

Google DeepMind Research Ready

Research placements in artificial
intelligence (AI)

Request for proposals and applicant guidance notes
Deadline: **14 October 2025, 16.00**

*Supported by our founding sponsors Google DeepMind
and the Hg Foundation*

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1. Introduction to 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.

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.

Everything we do is underpinned by our values:

- Progressive Leadership
- Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
- Excellence for Impact
- Collaboration First
- Creativity & Innovation

The Academy is deeply committed to improving [diversity and inclusion](https://raeng.org.uk/diversity) (<https://raeng.org.uk/diversity>) in the engineering profession. Our [strategy](https://raeng.org.uk/about-us/our-strategy) (<https://raeng.org.uk/about-us/our-strategy>) includes specific goals to boost the numbers and diversity of those entering engineering careers and to promote and expand the use of innovative approaches and best practice in engineering education and training.

2. Programme overview

The Academy is partnering with [Google DeepMind](https://deepmind.google/) (<https://deepmind.google/>) and the [Hg Foundation](https://www.thehgfoundation.com/) (<https://www.thehgfoundation.com/>) to provide the Google DeepMind Research Ready scheme. This is a positive action initiative aimed at undergraduate students from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds and underrepresented groups in engineering. It aims to tackle underrepresentation within the AI discipline by increasing the transition of diverse students into employment, and to expose them to the engineering research world.

The programme also aims to build a sense of community and belonging among students, while building their knowledge of advanced-level AI degrees and careers. It allows researchers to develop inclusive leadership skills and gives them access to research support and insight from a new generation of engineering talent. This programme addresses some of the issues and barriers these underrepresented student groups face when progressing to advanced-level degrees, which include (but are not limited to) the following:

- **A lack of AI research experience:** research experience is critical but difficult to find (usually via family or friends) and is usually unpaid which acts as a blocker for those from low socio-economic backgrounds, those with other responsibilities or those who do not have the networks or confidence to acquire these opportunities. Those at less research-intensive universities particularly struggle.
- **A lack of knowledge and guidance of advanced-level degrees:** information and guidance about postgraduate research applications, finance and the research environment is not democratically available and is difficult and complicated to navigate.
- **A lack of information about career pathways:** knowledge about career progression and salaries is essential, especially for certain groups of students. However, it remains largely unknown, even for those completing PhDs.
- **Research culture and sense of belonging:** within academia there are inconsistent inclusive application and supervision practices that can lack a nurturing environment. Students can feel isolation and lack opportunities to engage in the wider community.

This programme initially funded research placement opportunities for eligible undergraduate students in the summer of 2025, hosted at 12 selected universities. Those 12 universities are now invited to apply for further funding to run their programmes again in the summer of 2026. Funding for at least five placements at each university will be available.

Please refer to section three for more information on host and student eligibility criteria and to section nine for more information on proposal guidelines and requirements.

Stage 1: in September 2025, the Academy will open a call to universities already participating in the programme to submit a proposal for a new round of funding. Host university proposals must contain details of their undergraduate research placement programme in AI for the summer of 2026 and note any changes from their summer 2025 programme. These proposals will be reviewed by a panel and, if approved, university host applicants will receive funding to deliver their proposed research programme for at least five student interns.

Stage 2: once awarded, the university hosts must organise:

- the outreach and recruitment of research supervisors at their institution that will deliver their proposed research placement programme
- the appointment of an Academy Fellow to participate in the selection process
- the embedding of relevant data collection tools/forms provided by the Academy within student recruitment, reporting on progress and impact, and engaging in any long-term evaluation of the scheme if required.
- the call for external student applications, review, and selection of students
- issuing of awards to students, drafting appropriate placement agreements with them, and providing training.

Stage 3: Research Ready placements take place in the summer of 2026, concluding with a celebration event in September 2026.

Please refer to section six for a detailed breakdown of the programme delivery timelines and deadlines.

