

Royal Academy of Engineering

Engineering X, Skills for Safety Programme

Open Grant Call

Available funding: £500,000.00

Applicant Guidance Notes

Deadline:

14 September 2026, 11:00AM (BST)

Queries

Stefania Pappalardo

Stefania.Pappalardo@raeng.org.uk

Contents

Programme Context.....	3
Royal Academy of Engineering https://raeng.org.uk/about-us/https://raeng.org.uk/about-us/our-strategy/	3
Lloyd's Register Foundation.....	3
Engineering X.....	3
Skills for Safety.....	4
Grant funding background and rationale	4
Grant call overview.....	5
Objectives and expected outcomes:.....	5
Grant funding framework	8
Events and visibility	8
Skills for Safety Open Grant Award Journey	8
Eligible costs	9
Project partner roles	10
Eligibility criteria – who can apply for funding?.....	11
Award process and timeline (tentative).....	12
How to apply?	12
Diversity and Inclusion	13
National security	13
Using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to draft your application.....	13
Research involving human participants or tissue.....	14
Animals in research.....	14
Grant agreement.....	15
General instructions.....	15
Application form	17
Submission.....	30
Application assessment.....	30
Resources	32

Programme Context

Royal Academy of Engineering <https://raeng.org.uk/about-us/https://raeng.org.uk/about-us/our-strategy/>

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 from every part of the profession. As a National Academy, we provide leadership for engineering and technology, and independent, expert advice to policymakers in the UK and beyond. Our work is enabled by funding from the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, corporate and university partners, charitable trusts and foundations, and individual donors.

Lloyd's Register Foundation

Lloyd's Register Foundation is an independent global charity that supports research, innovation, and education to make the world a safer place. Its mission is to use the best evidence and insight to help the global community focus on tackling the world's most pressing safety and risk challenges. For more information, please visit www.lrfoundation.org.uk.

Engineering X

[Engineering X](#) is a growing collaboration, founded by the **Royal Academy of Engineering** and the **Lloyd's Register Foundation**, that brings together some of the world's leading problem-solvers to address the greatest safety and sustainability challenges of our time. We currently work on five programmes spanning three themes: the energy transition, waste management, and skills.

Our network of expert engineers, academics, and business and community leaders are working in partnership to improve safety while tackling sustainability challenges. We share best practice, explore new technologies, educate and train the next generation of engineers.

Skills for Safety

The Engineering X [Skills for Safety](#) programme (formerly known as Engineering Skills where they are Most Needed) is focused on enabling high-quality skills programmes that strengthen safer engineering practices worldwide with a focus on LMICs. We do this by building a strong evidence base, such as through the [Global Engineering Capability Review \(GECR\) 2025](#), funding partners through open grant calls to enhance skills and safety culture and fostering global engagement through initiatives like our Engineering Skills for Safety Webinar series.

The [GECR 2025](#) is a vital evidence base for our current activities. It presents a new framework for understanding engineering capacity and capability across countries and regions. It can be used as a diagnostic tool to identify capacity gaps across the system and map country and context specific plans to strengthen their engineering capacity and capability. To access the interactive Engineering Capacity Index dashboard and full report, please visit the [GECR 2025 page](#).

Finally, as most engineering safety issues occur in industry, we aim to develop sustainable collaborations with engineering industry partners who are committed to strengthening workforce skills and improving safety performance and culture across the organisation.

Grant funding background and rationale

Since 2019, the Skills for Safety programme has awarded more than GBP £2 million in grant funding across twenty countries through [two funding rounds](#), supporting nearly forty organisations including universities, professional engineering institutions, regulatory bodies, and industry partners. Collectively these projects have strengthened engineering capacity for safe and innovative engineering practice, reduced risk, improved workforce employability, and laid the ground for long-term, sustainable impact where it is needed most.

Evidence from the GECR 2025 highlights the need for better collaboration between key stakeholders in order to drive safer outcomes. The Skills for Safety survey (2024/25) reinforced that significant barriers to safer engineering practice are often systemic rather than technical alone, including:

- Inadequate commitment to safety culture and behaviour,
- Insufficient investment in training and continuing professional development, and
- Lack of collaboration between key stakeholders.

Grant call overview

The third Skills for Safety open grant call will support two project types: those that aim to scale existing interventions that strengthen engineering skills and capacity, and those which can strengthen and scale partnerships and collaboration mechanisms, all with the goal of achieving safer engineering outcomes.

All proposed projects should clearly align with the grant objectives (see below) and the GECR 2025 priorities; namely the need for collaboration and partnerships, and the use of data to identify context-specific gaps to improve safety. Projects should demonstrate how they will enable key stakeholder groups, especially industry, to adopt and deliver safer engineering practices that protect life, property, and the environment beyond the lifetime of the grant.

We particularly encourage Skills for Safety alumni (including SCEE champions and impact grant awardees) to apply, with an emphasis on maximising the outcomes and impact of projects previously funded by us, through institutionalising the change. However, we also welcome proposals for existing initiatives not funded by us that have the potential to achieve greater impact in the ecosystem.

