

Cambridge Community Knowledge Exchange



Free access to research for voluntary and community sector organisations

www.cam.ac.uk/ccke



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

800 YEARS
1209 - 2009

What is the Cambridge Community Knowledge Exchange?

The Community Knowledge Exchange is an initiative run by the University of Cambridge. We work with community organisations who want some research carried out and with students who need to carry out a project as part of their degree, seeking to make a match between the two.

How can my organisation work with the Community Knowledge Exchange?

All organisations sometimes require specialist skills to develop their work. The Community Knowledge Exchange can put voluntary and community sector groups in touch with students who might be able to work with them. In this way, VCS groups can gain access to research through student project work.

Who can use the Community Knowledge Exchange?

Any community or voluntary sector organisation can use our services.

Do I need to know a lot about research to use the Community Knowledge Exchange?

No. We will be happy to talk you through the research process and help you to design your project. Students working on our projects will normally have had research training and will have a supervisor at the University.

What kinds of projects do students carry out?

We accept requests for research on all subjects. Students work on many different issues including management and strategic planning, policy and legal research, information technology, community health issues, local history and environmental issues as well as a broad range of social issues.



What happens after I contact the Community Knowledge Exchange with a research idea?

If a student is interested in your project, we will contact you. A meeting will be arranged between you and the student to discuss the scope of the project, what needs to be done, what methods will be used and how long it will take. If both parties reach an agreement, the project can begin.

Do I have to pay for this service?

No. Students are not paid for the work they undertake through the Knowledge Exchange. However if students are likely to incur additional costs through carrying out the project we may ask you to make a small contribution towards expenses if this is possible.

The Harambee Centre partnered with Judge Business School students to research and identify income generation strategies.

“The research was extremely valuable to us in providing evidence for our organisation’s future strategic direction and for developing our marketing plan. The team’s analysis brought new ideas, fresh insights and relevant (and instantly applicable) recommendations for our marketing strategy.”

Sam Bennett, Development Education Co-ordinator, The Harambee Centre

MBA students worked with Camfed, which campaigns for female education in Africa.

The students were asked to create, develop and deliver training resources for a Camfed programme in rural Zambia.

“We were so impressed with the commitment, organisation, teamwork, creativity and strategic thinking demonstrated by the team. The three core modules they developed will be used for years to come to build the capacity, confidence and leadership skills of young women in rural sub-Saharan Africa. This will enable them not only to transform their own lives but those of their families, communities and ultimately, their nations.”

*Catherine Boyce,
Head of Enterprise and Leadership, Camfed*

I have a project idea but it might not be suitable for a student. What do I do?

Contact us. We will be very happy to talk through your idea and help you to decide whether it is a suitable student project. We may also be able to offer the opportunity for pro-bono work in the community to members of academic staff.

When is the best time to discuss new project ideas?

We are available to discuss new ideas throughout the year. However we find that summer is a particularly good time to put together new projects since most students come through at the start of the academic year in October.

When will my project be completed?

Once a project has been discussed, it will be advertised to students. It is important that students choose a project that is meaningful to them and unfortunately it is not possible to guarantee that a student will take up your project within a given timescale. However we will keep your project on our database unless you inform us that you no longer need the information.

How do I get information on the Community Knowledge Exchange?

If your not-for-profit organisation would like to investigate the possibility of research support from students or staff at the University, please email us ccke@admin.cam.ac.uk or call +44 (0)1223 764069

Produced with thanks to Queen's University Belfast Science Shop



Undergraduate students in Politics, Psychology and Sociology researched and evaluated service user's experiences at Cambridge Women's Aid.

The research showed the value of the services and made recommendations for improvements in provision.

“The women who use our services found it beneficial. They were pleased that the students were interested in their experiences and they liked the idea that their experience could help other women access effective services in future.”

*Project Co-ordinator,
Cambridge Women's Aid*

