



Royal Academy
of Engineering

The Lord Bhattacharyya Higher Education Bursary Scheme

Applicant Guidance Notes

Deadline: Monday 8th July 2024

Overview

The Lord Bhattacharyya Higher Education Bursary Scheme supports students from eligible colleges and sixth forms across the West Midlands who want to study engineering or a related course at any UK university.

Students from low-income households and under-represented groups within the engineering sector can apply for a £15,000 bursary to support their studies at any UK university.

Successful applicants will also be enrolled on the Academy's Graduate Engineering Engagement Programme (GEEP), which empowers students to excel in their careers, developing their engineering and employability skills.

For young people studying A Levels, T Levels and vocational courses, progressing onto engineering degree courses

Bursaries worth £15,000

You will receive £5,000 a year for three years. If your course includes a foundation year, your bursary will be paid in the first three years of your studies

Develop employability skills

GEEP offers a meticulously crafted curriculum, immersive workshops and mentorship from industry experts to enhance your engineering and employability skills



Aims and objectives

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The Lord Bhattacharyya Higher Education Bursary Scheme supports young people on their journey through engineering education to forge a career in the field.

The main objectives of the bursary programme are:

1

To encourage students from low-income households and those underrepresented in the engineering sector to become valuable members of the engineering workforce in the future

2

To support local students' progression from eligible schools and colleges in the West Midlands to UK universities as they continue their engineering studies at degree level

3

To help address the UK's shortage of engineers by promoting greater diversity and inclusion in UK engineering

Financial support

If you are successful in the application process, and provide proof your enrolment on your course at university, you will receive:

Year 1

January 2025
£3,500
March 2025
£1,500

Year 2

October 2025
£1,750
March 2026
£1,750
May 2026
£1,500

Year 3

October 2026
£1,750
February 2027
£1,750
May 2027
£1,500



Eligibility criteria

The Lord Bhattacharyya Higher Education Bursary scheme is only open to eligible students from the following schools, colleges and academies which are part of the wider Lord Bhattacharyya Engineering Education Programme:

- Barr's Hill School, Coventry
- Blue Coat C of E School and Music College, Coventry
- Colmers School and Sixth Form College, Birmingham
- Coventry College, Coventry
- Ernesford Grange Community Academy, Coventry
- Grace Academy Solihull, Solihull
- Nicholas Chamberlaine School, Bedworth
- North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College, Nuneaton Campus
- Rugby College, Warwickshire College Group
- Rugby Free Secondary School, Rugby
- Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic School & Sixth Form, Birmingham
- Sidney Stringer Academy, Coventry
- Solihull College and University Centre, Solihull
- South and City College Birmingham
- Meadow Park School, Coventry
- WMG Academy for Young Engineers, Coventry
- WMG Academy for Young Engineers, Solihull

You will need to be a resident of the UK, eligible to pay UK home fees at university and plan to begin your studies at a UK university in autumn 2024. You must also be able to answer 'yes' to one, or both, of the following:

- I have been continuously eligible for free school meals since the start of my post-16 studies - even if you did not receive them.
- At least one of my parents/guardians is in receipt of state benefits.

We particularly welcome applications from students who meet the criteria above and can also answer 'yes' to one or more of the following:

- Are currently in, or have spent time in, the local authority care system.
- Will be the first generation in your immediate family to attend university.
- Have not attended a fee-paying school at any time since the age of 11 (unless you received a scholarship).

To be eligible for GEEP

You must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- identify as of black, Asian or other minority ethnic background
- identify as a woman
- have applied to attend a non-Russell Group university
- come from a socio-economically disadvantaged background

If successful in your application, you agree to do the following for the Royal Academy of Engineering:

- Be prepared to act as an ambassador for the scheme, attending events as requested by the Academy.
- Agree to take part in evaluation if requested to do so. This evaluation may happen either during or following completion of your studies and could be participation in a focus group and/or an interview and/or the completion of a questionnaire.