If you have any questions about the grant, or would like support in finding a potential partner, please register to attend one of the **grant information** and matchmaking sessions on:

1. **Thursday 20 August at 12pm BST. Please RSVP [here](#) by 18 August 2026.**
2. **Friday 04 September at 12pm BST. Please RSVP [here](#) by 02 Sept 2026.**

Objectives and expected outcomes:

Proposed projects must contribute to at least one of the two objectives outlined below:

1. **To scale the impact of skills and safety initiatives, both those previously funded by us and others in the ecosystem**

This objective supports proposals to scale the impact of skills and safety initiatives by amplifying proven approaches, extending their reach and embedding and institutionalising the change. This may include scaling activities designed to improve engineering skills, embed safety into professional practice, address safety standards and regulations, enhance safety culture, or increase collaboration among key stakeholders. Projects will build on existing success and momentum, providing

evidence to show readiness for wider institutional adoption, and with clear plans for long-term sustainability and further scale beyond the lifetime of the grant.

Depending on the nature of the project, expected outcomes include:

- Increased reach and uptake of proven skills and safety initiatives across additional sectors, stakeholder groups, organisations and/or countries
- Identification of pathways to long-term sustainability and wider scale beyond the project timeframe, including through further partnerships, investment, institutional adoption or through progress on policy, regulation or its implementation.

2. To scale partnerships and collaboration across key stakeholder groups as outlined in the GECR 2025

This objective supports proposals to scale or strengthen collaboration and partnerships by engaging stakeholders including professional engineers, government, the engineering industry, academics and wider networks within and across sectors, organisations, stakeholder groups and/or countries. Projects should justify the need for these partnerships and demonstrate how the collaboration will address gaps and improve safety outcomes - such as enhancing knowledge and data sharing, improving evidence-based decision-making, contributing to policy and regulatory improvements, developing safety culture, or other collaborative change. Projects should show how the collaboration will be maintained and further strengthened beyond the lifetime of the grant.

Depending on the nature of the project, expected outcomes include:

- New and stronger collaboration and partnerships that can drive safer outcomes, including within and across stakeholder groups, organisations and countries
- Creation of platforms, tools or other mechanisms to ensure long-term collaboration beyond the life of the grant
- Enhanced mechanisms for shared learning across organisations, stakeholder groups or countries

We expect projects to demonstrate a measurable increase in collaboration and partnerships, particularly across GECR 2025 priority stakeholder groups (academics, professional bodies, governments, industry) with clear evidence for

how they will ensure coordination and buy-in during the life of the project and beyond.

What do we mean by scaling?

By scaling, we mean expanding proven successful initiatives or partnerships to reach a broader range of stakeholders and enable wider adoption of products, approaches, knowledge and practices. The goal is to maximise the potential outcomes and impact of these initiatives, which in turn contributes to achieving the change outlined in the Skills for Safety Theory of Impact (available to download from the webpage). Scaling may involve expanding a successful initiative or partnership across an organisation, throughout the sector, or into new stakeholder groups, geographies and regions.

In addition, scaling may involve institutionalising successful standalone initiatives by influencing and embedding changes in policies, standards, regulations, enforcement mechanisms, curricula, and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programmes, thereby ensuring long-term and sustainable impact.

Examples include:

- Technical WASH guidelines developed through the original project being shared with policymakers, regulators, and sector bodies to support their adoption and integration into national policies, standards, and regulatory frameworks.
- Safety and construction training programmes, such as Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) courses incorporated into academic curricula, being institutionalised through strengthened partnerships with government agencies, professional associations, regulatory bodies, educational institutions, and other funding partners.
- Strengthening industry-academia partnerships to support the long-term adoption of safer engineering practices, enhance skills development, and ensure the continued relevance of skills and safety.
- Licensing, patenting, and commercialising prototype products developed through the original project, supported by further research, development, partnerships, and collaboration to enable wider deployment and impact.
- Embedding successful project approaches into organisational policies, professional standards, certification requirements, Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programmes, and regulatory enforcement mechanisms to ensure sustainability beyond the project lifecycle.

Grant funding framework

We aim to award approximately £500,000, providing £25,000 - £50,000 per project, to organisations and consortia seeking to scale and embed initiatives and strengthen collaboration to enhance engineering skills and safety. Funding is available to deliver activities that directly support the grant's objectives as follows:

- £25,000 projects: for individual organisations aiming to scale skills and safety initiatives and collaborations. Matched funding is not mandatory but encouraged to demonstrate contribution and leveraged investment from other sources.
- £50,000 projects (Consortia): organisations working in partnership can apply for £50k to deliver projects with greater scope that could lead to potential systematic changes across the ecosystem. Matched funding of up to 20% of the total project budget is required. For example, a project that costs £60,000 total would need £10,000 of matched funding support to attract a £50,000 grant.

