Innovate UK Knowledge Transfer Partnerships Awards 2025

AWARDS CEREMONY

1.

Q. Do we know the Awards event timings?

A. The KTP Awards Ceremony will be held in Manchester, in October 2025. More details will be provided in due course on our website.

APPLICATIONS & ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

2.

Q. Who can nominate or be nominated?

A. There are no restrictions on this. The expectation, however, is that nominations will come from an individual or team who have been intimately involved with project delivery.

3.

Q. Where can we find Suzannah Lipscomb's video about Story Telling?

A. All information and videos regarding KTP Awards is available on the [KTP website](#).

4.

Q. If the current KTP project is NOT graded, we will have to wait for the next award?

A. In the absence of a score from the Grading Panel we are exercising a degree of flexibility in allowing submissions as detailed within the Awards webpage. Such applications must adhere to this guidance and should appreciate the risk that they may be withdrawn if they do not ultimately attain the required grade.

Partnership Final Reports

Final Report gradings are a key component of the KTP Awards quality assurance process for partnerships. As this process is at risk of being prolonged in the transitions to being managed on IFS, for 2025 Awards application the following rules apply.

Where applications require the attainment of a specific grade from the KTP Grading Panel, but that outcome has not yet been obtained, Partnerships are, at their own risk, able to submit an application provided that:

- Projects have been completed before 28/2/25
- Final reports have been properly and completely submitted by all required parties (Associate, Knowledge Base, Company and Knowledge Transfer Adviser) by 30 April 2025.
- Written confirmation is provided by the supporting KTA to confirm their confidence that the Partnership is likely to secure an A or B (outstanding or very good) grade

When the Partnership secures a result from the Grading Panel they are obliged to notify the result to ktpawards@iukbc.org.uk . If that outcome is not an A or B Grade the application will be withdrawn from the awards competition

5.
Q. Is there a word count on the application?
A. Each category will have a unique application form, these will include word counts on some questions.

6.
Q. The Business Transformation category eligibility criteria slide said gradings should be between 2022 and 2025. Is this because this category has a longer time-spam?
A. Yes. To be clear, to be eligible for this award, your KTP project must have been designated as a MKTP or KTP project, be completed and have received an A or B grade from the KTP grading panel between 1st January 2022 and 30th April 2025.

7.
Q. Are projects that have already ended also eligible?
A. Each category has dates of project end and grading that are eligible, please refer to these criteria for the category of interest, any projects within these dates meeting the criteria are eligible.

8.
Q. How many months should the Associate be on the KTP program before they are considered eligible for the KTP awards?
A. This varies with the length of the specific project, Associates must be at least 50% through the project by the Award entry deadline and have met the other qualifying criteria.

9.
Q. Is there a fee for applying for the award?
A. There is no fee.

10.
Q. For the KB support team award, are there dates for eligibility please?
A. Any KB that has submitted a KTP application from the 1st of January 2024 until 30 April 2025.

11.
Q. How will applications be accessed?
A. Please use this link.

12.

Q. If you apply for multiple categories, what's the maximum limit to which you can apply?

A. You can apply for as many as you would like, please ensure that you meet the specific requirements of each category and complete the relevant form for each submission.

13.

Q. Who will be judging the applications?

A. A preliminary assessment of applications will be made by a minimum of 3 Knowledge Transfer Adviser with a Judging Panel making the final decision on Awards finalists and winners. Judging Panels will be comprised of a combination of Innovate UK, Innovate UK Business Connect senior representatives and external senior Business representatives.

14.

Q. Will the KTA advisors help in the application process as they will have knowledge and expertise to draw upon especially if they have done so before?

A. Yes, the KTA can provide guidance.

15.

Q. Nominations can be done by KB, BP, Advisor, and manager?

A. Yes

16.

Q. Can you submit more than one separate entry for an award category?

A. There is no restriction on this.

17.

Q. Can advisers nominate?

A. KTAs can prompt or invite people to participate in the Awards, but they cannot directly nominate a project or advise on quality of a KTP Awards application form to be submitted. The competition management team has robust measures in place to prevent and monitor any potential conflict of interest, if a KTA has any direct interest in an awards application they will have no involvement in its assessment.

18.

Q. I am only halfway through my project, can I apply for the Future leader award?

A. The eligibility criteria is clear on this point, if in any doubt please check with us at ktpawards@iukbc.org.uk

19.

Q. Is the academic award only for a single project or can applications be made for an academic who has contributed to multiple KTPs?

A. In this case, an individual application per project will have to be submitted, as the application form questions are specific to each project. Nevertheless, you may cross-reference projects in those applications, which will help Assessors understand the academic contribution made to the individual projects and across the portfolio during the qualifying period in the most appropriate manner. Please ensure that you have permission to cross reference projects in different application in that case.

20.
Q. What if you apply but closer to the time, the company supervisor or associate are unable to attend the awards ceremony?
A. This will not affect the scoring/ judging process.

21.
Q. Can awards cover more than one KTP?
A. This varies with Award category, the key is to ensure that any proposal meets the eligibility criteria for the specific category. If unsure, please contact us via ktpawards@iukbc.orguk

22.
Q. We are not submitting an application this year, how can we still be involved?
A. Set up a watch party for the awards in October. Further details to be published on the KTP website soon.

