

The Catapult Network

The Catapult network was set up to help bridge the gap between academia and industry within the UK. Within this, the Connected Places Catapult (CPC) accelerates smarter living and travelling in and between the places of tomorrow. By working with key academic institutions and industrial partners we aim to ensure that academic research is translated into innovative, applied and mainstreamed technologies and business models.

CPC is a neutral, not-for-profit organisation, tasked with supporting innovation in new areas of the economy - commercialising the best of the UK research base. It's full of energetic, capable, technologists and business experts undertaking applied research projects in collaboration with academia, SMEs and industry. Current 'initiative areas' include: Built Environment, Mobility, Future Air Mobility, Public Space, Wellbeing, Critical Infrastructure and Decision Making & Institutions

The Business Fellow Network (BFN) for Connected Places - The Background

Business Fellows play an instrumental role in helping CPC to foster more collaborations, leading to large scale CR&D submissions, with an ultimate goal of growing UK Plc by maximising the alignment of academic effort with social and economic needs.

Wave 1 ran from January to December 2019, engaging 14 Business Fellows across 13 Universities. Business Fellows were based in their academic partner institutions, bringing research outputs closer to commercialisation. This enabled academics to increase their industry engagement, entrepreneurship and research impact to support their universities to achieve Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF) targets.

Business Fellows are Knowledge Exchange Experts who identify opportunities for deeper university / CPC – industry collaborations that accelerate pace, scale and impact of CR&D. Business Fellows will work with CPC Solutions Architects, Technology Teams and with specific bid teams, to source appropriate university inputs to CPC-led consortia. They will engage most appropriate academics from relevant disciplines (engineering, human factors, business, data, etc). This is achieved through 1:1 pairing between the successful Fellows and internal CPC experts (or 'buddies'), and use of a secure shared Microsoft Teams channel as the platform for capturing interaction.

What we are offering

We now welcome applications for one of the 15 positions available, aligned with our initiative areas: Built Environment, Mobility, Future Air Mobility, Public Space, Wellbeing, Critical Infrastructure and Decision Making & Institutions.

Fellows will identify high quality research at partner universities aligned with the CPC's focus areas, supporting CPC in mapping capabilities and assets of interest to us. In return, CPC offers unrivalled channels of influence to the research landscape (UKRI), innovation ecosystems (Innovate UK), and all the national and local government agencies and authorities with whom we work.

Critically, the Business Fellows Network brings Fellows into close conversation with our own subject matter experts who support Fellows growth, and the exciting range of SMEs we work with across the UK.

The Business Fellows shall work two days per month on CPC related activities. One day per month will be funded by CPC, the other day will be sponsored by the university.

We will supply a collaborative agreement for all invited Fellows to share with their university, and signing up to this will be a requirement to begin the Fellowship in January 2021.

Business Fellows will need to:

- be active within Knowledge Exchange, working within a UK Higher Education Institution
- be well connected within their own institution;
- have a strong understanding of the industry and university interface, current research outputs and track record of successful CR&D and / or enterprise.

We want to understand what research relevant to CPC initiative areas is taking place across the UK, and then connect the experts who are doing this research with businesses who can utilise their knowledge and skills to create new technologies and develop new products and services.

Benefits for you

- Expand personal network across Higher Education, industry and the wider R&D and governmental landscape
- Develop new skills in bid development
- Improve Knowledge Exchange capabilities
- Gain insight into other universities and Catapults
- Build network within CPC, through interaction with our solution architects and technologists, and business support professionals
- Be a key contributor of our programme for translational and transformational research!

Benefits for your University

- The Catapult can offer influence in public and private sector decision making for investment in CR&D, and opportunities to directly influence government policy
- Input to the Knowledge Exchange Framework as it evolves
- Increased industry engagement engaging more academics in research which addresses industry challenges
- Potential for new industry collaborations including co-funded posts; secondments, increased enterprise including spin outs, contract research and consultancy
- Industry engagement maximised through shared ecosystems, meetings and engagements with the many small and medium sized businesses the CPC work with
- The Business Fellows Network will promote your institution's leading role in driving economic recovery and prosperity in partnership with UK industry.

If you'd welcome an informal conversation about the role, please contact Will Pearson will.pearson@cp.catapult.org.uk or Julia Brady julia.brady@cp.catapult.org.uk.

How to Apply

Please read the Role Outline description below, and if interested, submit your up to date CV together with a completed application form (the form, together with the assessment criteria, can be [found here](#)).

Deadline for applications will be: **2nd December 2020**

Online interviews will take place between: **7th and 14th December 2020**

Decisions on award of successful Fellows: **18th December 2020**

Start date for 12-month Fellowship: **4th January 2021**

Application forms should be submitted the Head of Academic Engagement at:

Academia@cp.catapult.org.uk *Please write "BFN Application" as the subject of the email.*

Role Outline

- Attend and contribute to the kick-off and closure meetings
- Attend quarterly workshops, engage relevant academics and share content internally
- Represent the institution and CPC at relevant events (virtual or face-to-face, depending on the COVID-19 situation)
- Actively stimulate, identify and bring forward collaborative opportunities with industry for CPC and the Institution
- Respond in a timely manner (within 5 working days) to potential collaborative opportunities identified by CPC
- Gather knowledge and information about research and engagements undertaken by the relevant research groups within the Institution and populate it into templates provided by CPC 5 days prior to each quarterly workshop
- Capture and share best practices where public as well as private sector are involved in the delivery of the activities

Expected outcomes

- Minimum: one large scale, high impact CR&D bid involving the CPC, academic partners and industry developed and submitted within the 12-month fellowship period
- Promotion of CPC's Academic Engagement Programme and data relevant to the university populated and validated
- A range of opportunities for thought leadership and content development for both parties (including, but not limited to: webinars, blog posts, longer form content pieces, roundtables and discussions)

Assessment Criteria and Essential Skills and Experience

- Degree educated (or equivalent), with experience working in Knowledge Exchange between universities and businesses for at least 2 years
- Minimum 2 years' experience in a commercial or public sector setting or equivalent
- A proven track record in developing strategic partnerships
- A history of developing and managing of successful collaborations in R&D
- Awareness of emerging technologies relevant to CPC footprint
- Understanding of the funding landscape in UK including UKRI
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- High quality analytical skills
- Experience of developing new products or services or facilitating their development