



Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation 2025

Application guidance notes

Deadline: Tuesday 15 October 2024 4pm (BST)

All questions to be sent to africaprize@raeng.org.uk

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About the Academy

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.

This will be achieved through:

Talent and diversity

We'll grow talent by training, supporting, mentoring and funding the most talented and creative [researchers](#), innovators and leaders from across the engineering profession – with an aim to help over 7,500 professionals to enhance their leadership skills.

We'll develop skills for the future by identifying the challenges of an ever-changing world and developing the skills and ideas we need to build a resilient and diverse engineering profession. We've set ourselves a target to work with over 500 engineering businesses and organisations to [champion diversity and inclusion in the workplace](#).

Innovation

We'll drive innovation by investing in some of the UK's most creative and exciting engineering ideas and businesses. In partnership with industry, entrepreneurs and academia, we're on course to support the growth of more than 500 companies through our [Enterprise Hub](#).

We'll [build global partnerships](#) that bring the world's best engineers from industry, entrepreneurship and academia together to address the greatest global challenges of our age. As a leading voice in engineering and technology, we're working to build networks and partnerships in over 40 countries, across six continents.

Policy and engagement

We'll influence policy through the [National Engineering Policy Centre](#) – providing independent and expert guidance to government, drawing on the expertise and creativity of over 450,000 engineers. In our 2020-25 strategy we've committed to working with over 1,000 policymakers in the UK and internationally to improve people's lives.

We'll engage the public by opening their eyes to the wonders of engineering and inspiring young people to become the next generation of engineers. Through campaigns like [This is Engineering](#), we're changing perceptions of the profession and by 2025, we'll have helped a million young people – from every background in the UK – to explore a career in engineering.

Introduction to the Africa Prize

Launched in 2014 by the Royal Academy of Engineering, the Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation awards crucial commercialisation support to ambitious African innovators developing scalable engineering solutions to local challenges, demonstrating the importance of engineering as an enabler of improved quality of life and economic development. The Prize has a track record of identifying engineering entrepreneurs with significant potential, many of whom have gone on to achieve greater commercial success and social impact.

Each year, up to 16 shortlisted African innovators receive a unique package of support over eight months to help them accelerate their businesses. The benefits of selection include comprehensive and tailored business training, sector specific engineering mentoring, communications support, pitching opportunities and access to the Academy's network of high profile, experienced engineers and business experts in the UK and across Africa.

Tailored training and mentoring culminates in a showcase event where a winner is selected to receive £25,000 along with three runners-up, who are each awarded £10,000.

Since the start of the Africa Prize ten years ago, the Academy has supported almost 150 businesses from 23 countries through the programme. You can read their profiles [here](#), or explore their innovations by country, sector and SDG through our [interactive map](#).



Application timeline

1

Application submitted by Tuesday 15 October 2024, 4pm (BST)

2

Checked for eligibility in October 2024

3

Reviewed by technical experts in November 2024

4

Shortlist selected by judging panel by January 2025

5

All applicants will be notified of their application outcome by the end of January 2025.

Shortlist timeline

1

Eight-month package of support begins in February 2025

2

Stage two application in August 2025

3

Finalists selected by judging panel in September 2025

4

Winner chosen at final event in November 2025

Africa Prize training process

A shortlist of 16 applicants will be selected to receive an eight-month package of mentoring and training. The programme will be structured to give entrepreneurs the skills and knowledge to:

- strengthen and develop their existing business plans
- successfully communicate their innovations through pitching
- forge links with potential partners, investors and customers
- further develop their innovation
- move towards commercialisation or scale up.

The training

The training will take various formats and will require a significant time commitment over the eight months. All reasonable costs are covered to attend and participate in these activities.



The training period will run from early 2025 to late 2025. This includes:

- remote group and one-on-one training and mentoring, taking place on a regular basis via video conference, telephone calls and webinars
- a residential training week in Africa and/or the UK.

Stage two applications

The shortlist will be asked to submit a full business plan and updates on their businesses on our online system, following the first period of training in March 2025. The judging panel will review these and identify four finalists.



The final event

All shortlisted applicants will display their innovations at an exhibition at the final event in November 2025. The four finalists will pitch in front of an audience and the Africa Prize judges. The prizes will be awarded following an assessment by the judging panel.