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AWARDS CATEGORIES

Best Knowledge Transfer Partnership Award

Criteria	Partnerships should demonstrate excellent achievements across all three Partners: Business; Academic; Associate. Partnerships must be able to demonstrate how they have gone beyond the aims and objectives stated in the original proposal.
Eligibility	To be eligible for this award, your KTP project must have been completed and received an A or B grade from the KTP grading panel between 1st January 2024 and 30 April 2025. If shortlisted it is expected that the business supervisor, the academic supervisor and the Associate will attend the Awards ceremony, but at least 1 must be able to attend in October 2025. Any project nominated for this category last year is not eligible to apply for this year.

Online (written) Application Form	For this category an online written application should be submitted.

Technical Excellence Award

Criteria:	Partnerships should demonstrate excellence in the application of science, technology, engineering, or maths. The application of STEM expertise to the business innovation must be clear: contribution to the evolution of the field and the research interests of the academic team must also be showcased.
Eligibility:	To be eligible for this award, your KTP project must have been completed and received an A or B grade from the KTP grading panel between 1 January 2024 and 30 April 2025. If shortlisted it is expected that the business supervisor, the academic supervisor, and the Associate will attend the Awards ceremony but at least 1 must be able to attend in October 2025. Any project nominated for the Technical Excellence Award last year is not eligible to apply for this year.
Online (written) Application Form	For this category an online written application should be submitted.

The Business Transformation Award

Criteria:	This award recognises KTP and MKTP partnerships that demonstrate significant organisational change impact, cultural transformation, and evidence of exceptional leadership in driving innovation. Applications should showcase how the partnership has addressed significant challenges, enabled operational and cultural advancements, and delivered benefits to all stakeholders while tackling strategic issues.
Eligibility:	The KTP project must have been completed and received an A or B grade from the KTP grading panel between 1 January 2022 and 30 April 2025. If shortlisted, it is expected that the business supervisor, academic supervisor, and associate will attend the awards ceremony in October 2025, with at least one attending to represent the partnership.

Online (written) Application Form	For this category an online written application should be submitted.

Future Leader Award

Criteria:	The application must showcase a KTP Associate who has shown exceptional skills, above and beyond normal expectations. Nominees must demonstrate excellence in delivery of their innovation project, in contributing to corporate strategy, and in project management and leadership.
Eligibility:	The nominated individual: must have been employed as an Associate at some point during the period 1 January 2024 to 30 April 2025; must have undertaken at least 50% of their project duration by 30 April 2025; must have completed both KTP Training Modules by the 30 April 2025. Nominees must be able to attend the Awards Ceremony in October 2025.
Online (written) Application Form	For this category an online written application should be submitted.

Changing the World Award

Criteria:	Partnerships should demonstrate the impact of their KTP for the benefit of people and/ or the planet, including projects that have delivered a significant societal, social, or environmental impact. Applications should showcase how they have contributed to making our world a fairer or better place. Demonstrating a positive impact on inclusion and diversity is expected. Applications in this category are likely to have drawn from some element of Net Zero activity, alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or the application of SHAPE disciplines (Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts for People and the Economy).

Eligibility:	To be eligible for this award, your KTP project must have been completed and received an A or B grade from the KTP grading panel between 1 January 2024 and 30 April 2025. If shortlisted it is expected that the business supervisor, the academic supervisor and the Associate will attend the Awards ceremony but at least 1 must be able to attend on Wednesday 29 October 2025. Any project nominated for the Changing the World Award last year is not eligible to apply for this year.
Online (written) Application Form	For this category an online written application should be submitted.

KTP Academic of the Year Award

Criteria:	The application must showcase an academic who has demonstrated exceptional skills and commitment in knowledge translation, leadership, team building and mentoring. There must be demonstrable excellence in supporting the tasks, in the development of new capability in the business, and in supporting and inspiring the personal development and skills of the KTP Associate.
Eligibility:	The nominated individual must be either the Academic Supervisor or the Lead Academic on your KTP Project. The KTP Partnership must be current when the competition opens on the 13th February 2025 or have been completed between 1 January 2024 and 30 April 2025: The nominated academic must be able to attend the Awards ceremony in October 2025.
Online (written) Application Form	For this category an online written application should be submitted.

Best Knowledge Base KTP Support Team Award

Criteria:	The application must demonstrate how the work of your KTP support team has led to developing, sustaining, and growing their KTP portfolio. It should showcase a high-performing KTP support team that has been

	proactive and innovative in engaging and capitalising on the opportunities offered by participation in the Programme. Activities highlighted may be internally focused on delivering high-quality support services to project Partners or externally focused on business engagement or a combination of both.
Eligibility:	Any KB that has submitted a KTP application from the 1st of January 2024 until 30 April 2025.
Online (written) Application Form	For this category an online written application should be submitted.

Best African Agriculture KTP Award

Criteria:	Partnerships should demonstrate excellent achievements across all four Partners: African Business; UK Academic; African Academic; Associate. Partnerships must be able to demonstrate how they have gone beyond the aims and objectives stated in the original proposal. Specify the African nation location and region of the business partner.
Eligibility:	To be eligible for this award, your AAKTP project must have been completed and received an A or B grade from the KTP grading panel between 1st January 2024 and 30 April 2025. If shortlisted it is expected that the business supervisor, the academic supervisor and the Associate will attend the Awards ceremony in October 2025.
Online (written) Application Form	For this category an online written application should be submitted.