service futures lab

ual: university of the arts london

'I am not cheap labour'
A visual conversation to unpack the ethics of involving students in knowledge exchange

Knowledge Exchange (KE) enables close collaboration between universities and non-academic partners to deliver economic, environmental, cultural and societal benefits. The golden rule of KE is to ensure ethical and mutually beneficially collaborations, whereby each actor engages in productive and meaningful exchanges/

Graduate and postgraduate students often participate in the delivery of KE activities. Universities have formal and informal mechanisms to engage students in KE, which might allow for unpaid student participation as part of their academic curriculum under the premise that it presents a valuable learning opportunity. Yet, it is not unheard-of students' involvement been framed as 'cheap labour' either by collaborators or by students themselves.

The **Knowledge Exchange Ecosystem Canvas** is a visual tool to capture the different perspectives of all the actors involved in a collaboration. The canvas can be adapted to facilitate different conversations, such as to plan and reflect, identify synergies and misalignments among collaborators and unearth what is in exchange.

Briefing for a reflective session led by students:
Form groups of 3 to 5 students around a blank canvas. [1. ACTORS] Draw a three tier cake and cut a slice for each actor involved in delivering and benefiting from the collaboration. Have two different blocks for university and non-university actor. Break down the university side into two viewpoints: the students' and the institution perspective, to keep separate studentt's lived experience from institutional narratives. Still in groups and starting from the centre, discuss and answer:

[2. AIM] Why and how are you collaborating?
Note the aim is shared by everyone

[3. GAIN] What do you (hope to) gain from the collaboration hope to bring to the collaboration?

[4. GIVE] What do you (hope to) bring to the collaboration?