

## Research in Practice (RinP) Placement Opportunity

The following information has been provided by the Host Organisation and outlines the placement opportunity available. Any queries about this placement should be addressed to the Host Organisation at the details provided below.

**This opportunity is aimed at Postgraduate Researchers who have funding through a Doctoral Training Partnership to undertake a placement as part of their studentship.**

Host Details	
<b>Name of Host Organisation:</b>	Royal Academy of Engineering Enterprise Hub
<b>Host location:</b>	London / Sheffield / remote
<b>Brief description of the Host Organisation:</b> <i>Please include a link to a website if you have one.</i>	<p>The Royal Academy of Engineering is a Fellowship, and National Academy, and a charitable organisation. The Enterprise Hub brings together the Academy's work in the following three areas: UK and international entrepreneurship programmes; initiatives to support engineering and tech ecosystems; and thought leadership and recognition of UK entrepreneurship.</p> <p><a href="https://raeng.org.uk/">https://raeng.org.uk/</a> and <a href="https://enterprisehub.raeng.org.uk/">https://enterprisehub.raeng.org.uk/</a></p>
<b>Host contact details:</b>	<p><b><i>Any queries about this opportunity should be addressed to the Host Organisation:</i></b></p> <p>Dr Laura Bennett, Head of Enterprise Hub, <a href="mailto:laura.bennett@raeng.org.uk">laura.bennett@raeng.org.uk</a> Lauren Distler, Senior Manager Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL), <a href="mailto:lauren.distler@raend.org.uk">lauren.distler@raend.org.uk</a></p> <p>The Academy's HQ is in London, but Laura is based in Sheffield, so could meet with the researcher there. Lauren is based in London.</p>

Project Description	
<b>Placement role title:</b> <i>e.g. Project Assistant</i>	Research Assistant
<b>Background/ expected impact of the project:</b>	<p>We are undertaking a review and redesign of our UK and international entrepreneurship programmes for Deep Tech entrepreneurs and business leaders. We would like to understand best practice in accelerator programme design for engineering and deep tech entrepreneurs. Accompanying this</p>

	<p>programme design, we are also seeking to strengthen our tools for evaluating the impact of our programmes on developing the entrepreneurial skills, knowledge, and competencies of programme participants.</p> <p>In return, we can offer the participant valuable experience of working at the Royal Academy of Engineering, where they will gain first-hand insight into the programmes and events that we run. The candidate will be welcome to sit in on training sessions and attend events, as well as participate in social and some personal development opportunities that the Academy provides.</p>
<b>Outline of duties:</b>	<p>Programme design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review of the latest literature (including grey literature) entrepreneurship support organisations and mechanisms, specifically research related to support for leaders of Deep Tech and engineering startups and scaleups, and for IP-rich academic spin-outs.</li> <li>- Summaries of best practice in entrepreneurship support, specifically for deep tech and engineering entrepreneurs and leaders.</li> <li>- Recommendations for the design of entrepreneurship support programmes at the Academy, that more directly link inputs (training, coaching, mentoring) with desired impact (company-based, i.e. jobs created, economic growth and individual-based, i.e. leadership competencies and confidence).</li> </ul> <p>Monitoring and evaluation frameworks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review of existing frameworks, tools, and methodological approaches to measuring entrepreneurial competency.</li> <li>- Summaries of best practice in measuring entrepreneurial competency and leadership skills, highlighting where existing tools are more or less applicable to deep tech and the recommended programme design elements.</li> <li>- Recommendations for the design of a framework and approach to measuring changes in entrepreneurial competency amongst Academy programme participants.</li> </ul>
<b>Expected output(s)/ deliverable(s):</b>	A short report of findings (Word Doc) as well as a presentation (PowerPoint) and discussion session with selected Academy staff.
<b>Support for Postgraduate Researcher:</b>	<p>Line management and support from Lauren Distler, Senior Manager Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL);</p> <p>Support from Dr Laura Bennett, Head of Enterprise Hub;</p> <p>Support from the wider Academy MEL and Enterprise teams.</p>

<b>Skills and experience required for the role:</b>	<p>We believe that this opportunity would suit a first or second year PhD student who is already researching accelerator programme design and entrepreneurship support mechanisms, and who has an interest in impact evaluation.</p> <p>There is no engineering-specific or technical knowledge required for this role.</p> <p>Skills required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong research skills, including synthesising and summarising information from a variety of sources (academic and non-academic).</li> <li>• Strong communication skills in English, verbal and written.</li> <li>• Strong collaboration skills and the ability to work independently and proactively.</li> <li>• Good responsiveness to direction whilst also having the confidence to make suggestions.</li> <li>• The ability to make practical suggestions based on the latest academic research.</li> </ul> <p>Experience / knowledge required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interest and knowledge about entrepreneurship processes and entrepreneurship support mechanisms.</li> <li>• Knowledge about impact measurement and evaluation, including Theory of Change / logic models.</li> <li>• Knowledge about economic development, and the role that entrepreneurship plays in increasing UK GDP.</li> </ul> <p>Experience / knowledge desired:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge about programme design and delivery.</li> <li>• Experience working directly in entrepreneurship support is highly desirable but not essential.</li> <li>• Broad knowledge about UK government support for and drivers of economic growth.</li> <li>• An understanding of entrepreneurial ecosystems and the wider environment of support for entrepreneurs.</li> </ul>
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Key Information	
<b>Placement ideal start date:</b>	March 2026
<b>Placement duration:</b>	3 months (or part-time equivalent)
<b>Full-time or part-time:</b> <i>e.g. 37.5 hours per week or usually 18-19 hours per week</i>	Full time or part time, but we would require outputs by June 2026 at the latest.
<b>In-person, online or hybrid:</b>	Mostly remote, but with some in-person in Sheffield and London.

<b>Security/ health and safety restrictions (if relevant):</b>	None.
<b>Anticipated costs and financial support the Host can offer to help cover these (if relevant):</b> <i>e.g. travel and subsistence costs.</i>	We could cover travel expenses to London or Sheffield when necessary. We don't anticipate that any overnight stays would be required.

<b>How to Apply</b>	
<b>Closing date and time for applications:</b>	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2026 17:00 (UK time)
<b>Application format:</b> <i>e.g. CV, cover letter, application form, etc</i>	<p><b><i>Please confirm on your application that you are a Postgraduate Researcher who has funding through a DTP to undertake a placement as part of your studentship and indicate which DTP you are a member of.</i></b></p> <p>CV and cover letter. The cover letter should include their motivation for applying for the project, their experience (if applicable) and knowledge of entrepreneurship support, and evidence of the candidate's ability to provide concise and easy-to-understand summaries of complex research.</p> <p>The knowledge required is specifically about entrepreneurship support and related programme design and M&amp;E. The position would be suited to someone situated within a business or management school working on a PhD in entrepreneurship or a related field, who has familiarity with impact measurement and methodologies.</p>
<b>How to submit an application:</b>	<p><b><i>Please note this opportunity has been advertised across multiple Doctoral Training Partnerships (DTPs).</i></b></p> <p>Email <a href="mailto:laura.bennett@raeng.org.uk">laura.bennett@raeng.org.uk</a> and <a href="mailto:lauren.distler@raend.org.uk">lauren.distler@raend.org.uk</a></p>
<b>Recruitment process:</b>	<p><b><i>The Host Organisation is responsible for processing the applications received for this opportunity and applications will be processed as follows:</i></b></p> <p>We will sift applications and complete the shortlisting by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December.</p>

	Interviews to be conducted by Laura and Lauren (either online or in person) with up to 3 candidates in January 2026, with a view to making an offer by mid-January.
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