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

**Knowledge Exchange Heroes 2026**

This award recognises the individuals and teams, working behind the scenes, who have played pivotal roles in supporting knowledge exchange activities. Awards will be given to celebrate both individual and team contributions.

**Criteria:**

* Open to individuals and teams within academic research & innovation offices, research and enterprise departments, colleges, or institutes who have provided exceptional support for knowledge exchange initiatives
* Applications should showcase how the nominated individual or team has exceeded expectations, creating innovative and / or scalable models to support knowledge exchange. Examples of focus areas include student engagement, curriculum development, and traditional knowledge exchange activities
* Team entries should relate to specific projects, such as: success in a knowledge exchange or innovation funding call, raising substantial investment for a spin-out, managing projects across multiple partners, developing a new student knowledge exchange program, overcoming additional complexities to achieve project goals
* 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 regarding the completion of the application form, please contact Marketing [**marketing@interface-online.org.uk**](mailto:marketing@interface-online.org.uk)

**Nomination**

Nominators must obtain the prior consent of the person being nominated *(unless nominating themselves)*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of nominator** |  |
| **Organisation name** |  |
| **Job title** |  |
| **Email** |  |
| **Contact number** |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of individual or team members nominated** |  |
| **Organisation name** |  |
| **Job Title** |  |
| **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 as an appendix.

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| --- |
| **Section 1 - Outline how this person or team has played a fundamental role in the development and innovation of knowledge exchange collaborations.** *Include examples where innovative and/or scalable models of support have been delivered. (300 words)* |
|  |
| **Section 2 - How has this person or team demonstrated dedication and commitment *to knowledge exchange projects?*** *e.g. the positive impact their behaviour and actions have had on those around them, demonstrated leadership,* *shows consistent exemplary customer service, stakeholder management etc. (300 words)* |
|  |
| **Section 3 - How has the individual or team acted as an ambassador or advocate for knowledge exchange within their university, college or research institute?** *(200 words)* |
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| **Endorser details**  Please fill these details in if there is someone additional to the nominator that wishes to endorse the nominee. |
| Name: |
| Organisation: |
| Job Title: |
| Email: |

**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.

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| --- |
| **To assist with the application promotion which will be used for the shortlist announcements, please provide a brief summary of your nominee(s) and their achievements** (*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/). |
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**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**