Project duration

Projects may last for a maximum of 15 months, commencing in December 2026 and ending no later than 28 February 2028. Please note that no extension will be considered, as the funding will end in March 2028.

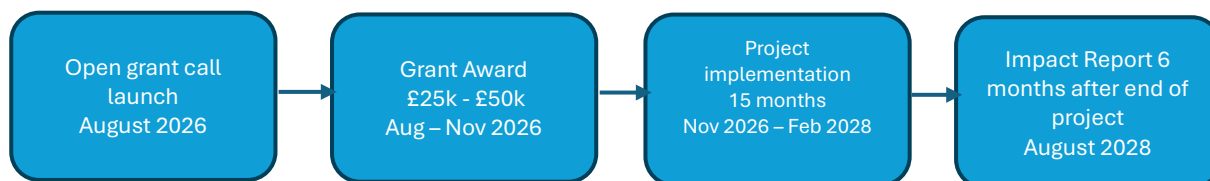
Events and visibility

Please remember to mention the award in your project-related materials, publications, or communications, using the suggested disclaimer: *"This project was supported by Engineering X under the Skills for Safety programme"*.

When holding conferences, forums, presentations or other events as part of your project, please let us know by emailing

Stefania.pappalardo@raeng.org.uk. The Skills for Safety team welcomes opportunities to contribute to or attend online and in-person events where appropriate.

Skills for Safety Open Grant Award Journey



Eligible costs

Projects can apply for up to £25,000 or up to £50,000 per project. £50,000 projects require robust collaboration and partnerships among key stakeholder groups. See page 8 for further details.

Eligible expenses include the following:

- **Events** - Workshops, meetings, or other convening, training or dissemination activities organised by the project partners (including cost of facilities, personnel support, materials, catering, speakers etc),
- **Communications** - including website, social media or advertising, translating materials.
- **Salary/staff costs** - for lead applicants and co-applicants.
- **Small stipends** - Typically not exceeding 5% of the total grant, can cover expenses that enable people to engage in the project. This might include, for example, local community groups, indigenous people, women, young people, or students. It should not usually cover costs for project team members, which should be included as staff costs.
- **Travel and subsistence** - Subsistence costs should reflect the normal rates applied at the host institution/s. All other costs should be based on the best value option.
- **Consumables & equipment** - project-specific costs of small equipment, computer software licenses or publication costs. No single item may cost more than **10%** of the grant funding requested.
- **Other costs** - which may include conference and seminar fees, project related software subscriptions or IT services.
- **Administrative costs** - The host organisation can include up to 5% of the grant as a contribution to administrative and other running costs directly related to the project.

The award funds can be dispersed to different project partners as appropriate for the project activities.

The following costs are not eligible:

- Funding any activities, items or equipment that are not included in the approved project plan and budget.
- Loans, further grants or revolving funds.
- Infrastructure or individual pieces of equipment over **10%** of the grant funding requested.
- This grant does not cover indirect or overhead expenses not specific to the project such as utilities, rent, general administration staff salaries and office supplies.

Please note: At the end of the project, any unspent funds must be returned to the Academy. If necessary, please reach out to our team for instructions.

Project partner roles

Project role types:

- **Lead applicant** – the lead applicant is responsible for managing the project and budget and must be based at an organisation in an **eligible country** for funding. The lead applicant is responsible for submitting the application form on our Grant Management System.
- **Co-applicants** – co-applicants work with the lead and may also receive funding as part of the project. Co-applicants may be based at the lead applicant's institution or at a different organisation(s) in an **eligible country**.

Please note:

- If you are applying for **£50,000**, it is **mandatory** for you to include at least **one co-applicant** from a different organisation in your application.
- If you are applying for up to **£25,000**, including co-applicants or collaborators is **optional**. If a co-applicant is included, they could be from your organisation or another organisation based in another Skills for Safety eligible country for funding. **Collaborators** may be based in either Skills for Safety eligible countries or non-eligible countries.
- **Collaborator** – collaborators may provide advice or other support to the project but will **not receive funding**. Collaborators could be government ministries and departments, any other relevant organisation, or individual

experts not representing any organisation across the world, including from non-eligible countries. You may have multiple collaborators on your project.

We encourage the inclusion of government representatives; however government ministries and departments are not eligible for funding so must be considered 'collaborators' in their projects.

Eligibility criteria – who can apply for funding?

The applications will be screened against the following criteria:

- The lead applicant institution **must** be an **organisation** based in one of the **Skills for Safety eligible countries for funding (see the list below)**.
 - **Please note: Skills for Safety eligible countries for funding** are all included in the lower-left and lower-right quadrants of the [GECR 2025 Engineering Capability Matrix](#) (page 33), meaning they are at risk of harm from unsafe engineering practices, and also appear on the [2025 DAC list](#).
- Project applications requesting up to **£50,000** must include **at least one co-applicant** from a different organisation that may be based in the same country or another **Skills for Safety eligible country for funding**.
- For consortia projects, the **project lead, one of the co-applicants or collaborator** must **represent engineering industry**.
- All projects must clearly **align with** one or more of the two **grant objectives**.

