

The National Centre for Universities and Business (NCUB)

**Information
for applicants**



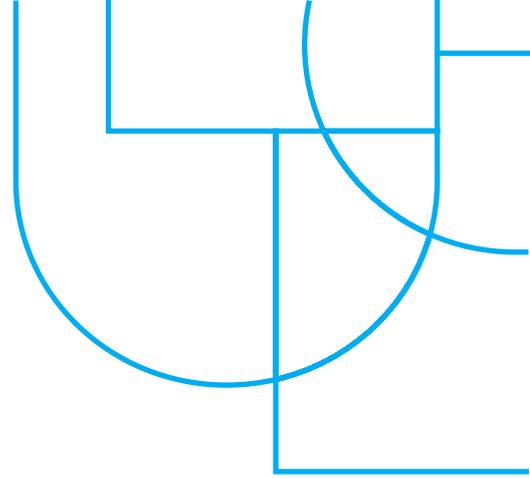
WHO WE ARE

The National Centre for Universities and Business (NCUB) is an independent organisation focused on making the UK the best place in the world for universities and businesses to collaborate. We believe that collaboration is critical to tackling many of the greatest challenges facing the world today, from driving the research and innovations that will help make us healthier, wealthier and greener, to delivering the highly skilled, diverse and adaptable workforce needed to drive the future.

We operate at the exciting interface of business and university interests and work closely with our members, who are business and university leaders. Specifically, we work to understand what businesses and universities can achieve by working together, as well as

identifying barriers and obstacles to their collaboration. We use this to provide insights and deliver recommendations to Government and other stakeholders, acting as a leading and trusted authority on collaboration between business and the UK's world-leading universities.

We are a close-knit team of 20 people based in an office in central London. Our organisation was formed in 2013 following a review for the Government on business-university engagement in the UK, but has its roots in The Council for Industry and Higher Education (CIHE), which was born in 1986. Our work is overseen by a Board comprising leaders from both universities and industry, and is primarily funded through our university and business members and Research England.



Leoca Powell
Project Support Officer



"I joined NCUB a few months ago as a Project Support Officer, supporting all Policy Leads and the Communication and Membership Managers. Having transitioned from a medium organisation into a small organisation, I instantly felt very welcomed and got to know all individuals within the company on a personal level. Due to the size of NCUB and our belief that working together is important, I've been able to work with other members of the team to get involved with communication and media aspects such as managing the newsletter and posting on social media. All these different elements are what keeps my day to day interesting and enables me to develop new skills."

WHAT WE DO

NCUB focuses on a range of issues relevant to university-business collaboration. We carry out cutting edge research in areas related to research, innovation and skills. This research can involve reviewing existing evidence and data, but can also require gathering insights and information from businesses and universities through surveys, interviews, workshops or roundtables.

We don't believe that universities or businesses alone hold the answers to tackling the world's greatest challenges. Instead, we work to establish a collective voice united behind a shared purpose. We conduct research and gather evidence ourselves, but we also work in close partnership with domain experts in academia and the private sector. This includes a strategic partnership with the University

Commercialisation and Innovation Policy Evidence Unit based at the University of Cambridge.

We're innovators, developing our digital portfolio and analytics expertise so partnerships we initiate are more meaningful and insightful. Our relationships with UK Research and Innovation and the Government mean we're a voice of influence and our members' views are heard.



Rosalind Lowe
Head of Policy and Engagement

“I’ve worked in policy and engagement since I started my career, but I have never been in a role where I felt so genuinely excited about the breadth of issues I was working on. Because we aren’t an overt ‘lobbying’ organisation, the proposals we develop and the engagement we do feels incredibly meaningful and impactful. I feel intellectually challenged and pushed every day and learn so much – not just from our talented team, but also from the wide range of stakeholders, members, experts and academics that I get to work with every day.”

UNLOCKING RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

UK universities are full of invention and ideas. Equally, for many businesses in the UK harnessing the power of research and innovation will be critical to their future success.

Universities and businesses need to work together to guide genuine advances in technology, medicine, and energy. This helps to tackle some of the greatest challenges of our time, such as climate change and global health issues, but also creates significant social and economic opportunities for the UK.

Our research and innovation projects explore how universities and businesses collaborate on

research and innovation, what their collaboration achieves and how it can be encouraged and supported. Specifically, we identify barriers to collaboration and how they can be overcome. We investigate a wide range of issues, such as how collaboration can help encourage private sector research, the multifaceted impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on collaborative research and innovation activities, and what motivates businesses to interact with universities.

