



THE WORSHIPFUL
COMPANY OF
ARMOURERS
AND BRASIER

Materials Science Strategy of The Armourers & Brasiers' Gauntlet Trust

created November 2025

Introduction

Who are the Armourers & Brasiers?

The Armourers & Brasiers' Company is a Livery Company in the City of London. Founded in 1322 as the Guild of St George of the Armourer, its craft until the 17th century was making armour. With the arrival of the musket, and before that during peaceful times, it diversified into manufacturing artefacts in brass for domestic and industrial purposes.

By the 19th century, when the manufacturing activity largely left London, the Company had become a membership organisation for fellowship and for the welfare of its members. The Company also looked outwards to further its philanthropic mission and engaged with training, education and innovation in the metals trade. It was one of 16 livery companies who founded the City & Guilds Institute of London, from which emerged Imperial College. In 1979 the Company's charitable funds and grantmaking were consolidated with the creation of the Gauntlet Trust to direct and fund its charitable activities.

The Armourers & Brasiers Gauntlet Trust is one of the largest private supporters of Materials Science in the UK. The Trust gives £250,000 to £300,000 annually to support education and research in Materials Science.

This work commences at school level to encourage enthusiasm for science and to enrich the curriculum through grants to schools and in support of outreach activity. At undergraduate level prizes are given to recognise excellence and achievement in Materials Science, and funding is provided to support opportunities for industrial experience. At postgraduate level, grants are awarded to enable research students to present their work at academic conferences. Prestigious medals for significant bodies of work are awarded in partnership with the Royal Society and the Royal Academy of Engineering. In 2022, to mark its 700th anniversary, the Company, through its Gauntlet Trust, endowed in perpetuity the Armourers & Brasiers' Chair in Materials Science at Imperial College.

The Armourers & Brasiers' Company offers an annual Venture Prize in the form of a risk capital investment of £25,000 to support the commercialisation of novel materials research.

Prize winners and grant recipients from undergraduate level onwards are invited to join the Armourers Alumni community which provides networking opportunities for those pursuing careers in Materials Science.





Purpose & Mission

- We support and promote Materials Science education and entrepreneurship across the UK.
 - By supporting UK Materials Science, we are helping individuals to fulfil their potential through challenging and rewarding careers in academia and industry.
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How do we do this?

- We are an **active** player in the UK's **Materials Science community**.
- We support **education**.
- We work in **partnership**.
- We **invest** strategically.
- We **mentor** the next generation.
- Our work is directed by a committee including **eminent and expert** Materials Scientists.



We are an active player in the UK's Materials Science community

Our principal stakeholder groups are:

- Members of the **Armourers & Brasiers' Company**
- Our **Industrial Partners**
- **Universities**
- UK's Materials **Research Community**
- **Schools & Colleges**

Our Strategic Position

- We establish, value and nurture **long-term relationships**
- We are **independent** of vested interests.
- We **engage with other stakeholders** in the Materials Science Community proactively and selectively where it supports our purpose.
- We **convene, host and attend** gatherings such as:
 - Stakeholder and Industry leadership events
 - Conferences
 - Armourers Alumni Network and Events
 - Networking opportunities
- We operate **throughout the UK**

We invest strategically

Our Strategic Position for Investment

Our investment criteria are:

- Long-term relationships and long-term value
- Materials Science, broadly-defined
- High impact for investment made

Our investment formula is:

Armourers & Brasiers' resources in kind

(administration, leadership, expert committee, our network, Armourers' Hall)

+ **money** (Armourers & Brasiers' Company, Armourers & Brasiers' Gauntlet Trust and industrial partners)

= **impact** (recorded and/or measured)

Priorities for Investment

- To give prizes, awards & grants to organisations and individuals
- To deliver recurrent, high impact grant-making
- To make occasional major gift donations
- To implement A&B-devised long-term projects
- To enter into industrial partnerships for the benefit of UK advanced manufacturing and R&D in Materials Science
- To identify and to provide seed-funding from the Armourers & Brasiers' Company for innovative and high potential spinout and startup companies in Materials Science via the Armourers & Brasiers' Venture Prize