Skills for Safety – list of eligible countries for funding

1	Algeria	18	Honduras	35	Pakistan
2	Angola	19	India	36	Peru
3	Argentina	20	Indonesia	37	Philippines
4	Bangladesh	21	Iraq	38	Rwanda
5	Bolivia	22	Jordan	39	Senegal
6	Botswana	23	Kenya	40	South Africa
7	Brazil	24	Lebanon	41	Sri Lanka
8	Cameroon	25	Libya	42	Tanzania
9	Colombia	26	Madagascar	43	Thailand
10	Costa Rica	27	Mauritius	44	Tunisia
11	Democratic Republic of the Congo	28	Mexico	45	Türkiye

12	Dominican Republic	29	Mongolia	46	Uganda
13	Ecuador	30	Morocco	47	Vietnam
14	Egypt	31	Mozambique	48	Zambia
15	El Salvador	32	Namibia	49	Zimbabwe
16	Ghana	33	Nepal		
17	Guatemala	34	Nigeria		

Award process and timeline (tentative)

Date	Activity
04 Aug 2026	Award launch – open for 6-weeks
20 Aug 2026	Grant information & matchmaking session (optional)
04 Sept 2026	Grant information & matchmaking session (optional)
14 Sept 2026	Deadline for submission
w/c 21 Sept 2026	Applications eligibility and security checks
w/c 19 Oct 2026	Applications review by 2 reviewers/project (4-weeks)
w/c 26 Oct 2026	Award decision session by Skills for Safety board
w/c 02 Nov 2026	Applicants notified of the results, Grant offer letters and due diligence forms sent to successful applicants
w/c 30 Nov 2026	Contracting ends (one month)
w/c 30 Nov 2026	Initiation report submitted
w/c 30 Nov 2026	Initial payment (as per contract plan)
w/c 24 May 2027	Report and expenditure statement submitted
w/c 08 June 2027	Second payment (as per contract plan)
28 Feb 2028	Final report and expenditure statement
06 March 2028	Final payment on acceptance of final report (10% of the award)
28 August 2028	Impact report

How to apply?

Please ensure you have read the Applicant Guidance Notes (this document), which provides detailed information about the programme aims, objectives, eligibility criteria, grant process and timeline, useful resources, and how to apply to have all the necessary documentation to hand, such as CVs and letters of support.

Key considerations

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](#) 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 progress on diversity and inclusion in Academy programmes. 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 submit 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, 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](#).

Using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to draft your application

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 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 utilized. 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.

Research involving human participants or tissue

Research, development and innovation involving human participants, human material or personal data can contribute to a better understanding of human health and disease as well as the technological efficacy of new and evolving innovations. The Academy will fund research, development and innovation involving the use of human participants, human material or personal data which complies with our Humans in RD&I Policy. If your proposal includes the use of human participants, human materials or personal data you will be asked to provide details of your work at application stage.

Please note: applicable regulatory approval and licenses are not required to be in place at point of application, but all necessary approvals must be in place before the work begins and a clear plan to achieve this at application stage.

Animals in research

The Academy acknowledges that, at present, the use of animals remains the only way for some areas of research to progress. Research involving animals is regulated by comprehensive and strict legislation in the UK and must be conducted with a high regard for animal welfare. The Academy will fund work involving the use of animals in the UK which complies with our [Animals in RD&I Policy](#). If your proposal includes the use of animals you will be asked to provide details at application stage.

If your proposal involves the use of animals and takes place outside of the UK, the Academy will generally not fund this work. Please contact the Academy before proceeding with your application.

Please note: applicable regulatory approval and licenses are not required to be in place at point of application, but all necessary approvals must be in place before the work begins and a clear plan to achieve this at application stage.

Grant agreement

If you are successful, your funding will be awarded under the [Basic Terms and Conditions](#), or if the Academy deems your proposal to be research and development focused, the [RD&I Terms and Conditions](#), both of which can be 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.

General instructions

- To apply for the grant, all applications must be submitted via the Academy's online Grant Management System (GMS): <https://grants.raeng.org.uk/> The lead applicant must first register with GMS. They must provide basic details to create a profile.
- The online application form has **six sections** and should take approximately **3 - 4 hours** to complete, assuming you have answered the questions offline and merely need to enter the information, rather than compose it.
- The guidance notes are more detailed, so we recommend you keep this document to hand. The primary purpose of this application form is to identify whether the applicant is suitable to be supported according to the aims and objectives of the programme.
- **Optional:** Up to **three** co-applicants can be invited by the lead to help complete the grant application form.
Please note: If you are applying for **£50,000**, it is **mandatory** for you to include at least one co-applicant in your application, however it is optional whether you choose to invite them to help you complete the form on the grant management system.
- Submit the application before the **deadline** as indicated in the timeline in this document.
- After logging in to the GMS via the Academy's website and selecting the **Skills for Safety Open Grant Call**, you should be presented with the



“Instructions” screen where you will see some general instructions on how to use the system.

