

Research Fellowships 2026/27

Key changes document

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Programme overview

Research Fellowship

The Royal Academy of Engineering (the Academy) offers Research Fellowships each year to outstanding early-career researchers to support them to become future research leaders in engineering. The scheme's objectives are to:

- Support the best early-career researchers in establishing their independence and international reputation.
- Provide long-term support enabling the pursuit of an ambitious programme of engineering research and impact.
- Develop ambassadors for the Academy and advocates for STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) disciplines.

Consultation

The Academy proposed to introduce a two-stage application process for the Research Fellowships from the 2026/27 round, replacing the current single-stage full application model.

The Tickell Review of Research Bureaucracy highlighted the need to reduce avoidable administrative burden in the research system, calling for more proportionate, efficient, and streamlined funding processes. Including an Expression of Interest (EoI) stage aligns with these principles by helping to simplify early-stage decision-making and reduce unnecessary workload for applicants and institutions. In addition, the Careers Research and Advisory Centre (CRAC) evaluation of the Academy's Industry Fellowships and Research Chairs and Senior Research Fellowships schemes recommended introducing an EoI as a way to encourage greater participation from minoritised applicant groups.

The new model aims to:

- Better align the effort required of the applicant with their progression through the process
- Reduce administrative and applicant time preparing technical details that are not reviewed
- Ensure an equitable and inclusive process that supports applicants from underrepresented groups.

To support this transition, the Academy consulted in 2025 with 25 host organisations to understand the implications for internal processes, equity and

inclusion considerations, resourcing impacts and readiness to adopt the new process.

Key changes

1. **The RAEng Research Fellowships will move to a two-stage application process from round 2026/27**

From the 2026/27 round onward, the **Research Fellowship scheme will move to a two-stage application model**, replacing the current single-stage full application model. The first stage will require submission of an Expression of Interest, followed by a second stage where applicants will receive an invitation to submit a full proposal.

Stage one: Expression of interest

In the expression of interest, applicants will be required to provide a brief outline of their motivation, engineering vision and engineering contribution, as well as the collaborations, beneficiaries and pathways to impact. Applicants will not be required to provide any details on project costs at this stage. Each question has a specified word limit, with a maximum overall word count for the expression of interest of approximately 2,300 words.

The deadline for expression of interest applications is 25 June 2026, 4pm UK time.

Stage two: Invited applications

This part of the application process will require invited applicants to submit a more detailed application including a breakdown of the required costs. Each question has a specified word limit, with a maximum overall word count for the expression of interest of 6,900 words.

The deadline for invited applications is 10 December 2026, 4pm UK time.

Demand management will remain in place for this round and will continue to operate as the programme's positive action measure. Following the round, we will review this approach, informed by consultation feedback and application data, to ensure it remains fair, proportionate and effective.

The standard application limit for each host institution is two applications, but the host institution can submit up to four applications as part of our positive action (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/section/158>) initiative with the following conditions:

- If the submission is four applications, at least two of the four applications must be submitted by candidates from the identified underrepresented groups.
- If the submission is three applications, at least one of the three applications must be submitted by a candidate from the identified underrepresented groups.
- If the submission is one or two applications, the application or applications do not need to be submitted by candidates from the identified underrepresented groups. However, the expectations of host institutions still apply.

As this is a new process, **we will actively seek feedback to improve future rounds.** We will invite feedback from all applicants, including those unsuccessful at the university/institution stage, to understand the clarity of guidance, support received, and the perceived fairness and consistency of local processes. Universities will be asked to circulate the feedback request to all applicants (including those not progressed internally) using an agreed template message.

2. Assessment of the applications

Stage one: Expression of interest

Each eligible expression of interest application will be assessed by two Academy Fellows who are part of the RAEng Research Fellowships Steering Group in a general reviewer capacity. The application therefore should be written to help non-expert reviewers understand the research content. Based on the reviewers' comments and scores, the sift panel (consisting of Academy Fellows - RAEng Research Fellowships Steering Group) will select the applications to proceed to stage two of the application process (invited applications). Applicants will be informed of the stage one outcome (expression of interest) in **October 2026**.

Stage two: Invited applications

Each invited application will be assessed by three expert reviewers. The expert reviewers will be asked to provide comments, a score, and key technical questions (if any) that the applicant should clarify. Applicants will be given the opportunity to respond to the technical questions in late March 2027. The shortlist panel will then moderate the expert reviewers' comments and scores along with the applicants' responses to the technical questions to select candidates for stage three: interview. Applicants will be informed of the stage two outcome in early **May 2027**.