3. Eligibility criteria

Eligibility criteria for hosts

University placement hosts must have already been selected for the programme and hosted internship placements in summer 2025. Hosts must still meet the following criteria:

- The university must have a computer science department, or an equivalent department/school that can accommodate the requirements of the proposal. This includes being able to provide any computers or other equipment that are necessary for the programme but not covered by the funding. The purpose of this programme is to complement the work university partners are already delivering to encourage more undergraduate students from eligible groups to continue to graduate-level programmes and enhance research and scholarship in these research placement areas.
- Proposals must be primarily focused on artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning, though they can include applicability to other disciplines.
- Hosts must be able to accommodate students in the summer of 2026 for six to eight weeks. All placements without exception will take place in the summer of 2026, between 1 June and 1 September 2026.
- Hosts must be able to carry out recruitment for a smaller group of at least five student interns (compared to 10-12 students in the first year of the programme).
- Hosts must provide the placement students with the appropriate supervision, training, and a meaningful project for them to work on. Please refer to section nine for the proposal guidelines.
- Hosts must be willing to cooperate on the evaluation of the programme, including sharing aggregate data on the demographics of student applications and acceptances. Please refer to section 8 for information on the evaluation.

Eligibility criteria for students

This programme is primarily designed for undergraduate students from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds and this should be prioritised in the selection process. However, depending on the demographics of the university's student body, universities may broaden the eligibility criteria to include other underrepresented groups, such as

(but not limited to) women, and individuals from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds.

As a minimum requirement, universities must include the following student eligibility criteria in their student application forms:

Essential criteria (all required)

- A resident in the UK and eligible to pay UK home fees.
- Have, or expect to have and be able to prove right to live and work full time in the UK for the duration of the programme.
- Are within the penultimate or final year of their undergraduate degree or have already completed an undergraduate degree in computer science or an AI facilitatory-related technical field.
- Is not currently studying or has studied a master's or PhD.

Socioeconomic criteria (at least one required)

- Have been eligible for free school meals.
- Live in an area in the lowest two deciles according to a postcode measure such as [IMD \(https://www.gov.uk/guidance/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019-mapping-resources\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019-mapping-resources) or [POLAR \(https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/young-participation-by-area/search-by-postcode/\)](https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/young-participation-by-area/search-by-postcode/).
- Have at some stage been in local authority care.
- Have been in receipt of full state support for maintenance for their course of undergraduate study.
- Have had caring responsibilities for 3 months or more, which either have occupied more than 10 hours per week, or which have impacted on the applicant's education, health or wellbeing.
- Receive/received the maximum Maintenance Loan for undergraduate study.

Please note that the specific eligibility criteria met by each applicant (both unsuccessful and successful) must be collected at the recruitment stage. This anonymised data should be submitted to the Academy as part of the evaluation of the scheme. Applicants for the internship placements must be willing to provide their socioeconomic data. Please refer to Annex B for the form that host universities will be asked to complete to capture this information, as well as our [Data Retention Policy \(https://raeng.org.uk/media/duhjwap2/raeng-privacy-policy-grant-or-award.pdf\)](https://raeng.org.uk/media/duhjwap2/raeng-privacy-policy-grant-or-award.pdf).

4. Duration

Proposals must outline a six-to-eight-week undergraduate research placement programme for summer 2026. The Academy will provide funding to each successful university host, which must be used to plan and deliver their proposed programme.

5. Funding guidelines

Across universities, we will standardise some costs including:

- The student stipend: £441 per student per week.
- Student travel £225 per student to cover the entire placement.
- The costs of events and activities: £250 per student to cover the entire placement.

In addition, we will provide universities with the accommodation costs (per student) and administration cost to plan and deliver the programme. In your proposal, please provide us with the cost of the programme including the stipend, travel and events costs.

The funding cannot be used to purchase computers, other equipment / hardware or to upgrade university systems. However, subject to Academy approval it can be used for software, subscriptions, etc. that are necessary to run the programme on the equipment that exists within the facilities.

Please note that if host universities do not manage to recruit a full allocation of students or interns withdraw from the programme, the final expenditure statement will need to reflect the underspend. These funds cannot be reallocated.

6. Timelines and submission deadline

The following timeline acts as an initial guidance for proposals, contracting and programme delivery. The **deadline** for all proposals is **14 October 2025**.

