

Applicant Guidance Notes – Leaders in Innovation Fellowships (LIF) programme 2017/2018

The Royal Academy of Engineering and 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.

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 the same country 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 – An activity based learning week combined with external visits and master class sessions.

The first week of training involves getting familiar with Business Modelling and Customer Markets along with visits to a UK University Incubator and a site visit to an Industry Partner. The groups will start working with their coaches to start to develop

their business plans. This will be rounded off with expert Master Class sessions presented by prestigious Fellows of the Academy.

Week 2 – Intensive training programme in entrepreneurship and innovation leadership

The second week is more classroom style leaning with a training programme hosted by the Royal Academy of Engineering. It consists of a **training programme in innovation leadership**, delivered by expert trainers, and based on existing training programmes of the Academy for UK researchers. The course will focus on skills and knowledge in:

- Operations and leadership;
- Finance, IP and regulation
- Presenting and pitching to investors and customers;
- Negotiation skills.

Importantly, over the course of both weeks, there will be time for each fellow to develop their own **business plan and pitch decks**, while receiving guidance and coaching. The week will conclude with a competitive pitch session to a panel of expert judges including senior Academy Fellows.

During the programme, Fellows will also benefit from opportunities to network with coaches, representatives of technology driven organizations, and each other. All participants in the LIF programme will automatically join an 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

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

However, please note that successful applicants will be responsible for arranging, and paying for their travel insurance and visa, 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.

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.
- The applicant's innovation can be any new product, technology or service that covers any of the five priority themes; affordable and inclusive healthcare; sustainable water management; renewable energy; sustainable food production; archaeology and culture heritage.
- 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.
- 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 2017/2018 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. STDF will provide more guidance by August 2018. 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

Activity	Date
Call open	10 th December 2017
Deadline	30 th December 2017
Complete evaluation	11 January 2018
Joint selection of participants	22 nd January 2018
Inform participants	23 rd January 2018
STDF finalise contracts with participants	23 rd -30 th January 2018
Visa application process (priority service)	23 January -24 th February 18
Final 15 submit RAEng online application form	15-26 th January 2018
Travel	Outbound: Sunday 25 th February 2018 Inbound: Saturday 9 th March 2018
LIF Training dates in London	26 February -9 March 2018

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.

Submission Deadline

All applications must be uploaded on STDF website no later than **30th December 2017 by 12 midnight.**

Contact

If you have any queries, please contact (Mahmoda.ali@raeng.org.uk) at Royal Academy of Engineering or Nevine Nabil (nevine.nabil@stdf.org.eg) at Science Technology and Development Fund (STDF).