Stage three: interview

Interviews will take place either online or at the Academy in London between **26-28 May 2027**. Each interview will be conducted by a panel of four Academy Fellows and will last 30 minutes. This includes a five-minute presentation from the candidate. All shortlisted applicants must be available to attend, as alternative dates cannot be arranged. Please reserve these dates at the time of application.

The ranking of candidates at the preceding shortlist panel will have no bearing at the interview stage. All interview candidates are considered to have equal standing. Following the interviews, the panel will rank the applications and select the top ranked candidates for awards.

3. Increase in Award Value

The scheme provides funding for a five-year period. In previous rounds, each application was capped at a maximum Academy contribution of £625,000 over the five years. **From this round (RF 2026/27), the award value will increase, and each application will be capped at a maximum Academy contribution of £800,000** over the five-year period, funded at **80% of the full economic cost**.

4. Access Mentoring

The aim of Access Mentoring is to provide additional support to applicants from groups that are persistently underrepresented within UK engineering through the grant application process. This [positive action](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/section/159) (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/section/159>) will contribute to improving diversity in the talent pipeline and widening the diversity of applicants and awardees within the Academy's research grant schemes.

For Research Fellowships round 2026/27, **Access Mentoring will be provided only to eligible applicants from underrepresented groups who have been invited to stage two: invited applications.**

Access Mentoring applications are to be submitted via the [Academy's grant management system](https://grants.raeng.org.uk) (<https://grants.raeng.org.uk>). The Access Mentoring application process is separate to the Research Fellowships' application process. Applicants should ensure they adhere to the Research Fellowships application guidance.

5. Research Fellowships 2026/27 timelines

Please see below a timeline for Stage 1 (Expression of Interest) and Stage 2 (Invited application) processes.



6. PHD award date eligibility criteria

Applicants must have a PhD, which was awarded (or the PhD has been unconditionally approved) no more than four years before the submission deadline of the expression of interest. Unlike previous rounds, for this round only (2026/27) a margin of up to six months more than the four-year limit is acceptable and does not require justification or explanation of extenuating circumstances for those six months. This four years and six months period includes applicants' work experience in academia or/and in industry in the UK or/and worldwide. Therefore, the **final cut-off date** is the **25th of December 2021**. **If the applicant PHD award date was earlier than the cut-off date, they should be required to specify justification of extenuating circumstances.**

7. Expression of Interest and Invited application forms

Stage one: Expression of Interest Form

The Expression of Interest form contains 5 sections listed below:

1. Applicant and host details
2. Project details
3. Expression of interest
4. Responsible research
5. Marketing

Please read the detailed form in Annex A

Stage two: Invited Application Form

The invited application form consists of 9 sections listed below. Some of those sections will be extracted from the Expression of Interest Form; therefore, the applicants will not need to complete the information again. However, the system allows the applicant to edit the information at this stage.

1. Applicant and host details (extracted from EOI form)
2. Project details (extracted from EOI form)
3. Applicant profile
4. Responsible research
5. Case for support (Questions 5.1 and 5.2 are extracted from EOI form)
6. Collaborations, impact and engagement (Questions 6.1, 6.2 and 6.4 are extracted from EOI form)
7. Environment and resources (Question 7.1 is extracted from EOI form)
8. Host support (Question 8.2 is extracted from EOI form)
9. Marketing

Please read the detailed form in Annex B

ANNEX A: Expression of Interest Form

Section 1: Applicant and host details

1.1 Applicant name and contact details

Please provide your name and preferred contact details.

1.2 Curriculum vitae

New CV standardisation feature facilitating consistency through ORCID/GMS information integration.

1.3 Host institution details

Please provide the details of the host institution where the Research Fellowship will be held and confirm that this is the 'lead organisation'. If you are not currently employed by the host institution, you should also add your current employer. (No word limit)

1.4 What date was your PhD Certificate awarded?

Applicants must have a PhD, which was awarded **no more than four years and 6 months** before the expression of interest submission deadline. The cut-off date is **25 December 2021**.

Please enter the date your PhD Certificate was awarded or the date your PhD was unconditionally approved by the university.

