

Knowledge Catalyst Scheme – FAQ's

Is there a maximum amount of funding that is available per project?

There is no maximum award per project, although of course the level of funding will be constrained by the eligible costs and the top length of 15 months per partnership. Applications need to be able to demonstrate value for money.

I understand that the Enterprise partner is to be micro or small - i.e. 1-50 employees. Is this strictly applied - what if the perfect partner to match with the research interest has 60 or so employees - is there a case that can be made? And what if in the duration of the project the employees in the enterprise partner raises above the 50 - would that then make them ineligible?

The scheme is aimed at small and micro organisations (1-50 employees). However, the guidance is worded that "Enterprise Partners should not usually have more than 50 employees at the time of applying" and that "larger organisations which can demonstrate why the KTP scheme is not accessible to them may apply to the Knowledge Catalyst scheme". One of the aims of the scheme is to make KT activities accessible to organisations which can't access KTPs, so if a slightly larger company could demonstrate why a KTP wasn't possible, then they would be able to apply to the Knowledge Catalyst. Only employment figures at the time the application is submitted are considered - if they increase subsequently it wouldn't affect the application.

The kind of projects potentially able to apply for this funding seems rather wide-ranging. Am I correct in assuming that they don't need to have a commercial outcome, they are able to be research based in terms of advancing research and knowledge within both the University Department and Enterprise Partner without needing to necessarily contribute to a rise in profit / increase in turnover?

Projects need to have a significant impact on the operations of the Enterprise partner and the scheme can't be used to fund academic research. Projects don't necessarily need to demonstrate financial impact in terms of profit/turnover but they do need to demonstrate significant tangible impact for the Enterprise Partner. This impact can be financial, or it could be a significant cultural or social impact, or a combination of several of these but it does need to be a significant and demonstrable impact.

What is the fundamental difference between applications allowable via the Knowledge Catalyst scheme to those under Knowledge Transfer Partnerships?

The scheme has been developed to sit broadly in line with our sponsorship of KTPs, but has been tailored to suit arts and humanities academic and business users more closely. A key part of this is a wider emphasis on what kinds of activities knowledge transfer includes in the arts and humanities, hence the wider inclusion of other impacts as well as financial impact. The other key difference is that the scheme is focused on making knowledge transfer activities flexible and accessible enough for very small organisations to engage with.

Is it the intention of the scheme to employ graduates from the same institution as the academic partner, or would it be an open recruitment process as under the existing KTP scheme? We haven't specified a recruitment process, although we'd generally expect it to be open unless there are good reasons why it shouldn't be. The employee can have recently graduated (in the last 3 years) from either an undergraduate or postgraduate course. It doesn't need to have been run by the university in question.

Is there a deadline for applications or is it a rolling programme?

No deadline - we're accepting applications at any time.

May a partner be a government agency or a charity?

For the Knowledge Catalyst, there is no difficulty in the non-academic partner being either a government agency or a charity in principle. The main limits would be that the scheme is aimed at organisations of small or micro size - up to 50 employees. Having said that, larger organisations may apply if they can demonstrate why the KTP programme isn't accessible or appropriate. Another limitation on publicly funded bodies in particular is that they need to be able to demonstrate sufficient private income in order to take part in the project (private income is quite broadly defined - donations, shop sales and other revenues, legacies etc are all included).

Does the Academic partner will prepare the application, with only a letter of support from the Enterprise Partner?

The text of the application and case for support should be prepared together, although the application will be formally submitted by the HEI. In the next year the application process will change onto the Joint electronic Submission (JeS) system, and the same principle of planning together and submitting via the HEI will apply.

Does the Academic Partner retain control of the budget?

Yes the Academic Partner will make all payment on the project in line with budget summary agreed with the Enterprise Partner at the time of application. The

Enterprise Partner will need to be closely involved in setting the salary of the graduate and also have the "top up" option here.

Who has the final say when recruiting a Graduate?

We have not specified final choice rights here, although we lay strong emphasis on "close consultation". We would encourage partners to discuss this issue at the start of the project.

Could public money (for instance from Arts Council or an RDA) be used as the Enterprise Partner's contribution?

The criteria about the Expenditure Partner (in the Glossary in the scheme guide) states that:

"Publicly funded organisations must be able to show that they have sufficient privately generated income to participate in the project".

The principle is that its open to publicly funded organisations as long as its privately generated income that is used to participate in the project. If the organisation received funding from public sources that wouldn't affect our sponsorship of the project, as long as they could demonstrate sufficient privately generated income. Privately generated income would include sales, bequests and legacies, trust income and donations.

Can we undertake a project with two academics? We want to undertake a project with two academics - one in design and one in marketing. Is this eligible?

The Academic role can be filled by more than one person, so it's not a problem to have two. However, the research base supporting the project must be in the arts and humanities in order to apply to Knowledge Catalyst, so it wouldn't support the involvement of an academic without arts and humanities research interests. So we could support a design expert but the whole project would become ineligible with such a strong focus on a non-arts or humanities subject. Find out more about our [subject area](#).

Can we work with an arts organisation on a marketing project? We want to work with a local gallery to develop their audiences through marketing and business development. Is this an eligible project?

No - Knowledge Catalyst aims to exploit the research base in the arts and humanities for commercial and/or cultural gain. The field of the Enterprise Partner isn't part of the eligibility criteria but the research supporting the project needs to be in the arts and humanities, so we can't support a project based on a subject

that falls outside our domain such as marketing. Find out more about our [subject area](#).

How will the Christmas period affect the assessment of Knowledge Catalyst applications?

AHRC aims to tell applicants about the outcome of their applications within 20 working days. The period 18th December – 2nd January (inclusive) will not be regarded as working days for Knowledge Catalyst assessment, because of the difficulties in peer reviewing applications over the Christmas break. The AHRC office will be closed between 22nd December and 3rd January.