

UK STUDENT CHAPTERS

Institution of
**MECHANICAL
ENGINEERS**

Guidance & Application
2026-2027



Improving the world through engineering

Introduction

The Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) is dedicated to strengthening its engagement with university students by partnering with established engineering societies. This framework introduces the UK Student Chapter model for the 2026–2027 academic year, designed for universities seeking to affiliate their engineering societies with the IMechE.

The model is structured into progressive tiers, each offering increasing levels of engagement and benefits. Societies can advance through these tiers by hosting events, promoting IMechE values, and collaborating with regional panels.

This document provides a clear process for student societies to become an official IMechE UK Student Chapter and outlines the expectations, benefits, and opportunities available at each tier.

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What is a Student Chapter?

The UK Student Chapter model enables any registered university engineering society to affiliate with the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE). Recognising the valuable contributions of these societies, the IMechE aims to empower students to deliver a diverse range of activities by offering financial support and mentorship through their local Young Members Panel (YMP).

University engineering societies are already thriving communities that champion the advancement of engineering and inspire future innovators. These societies share core values with the IMechE, which has a strong member network committed to the same principles of professional development, collaboration, and technical excellence. By affiliating through the Student Chapter model, we create a powerful partnership that strengthens both communities, enabling greater opportunities, shared resources, and a unified effort to shape the next generation of engineers.

Benefits of Becoming a IMechE UK Student Chapter

Affiliating your engineering society with the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) offers a range of advantages designed to support student development and enhance society activities:

- **Networking Opportunities:**
Connect with an international community of students, early-career engineers, experienced professionals, and industry leaders opening doors to collaboration, knowledge sharing, and future career prospects.
- **Financial Support:**
Access funding opportunities to deliver high-quality events, workshops, and outreach activities that promote engineering and professional development.
- **Mentorship and Guidance:**
Benefit from direct support and mentoring through your local YMP, providing insights into industry trends, career pathways, and professional registration.
- **Recognition and Prestige:**
Gain official affiliation with a globally respected professional institution, enhancing your society's profile and credibility within the university and beyond.
- **Access to Resources:**
Receive promotional materials, event toolkits, and guidance documents to help plan and deliver impactful activities aligned with IMechE values.
- **Pathway to Professional Membership:**
Introduce members to the benefits of IMechE membership, including access to the library resources, Members Network, career development tools, and opportunities for professional registration.

The Impact of Student Chapters for the IMechE

- **Strengthen Collaboration:**
Student Chapters build strong links with IMechE Regions, Divisions, and Specialist Interest Groups, creating opportunities for joint events, knowledge sharing, and wider engagement.
- **Encourage Affiliate Membership:**
Chapters introduce students to IMechE and promote Affiliate membership, fostering early involvement with the Institution and its professional development pathways.
- **Expand Outreach:**
By partnering with university societies, IMechE extends its reach and influence among future engineers, ensuring greater visibility and impact.
- **Develop Future Leaders:**
Student Chapters help identify and nurture the next generation of professional engineers and volunteers, supporting leadership development within the Institution.

Tier Structure

The Student Chapter model is built on a three-tier system, reflecting increasing levels of engagement, responsibilities, and benefits.

Funding Support

Each tier offers a fixed level of funding, aligned with the activities the Student Chapter commits to deliver between September 2026 and July 2027. Requests for additional funding will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

50% of the funding will be released as soon as possible upon receipt and confirmation of the completed application form. The remaining 50% will be released once a satisfactory mid-year review form has been submitted around February to April 2027.

Please note that funding may not be available every year due to budget limitations. However, societies can still apply to become an IMechE Student Chapter and benefit from the associated recognition and support. No more than two societies per university will be funded to allow for fair distribution of resources.

Student Chapter Ambassador

Every Student Chapter must appoint an IMechE Student Chapter Ambassador, who is a member of the IMechE. This ambassador act as the primary liaison with the Institution and is required to attend at least six meetings of their regional Young Members Panel. Their role is to keep the panel informed of Chapter activities and communicate any support needs.