The Academy is committed to diversity and inclusion and encourages applications from women and other groups who are currently underrepresented in engineering

If you have any questions regarding your eligibility please contact Beccy Sanderson at rebecca.sanderson@raeng.org.uk

**Three years
of support**



How to apply

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You must apply for the scheme yourself - you cannot ask anyone to apply on your behalf.

All applications must be submitted via the Academy's Grant Management System (GMS, available here: <https://grants.raeng.org.uk>)

If you are not already registered, you must first register on the system and provide some basic details to create a profile. When you first register, you will need to wait around 10 minutes before you can access the application form for the first time.

After logging in to the GMS via the Academy website, click the RAEng Portal on the top left, and select 'Lord Bhattacharyya Higher Education Bursaries' which will bring up the application instructions.

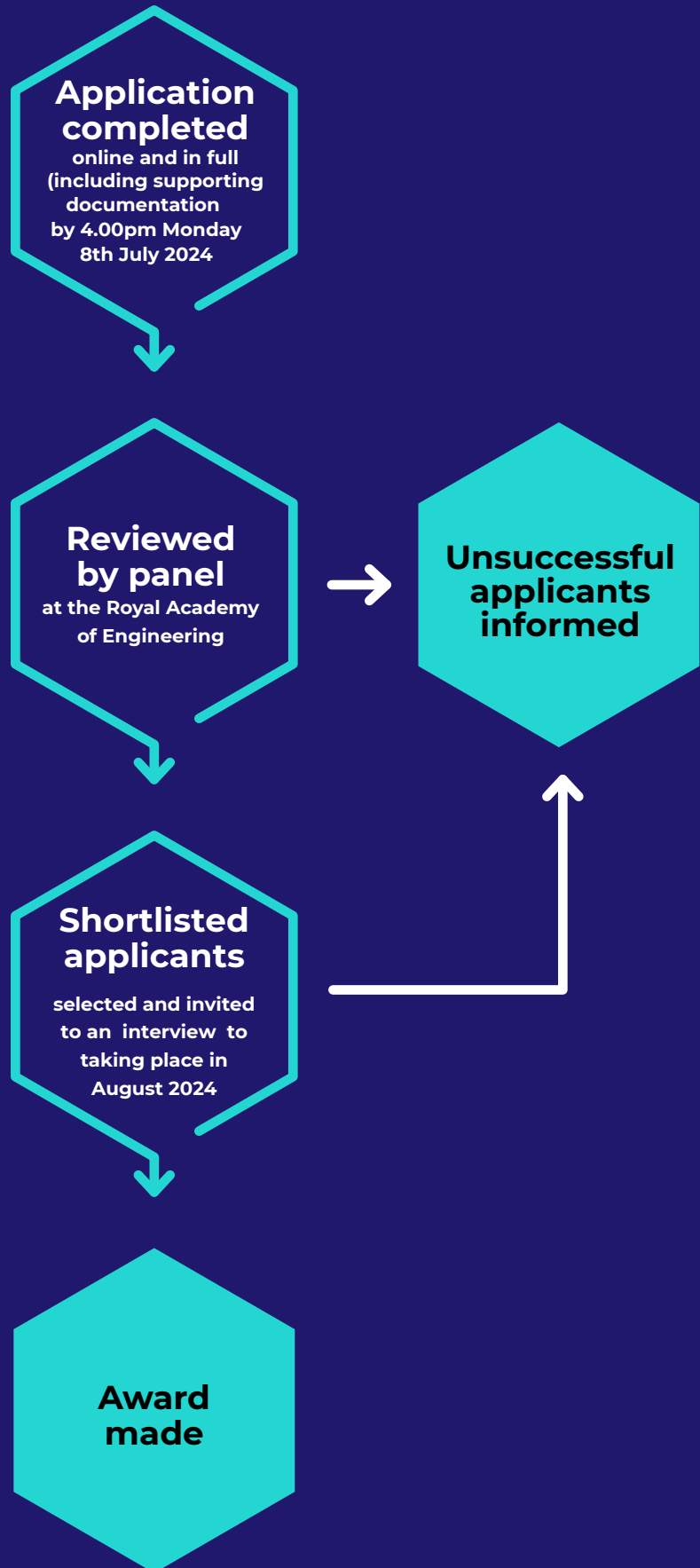
The application form has six sections and should take around two hours to complete fully. You can save your progress at any time and come back to it later.

