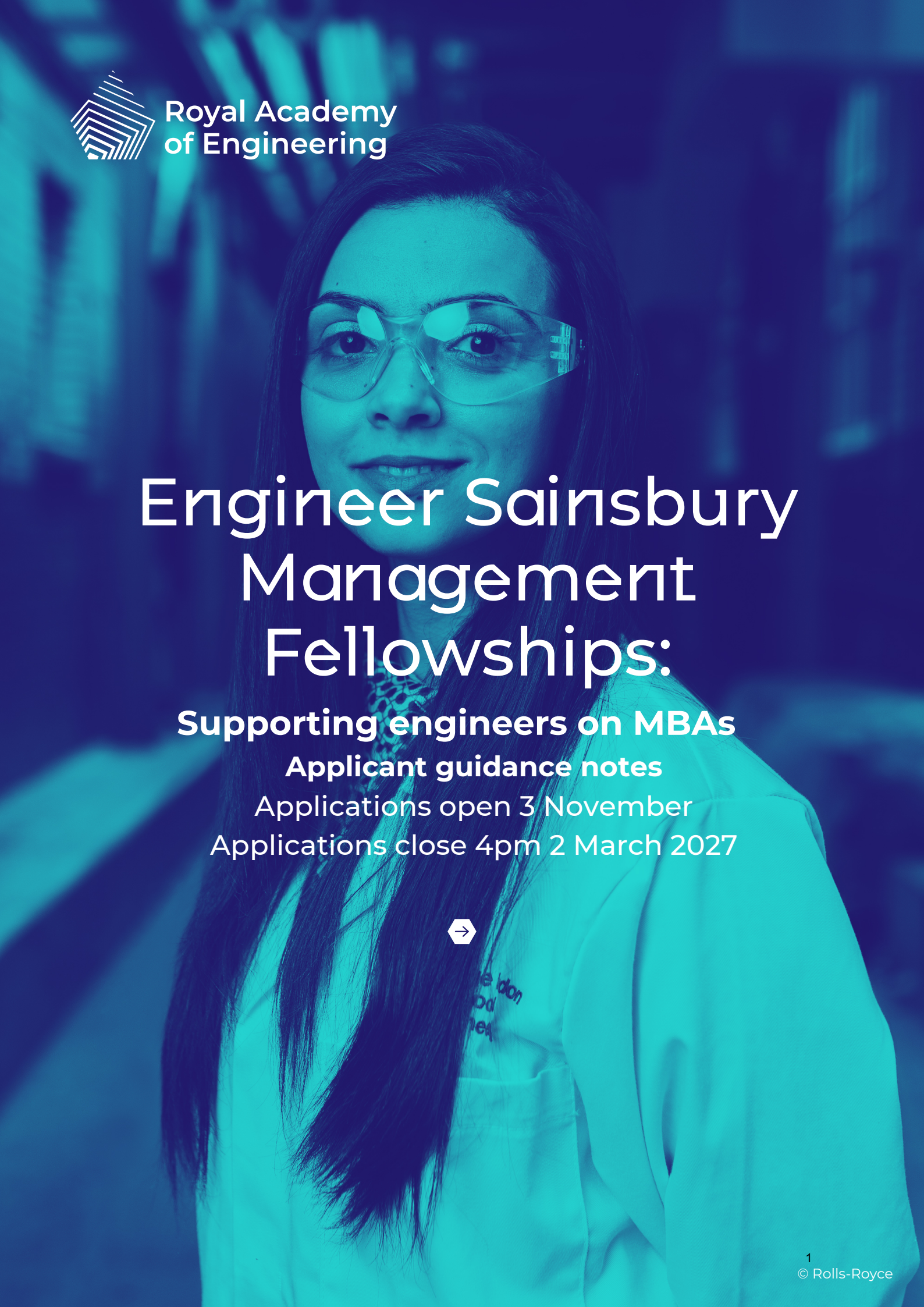


Royal Academy of Engineering

Engineer Sainsbury Management Fellowships:

Supporting engineers on MBAs

Applicant guidance notes

Applications open 3 November

Applications close 4pm 2 March 2027

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Introduction

Sainsbury Management Fellowships

Funded by the Engineers and Scientists in Business Fellowship (ESBF), the Sainsbury Management Fellowship (SMF) supports engineers with high career potential to undertake a full-time MBA course at one of nineteen leading national and international business schools.

