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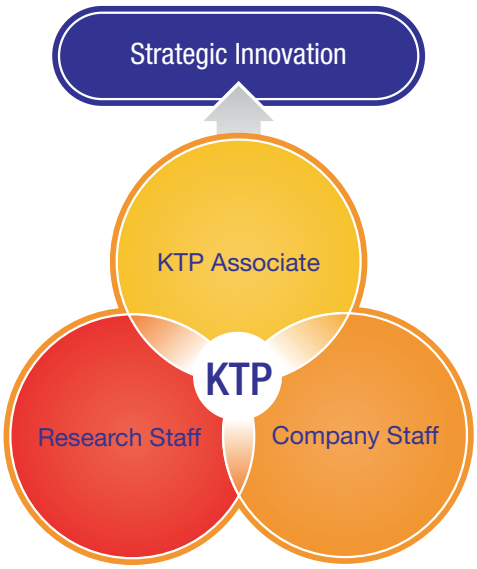
Knowledge Transfer Partnerships



WHAT IS KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER PARTNERSHIPS?

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships is a UK-wide programme to encourage business/knowledge base collaborations. Knowledge Transfer Partnerships help businesses and organisations to improve their competitiveness and/or productivity through the use of the knowledge, technology and skills that reside within academic institutions namely; Higher Education institutions, Research Organisations and Further Education Colleges. At the same time, Knowledge Transfer Partnerships also help to increase the business relevance of knowledge base research and teaching.

Funded by Government organisations led by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Knowledge Transfer Partnerships involve the forming of a partnership between a company (known as the company partner) and your academic institute (known as the knowledge base partner), enabling you to lead rewarding and ongoing collaborations with innovative businesses who require access to skills and expertise to help their company develop. The Partnership also involves one or more high calibre graduates (known as Knowledge Transfer Partnerships Associates) to facilitate this transfer of skills and expertise. As an academic supervisor, you will provide academic supervision to the Associate who works within the company on a project of strategic importance.

WHAT CAN A KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER PARTNERSHIP OFFER MY KNOWLEDGE BASE?

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships provide you with the potential to:

- Apply knowledge and expertise to important business problems
- Develop business-relevant teaching and research materials
- Identify new research themes and undergraduate and postgraduate projects
- Publish high quality research papers
- Gain a relevant and improved understanding of business requirements and operations
- Potentially impact the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE)
- Lead rewarding and ongoing collaborations with innovative businesses
- Assist strategic change in businesses
- Supervise and act as mentors for postgraduates working on company-based projects

CAN I PARTICIPATE?

Academic supervisors are normally expected to be full or part time employees of the knowledge base who are actively involved in teaching activities, however, other members of staff can be involved in Partnerships.

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Cambridge Life Sciences Ltd with
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne University

WHAT FUNDING IS AVAILABLE FOR A KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER PARTNERSHIP?

There is a standard amount of funding provided to the knowledge base per Knowledge Transfer Partnership Associate, which covers Associate employment costs, academic and secretarial support, training, travel and some equipment and consumables. The company will either contribute 40% or 60% of the budget depending on its size with the balance coming from the UK Government or Sponsors. Excluding costs directly incurred by the Associate, departments receive approximately £20,000 per Associate, per year for participating in a Knowledge Transfer Partnership.

WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS?

Projects can be undertaken in a wide range of areas including:

- Product design
- Manufacturing
- Technical innovation
- Business processes (including IT and social sciences)
- Commercial development

WHAT TYPE OF COMPANIES?

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships are particularly useful for companies, which could benefit from knowledge base expertise and offers an alternative option to consultancy or student placements. Most companies participating are small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs) with 5-250 employees. Larger companies can also participate.

INTERESTED?

To find out how you could get involved with Knowledge Transfer Partnerships, contact:

Helpline: 0870 190 2829
Visit www.ktponline.org.uk
E-mail: ktp-help@ktponline.org.uk