

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AWARDS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I nominate my project for the KE Awards?

Academic and Professional Services colleagues can nominate their project for the Knowledge Exchange Awards using the [webform here](#).

Can I collaborate with others on my nomination?

We encourage collaborative nominations. You are welcome to work on your submission with colleagues and partner organisations.

To make this easier, you can download an offline form from the nominations section of the [Knowledge Exchange Awards webpage](#), but please remember, final nominations **must** be submitted via the [online form](#).

Is my project eligible?

We invite nominations from all colleagues across the University, provided their project involves meaningful knowledge exchange with an external collaborator or community. This may take many forms, including research partnerships, professional education, use of University facilities where a significant relationship has developed, or other creative models of collaboration and engagement. Projects that involve the creation of a spinout company or licensing of University intellectual property are also eligible.

This year we are encouraging entries that highlight novel and innovative activity with exciting future potential, as well as established projects that continue to deliver impact.

Category-specific eligibility criteria:

- **Bright Future Award: Student Innovation** is open to current students and recent graduates. The activities must have been carried out whilst a student at the University.
- **Bright Future Award: Early Career Research Impact** is open to researchers and staff with less than three years' experience at the University. The eligible activities must have been carried out whilst employed at the University.

If you're not sure whether your project is eligible, please email ke-awards-nominations@exeter.ac.uk and we'll be happy to advise.

Can a project be nominated if it was submitted in a previous year?

Yes. Projects can be nominated again if they have progressed since the previous submission and continue to demonstrate impact and collaboration.

To support fair assessment, please include both the relevant background and a clear explanation of what is new or has developed in your 2026 application, as judges will not revisit your previous applications.

How many projects can I nominate?

Colleagues can submit multiple projects for consideration but can only submit the project once to any category.

Which category should I nominate my project in?

Academic and Professional Services colleagues can nominate their project for any relevant category, regardless of the Faculty in which they sit.

Please nominate your project in the category that best reflects the primary theme of the work. Each project should be nominated in only one category. Our judging panel will review all applications and, where appropriate, may move a nomination to a more relevant category.

Can I nominate on behalf of a colleague?

Yes, however you will need to answer the questions fully in order for the application to be assessed properly and you must seek the permission of any parties involved before submitting the application.

How will nominations be judged?

All awards will be adjudicated by a core interdisciplinary panel of senior university staff made up from representatives across the faculties. This core panel will be assisted by a team of external reviewers with expertise in each category, drawn from university contacts and stakeholders. Once all judges have been confirmed, they will be featured on the Knowledge Exchange Awards webpage.

Is there a word limit or guidance on what to include?

Yes. The nomination form includes word limits for each question.

To ensure applications can be assessed fairly and consistently, we ask that nominations are submitted as text only. Please do not include external links, diagrams or images within your application, as due to the volume of submissions we cannot guarantee that judges will be able to review additional materials.

Applicants are encouraged to use the available space to clearly describe the collaboration and the impact of the work, including outcomes and benefits for partners, communities or wider society.

What will happen if my project is shortlisted?

Shortlisted projects will be contacted by the KE Awards team in the week commencing the 18th of May 2026. If you have not heard from a member of our team by June, please assume your nomination has not been successful this time around.

All shortlisted nominees will be asked to take part in one day of filming in the week commencing **15 June** for a short video about their project/activity.

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Shortlisted nominees will also be invited to a gala dinner at the Great Hall on **15 October 2026**, additional places at the dinner will be allocated for partner organisations.

Winners will receive a coveted Knowledge Exchange Awards trophy.

Can I get feedback on my application?

Unfortunately, due to the availability of judges and the volume of applications, feedback will not be available.

When is the nomination deadline?

All nominations must be submitted by the [online nomination form](#) by the **23:59 deadline on 13 April 2026**.

Who can I contact regarding additional questions?

For anything not included within these FAQs, please email: ke-awards-nominations@exeter.ac.uk