Table of Tier Benefits & Requirements

	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Benefits:			
Affiliation Grant	£100	£150	£200
Additional Funding	Up to £50 for Events/ Travel	Up to £75 for Events/ Travel	Up to £100 for Events/ Travel
Requirements:			
IMechE Introduction & Branding	- Introduce the IMechE at a society meeting, - Display IMechE logos on your website/social media, - Encourage membership sign-ups.	- Deliver an Event featuring an IMechE guest speaker (e.g. IMechE Member or a Membership Development Manager) - Display IMechE logos prominently on your website/social media, - Encourage membership sign-ups.	- Host an event with an IMechE guest speaker and networking session, - Maintain a strong IMechE presence across all society communications channels. - Encourage membership sign-ups.
Events Per Year	Deliver a minimum of: 1 social event, 1 academic/career events, 1 collaborative event with the IMechE (support an event organised by the local YMP).	Deliver a minimum of: 2 social events, 2 academic/career events, 1 collaborative event with the IMechE (support an event organised by the local YMP) - Encourage student participation in the Speak Out for Engineering competition.	Deliver a minimum of: 3 social events, 3 academic/career events, 2 collaborative events with the IMechE (support an event organised by the local YMP) - Encourage student participation in the Speak Out for Engineering competition.
IMechE Student Chapter Ambassador	- Nominate a society committee member to become a the IMechE Student Chapter Ambassador and liaise with the local YMP. Student Ambassador must be IMechE member. - IMechE Student Chapter Ambassador is to attend at least 6 local YMP meetings.	- Nominate a society committee member to become a the IMechE Student Chapter Ambassador and liaise with the local YMP. Student Ambassador must be IMechE member. - IMechE Student Chapter Ambassador is to attend at least 6 local YMP meetings.	- Nominate a society committee member to become a the IMechE Student Chapter Ambassador and liaise with the local YMP. Student Ambassador must be IMechE member. - IMechE Student Chapter Ambassador is to attend at least 6 local YMP meetings.
Engagement & Communication	Regularly share IMechE news, events, and opportunities with society members via society communications channels.	- Produce at least one article or post highlighting a successful IMechE-affiliated event or trip, - Maintain lively communication channels.	- Publish regular features on IMechE activities, - Produce an annual report of society achievements for inclusion in regional YMP newsletters.
Collaboration & Networking	- Attend local YMP events and networking sessions, - Seek joint events with nearby societies.	Actively collaborate on events with other universities/societies and attend regional engineering events	- Lead cross-institution collaborations, - Host joint events that bring together multiple university societies and professional networks.
Recognition & Reporting	Fill in and submit mid-year review form by 30th April 2027. This will be sent out February 1st 2027.	Fill in and submit mid-year review form by 30th April 2027. This will be sent out February 1st 2027.	Fill in and submit mid-year review form by 30th April 2027. This will be sent out February 1st 2027.

	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Surveys	Distribute one official IMechE survey each year. All surveys are anonymised, may be issued at any time during the year, and typically take under 10 minutes to complete. A small recognition may be awarded at the IMechE's discretion to the Chapter with the highest number of responses. No financial inducements, multiple entries, or coercion are permitted. Chapters only need to show that the survey was distributed and provide the anonymised responses received. The IMechE will provide GDPR guidance for compliant distribution and handling of survey data.	Distribute one official IMechE survey each year. All surveys are anonymised, may be issued at any time during the year, and typically take under 10 minutes to complete. A small recognition may be awarded at the IMechE's discretion to the Chapter with the highest number of responses. No financial inducements, multiple entries, or coercion are permitted. Chapters only need to show that the survey was distributed and provide the anonymised responses received. The IMechE will provide GDPR guidance for compliant distribution and handling of survey data.	Distribute one official IMechE survey each year. All surveys are anonymised, may be issued at any time during the year, and typically take under 10 minutes to complete. A small recognition may be awarded at the IMechE's discretion to the Chapter with the highest number of responses. No financial inducements, multiple entries, or coercion are permitted. Chapters only need to show that the survey was distributed and provide the anonymised responses received. The IMechE will provide GDPR guidance for compliant distribution and handling of survey data.

2026-2027 Reporting

For all 2026–2027 Student Chapter Tiers, IMechE will issue the required mid-year form in due course, as per the Timeline detailed in this guide.

How to apply

To become an affiliated IMechE UK Student Chapter, your Engineering Society must complete the Application Form provided at the end of this document. The form should include details of the events your society plans to deliver to meet the requirements of your chosen tier.

Your application must include:

- Name of the Society,
- University,
- Tier Level,
- Contact Details,
- Declaration

Completed application forms must be signed by both the society and the relevant local IMechE Area Committee or Young Members Panel before being submitted for consideration.

