

Expectations of signatories to the Knowledge Exchange Concordat

The Knowledge Exchange Concordat (KE concordat) is designed to:

- support universities, other higher education providers (HEPs) and research institutions, along with their staff and students, to develop clear and ambitious strategic objectives for their knowledge exchange (KE) activities
- support signatories during the development year to work with their partners and embed and lead a strategic approach to all of their KE partnerships
- support this representation, in subsequent years, through the publication of action plans
- reinforce the importance of partnerships to effective KE
- provide a framework in the development year for peer feedback on, and shared examples of approaches to, improvement and development
- encourage organisations to work together and in partnership with sector organisations and associations to strengthen KE practices across the sector and to deliver effective and targeted KE when and where appropriate
- give governing bodies and governments increased confidence in HEP knowledge exchange activity.

HEPs in England are being invited to sign up to the KE concordat by agreeing to its aims and eight principles and, if desired, participating in the development year (2020-21) for England. The Letter of Commitment pro forma should **only** be signed by the head of the HEP.

Non-English HEPs are invited to sign up to the KE concordat by agreeing to its aims and eight principles and, if desired, participating in the development year for England. Should a non-English HEP choose to participate in the development year for England, this does not exempt them from participating in the process being developed in their own nation, in which they are expected to participate. The relevant devolved Higher Education Funding Body will be made aware of a HEP's participation in the development year for England, in addition to being given the details of the named contact provided in the pro forma.

Signatories to the eight principles of the KE concordat are expected to:

- publicly commit to the KE concordat
- adopt the eight principles outlined in the KE concordat as a framework for effective KE
- actively engage with the KE concordat through forums and webinars and share good practice
- following the development year, participate in an evaluation process during which a HEP will carry out a self-evaluation and produce an action plan.

In addition to the above, signatories to the development year are expected to:

- make it clear to staff, students and partners what they will do and how they expect to work with their partners
- conduct a self-evaluation of their strategy for KE and practices, using the KE concordat principles as a framework
- submit an action plan that identifies the areas where improvement is needed, the **top five priority actions** for the HEP across the eight principles, and innovative practice that can be shared as good practice
- consider and respond to feedback and advice from the evaluation panel.

In subsequent years (depending on a successful evaluation), signatories to the principles and the development year will be expected to:

- publish a follow-up action plan that identifies progress in achieving the priority actions, and implementing innovative practice, and considers additional areas where improvement is needed every two to three years
- consider and respond to feedback and advice from the evaluation panel.

A list of HEPs that endorse the aims and principles of the KE concordat, and a list of those that will participate in the development year, will be published on the KE concordat [portal](#).