annex I: Tips to Enhance Your Application

The LIF team has conducted a thorough review of reviewers' feedback for unsuccessful applications, and have identified several recurring areas where applications commonly fell short. Based on these insights, we have summarised key strategies to help prospective applicants to enhance their future submissions.

- **Include enough detail within your video:**

Please ensure your video includes adequate detail about your innovation— a video submission under one minute is, in general, not sufficient. Please provide sufficient details on how your innovation works. You can include videos or supporting documents to explain the scientific or empirical foundations of your technology, if needed.

- **Follow our English language requirement**

The person speaking in the video must be the applicant, and must be speaking in English throughout their video submission.

- **Explain your technology's novelty**

Explain why your technology is novel. For example: How does it adapt available technologies? Are you using new materials? What innovative features does it have? How does it respond to unique local needs?

We understand that applicants may feel hesitant about sharing information during this process. Please be assured that for LIF Global applications, the RAEng review process is strictly confidential. All reviewers are bound by confidentiality, and are prohibited from disclosing or using any intellectual property or proprietary information contained in your application.

- **Analyse the market**

Include key information about the market you're entering within your submission. What specific market need does your solution address? What gaps and opportunities exist in the current market? How large is the potential market opportunity? What is your solution's unique value proposition in meeting this demand?

- **Profile your customers**

Who are your target audience for this technology? If you have done any customer research, please elaborate upon this. How do you plan to reach your customers or users? What channels will you use to get potential customers interested in your product?

- **Outline your business model**

Explain how you plan to generate revenue, including any partnerships you intend to establish. Outline your expected operating costs and potential constraints. Describe your business model, and how it may function within the context of your community or country. If

you have already sold your products, please provide relevant information such as sales figures.

- **Provide a competitive analysis and unique value proposition**

Consider the alternatives to your technology in the market- who are your competitors, and how is your solution better? What are the unique benefits of your innovation? In what ways does your technology stand out among major competitors? If you already have customers or users who have tested your technology, please provide their feedback as evidence to the effectiveness or efficiency of your technology.

- **Provide statistics**

Numbers can help to tell a story. Numbers can also help evaluators to quickly grasp your technology's value and potential. Where possible, include relevant statistics and provide an understanding of why they are important/relevant. For example, instead of saying 'our product is very fast', say 'our technology is 25 times faster at doing computational calculations, reducing processing time from 10 minutes to 1 minute.'

- **Team**

Highlight your team's strengths and relevant experience in the field, focusing on the complementary skills that make your team effective, rather than simply listing their credentials.

- **Applicant's position in the company**

The applicant should hold decision-making power, through a shareholding or managing position in the company if you already have a company, rather than simply being an employee. This is to ensure that supported businesses fully benefit from the programme, and are able to implement changes to the business based on the knowledge gained.

- **Ensure past experience aligns with the programme:**

If you have already been involved in similar accelerator programmes, and are at the scaling phase, you may have already exceeded the scope and focus of the LIF Global programme. As a reminder, this programme prioritises early-stage innovation, and the development of an entrepreneurial mindset for those looking to commercialise their innovation. If you are over TRL 7, we encourage you to apply for [Advance](#) instead.

Please note that neither LIF Global nor Advance offer funding as part of their programme; please consider this before your application, and only proceed if you understand, and are comfortable, with this decision.

Annex II: LIF Global 2026 Activity

Up to 50 applicants will be selected to join LIF Global 2026. The cohort will receive a package of training, mentoring, and networking opportunities to support their growth as entrepreneurs. The programme will run from **December 2025** and to **July 2026**. The programme is broken down into four phases:

Phase	Main Goals
Phase 1: Online Training and Mentoring December 2025 to end June 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome to the programme • Thinking like an entrepreneur • Cohort building • Customer understanding
Phase 2: In-Country Events January – March 2026 (exact dates will vary by country)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create connections with other LIFers, country alumni and in-country ecosystems • Increase knowledge of growth and scaling • Improve pitching and communication
Phase 3: UK Residential July 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel to the UK for a two-week residential • Participate in a group and individualised stream of meetings, training, and networking events • Immerse in the UK entrepreneurial ecosystem
Post-programme support July – September 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect with in-country ecosystems for increased opportunities at home • Access a series of networking, capacity strengthening options delivered by the Academy's in-country partners • Join the LIF Innovators Community • Engage with LIF Alumni Country Chapters to tap into your support networks

Annex III: Academy Policies

Use of Generative AI Tools

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 utilised.

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.

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](#).

FAQs

Q: What is the review process for LIF Global applications?

A: Applicants must first fill a short eligibility checks form (Stage 1); if they are eligible, they will be invited to fill the full application form (Stage 2).

Stage 1 will be considered by Academy staff. Applicants who progress to Stage 2 are then shortlisted by a team of experts selected by the in-country partner in the applicant's country. Shortlisted applications will go to a Selection panel, who will perform an in-depth review into the application, including reviewing the innovation, business and reasons for wanting to participate in LIF Global.

