

Getting involved in Knowledge Exchange in Media, Arts and Humanities

The School of Media, Arts and Humanities fosters collaborative relationships with a range of partners, businesses and organisations beyond the University, developing research projects and networks of mutual benefit. In sync with the research interests of our faculty more broadly, key areas of focus for developing knowledge exchange projects have been the environment and heritage, the arts and creative industries, well-being and social justice, AI and technology, policy and government, and education and local growth.

There are many different ways to get involved in knowledge exchange in the School and across Sussex, and many different sized projects and networks. While some projects may benefit from a distinct relationship with an external partner, others may only have one element in which an external partnership makes sense, as part of a collaborative bid or research network. Small seed-funded projects can grow into larger case studies, and big AHRC-type grants might later necessitate outside knowledge exchange. Cross-School teams working around a common theme can provide a powerful basis to go for university funding calls, as in the case of the recent Covid/net zero funding bid.

While commercialisation was a key way of measuring knowledge exchange at the outset of the KEF, metrics are shifting and being redefined by new projects and emphases. Media, Arts and Humanities, in its deep investment to the creative arts and practices, critical thinking, social engagement, experimental methodologies, and understanding history and heritage, is in a unique and powerful position to create and sustain external knowledge exchange partnerships, and to help set new parameters for knowledge exchange. The School can serve as a central hub for forward-thinking research and enterprise and informed public and community engagement in Brighton, Sussex, the south of England and beyond.

We are interested in exploring new and innovative forms of research exchange and co-creation, and welcome enquiries about potential collaborations. We aim to run regular seeding and pitching events, workshops and drop-in sessions for faculty, doctoral students and partners to develop embryonic projects, or to take established impactful and transdisciplinary research to the next stage.

We draw on knowledge exchange collaborations and networks across the University, such as Policy@Sussex, and the Creative and Digital Economy Research Mobilizer Group in the Business School, and work closely with colleagues in the Business Innovation unit. We are represented on the regional South East Creative Economy Network (SECEN) and engage with organisations from across the UK and internationally.

Our knowledge exchange case studies and seed projects are developing collaborations with colleagues in the creative industries, local businesses and communities, education, government, heritage and conservation, and health and well-being. We are currently actively engaging in projects associated with Covid recovery.

Our annual Festival of Ideas, embedded in the Brighton Festival, initiates and develops ongoing possibilities for knowledge exchange across the region with creative and cultural partners and our Knowledge Exchange fellows.

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