Key event	Description	Start date	Deadline/ end date
Academy's request for proposals open	Open for applications. Eligible universities are invited to submit proposals.	18 Sept 2025	14 Oct 2025
Review period	All proposals will be reviewed by a panel which will include at least one Academy Fellow.	16 Oct 2025	14 Nov 2025
Awards confirmed	The Academy will inform all university host applicants on the outcome of their proposal.	w/c 17 Nov 2025	NA
Agreements circulated for hosts signature	Agreements will need to be signed by representatives of the university and the Academy for them to be finalised.	1 Dec 2025	19 Dec 2025
Universities announce their award and request project proposals from Academics	Universities will open an internal call for research proposals from academics. During this period, universities must also finalise student applications and outreach.	Dec 2025	Jan 2026
Universities open a call for student applications	Universities must ensure to embed any data collection requirements as provided by the Academy within their student recruitment.	Jan 2026	Mar 2026
Review period for student applications	Universities will review all student applications and select successful applicants. A Fellow of the Academy must be part of the final decision-making process.	Mar 2026	Apr 2026
Research placements take place	Placements start in June and end six to eight weeks later or before 2 September 2025.	1 June 2026	1 Sept 2026
Celebration event	Students attend a celebration event.	Sept 2026	

7. Additional programme details

Field of research and student placement numbers

Proposals must focus primarily on the fields of AI and machine learning, though they can include applicability to other disciplines. We would like to encourage universities to be creative and deliver a programme that works and builds on the strength and capacity of their staff and students as well as delivering maximum value to the undergraduate participants. We anticipate that universities will offer a minimum of five placement opportunities each. However, if the budget permits, universities may be approached post-award to confirm if they can accommodate more students.

Student application process and outreach

University hosts will be responsible for the application and selection process of the undergraduate students and the placement supervisors.

- **Placement supervisors:** following a review, university applicants will be notified of their proposal outcomes in November 2025. Universities must then begin recruiting researchers to supervise and deliver the summer placement project and start the student application process. Timelines will vary by university; therefore, universities may start to recruit research supervisors as early as November 2025 depending how long agreements take to sign. Please refer to section six for a full breakdown of the timelines.
- **Student outreach:** selected host universities must promote placement opportunities to appropriate audiences to attract applications. It is expected that students will be selected from the university's own student body and from other institutions. Universities are particularly encouraged to target and select students from post-1992 institutions or from institutions outside of the Russell Group (which [research highlights](#) already have good access to research opportunities: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10734-021-00693-9>). Universities will be required to share data on the profile of both overall applicants and accepted students.
- **Student selection process and awards:** while the recruitment of researchers and students is left to the university's discretion, an Academy Fellow must be involved in the selection of the final list of students. Once the final student placements are selected by the

university, the university host must make awards and relevant payments directly to the students.

Awardee Excellence Community

Involving a Fellow in the student selection process ensures that selected students will join the Academy's '[Awardee Excellence Community](https://raeng.org.uk/about-us/awardee-excellence-community)' (<https://raeng.org.uk/about-us/awardee-excellence-community>). If successful, the Academy will provide recommended text for selected students.

The Awardee Excellence Community brings together awardees, alumni and partners from across the Academy's programmes from all career stages and disciplines to share their expertise, collaborate and contribute new perspectives to the Academy's work. Members will have the opportunity to meet, learn from and support other Academy awardees, as well as a broader cross section of Academy Fellows through a programme of events, and opportunities to connect in person and online.

Grant Agreements

If you are successful, your funding will be awarded under the 'basic terms and conditions' found on the [Academy's website](https://raeng.org.uk/grants-policies) (<https://raeng.org.uk/grants-policies>). This agreement has been developed to ensure funding 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 best practice.

All award funds will be paid directly to the university, without exception. The university is required to use the funding to implement their proposed placement programme and cover the expenses outlined in their application. Additionally, the university is responsible for drafting any necessary suitable placement agreements with the students.

8. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

Universities will be expected to engage in the programme's monitoring, evaluation and learning activities. These will include the collection of quantitative and qualitative data on the emerging impact and progress of the programmes as well as reflections on challenges and best practice. Data collection tools and a timeline for submission will be shared with the successful applicants prior to the recruitment of students.

In addition, we are currently conducting a feasibility study around a long-term evaluation of the Google DeepMind Research Ready scheme. If this proceeds, universities would be expected to engage with the evaluators and data collection requirements fully.

9. Proposal guidelines

To ensure consistency and fairness in the application process, this section provides applicants with guidance on the content requirements for each proposal. Applicants should review this alongside the assessment criteria (found in section 12) to ensure their proposal is as comprehensive as possible. The following points serve as a starting point for applicants to consider when drafting their applications.

- **AI research placements and presentation:** each university will shape their own programme. For example, some universities might run a one-week lecture and workshop series. This may be followed by a seven-week research project with a supervisor to student ratio of 1:2. Other universities might run programmes where students participate in a research project together in small groups for six weeks, while others might organise for each student to work in a different research group for the duration of the placement programme. It is acknowledged that universities might need to engage a range of staff from graduate students to principal investigator and postdoctoral researchers to support students. At the end of the research placement programme, students might deliver a poster presentation (or similar) summarising their work and learnings.
- **Skills development:** in addition to working on research placement projects, we encourage universities to also incorporate skill development into the programme. Examples might include data analysis, abstract writing, best practice for working in teams, how to socialise research, how to network, etc. These skills might be built into projects or delivered as part of separate workshops.
- **Community building activities:** we know that building a sense of belonging is key to any experience and universities are encouraged to also organise activities to promote a positive research culture and wellbeing. These might be delivered at the start to welcome students and may be ongoing to nurture a sense of community and belonging in the cohort.

- **Accommodation and student funding:** as students will not necessarily be from the host university, the donation will include expenses for each university to provide accommodation for the duration of the programme. Universities can distribute student stipends and travel costs in one lump sum (see details of donation below).

10. How to apply

All applications must be submitted via the Academy's online grants system, available here: <https://grants.raeng.org.uk>. All applicants must first register and provide some basic login details to create a profile.

The application should be submitted by the primary contact person for this proposal. We recommend leaving plenty of time to complete the application form ahead of the deadline and thoroughly going through your application prior to submission. While the guidance notes are embedded within the system itself, we recommend you keep this document to hand when completing the application form. Many of the questions have prescribed word limits which are designed to keep your answers focused and indicate the level of detail we require. In such cases, the number of words you have used will be displayed beneath the question and updated in real time.

Applicants can download a PDF of their application after submission, which is recommended for reference. There is only one application stage and those meeting the eligibility criteria will enter the assessment stages.

To ensure that all applicants are treated fairly, and the Academy's standards and values are upheld, applicants should be aware of our wider policies and practices as they apply to their application. Please refer to Annex A for more information.

11. Application form

After logging into the online grants management system and selecting 'Research Ready' in the 'Start application' section, you should be presented with the 'Instructions' screen.

Here you will see some general instructions on how to use the system, as well as links to each of the six sections of the application form given below:

- Applicant and institution details

- Research placement details
- Case for support
- Funding requested
- Applicant declaration

At any stage in the application process, you can save your work and return to it later. You can answer the questions in any order you like, so you may skip some sections to return to later if you wish. We recommend viewing the application early on to understand what is required. You should also ensure that you have all the necessary documentation to hand when you start completing the application.

11.1. Applicant and institution details

Q. Applicant name and contact details

Please note that this application should be submitted by the primary contact person for this proposal.

Please provide your name and contact details including postal address and a telephone number.

Some of your details and those of your institution should be automatically generated by the system, as you provided these at registration. Please ensure the contact email address is correct and will be valid for the entirety of the application process as this will be the main method of communication for your application.

Q. Position within home institution

Please provide the name of your position within your organisation.

100 words maximum.

Q. University contact details

Please add the details of your institution.

11.2. Research placement details

Q – What is the proposed start date?

Please provide the proposed start date of the project. All placements must start on or after 1 June 2026.