The scheme has supported over 400 engineers. SMFs have an excellent track record in securing senior management and leadership roles in UK industry and have made a major contribution to the UK's economic prosperity.

Over 40%
of SMFs currently hold executive board roles

Since 1987, the scheme has supported over 400 Engineers

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Overview

The core aims of the SMF are:

1. To develop UK engineers as industry leaders

2. To improve the economic performance of UK businesses by providing a resource of highly motivated engineers with business skills

Awardees recieve:

- £50,000 to support costs associated with undertaking your MBA

Additional:

- Access to Royal Academy of Engineering events and activities
- Become a part of the SMF alumni network
- The opportunity to support other Royal Academy of Engineering and SMF activities



Eligibility criteria

Applications can be submitted any time, either with or without a confirmed place.

- Applicants must be UK nationals, currently living in the UK.
- Candidates must have achieved a GMAT score of approximately 650 before applying for this scholarship.
- Applicants must have a first degree in an engineering, allied technology or science discipline, preferably a first or upper second class.
- Applicants do not need to have Chartered Engineer status (or equivalent); however, this qualification or progress towards it will be viewed favourably.
- Applicants would usually have four to ten years' experience, post degree.

We are looking for individuals who can demonstrate the following:

- Leadership and interpersonal skills
- A strong commitment to UK engineering and business
- Already demonstrated leadership at a within a work setting
- The potential to become a future senior manager/leader of UK industry and business
- The potential to make a major contribution to the UK's economic prosperity
- Understanding of how the MBA programme will enhance and accelerate their career
- The ability to be a role model and ambassador for SMF.

Applicants who have previously applied and were invited for interview are not eligible to reapply.

Applicants who have previously applied and were not invited for interview may reapply after two years.

Awarding Process

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to an interview.

- Applicants who already have a confirmed place at an approved business school will receive a ‘letter of offer’. The award will be paid directly to you upon submission to us of your confirmed place at an approved business school. If you have already paid the full tuition fee to the business school, the Academy will pay you your award against a paid invoice receipt from the business school (on letterhead). Conversely, if you have not yet paid your tuition fee to the business school, then the Academy will pay you your award once you have enrolled to business school and can demonstrate this with a proof of enrollment document, dated after the official start date of the course.

- Applicants without a confirmed place at an approved business school will be given an ‘offer in principle,’ which must be taken up within 12 months i.e. you would need to demonstrate a confirmed school place within 12 months of the offer in principle being made, otherwise the offer expires. Following your offer in principle, you will be connected with an SMF alumni via ESBF, who will offer mentoring and application support. You will then be able to apply to your chosen business school or schools from the approved list with confidence of receiving the SMF award if accepted.

Eligible Business Schools

The Sainsbury Management Fellowship can only be used when studying at one of the following business schools.

