KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE NEWS 41

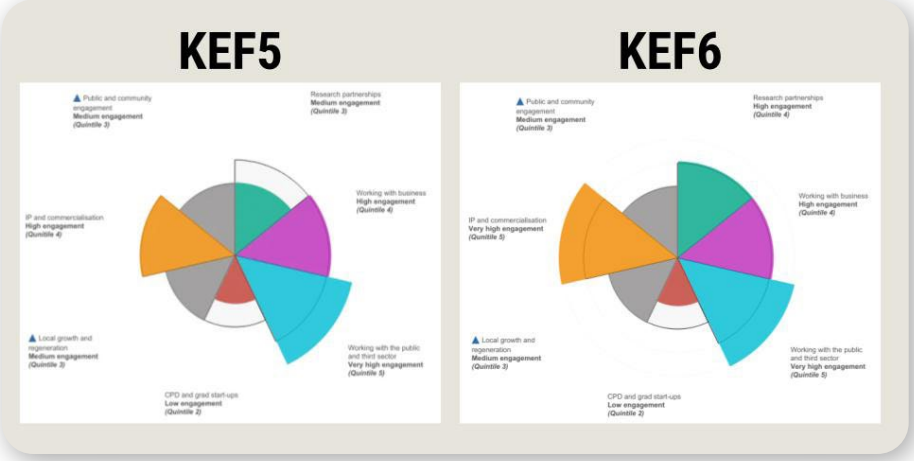
Research England Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF)

Celebrating Success: University of York Rises in Latest Knowledge Exchange Rankings

The latest results from KEF6 (The sixth iteration of the **Research England Knowledge Exchange Framework**, which evaluates how effectively English universities share research, knowledge, and expertise with businesses, public services, and local communities) highlight how higher education institutions across England generate economic impact both nationally and regionally. Growth or stability across nearly every knowledge exchange dimension indicates higher education's ongoing contribution to commercialising research, fostering organisational partnerships, expanding workforce skills, and advancing local economic development.

The University of York has achieved standout success in the latest Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF) results, securing 'High' or 'Very High' engagement across five of the seven broad perspectives (types) of Knowledge Exchange: Research partnerships; Working with business; Working with the public and third sector; Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and graduate start-ups; Intellectual Property (IP) and commercialisation; Local growth and regeneration; Public and community engagement.

Evaluated by **Research England** within Cluster X (a specific peer benchmark group designated by Research England grouping together large, broad-discipline, research-intensive universities that receive significant public research funding including Bath, Durham, London School of Economics and Political Science, Lancaster, and Sussex), York has reaffirmed its position as a major driver of regional economic vitality, commercial innovation, and civic partnership.



York is rising in the Knowledge Exchange Framework rankings

Working with Business

York has maintained High engagement in Working with Business, reflecting strong activity across contract research, consultancy, Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs), and wider corporate collaboration. A key example is York's KTP relationship with Rolls-Royce Control Systems, where software engineering expertise supported the transition of CaMCOA Studio (the Rolls Royce's workbench to deploy engine control software) to a web-based platform, enhancing the company's capabilities in modelling aircraft-engine control and monitoring systems. Building on two previous successful KTPs with Rolls-Royce and a fourth currently under development, this partnership demonstrates how academic research directly empowers businesses to solve technical challenges, boost

innovation, and create advanced products and processes.

IP and Commercialisation

The increase to Very High engagement reflects York's established research commercialisation activity, including intellectual property exploitation, licensing and spinouts. A key example is MORF-Bio (Multi-Omics Research Factory), where the University's Commercialisation Team supported this bioinformatics technology through every stage: from IP protection, investor engagement, and commercial negotiations to ultimate venture creation.

Research Partnerships

The improvement from Medium to High engagement reflects stronger performance in collaborative research activities supported by external cash contributions, alongside very strong metrics in non-academic co-authored outputs. A prime example is York's multi-year partnership with Yorkshire Water, which showcases a broad scope of collaborative work including contract research, KTPs, and a Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council's (BBSRC) Prosperity Partnership, bringing in approximately £2m to the University. This aligns closely with the University's ambition to build deeper strategic relationships with industry and connect its research strengths to national priorities and government missions.

Celebrating these achievements, Emma Calverley, Associate Director of Business and Innovation, University of York noted that York continues to partner across Yorkshire, the UK, and globally to solve urgent challenges, turn bold ideas into enterprise, and deliver real-world impact. This growth is driven by impactful regional economic programmes.

Flagship initiatives include **BioYorkshire**, transforming the region into a UK bioeconomy hub, and **XR Stories**, which has generated a £6.6m Gross Value Added boost for the screen and immersive technology sectors. Furthermore, the Product and Process Innovation (PAPI) project delivered over 290 grants to Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) to develop new products. On the civic front, York earned maximum narrative scores (4/4) for strategy delivery, backed by major community efforts like the **York Festival of Ideas**—welcoming ~40,000 participants annually—and the **StreetLife high-street regeneration project**.

You can check the interactive **Research England KEF Dashboard** or view the **University of York KEF Profile**.

New Consultancy 'Fast Track' Process for Projects under £20k

The Business Development Team in Research, Innovation and Knowledge Exchange (RIKE) is pleased to introduce a brand-new **'fast track' process** for consultancy projects under £20k.