The Selection Panel will consider:

- Adherence to all entry and eligibility requirements
- The potential socio-economic benefit of the innovation
- The benefit that LIF Global could provide for the applicant, their business and/or their team.

Q: If I am accepted on to LIF Global, will I need to travel?

A: Phase 2 and 3 of the LIF Global may require regional or national or international travel to attend some in-person training, and follow-on in-country events.

Phase 3 of the programme is the UK residential programme, which will take place in the UK. The Academy will consider covering the costs of any caring needs related to travel on a case-by-case basis.

The LIF Team appreciates the importance of meeting in-person, and the benefits that come with in-person networking and relationship-building opportunities. Our primary goal is to find a way to provide an in-person experience for all participants on the LIF Global programme.

Our residential programme would take place in the UK so that participants can take advantage of proximity to the UK tech ecosystem to build connections and develop networks.

If we cannot run the residential in the UK, we will look to run an in-person event or series of events outside of the UK, bringing together smaller sections of the cohort depending on the cohort's geographical locations.

If no in-person events can take place, we will deliver the residential online.

Q: What is the cost to participate in LIF Global?

A: There is no fee or tuition for the LIF Global programme.

All travel costs related to the programme will be covered by the Academy, **with the exception** of visas and travel insurance which participants must organise and cover independently.

If the cost of obtaining a visa and arranging travel insurance would prevent you from taking part in the programme, please contact the LIF Team on info-lif@lif.raeng.org.uk.

Q: What is the Academy's policy around sustainable travel?

A: The Academy acknowledges its responsibility and commitment to minimising the impact of its activities on the environment as an intrinsic part of its ambition to harness the power of engineering to build a sustainable society and inclusive economy that works for everyone.

All participant flights will be carbon-offset at no cost to the participant.

Q: My internet is sometimes unstable. Can I still participate in the LIF Global programme if it is delivered virtually?

A: The LIF team will support applicants where possible to ensure an unstable internet connection does not become a barrier to participation in the programme. If you think you will have a problem connecting to the online training programme, please let us know by contacting info-lif@lif.raeng.org.uk.

Q: I was unsuccessful last year. Can I apply again?

A: You may submit a new application every year, provided your innovation meets the general eligibility criteria for LIF Global.

Q: I have multiple products or innovations. Can I apply more than once?

A: No. Applicants may only submit one application per LIF round.

Key Information

This section sets out the key information and guidelines under which the LIF Global programme is being offered. Please ensure you fully understand the eligibility criteria and have read this document in full before applying.

General

The LIF Global programme is run by the Royal Academy of Engineering. The Academy is a not-for-profit entity and takes no stake in any business or innovation accepted onto the programme.

The Selection Panel has been convened by the Academy solely for the purpose of selecting participants for the LIF Global programme and will make the final decision.

Applications

By applying for the programme, applicants will be deemed to have reviewed and agreed to the present information. Successful applicants will need to sign a code of conduct to accept their place; non-abiding innovators will be removed from the programme. An example of code of conduct can be found on the LIF Global [application page](#).

Any applications that are incomplete, late, do not adhere to the guidelines or contain false information will be rejected.

By applying to be considered for selection on to the programme, applicants warrant that all information submitted is true, current, and complete. The Selection Panel reserves the right to verify the eligibility of all entrants and the veracity of all statements made.

Letter of Offer

If you are successful and agree to join the programme, you will need to sign a Letter of Offer (non-grant agreement).

This agreement has been developed to ensure your project 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 reporting best practice.

The Academy Values promote a positive and safe environment for all. The Expected Standards of Behaviour in the agreement offers a single overview of the expectations on all people working with the Academy or attending Academy events including awardees, prize holders and programme participants.

Publicity and further activities

All LIF Global participants will be expected to participate in promotional activities where appropriate.

Liability

Protection of any intellectual property rights in any content submitted is the sole responsibility of the owner of such rights. The Academy recommends that no application is made before the protection of any such rights has been considered. All applications are made at the applicant's own risk and the applicant agrees to release the Selection Panel, the Academy, its employees, and all other connected persons from any liability relating to infringement (whether actual or threatened) of any such rights by a third party anywhere in the world.

The applicant is solely responsible for the content of their application.

In submitting an application to be considered for the LIF Global programme, applicants agree to fully indemnify the Selection Panel, the Academy, its employees and all other connected persons in respect of all actions, claims, costs, damages, demands, expenses, fines, liabilities, losses, penalties, sanctions, amounts paid in settlement, out of pocket expenses, interest, penalties, and all legal and other professional costs and expenses that may be incurred by any of them in respect of any claims that the nomination and the content that it contains infringes the proprietary rights of a third party.

Data protection

The Academy will hold all personal data in confidence and will not release it to any third parties without consent, except to those involved in the delivery, audit, review, and evaluation of the LIF and LIF Global programmes.