The Scottish Knowledge Exchange Awards celebrates 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.

**Place-based Impact 2026**

This award celebrates collaborative initiatives that bring together partners from across Scotland to deliver targeted, positive outcomes for specific regions or local communities.

**Criteria:**

* We encourage applications that showcase projects tailored in design or delivery (or both) to address the unique circumstances of a specific place. These projects should respond to complex challenges that require a joined-up approach
* Successful applications will demonstrate:
	+ A collaborative approach where universities, colleges, research institutes, businesses, civic organisations, and support organisations from across Scotland work with local partners to tackle place-specific challenges
	+ Active community engagement in the development of policies and/or the delivery of services, empowering local stakeholders as essential participants in the process
* 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
* 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** **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 2026MacRobert Arts Centre, University of Stirling  |

If you have any questions regarding the completion of the application form, please contact **marketing@interface-online.org.uk**

**Collaboration Partners**

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

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

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| --- |
| **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.*  |[ ]

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| --- | --- |
| **Name of collaboration / group / consortium** |  |
| **Name and email of the lead contact from all organisations involved in this partnership (this includes businesses, trade bodies, academic institutions etc.)** |  |
| **What date did the collaboration commence?**  |  |

**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 - Describe the features of the collaboration.** *When was the collaboration initiated, what activity (if any) has taken place in the last 2 years (Aug 23 - Aug 25),* *who are the partners within the collaboration, for what purpose was it facilitated? (400 words)* |
|  |
| **Section 2 – What impact has the collaboration had to the local area?** *Outline tangible and intangible benefits e.g. economic, social, environmental*  |
| Benefits achieved to date with timelines (300 words) |
| Future benefits predicted (300 words) |
| **Section 3 - Outline the impacts that the collaboration has had on each partner** *e.g. impacts on staff, new products, teaching, employability, learning, research, income, public engagement, social etc. Please be concise with answers and include timescales.* |
| 1. Business
 |
| 1. Academic
 |
| 1. Other partners
 |
| **Section 4 - What next?** *Outline the key milestones for next phase of the collaboration. Will the collaboration lead onto further research with the same or further partners? (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 brief 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**

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