

Applicant Guidance Notes – Leaders in Innovation Fellowships (LIF) programme 2019/2020

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

<https://grants.raeng.org.uk>

Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

The Programme

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

Week 1

The first week of training involves getting familiar with business and entrepreneurship concepts such as

- Finance

- Fundraising
- Defensibility training
- Business model development
- Founders' wellbeing

The programme is delivered by expert trainers, and participants receive one-on-one support from expert mentors to start developing their business models.

Week 2

The second week focusses on pitch building and practice, in preparation for a competitive pitch session to a panel of expert judges including prestigious Academy Fellows, as a culmination of the two weeks' training.

The training and mentoring programme is complemented by networking opportunities and visits to relevant institutions. LIF Fellows will also benefit from opportunities to network with coaches, representatives of technology driven organisations, and each other.

All participants in the LIF programme will automatically join our global international network of innovators and coaches clustered around the Academy's Enterprise Hub.

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

Dates and Location

Successful applicants will travel to London on **Saturday February 15th**, and will return on **Saturday February 29th**. Please note that participants are expected to attend the full training, and completion of the programme is dependent on satisfactory attendance and participation in all programme activities.

As well as the training and mentoring programme, airport transfers and other UK travel incurred by the programme, all hotel accommodation, breakfast and evening meals will be paid for by The Academy.

Visa fees and International flights will be paid by the Science and technology Development funds (STDF). However, please note that successful applicants will be responsible for arranging, and paying for their travel insurance, as required, and covering any other expenses incurred during the programme.

Eligibility Criteria

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

Follow-on support

After the two-week residential programme, we begin the follow-on support aspect of the programme lasting up to 6 months. This is an integral part of the LIF programme, and will comprise of the individual mentors from the residential training continuing to provide mentoring and advice to allow LIF fellows to achieve some of the jointly established goals set when designing the business

plan in London. In-country events to keep LIF fellows engaged with the Academy will also be included in the programme.

Eligibility Criteria

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

Specific eligibility criteria are as follows:

- Applicants must be employed fulltime at an Egyptian university or research institute.
- Applicants must be citizens of Egypt.
- Applicants must be in the process of developing a business proposition of their innovation. Projects at the basic research stage are not supported through the current program.
- The applicant's innovation can be any new product, technology or service, based on research in engineering defined in its broadest sense to encompass a wide range of fields, including – 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.
- The innovation should have the potential to benefit the applicant's country, or other developing countries, in terms of improving social welfare and driving economic growth, 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 or military sector.

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

Egypt specific Guidance

Egypt- Science Technology and Development Fund (STDF) is the co-funding partner in the Leaders in Innovation fellowship in 2019/2020 in Egypt.

To ensure that the learning is efficiently captured from the residential training in London by the Royal Academy of Engineering and so it is put into practice, workshop participants will be asked to demonstrate active efforts to actualise the project by submitting a work plan to show commercialisation of participant's innovation business plans.

Applicants will be expected to participate in the up to 6 months follow-up support that the Royal Academy of Engineering provides to all participants. Applicants will be required to submit semi-annual progress report for the STDF including the progress in development of the business plan to ensure successful implementation.

After the acceptance of final progress reports, STDF may offer seed funding to support grants of promising business plans to help commercialise the project outputs. Selected work plans showing promising commercialisation of participant's innovation business plan will be given the opportunity to apply for extra fund with full justification (refer to phase II application to be announced after assessment of the final progress report). Applications for the implementation phase of the innovation business plan will be evaluated and selection will be based on the feasibility and market potential, excellence and novelty, technology readiness, applicability challenge and expected benefits of the innovation.

Proposed Timeline (TBC)

| Activity | Date |
|--|---|
| Call open | 24 th June 2019 |
| Deadline | 9 August 2019 |
| Initial sifting | September |
| Short list to register on RAEng website | 16-23 rd September |
| Joint selection of participants/ BOD approvals | 7-14 th October 2019 |
| Successful participants Informed | 30 th October 2019 |
| STDF finalise contracts with participants | 15 th November 2019 |
| Visa application process | 15 th October 2019 -1 st February 2020 |
| Travel | Outbound: Saturday 15 February, 2020 Inbound: Saturday 29 February |
| LIF Training dates in London | 17-28 February 2020 |

Contracting with STDF and Visa application will be announced after final approvals from the STDF is announced.

How to Apply/submit your information

All applications must be submitted to the STDF website available here: (www.stdf.org.eg). The application form has five sections to complete. A CV and an endorsement letter (annex 1) is required as supporting documentation.

After submitting a registration on the STDF website, shortlisted participants will be asked to fill another application form on the Royal Academy of Engineering website. Registration details

will be sent by the organising team.

Submission Deadline

All applications must be uploaded on STDF website no later than 9th of August, 2019 by **12 midnight**.

Contact

If you have any queries, please contact

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