Find your local IMechE committee using the 'near you' page [Member networks near you](#) or contact Daniel.Woodhead@member.imeche.org.

Deadline: Applications must be submitted by 30th November 2026.

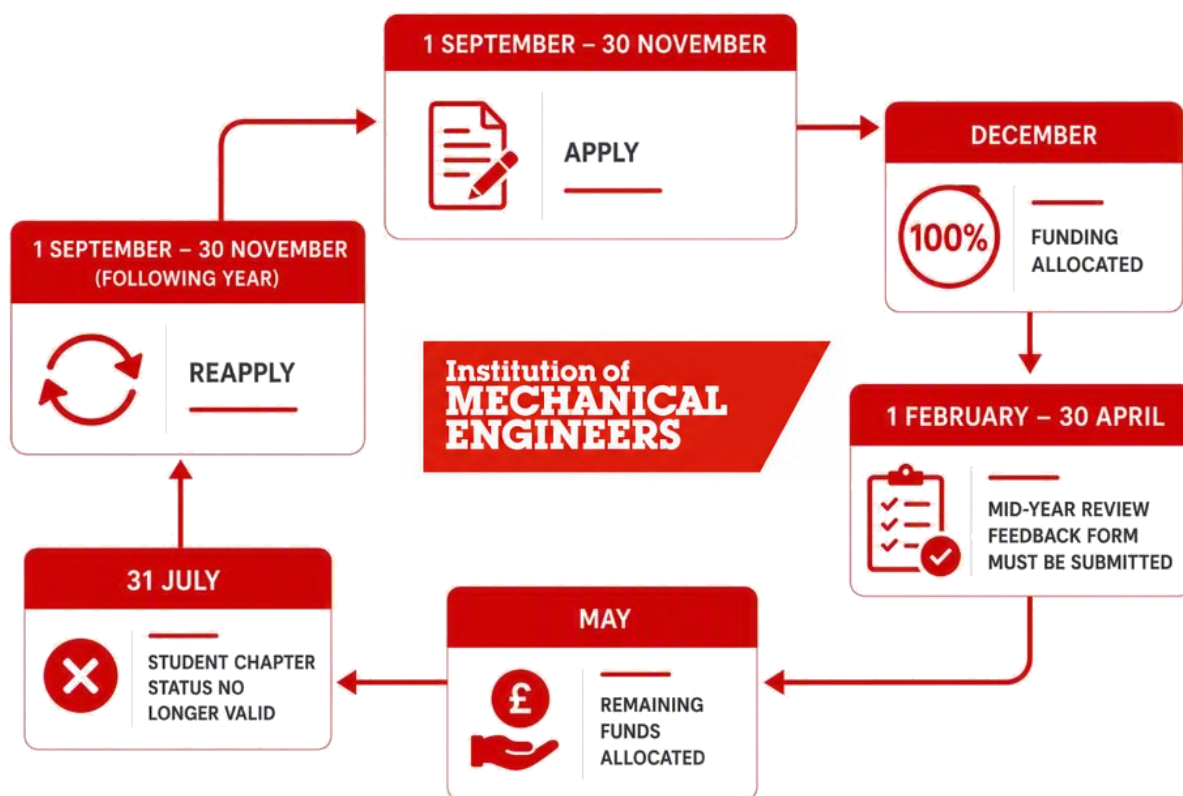
Applications received after the deadline may not be considered for funding or Student Chapter recognition

Societies will have the opportunity to upgrade their tier during the academic year if they meet the minimum requirements for the next level.

Terms & Period

Please note that IMechE Student Chapter Affiliation is only valid for the academic year in which it was applied for and will terminate 31st July 2027 (Before the next Academic Year (2027/2028)).

Timeline



Funding

The IMechE Young Members Board has limited funding available and is therefore unable to support a large number of societies each year.

As part of the application process, societies should first approach their local IMechE Area Committee and ask whether it is willing to support the Student Chapter at the funding tier for which it has applied. The application form includes an option to indicate whether the local committee has agreed to provide funding.

Where the local IMechE Area Committee or Young Member Panel agrees to support the Student Chapter, the mid-year review will be assessed jointly by representatives from the Young Members Board and the local committee.

Where the local committee is unable or unwilling to provide funding, support may be provided centrally by the IMechE Young Members Board. Central funding will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to available budget. If the Young Members Board is also unable to provide funding, societies can still become an IMechE Student Chapter and will be given priority consideration for funding in the following academic year.

