

Technology transfer funding programmes England

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Template description TT funding programmes

Name of the program

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP) is a UK-wide programme enabling businesses to improve their competitiveness, productivity and performance.

General description of the program (1/4-1/2 page)

A KTP achieves this through the forming of a Partnership between a business and an academic institution (such as university, further education college or research and technology organisation), enabling access skills and expertise to help business development.

The knowledge sought is embedded into the business from the knowledge base through a project, or projects, undertaken by a recently qualified person (known as the Associate), recruited to specifically work on that project. KTPs can vary in length from 6 months to three years, depending on the needs of the business and the desired outcomes. The exception to this will be any Industrial Mathematics shorter KTPs which will normally involve 13, 17, 22 or 26 weeks of full-time effort.

KTP enables new capability to be embedded into the business and has benefited and continues to benefit a wide range of businesses across many sectors, including micro sized, small and large businesses, third sector organisations or public.

With the help of a KTP Adviser and the support of KTP Office, an academic or researcher can be identified who has the right expertise for a business. With the chosen knowledge base partner, a project will be defined and agreed that will enable drawing on expertise and apply it to a business. The agreed project could be for any length of time between 26 weeks to 3 years, depending on business need. The overall aim of the KTP is to help a business make a step change in an area that has been identified as a high priority.

How does the project develop?

When a business, the KTP Office, the knowledge base partner and, in some cases, the Adviser have worked together to prepare a proposal, the knowledge base partner makes a formal application to the Technology Strategy Board for approval.

Once it has been approved, the business and the knowledge base partner will recruit an Associate to work on the project. Depending on the duration of the KTP, the Associate will be a qualified person (either NVQ level 4 equivalent or above, such as a graduate or postgraduate).

Typically, they are employed by the knowledge base partner but work in the business to manage the project, apply their own knowledge and ensure that the expertise of the knowledge base partner is embedded into the business.

Academics from the knowledge base remain closely involved throughout the project, working with people to contribute their own knowledge and experience. They will spend the equivalent of at least half a day each week with you and your KTP Associate.

What subjects will be funded?

KTP works across a wide range of academic disciplines from over 140 knowledge bases. Expertise from the knowledge bases has already helped businesses to improve their performance.

For example:

- Improving existing products or developing new products
- Developing and implementing a marketing strategy to enter new markets
- Developing new systems and frameworks to improve efficiencies in staff and processes

Who will be funded?

KTP has worked with over 3,000 organisations. From manufacturing to design, sustainability to marketing; any business sector, including third sector and public sector organisations such as the NHS, can take part. Businesses of all sizes can take part too, from micro businesses to large enterprises.

How much will be funded?

A KTP is part-funded by a Government grant. A small to medium-sized enterprise (SME) would be expected to contribute about a third of the costs involved in the project.

The average annual contribution to a project for an SME would be from around £20,000. This contributes to the costs of the Knowledge Base Supervisor and Associate employment and development. Business contribution to the costs of the project not only gives the services of KTP Associate, but also the time and expertise of the academics or researchers working with business, and, in the case of a long-term strategic KTP, expert guidance from a KTP Adviser.

Contact details to the funding program including the web-address

For enquiries regarding the website please contact: KTP_Webmaster@tsb.gov.uk

- Company enquiries / KTP_Companies@tsb.gov.uk
- Academic enquiries / KTP_Academics@tsb.gov.uk
- Graduate enquiries / KTP_Graduates@tsb.gov.uk



Website: <http://www.ktponline.org.uk/what-is-a-knowledge-transfer-partnership/>