Call for Proposals – Research projects in engineering education

1. Introduction

1.1. Overview

This is a call for proposals by the Royal Academy of Engineering for research projects that aim to address issues in engineering education and skills.

As the UK’s national academy for engineering, we bring together the most successful and talented engineers from across the engineering sectors for a shared purpose: to advance and promote excellence in engineering.

In line with our Strategic Plan 2015-2020 the Academy is committed to addressing the engineering skills challenge facing the UK. A key aspect of our work is around understanding the nature of the skills challenge and seeking solutions to both increase the quantity of people progressing towards engineering and improve the quality of the engineering workforce. We welcome proposals for education research projects that increase our ability to address these key areas.

We expect proposals to be in the range £20-30k but will accept proposals of a larger sum for exceptional projects that lead to transformational change. Due to the nature of our funding cycle, we also expect that the research will be concluded by March 2020 in line with the Academy’s financial year, but again for exceptional projects we will consider proposals for beyond a single year.

More detail on the requirements for submissions is provided below.

Deadline for submissions is Monday 8 April 2019 by 5pm.

Please direct any questions regarding this process or the Statement of Requirements to the Academy’s Education Policy Officer, Muntazir Jaffer.
Tel: 020 7766 0654
E-mail: muntazir.jaffer@raeng.org.uk

More information on the Academy can be found at www.raeng.org.uk
1.2. Project timescale

The timescale for submissions the project is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deadline for receiving proposals</td>
<td>8th April 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Successful submissions notified</td>
<td>April 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding available</td>
<td>April 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interim report</td>
<td>September 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Report and End of Project</td>
<td>March 2020*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Unless as agreed with the Academy that the project is multi-year funded*

1.2. This document

This document is intended to provide sufficient information to enable preparation of an initial proposal and quotation. Please note that it is not intended to be a detailed specification nor are the requirements listed below exhaustive – the full requirements will be discussed and agreed with the successful researchers as part of the final contract negotiation.

1.4. Format for proposals

Proposals should be set out using the headings in Section 4.1 of this document. Proposals should be provided as electronic copies in Word/PDF format.

Suppliers are requested to upload a copy of their proposal through the Grant Management System (GMS), via the Academy website.
2. Requirements

2.1. Purpose of the projects

The Academy plans to fund a small number of research projects in engineering education and skills in 2019-20.

We are interested in research projects that have the potential for a UK wide impact. Due to the limited funds available, we are unable to support proposals that examine the effectiveness of small scale interventions (e.g. at an institution module or programme scale).

This year, the Academy is particularly interested in research projects that seek to address and understand the challenges of migration (including the potential impact from restrictions on freedom of movement for EU citizens) to engineering skills supply.

Beyond this specific areas of interest, we are looking for proposals that will examine issues around any of the following areas of our strategic plan:

- Underrepresentation of all kinds in engineering
- Innovation and structural change in education, training, recruitment and retention of engineers and technicians
- Transforming the effectiveness of engagement activities that bring an understanding of and aspiration for engineering to young people
- Promoting the importance of environmental, economic and social sustainability in engineering practice and education

These subject areas are not exclusive and we welcome other proposals that meet the Academy’s strategic aim of addressing the UK’s engineering skills challenge.

2.2. Funding

Successful research projects will receive staged payments:

- 50% will be paid upfront
- 25% will be paid after submission of a satisfactory interim report. The requirements of the interim report will be agreed with successful researchers following their appointment.
- 25% will be paid after submission of a satisfactory final report
3. **Researcher and cost information**

3.1. **Researcher Information**

Applicants should state:
- The name of their organisation or consortium.
- The names and brief biographies of each of the key individuals who would work on the project.

3.2. **Cost breakdown**

Researchers should provide an overall cost for their proposal. This should be broken down by category (e.g. staff; transport) and include staff costs broken down by individual FTE.

We will expect proposals to be in the range £20-30k but will accept exceptional proposals of a larger sum that lead to transformational change. We also expect that the research will be concluded by March 2020 in line with the Academy’s financial year, but again we will consider proposals for beyond a single year.
4. Supplier guidelines

4.1. Submissions

In the interests of consistency and to enable an efficient and fair evaluation, responses must cover the headings given in bold below, in the order specified. You may insert sub-headings as desired.

We expect submissions to be no more than 3 sides of A4 in length at this stage.

**Researcher information**  
Provide relevant details of the researcher(s), including those set out in Section 3.1.

**Summary**  
Outline of the proposal including aims and objectives.

**Proposal for research project**  
Set out how you plan to meet the requirements set out in Section 2 and initial proposal for the methodology to be used.

**Timetable**  
Provide a proposed timetable of activities against key deliverables.

**Budget**  
Provide a full budget breakdown as per section 3.2.

**Relevant experience**  
Include details of relevant experience of similar projects or other research activity undertaken.

**Annex**  
Any supplementary information you wish to provide.

4.2. Contractual

All tenders must remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of submission. The proposals received are deemed by the Academy to be confidential information. Researchers and/or their agents or business partners responding to this call do so entirely at their own cost.

4.3. Selection criteria and additional tender requirements

In selecting a supplier, the Academy will use the following criteria (please note that the order of this list is not significant and does not imply the order of importance and that this list is indicative only and is not exhaustive):

- Meeting the aims of the Academy’s strategic plan for education as listed above.
- Proposed methodology and quality of the submission
- Originality of idea
- Extent to which the research will have potential to impact engineering education internationally
- Relevant experience
- Ability to meet the timetable
- Overall value for money