KEUK Conference 2027: Abstract Submission Guidelines

About the call for submissions

Thank you for your interest in contributing to the KEUK Conference 2027.

We welcome abstracts that share practical experience, evidence, ideas and approaches that can help strengthen knowledge exchange practice and encourage discussion across the KE community.

Abstract submissions are open to both KEUK members and non-members.

We encourage submissions that:

- Share practical examples, case studies, projects or evidence.
- Demonstrate innovation, impact or lessons learned.
- Offer insights that can be applied by others across the KE community.
- Encourage discussion, debate and audience participation.
- Reflect a range of organisational, disciplinary and sector perspectives.
- Address current or emerging opportunities and challenges in knowledge exchange.

Key dates

- **Call for submissions opens:** Thursday, 8th October 2026
- **Abstract submission deadline:** Monday, 16th November 2026 by 17:00
- **Applicants notified of outcome:** Friday, 8 January 2027
- **Confirm participation and purchase tickets:** Friday, 5th February 2027
- **Presentation slides/materials deadline:** Friday, 30th April 2027 by 17:00
- **KEUK Conference 2027:** 24 – 26 May 2027

Session topics

We welcome submissions across the following topics. These are intended as a guide rather than an exhaustive list, and we encourage proposals that explore connections across multiple areas of knowledge exchange.

When completing the submission form, please select the topic that most closely aligns with your proposed session.

- **AI and Data Connectivity:** AI, digital tools, data sharing, systems, opportunities and risks.
- **Collaboration for Innovation:** Partnerships, shared services, capacity building, teams and support structures.
- **Research Commercialisation:** Intellectual property, licensing, consultancy and commercial impact.
- **Spinout Creation and Scale-up:** Creating, growing and retaining university spinouts.
- **Investors and Investment:** Funding, investor engagement, equity and venture growth.
- **University-Business Collaboration:** Knowledge Transfer Partnerships and other forms of business engagement.
- **Regional Growth and Place-Based Knowledge Exchange:** Civic partnerships, regional funding and local economic growth.
- **Innovation Ecosystems:** Building, connecting and sustaining innovation communities and networks.
- **Knowledge Exchange Policy:** Policy, regulation, research security and intellectual property.
- **Knowledge Exchange Data and Metrics:** Data, evidence, evaluation, performance and decision-making.
- **Impact Beyond the Metrics:** Social, economic, cultural and environmental impact.
- **Enterprise and Entrepreneurship:** Entrepreneurial skills, enterprise activity and venture creation.
- **Students in Knowledge Exchange:** Student engagement, skills development, innovation and enterprise.
- **International Collaboration:** International partnerships, policy collaboration and global perspectives.
- **KE Careers & Skills:** Skills, career pathways, recruitment and professional development.
- **Future Trends:** Emerging trends, future challenges and opportunities for knowledge exchange.

- **Funding for KE People and Projects:** HEIF, Impact Acceleration Accounts, industry partnerships and other funding mechanisms.
- **Other:** Topics or perspectives relevant to knowledge exchange that are not covered by the categories above.

Preparing your submission

Successful submissions should clearly describe the proposed session, explain its relevance to the KE community and outline the key learning outcomes for participants.

Before starting the online form, we recommend preparing your session information and contributor details so that you can review everything before submitting.

Completing the online submission form

All proposals must be submitted through the KEUK Conference 2027 Abstract Submission Portal.

Profile details and other contributors

You will be asked to provide your profile details and information about any other contributors involved in your proposed session. The submitting author should ensure that all co-presenters have agreed to be listed on the submission and to participate.

You will also be asked to indicate the career level most relevant to you:

- Early Career
- Mid-Career
- Senior Leadership

Abstract details

Provide as much detail as possible about your proposed session, including:

- key topics;
- intended audience;
- learning outcomes; and

- relevance to the knowledge exchange community.

Think particularly about what participants will take away from your session and how your experience, evidence or ideas could be useful to others.