- The winner will receive £25,000
- Three runners-up will receive £10,000 each.
- One shortlist member via audience vote will receive £5,000

Eligibility criteria

Applicants must have developed, or be in the process of developing, a new technological innovation. Applicants should have the ambition to take a leading role in creating a new business to commercialise this innovation.

Innovations must:

- aim to promote the welfare and economic development of a country or countries in sub-Saharan Africa
- be designed to address a development need or specific challenge facing that country.

For the purposes of the programme, the definition of sub-Saharan Africa includes all countries defined by the African Union within Central, East, Southern, and West Africa. These are:

Angola	Ethiopia	Rwanda
Benin	Eswatini	Sao Tome and Principe
Botswana	Gabon	Senegal
Burkina Faso	The Gambia	Seychelles
Burundi	Ghana	Sierra Leone
Cameroon	Guinea	Somalia
Cape Verde	Guinea-Bissau	South Africa
Central Africa Republic	Kenya	South Sudan
Chad	Lesotho	Sudan
Comoros	Liberia	Tanzania
Republic of the Congo	Madagascar	Togo
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Malawi	Uganda
Cote d'Ivoire	Mali	Zambia
Djibouti	Mauritania	Zimbabwe
Equatorial Guinea	Mauritius	
Eritrea	Mozambique	
	Namibia	
	Niger	
	Nigeria	

Eligibility criteria (continued)

- The application must be written in English.
- The applicant has a high level of English proficiency, which will allow them to fully participate in the entire programme, held in English.
- The lead applicant must be over the age of 18 when applications close on 15 October 2024. There is no upper age limit.
- The applicant cannot be an alumni of the Africa Prize or part of the same team, business or innovation that has been through the Prize.
- Applicants can apply as an individual or as part of a team.
- The lead applicant must be a citizen of a country in sub-Saharan Africa. For teams of two or more, the lead applicant (the person participating in training) must be a citizen of a country in sub-Saharan Africa.
- The lead applicant must be ordinarily based in sub-Saharan Africa; if based overseas, this must be temporary for studies or otherwise.
- The innovation must be based in a country in sub-Saharan Africa
- The lead applicant must have an engineering innovation, although they are not required to be an engineering graduate or student to apply.
- Industrial researchers and establishments are not eligible.
- The innovation can be any new product, technology or service, based on research in engineering defined in its broadest sense to encompass a wide range of fields. This includes but is not limited to: agricultural technology, biotechnology, chemical engineering, civil engineering, computer science, design engineering, electrical and electronic engineering, ICT, materials science, mechanical engineering, and medical engineering. If you are in any doubt that your area of expertise would be considered as engineering, then please contact the Academy to discuss your application.



Eligibility criteria (continued)

- The lead applicant must provide a letter of consent from the originators/collaborators of the IP to this innovation, where relevant.
- The lead applicant must provide a technical diagram and photo that showcases the technical aspects of the innovation as part of their application.
- Applicants should have developed, and be in the early stages of commercialising, an engineering innovation that:
 - will bring social and/or environmental benefits to a country/countries in sub-Saharan Africa
 - has strong potential to be replicated and scaled-up
 - is accompanied by an ambitious but realistic business plan that has strong commercial viability.



Diversity statement

The Royal Academy of Engineering is committed to diversity and inclusion and welcomes applications from all under-represented 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
- Gender and sexual orientation



The Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation welcomes applicants from all backgrounds, and particularly encourages women and applicants from countries with less established engineering or entrepreneurial ecosystems to apply.



How to apply

All applications must be submitted via the online grant management system (GMS), available here: <https://grants.raeng.org.uk>. You must register through the system before you can apply. The application form has six sections and will take approximately two hours to complete on GMS. However, please allocate more time to gather the relevant documentation and prepare your answers offline.