The aim is to create efficiencies by cutting down on administration time so colleagues can focus on the consultancy work itself. To do this, we have:

- Introduced standard day rates to reduce the time spent developing costing and pricing on Worktribe.
- Adopted a standard contract template to speed up the legal side.
- Moved the majority of the administration over to the Business Development Team.



Diagram shows Fast-track: Six Stage Process

Everything you need to know, including the new rates are available on the **Business Development toolkit webpages**.

For any questions or support, just drop a line to **consultancy-services@york.ac.uk**.

Partnership in Targeted Alpha Therapies

From graduate connection to strategic partnership: York and LabLogic

Knowledge exchange is rarely an overnight success. It is a journey of building trust, aligning expertise, and finding shared goals. Our partnership with **LabLogic**, a Sheffield-based innovator of life science, nuclear medicine, and radiation safety instrumentation for global markets, is a compelling example of how nurturing long-term relationships yields great benefits for York and society at large.

Dr Tom Deakin is a York physics PhD alumnus who joined LabLogic and progressed to a senior research leadership role. This connection fostered occasional, ad-hoc projects and collaborations with Professor David Jenkins and Professor Christian Diget in the School of Physics, Engineering and Technology (PET).

As the relationship matured, and with dedicated York support, it naturally broadened across the sciences. LabLogic provided and supervised numerous student projects in the Department of Mathematics, working with Professor Julie Wilson (emerita) and Professor Kasia Rejzner.

LabLogic's deepening connection with York paved the way for larger opportunities. Professor Diget secured a three-year STFC grant with LabLogic as a project partner, also partnering with **TRIUMF**, a national research institution in Canada. One year into this project, Professor Diget, Professor Jenkins, and the company were awarded funding for a **Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP)**. Both projects focused on delivering innovative quality control tools for radiopharmaceuticals in cancer diagnosis and treatment, and achieved outstanding results. In October 2025, LabLogic launched a new product directly from the interim KTP outcomes, with initial commercial uptake already significantly outperforming original forecasts.

Beyond commercial impact, benefits for York have been substantial. The KTP generated 23 undergraduate and 3 postgraduate research projects, provided York academics with access to an international network of technology end-users and potential future partners, and established a strong framework for a possible REF 2029 impact case study. York academic and research staff have provided technical training to LabLogic, and LabLogic has directly funded physics public engagement work run through the School of PET.

The collaboration continues to grow. The KTP Associate, Dr Katie Staunton-Mann (whose leadership was highlighted during **a royal visit by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal)** has secured a prestigious industrial Future Leaders Fellowship, enabling Professor Diget to serve as a visiting researcher at LabLogic. Further, LabLogic is embedding itself in a national talent pipeline as industry sponsors on the **York-led PhD training programme in nuclear skills, PLANET**.

Our work with LabLogic demonstrates how proactively seeking knowledge exchange opportunities has built an enduring partnership, benefitting our research, teaching, and industrial capability alike.



A successful knowledge exchange day hosted at LabLogic. Pictured, amongst others: Professor Christian Diget (back, left of centre), Dr Tom Deakin (back, right of centre), Dr Katie Staunton-Mann (second from right), Professor Kasia Rejzner (right).

'THE RESEARCH ROOM' PODCAST

Celebrating Impact and Knowledge Exchange in Health Research

The York Trials Unit podcast "The Research Room" was launched in July 2025 and earlier this year celebrated its first birthday, exploring how its work is shaping the future of people's health — from revolutionary new medical devices to transformative educational programmes and vital research into mental health support.

Since launching in July 2025, the show has recorded 38 episodes and featured 66 researchers from across the University of York, including Epidemiology and Cancer Statistics Group, York Mental Health and Addiction Research Group (MHARG), the Department of Psychology, the Institute for Safe Autonomy, and York Law School.



Lucy Atha and Janine Heeley, the co-hosts of 'The Research Room', have thoroughly enjoyed meeting all the guests on the podcast and learning about their research. What began as a completely new venture has turned into a rewarding journey. The Research Room now reaches 300 regular listeners, with over 8,000 downloads across 74 countries and a Spotify 'Instant Hit Show' badge. Beyond sharing research, the project has been a brilliant learning experience, providing invaluable audio editing, production, and presenting skills, while also welcoming intern Hayley Stone to the team for hands-on media and project management training.

The podcast has helped build a strong community, connecting with over 7,000 colleagues on LinkedIn. As an exciting space for knowledge exchange, The Research Room has broadened cross-disciplinary engagement while building strong links between university teams and outside partners. The series has already sparked valuable new relationships with diverse groups: following the BASIL+ feature, the **Marmalade Trust**, reached out; **Blood Cancer UK** connected with the team after hearing the **PERISCOPE** episode; and Independent Cancer Patients Voice, a patient advocacy group, got in touch with both the BioDrive and the York Trials Unit Patient and Public Involvement teams.

These conversations have gained even wider reach thanks to active promotion across national networks, including the National Institute for Health and Care Research **(NIHR)**, the UK Clinical Research Collaboration **(UKCRC)**, the UK Trial Managers' Network **(UKTMN)**, patient involvement communities, and leading charities like **Cancer Research UK**, the Marmalade Trust, and the National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society **(NRAS)**, bringing York research to an audience well beyond York.

A warm thank you to every guest and listener who helped make this first year possible!

Tune in:

Catch up on all episodes at **theresearchroompodcast.com** or on your favourite podcast platform.

Get involved:

Interested in sharing your research? Get in touch with Lucy and Janine at **ytu-pod@york.ac.uk**