1.5 Extenuating circumstance (Optional question. This question is not visible to reviewers)

If your PhD Certificate was awarded more than four years and six months before the submission deadline (25 June 2026), please provide details of extenuating circumstances. **The cut-off date is 25 December 2021**. Please cover any periods of maternity/paternity leave, extended sick leave, national service, part-time employment for caring responsibilities or any other activity that you feel should be considered when assessing your eligibility for this Research Fellowships. The Academy's decision on eligibility is final.

(200 words maximum)

1.6 Host institution declaration letter

The host institution's declaration letter must be completed by an appropriate individual from the institution's research support office or equivalent. **The letter must be on headed paper and should carry the signatory's name, position, contact details**, date, scheme name, applicant's name, and the institution's official stamp (if available). The purpose is to check that the host institution is in principle willing to host a Research Fellow, subject to contract. The letter must confirm the application has been approved by the institution and **must contain the wording**

given in the box below, as well as any further remarks the host institution wishes to make. **Please note that the wording provided in the box below is specific to the Research Fellowships scheme, and the wording is updated and different to previous rounds.**

On behalf of the host institution, I can confirm that I have read and accept the application guidance and other information regarding this award scheme, which is provided on the Royal Academy of Engineering's website. I also confirm that:

- *The applicant will be employed by the institution for the duration of the award.*
- *If awarded, the applicant will be given full access to the facilities, equipment, personnel, and funding as required by the application.*
- *The applicant's teaching, administrative, and non-research duties will be restricted to enable them to dedicate their time to research.*
- *The applicant will be provided with all the support normal for a permanent employee.*
- *I am authorised to approve the submission of applications for funding and confirm this application has successfully met the eligibility criteria, including adherence to the application limit and all our internal approval procedures.*

Please delete the following statement if not applicable:

- *I agree that the Academy may share this application with UK-based medical charities for the purposes of assessing the suitability of the research project for co-funding.*

Section 2: Project details

2.1. Please provide a title for your proposal

The essence of the research should be captured in the title and should be as informative as possible. Please ensure that it is **understandable to a non-specialist reader**.

(15 words maximum)

2.2 Engineering research vision summary

Provide a short, accessible summary of your proposed research. Include:

- An outline of your research goals and objectives
- the challenge or opportunity your research addresses (in an engineering context)
- why it is important now (timeliness)
- how your approach differs from or advances existing work (novelty)

- the wider societal context
- what success would look like at the end of the Fellowship.

(500 words maximum)

2.3. What is the proposed start date?

Research Fellowships must begin between **1 August 2027** and **31 October 2027**. The duration of a Research Fellowship is five years full time, calculated on a pro-rata basis for part-time awards. You must agree these timescales with the host institution. Requests for a shorter Research Fellowship are not accepted.

2.4. What is the proposed end date?

Example, if your project starts on 1 September 2027, it will need to finish five years later (on 31 August 2032).

2.5. Select one single broad engineering category that best aligns with your proposal

The category selected will be used to help identify reviewers and panel members. If your research proposal fits into several categories, please pick the category that is most applicable to your proposal.

2.6. Please provide a maximum of 10 keywords that describe your proposal

The keywords provided help the Academy identify suitable reviewers.

(10 words maximum)

2.7. List all external organisations that you will collaborate with as part of the project.

Please list any collaborators from universities and industry in the UK or worldwide. This will help avoid any conflicts of interest during the assessment process. **You should not explain the extent or nature of the collaboration here, as that is covered later.**

(50 words maximum)

Section 3: Expression of interest

This is the main part of your expression of interest application. Here you must demonstrate that your proposal contains an original and independent research project within the remit of the eleven broad engineering categories given in the previous section. Proposals that are simply an extension of your PhD project or are closely aligned to the work of your PhD supervisor are unlikely to be viewed favourably.

3.1 Motivation, profile and fit

How do your research experiences, contributions and progression to date

demonstrate your potential for research independence and leadership in engineering?

What motivates you to apply for this Fellowship, and how does it align with your long-term aspirations and research interests?

Use this section to present the strongest evidence of your progression, independence and leadership potential, and to explain why a Research Fellowship is the right next step. You should highlight the aspects of your track record that indicate research independence and your potential to become a future research leader in your chosen field and explain how the Fellowship aligns with your long-term research direction and career goals.

(500 words maximum)

3.2 Engineering contribution

What is the engineering contribution of your proposed research, and how does it advance engineering knowledge or practice? What contribution will your research make to the engineering capability or practice and how will this benefit the engineering profession or wider society?