A summary of the guidance notes is embedded in the system itself, but the notes here are more detailed so we recommend you keep this document to hand when completing the form.

The main purpose of the application form is to identify whether you meet the eligibility criteria and the aims and objectives of the scheme.

You will have the option to download a PDF of your application after submission, which may be useful for future reference if you are invited to interview.

Application process





What to expect in your application

All applications must be submitted via the GMS, available here: <https://grants.raeng.org.uk>

Once you access the application form as a registered user, it should autocomplete your name and contact details. You must ensure your email address and telephone number are recorded accurately, as the Royal Academy of Engineering will use this to contact you regarding your application. You must also provide an email address that will remain valid for the entire duration of your studies and after graduating. The following pages outline the questions you will be asked to answer and notes to explain what is expected from you in each.

Please note that you will also be required to upload documentation as proof of some of your answers before submitting your application.

Questions

Section one **Personal Information**

Q - Contact details

Check that these are correct, and that your email address is the one which you can be contacted on (and that you will check) throughout your university course and after graduating.

Q - Sixth form/college/academy

Please use the check box to tell us which of the eligible schools or colleges you currently attend. If yours is not listed on page 4 of this document, you are unfortunately not eligible to apply.

Questions

Sections two and three

Eligibility and Education

Eligibility

You will need to check a box to state that you are a UK resident and eligible to pay UK home fees at university (if you cannot answer 'yes' to this, you are not eligible for the award.)

You must also be able to demonstrate at least one of the following:

- Continuous **eligibility for free school meals** since the start of your post-16 studies (even if you did not claim them)
- You have at a parent/guardian in receipt of means-tested state **benefits**

You will be asked to provide proof of these.

In addition, please tick any of the following that might apply to you:

- You are currently in, or have spent time in, the local authority care system
- You are the first generation in your immediate family to attend university
- You have not attended a fee-paying school at any time since the age of 11 (except where you received a scholarship.)

To be eligible for GEEP you must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- You identify as of black, Asian or other minority ethnic background
- You identify as a woman
- You will be attending a non-Russell Group university
- You are from a socio-economically disadvantaged background

If the criteria above don't apply to you, you can still submit an application and explain why you would like to apply.

This could include circumstances such as single-parent families, only one parent in employment, multiple siblings, young carers, or even a household income slightly above the threshold for receiving benefits. You might be applying for other bursaries or support from your university - all this helps you build a case for why you would like to apply.

Education

Q – AS, A Levels, T Levels and vocational qualifications

Please list the qualifications that you will complete in 2024, including your predicted grades.

If there are also subjects you dropped after Year 12, please list them and the grades you achieved.

Make sure that you clearly indicate which are A Levels, which are AS Levels, which are BTECs and so on.

Q - Which universities and courses have you applied for?

Please list the universities and courses you have applied for, and provide the course codes. You will also need to upload proof of this, which should ideally be your letter from UCAS confirming your firm, insurance and declined offers, if available.

If this isn't available, please upload all the university offer letters that apply, including offers that you have accepted.

Q - Does your course include an integrated foundation year?

If your course is a three-year degree course, please tick 'no'.

If your course is a four-year course with an integrated foundation year, please tick 'yes'. Please note that an integrated foundation year, is NOT a foundation degree.

Q - Where do you hope this qualification will lead you?

Here you need to describe, in up to 150 words, what plans you have after you finish your university studies. What do you aspire to do in the future? What are your long-term ambitions?