Choose your preferred session format

You will be asked to select one of the following:

A. **Presentation | 20 minutes**
   A presentation followed by audience Q&A.
B. **Workshop | 45 minutes**
   An interactive session focused on discussion, skills development or collaborative problem-solving.
C. **Lightning Talk | 10 minutes**
   A short, focused presentation designed to share a key idea, insight or case study.
D. **Panel Participant | 45–60 minutes**
   An opportunity to join a panel discussion organised by the conference.
E. **Bring-your-own Panel | 45–60 minutes**
   Organise and submit a panel discussion involving multiple contributors addressing a common theme.
F. **Other**
   For a proposed format that does not fit the options above.

Please note: *Depending on the number and nature of submissions, your session may be combined with other submissions to create a cohesive panel or discussion. You will be informed if this applies to your presentation.*

Select your session topic

You will be asked to select the topic that most closely aligns with your proposal. Refer to Session Topics for the full descriptions.

Conflict of interest

The form includes a Conflict of Interest section. Please declare any relevant conflict associated with your proposed contribution.

Accessibility or technical requirements

Use this section to tell KEUK about any accessibility or technical requirements associated with you or your proposed session.

Providing this information at the submission stage will help KEUK take your requirements into account when planning the programme.

Consent and permissions

Before submitting your proposal, you will be asked to confirm a number of permissions and conditions.

These include:

- Acceptance of the platform's Terms & Conditions and acknowledgement of its Privacy Policy.
- Acknowledgement that KEUK may combine your session with other submissions where appropriate.
- Acknowledgement that KEUK may edit titles for length and clarity and copy-edit abstracts.
- Consent for your presentation to be recorded and for the recording and/or associated materials to be shared on Knowledge Exchange UK platforms and used for promotional purposes.
- Consent for presentation slides or materials to be shared with conference attendees and published on Knowledge Exchange UK platforms following the event.
- Confirmation that presentation materials must be submitted by **Friday, 30 April 2027**.

Please ensure you and any co-presenters understand these requirements before submitting your proposal.

Submission guidelines and requirements

- **Language:** All abstracts must be submitted in English.

- **Multiple submissions:** Presenters may submit multiple abstracts, provided that each submission is unique.
- **Managing submissions:** KEUK may, where submissions are complementary, request that authors collaborate to facilitate a wider range of perspectives and content.
- **Presentation format:** KEUK reserves the right to request a change in presentation format to create a cohesive and balanced conference programme.
- **Publication and permissions:** Submission of an abstract grants Knowledge Exchange UK (KEUK) the right to publish the text of the abstract, together with the names and affiliations of authors and co-authors, on the conference website.
- Recording and sharing of presentations and associated materials are also subject to the consents provided through the submission form.
- **Author consent:** The submitting author confirms that all co-presenters have provided their consent to be listed on the submission and to participate in the presentation.
- **Registration requirement:** If accepted, the presenting author is required to register for the conference, pay the appropriate fee and deliver the presentation.
- **Eligibility:** Abstract submissions are open to both KEUK members and non-members.

Abstract review process & criteria

All submitted abstracts will be reviewed by the **Conference Advisory Group (CAG)**. Each abstract will be evaluated against the criteria below and **scored on a scale of 1 to 5**, where:

- **1 = Poor** – does not meet the criteria
- **2 = Fair** – meets the criteria in part but lacks clarity or depth
- **3 = Good** – adequately meets the criteria
- **4 = Very Good** – strongly meets the criteria with clear strengths
- **5 = Excellent** – fully meets or exceeds the criteria with outstanding quality

Abstracts will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- **Relevance:** The extent to which the submission is relevant to knowledge exchange and the conference audience.

- **Learning Value:** The extent to which attendees will gain useful insights, practical knowledge, tools, approaches or lessons that can be applied in their own work.
- **Quality and Clarity:** The clarity, structure and overall quality of the proposed session, including well-defined objectives and content.
- **Engagement and Impact:** The potential of the session to encourage discussion, participation and meaningful takeaways for attendees.

Practical considerations

Panel sessions should include a mix of speakers with different backgrounds and perspectives. Presentation materials should be accessible (for example, by using the PowerPoint Accessibility Checker).

Withdrawal & substitutions

You may withdraw an abstract before 7th January 2027 by emailing conference@ke.org.uk with your submission ID. Presenter substitutions require prior approval.

Contact

If you have any questions about the abstract submission process or other aspects of the conference, please contact the Conference Team at conference@ke.org.uk.