

## What Is Knowledge Exchange (KE) and how does it relate to Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF)?

Knowledge Exchange (KE) is the two-way flow of skills, expertise, ideas, technology and information, between the University of Sussex and the outside world. KE can be defined as *a collaborative and creative endeavour that translates knowledge and research into impact in society and the economy.*

KE and Research Impact intersect and are integral to one another as both have a **benefit to society at large** as a common driver, and engagement with non-academic stakeholders at their core. Where KE differs from Research with Impact is that it does not have to be directly related to specific research and may draw on an academic's expertise or application of knowledge.

KE includes a set of activities, processes and skills that enables **close collaboration between universities and partner organisations** to deliver commercial, environmental, cultural, and place-based benefits, and increase prosperity. These partners can range from private business and entities in the public sector to third sector organisations (e.g. NGOs, community groups, art organisations, museums).

The University is developing a KE strategy and drawing on [The Higher Education and Research Act 2017, section 93 \(4\) definition of knowledge exchange](#) (p.14) as:

*"Knowledge exchange", in relation to science, technology, humanities or new ideas, means a process or other activity by which knowledge is exchanged where — (a) the knowledge is in, or in connection with, science, technology, humanities or new ideas (as the case may be), and (b) the exchange contributes, or is likely to contribute, (whether directly or indirectly) to an economic or social benefit in the United Kingdom or elsewhere.'*

The [Knowledge Exchange Framework \(KEF\)](#) is the annual assessment of KE activity in Universities by Research England

The KEF is the third 'pillar' (alongside the Research Excellence Framework (REF) and the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF)) through which UK University performance is assessed. The KEF measures our performance against the 7 KEF perspectives and this dictates how much Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF) we receive. The University's current allocation is £4M.



The HEIF funding we receive from central HEIF funds and distribute in Media, Arts and Humanities requires annual reporting to [Innovation, Business and Partnerships](#) and needs to meet KEF metrics.