We work in partnership with industry

Our Strategic Position on Industrial Partnership

- We seek partnerships which will:
 - cover the major categories of Materials Science
 - be long-term
 - be proactive
 - have clear, agreed and shared purpose
 - be jointly funded
- The Armourers & Brasiers' Gauntlet Trust covers overhead costs so that all industrial partner funds and agreed contributions from the Armourers & Brasiers Gauntlet Trust are spent on programmes
- The Armourers & Brasiers' Company exercises its unique convening power to build and strengthen relationships in the Materials Science community to the benefit of UK industry

Priorities for Industrial Partnership

- To support UK industry by maintaining a pipeline of talented Materials Scientists.
- To encourage collaboration between industry and universities to deliver societal benefit from innovation in Materials Science



The Armourers & Brasiers Materials Science Industrial Partnership

How we steward our partnerships

- Bespoke objectives for each partnership
- Clear relationship ladder in partner organisation:
 - Senior leader recognition
 - Account manager
 - Administrative link
- Linkage to Materials Science Committee
 - Designated link member from Armourers & Brasiers Materials Science Committee for each partner
- Regular contact:
 - Armourers & Brasiers events
 - visits to partners
 - impact recorded and reported
 - annual, minuted, review meetings



We support education

Our Strategic Position on Education

We are a funder, a mentor and a catalyst for:

- **School-level education**
 - We provide grants to enrich the curriculum in schools and colleges
 - We support, proactively, long-term outreach projects such as the Scanning Electron Microscope in Schools scheme
 - We work through outreach providers such as universities and scientific institutions
- **Universities**
 - We give prizes to recognise achievement and excellence
 - We provide grants to research students to attend conferences
 - We will only support projects which align with our purpose & deliver clear impact

Priorities for Education Support

Engaging students with Materials Science by:

- Enriching the curriculum and the student experience
- Recognising talent and excellence
- Supporting links between industry and education
- Supporting practical and technical education



We work in partnership with universities

Our Strategic Position on University Partnership

Our relationships

- are long-term
- are proactive
- have shared purpose
- benefit from Armourers & Brasiers' unique convening power
- are shaped by regular dialogue and review
- are collaborative

Priorities for University Partnership

- To support recruitment into Materials Science post-compulsory education
- To encourage career engagement with Materials Science
- To recognise excellence & achievement in early and mid-career
- To encourage collaborative leadership
- To encourage links with industry



We mentor the next generation – Armourers Materials Science Alumni

Our Strategic Position on Mentorship

- The Armourers Alumni Network has around 1,000 members and increases by 50 to 70 new members annually.
- The network is potentially a significant resource for the Materials Science Community, providing opportunities for Armourers Alumni to network with their peers and with the UK's Materials Science community.

Priorities for Mentorship

- For the Armourers & Brasiers to consult with Armourers Alumni and support their development as individuals and as a group.
- To encourage and enable Armourers Alumni to be proactive in engaging collectively with the UK's wider Materials Science community.



What is the role of the Materials Science Committee?

Our Strategic Position for the Materials Science Committee

- The Materials Science Committee is an expert sub-Committee of the Armourers & Brasiers' Gauntlet Trust.
- Under terms of reference agreed with the trustees of the Armourers & Brasiers' Gauntlet Trust, the Committee determines the objectives and strategic direction of Armourers & Brasiers charitable programmes in support of Materials Science education and research.
- Its members include distinguished Materials Scientists representing industry, universities, schools. They are all members of the Armourers & Brasiers' Company.
- The Materials Science Committee meets three times annually in January, April, October.
- The Committee convenes, hosts and attends meetings and events which align with its purpose.

Priorities for the Materials Science Committee

- To ensure the Committee has the capacity to deliver on its Terms of Reference.
- To communicate the impact of its work to stakeholders.
- To identify candidates for membership of the Armourers & Brasiers' Company with the expertise and enthusiasm to support the Company's objectives in Materials Science and beyond.



The Worshipful Company of Armourers & Brasiers

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