Knowledge Transfer

“Within a modern, knowledge driven economy, knowledge transfer is about transferring good ideas, research results and skills between universities, other research organisations, business and the wider community to enable innovative new products and services to be developed” Office of Science & technology.

The Knowledge Transfer Centre helps researchers achieve impact from their research through supporting:

- Business engagement
- Intellectual Property management
- Technology development and commercialisation
- Impact activities
- Staff and student enterprise and entrepreneurship
What we do

The Knowledge Transfer Centre works to increase the wider use and positive impact of the University’s research activities. We do this by promoting opportunities to potential users through intelligent brokering, knowledge translation and business engagement. KTC staff have a deep understanding of the expertise and knowledge generation within the University, and develop networks and contacts externally with business.

The KTC’s objectives are to:

- Act as the first point of access for businesses to engage with the University;
- Manage the University’s Intellectual property;
- Lead technology translation, transfer and exploitation (commercialisation);
- Promote and support activities delivering research impact; and
- Encourage enterprise and entrepreneurship amongst postgraduate researchers (PGRs) and University staff.

We facilitate a range of activities to develop and promote enterprise skills and entrepreneurial thinking amongst staff and PGR students, support researchers in developing commercial ideas and intellectual property based on their work, help in the translation of these opportunities and through either licensing and spinout company formation promote their commercial application.

Business engagement

Our services are user-centric, linking a business with a challenge to a researcher who might provide a solution, or helping researchers find potential company partners. KTC staff attend external events, workshops and exhibitions looking to meet up with potential R&D sponsors from business and industry and interest them in University research & facilities.

Contact: Sophie.Mullins@st-andrews.ac.uk

Intellectual Property management

We provide advice on a range of IP issues including copyright, design rights, patents and trademarks. Any new inventions or potential unique commercial opportunity arising from University research should be reported by principal investigators to the KTC. Please give us a call in the first instance to discuss the commercial applications of your research results and ideas, and we’ll take the IPR discussion from there.

Contact: Alastair.Main@st-andrews.ac.uk

Commercialisation

As the University’s Technology Transfer office the KTC helps researchers access and bid for translational funding to develop technology and business ideas. We participate in technology development bids and projects and seek relevant commercialisation support outside the University. Our objective is to license technology to existing companies or create new spinout companies to develop the commercial applications of research results and IPR.

Contact: Ewan.Chirnside@st-andrews.ac.uk

Enterprise and entrepreneurship

The KTC provides support through formal lectures, workshops in CAPOD and informally to staff and postgraduate researchers at the point of need. We work closely with the University’s student enterprise advisor, jointly run the Ideas Explosion business plan competition and Provost’s Pit, and provide links to national support networks.

Contact: Ewan.Chirnside@st-andrews.ac.uk

Research impact

All the KTC’s work contributes to the University’s research impact. The road to research impact success is neither linear nor predictable; on the basis of their broad experience KTC staff can provide advice on suitable ways to achieve impact from your research.

Contact: ktcadmin@st-andrews.ac.uk