Clearly state the core engineering advance your research will deliver and how this progresses the state-of-the-art in engineering knowledge, capability or practice. You should make the novelty explicit and explain, in practical terms, who will benefit and how, including any relevance to the engineering profession and/or wider society.

(200 words maximum)

3.3 Choice of host institution

Explain your choice of host institution. You may wish to comment on the facilities and expertise that will be available to you. You should also cover what experience you have had and/ or plan to gain from other institutions and alternative working practices. For example, any time spent on secondment or on extended visits.

(150 words maximum)

3.4 Collaborations

Outline the collaborators you intend to work with during the Fellowship and the role they will play in supporting your research and impact.

Describe the collaborations that will enhance the quality of your research and/or strengthen the pathway to impact. You should explain who you will work with, why they are appropriate, and the specific contribution each collaborator will make. Collaborations should be clearly justified and proportionate to the Fellowship;

where letters of support are necessary to evidence a collaborator's commitment, these should be provided.

(200 words maximum)

3.5 Beneficiaries and pathways to impact

Who will benefit from your research, and how? How could the outcomes of your work be used, adopted, or translated beyond academia? How do you plan to communicate your research and engage audiences outside the academic community?

Identify the main beneficiary groups and describe how they could benefit from your research outcomes. You should outline credible routes through which outcomes could be used, adopted or translated beyond academia, and describe how you will communicate your work and engage with audiences outside the academic community.

(300 words maximum)

3.6 Diversity, inclusion and research culture

What does diversity and inclusion mean to you, and how will you embed these principles in your research, collaborations, and team development?

Explain what diversity and inclusion mean to you in the context of your research and working practices. You should describe how you will embed these principles in your research design and delivery, in your collaborations, and in any team development, and how this will contribute to a positive research culture in which people can thrive.

(200 words maximum)

3.8 Applicant declaration

Please tick the checkbox once you have read and understood the declaration included in the application form.

Section 4: Responsible research

4.1 Animals in research, development and innovation

4.1.1 Animal in research policy statement.

4.1.2 Does your proposal involve the use of animals or animal tissue?

4.2 Human in Research

4.2.1 Human in research policy statement.

4.2.2 Does your proposal involve human participants?

4.2.3 Does your proposal involve the use of human tissue/material?

4.2.4 Does your proposal involve the use of personal data?

Section 5: Marketing

5.1 How did you hear about the scheme?

This question is optional but helps the Academy to understand which marketing materials are most successful at reaching the academic community to improve future communications work.

5.2 Marketing consent

ANNEX B: Invited Application Form

Note: Information extracted from the EOI form will not need to be completed again, although the system allows the applicant to edit.

Section 1: Applicant and host details

All this section is extracted from EOI form

1.1 Applicant name and contact details

1.2 Curriculum vitae

1.3 Host institution details

1.4 What date was your PhD Certificate awarded?

1.5 Extenuating circumstance (Optional question. This question is not visible to reviewers)

Section 2: Project details

All this section is extracted from EOI form

2.1 Please provide a title for your proposal

2.2 Engineering research vision summary

2.3. What is the proposed start date?

2.4. What is the proposed end date?

2.5. Select one single broad engineering category that best aligns with your proposal

2.6. Please provide a maximum of 10 keywords that describe your proposal

2.7. List all external organisations that you will collaborate with as part of the project.

Section 3: Applicant profile

3.1 Track record and achievements

Please describe up to three examples of your most significant achievements in your research career. We would like to emphasise that all achievements and outputs are welcome and considered valuable to the Academy, not just peer-reviewed publications. Outputs also include, and are not limited to, code, patents, spin-out companies, events, public engagement, and policy impact. Please briefly explain the significance of each achievement.

(500 words maximum)

3.2 Applicant declaration

Please tick the checkbox once you have read and understood the declaration included in the application form.

Section 4: Responsible research

The following questions address responsible research practices in alignment with the Academy's [Animals in Research Policy](https://raeng.org.uk/media/ctelvlvi/animals-in-research-innovation-and-development-policy.pdf) (<https://raeng.org.uk/media/ctelvlvi/animals-in-research-innovation-and-development-policy.pdf>) and [Humans in Research Policy](https://raeng.org.uk/media/4qmhqf4/human-participants-in-research-development-and-innovation-policy.pdf) (<https://raeng.org.uk/media/4qmhqf4/human-participants-in-research-development-and-innovation-policy.pdf>).