- You will also see the following **six sections** of the application form:

1. Applicants and institutional details
2. Project summary
3. Project details
4. Project budget and resourcing
5. Declaration
6. Marketing

Application form

Application form		
	Section 1: Applicants and Institution Details	For guidance, please log in to your GMS application: https://grants.raeng.org.uk/
QN	Questions	Guidance
1	Contact details of lead applicant.	The institute of the lead applicant will be considered the host organisation, meaning that if successful, the grant will go to them. Details should include:
	Title	Select: Dr, Prof, Ms, Mr, Sir
	Full name	Your first name and surname as it appears on your passport
	Job title	Your current role
	Institution	Legal name of organisation
	E-mail	Your organisation email address
	Address of organisation	The address in the country from which you are applying for funding
2	What type of organisation are you based at?	Select the type of organisation: • Engineering industry • Professional engineering institution • Universities or training providers • Standards body • Regulatory or policy related organisations • Other
3	Country: Name of the country where project activities will take place. Select from the list.	Name the country from which you are applying for funding and where the main project activities will take place. Applications are open to countries listed in the Skills for Safety eligible countries for funding on page 11. The list is also included in GMS.
4	Partner countries (OPTIONAL)	Name partner countries where project activities will take place. For details about eligible countries for funding, please refer to the Skills for Safety - list of eligible countries in the Applicant Guidance Notes (page 11). Note that any activities funded under the grant must take place in eligible countries.

5	Co-applicant details (You can include up to three co-applicants)	Co-applicants work with the lead and may also receive funding as part of the project. Co-applicants may be based at the lead applicant's institution or at a different organisation in an eligible country. If you choose, up to three co-applicants may contribute to submitting the application form on our Grant Management System, however it is optional whether you choose to invite them to help you complete the form on the grant management system. Please note: - If you are applying for £50,000, it is mandatory for you to include at least one co-applicant from a different organisation in your application. - If you are applying for up to £25,000, including co-applicants or collaborators is optional.
	Title	Select: Dr, Prof, Ms, Mr, Sir
	Full name	Your first name and surname as it appears on your passport
	Job title	Your current role
	Institution	Legal name of organisation
	E-mail	Your organisation email address
	Address of organisation	The address in the country from which you are applying for funding
	Project role: Your role in the project	Please explain your role and responsibilities throughout the project as a co-applicant
6	CVs of lead applicant and project co-applicants	Upload CVs for the Project lead and all Co-applicants. Each CV should be a maximum of four pages long and submitted as a PDF . Please do not include any sensitive information in your CV.
7	Grant offer letter - signatory details	If your Open grant funding application is accepted and awarded, please state who the signatory at the Host Organisation will be and that you have notified them of your application. The Host Organisation is the organisation of the project lead applicant. Once a Grant Agreement letter is issued, this signatory will have to confirm, for and on behalf of the Host Organisation, the agreement of the Host Organisation to the conditions set out or referred to in the Grant Agreement, and that they have the authority to sign on behalf of, and bind, the Host Organisation. Please note – this should not be you (the lead applicant)

		or any other members of the project team. This should be someone at the Host Organisation with authority to sign grant agreements/contracts such as a Dean, Vice-Dean etc, at a university, or a Director/CEO at a company. If you are the most senior person at your organisation, please list the details of another suitably senior member of staff who would have the delegated authority to sign grant agreements/contracts. Signatory name - Email address - Position - Organisation – By ticking this box, you confirm you have consulted the signatory of the Host Organisation and that the details above are correct.
8	Lead and Co-applicants Institutional supporting letters	Lead and co-applicants must submit institutional support letters for their project. Letters of support should be written by a suitably senior representative from the organisation. As a minimum the author should include: • Confirmation of the organisation's commitment to the project, why it is strategically important to them and what the anticipated benefits will be. • A detailed description of the organisation's role and activities in the project, and how this fits within the organisation's aims and activities. • Detail any contributions the organisation will make to the project, such as facilities, equipment, match-funding, staff time etc. The quality of institutional support is a key factor in the strength of the application and the description in the letters are important for The Academy to determine the level of commitment from each institution. The letter should be on the organisation's headed paper, a maximum of two pages long, signed by the author, and uploaded by the Applicant as PDFs. Please note - if you have listed a co-applicant above, and not provided a letter of support from their organisation, the application will be returned to you.

