

# Greater Manchester Combined Authority Delivering a Thriving Economy in Greater Manchester

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## Introduction

The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) works with the 10 local authorities of Greater Manchester, to promote the lives of its residents and make it "one of the best places to grow up, get on and get old". As part

of the Business and Economy Research Team, I worked with the GMCA to help deliver Priority Four of their strategy for Greater Manchester: a thriving and productive economy.

## Objectives

The purpose of this report was to investigate Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) grants awarded by Innovate UK, to universities within Greater Manchester compared to other universities across the country, that are part of the same peer group (Russell Group, Alliance, etc.) The central aim of the project was to determine any significant trends between the grants awarded to Greater Manchester universities and their peers, in terms of volume and value of the grants. From this information, we could then infer how Greater Manchester higher education institutions are being funded, and how they are performing in regards to innovation, compared to other universities outside of the Combined Authority.

## Method

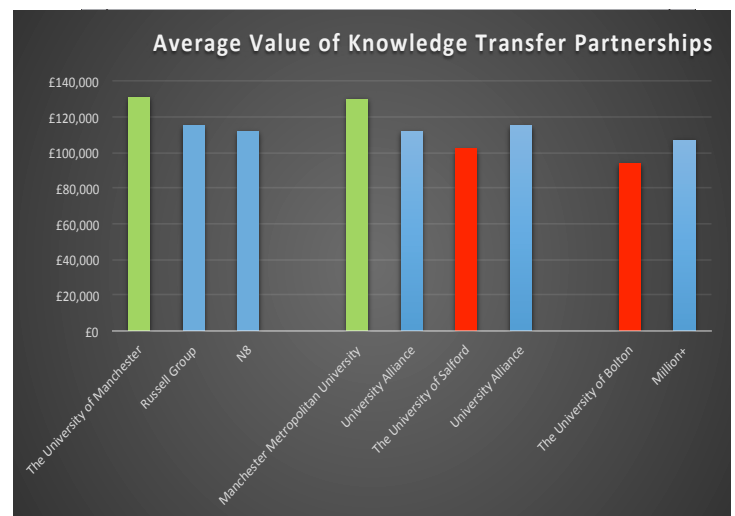
The primary dataset that I used was from the Innovate UK database. This contained spreadsheets detailing all of the Knowledge Transfer Partnerships awarded by Innovate UK, from past and recent years.

Firstly, I used Pivot Tables in Excel to present the dataset with more clarity. Then, I began to filter these categories where necessary, into the different groups: GM universities, Russell Group, N8, Million+ and University Alliance. From there, I then filtered these different groups in Excel to show volume, and also value of the grants being awarded. Finally, I inputted all my data into tables in Excel, to visualise the data more clearly in order to observe any trends, and also to calculate 5 year averages.

Due to the dataset being so large, there were many times where I had forgotten to show my workings, and I had inputted the figures incorrectly. To overcome this, I asked for the help of my supervisor, to consolidate my work. They helped me to go back a few steps and recalculate some of my figures in greater detail, whilst also keeping a crucial record of my calculations.

## Results and Conclusions

The results of my project showed that in terms of both value and volume of KTP's, The University of Manchester greatly outperformed its peers in the Russell Group and N8 group. This was the same for Manchester Metropolitan University, and its peer group University Alliance. However, as my graph shows, The University of Salford and The University of Bolton both received a significantly lower amount of funding compared to their peer groups in terms of



Value of Knowledge Transfer Partnerships- GM Universities vs. their peer groups

average value. Yet, both universities received an average amount of KTP grants as their peers.

From my findings, we can conclude that The University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University both are outperforming their peers in the amount, and value of KTP's received from Innovate UK. Although The University of Salford and The University of Bolton received the same amount of grants as their competitors, their value was less than average. Therefore, we can conclude that perhaps more attention needs to be given to these specific Greater Manchester universities, in order to increase the levels of innovation within these institutes to the same level as their Greater Manchester peers.

## Key Skills Learnt

I have learnt a great deal during the process of my research, starting from not knowing much about Excel, to using Advanced Excel skills, data cleaning, creating graphs and charts and also using tools such as Pivot Tables. Furthermore, I have developed my numerical skills, as I had to use formulas to calculate averages and use calculations to navigate large datasets.