For proposals involving animals or animal tissue, and for research involving human participants, tissue, or personal data, you must provide detailed information to ensure compliance with ethical and regulatory standards. While applicable approvals and licenses are not required at the point of application, all necessary approvals must be secured before the work begins, with a clear plan outlined at the application stage.

For further guidance, please refer to the linked policies.

4.1 Animals in research, development and innovation

4.1.1 Animals in research – policy statement.

4.1.2 Does your proposal involve the use of animals or animal tissue?

This is a multiple-choice question and requires you to declare if your proposal includes research involving animals or animal tissue and whether that research is conducted within the UK and the UK's regulatory regime or outside the UK. If your research is going to be conducted outside of the UK, you must speak to an Academy staff member to assess whether we would be able to fund this type of research before beginning your application. If we are able to fund it, we will also ask you where it will take place and provide details of the local legislation and ethical review procedures.

4.1.3 Country where animal research is taking place.

4.1.4 Animal work – overseas – local legislation and ethical review procedures.

4.1.5 Why is animal use necessary?

We require sufficient details to enable us to ensure that you have aligned your research with the [NC3Rs guidelines](https://nc3rs.org.uk/3rs-resources) (<https://nc3rs.org.uk/3rs-resources>) and our Academy policy, particularly that you are able to explain why there is no alternative to using animals in the research and the ethical implications of the planned experiments.

(200 words maximum)

4.1.6 Does your work involve non-human primates?

This is a yes or no question. If your experiment does involve the use of non-human primates we may send your application to additional independent experts for review.

4.1.7 Please provide details of the animal species and number(s) to be used?

This and the following question require you to justify the number, species and sex of animals you are planning to use, clearly describing how the planned experimental design is appropriate to give robust results.

(30 words maximum)

4.1.8 Why is the species/model to be used the most appropriate?

Please discuss the relevance of your model(s) along with any limitations and how you have accounted for this within your study design.

(200 words maximum)

4.1.9 Please explain how you have considered the NC3Rs in your study design.

This question allows us to assess if your research complies with the principles of Replacement, Reduction and Refinement and that you will ensure distress and pain are minimized and the severity level for all procedures is the lowest possible.

(300 words maximum)

4.1.10 Please provide information on your plan and the timeline to acquire all relevant ethical approval and licenses for work involving animals.

(200 words maximum)

4.1.11 Please upload any supporting documentation below (optional).

We recommend the use of the Experimental Design Assistant (<https://nc3rs.org.uk/our-portfolio/experimental-design-assistant-eda>) to help with the design of your proposal which you can upload here. You may also use this space to upload power calculations, if applicable.

4.2 Human in Research, Development, and Innovation.

4.2.1 Human in research policy statement.

4.2.2 Does your proposal involve human participants?

4.2.3 Please confirm where the work involving human participants will be conducted.

4.2.4 Human participants - local legislation and ethical review procedures.

4.2.5 Human participants - plan/timeline for ethical approval and licenses.

4.2.6 Safeguarding human participant.

4.2.7 Does your proposal involve the use of human tissue or other human material?

4.2.8 Please confirm where the work involving human tissues/materials will be conducted.

This and the following two questions provide us sufficient details to ensure that you have aligned your proposed work with the Academy's policy, particularly our requirement that research complies with relevant legislation and the governing principles of the Declaration of Helsinki, the Nuremberg Code, and the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences

(CIOMS) guidelines, all of which set out requirements with regard to the rights and safety of research participants and standards for research design and conduct.

4.2.9 Human materials - local legislation and ethical review procedures.

4.2.10 Human materials - plan/timeline for ethical approval and licenses.

4.2.11 Safeguarding human materials.

4.2.12 Does your proposal involve the use of personal data?

These three questions require you to declare if your proposal involves the use of human participants, human tissue and/or other human material or personal data. The questions are all multiple-choice, and depending on your responses, you will be asked further questions providing details on the location, regulatory regime and research plan.

4.2.13 Please confirm where the work involving use of personal data will be conducted.

4.2.14 Personal data - local legislation and ethical review procedures

4.2.15 Safeguarding personal data

4.3 Export Control

4.3.1 Is the information contained within your application necessary for the development, production or use of controlled goods and therefore subject to export control rules?

Please refer to the Government Export Control Joint Unit (ECJU) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/export-control-joint-unit>) who administers the UK's system of export controls and licensing for military and dual-use items for further information where needed. Please note that a response of 'don't know' may mean we need to delay processing your application until such a time as we have clarified this position.

