

Enhanced support for 3rd Sector organisations through Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP)

KTPs connect forward thinking organisations, excluding Public Sector, with the UK's world class academic and researchers to deliver an impact led innovation projects. Charities, social enterprises and not-for-profit organisations are welcome to apply for KTP funding and Innovate UK have recently announced that the grant rate for ALL 3rd Sector applications **will be increased to a 75% contribution**. The remaining 25% must be provided by the applicant organisation and this must be a cash contribution, not in-kind. An eligible partner organisation must be:

- Regarded as being financially viable and able to afford their contribution
- Have at least 3 employed staff to ensure absorptive capacity and adequate supervision of the KTP Associate
- Have adequate offices / facilities to host the KTP Associate and meetings with the academic team. However, Innovate UK will accept applications from virtual organisations if certain conditions are met.

There are three types of KTP:

1. Classic KTPs focus on developing new or better products and services – projects lasting anything from 12 – 36 months – grant rate 75%
2. Management KTPs focus on developing better businesses by enhancing processes and building management capability – projects lasting anything from 12 – 36 months – grant rate 75%.
3. Accelerated Knowledge Transfer (AKT) will focus on short specific piece of research that will help to inform a prototype, beta software, test beds or new technology/knowledge area within an organisation – duration up to 4 months – grant rate 90% but funding capped at £35k.

An option open to some 3rd sector organisations given the challenges they face with tight or shrinking budgets is to consider a consortium approach. However, establishing a consortium, managing all partners will be the responsibility of the lead partner and during the preparation phase they will need to ensure that opinions, ideas are aligned into one coherent challenge and all participants receive benefit from the project outputs. The lead partner would be responsible for agreeing and collecting financial contribution. The project would work across all collaborating organisations. This approach was successfully delivered by Cumbria University and group of independent retailers, see case study [Carlisle Independent Retailers](#).

Funders of the KTP Programme award projects that demonstrate the potential to contribute directly to wealth creation and economic growth within the UK. However, they will also support projects that can demonstrate societal benefit and consider:

- The levels of innovation and challenge – how will the project delivers transformational change both for the host organisation but also for the impacted population.
- Impact should be defined in terms of both reach (size of the population impacted) and the significance of the impact. Level of impact will be considered as a balance between the two – so a project which only impacts on a relatively small population would need to demonstrate the likelihood of significant, transformative impact.
- Depending on the type of societal benefit, there may or may not be the opportunity to link it to a quantifiable economic case – but this should be done where appropriate, to increase the chance of approval.
- It would be expected that projects would include a pilot or similar with defined key performance indicators to measure success both at the end of the project and ongoing, plus clear dissemination plans where appropriate to maximise the impact to a wider audience.

Case Study examples:

- [University of Manchester & The National Trust - Video Case Study](#)
- [Cardiff University & St. David's Children Society - Driving change in 3rd Sector - Case Study](#)

For further information about accessing KTP funding please email kepartnerships@manchester.ac.uk