Why are research partnerships with organisations worthwhile?

Challenges

Different timelines
Organisations may have higher turnovers of staff or different project cycles than academics. This can create challenges for delivering timely research to meet partner needs.

Role of academics
Academics may have different perspectives on the value of their research and may not always see the importance of translating their findings into practical applications.

Risk of tokenism
Partnerships may face the risk of tokenism where non-academic organisations are involved for the sake of diversity, but are not adequately resourced or valued.

Language challenges
Understanding the language and context of the research community can be challenging, and using jargon may be necessary to convey complex ideas accurately.

Tips for better partnership working

_address these challenges by being clear on expectations and working collaboratively.

-foster open communication and mutual understanding from the outset.

-listen actively and respectfully to all partners.

-plan for ongoing support and resources from the beginning.

-listen to feedback and adapt as necessary.

-plan and fund the partnership thoughtfully.

-listen to each other about the pressures partners bring.

-think about what you can offer an organisation, as well as what they can offer you.

-Build long-term research relationships for better-quality partnerships.

-A successful partnership isn’t just one project — it needs to be built upon and developed over time.

LISTEN

-Equate to listen to the needs of all partners, building trust and rapport.

-Offer support to each partner, as well as asking for help and advice

-Plan funding that meets the needs of each partner

-Brandon research partnerships, evidence-based with clear potential

-Fund the partnership in a way that is meaningful and sustainable

-Today, listen to one another about the different pressures each partner brings.

-Think teamwork

-Everyone is important and adds value. Communication is key.

-Think about what you can offer an organisation, as well as what they can offer you.

-Build long-term relationships for better-quality partnerships.

-A successful partnership isn’t just one project — it needs to be built upon and developed over time.

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