	Section 2: Project Summary	For guidance, please log in to your GMS application: https://grants.raeng.org.uk/
QN	Questions	Guidance
9	Project title	Please provide a title for your proposal summarising your proposal. We may make this title publicly available if successful, therefore please do not include any confidential or sensitive information.
10	Project summary (250 words)	Please provide a summary of your proposal, including key goals and expected impact. Your summary should be understandable to the non-specialist reader. We may make this summary publicly available if successful, therefore please do not include any confidential or sensitive information.
11	Total Funding Requested from the Academy	The total value of financial support in GBP requested from the Academy, which may be between £25,000 to £50,000. For further details, please refer to the grant funding framework on page 8 in this document.
12	Total project budget	Total cost of the project, including any financial contributions from partner or other funders.
13	What is the proposed start date?	Projects may last for a maximum of 15 months, commencing in December 2026 and ending no later than 28 February 2028. Please note: all grant expenditure and activities must take place within the start and end dates. No extensions will be considered, as the funding must be spent by end March 2028.
14	What is the proposed end date?	Projects may last for a maximum of 15 months, commencing in December 2026 and ending no later than 28 February 2028. Please note: all grant expenditure and activities must take place within the start and end dates. No extensions will be considered, as the funding must be spent by end March 2028.
15	Which of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) does your proposal seek to progress?	Please select a maximum of 3 from the list provided in the form

16	Please describe how the proposal will seek to progress the selected Sustainable Development Goals	If your proposal seeks to progress a specific target as part of the selected SDG, you may reference this here.
17	Select one single broad engineering category that best aligns with your proposal.	If your proposal fits into several categories, please pick the category that is most applicable. Further detail around each engineering category can be found on our website www.raeng.org.uk/about-us/fellowship/election-to-the-fellowship .
18	Please provide a maximum of 10 keywords that describe your proposal	Please provide up to 10 keywords related to your project which will assist the Academy in selecting suitable reviewers for your proposal. These can be specific or more generally related to the theme. Please separate each keyword by a comma, for example: carbon, oil, engines
	Section 3: Project details	For guidance, please log in to your GMS application: https://grants.raeng.org.uk/
QN	Questions	Guidance
19	Priority Objectives	Projects must focus on one or more of the two grant objectives. Please select the objective(s) your project will focus on. - To scale the impact of skills and safety initiatives, both those previously funded by us and others in the ecosystem - To scale partnerships and collaboration across key stakeholder groups as outlined in the GECR 2025 Please refer to page 5-7 of the applicant guidance notes for more information about the objectives.
20	Problem statement (250 words)	Provide a brief overview of the problem you are aiming to solve: what is/are the safety challenge(s) you want to address and why. You must provide evidence such as reliable statistics and references/links to reports/research such as GECR 2025 and Engineering Capacity Index to support your project. You must demonstrate how the problem you have

		identified aligns with at least one of the objectives for this grant as outlined in applicant guidance notes (pages 5-7).
21	The proposed solution (300 words)	Explain briefly the proposed solution - what you will do and how - and an overview of how the grant will help you address the challenge(s). If you are applying to scale an existing initiative, please include: • What exactly you are trying to scale, and what stage it is at now • The evidence to show how you have already tested and proven your approach • What is your strategy for scaling and what scaling this initiative looks like to you • How the grant funding will enable you to get there If the initiative was previously funded by us, please also tell us: • What did you achieve with the original grant? • What progress, if any, has been made since the original grant funding ended? If you are applying to build or strengthen partnerships and collaboration, please include: • What the situation looks like now • What the ideal partnerships or collaboration would look like and what they could achieve • What is your strategy for scaling or strengthening these partnerships and how you will ensure buy-in • How the grant funding will enable you to get there.
22	Project overall goal/aim, objectives, outputs, and outcomes (300 words max)	Please state the overall project goal/aim and the main outcomes, in bullet points. (The project Goal is a broad statement about "what" the project will accomplish) You should indicate how your project outcomes contribute to the expected outcomes included on pages 5-7 of the applicant guidance notes.
23	Activities (500 words max)	Provide a detailed description of the activities to be undertaken, in bullet points.

24	Co-applicant activities (OPTIONAL) (500 words max)	The lead can invite up to three co-applicants to contribute to the application on GMS, and use this space to describe their role in the project. Any invited co-applicants will only be able to edit Section 3 of this form. If co-applicants are not invited to work on the application form, you must ensure their role and activities are fully explained in the support letter (page 19).
25	Measuring project success, outputs and outcomes (250 words max)	Please describe how you will monitor project progress and measure success. Please include: • What success looks like for your project. • Measurable output indicators. For example: number of people trained or number of workshops held • 1 – 3 measurable outcome indicators. • An indication of how the outputs and outcomes contribute to the expected outcomes for this grant. • The methods you will use to measure project progress to ensure the project is moving in the right direction and achieving its intended objectives.
26	Impact “Desired change” (300 words max)	Please describe the long-term change you expect to happen as a result of this project, including any change that could not occur without your activities. This could include for example: reduction in accident and casualty rates, increased government or private sector investment towards a specific challenge etc
27	How does your project contribute to achieving the SFS programme impact? (300 words max)	Please describe how your project will contribute to achieving the change outlined in the Skills for Safety Theory of Impact (available to download from the webpage).
28	Equity, diversity, and inclusion (300 words max)	The Academy is committed to Equity Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). We want to make sure our funded activities support EDI, and, at a minimum, ensure projects do not harm gender equality, and where possible promote it (even when gender equality is not the primary project objective). This will be considered in the application review. All successful applications to this scheme must

