

Future Leaders in Innovation, Enterprise and Research (FLIER) programme

The Academy of Medical Sciences has successfully pioneered a unique programme developing emerging leaders from across the life sciences. The ability of the programme to create collaborations across academia, industry, government, charity, NHS and healthcare has been independently proven to have national impact.

Past participants have embedded strategic success into their organisation, championed cross-sector collaborations and sharpened their leadership capabilities to pursue health innovations for all.

The Academy is excited to announce that applications for the next cohort will be opening September 2025 and closing in mid-October.

Register your interest for applying to the next cohort [here](#).

Who is FLIER for?

FLIER is designed for professionals from any sector across the life sciences who can effect change within their organisation.

These individuals should already be established in their fields and capable of driving change within their organisations. They will already have an emerging idea for how cross-sector collaboration could unlock new opportunities and help address the complex challenges facing research and healthcare.

We are looking for people who bring a genuine openness to learning and not just a desire to network. Curiosity about others and a willingness to understand different perspectives are key. These qualities help build a vibrant, collaborative learning community, rather than simply offering a platform to share one's own expertise.

Programme content

The programme was developed by a cross-sector taskforce of current leaders and is delivered in partnership with bespoke leadership specialists: Living Potential. Their past clients span a range of sectors, including higher education, health, central and local government, finance, and membership organisations amongst others.

The 18-month programme brings together a learning community of emerging leaders from across the life sciences. They will be selected based on their willingness to contribute, learn from others, and to think differently. They will energise one another through shared ambition, not competition. The programme includes:

- An opportunity to come with an innovative idea that requires cross sector collaboration which you will develop throughout the programme. We are calling this Ambition into Practice.
- Four residential modules designed to challenge conventional thinking and stimulate learning and reflection about leadership, with a strong cross-sector focus broadening perspectives:
 - Module one: How can I amplify my leadership for life science innovation?
 - Module two: How do I move from innovator to entrepreneur?
 - Module three: How can I mobilise investment and engagement?
 - Module four: How can we sustain and grow our work into the future?
- Blended interactive learning through face-to-face and virtual workshops.

- Tailored professional coaching to support personal growth and lasting impact.
- Immersion experiences with national organisations across Government, NHS, Academia, Industry, Charity / NGO sector to increase sector awareness.

The programme is supported by the Department of Science, Innovation and Technology Talent Fund and other funders. We do ask employers to make a nominal contribution of £5000.00 to demonstrate commitment to the programme. If employers are unable to make this contribution, we do offer discretionary bursaries, as funding should not be a barrier to excellent FLIER candidates.

Participants benefit from the programme by:

- Increasing their understanding of effective leadership skills, participants will be supported become innovators through a proven combination of practical workshops, coaching, powerful self-reflection and learning.
- Developing a practical, in-depth understanding of the cultures and drivers of other sectors within health and life sciences beyond their own.
- Learn to apply tools, contacts, and collaborations to further the development of their own Ambition into Practice.
- Establishing strong and long-lasting cross-sector networks of peers and senior leaders.
- Practical experience of collaborative working through applied learning opportunities.

Organisations participating in FLIER will be treated as a shadow participant of the programme and will benefit through having:

- A member of staff equipped with advanced leadership skills, capable of identifying and acting on opportunities for innovation and change within their organisation.
- Enhanced organisational visibility through alignment with national priorities, including the NHS 10 Year Health Plan and the Government Industrial Strategy.
- Access to cross-sector insight and collaboration via the participant's expanded professional network, developed through engagement with leaders across academia, industry, the NHS, and policy sectors.
- Organisational learning informed by complex, collaborative cross-sector applications of learning undertaken by participants throughout programme.
- A stronger in-house leadership pipeline, with the participant returning equipped to contribute at a more strategic level and to influence change from within.
- High-value development at a cost significantly subsidised by the Academy of Medical Sciences and its funders. The £5,000 employer contribution represents only a portion of the full cost of participation.
- Opportunities to engage with a wider cohort of FLIER participants and contribute organisational challenges or insights to group learning sessions, events, or collaborative problem-solving exercises.

Previous participants:

- [Cohort 3](#)
- [Cohort 2](#)
- [Cohort 1](#)

If you have any questions or would like to find out more contact the FLIER team at flier@acmedsci.ac.uk .