Please note that funding may not be available every year due to budget constraints. However, societies are still encouraged to apply to become an IMechE Student Chapter and will continue to benefit from the recognition, resources, and support associated with Chapter status.

Where funding is approved, it will be released in two stages:

- 50% at the start of the academic year following approval.
- 50% following a successful mid-academic-year review.

To ensure a fair distribution of resources, a maximum of two societies per university will be eligible to receive funding in any given academic year.

Reapplication

Societies wishing to retain their status as an IMechE Student Chapter for the 2027/28 academic year must reapply by 30th November 2027. To do so, they should contact the Daniel Woodhead, Student Chapters Lead (Daniel.Woodhead@member.imeche.org) to request an application form.

Completed application forms must be signed by both the society and the relevant local IMechE Area Committee or Young Members Panel before being submitted for consideration. Applications received after the deadline may not be considered for funding or Student Chapter recognition for the 2027/28 academic year.

Example Events for Student Chapters

To help societies plan activities that meet tier requirements, here are examples of events under each category:

Social Events

- Welcome mixers for new engineering students,
- Informal networking nights with peers and alumni,
- Engineering-themed quizzes or games nights,
- End-of-term celebration or awards evening.

Academic & Career Development Events

- Technical talks or guest lectures from industry professionals,
- CV and interview skills workshops,
- Student presentations or project showcase.

IMechE Collaborative Events

- Joint events with your local Young Members Panel (YMP),
- Hosting an IMechE speaker for a technical or career talk,
- Supporting regional competitions such as Speak Out for Engineering,
- Local company tours,
- Participating in outreach activities to promote STEM in schools.

For more inspiration of events, check out the IMechE's Great Event Guide, Available in the [IMechE Volunteer Resource Centre](#).

The IMechE Brand

When posting on social media as an IMechE Student Chapter, please follow the Institution's brand guidelines. This helps ensure a consistent and professional presence while representing the IMechE. The brand guidelines and resources are available via the Volunteer Resource Centre, or you can contact youngmembers@imeche.org.

Checklists

The checklists on the next pages will help you track progress toward meeting your tier requirements. Tick off each item as you complete it to stay organised and ensure eligibility for funding and upgrades. They're also useful when preparing reports or applying for a higher tier.

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BRONZE CHECKLIST

☒	Requirement	Record
☐	Introduce IMechE at Engineering Society meetings	
☐	Display IMechE logos on your website/social media	
☐	Deliver 1 Social Event	
☐	Deliver 1 Academic/Career Event	
☐	Deliver 1 Collaborative Event with the IMechE	
☐	Nominated IMechE Student Chapter Ambassador to attend 6 local YMP meetings	
☐	Promote IMechE news, events and opportunities to society members via email and social media	
☐	Attend local YMP events and networking sessions	
☐	Fill in and submit mid-year review form. This will be sent out closer to the submission date.	
☐	Distribute one official IMechE survey each year. Surveys are anonymous. Chapters must demonstrate that the survey was distributed and submit any anonymised responses received. The IMechE will provide GDPR guidance to support compliant distribution and data handling.	

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SILVER CHECKLIST

☒	Requirement	Record
☐	Deliver an event featuring an IMechE Speaker	
☐	Display IMechE logos prominently on your website/social media	
☐	Deliver 2 Social Event	
☐	Deliver 2 Academic/Career Event	
☐	Deliver 1 Collaborative Event with the IMechE	
☐	Encourage student participation in Speak Out for Engineering	
☐	Nominated IMechE Student Chapter Ambassador to attend 6 local YMP meetings	
☐	Promote IMechE news, events and opportunities with society members via email and social media	
☐	Produce at least one article or post highlighting a successful IMechE-affiliated event or trip	
☐	Attend local YMP events and networking sessions	
☐	Actively collaborate on events with other Universities/Societies and attend regional engineering events	
☐	Fill in and submit mid-year review form. This will be sent out closer to the submission date.	
☐	Distribute one official IMechE survey each year. Surveys are anonymous. Chapters must demonstrate that the survey was distributed and submit any anonymised responses received. The IMechE will provide GDPR guidance to support compliant distribution and data handling.	

