



2020 - 2025 Strategic Plan

This Strategic Plan sets out the Royal Society of Edinburgh's Young Academy of Scotland's (YAS) vision, our strategic objectives for the next five years, and the 'Grand Challenges' which we are focused on addressing for the next two years. It identifies the distinctive impact we aim to make nationally and internationally, and the benefits that a vibrant, multidisciplinary Young Academy can bring to Scotland.

Vision

YAS provides a platform for Scotland's early and mid-career leaders to work collaboratively for the benefit of Scottish society.

Mission

Our mission is to achieve transformative societal change through citizenship, innovation, collaboration, evidence, and leadership.

Our strategic objectives are to:

- Be responsive to real-world problems and lead on delivering solutions
- Inform policy and practice for the common good
- Support the professional development of our members

We will achieve these objectives by:

- Developing novel interdisciplinary projects with a range of members from different backgrounds and sectors that bring together their expertise to address our Grand Challenges
- Generating and sharing knowledge and expertise
- Establishing strong links with other Young Academies around the world
- Partnering with other key organisations
- Providing opportunities to engage both locally and nationally, in person and virtually
- Collaborating with the Royal Society of Edinburgh and their Fellows

Core Values

We have several Core Values that underpin all our activities, how we operate, and our membership selection.

Responsible Debate
Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion
Transparency
Collaborative, Interdisciplinary Working
Evidence-Informed Analysis and Decision Making

Grand Challenges

We will focus our work on the following Grand Challenges, which span all our themes, our members' areas of expertise, and the difference sectors in which they work. These will be reviewed every two years.

Scotland's people can thrive

Scotland is inclusive, welcomes diversity, and provides equality of opportunity.

A well-informed society

Promoting a society where collective decisions are made based on evidence and constructive discussion.

Increasing Scotland's positive role in the world

Making an impact in the world, forging and maintaining international links, and sharing and gaining knowledge.

Ending health inequalities

Improving the health of everyone across the lifespan and ending health inequality based on income, gender, sexuality, race, disability, age, and sex.

Zero carbon by 2045

Scotland achieves its net zero emissions target and leads in the international effort to tackle climate change.

Six Core Societal Themes

As emerging leaders in our fields, we engage with the vision and mission of YAS through the Grand Challenges, which foster multidisciplinary activities encompassing one or more of our Core Societal Themes.

Enterprising	Engaging in innovation and entrepreneurial thinking, and supporting emerging entrepreneurs
Equal	Promoting equality and justice between peoples and nations, and maintaining a diverse, equal, and inclusive membership
Healthy	Identifying and tackling health and wellbeing challenges
International	Bringing Scotland's expertise to the world, and learning from international perspectives and experiences
Smart	Promoting informed decision-making among individuals, groups, and government
Sustainable	Empowering communities and enabling access to expertise by contributing to Scotland's environmental, cultural, political, and economic sustainability

About the Young Academy of Scotland

The Young Academy of Scotland was founded by the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2011 and currently has about 130 members. We are the largest national Young Academy in Europe and our membership, ranging in age from mid-20s to 40s, is also the most diverse, with members coming from academia, the creative industries, and the commercial and public sectors. Members are elected for a period of five years. As part of the growing global network of Young Academies, we are a signatory to the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Young Academies. YAS operates under the auspices of The Royal Society of Edinburgh, Scotland's National Academy, Scottish Charity No. SC000470.