The Scottish Knowledge Exchange Awards celebrate the partnerships between business, third sector, and public sector organisations and academia. Now in its 11th year, this flagship event recognises and rewards exceptional collaborations that deliver economic, environmental and social benefits for Scotland.

**Inward Investment Impact 2026**

This award showcases knowledge exchange projects where businesses outside Scotland have collaborated with Scottish academia, resulting in positive impacts for Scotland.

**Criteria:**

* Applications are open to Scottish universities, colleges, or research institutes that have partnered with businesses based outside Scotland, where the collaboration has led or is expected to lead to inward investment opportunities
* Applications should demonstrate a clear and intentional pathway by the business toward inward investment, highlighting tangible impacts on the Scottish economy. Examples of impact include contributing high-value jobs, establishing a physical presence in Scotland, or fostering relationships with local supply chains
* Collaborative projects supported through the Inward Investment Catalyst Fund are eligible for this award category
* To be considered eligible, collaborations must meet one of the following conditions within the period from **August 2023 to August 2025**:
  + **Active Engagement**: Demonstrated joint activity such as co-delivered project objectives, shared research or development work, or sustained partnership operations
  + **Impact and Outcomes**: Evidenced measurable outcomes or clear impacts resulting from collaborative efforts, including but not limited to innovation, economic, environmental or societal impact, or strategic advancement for the academic and/or business partner
* The judging panel’s decision is final. The panel reserves the right not to make an award in a specific category if the standard is deemed to be of insufficient quality
* Previous award winners are not eligible to apply to a category that they have won in the past
* If shortlisted, you will be required to complete a 60 second video overview of the project

**Please email your completed application to** [**marketing@interface-online.org.uk**](mailto:marketing@interface-online.org.uk) **by   
5pm on Thursday 11th December 2025.**

**Key Dates:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Submission Deadline: | 5pm, Thursday 11th December 2025 |
| Shortlist Announced: | Wednesday, 11th February 2026 |
| Awards Ceremony: | Thursday 19th March 2026  MacRobert Arts Centre, University of Stirling |

If you have any questions, please contact [**marketing@interface-online.org.uk**](mailto:marketing@interface-online.org.uk)

**Collaboration Partners**

**Lead applicant** (main point of contact that the Interface team will liaise with)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** |  |
| **Job Title** |  |
| **Business name** |  |
| **Email** |  |
| **Contact number** |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Tick the check box to indicate which eligibility criteria this application meets.** To be considered eligible, collaborations must meet one of the following conditions within the period from **August 2023 to August 2025.** If applicable tick both. | |
| **Active Engagement**:  *Demonstrated ongoing joint activity such as co-delivered project objectives, shared research or development work, or sustained partnership operations.* |  |
| **Impact and Outcomes**:  *Evidenced measurable outcomes or clear impacts resulting from collaborative efforts, including but not limited to innovation, economic, environmental or societal impact, or strategic advancement for the academic and/or business partner.* |  |

**Business Partner**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** |  |
| **Job Title** |  |
| **Business name** |  |
| **Business address** |  |
| **Email** |  |
| **Contact number** |  |

**Academic Partner**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** |  |
| **Job Title** |  |
| **Name of university, research institute or college** |  |
| **Email** |  |
| **Contact number** |  |

**Application Form**

**To ensure that applications can be considered on equal terms, please ensure that you follow the word limits specified below. Exceeding the word count may lead to your application being discounted by the judging panel.**

However, if you would like to add any assets in support of your application (such as images, diagrams or video links), please include these within this submission as an appendix.

|  |
| --- |
| **Section 1 - Please provide a summary of the background to the business and the challenge / issue you were seeking to address** (*250 words)* |
|  |
| **Section 2 - Please provide a summary of the project or engagement undertaken with the academic team. Please include the date the collaboration commenced and what activity (if any) has taken place in the last 2 years (Aug 23 - Aug 25).** *(300 words)* |
|  |
| **Section 3 - When did the collaboration with the academic team commence and what support did the academic team provide the business that couldn’t be sourced elsewhere / in-house?** *(300 words)* |
|  |
| **Section 4 – How does the project progress the businesses growth ambitions?** *Outline benefits e.g. turnover, number of new/safeguarded jobs, sales, expansion to new domestic & international markets, access to supply chains and societal or environmental benefits?* |
| Benefits achieved to date with timelines (300 words) |
| Future benefits predicted (300 words) |
| **Section 5 - How has the academic partner benefitted through the collaboration?** (e.g. teaching & learning, student employability, curriculum, research income, public engagement) *(300 words)* |
| Benefits achieved to date with timelines (300 words) |
| Future benefits predicted (300 words) |
| **Section 6 – What are the impacts for the Scottish economy?** *E.g. Will the project enable or contribute to developing / supporting the case for setting up operations in Scotland, job creation, access to supply chain and Scottish expertise. Please include timelines. (300 words)* |
|  |
| **Section 7 – Has the project led onto further research or collaborations with the same academic or new academic partners? If so, please give details** (200 words) |
|  |

**Pre and Post Award Promotion:**

The Interface Marketing and Communications team will endeavour to raise the profile of your organisation, the Scottish Knowledge Exchange Awards and the Interface service through pre and post Award promotion. By submitting this application / nomination form, you are agreeing for the details to be used in any related press and marketing materials. We recommend, therefore, that there should be no IP or confidentiality issues which would restrict publishing details of your application.

|  |
| --- |
| **To assist with the application promotion which will be used for the shortlist announcements, please provide a summary of your collaborative project below** (maximum *60 words*).  For examples see the 2025 project summaries [here](https://interface-online.org.uk/news/scottish-knowledge-exchange-award-winners-showcase-collaboration-at-its-finest/). |
|  |

**Data Protection:**

By completing this application / nomination form, you accept and consent to the use of your data by Interface and any individuals, i.e. judges, those involved with the delivery, audit, review and evaluation of this application/nomination form.

It is the lead applicant’s role to ensure that all parties, whose details are included in this application form, are aware of and agree to this submission.

Interface’s full privacy statement can be read [here](https://interface-online.org.uk/privacy-and-cookies).

**Please email your completed entry forms to:**

[**marketing@interface-online.org.uk**](mailto:marketing@interface-online.org.uk)

**by 5pm on Thursday 11th December 2025**