



Innovative

Caring

Inclusive

Collaborative

Knowledge Exchange and Innovation Policy

1. Purpose

Abertay University is a signatory to the [Knowledge Exchange Concordat](#), a UK-wide initiative that aims to enhance knowledge exchange activities within universities. The Knowledge Exchange Concordat include eight principles that cover the range of necessary activities for effective knowledge exchange. This policy aims to encourage and improve our knowledge exchange activities and enhance the wider impacts that these bring.

2. Scope

This policy is applicable for all University members engaged in knowledge exchange activities, including staff and students.

3. Policy Statement

Knowledge Exchange is a collaborative, creative endeavour that translates knowledge and research into impact in society and the economy. It is an integral part of our purpose as a university and encompasses a wide variety of mutually beneficial activities that connect staff and students with businesses, charities, policy makers and other research users. The [Abertay University Research, Knowledge Exchange and Innovation Strategy 2025-2030](#) outlines our commitment to producing quality research and knowledge exchange that is aligned with international, national and local priorities and delivers real impact for society.

4. Knowledge Exchange Concordat Principles

The following are the Knowledge Exchange Concordat Principles and a statement of our commitment to them:

4.1. Mission

Knowledge exchange is a recognised part of the overall institutional strategy and is valued for the social, cultural and economic outcomes it helps us achieve. We have a clear understanding of the institutional role and the purpose of knowledge exchange, including recognition of the needs and interests of potential and current partners and beneficiaries, ensuring a commitment to inclusivity and equality. Clarity of mission is essential for efficient and effective knowledge exchange.

4.2. Policies and Processes

Where appropriate, we have clear policies on the types of knowledge exchange that we undertake and work with staff, students, collaborators and beneficiaries so that the policies are understood and operationalised. Our policy and processes cover the areas of knowledge exchange central to our mission and values and are consistent with our charitable status and aims.

4.3. Engagement

We build effective relationships by having clear routes to access information and expertise across the university, with engagement mechanisms developed to suit the needs of a wide range of beneficiaries and partners working with us.

4.4. Working Transparently and Ethically.

We make sure that our partners and beneficiaries understand the ethical and charitable regulatory environments in which we operate, including a commitment to inclusivity and equality, and we take steps to maximise the benefit to them within that context.

4.5. Capacity Building.

We ensure that our staff and students are developed and trained appropriately to understand and undertake their roles and responsibilities in the delivery of successful knowledge exchange.

4.6. Recognition and Rewards.

We recognise and reward the achievements of staff and students who perform high quality knowledge exchange activities.

4.7. Continuous Improvement.

We proactively strive to share best practice with our peers and have established processes for learning from this.

4.8. Evaluating Success.

We undertake regular institutional and collective monitoring and review of our strengthening knowledge exchange performance using this concordat and through other relevant benchmarks to inform the development and execution of a programme of continuous improvement so that our knowledge exchange activities become more effective.

5. Abertay's Policy

1. We are committed to maintaining a portfolio of knowledge exchange activities to help drive economic, social, and cultural recovery and growth.
2. Our mechanisms for connecting academic knowledge with external users include consultancy, Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs), Innovation Vouchers, UKRI Innovation Awards, contract or collaborative research, secondments, commercialisation of research, CPD Courses, and outreach and public engagement activities.
3. We provide a supportive environment for knowledge exchange and innovation activities.
4. We are committed to recognising, developing, and improving our knowledge exchange and innovation activity.
5. We value external partnerships and meeting the needs of our partners is central in our knowledge exchange and innovation activities.
6. We are committed to managing our knowledge exchange and innovation activities sustainably.

6. Reporting

Our knowledge exchange and innovation activities are reported through Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), Higher Education Business and Community Interaction (HE-BCI), Scottish Funding Council (SFC) Research Assurance and Accountability (RAA) and Knowledge Exchange & Innovation Fund (KEIF) reporting, case studies, and to the University Court as part of our Research, Knowledge Exchange & Innovation reporting on Key Performance Indicators

7. Related Policy Documents and Supporting Documents

Legislation	Knowledge Exchange Concordat
Strategy	Research Excellence Framework; Research, Knowledge Exchange and Innovation Strategy 2025-2030
Policy	Intellectual Property Policy; Research Code of Conduct
Procedures	N/A
Guidelines	University Consultancy Framework
Local Protocol	N/A
Forms	N/A

8. Additional Information

Audience	Public
Applies to	All University Members
Classification	Academic Governance
Category	Research and Research Degrees
Subcategory	Research and Knowledge Exchange Strategy and Frameworks
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