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GOLD CHECKLIST

☒	Requirement	Record
☐	Host an event with an IMechE guest speaker and networking session	
☐	Maintain strong IMechE presence across all society communications	
☐	Deliver 3 Social Event	
☐	Deliver 3 Academic/Career Event	
☐	Deliver 2 Collaborative Event with the IMechE	
☐	Encourage student participation in Speak Out for Engineering	
☐	Nominated IMechE Student Chapter Ambassador to attend 6 local YMP meetings	
☐	Publish regular features on IMechE activities	
☐	Produce an annual report of society achievements for inclusion in regional YMP newsletter	
☐	Attend local YMP events and networking sessions	
☐	Lead cross-institution collaborations; host joint events that bring together multiple university societies and professional networks	
☐	Fill in and submit mid-year review form. This will be sent out closer to the submission date.	
☐	Distribute one official IMechE survey each year. Surveys are anonymous. Chapters must demonstrate that the survey was distributed and submit any anonymised responses received. The IMechE will provide GDPR guidance to support compliant distribution and data handling.	

UK STUDENT CHAPTERS APPLICATION

Institution of Mechanical Engineers

1 Birdcage Walk
Westminster
London SW1H 9JJ

**Institution of
MECHANICAL
ENGINEERS**

2026-2027

Welcome to IMechE UK Student Chapters. Please complete all sections of this form to apply for affiliation as an IMechE UK Student Chapter.

About this form

Thank you for your interest in becoming an IMechE UK Student Chapter. Affiliation offers your society access to funding, mentorship, networking opportunities, and recognition as part of a globally respected engineering institution.

The Application Process

This application form is for the 2026-2027 Academic Year. Once you have completed all sections of this form, please return it by email to the Student Chapter Lead, Daniel.Woodhead@member.imeche.org.

All sections, except Section 4, Part D, must be completed before submission. Following receipt of the application, it will be reviewed by the IMechE Student Chapter Lead, who will complete and sign Section 4, Part D. Only once this section has been completed and the application has been approved will the society be recognised as an official IMechE Student Chapter.

The funding decision will also be communicated in Section 4, Part D. If both regional and central funding applications are unsuccessful, no funding will be awarded for the current academic year. However, the society may still be approved as an IMechE Student Chapter and benefit from the associated recognition and support.

Applications must be submitted no later than 30th November 2026.

This form has five sections

You must complete all sections before you submit all applications:

1. Society Information
2. Contact Details
3. Tier Level & Planned Events
4. Declaration

Term & Funding

If approved, the society will be recognised as an official IMechE Student Chapter for the current academic year only (Ends July 31st). Applications must be submitted annually for continued recognition.

Where funding is available, it will be released in two stages: 50% upfront and the remaining 50% following a mid-academic year review.

Please note that funding may not be available every year due to budget limitations. However, societies can still apply to become an IMechE Student Chapter and benefit from the associated recognition and support.

No more than two societies per university will be funded to allow for fair distribution of resources.

Section 1:

Society Information

University:

Society Name:

Number of Committee Members:

Approx. Number of Society Members:

Who should we contact at the University to discuss payments of funding (Name/Email)?

Note The method for the University to receive funding is to arrange raising an invoice with the IMechE. Therefore, we need a relevant contact.*

Section 2:

Part A: Society Representative Contact Details

Please provide the details of a primary society representative (typically the President or Chairperson) who will act as the main point of contact for all communications regarding your Student Chapter.

Full Name:

Position in Society:

Email (please use your/their student '@university.ac.uk' email address):

Society Contact Number:

Part B: IMechE Student Chapter Representative Contact Details

Please provide the details of the individual who will serve as the IMechE Student Chapter Ambassador. The Ambassador must be a current member of the IMechE. This individual will attend meetings of the local Young Members (YM) or Area Panel and act as the primary liaison between your society and the IMechE Young Members Panel (YMP).

If no local IMechE panel exists, the Ambassador should liaise with the nearest active committee, preferably a Young Members Panel. Find your local IMechE committee using the 'near you' page [Member networks near you](#) or contact

Daniel.Woodhead@member.imeche.org.

If you are completing this form on behalf of someone else, please ensure you have their permission to share their personal information with us and that they understand the purposes we will use this information for.

Full Name:

Position in Society:

IMechE Membership Number:

Email (please use your/their student '@university.ac.uk' email address):

Society Contact Number:

Part C: Social Media Details

Please provide your society's website and social media usernames (e.g., Instagram, LinkedIn, Facebook, or X). This helps us stay connected and see the great activities your society organizes throughout the year.