After logging into the online grant system, please select **Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation 2024/2025**. This will take you to the 'Instructions' screen. Here you will see some general instructions on how to use the system as well as the six sections of the application form:

-  Applicant details
-  About you and your team
-  Your innovation
-  Your business plan
-  Supporting information and declaration
-  Marketing

At any stage in the application process, you can save your work and return to it later. The system will automatically save your work when you change pages, but we recommend that you also save your work at regular intervals to avoid loss of data. You can answer the questions in any order so you may skip sections and return to them later if you wish. To submit your application, all sections and all required questions must be completed. **We recommend you compose your answers offline and then copy and paste them into the form.**

Once you have completed all sections of the application a 'Submit Application' button will become available at the bottom of this summary page. This button is initially greyed out and only becomes available once all pages of the Application are marked as 'complete'. Once you click on the 'Submit Application' button you will be prompted to confirm that you wish to submit your Application.

How to apply (continued)

If you try logging in and the GMS displays the below message, please try clearing your cookies and browsing history, closing the window(s) and opening again in a new window. Alternatively, you can try using a different browser, or opening your application in an incognito window. If you still have issues, please email the [Africa Prize team](#).

Login

You are already logged in.

If you are persistently getting this message when you are trying to navigate to a secured section of the website or the Grant Management System, please try closing all instances of your browser (clearing cookies) and login again.

Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Logout



Application questions

1. Applicant details

This section asks for your details, such as name, contact details and nationality. Please read the eligibility criteria before.

Please note, the applications must be completed in English.

The application deadline is Tuesday 15 October 2024 at 4pm British Summer Time (BST).

Question	Information
Lead applicant details*	Please provide your full name and contact details.
Which country is your innovation based in?*	Please select from the drop-down list the country where your innovation is based. Please note, innovations must be based in a country in sub-Saharan Africa.
Entrepreneur location*	Where are you currently based? Please select other if you are temporarily living outside of Africa. Please note, individual applicants, or a team's lead applicant, must be citizens of a country within sub-Saharan Africa.
What is your nationality?*	Please select your nationality from the drop-down list. If you are not a citizen of a country in sub-Saharan Africa, please select 'other'.
Lead applicant's CV	Please upload your CV here. The format and content of your CV is your choice, but please include education history and work history. Maximum of two pages permitted.
Current team details*	<p>Please give your details and those of any other key team members who are currently working with you on your innovation. If you are applying as an individual, please complete your own details here.</p> <p>There will be a chance to declare any other originators of intellectual property for the innovation you are applying with in section two: about you and your team. Please ensure that 100% of equity is accounted for.</p>

Application questions

2. About you and your team

In this section, please provide details on you and your team, and why you should be shortlisted for the Africa Prize.

Question	Information
Ownership*	Please confirm if you are the originator of the idea/innovation or owner of the technology. If you responded 'No' to the question above, please tell us about your association to the innovation with regards to the originator of the idea/innovation or owner of the technology.
Due diligence*	Please provide names and contact details of all originators/collaborators who have been involved in the innovation. Failure to do so could lead to immediate removal from the programme. You are responsible for ensuring the details provided for each team member are correct, including the email address, to ensure that we are able to reach them for any corroboration.
Consent letter and declaration*	If you are not the originator/owner of this innovation, please obtain and upload a consent letter from the originators/collaborators of the IP. This needs to confirm that they give consent for you to submit the idea in your application for the Africa Prize. This can either be one document with multiple signatures, or individual consent letters per originator. Please review the corresponding declaration.
Current partnerships and supporters (100 words max)*	Please identify any other critical advisors, supporters or partners helping you now, beyond your current team, and how they support your business.

Questions with an asterisk * next to them are required and must be completed by all applicants.

Application questions

3. Your innovation

In this section, please provide the key details on your innovation and the technology or engineering behind it.

Question	Information
Innovation title*	Please give the name of your innovation or project. This should not be a research title, but the name of the product or service you are developing.
Business name	Please give the name of your business or company, if you have one.
One-line pitch (60 words max)*	Please provide a one-line pitch for your business.
Innovation summary (150 words max)*	Please give an overview of the product or service you have developed. What makes it innovative and what is its unique selling point?
Technology and innovation template upload*	Applicants must submit a technology and innovation template to explain the technology and engineering that underpins the innovation and how it works

Questions with an asterisk * next to them are required and must be completed by all applicants.

Application questions

3. Your innovation (continued)

In this section, please provide the key details on your innovation and the technology or engineering behind it.