4.4 Subsidy Control

4.4.1 To assist with subsidy control compliance, please confirm whether your research project is a piece of non-economic scientific research (with or without commercial collaborators) in respect of the statutory guidance on subsidy control.

4.4.2 Are you collaborating with one or more UK commercial/industry organisations on this project?

4.4.3 How many commercial organisations are you collaborating with on this project?

4.4.4 To assist with subsidy control compliance, please confirm whether your research project is for industrial research with or without identified commercial collaborators?

4.4.5 Can you confirm that when working with the commercial organisation(s), that results that do not give rise to intellectual property rights will be available to be widely disseminated, and that any intellectual property rights arising from the activities of the research organisation fully allocated to it?

4.4.6 Please provide further details of the intellectual property rights arrangements either agreed, or being negotiated, between the collaborating commercial organisations

(250 words maximum)

4.5. National Security

4.5.1 Is the proposed work in an area with direct military applications or in an area with potential for dual use application?

Section 5: Case for Support

5.1 Motivation, profile and fit – extracted from EoI form

5.2 Engineering contribution – extracted from EoI form

5.3 Goals and objectives

Please state the goals and objectives for your research project. You should include details on how novel, realistic and ambitious the project is. Please note that, if awarded, your performance will be assessed against these objectives.

(200 words maximum)

5.4 Timeliness and novelty

Describe why this research is important and why it should be conducted now.

(250 words maximum)

5.5 Methodology

Please provide a description of the work to be completed. Describe the programme of work, indicating the research to be undertaken and the milestones that can be used to measure progress. Detail the methodology to be used and justify this choice.

(1,500 words maximum)

5.6 Images and diagrams

Upload any images and/or diagrams related to your project that add value to your application.

Images/diagrams must be referenced in the application form and uploaded as a single PDF.

5.7 Reference list

List the reference material referred to in your application. Upload as a single PDF (maximum one page).

5.8 Project timeline

Upload a Gantt chart or equivalent showing the schedule of activities for the duration of the Research Fellowship, with major milestones clearly indicated.

5.9 Project management

Describe how your research proposal will be managed. You may wish to refer to the project timeline. Include suitable milestones and identifiable deliverables.

(200 words maximum)

5.10 Risks and mitigation

Identify and assess any risks that may jeopardise the project's success. Risks will not necessarily be perceived as weaknesses; this is an opportunity to demonstrate awareness and management of potential problems.

(200 words maximum)

Section 6: Collaboration, impact and engagement

6.1 Collaborations - extracted from EoI form

6.2 Beneficiaries and Pathways to Impact – extracted from EoI form

6.3 Dissemination and public engagement

Indicate the proposed methods of dissemination and public engagement. Explain how results and outputs will be shared and how you will engage audiences beyond academia and the engineering community.

(200 words maximum)

6.4 Diversity, inclusion and research culture – extracted from EoI form

Section 7: Environment and Resources

7.1 Choice of host institution – extracted from EoI form

7.2 Resources requested

Applicants must consult with the host institution for support in completing the costs table. Please ensure that you allow plenty of time for the host institution to prepare the costings. The below categories explain what costs should be included in your application. You must be able to demonstrate that the resources requested are justified and appropriate for delivering the proposed research. **Each application is capped at a maximum contribution from the Academy of £800,000 over the five-year period, at 80% full economic costs (fEC).** The host institution is expected to provide any shortfall from its own funds or other grants.

7.2.1 Costs table

When completing the costs table, some of the cells are auto calculated and all values submitted should be rounded up to the nearest pound. **Please do not show actual fEC in the cost table.** In the costs table, the total funding requested from the Academy cannot exceed £800,000 at 80% fEC.

Directly incurred costs

Staff

The Research Fellowship's aim is to support researchers at an early stage of their research career. Salary should be at a level commensurate with skills, responsibilities, expertise, and experience. It is expected that requested salary will be comparable to postdoctoral researcher or early-stage lecturer

salary scale points. The Academy reserves the right to provide support at a different level if it is considered appropriate.

The Research Fellow's salary can be requested for a period of five years full-time equivalent. Salary increments over the period of the Research Fellowship should be considered in the costs, but possible future pay awards should not be anticipated. **Please note that the Academy does not pay inflation, and inflation should not be applied to the costs.** In addition, the Academy is not able to cover the costs of the apprenticeship levy on research grants. Salary costs do not need to be justified in the 'Justification of costs' section.