Questions



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Section four

Your passions and interests

This section will help us understand more about you as a person, your interest and passion for engineering, and how you want to use it to make a difference to the world around you.

Each question has a word count of 250-300 words, so make the most of this and provide as much detail as possible. Consider drafting your answer somewhere else so you can review and finalise it before submitting your answer on the GMS.

Q - Why should you be awarded a bursary?

This is your chance to sell yourself! Tell us a bit about yourself, your goals and ambitions, and how this bursary will help you to achieve them. What sets you apart from others who might apply, and what would you use the bursary for? We are also interested to hear about what has inspired you to choose engineering.

Q - Tell us how you think engineering could be used in the future to address at least one of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Engineering is crucial to solving some of the world's greatest threats and challenges. The UN has developed 17 SDGs that must be addressed to ensure a sustainable future for the world and its population. Review the list of SDGs at <https://sdgs.un.org/> then choose at least one and tell us how you think engineering could be used to achieve the goal and address the challenge(s) - don't be afraid to think outside the box! Try to include specific examples, rather than talking about general ways that engineering could help.

Q - How have you used engineering outside of school?

We would like to understand how you have engaged with engineering outside of school or college. Tell us about a time when you used engineering to identify/solve a problem, and how you went about it. This is a chance to show your interest and explain how you relate engineering to your experience of solving a problem, and which skills you put to good use. You may not have solved a problem specifically, but you may have improved, adapted, invented or been creative with something. **These are all characteristics of an engineer!**

Questions

Section five

Reference details

You will need to provide a reference from one of your tutors in support of your application. Please talk to them before applying, and get their permission to use them as a referee.

Referee details

Please write your referee's name once you have talked to them and have received their approval. Ideally they will let you have their work email address so that the Royal Academy of Engineering can contact them if needed but, if they do not want to share this with you, you will need the telephone number of your school/college.

Please upload your reference here

In this box, you need to upload the reference that has been provided for you. The reference must cover the following: attendance rate, academic capability, confirmation of A-levels, BTECs or OCRs you are completing this year, and anything else they feel is relevant to your application.

Your reference **MUST** be signed and on official headed paper. If successful, we will contact your referee to confirm your reference before we can offer you a bursary.

Section six

Check your submission

In this final section you need to confirm that all information provided in the application is completely accurate at the time of submitting it. You must also confirm that you have got permission from anyone whose contact details you have included, or who has provided any evidence you have uploaded.

