



Knowledge Exchange Framework Institutional Context Template

For submission to KEF@re.ukri.org by Friday 16 October 2020*

Max words: 500 (plus 120 word lay summary).

*The original deadline of 29 May 2020 was extended in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Submissions must use the KEF narrative templates, but either this template or the version with the old submission date will be accepted.

Institutional Context narrative statement

Research England contact information – will not be published

Please confirm the main points of contact for Research England to use in the management of the KEF results. Please nominate one single, primary contact. You may also add additional email addresses to be copied into any communications we send.

Institution name	Leeds Beckett University
UKPRN (<i>www.ukrlp.co.uk</i>)	100003861
KEF primary contact	Professor Cathy Barnes
Job title	Director of Research & Enterprise
Email address	c.barnes@leedsbeckett.ac.uk
Additional email addresses to be CC'd into any communications	t.conkar@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Contextual information – to be published

Total word limit is 620 words including 120 words for the lay summary and 500 words for the contextual information. Diagrams and images may be included providing they can be extracted for online display and the total narrative (excluding cover page) does not exceed two pages.

Contact point

Email contact (to be published)

Please provide an email address to be published which will act as a general institutional point of contact for anyone seeking more information about the institution's KEF results.

c.barnes@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Summary

Summary

Please provide a short (max 120 words) introduction to your institution. This will be displayed as part of the KEF platform with your KEF results.

Leeds Beckett is a modern, professional university with a dedicated, diverse community. We contribute an estimated annual GBP 500 million to the economy. We support a community of more than 28,000 students from over 140 countries and employ 2,800 staff.

We believe in working hard and having a bold, industrious spirit. As a university and major employer, we nurture abilities that help to shape a lifetime for both students and colleagues alike.

We work closely with partners and stakeholders to ensure our activities have positive and lasting influences on our local community, environment and economy. This is strengthened by our commitment to student success, research, innovation, enterprise, global reach strong impact and our role in the Leeds Inclusive Anchors Network.

Word count: 120

Institutional context

Context

Please provide a brief statement (max 500 words) containing contextual information about the institution that is common across all perspectives. The information provided may be anything that the HEI considers relevant to the KEF such as mission, economic context, institutional strengths, history, or any particular knowledge exchange focus.

At Leeds Beckett University, the exchange of knowledge between all aspects of university life and the individuals and organisations we work with, is woven into our institutional fabric. We are proud of our 190-year history of knowledge exchange, dating back to the Leeds Mechanics Institute in 1824, through our period of technical education as a polytechnic to the proud, impactful university we are today.

At the heart of our KE is a common aim: to ensure all communities, students, staff, businesses and organisations we touch, are better after our interaction than they were before. Our Knowledge Exchange (KE) strategy, led by our Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research & Enterprise, focusses on: developing our regional engagement; supporting local skills; growing our KTP portfolio; and enhancing our Health and Wellbeing, Culture and Sustainability knowledge strengths. Our HEIF funding is used to support and deliver this strategy which is governed through our R&E Sub-Committee of Academic Board.

Over 70% of our students are recruited from the Leeds City region and over 50% of students remain following graduation. Skills Development is a key part of our strategy and we appointed a PVC to oversee our employability and degree apprenticeship programmes which are rooted firmly in our region.

Our Vice-Chancellor chairs the Leeds Anchor Network which ensures we understand and effectively discharge our role as a key anchor institution within the City of Leeds and wider region. The Network Comprises 14 organisations who together employ 1:7 of the Leeds workforce, and have a combined purchasing power of £2bn

Engagement is delivered through our many established formal partner agreements and our 80 Memoranda of Understandings/Articles, underpinning our deep and mutually beneficial relationships.

Our world-leading research is put to good use. Leeds Beckett has many programmes that directly improve the health and wellbeing of our nation and beyond. For example, Our Integrated Healthy Lifestyle programmes delivered in partnership with our spin-out company MoreLife Ltd have improved the health and wellbeing of thousands of people across the country. All its activities are systematically evaluated by researchers to inform service improvement and to add to the community of knowledge in this crucial discipline.

Working with partners in both public and private sectors, we support the region's SMEs through innovative programmes recognised through our Small Business Charter Award. Our network of University Business Centres (UBCs) give us a physical presence in the heart of communities across the region. Since 2018, our UBCs have supported over 450 businesses, critical to the future dynamic growth of our economy.

Our reach and impact in supporting the regeneration of the local economy is delivered through over 1000 community and economic activities. These are built up through our engaged academic interventions, often involving our exceptional students in providing local speech therapy support for young children, architectural practice to regenerate community facilities, and legal advice and clinics offered to businesses. These activities are built on evidential need, identified through comprehensive engagement with communities as described above.

Word count: 489