Q – What is the proposed end date?

Please enter the expected end date of the project. All placements must end on or before 1 September 2026 and must last between six and eight weeks in total.

Q - Maximum hours per week required per student placement

Please indicate the maximum number of hours per week that the students will be required to commit to the programme.

11.3. Case for support

Q – Maximum student number:

It is expected that universities will offer a minimum of five student placements opportunities each. However, should additional funding become available, what is the maximum number of student placements (up to 20) that you will be able to accommodate?

Q - Student selection criteria:

What student criteria will you use to select students? With high application numbers, please describe how you intend to select students.

Please comment on the university's outreach plan and how you would encourage applications from the eligible underrepresented undergraduate students. Please note how and where you would advertise this opportunity, in particular to reach students from post-1992 institutions or from institutions outside of the Russell Group.

400 words maximum.

Q - The programme:

Please provide a short summary of the programme you plan to deliver and outline any differences compared to your previous programme in summer 2025. This can involve:

- Details on administration, accommodation, the research experience, integrating AI into the overall experience and events you will run.
- How your proposal will positively impact students and increase progression to AI-related advanced degrees and careers.
- How you will ensure an inclusive experience for the students and build a sense of community and belonging. Please include details of any knowledge of postgraduate access programmes.

600 words maximum.

Q - Challenges:

Are there any challenges that you encountered in the summer 2025 programme? How did you address them and what were the lessons learned? Please include details of any other foreseeable challenges and how you plan to overcome them.

300 words maximum.

Q – Programme events:

Please detail any planned workshops, sessions or events and whether they may require support from the Academy (such as attendance from an Academy representative or help finding a speaker from our awardee community).

300 words maximum.

11.4. Funding requested

Q – What is the total value of the funding requested?

Please note that funding calculations should be provided based on **five** placements. Should funding become available for more placements, applicants will be given the opportunity to revise their total value of requested funding and costs table.

Maximum value for five placements is £36,727.53. Breakdown to be provided in the cost table that follows.

Q - Programme costs:

In your application, please complete the table below to provide the cost of your proposed programme. Enter the duration of your programme (in weeks) and set the number of placements to **five** to automatically calculate the standardised costs.

You will need to manually calculate the variable costs based on the breakdown provided below, although the Academy will ask for these figures to be adjusted if errors are identified.

Please ensure that the duration is consistent with the information you provided previously in your application. If funding can be offered for more than five placements, you will have the opportunity to update this table post-application.

Standardised costs: to ensure fairness and consistency across universities, the following costs are fixed:

- The student stipend: £441 per week per student.
- Student travel: £225 per student to cover the entire placement.
- The costs of events and activities: £250 per student to cover the entire placement.

Variable costs: these costs will vary by university. Eligible costs include:

- Student accommodation: no more than £11,308.48.
- Administrative expenses: no more than £5,404.05.

Table A (below) is an example of the table that will appear in the grants management system. It also provides an example of how costs can be calculated for an 8-week placement programme for five students.

Table A - programme costs:

Cost items	Duration	No. Placements	Type of cost	Totals
Student stipend	8	5	Standardised	£17,640.00 (£441 x 5 placements) x 8 weeks
Student travel			Standardised	£1,150.00 (£225 x 5 placements)
Student activities and events			Standardised	£1,250.00 (£250 x 5 placements)
Student accommodation			Variable	£11,308.48
Administrative expenses			Variable	£5,404.05
Standardised costs total				£20,015.00
Variable costs total				£16,712.53
Grand total/ Funding requested				£36,727.53

11.5. Applicant declarations

Q - Is the proposed work in an area with direct military applications or in an area with potential for a dual use (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/export-controls-dual-use-items-software-and-technology-goods-for-torture-and-radioactive-sources#dual-use-items-software-and-technology>) application.

Please note that failure to declare any potential dual use application of your work may lead to your application being automatically rejected.

Q – Can you confirm that you meet the eligibility criteria for host universities, including the requirement to engage in the programme's monitoring, evaluation and learning activities?

