“Getting to where I am today, holding a managerial position at one of the world’s biggest pharmaceutical companies, was only possible thanks to KTP allowing me to launch my career”

Mahesh Shivhare, Global Statistical Platform Lead, Novartis
Knowledge Transfer Partnership

KTP fund innovative, collaborative projects between the UK’s universities and industry. Each project is spearheaded by a graduate, known as the Associate.

Project Background

Newcastle University worked on a two year KTP with Avecia, now called Fujifilm Diosynth Technologies (FDT), ending in 2009. The Associate, Mahesh Shivhare, found the KTP to be an incredibly rewarding experience, upon which he has built a highly successful career. The KTP produced a Powerstats framework for the analysis of data generated during the development of products manufactured using bio-processing techniques.

Training and development

Each project provides the Associate with a development budget, with 10% of an Associate’s time dedicated to their professional development. Mahesh found this to be invaluable. He explained, “In my 10 years working in industry, the KTP provided me with my only opportunity to dedicate time and resource to my professional development”.

Beyond the KTP

Following his KTP, Mahesh was offered continued employment by FDT as a Senior Process Statistician. Mahesh highlighted how useful the specialised training he undertook in data analysis and statistics as part of the KTP has been.

Being a data scientist specialising in pharmaceutical development assisted my career immeasurably, leading to jobs at Pfizer, Merck and now Novartis. I now work as a Global Statistical Lead. In this role I support the biologics division of Novartis Pharmaceuticals. Without the vital experience and learning accrued working on the KTP at the start of my professional career, I would not have been in the managerial position I hold today.