

Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851

Industrial Design Studentship

2026 Terms and Conditions

Background

The aim of the scheme is to stimulate design capability among the country's most able graduates to the benefit of UK industry. Successful innovations need to be not only fit for purpose, they must also be technically feasible and desirable to their customers and the wider society in which we live. In the Commissioners' view, good design demands an interdisciplinary approach and cannot be dissociated from a clear understanding of the underlying technological, commercial, and social attributes of the product or service.

Eligibility

- Resident in the UK.
- Intending a career that will benefit UK Industry.
- Good first degree, normally in engineering/science/design but other degrees will be considered.
- Normally recently graduated.
- Candidates will be expected to demonstrate precise analytical thinking, creativity and open-mindedness.
- Must have obtained admission to, but not yet started, a suitable postgraduate course. This would normally be within the UK and lead to a Masters degree in design or in engineering with a particular focus on industrial design. However the Commissioners are keen to support students on a wide range of courses that relevant to innovation and design in industry and eligible courses include the study of systems engineering, human factors, etc..

Award

- All tuition fees, up to the normal UK course level for UK students.
- Stipend of £13,000 pa (plus £4,000 London Weighting where applicable).
- Allowance of £850 pa for materials.
- Travel allowance to support the cost of an international study trip where this is part of the studied course up to £500 pa.
- Networking and training opportunities as an 1851 Awardee.
- Duration is one year. A second year will be supported if the course demands it and the first year has been satisfactorily completed.

Applications

Application is through website online submission <https://1851awards.flexigrant.com>

This must include:

- Full CV, which gives details of past work experience
- Statement and evidence of interest in design for industry, including how you would intend to make a career that would benefit UK Industry. Please do not upload a design portfolio but candidates should clearly justify the value to be gained from the prospective course.
- Evidence of acceptance for the intended course.
- Applications should include a reference from the candidates' first degree university or recent employer.
- **Completed applications must be submitted by 5th May 2026 at 12pm BST.**

Interviews of shortlisted candidates will be held in June 2026. Fellowships must commence in the year of the award and will begin at the commencement of the course, normally in September or October 2026,

Data Protection

The 1851 Royal Commission is a data controller under the General Data Protection Regulation. The Commission is registered with the UK Information Commissioner's Office with registration number Z8305954. The Commission may collect and process personal data about you as part of your application. Full details of the types of data collected, the ways in which the data are processed and the legal basis for the processing are included in the [Privacy Notice](#).

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