Please refer to section three for eligibility criteria and section eight for monitoring, evaluation and learning. The evaluation will include the collection of quantitative and qualitative data.

Please tick the box to confirm.

Q – Applicant declaration

I confirm here and by submitting this application that:

- All information is accurate at the time of submission, and I will update the Academy of any material changes which may affect the project
- The ideas presented are my own and not plagiarised or containing IP that is not owned by myself, except for that IP that I have express permission to utilise in this way
- All contributions have been appropriately referenced or credited including the use of any online tools such as AI generative tools used in developing my application
- I understand that failure to cite and declare references or sources for material information will result in my application being removed from the process, or the uncorroborated information disregarded
- I understand that The Royal Academy of Engineering will disclose the information submitted in this application to reviewers for the purpose of assessing this application. Any external reviewer we ask to assist us has agreed to keep this information confidential.
- I have the express permission of any individuals whose contact details I have shared as part of this application process, to share these details with the Royal Academy of Engineering for the purposes of administering the application
- I understand that The Royal Academy of Engineering or other third party evaluators may contact me for the purposes of Monitoring and Evaluation of this programme
- I have read and understood the Application Guidance

Once your application is complete a "submit application" button will become available at the top right of the page.

12. Assessment of proposals

Proposals will be reviewed and scored in line with the matrix detailed in Table B below:

Table B

Section	Review criteria	Questions that address the criteria
Programme and student experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evidenced and good rationale for student selection criteria.• Clear articulation behind why the programme is set up in a specific way to make a positive impact to students.• Key improvements to programme content outlined and considered (e.g. exposure to AI research, preparation for postgraduate opportunities, building a sense of belonging).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student selection criteria.• The programme.
Delivery and administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clear project plan with identified risk and mitigations in place.• Delivery process is clear with rationale to support the proposed programme and amount of funding put towards administration.• Quality of plan on how to reach underrepresented students, especially from other universities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Placement start date.• Placement end date.• Maximum hours per week required per student placement.• The programme.• Student selection criteria.• Challenges.
Cost and value	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clear overview of costs and pricing.• Offers good value in terms of the programme and depth of the engagement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Programme cost.• The programme.

Successful applications will be selected at the Academy's discretion. All applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application in November 2025. Please refer to section six for a detailed breakdown of the programme delivery timelines and deadlines.

13. Contact details

If you have any questions, please contact the Royal Academy of Engineering's research programmes team at research@raeng.org.uk.

14. Annex A: application relevant policies

Diversity and inclusion: The Royal Academy of Engineering is committed to diversity and inclusion and welcomes applications from all underrepresented groups across engineering. It is the Academy's [policy](https://raeng.org.uk/media/flghp4gn/rae005-diversity-and-inclusion-policy-2024.pdf) (<https://raeng.org.uk/media/flghp4gn/rae005-diversity-and-inclusion-policy-2024.pdf>) 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, sex, or sexual orientation.

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](https://raeng.org.uk/media/duhjwap2/raeng-privacy-policy-grant-or-award.pdf) (<https://raeng.org.uk/media/duhjwap2/raeng-privacy-policy-grant-or-award.pdf>) 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.

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, while 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 must ensure they are familiar with the Academy's [National Security Risks Policy](https://raeng.org.uk/policies) (<https://raeng.org.uk/policies>).

Use of generative AI tools in funding applications and assessment: 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](https://wellcome.org/about-us/positions-and-statements/joint-statement-generative-ai) (<https://wellcome.org/about-us/positions-and-statements/joint-statement-generative-ai>).

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 applicants 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".*

Subsidy control

The UK subsidy control regime began on 4 January 2023. As part of this regime, the Academy is required to report to the UK Government on how award funding is being used when applications collaborating with commercial enterprises are awarded. The regime determines the lawfulness of monetary awards made using public sector resources when given to businesses and other organisations that are engaged in economic activity.