Website:

Instagram:

LinkedIn:

Other social media handles:

Section 3:

Tier Level & Planned Events

Which Tier level are you seeking to affiliate to, based on the requirements for this academic year (based on your plans for this year to summer 2027)?

☐ Bronze ☐ Silver ☐ Gold

Please outline the events your society plans to organise to meet the requirements of your chosen tier:

Section 4:

Part A: Society's Declaration

By signing this form, you confirm that:

- 1. Compliance with IMechE Code of Conduct**
Your society and its representatives agree to uphold the [Institution of Mechanical Engineers' Code of Conduct](#) at all times. As an affiliated Student Chapter acting on behalf of IMechE, you must maintain professionalism and integrity in all activities.
- 2. Commitment to Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion**
At IMechE, we believe engineering is for everyone. Our vision is to foster an inclusive culture where all members, employees, and the wider engineering community feel valued, develop a sense of belonging, and are empowered to thrive. Student Chapters should actively work to create an inclusive, diverse, and vibrant engineering community. This includes promoting equality, respecting differences, and reaching out to underrepresented groups to ensure that all students have the opportunity to engage and succeed.
Find out more about the [IMechE's Culture and Inclusion here](#).
- 3. Communication**
Your society will endeavour to maintain active communication with the relevant local IMechE panel and will not unreasonably delay in providing any information or documentation that is mandatory under this document.
- 4. Event Liability**
The IMechE accepts no liability for any events or misconduct associated with the Student Chapter. All Health and Safety responsibilities remain solely with the University's Students' Union.
- 5. Funding**
The release of funding is at the full discretion of the IMechE. Where it determines that a society has not met the minimum requirements for affiliation, it may withhold payments.
- 6. Right to Terminate Affiliation**
IMechE reserves the right to withdraw Student Chapter affiliation if these standards are not met or if conduct is deemed inconsistent with the Institution's values. Funding will not be provided where a society is withdrawn.
- 7. Acknowledgement and Understanding**
You have read and understood all requirements, responsibilities, and conditions outlined in this document and agree to comply fully.

Signed on behalf of (Society's Name):

Full Name:

Signature:

Date:

Part B: University / Student Union Acknowledgement

(To be signed by the Universities Student Union)

We hereby acknowledge that the society named in this application is applying to affiliate as an Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) UK Student Chapter for the academic year 2025–2026.

Full Name:

Position:

Signature:

Date:

Part C: IMechE Regional Committee Acknowledgement

(To be signed by the relevant IMechE region chair)

Find out who your regional chair is using the 'near you' page [Member networks near you](#)

We acknowledge that the society named in this application is applying to affiliate as an IMechE UK Student Chapter for the academic year 2026–2027.

The local Young Members Panel has been informed of this application and will provide support and guidance where appropriate to help the chapter integrate into regional activities.

Full Name:

Position:

Email:

Signature:

Date:

The IMechE Young Member Board has limited funding and therefore is unable to support a large number of societies. As such, the Local IMechE Committee is asked to confirm whether it agrees to fund the Student Chapter at the tier for which it has applied.

Please note that selecting "No" does not prevent the society from becoming a Student Chapter, however central funding will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Where the local IMechE or Young Member Panel agrees to support the scheme, the mid-year review will be assessed jointly by the Young Member Board and the Local Area Committee.

The Local Committee is asked to confirm whether it is willing to fund the Student Chapter at the agreed tier. This will involve payment of 50% upon sign-up and the remaining 50% upon satisfactory submission of the mid-year review form.

(For completion by the relevant IMechE local panel/ young member panel)

☐

Yes

☐

No

If 'yes':

IMechE Local Committee Name:

Email:

Signature:

Date:

If 'no' refer to decision in Part D.

Part D: IMechE Student Chapter Lead

(To be signed by the IMechE Student Chapter Lead)

Student chapter lead acknowledges that the society named in this application is applying to affiliate as an IMechE UK Student Chapter for the academic year 2026–2027.

Full Name:

Position:

Signature:

Date:

If local committee can't fund the Student Chapter can the Young Member Board provide funding?

(For completion by the Student Chapter Lead)

☐

Yes

☐

No

If 'No', the society will not receive any funding from the IMechE for this academic year. We apologise, as funding is limited. However, the society will remain an IMechE Student Chapter and will be given priority consideration for funding next year, provided satisfactory outputs and activities are demonstrated during the year.