KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER PARTNERSHIPS

Put our knowledge to work

Find out how KTP could develop your business
At Oxford Brookes University we know there are times when a business needs some kind of knowledge to move forward - perhaps a new technology, a process or a strategy.

That’s why we work in partnership with many leading companies and organisations to bring them new capabilities based on our research and expertise, in carefully structured projects supported by government funding.

What is KTP?

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP) is a long-established, government-funded framework for bringing university knowledge into UK businesses and organisations that can put it to good use. The average increase in pre-tax profit for a business that takes part in KTP is over £1m per annum*. But more than that, a KTP can develop a lasting relationship with a trusted university partner for wide-ranging benefits to both.

*Figure from Innovate UK, 2015

Sony Computer Entertainment Europe
An Oxford Brookes KTP helped Sony Computer Entertainment’s London Studio to develop technology for the Sony Wonderbook™, using computer vision knowledge to create Augmented Reality hailed as ‘the most advanced out there’. 
How does it work?

1. The business and the university scope out a project that will develop a strategic and profitable new capability for the company, while stimulating research and teaching in the university.

2. The partners submit a joint proposal for KTP funding to Innovate UK, the UK’s innovation agency.

3. When funding is approved, the partners recruit a ‘KTP Associate’, who becomes a university employee but works in the company to lead the project.

4. An academic specialist from the university supervises the Associate throughout.

5. The project is managed to a successful conclusion by a joint steering group.

6. After the project the business may choose to employ the Associate directly.

InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG)
Oxford Brookes KTPs helped the world’s largest hotel group to manage risk and continuity of its operations, in two projects that developed and tested comprehensive plans for business continuity and disaster recovery, and created a global system for enterprise risk management.

Who is eligible?

The business must normally be an established company, trading in profit for at least three years and employing at least four people. KTP is primarily focused on smaller companies, but larger businesses can also take part.
YASA Motors
YASA Motors came to Oxford Brookes for knowledge of materials and joining technology, in a KTP that would enable it to shorten production times of its revolutionary new electric motor as it gears up to meet spiralling demand worldwide.

How much will it cost?
For a small or medium size company, government bodies such as Innovate UK contribute two-thirds of the cost. So for a typical project worth £75k pa the company invests just £25k a year.

How long is a KTP?
Most KTPs are two years long, but projects can be any length from one to three years.

Who owns the IP?
Intellectual property arising from KTPs is negotiated between the partners case-by-case.

Oxfordshire County Council
Oxford Brookes introduced the Council to a new method of managing children’s behaviour in primary school classrooms that had been developed in the USA with impressive results. Would it work in a different context? A KTP with Oxford Brookes customised the method, trained the teachers and worked in schools for its first trial in Europe. The response from pupils, teachers and heads was spectacular.
In recent years, 40% of Oxford Brookes KTPs have been awarded the top grade of ‘Outstanding’ in independent reviews, almost five times the national average.

“It seemed like an excellent framework for a business development programme and a way to draw on expertise from Brookes. The project delivered sophisticated market intelligence for us which is already generating very significant business.”
Simon Biltcliffe, Managing Director, Webmart UK

“The Partnership exceeded all our expectations. All technical objectives were met, and very significant advances were made. The technology will boost our turnover going forward, and it has also helped us to build a research base.”
Andrew Stoddart, Chief Scientist, Vicon

In 2011 our KTP Associate Catia Guimaraes was named Business Leader of Tomorrow for her work, and received her award from Secretary of State Vince Cable.

“Oxford Brookes is bringing some world-class research and expertise to our project, but at the same time they’re very user-friendly. The Associate was recruited from the USA and he’s really making an impact here.”
Diarmid Campbell, Head of EyeToy R&D, Sony Computer Entertainment Europe

“The KTP with Oxford Brookes is allowing Nominet to learn from respected academics and to develop tools to guard against those who seek to disrupt operations, take commercial advantage of the system or steal information.”
Stephen Morris, Advanced Projects Team Manager, Nominet UK

In 2014 our KTP with YASA Motors won the UK award for ‘Engineering Excellence’.

“I’m deeply proud of our KTP Associate. I turn to her as an expert on operational aspects of the company around the world. She’s finding huge money-saving opportunities that prove the commercial value of the project.”
Danny Wong, Director of Corporate Risk, InterContinental Hotels Group

“The KTP has exceeded all of our expectations and has proven extremely beneficial to all parties involved.”
Andreas Szentistvany, Concepts Design Manager, Stannah Stairlifts
Find out more

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All information is correct at the time of going to press (October 2015). Please refer to the University’s website for the most up-to-date details.