Question	Information
Impact in sub-Saharan Africa (200 words max)*	Provide a concise description that tells us: What your innovation is, who wants it and why? The focus should be on the benefits and not the features; the impact and not the technology; as well as the end user and customer (if the customer is different from the end user), and why it is better than existing or emerging solutions.
Primary technological sector or research area*	Please select from the drop-down list the main technological sector or research area that describes your innovation.
Secondary technological sector or research area	If relevant, please select the second technological sector or research area that describes your innovation.
Primary SDG*	Please select from the drop-down list which UN SDG your innovation is working towards.
Secondary SDG	If applicable, please select another UN SDG your innovation is working towards.
Website and social media	If you have a website, Facebook page or Twitter account for your innovation or business, please paste the links here. Please provide active business accounts – do not post links to personal accounts or inactive pages/websites.

Questions with an asterisk * next to them are required and must be completed by all applicants.

Application questions

4. Your business plan

This section includes a business profile table.

Question	Information
Business stage*	Please select from the drop-down list the stage that best fits your business/innovation
Organisation Type*	Please select the type that best fits your business/innovation.
Employees*	Please tell us how many full-time and paid employees are currently working for your business. If none, please put 0.
Other employees*	Please tell us how many others, including part-time, volunteers and consultants, are working in your business. If none, please put 0.
Funding*	From the drop-down list, please select where most of the funding comes from for your business.
Investors	Please list the name and type (Angel etc.) of any current investors.
Capital*	Please tell us the total capital you have raised for your business/innovation to date, from (i) investors, (ii) grants/awards, and (iii) any other sources. Please provide this number in GBP, you can convert local currencies to GBP at: www.xe.com/currencyconverter/
Capital sought*	Please tell us how much you aim to raise for your business/innovation to achieve your goals in the next two years in GBP. Ensure it is realistic and aligned with the scale and scope of your business goals. You will have the opportunity to provide more detail on how you intend to allocate these funds to support your growth in the "Business Model Overview" question.

Questions with an asterisk * next to them are required and must be completed by all applicants.

Application questions

4. Your business plan (continued)

This section is a continuation of the business profile table.

Question	Information
Grants/awards*	Please list any grants, awards, prizes or fellowship schemes that you have attended or won - please list the year, amount received (if applicable) and position (shortlist/winner etc.). Please put none if not applicable.
Current Gross Profit Margin*	If relevant to your stage, please provide your 2022, 2023, and 2024 current gross profit margin in GBP. This is your sales price minus the variable cost of goods/services sold. You can convert this into GBP here: www.xe.com/currencyconverter/
Expected Gross Profit Margin*	What is your expected Gross Profit Margin (in GBP) in 12 month's time and how will it be reached?
Business valuation*	If you have an established business, please give an estimation of the business value before external investment in GBP. If not applicable, please put 0.
Business Valuation* (50 words max)	Please explain the method and assumptions used to arrive at this valuation (e.g., multiples of revenue, comparable company analysis, or any other relevant metrics).

Questions with an asterisk * next to them are required and must be completed by all applicants.

Application questions

4. Your business plan (continued)

In this section, please provide details on your business, including your business model, business plan, and your customers and market.

Question	Information
Business model overview (200 words max)*	Please give details on your business, including your business model and why you think it will succeed, your business road map for the next three years, any significant milestones for your business has achieved since it was started, and in GBP, costs associated with your innovation and prices for the customers.
Market opportunity, competitors and competitive advantage (200 words max)*	Please describe the market for your innovation, including: your market size and location, market competitors or those offering a similar product or service, your competitive advantages, your opportunity to scale.
Risks and Challenges (200 words max)*	Please identify three main risks and challenges to your business and what you are doing to mitigate these. You might want to consider internal risks – such as resources, staff expertise etc. And external risks – such as regulations, environmental issues, the economic or political situation, COVID-19, etc.
Business Plan template upload*	Applicants must submit a business plan template to provide a clear financial breakdown of costs and a simple aggregated profit and loss statement.
Intellectual property*	From the list, please tick all those that you have been granted or completed for your innovation.
Pitch Deck	Please upload your pitch deck. Please note this isn't compulsory but will provide useful additional information for the judges.

