

Q&A

ENTERPRISE
AND BUSINESS
SERVICES



How can my business access funding to support innovation?



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What is a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP)?

KTPs are a UK-wide programme that can help businesses improve their competitiveness by enabling them to work with higher education or research and technology organisations. From this, businesses can obtain knowledge, technology and skills of strategic competitive importance.

KTPs are available for any industry area, in either a technical or management and leadership capacity, and last between 12 and 36 months.

Who is involved?

A KTP is a three-way project between De Montfort University (DMU), a business, and an associate (a recent graduate).

The associate is employed by the university but based at the company, and manages and delivers the KTP project for the business, while being supported by a DMU academic with expertise and experience in the project area.

The Knowledge Transfer Network (KTN) is a network partner of Innovate UK, and specialises in cross-sector collaboration and provides specialist support via Knowledge Transfer Advisers to access, apply for, and create a successful KTP.

How is it funded?

A KTP is funded by a grant from Innovate UK (and other government co-funders) that you apply for in a competitive call for submissions. Project costs are variable, but can typically be in the order of £75k - £90k per project year. For SMEs the grant rate is 67% of the project cost and for large companies 50%. The remainder of the project cost is funded by the business.

What are the benefits of a KTP?

- Increase revenue through access to new markets and new product development.
- Drive competitive advantage through accelerated innovation and the possibility of creating Intellectual Property (IP).
- Improve profits through efficiency gains, increased productivity and better processes.
- Access expert academic input, to bring a breadth and depth of knowledge to support the associate and the project.
- Benefit from the consultancy and guidance of a highly experienced Knowledge Transfer Adviser.

Good to know:

- Applications for KTPs enjoy a high chance of being successful with around 90 per cent of applications being accepted.
- Organisations who wish to apply need to be UK based and of a sufficient size to support the project.
- The project must demonstrate impact, innovation, challenge and cohesiveness.
- Organisations need to have the financial capability to make the required cost contribution, and space for the associate to work.

“I’d recommend doing a KTP. When you’re running the day-to-day business, you don’t always have the time to explore different areas and ways to grow - having someone who can sit alongside you and work with you to navigate new waters is a really good thing.”

Pawlet Brookes
CEO and Artistic Director, Serendipity

We have a long history of successfully managing and completing KTPs, having generated more than 100 projects working with companies from a wide variety of sectors and industries.

If you are interested in KTPs to drive innovation in your business, please contact:

Rhianna Briars
Knowledge Exchange Officer
Enterprise and Business Services

T: +44 (0)116 207 8386

E: knowledgeexchange@dmu.ac.uk



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