		demonstrate how the impact on EDI and underrepresented groups in engineering have been considered – including (for example) equity between genders, people of different ethnicities, disabled people, and other EDI characteristics. Please outline any specific equity, diversity and inclusion considerations and implications for your proposed project. This could include: - Any measures you have put in place to ensure equal opportunities (e.g. how have you considered how different people will benefit from the activities in your project?); - The expected participation of and impacts on people with different diversity characteristics (e.g. have you considered equality of access to your project); or - Any outcomes or outputs that you will measure disaggregated by diversity characteristics (e.g. gender, ethnicity and/or other underrepresented groups?);
29	Collaboration and partnerships (300 words max)	How will your project strengthen or change relationships, coordination, or shared practices among the key stakeholder groups identified in GECR 2025? Please include a brief description of the current landscape of collaboration on skills and safety in your target context (who is involved, what is already happening, and key gaps or fragmentation).
30	Project sustainability (maximum 250 words).	Explain how your approach could be expanded or adapted beyond the project funding. Include: - What elements are designed for scale or replication. - What conditions are needed for success in other settings (e.g. policy, partners, capacity). - How learning and evidence from your project will support wider uptake. - What you intend to do during your project to maximise the potential of further scale and sustainability beyond the project timeline.
31	Pictures and diagrams (optional)	Upload any pictures and/or diagrams related to your project as a single file.

32	Animals in Research, Development and Innovation	The Academy acknowledges that, at present, the use of animals remains the only way for some areas of research to progress. Research involving animals is regulated by comprehensive and strict legislation in the UK and must be conducted with a high regard for animal welfare. The Academy will fund work involving the use of animals in the UK which complies with our Animals in Research, Innovation and Development Policy. Please respond to the following. If your proposal involves the use of animals and takes place outside of the UK, the Academy will generally not fund this work. Please contact the Academy before proceeding with your application. Please note: applicable regulatory approval and licenses are not required to be in place at point of application, but all necessary approvals must be in place before the work begins and a clear plan to achieve this at application stage. Does your proposal involve the use of animals or animal tissue as defined by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986? a. NO – end of question b. Yes, and my work is taking place within the UK. Yes, and my work is taking place outside the UK. Please note – If you answer ‘Yes’ to this question about the use of animals in your proposal you will be asked to provide further information. Please contact Stefania.pappalardo@raeng.org.uk if you would like to discuss further.
33	Human participants, materials and personal data in Research, Development and Innovation	Research, development and innovation involving human participants, human material or personal data can contribute to a better understanding of human health and disease as well as the technological efficacy of new and evolving innovations. The Academy will fund research, development and innovation involving the use of human participants, human material or personal data which complies with our Human Participants in Research, Innovation and Development Policy. Please note: applicable regulatory approval and licenses are not required to be in place at point of application, but all necessary approvals must be in place before the work begins and a clear plan to achieve this at application stage. Does your proposal involve human participants according to the WHO definition? a. NO – end of question b. Yes – and my work is taking place within the UK

		c. Yes – and my work is taking place outside of the UK. Does your proposal involve the use of human tissue or other human material? a. NO – end of question b. Yes – and my work is taking place within the UK c. Yes – and my work is taking place outside of the UK. Does your proposal involve the use of personal data? a. NO – end of question b. Yes – and my work is taking place within the UK c. Yes – and my work is taking place outside of the UK. Please note – If any of the answers to the questions above about Human participation, tissue, or data in your proposal is 'Yes', you will be asked to provide further information. Please contact Stefania.pappalardo@raeng.org.uk if you would like to discuss further.
	Section 4: Budget and Resourcing	For guidance, please log in to your GMS application: https://grants.raeng.org.uk/
QN	Questions	Guidance
34	Project budget	Breakdown of project costs requested from the Academy Please provide a breakdown of the funding requested in the table below. The amount requested must be an accurate and reasonable reflection of what you expect to spend on each category. Eligible costs for this grant include funding for events, communications, staff costs, stipends, travel and accommodation, consumables and equipment, and administrative fees. Please provide a cost breakdown in pound sterling, GBP, and use this converter if you are outside of the UK: https://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/ Subsistence costs should reflect the normal rates applied at the host institution/s. All other costs should be based on the best value option available.