15. Annex B: applicant data collection form

Diversity and Inclusion Monitoring Form

No.	Question	Response	Suggested formatting
1	What is your age?	16-17 18-21 22-24 25-29 30-34 35-39 40-44 45-49 50-54 55-59 60-64 65-69 70+ Prefer not to say	Dropdown, single choice
2	Do you have caring responsibilities? <i>A carer is a person who provides unpaid care and support to a dependent child, or a person who has a disability, illness or long-term condition, or who needs additional support as they grow older.</i>	Yes No Prefer not to say	List, single choice
3	Do you consider yourself to be disabled or do you have a long-term physical or mental health condition or illness, or a neurodiverse condition?	Yes No Not sure Prefer not to say	List, single choice

4	<p>Would you describe yourself as neurodivergent or neurodiverse?</p> <p><i>Neurodiversity includes autism, ADHD, dyslexia and other neurodivergent conditions. We recognise that not everyone who is neurodivergent or neurodiverse has a formal diagnosis.</i></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>Not sure</p> <p>Prefer not to say</p>	List, single choice
5	<p>What was the occupation of the highest earner in your household when you were aged about 14?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modern professional and traditional professional occupations – such as teacher, nurse, physiotherapist, social worker, musician, police officer (sergeant or above), software designer, accountant, solicitor, medical practitioner, scientist, civil/mechanical engineer. • Senior, middle or junior managers or administrators – such as finance manager, chief executive, large business owner, office manager, retail manager, bank manager, restaurant manager, warehouse manager. • Clerical and intermediate occupations – such as secretary, personal assistant, call centre agent, clerical worker, nursery nurse. • Technical and craft occupations - such as motor mechanic, plumber, printer, electrician, gardener, train driver. • Routine, semi-routine manual and service occupations - such as postal worker, machine operative, security guard, caretaker, farm worker, catering assistant, sales assistant, HGV driver, cleaner, porter, packer, labourer, waiter/waitress, bar staff. 	Dropdown, single choice

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term unemployed (claimed Jobseeker's Allowance or earlier unemployment benefit for more than a year). • Small business owners who employed fewer than 20 people such as corner shop owners, small plumbing companies, retail shop owner, single restaurant or cafe owner, taxi owner, garage owner. • Other - such as retired or this question does not apply to me • Don't know • Prefer not to say. 	
6	Which of the following best describes your ethnic group?	<p>Arab or Arab British</p> <p>Any other Arab background</p> <p>Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi</p> <p>Asian or Asian British - Chinese</p> <p>Asian or Asian British - Indian</p> <p>Asian or Asian British - Pakistani</p> <p>Any other Asian background</p> <p>Black, African, Caribbean or Black British - African</p> <p>Black, African, Caribbean or Black British - Caribbean</p> <p>Black, African, Caribbean or Black British - Black British</p> <p>Any other Black, African or Caribbean background</p> <p>Latin American or Latin American British</p> <p>Any other Latin American background</p>	Dropdown, single choice + free text option

		Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups - Arab and White Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups - Asian and White Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups - Black African and White Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups - Black Caribbean and White Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups – Latin American and White Any other Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups White - English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British White - Irish White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller White - Roma Any other White background Any other ethnic group, please describe Prefer not to say	
7	Which of the following best describes your gender?	Man Non-binary Woman Prefer to self-describe, please describe Prefer not to say	Dropdown, single choice + free text option
8	Would you describe yourself as trans? <i>You are considered transgender if your gender does not align with your sex assigned at birth and you are considered cisgender if your gender does align with your</i>	Yes No Prefer not to say	List, single choice

	<i>sex assigned at birth. A person is protected under the Equality Act 2010 if they have previously, are currently, or propose to in the future undergo any part of a process to change their gender. This is not limited to medical interventions.</i>		
9	Which of the following best describes your religion or belief?	Buddhist Christian Hindu Jewish Muslim No religion Sikh Spiritual Any other religion or belief, please describe Prefer not to say	Dropdown, single choice + free text option
10	Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?	Asexual Bisexual Gay or lesbian Queer Straight or heterosexual Pansexual Prefer to self-describe, please describe Prefer not to say	Dropdown, single choice + free text option
11	Are you married or in a civil partnership, including civil unions?	Yes No Prefer not to say	List, single choice