

Overview of the Leaders in Innovation Fellowships programme

A select cohort of researchers from the same country will benefit from a focused period of training in the UK, access to expert coaches, and opportunities for international networking. In the short term they will develop, with the support of the programme, a commercialisation plan for their innovation. In the long term they will benefit from access to an international network of peer innovators, in taking their commercialisation plan forward.

The programme builds on the expertise of The Academy in supporting technology entrepreneurs within the UK through a variety of fellowships and prizes. Fellows supported through this programme will benefit from connectivity to The Academy's Enterprise Hub, a network of technology innovators, researcher entrepreneurs, and senior industrialists driving and supporting world class innovation.

The residential training in the UK

Fifteen successful applicants ('LIF Fellows') will be invited to attend a ten-day residential programme, in the UK, arranged and supported by the Academy.

Week 1 – An activity based learning week combined with external visits and master class sessions.

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

Week 2 – Intensive training programme in entrepreneurship and innovation leadership

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

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

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

During the programme, LIF Fellows will also benefit from opportunities to network with coaches, representatives of technology driven organisations, and each other. All participants in the LIF programme will automatically join an international network of innovators and coaches clustered around the Academy's [Enterprise Hub](#).

Please note that the residential programme will be conducted entirely in English.

Follow-on support

After the two-week residential programme, we begin the follow-on support aspect of the programme lasting up to 6 months. This will comprise of the individual coaches from the residential training continuing to provide mentoring and advice to allow LIF fellows to achieve some of the jointly established goals set when designing the business plan in London. In-country events to keep LIF fellows engaged with the Academy will also be included in the programme.

The LIF programme is part of the broader Newton Fund.