Alliance Manchester Business School

Cambridge Judge Business School

Cranfield School of Management

Imperial College Business School

Saïd Business School, University of Oxford

Warwick Business School

Booth School of Business, The University of Chicago

Columbia Business School

Harvard Business School

HEC Paris

IESE Business School University of Navarra, Spain

IMD, Switzerland

INSEAD France and Singapore

Kellogg School of Management North Western University

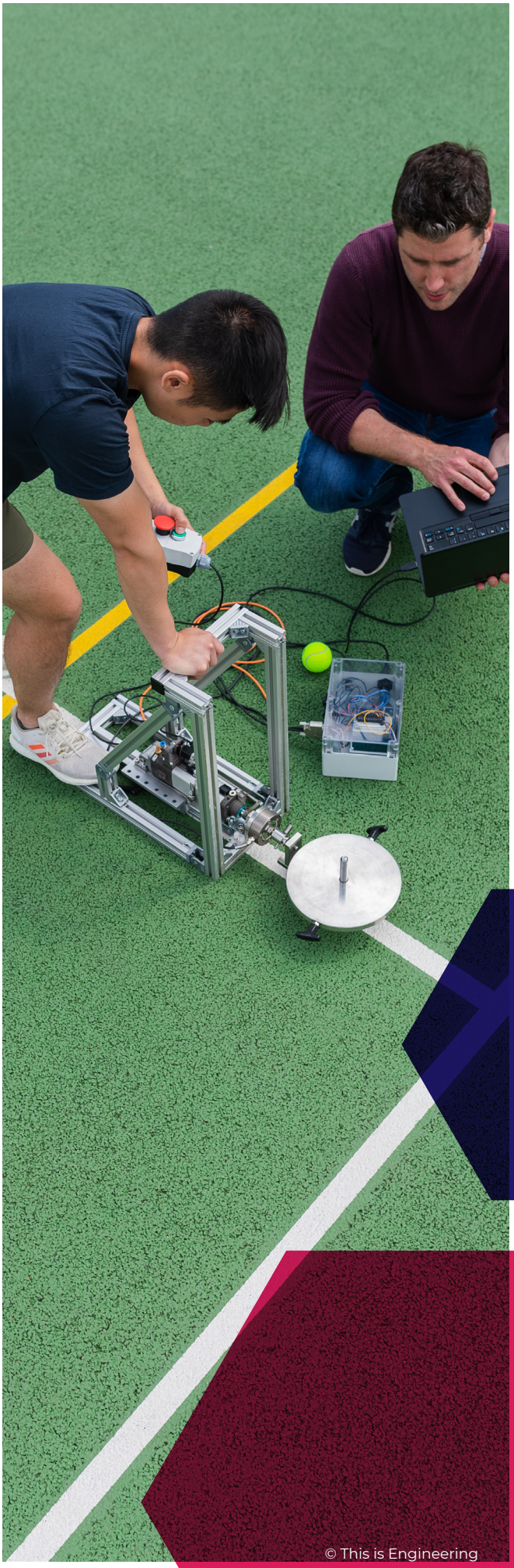
Rotterdam School of Management Erasmus University

SDA Bocconi School of Management, Italy

Sloan School of Management Massachusetts Institute of Technology

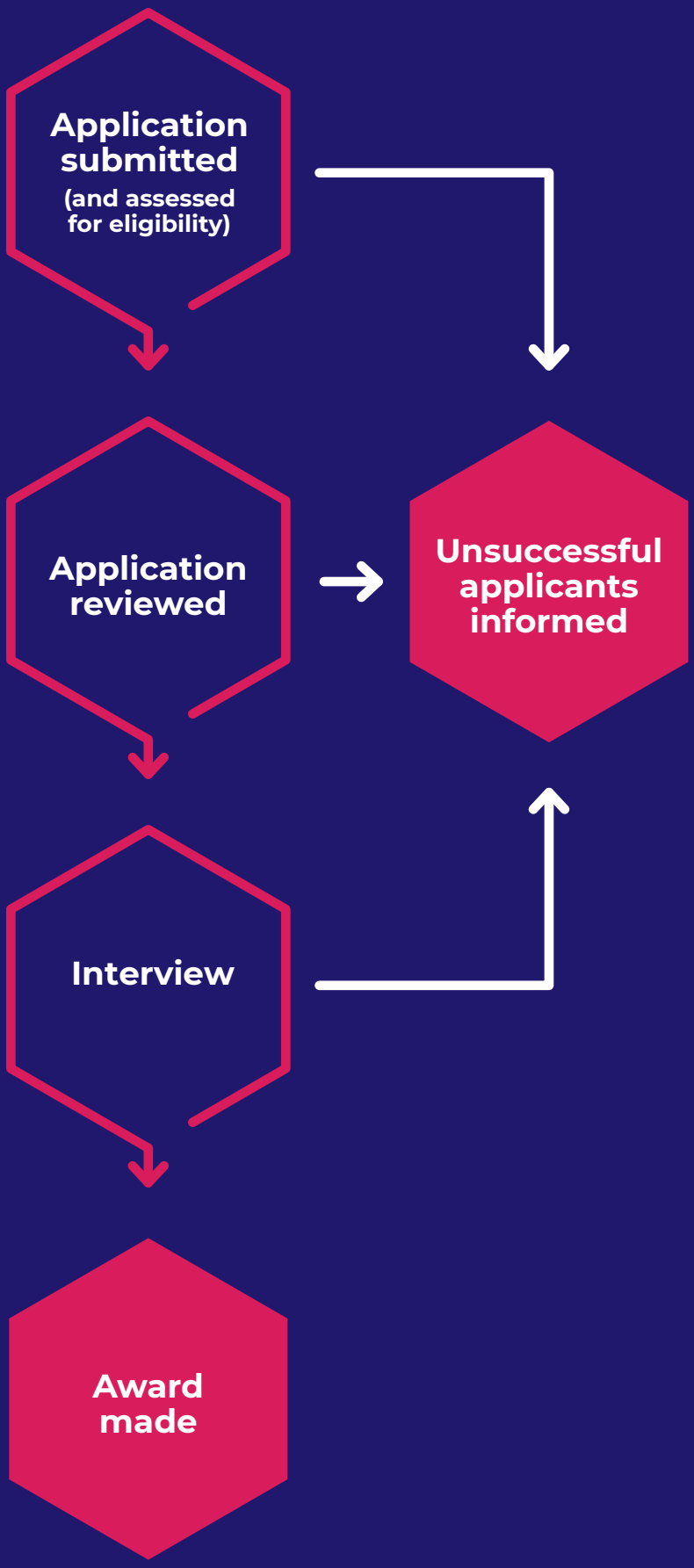
Stanford University, Graduate School of Business