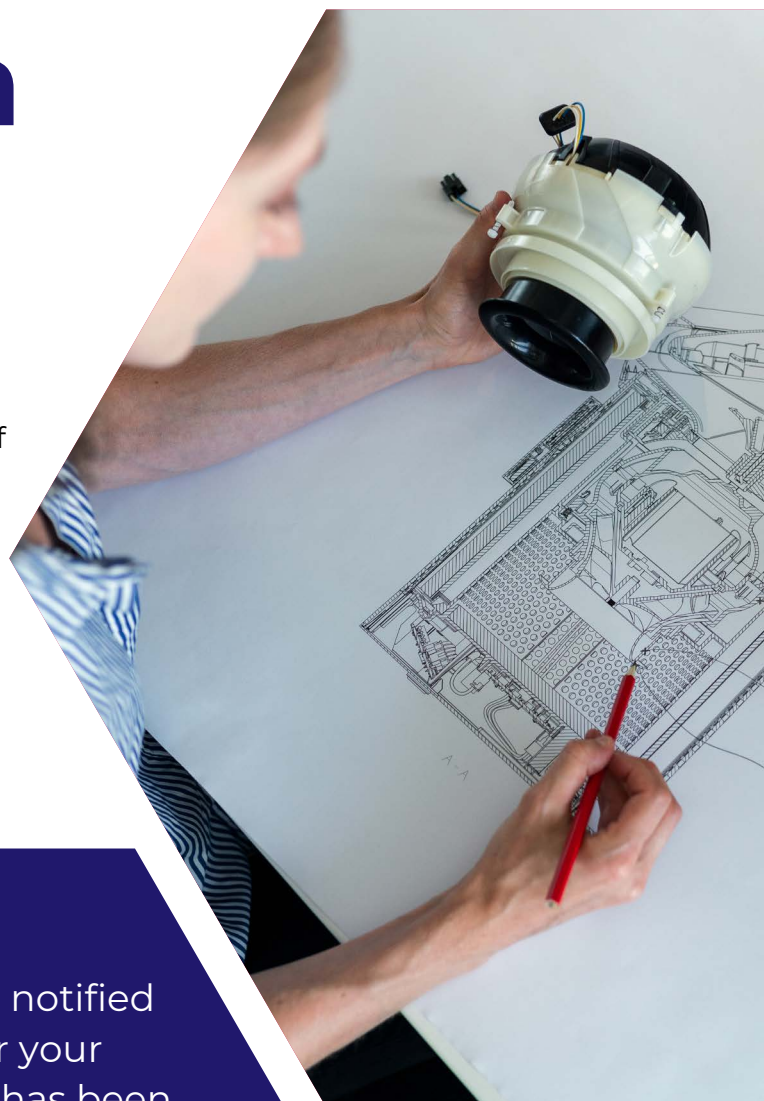
Please note that the Royal Academy of Engineering will undertake checks as appropriate, and that any false information will disqualify you from receiving the bursary.

Good luck!



Application timeline

Applications must be submitted electronically on the Academy's GMS, and will then reviewed and assessed by a selection panel made up of employees and Fellows of the Royal Academy of Engineering.



Application deadline: 4.00pm on **Monday 8th July 2024**

Late submissions cannot be accepted.

You will be notified whether your application has been shortlisted by **Monday 29th July 2024**

If shortlisted, you will be invited to attend an online interview, expected to take place on **8th or 9th August 2024**

Applicants will be informed of the Royal Academy of Engineering's decision by **Friday 16th August 2024**



Contact

If you have any questions about your eligibility, the programme, or problems with your application, please contact Becca Sanderson at rebecca.sanderson@raeng.org.uk



**Professor Lord Kumar
Bhattacharyya**
Kt CBE FEng FRS

What is the Lord Bhattacharyya Engineering Education Programme?

These higher education bursaries are part of the wider Lord Bhattacharyya Engineering Education Programme, which is led by the Royal Academy of Engineering in close partnerships with WMG, University of Warwick.

The programme is a tribute to the late Professor Lord Bhattacharyya Kt CBE FEng FRS, who was an engineer, academic, educator, and government advisor. Lord Bhattacharyya was passionate about inspiring the next generation of engineers and technicians, and established WMG at the University of Warwick in 1980, which promotes collaboration

between industry and academia. With funding from the UK Government Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, the Lord Bhattacharyya Engineering Education Programme was established in his memory after his passing in March 2019.

The programme is working with secondary schools and FE colleges across the West Midlands, providing opportunities to experience engineering first-hand, sparking interest in the subject, and later supporting young people's progression through education and into engineering and technician careers.

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.

What we do

Talent & diversity

We're growing talent by training, supporting, mentoring and funding the most talented and creative researchers, innovators and leaders from across the engineering profession.

We're developing skills for the future by identifying the challenges of an everchanging world and developing the skills and approaches we need to build a resilient and diverse engineering profession.

Innovation

We're driving innovation by investing in some of the country's most creative and exciting engineering ideas and businesses. We're building global partnerships that bring the world's best engineers from industry, entrepreneurship and academia together to collaborate on creative innovations that address the greatest global challenges of our age.

Policy & engagement

We're influencing policy through the National Engineering Policy Centre – providing independent expert support to policymakers on issues of importance. We're engaging the public by opening their eyes to the wonders of engineering and inspiring young people to become the next generation of engineers.