Questions with an asterisk * next to them are required and must be completed by all applicants.

Application questions

5. Declaration

In this section, please declare that you adhere to the terms and conditions of the Africa Prize.

Question	Information
Supporting Document*	Please upload a letter of support, or supporting document, using the examples listed. Please note, a CV is NOT a supporting document.
Applicant declaration*	Please read the declaration carefully, write your name and position, and tick the checkbox to proceed, confirming you agree with the conditions of the Africa Prize.

Questions with an asterisk * next to them are required and must be completed by all applicants.

Application questions

5. Declaration

Please declare that you adhere to the terms and conditions of the Africa Prize.

Applicant Declaration

Please declare that:

- You are over 18 years old at the time of submitting this application.
- You or your co-founder have not participated in the Africa Prize previously.
- The information you have provided is accurate at the time of submission and you will update the Academy of any material changes which may affect your participation.
- The ideas presented are my own and not plagiarised or containing IP that is not owned by yourself, except for that IP that you 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 your application.
- You 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.
- If selected, you have the permission of your employer to participate in the training programme and apply for the Prize, if appropriate.
- If selected, you or one of your co-founders will set aside significant time to participate in training activities from March 2025 to November 2025.
- You understand that due to possible global events, the programme could be held remotely and you will need to have regular access to the Internet. The Academy can offer a small grant for internet accessibility for the duration of the entrepreneurship training. There may be a chance of travel for residential training week and events but it is not guaranteed.
- You understand that programme dates are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.
- You understand that, if selected to participate in the programme, you do so entirely at your own risk.
- You understand that, if selected to participate in the programme, it is your responsibility to arrange suitable travel insurance and to obtain the necessary visas for travel, with support from the Academy, if travelling to an event or training.
- If selected, you agree to provide the Academy with a brief report about the progress of your business approximately 6 months and 18 months after the training has taken place.
- You will allow the Royal Academy of Engineering to share this material with its Fellows, the Judging Panel and subcontractors for the purposes of selection of candidates and designing the training content.
- You have the permission of any person or persons you have included contact details for, to share their details with the Royal Academy of Engineering for the purposes of administering this application.
- If selected, you consent to the Academy sending you relevant updates in the form of emails and newsletters, during the training and afterwards when you become a member of the Africa Prize alumni.

Applicant's name and position:

Application questions

6. Marketing

In this section, provide information that will help the Africa Prize marketing team with future applications. Please note your answers will not impact your application.

Question	Information
How did you hear about the Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation?*	Please select from the drop-down list of options, if not listed please select other. If 'Other', please answer the sub-question by giving details of where you heard about the Prize.
Have you applied to the Africa Prize before?*	Please tell us if you have ever applied to the Africa Prize before. Please note, this will not affect your current application.
Have you applied or participated in any other Academy programmes?*	Please select from the drop-down list of options any other Royal Academy of Engineering programmes you have applied to or participated in. This could include for example Leaders in Innovation Fellowships or Africa Innovation Fellowship. Please note this will not affect your current application.
The Academy's overarching goal is to harness the power of engineering to build a sustainable society and an inclusive economy that works for everyone.	Please indicate if you or your innovation are working towards either of these two pillars: Sustainable Society and Inclusive Economy. This question does not impact your application outcome.

Questions with an asterisk * next to them are required and must be completed by all applicants.

Assessment Criteria

All applications for the Africa Prize are first checked for eligibility by Academy staff. Eligible applications will be first reviewed technical specialists and a long-list of candidates will be sent to the judging panel.

The pool of technical specialists is composed primarily of engineers within the Academy network. Each application will be reviewed by at least two technical specialists with expertise in your sector. The technical review will focus on the technological viability and credibility of the solution presented, and each specialist will give a score out of seven.

A long-list of the candidates with the highest average score will be sent to our judging panel, who will assess the business viability and overall fit for the programme. Judges will have access to all long-listed applications and will contribute to a discussion in-person, before the shortlist is agreed upon. Technical review scores do not count at the judging panel stage, but review comments will be made available to the judges. Sometimes, some candidates may be contacted for further information that is required by the judges before they make their decision.