Some of our most recent projects can be found here: <https://www.ncub.co.uk/about/what-we-do/research-innovation/>

BUILDING FUTURE TALENT

Our economy is driven by people. Our future success therefore depends on a strong education system, matched to the talent needs of employers. However, the labour market and ways of working are changing at an unprecedented pace with the introduction of new technologies.

Education and skills policy underlies many of the country’s socio-economic aspirations. From driving a more research-intensive, innovative economy and finding more sustainable ways to live, to improving opportunities and building a more diverse and inclusive workforce.

We believe that employers, educational institutions and

government must work together closely to address existing gaps and challenges in the labour market, but to also anticipate the future talent the UK will need. Our Skills and Talent projects look at how universities and businesses can best work together to prepare students for the current and future labour market. We work to ensure that higher education is a route open to all and that we have the workforce required for the fourth industrial revolution and an advanced knowledge economy.

Some of our most recent projects can be found here: <https://www.ncub.co.uk/about/what-we-do/people-skills-talent/>



MAKING CONNECTIONS

NCUB has established, with funding from Research England, an online brokerage service, which is helping to inspire and enable more collaborations around the UK, particularly within the SME community. We work through konfer to make more connections possible, allowing businesses and universities to search a large catalogue to

find collaboration partners and opportunities.

Konfer has grown from being an early proof of concept into an increasingly integral component of the UK's research and innovation infrastructure. Read more about konfer here: <https://konfer.online/>



Nick Bowles

Membership Engagement Manager

"I joined NCUB in 2020, having worked in not-for-profit membership organisations in the UK for the last 15 years. Along with policy and communications, I make up part of the Policy and Engagement team. My role within membership involves recruiting new university and business members, keeping them in membership and making sure they are happy, engaged and involved in our policy work, our informative reports and our thought-leadership. I am responsible for our Leadership Council engagement and also manage the CRM. NCUB is a friendly, supportive and nurturing place to work, with a small but highly – effective team that consistently punches above its weight. There is an open and encouraging approach to new ideas, creativity and doing things differently. I always come to work with a smile on my face."

DELIVERING INSIGHT

NCUB is developing, with support from Research England, new ways of gathering and analysing data on the UK's research and innovation system. This growing insights service, known as NCUB Analytics, helps leaders and policymakers access new and real-time data on the UK's research talent, capabilities and investments.

Our analytics helps to answer the most pressing questions that research performers, funders and policy makers face. Our analysts and policy team are experienced in

not only making sense of complex findings and data, but also developing innovative techniques tailored to the needs for new evidence. Through our network of government, academic and business leaders, we ensure that our analytical insights are timely, focussed and robust.

Current analytical projects include mapping the UK's research strengths and capabilities, exploring the impact of public research funding on business growth, and analysing the career pathways of the UK's researchers.



We invest in continuous development at all levels of the organisation, and work to empower people to take ownership of work.

WORKING WITH US

We are a close and collaborative team. We work together to ensure that people look forward to coming to work, enjoy their time at work and feel that they have made a difference when they leave at the end of the day. We appreciate the importance of creating a great place to work and achieving an appropriate work/life balance. To achieve this we work closely with the team through a collaborative internal project, named "One NCUB". One NCUB helps to shape and improve the experience of working for NCUB so it continues to be a great place to work where great work is done.

Those joining NCUB will have the opportunity to establish reputations as experts in business-university collaboration across research, innovation and skills. Working at NCUB offers opportunities to participate in critical national debates – such as how to drive recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, how to

prepare the future talent the country needs, and how to shape a more sustainable, fairer and more resilient society.

We invest in continuous development at all levels of the organisation, and work to empower people to take ownership of work. We encourage taking initiative, suggesting ideas and trying things without fear of failure. We recognise that we win and lose together.

We know that diversity – of people, approaches and thinking – is vital to our success. We will always strive to learn and improve in order to provide equality of opportunity and a culture of inclusion. As part of this, we are working to build a workforce that is representative of all sections of society, and prioritise creating an environment in which each member of the team feels supported, valued and able to thrive.





The National Centre for Universities and Business (NCUB) is an independent and not-for-profit membership organisation that promotes, develops and supports university-business collaboration across the UK.

Get in touch:

For more information please contact NCUB at:

info@ncub.co.uk

www.ncub.co.uk

[@NCUBtweets](https://twitter.com/NCUBtweets)