		Please see Page 9-10 of the guidance notes for further details of eligible costs.
	Events, workshops, meetings, training or dissemination activities	* Cost RAEng in GBP * Matched funding in GBP * Total project cost * Description
	Communications – website, social media, advertising etc	* Cost RAEng in GBP * Matched funding in GBP * Total project cost * Description
	Staff costs Salary (lead applicant or co-applicants)	* Cost RAEng in GBP * Matched funding in GBP * Total project cost * Description
	Stipends – enabling participation of non-team members, must not total more than 5% of the grant total	* Cost RAEng in GBP * Matched funding in GBP * Total project cost * Description
	Travel and accommodation (incl. flights, Visa fees, allowances, accommodation costs for visits and exchanges)	* Cost RAEng in GBP * Matched funding in GBP * Total project cost * Description
	Consumables and equipment: No single piece of equipment costing more	* Cost RAEng in GBP * Matched funding in GBP * Total project cost * Description

	than 10% of grant total)	
	Administrative fees – no more than 5% of the grant	* Cost RAEng in GBP * Matched funding in GBP * Total project cost * Description
	Other costs	* Cost RAEng in GBP * Matched funding in GBP * Total project cost * Description
	Total	* Cost RAEng in GBP * Matched funding in GBP * Total project cost * Description
35	Explanation of costs (maximum 300 words)	Using the completed table above, please give a narrative description of the resources requested from the Academy in the table above and why they are required. Please also use this space to describe the source and value of any matched funding or other contributions listed in the table above. Please specify: • Source(s) and value of additional cash funding in GBP • Source(s) and approximate value of in-kind funding in GBP
36	Allocation of funding	Please describe the value of funding allocated to each project partner: • Lead applicant (in GBP) • Co-applicant(s) (GBP) Please note, if your application is successful, the grant will usually go to the Host Organisation after they sign the grant agreement. It is then the responsibility of the Host Organisation to distribute and disburse any funds to co-applicants as described in the question above. However, if necessary, the Academy can disperse the award funds directly to different project partners as appropriate for the project activities and partner locations.
	Section 5: Applicant Declaration	For guidance, please log in to your GMS application: https://grants.raeng.org.uk/
QN	Questions	Guidance

37	Generative AI use declaration	Have any generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools been used in the preparation of this application? The Academy has aligned with other UK funders around the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools in funding applications through the Research Funders Policy Group joint statement. Applicants are fully responsible for all of the content presented in their grant application(s). While these tools may be used to assist in various aspects and the grant process does not penalise the use of generative AI tools, applications must reflect the applicant's own ideas, work and voice. Yes No
38	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. By ticking this checkbox I agree to be bound by the conditions for this scheme
	Section 6: Academy marketing	For guidance, please log in to your GMS application: https://grants.raeng.org.uk/
QN	Questions	Guidance
39	Academy Marketing	You will be asked to select, from a list, how you heard about this scheme. In this context, please answer based on how you heard about the Skills for Safety Open Grant Call. You will also be asked if you are happy to receive emails from The Royal Academy of Engineering regarding future funding opportunities.

Submission

Once you have completed all sections and pressed save on all the pages, a “submit” button will appear on the summary page. This button is greyed out until all sections are complete. If you have completed and saved all sections but the button is still greyed out, please ask all your co-applicants to save and complete all sections and sign out of the system. Contact Stefania with any issues or questions about the form: Stefania.Pappalardo@raeng.org.uk

Application assessment

Applications will be assessed and reviewed by the Skills for Safety board, and panel of Academy Fellows and wider networks with expertise spanning the breadth of engineering.

There are three stages of assessment:

1. Eligibility and security checking:

The Skills for Safety programme team and Academy compliance team will do the eligibility and required national security checks as outlined in in this document.

Successful applications will progress to review stage, and the unsuccessful applications will be closed.

2. Review and evaluation:

Each application will be reviewed by a minimum of two reviewers, one of who will have expertise in the broad area of the project, and one may be a non-expert. Applications should therefore be understandable to a non-specialist reviewer. Reviewers will score applications and provide recommendations whether or not to award the grant.

All applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- **The project quality and feasibility:** clarity, quality and feasibility of the project including realistic delivery plan and approach to scaling, and monitoring and evaluation.
- **Impact and sustainability:** likelihood of achieving meaningful and measurable outcomes and the potential to be sustained beyond the lifetime of the grant.
- **Value for money:** Realistic, clear, and well-justified project budget that demonstrates efficient use of funding and alignment with project objectives and funding requirements.
- **Alignment with grant objectives:** Strength and relevance of the project's contribution to the grant objectives and expected outcomes, and if relevant, strength of the collaboration.
- **Diversity and inclusion:** Assessment as to whether the applicants are representing women and other groups who are currently underrepresented across engineering.

3. Funding award decision session:

After the checking and reviews are completed, a specially convened panel will decide on the awards based on the review criteria and recommendations made by reviewers. Successful applications will receive a grant offer and progress to contracting and unsuccessful applications will be closed.

Awardee Excellence Community

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. You 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.

As an awardee of Frontiers seed funding, you will have access to the Academy's network of awardees and alumni through the [Awardee Excellence Community](#). You will gain access to exclusive events and have opportunities to get involved in the work of the Academy during and after your award ends.

Resources

[GECR 2025](#)

Skills for Safety Theory of Impact (available to download from the webpage)