1 – The applicant

- Adherence to all entry and eligibility requirements
- Nature and level of past achievements
- Evidence of their entrepreneurial potential, their potential to be mentored and awareness of weaknesses

2 – The team

- Fit of the team with their assigned roles
- Awareness of the roles needed to help them commercialise their innovation

3 – The innovation

- Credibility and viability of the underpinning technology
- Innovativeness of the proposal, or if not novel, how well it adapts existing technology, or the first use of an existing technology in a new market
- Viability of the technology as a solution to the need identified

4 – The business

- Fit within the aims of the programme
- Commercial viability of the business
- Viability of the business plan.
- Potential for the business to scale
- Awareness of competitors to their product or service

5 – The impact

- Ability of innovation to address a real, identified need
- Evidence of social or environmental benefit, particularly among those in more disadvantaged communities.
- Evidence that the innovation contributes towards achieving the SDGs in countries in sub-Saharan Africa

FAQs

Q: What kind of innovations does the Africa Prize accept?

Entrepreneurs with an innovation from any engineering discipline that can provide scalable solutions to local challenges, are invited to apply.

Applicants should be in the early stages of commercialising an engineering innovation that:

- is accompanied by an ambitious but realistic business plan that has strong commercial viability
- has strong potential to be replicated and scaled up
- will bring social and/or environmental benefits to a country or countries in sub-Saharan Africa
- is based in, and will benefit, a country in sub-Saharan Africa.

The innovation can be any new product, technology or service, based on research in any field of engineering, including: agricultural technology, biotechnology, chemical engineering, civil engineering, computer science, design engineering, electrical and electronic engineering, materials science, mechanical engineering, and medical engineering. If you have questions about whether your innovation would be considered as engineering, please contact the Africa Prize team to discuss your application at [**africaprize@raeng.org.uk**](mailto:africaprize@raeng.org.uk)

For more information, have a look at the [Africa Prize interactive tool](#) which showcases all current and previous shortlisted innovations.

We do not accept:

- innovations that are still at idea stage
- innovations that are designed for military purposes or purely for economic gain.



FAQs (continued)

Q: What is the review process for Africa Prize applications?

All applications for the Africa Prize are first checked for eligibility by Academy staff. Eligible applications are sent to a pool of technical expert reviewers, who are specialists in the application's field of engineering. Each application is reviewed by two technical specialists. The top applications from the technical review will be sent to the Africa Prize judging panel. The judges choose the shortlist of up to 16 applicants. Sometimes, some candidates may be contacted for further information that is required by the judges before they make their decision. All applicants will be notified of their application outcome by the end of January 2025.

The shortlisting process will consider:

- adherence to all entry and eligibility requirements
- the relevance and viability of the engineering innovation
- the potential social, economic or environmental benefit of the innovation
- the extent to which the innovation can be replicated and scaled-up
- the individual, or teams', entrepreneurial potential

Q: What is an example of a good and bad application?

Indicators of an outstanding application could include:

- an applicant with sound technology with excellent potential for commercialisation or which is already being commercialised;
- a highly innovative engineering solution to address a real identified need;
- great entrepreneurial potential and awareness of strengths and weaknesses;
- an impressive business plan and sound route to market.

Indicators of a poor application could include:

- technology which is not viable and just at idea stage
- technology which lacks innovation and does not appear to address a real need
- poorly answered questions across the application
- an applicant with little entrepreneurial potential and lack of awareness on strengths, weaknesses and future growth.

FAQs (continued)

Q: Can applications be submitted in any language?

Applications for the Africa Prize must be submitted in English. Applications submitted in any other language will be considered ineligible and will not be reviewed. Africa Prize training will take place in English, so it is important that shortlisted applicants have a good understanding of English. We do however encourage those with English as a second language to apply.

Q: If I am shortlisted, will I need to travel?

The training and mentoring for the Africa Prize shortlist is mostly carried out remotely (online), to allow you to run your business so you do not need to spend a long time away from home.

Usually, the Africa Prize includes a week of in-person training in the UK, as well as an in-person final event on the African continent. Please note that if required to travel for a residential training week or event, the Academy will cover the related costs.

Q: My internet is sometimes unstable, am I still eligible to apply?