Wharton – University of Pennsylvania



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Application process





How to apply

Create an account
All applications must be submitted via the Academy's online grant management system (GMS) available at https://grants.raeng.org.uk **All applicants must first register with the online system and create a profile.**

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 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** 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.

The application form has five sections and should take between one hour and one day to complete, depending on whether the applicant has already considered the questions prior to applying. A summary of the guidance notes is embedded within the system itself. However, the guidance given below may be more detailed so we recommend you keep this document to hand.

The written questions have word limits, which are designed to keep your answers focused and to give you an indication of the level of detail we require.

Applicants can download a PDF of their applications after submission. There is only one application stage and those meeting the eligibility criteria will enter the initial review stage.

If you have any questions concerning the application or the online system, please email lauren.pattle@raeng.org.uk

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, whilst 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 should ensure they are familiar with the Academy's Policy on National Security-Related Risks.

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. 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 applicant's 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 acknowledgment 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.

Reasonable Adjustments
We want to ensure all applicant can participate and present their best selves during the application process, and for the duration of the programme if you are successful.
If you need any adjustments or changes to support your participation in the process or throughout the programme, please contact lauren.pattle@raeng.org.uk to discuss your needs. All information shared will be treated confidentially in line with GDPR principles. For more details, please see the Academy's privacy policy.
We encourage you to get in touch at least 10 working days before the submission deadline, so we can respond accordingly and toilor possible adjustments to your circumstances.

Grant Agreement
If you are successful, your funding will be awarded under the Scholarships and Bursaries Terms and Conditions found on the Academy's website. 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.

Completing the application form

After registering and logging in to the GMS, select the 'RAENG Portal' tab on the top left-hand side of your screen. Here you will be presented with a list of all Academy schemes that are currently accepting applications.
Find the SMFs scheme and click on 'Start an application'; here you should be presented with the 'Instructions' screen, where you will see general instructions on how to use the system, and links to the five sections of the application form given below:

1. Applicant details
2. Course details
3. Case for support
4. Marketing
5. Statements of support & declaration

You can save your work at any stage in the application process and return to it later. You can answer the questions in any order you like so you may freely skip some sections to return to later. It is therefore worth viewing the application early on for an indication of what is required, including any documents e.g. your CV.



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Questions

Section 1: Applicant details

Q - Applicant details
Provide your name and contact details including postal address and a telephone number. Some of your details will be automatically generated, as you provided these at registration.

Q - Are you a UK national, currently living in the UK?
By ticking this box you confirm that you are.

Q - Please upload a copy of your passport
Please upload, as a PDF, a copy of your passport personal details and photo page plus the front cover of your passport.

Q - Please upload a utility bill from the last three months.
Please upload a utility bill from the last three months. This must contain the name and address you provided at the start of your application for this scholarship. This is to confirm you are currently living in the UK.

Q - To be eligible for this scholarship, you must have taken the GMAT exam, and achieved a score of 650 or above.
Please upload proof of your score, which can be a screenshot, or an email confirmation. Your proof of score must contain your full name.

Q -There are two Sainsbury Management Fellowship (SMF) scholarships. One scholarship is for Scientists, and this scholarship is for Engineers.
Please tick the following box, to confirm that you are applying for the Engineer SMF scholarship, and have not applied for the Scientist SMF scholarship.

Q - Please upload a copy of your CV
Your CV should not be more than three pages long, and should highlight your career history, in particular engineering-specific activities and educational qualifications.

Q - Referee details
Please provide the names, company, position, and contact details (email and telephone) of two referees who can be contacted prior to interview. We may not contact referees and will seek permission before we do so.

Q - Engineering Sector
Select the broad engineering category that best describes your area

Q - Professional engineering institution (PEI) membership
List PEI membership both in the UK and overseas

Q - Level of PEI membership
State the level of your membership with the PEIs selected in the previous question (for example, Chartered Engineer, Associate, Student). If you are currently working towards Chartered Engineer (or equivalent) status, please indicate this here.

