

## Knowledge Exchange Web Page

We now have a dedicated Knowledge Exchange webpage which includes a KE video explaining more about Knowledge Exchange and what support is available at York to help you.

### University of York KE Priorities:

- To develop a diverse KE offering that is well articulated, proactive and informed by external stakeholder needs.
- To embed and integrate KE in our teaching and research to enable a wide variety of impacts.
- To create an environment and culture that offers an agile and accessible support service for staff, students and external partners.
- To expand our range of support for KE to transform the University's approach to industry engagement, public participation in research and policy-related impact.
- To enhance the University's role in driving positive economic and societal change in the city and region.
- To ensure an open and inclusive culture of KE.



## Introduction to Research Impact at York



### Thinking about research impact?

Wondering how your research can make a difference, but not sure about the terminology, opportunities, or support? This presentation will introduce you to some of the key concepts in research impact, help you start thinking about how your research might have impact and point you to sources of support at York.

International Forum of Visual Practitioners. World Café:  
Impact of Ocean Research

# HEIF – What exactly is it?

**Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF)** is a strategic fund which supports, incentivises and develops knowledge exchange activities which in turn benefit society and the economy.

Knowledge exchange is commonly considered part of a university's research activity, however it also includes a broad range of activities that share higher education knowledge and skills with those

outside universities, such as partnerships between universities and external organisations, industry-related curriculum development, student work placements and graduate start-ups.

The actual amount of HEIF each institution receives from Research England is determined by our annual Higher Education Business and Community Interaction Survey (**HE-BCI**) return, which includes information on a range of activities, from business and public or third sector involvement in research, to consultancy and the

commercialisation of intellectual property.

**York case studies demonstrating the value of HEIF:**

- [University of York: Safe Autonomy Case Study](#)
- [University of York: Entrepreneurship Support Case Study](#)
- Further information about the HEIF is available through the [Research England Website](#)
- Please take a look at the [Scheduled Internally Distributed Funding Calls](#) page for 2023 Winter and Spring Calls

## Student Engagement in Knowledge Exchange

Following a call for bids from the Office for Students (OfS) the University was awarded just over £200,000 over two years to build up an initiative that effectively engages students in the process of knowledge exchange.

The concept selected was the idea of 'community engaged learning' (CEL) that has been operating through the Student Opportunities team in Careers and Placements for a number of years. Drawing some inspiration from the US concept of 'service learning' the ideas behind CEL are for students to work directly with charities, NGOs and community groups to help build their capacity to achieve their objectives, actively gaining insight and skills for themselves whilst producing tangible results for the community partners. York's project has been focused on developing CEL to the point where it can become an integral part of the curriculum, offering consistent

means of assessment as well as allowing students to play a strong role in contributing to public good.

### **This summer saw two pilots of this concept**

The Sustainability Clinic, developed in collaboration with the Environmental Sustainability Academy at York (ESAY), gave seventy four students of all academic disciplines the opportunity to work on four sustainability challenges within the local community: biodiversity surveying for Friends of Rowntree Park, undertaking market research for the Recycle Project, developing climate change research briefings for teachers with the PGCE Science team, and undertaking Sustainability Action Plans for seven local charities and small businesses.

Working with the Department of History, 100 History students participated in curriculum-linked volunteering opportunities with a range of key heritage partners in the city, including York Archaeological Trust, York Museums Trust, York Explore Library and Archives and the Merchant Taylors. From 2023-24,



History students engaged in the 'Museum of Me' project with York Archaeological Trust

this programme will form part of a core second year Public History module.

Students were supported by a programme of training focussing on project management and planning, as well as specialist skills such as writing for museums, digital public engagement, object handling, lesson planning and interviewing. A brilliant video showing the impact of these projects can be found [here](#).

# The University of York joins economy-boosting Northern Accelerator partnership

The University of York has recently joined the economy-boosting Northern Accelerator partnership transforming the commercialisation of research across the North East of England and creating more life-changing businesses and high-value jobs.

The programme supports academics, turning their world-leading research into highly investible, innovative businesses.

This collaboration across six universities helps address regional imbalance, by creating innovation-led businesses that generate high quality jobs. It ensures that University research makes a real-world impact in sectors such as health, life

sciences and green technology. 38 businesses have spun-out in the last 5 years from the partnership's universities, mostly led by experienced business leaders, brought in by Northern Accelerator's Executives into the Business programme. Over 670 people are currently employed by spin-out businesses from the partnership's universities.

An independent evaluation of Northern Accelerator estimated that the average annual productivity (GVA) of the jobs being created by new spinouts is £79,000 compared to the North East's average of £52,000. York, and its excellent research base, means the best practice support model can be extended across the whole of the region and into North Yorkshire. York's excellent research base will create an even stronger pipeline of investment opportunities in businesses that will produce benefits locally, nationally and globally.

Collaboration between universities and businesses is crucial in levelling up and the North has much to offer.

James Kitson, Head of Commercialisation said

*"We are very pleased and excited to be joining the Northern Accelerator programme and to collaborate with our new partner universities. This will enable us to offer more support to develop new spin-out company opportunities, building upon the foundations which we have put in place at York in recent years. Working with the Northern Accelerator, we will transform the rate at which we're able to turn our research into commercial opportunities that contribute to public good."*



## Training Courses

The Commercialisation team continues to run the "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 30 November**, 13:00-13:30, **Wednesday 14 December** 13.00-13.30 (online)

Book an informal IP/Commercialisation 45 min drop in session, to chat about these subjects.

Promote Knowledge Exchange courses in our newsletters by getting in touch with us at [rike-knowledge-exchange@york.ac.uk](mailto:rike-knowledge-exchange@york.ac.uk)