The Africa Prize team will support applicants where possible to ensure unstable internet connection isn't a barrier to the programme. If you think you will have a problem connecting to the online training, please notify us in the question 'Special assistance' in section one of the application form.

FAQs (continued)

Q: I was unsuccessful last year, can I apply again?

We encourage previous applications to submit a new application each year, using previous feedback provided by the technical reviewers and judging panel.

Q: I have previously been on the shortlist, can I apply again?

No. Applicants who have made it to the shortlist in a previous round of the Africa Prize are not eligible to apply again. This is because they have already benefited from training and other opportunities while being part of the shortlist. Co-founder or other team members of the same innovation or business are also ineligible for the Africa Prize.

Q: I have multiple innovations, can I apply more than once?

Applicants are welcome to submit more than one application per round for different innovations.

Academy policies

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 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.

Academy policies (continued)

Subsidy control

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

This grant programme has been assessed and is not considered to be a subsidy scheme in relation to the Subsidy Control Act 2022 because funds are being given to small enterprises outside of the UK with no commercial application of the project in sight.

Should the programme of work or focus change bringing this into question then the Recipient must highlight this to the Academy immediately such that the basis of Award can be reviewed. If reviewed and considered a subsidy cumulation rules will apply with all other funding for the project needing to come from non-public funds

Research involving human participants or tissue

Research involving human participants is governed by principles outlined in the Declaration of Helsinki, the Nuremberg Code, and the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS), all of which set out requirements with regard to the rights and safety of research participants and standards for research design and conduct.

The Academy requires researchers to have the relevant regulatory and ethical approvals in place before the relevant research begins, although you may apply for funding before this. In the event of an award being made, commencement of any research involving human participants or tissue will be subject to these approvals being in place and sent to the Academy.

Animals in research

Research involving human participants is governed by principles outlined in the Declaration of Helsinki, the Nuremberg Code, and the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS), all of which set out requirements with regard to the rights and safety of research participants and standards for research design and conduct.

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Terms and conditions

This document sets out the conditions under which the Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation is offered. Please ensure that you fully understand the eligibility criteria and have read this document before applying.

General

The Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation is run by the Royal Academy of Engineering. The Academy is a not-for-profit entity and takes no stake in any innovation or business shortlisted for the prize.

An international judging panel has been convened solely for the purpose of awarding this prize and will make the final decision.

By entering the Prize, applicants will be deemed to have accepted and agreed to be bound by these terms and conditions.

All applications must be submitted in English.

The Prize

The overall winner will receive £25,000 (or local currency equivalent). Runners-up will also receive a cash prize of £10,000 each. This amount will be paid after the final event, which will take place in November 2025.

All applications will be acknowledged on receipt. Responsibility cannot be accepted for applications lost, damaged or delayed.

Any applications that are incomplete, late, do not adhere to the guidelines or contain false information will be rejected.

All applicants will be informed of their application outcome by the end of January 2025.

By applying to be considered for the Prize, applicants warrant that all information submitted is true, current and complete. The judging panel reserves the right to verify the eligibility of all entrants and the veracity of all statements made.

Terms and conditions

Publicity and further activities

Shortlisted applicants as well as finalists will be expected to participate in promotional activities where appropriate.

Unless otherwise specified, the video footage uploaded as part of any shortlisted application may be used as part of ongoing publicity for the Prize.

Liability

Protection of any intellectual property rights in any content submitted is the sole responsibility of the owner of such rights. The Academy recommends that no application is made before the protection of any such rights has been considered. All applications are made at the applicant's own risk and the applicant agrees to release the judging panel, the Academy, its employees and all other connected persons from any liability relating to infringement (whether actual or threatened) of any such rights by a third party anywhere in the world.

The applicant is solely responsible for the content of their application. In submitting an application to be considered for the prize, applicants agree to fully indemnify the judging panel, the Academy, its employees and all other connected persons in respect of all actions, claims, costs, damages, demands, expenses, fines, liabilities, losses, penalties, sanctions, amounts paid in settlement, out of pocket expenses, interest, penalties, and all legal and other professional costs and expenses that may be incurred by any of them in respect of any claims that the nomination and the content that it contains infringes the proprietary rights of a third party.

Data retention

The Academy will retain personal information as per our Data Retention Policy.

