



The University of
Nottingham

UNITED KINGDOM · CHINA · MALAYSIA

Your guide to External Work and Consultancy

www.nottingham.ac.uk/fabs/beis



External engagement

The development of external work directly supports The University of Nottingham's Global Strategy 2020 and specifically research and knowledge exchange. Knowledge exchange activities generate benefits for the economy and society, enhance the University's reputation for teaching excellence and world changing research (including through REF Impact case studies),

and increase its market share of income from private, public and third sectors.

The University actively supports academics with their industrial engagement. Many already have good connections and regularly provide expertise and advice to external organisations.



Consultancy opportunities

The University adopts a positive attitude to academics acting as consultants as an effective way of disseminating knowledge.

Unlike research, consultancy does not have as its prime purpose the generation of new knowledge. A typical consultancy project is short-term, makes minimal use of University facilities, has a formal agreement and the contracted outputs are usually owned by the client. In addition, the University doesn't normally have freedom to publish without client approval.

Examples of consultancy include:

- Editorships
- Acting as an expert witness
- Providing technical or creative expertise and solutions to industrial problems
- Company literature review
- Provision of expert reports
- External courses and workshops
- Serving on professional and government committees
- Consulting on collaborative research projects

Benefits to clients

- Access to world-class research, backed by expertise and facilities.

Benefits to the University

- Expanding business engagement
- Leveraging research activities
- REF Impact case studies
- Promoting corporate alliances
- Enhancing the University's reputation
- Encouraging knowledge exchange

Benefits to academic consultants

- Building links with industry
- Developing reputation
- Expanding skills and experience
- Strengthening portfolio of achievements
- Enhancing personal income or research funds

External work approval

For full-time academic staff, permission may be granted for up to 50 days external work a year as long as there is no adverse impact on their academic duties.

External work which is deemed sufficiently central to the duties of academic staff carries 'automatic permissions', though in the case of activities such as journal editing or some appointments to external bodies, Head of School approval is required.

In all other cases, permission to do external work, be this consultancy or working as a director, must be obtained from the Head of School and the Director of Business Engagement and Innovation Services.

The approval process is designed to protect the interests of the University and its academics and to ensure there are no potential conflicts or that staff do not overcommit to external work.

For full details, refer to the External Work Policy which can be found on the University Codes of Practice and Rules section of the website at

www.nottingham.ac.uk/hr/guidesandsupport

A short online form needs to be completed in order to request approval for external work. This can be found at

www.nottingham.ac.uk/nuc/external-workform/apply.php



Nottingham University Consultants (NUC)

The University established Nottingham University Consultants (NUC), a trading division of Nottingham University Industrial and Commercial Enterprise Ltd, to specifically provide management, commercial and financial support and expertise to staff wishing to carry out consultancy. Academics providing consultancy via NUC are also covered by the University's Professional Indemnity Insurance.

Staff are encouraged to use NUC to support their consultancy work.

Advantages to academic consultants of using NUC include:

- Preparation of quotations and proposals
- Contract negotiation and legal support
- Support on project pricing
- Accounting support including invoicing and credit control
- Advice on all aspects of consultancy work

- A direct link with The University of Nottingham
- Professional Indemnity Insurance cover
- Combined package of consultancy and services rendered
- Flexible payment of fees, either as personal income or waived via donation

Services using University facilities

It is possible to channel some services rendered activities through Nottingham University Consultants, provided that the School or Faculty approves the costs. This is especially relevant when external consultancy is directly related or associated with the faculty based service work.

Contact

Contact the Nottingham University Consultants' office for advice and to obtain approval for consultancy activities.

Telephone **0115 951 4613**

or email [**nuc@nottingham.ac.uk**](mailto:nuc@nottingham.ac.uk)

Case studies

Reducing the risk of pipeline leaks for BP

Professor Thorne, a river scientist with expertise in erosion, sediment transport and sedimentation, was approached by BP to join a team performing a crucial risk assessment of the Western Route Export Pipeline, a pipeline which runs through the countries of Azerbaijan and Georgia.

Based on Professor Thorne's advice, BP took immediate remedial action – planning the replacement of those crossings that posed the greatest risks, repairing those that posed significant environmental risk and introducing intensive monitoring of those considered most at risk.

Improving driver interaction with technology

Dr Gary Burnett, from the Faculty of Engineering, has worked closely with a prestigious car manufacturer to develop and improve the interactive computing technology that they install in their vehicles.

Through a consultancy agreement, administered by Nottingham University Consultants, Dr Burnett, an expert in driver interface research, was asked to investigate the ways in which people interact with in-car computing devices across both the UK and China.

Advising on medical malpractice investigations

Dr Andrew Wilcock, from the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, has contributed his expertise to a number of high-profile medical malpractice cases, thanks to consultancy agreements managed by Nottingham University Consultants. Dr Wilcock has helped police to establish whether or not there is a basis for a case to proceed to court.

Revolutionising the treatment of fluid in the brain

Professor Roger Bayston, from the School of Medicine has helped revolutionise the treatment of a life threatening medical condition through his consultancy with neurosurgical device manufacturer Codman.

An expert in surgical infection, Professor Bayston has worked closely with Johnson & Johnson for almost three decades. This long-standing consultancy agreement has led to the successful commercialisation of a technology which greatly improves the treatment of hydrocephalus (fluid in the brain).

Nottingham University Consultants

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