# Review of the first iteration of the Knowledge Exchange Framework

Knowledge Exchange (KE) is the mutually beneficial sharing of expertise, experience, ideas and cultural understanding, between academics and non-academic parties. It informs and improves your research and how to apply it, and it informs and improves organisations' operations, effectiveness and/or productivity.
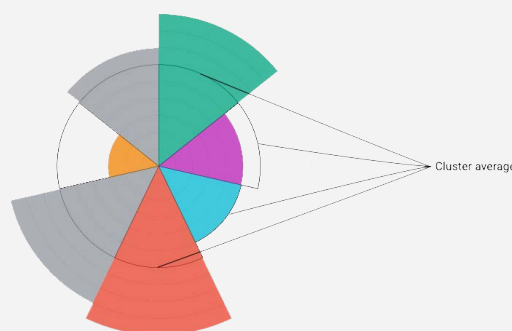
Background to the KE Framework (KEF)

The KEF is an institutional-level exercise to inform and assess knowledge exchange activities of UK Higher Education Institutions. It comprises: the *KE Concordat* and *KEF metrics* and *narratives* and aims to provide performance information about Higher Education Providers' knowledge exchange activities.

The university submitted our first KEF in October 2020 and the results from across the sector were published in March 2021 and can be seen here.

Research England KEF review

Research England committed to undertaking a review of the KEF and *The Knowledge Exchange Framework review, published in February 2022, presents evidence of what is working well, and recommendations for improvements for* future iterations of the exercise.

The review supports and illustrates anecdotal evidence and feedback directly from the sector, confirming the positive impact it is having on providers, on improving the focus and status of Knowledge Exchange (KE) and the quality of KE data collection.

The report describes what is going well, includes data and narrative information about the knowledge

exchange activities of English higher education providers, provides recommendations for the future and discloses the notable contribution to the economy and society made by English higher education providers. It sets out proposals for future KEF developments in the short, medium and long term. *The report is available on the RE website:*

Further consultation across the sector is going on at present and a second iteration of the KEF will be published in the summer.

> The review has told us that, above all, there is confirmation that the KEF is having a positive impact with providers, highlighting KE activity across the sector and improving KE data collection and management.

StreetLife: Arts and Humanities helping drive city centre renewal

StreetLife York is an exciting new project, exploring the past and future of Coney Street, in order to revitalise the city. It is funded by the *UK Government Community Renewal Fund* and led by *Professor Rachel Cowgill*, *Dr Kate Giles* and *Professor Helen Smith*.

The project is offering academics from across the Arts and Humanities, and creative and heritage professionals from across the City, the opportunity to work with the local community and to engage with the public and businesses in York. The team, including multiple partners from around the city, has installed a restored press in Coney Street and is running a wide range of events and activities during May and June.

"I am excited to be bringing a historic press back to Coney Street, and reconnecting with the City's rich traditions of craft printing and design" said Professor Smith, Project Lead for the Print and Letterpress theme, who is uncovering York's histories of print.

Professor Cowgill, Project PI and lead for the Music theme: "Working closely with the community allows us to celebrate York's rich heritage and vibrant creative spirit through innovative, immersive experiences, which combine digital innovation and physical engagement.'' Rachel is exploring how the soundscapes of Coney Street have changed over time, and the key role played by venues in the social and cultural fabric of the city.

Dr Giles, who leads the History and Heritage theme added: "We hope the project will be a blueprint for other cities facing similar challenges of finding new uses for historic high streets and new ways of working in partnership with key stakeholders, communities and policy makers."

The *StreetLife Hub* aims to explore the extraordinary history and rich culture of Coney Street through a wide range of *workshops, musical performances, lectures, pop-up activities and exhibitions* being held through to the end of June 2022.

In partnership with City of York Council, the *Project team* are discovering how the vibrant history of Coney Street can be used to aid its future, aiming to transform the streetscape, repurpose empty units and connect retail premises with creative, heritage-led renewal.

Research Excellence Framework Results 2021

Congratulations to all staff involved in the REF.

It is fantastic to see our strong performance and excellent result of being joint 12th for impact!

Research Excellence Framework Results 2021

Engaging York students with local businesses in Knowledge Exchange

The University of York works in many ways to deliver impactful student involvement in Knowledge Exchange. These include, *Community projects, Charity volunteering, Placement Year Programme, Internships* and *Enterprise*. Internships are a great example of showcasing the positive and direct impact students' active engagement with Knowledge Exchange has on the productivity, resilience and growth of business and community partners and on the wider sector economic activity.

Internships foster valuable connections between the student, the University and business. They provide unique opportunities for students to apply their knowledge and innovative skills creatively, in the workplace, whilst gaining new skills to develop their own professional development and career options as well as providing businesses with new perspectives and ideas to help them to adapt, innovate and grow.

The winner of the Summer Internships 2021 programme, Anna Rigby, a third year Politics, Philosophy and Economics student was one of 54 University of York student interns who undertook projects to help local employers tackle business challenges.

Anna worked as a Digital Marketing Intern with Chia Charge, a York based sports nutrition business, significantly increasing online engagement with the brand through improving their search engine optimisation, creating online content and moving the business onto new social media channels to expose the brand to new customer groups.

Intern of the Year runners-up

Dominic Radley, who developed a financial modelling tool to support Harrogate based JudgeService in analysing potential new markets.

Rosalin Brolly who worked with Ellers Farm Distillery to support their move towards becoming a carbon neutral business.

Yu Tung who was based in start-up Experience Heritage to develop visual materials to support bidding for new business.

Find out more about the support available to students at York, how Careers and Placements work with our academic departments and how to get involved *here.*

Training courses

The *Commercialisation team* is running a new "*Introduction to Intellectual Property & Commercialisation Support Available*" course.

The session provides a brief overview of what intellectual property (IP) is and how it can be used to support your research projects.

From helping to increase your research impact, to developing new funding opportunities and strengthening your grant applications IP is an important tool that is often overlooked.
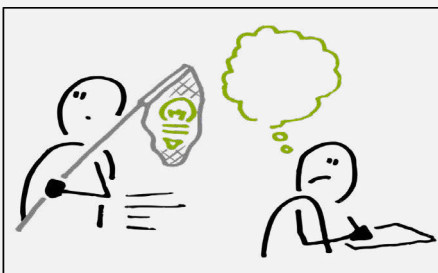
Book your place onto this quick 30-minute course and see how the commercialisation team can help support you.

It runs monthly and the next few course dates are:

Wednesday 22 June
13:00 to 13:30 online.
Wednesday 20 July
13:00 to 13:30 online.
Wednesday, 24 August
13:00 to 13:30 online

If you want to promote other Knowledge Exchange courses in our newsletters please get in touch.

Knowledge Exchange

Time to get involved in Knowledge Exchange! What do you do? Where do you need support?

We really want to create our KE newsletters around questions **you** have on Knowledge Exchange.

We are keen to understand what Knowledge Exchange means to you, what Knowledge Exchange you have undertaken and what support you would like provided by the University.

Visit the jamboard!

to add your comments to our jamboard and in future issues we will endeavour to address some of your questions, concerns or comments.