



Innovate
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Partnerships

Innovate UK Knowledge Transfer Partnerships Awards 2026

AWARDS CEREMONY

1.

Q. Do we know the Awards event timings?

A. The KTP Awards Ceremony will be held in Glasgow, on Tuesday 1st December 2026. More details will be provided in due course on our website.

2.

Q: When will the finalists be announced?

A: Friday, 2nd October 2026.

APPLICATIONS & ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

3.

Q. Who can nominate or be nominated?

A. There are few restrictions on this. The expectation, however, is that nominations will come from an individual or team who have been intimately involved with project delivery. We ask that Knowledge Transfer Advisers (KTAs) do not make KTP Awards nominations.

4.

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

A. Final Report gradings are a key component of the KTP Awards quality assurance process for partnerships. For 2026 Awards applications 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 be nominated provided that:

- Projects have been completed between 1/1/2025 and 19/08/2026.
- Final reports have been properly and completely submitted by all required parties (Associate, Knowledge Base, Company and Knowledge Transfer Adviser) by 19/08/2026.
- Written (email) confirmation is provided by the supporting KTA to state their confidence that the Partnership is likely to secure an A or B (outstanding or very good) grade

When the nominated 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 If that outcome is not an A or B Grade the application will be withdrawn from the awards competition.





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5.

Q. Can an Associate apply for more than one category of award?

A. Yes, as long as you tailor the application for the relevant category eligibility criteria. If more than one nomination is made for any individual or project within a category only one of these will be assessed, the decision on which will be made by the KTP Awards Committee.

6.

Q. Is it possible to apply for a KTP under more than one category?

A. Yes.

7.

Q. For the Emerging Innovation Leader (KTP) Award, our KTP project is two years in length and started in mid-October 2025. The Associate's performance has been excellent. Is the Associate eligible for the award if the project has not yet reached 50% of its duration?

A. No, the eligibility rule on this is clear, under these circumstances a nomination should be deferred until next year.

8.

Q: If the project is graded Outstanding but one can no longer continue with the company.

Applications are still open? Does the applicant need their permission or support to apply Emerging Leader (KTP) Award?

A: You can nominate a project, however it is best to do so in agreement with the partners and ensure that you apply the requisite partnership ethos and that you properly manage sensitivities, such as commercial confidentiality.

9.

Q: Our KTP project awarded outstanding grade in April 2026, but we are still waiting to get our certificate from Innovate UK? What's expected time duration to receive final certificate?

A: Please submit your application, there's an option in the application to submit your application with alternative evidence to your certificate.

10.

Q. Is there a word count on the application?





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A. Each category will have a unique application form, these will include word counts on some questions.

11.

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.

12.

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 (e.g. a minimum time of 12 months in post for projects of 24 month duration).

13.

Q. Is there a fee for applying for the award?

A. There is no fee.

14.

Q. For the Excellence in Knowledge Exchange Support (KTP) Award, are there dates for eligibility please?

A. Any Knowledge Base that has submitted a KTP application from the 1st of January 2025 until 19 August 2026 is eligible to be nominated in this category.

15.

Q. How will applications be accessed?

A. Please use this [link](#).

16.

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, noting primarily that it is the quality of content that is important.





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17.

Q. Who will be judging the applications?

A. A preliminary assessment of applications will be made by a minimum of 3 Knowledge Transfer Advisers/ Managers 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 and external senior KTP Stakeholder representatives.

18.

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. KTAs can provide guidance on Awards nominations.

19.

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

A. Yes, except that Advisers cannot nominate.

20.

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

A. There is no restriction on this.

21.

Q. Can advisers nominate?

A. KTAs can prompt or invite people to participate in the Awards, but they cannot directly submit a nomination. 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.

22.

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 before making a nomination.

23.

Q. Is the Academic Excellence in Innovation (KTP) Award only for a single project or can applications be made for an academic who has contributed to multiple KTPs?





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A. In this case, an individual application per project will have to be submitted, as the application form questions are specific to each project and reflect excellence within the qualifying period.

Nevertheless, you may cross-reference other KTP 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.

24.

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.

25.

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

26.

Q. Can an associate from CAPE TOWN apply for African agriculture award?

A. Yes, an Associate on an AAKTP project is able to be nominated in the Emerging Innovation Leader (KTP) Award category, provided that they meet all of the eligibility requirements of that category.

27.

Q. Should the awards application title be the original KTP project application title?

A. Yes, for Partnership nominations please use the project title as it appears on IFS.

28.

Q. Outstanding KTP award - eligibility says A or B but would this have to be A to stand a chance?

A. The Grade awarded is a key component of the KTP Awards quality assurance process, but only in so far as eligibility to apply. The Awards Assessment/ Judging process is independent and is not influenced by project grade.

29.

Q. How confidential are the assessments/assessors?

A. You can be assured that all Awards related content will be treated with the outmost care by KTP Assessors and Judges, who operate within strict confidentiality terms and conditions.

30.

Q. How the public voting held? what category awards goes under public voting?





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A. There is no public voting for 2026 Awards, that was a unique aspect of the 2025 Gold Awards.

31.

Q. Any advice for someone who has just started the KTP Project? (to win the award ultimately)

A. Keep a close eye on this years' competition, particularly on the announcement planned for Friday 2nd October 2026 when we will provide details of the shortlisted finalists - and then again on 1st December when we will recognise the Award winners.

AWARDS CATEGORIES

- **Outstanding KTP Impact Award**
- **Innovation & Technical Excellence Award**
- **Business Growth & Transformation through KTP**
- **Emerging Innovation Leader (KTP) Award**
- **Academic Excellence in Innovation (KTP) Award**
- **Excellence in Knowledge Exchange Support (KTP) Award**
- **Place-Based Innovation Impact Award**

