KTP AT OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY

A guide for academic staff

Research Excellence Framework
spin-offs
case studies
industry-leading partners
real-world problems
publications
challenge
impact
What is KTP?

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) are university projects with partner organisations such as companies, local authorities, charities and the NHS. KTPs transfer academic knowledge and expertise to where it can be exploited for commercial or social benefit. The scheme has been tried and tested for more than 30 years.

The partnership with an industry leader has given me the opportunity for an exciting journey of knowledge discovery and a totally new way of looking at the business world. The new insight has been transferred to my students through lectures, visiting speakers, case studies, areas for further research, conference papers, trade publications and academic articles.

Dr Alexandros Paraskevas, Business School

In 2009 an Oxford Brookes KTP in computer vision was named the UK's Best Knowledge Transfer Partnership.

The project will challenge everyone involved. No off-the-shelf solution exists for joining new materials like this. We'll be developing and testing in our labs, and we'll all learn important lessons. It's an exciting time.

Dr James Broughton, Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment
How does a KTP operate?

At the start of the project the partners recruit a KTP Associate. The Associate is a recent graduate who works full-time in the partner organisation but is employed by the university. An Academic Supervisor visits regularly from the university to provide direction and guidance to the Associate. A Lead Academic may also give overall direction to the project.

Recent KTPs at Brookes cover areas as diverse as internet security, sustainable architecture, child psychology, product design, thermal modelling, marketing and business development, publishing, whole-life engineering and computer vision.

What are the academic benefits?

KTPs bring the challenge of putting theory into practice to solve real-world problems, through in-depth links with industry-leading partners. KTPs clearly demonstrate the ‘impact’ of research activity, and will usually lead to papers and publications. The income attracted can be used in REF submissions.

A KTP will also give case studies for use in research and teaching, and will often lead to spin-offs such as consultancy and student projects.

How is KTP funded?

KTPs are fully funded by government and the research councils together with the partner organisations.

How long is a KTP?

KTPs last from one to three years. A typical project is two years long.
What is the time commitment and how is it resourced?

As Academic Supervisor you would spend half a day per week on your KTP (10% of your time). This is fully covered by the KTP grant along with budgets for expenses.

Who owns the IP?

There are no firm rules; intellectual property arising from KTPs is negotiated between partners case-by-case.

What KTPs does Oxford Brookes have?

Oxford Brookes has around ten projects at any one time and is intending to grow the number.

Brookes KTPs have been established with organisations as varied as Sony Computer Entertainment Europe, InterContinental Hotels Group, Nominet, Oxfordshire County Council and many smaller businesses.

How do I start?

Many KTPs start with an existing link between academic staff and a partner organisation; or an organisation may approach the university looking for assistance. Oxford Brookes also promotes KTP widely to potential partners.

The university’s KTP Office (part of the Research and Business Development Office) supports all KTPs from initial discussion through to project completion. Please make contact at any time to discuss your idea.

Our KTP provided improved business performance for the company, enhanced employability for the Associate and further research opportunities for the university; a win-win situation all round.

Dr Pat Winfield, Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment
KTP enabled me to see problems from a different viewpoint, to try out ideas on the kinds of datasets that are not available in the university, and to work alongside highly talented professionals in the partner organisation.

Professor David Duce,
Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment

FAQs

Where does the Associate come from?
The KTP Associate is recruited on the open market and (subject to work permit) may come from anywhere in the world.

Is it like a student project or placement?
No, the Associate becomes an employee of the university, though they may choose to study part-time if they wish.

What are the benefits for the Associate?
A strategic project coupled with an excellent training package mean significant career benefits.

What is the financial value of the project?
A typical two-year KTP is worth around £150k (2012 rates).

How much does the partner organisation pay?
A smaller organisation (SME) pays 33% of the cost and government contributes the remainder. A larger organisation pays 50%.

I'm part-time at Brookes; am I eligible to be an Academic Supervisor?
Yes, so long as you have a teaching role.

I have an idea for a KTP; where do I begin?
Contact the Oxford Brookes KTP Office for an informal discussion.
Academics and their business partners get to know how each other works, find out what’s important to them and share resources and networks. Afterwards there may be further research, consultancy, student projects and placements, joint industry conferences, coaching and specialist advice or mentoring. Basically KTPs seem to be just the start of a beautiful relationship!

Nicolette Michels, Business School

More information:

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www.ktoponline.org.uk
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Oxford Brookes University
KTP Office

ktp@brookes.ac.uk
01865 484204

John Corlett, KTP Manager
Emily Brown, KTP Officer