Research Fellowships may be held on a part-time basis if the applicant is employed part time (minimum 50%). Applicants wishing to hold the award on a part-time basis must state the % time in the 'Justification of costs' section and explain why part-time working is requested. The costs table should be completed as if for a full-time fellowship and costs will be adjusted accordingly if the award is offered.

PLEASE NOTE:

- No other staff salaries can be requested as part of a Research Fellowship.
- Research Fellows are encouraged to apply for further funding. However, any additional funding must not result in a reduction in the Research Fellow's time working on the Research Fellowship and cause a delay in the completion of the Research Fellowship.

Travel and subsistence

Travel and subsistence costs can only be requested for the Research Fellow and must be for activities directly related to the research project. Travel costs should be based on the most suitable, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly form of travel. Subsistence costs should reflect the normal rates that apply in the host institution. Commuting costs for working at the host institution cannot be requested.

Costs for attending national and international conferences may also be included where such attendance will directly benefit the research project. Conferences should, as far as possible, be individually identified in the proposal with attendance costs and fees fully justified in the 'Justification of costs' section.

Other costs

Other costs should be specified and justified in the 'Justification of costs' with details provided in terms of their requirement for the research project.

Examples include purchase or hire of small items of equipment, computer software licences, cloud computing/ computing time at external facilities, laboratory consumables, purchase of specialist publications, open access costs, publication/ printing costs, professional membership subscription fees or training costs.

Unless the need for significant computing power can be justified, the costs requested from the Academy for the purchase of a computer should not exceed £3,000 (including VAT), and no more than two computers should be requested over the duration of the Research Fellowship.

The cost of any single item of equipment, software, cloud computing/computing time fees, database subscription or upgrade to existing equipment requested from the Academy should not exceed £10,000 (including VAT). Should any piece of equipment include multiple separate items that are purchased individually and then combined to make a single functioning system, the cost of the entire system requested from the Academy should not exceed the £10,000 limit.

Costs for major facilities not owned by the host institution, such as those supported by STFC, cannot be requested. If such facilities are required for the project, the applicant should contact the specific facility to determine access requirements. If access to a facility is essential to the research project, both access to and external funding for the cost of the facility must be secured within one year of the proposed start date of the Research Fellowship.

Research Fellows are expected to make full use of any equipment that is available at the host institution and should therefore only request funding for equipment that is necessary and not currently available.

Directly allocated costs

Estates

Research Fellows may apply for estates costs for the duration of the Research Fellowship. Estates costs do not require justification in the 'Justification of costs' section. Where the Research Fellow will be away from the host institution for six months or more in total, estates costs should not be requested for that period. In such situations, this should be confirmed in the 'Justification of costs' section.

Other directly allocated

Other directly allocated costs can be requested, calculated based on estimates and should be justified in the 'Justification of costs' section.

Potential costs include the host institution's research/technical staff whose time is shared across several projects and charge out costs for existing equipment owned by the host institution, for example access to departmental SEMs and analytical facilities. Salary costs for specific technicians cannot be requested, but costs for pool technician time for the use of facilities/equipment at the host institution can be requested.

Indirect costs

Indirect

Please consult with the host institution for guidance on these costs. Research Fellows may apply for indirect costs for the duration of the Research Fellowship. Indirect costs do not require justification in the 'Justification of costs' section. Please refer to the efficiency savings published by RCUK in March 2011 (<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20180322124032/http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/research/efficiency/efficiency2011/>) when submitting figures for indirect costs.

7.2.2 Total funding requested

7.2.3 Justification of costs

Please provide a narrative description of what resources are being requested and why. Ensure you have adhered to the guidance provided for allowable costs as detailed above. The justification should include:

- All necessary justifications for costs included in the costs table.
- To what extent the equipment requested will be used by other researchers and what equipment you are not requesting funding for (or for which you are requesting funding at a reduced rate) because suitable equipment is already available to you.
- What costs will be covered by other sources, for example industry or existing grants, so are not being requested as part of the application.
- If relevant, an explanation of why you wish to work part time and at what rate.

(400 words maximum)

Section 8: Host support

8.1 Host institution letter of support

Upload a letter of support from the host institution addressing research environment, resources and commitment to career development.

8.2 Host institution declaration letter – extracted from EOI form

Section 9: Marketing

9.1 Marketing consent