Q - Do either of your parents hold a university degree?
Your answer to this question will not affect your eligibility

Q - At any point in your education, did you attend a fee paying school?
Your answer to this question will not affect your eligibility.

Questions

Section 2: Course details

Q - Do you already have a confirmed place at an approved business school?

Q - If yes, please select the business school you have an offer with from the drop-down list.

Q - If you do not have an offer, please list the business school(s) you are hoping to study at. If unknown, please leave this question blank.

Q - If you have a confirmed place, what is your MBA start date?

Q - If you do not have an offer, when are you hoping to start your MBA

Please note that you will need to demonstrate a confirmed business school place within 12 months of the offer in principle being made.

Q - Duration of MBA.
In years and months please confirm the duration of the MBA you will enrol / hope to enrol onto.

Q - Please confirm the total value of the tuition fees for the MBA you will enrol / hope to enrol onto, and how you plan to pay them.
Include here any other scholarships, employer contributions, own funds etc., you will be using to pay the tuition fees. Please note, this information will not affect your eligibility for the scholarship.

Section 3: Case for support

Q - How do you meet the criteria for this award?
Why do you feel you are a suitable candidate? Emphasise any key career achievements to date. Where applicable, please refer to any achievements relating to UK engineering and business.
[500 word limit]

Q - Describe a time in your life when you failed and what you learnt from that experience.
[500 word limit]

Q - How will the SMF's support of your studies advance the aims of the SMF programme?

[250 word limit]

Questions

Section 4: Marketing

Q - How did you hear about the SMF scheme? (optional)
Let us know how you heard about the programme, the information provided will help us improve our communication strategy and will not be seen by reviewers.

Section 5: Statement of support and declaration

Q - If you have a confirmed place, please upload the acceptance letter from business school
Include a signed acceptance letter from the business school, the letter must:

- Be on business school letterhead
- Include contact details of the writer
- Confirm your admission to their full-time MBA programme
- Have the date your full-time MBA programme started/will start.

Q - Application declaration
I confirm here and by submitting this application that:

- all information is accurate at the time of submission
- the ideas presented are my own and not plagiarised or containing IP that is not owned by myself
- 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 will result in my application being removed from the process
- I understand that my application and any content including IP shared within will be shared with reviewers as part of our application process
- 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

Assessment

Applications will be reviewed and assessed by a Selection Panel comprising of Academy Fellows and SMFs, who will select candidates for interview.

Please note that only applicants who can attend an interview will be eligible for an award.

In assessing the applications, the panel will consider the following criteria as well as the extent to which the application aligns with the aims and objectives of the award:

- The applicant's leadership and interpersonal skills
- The applicant's commitment to UK engineering and business
- The applicant's potential to become a future senior manager/leader of UK industry
- The applicant's potential to make a major contribution to the nation's economic prosperity
- The extent that the MBA programme will enhance and accelerate the applicant's career
- The applicant's potential to be a role model/ambassador for SMF



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Interviews

Interviews will last for up to 45 minutes and will be conducted by a panel of three to four interviewers.

The interviewers will be Academy Fellows and SMF alumni. Interviews will take place, in person, at the Academy (Prince Phillip House).

About us

The Royal Academy of Engineering is harnessing the power of engineering to build a sustainable society and an inclusive economy that works for everyone.

In collaboration with our Fellows and partners, we're growing talent and developing skills for the future, driving innovation and building global partnerships, and influencing policy and engaging the public.

Together we're working to tackle the greatest challenges of our age.

Our funders

The programme is delivered and funded by the Engineers and Scientists in Business Fellowship (ESBF), and administered by the Academy.

ESBF is a registered charity that promotes the importance and value of business education for engineers and scientists, in order to improve people's lives and the performance of the UK and global economies.

ESBF empowers engineers to become leaders in UK industry, helps them achieve their full potential and attain career goals, and inspires a passion for business innovation among undergraduate engineers.



Royal Academy of Engineering

Key Dates

The submission deadline is 4.00pm, **2 March 2027.**

Applicants must be able to attend the interview to be considered for an award. The interviews will be held in May 2027 (dates TBC), at Prince Phillip House.

Contact

If you have any questions about your eligibility, the programme, or problems with your application, please email the Programme Manager, via lauren.pattle@raeng.org.uk

Further Information

For more information on eligibility please follow the link to the website.