

# Pilots, Projects and Path Dependence

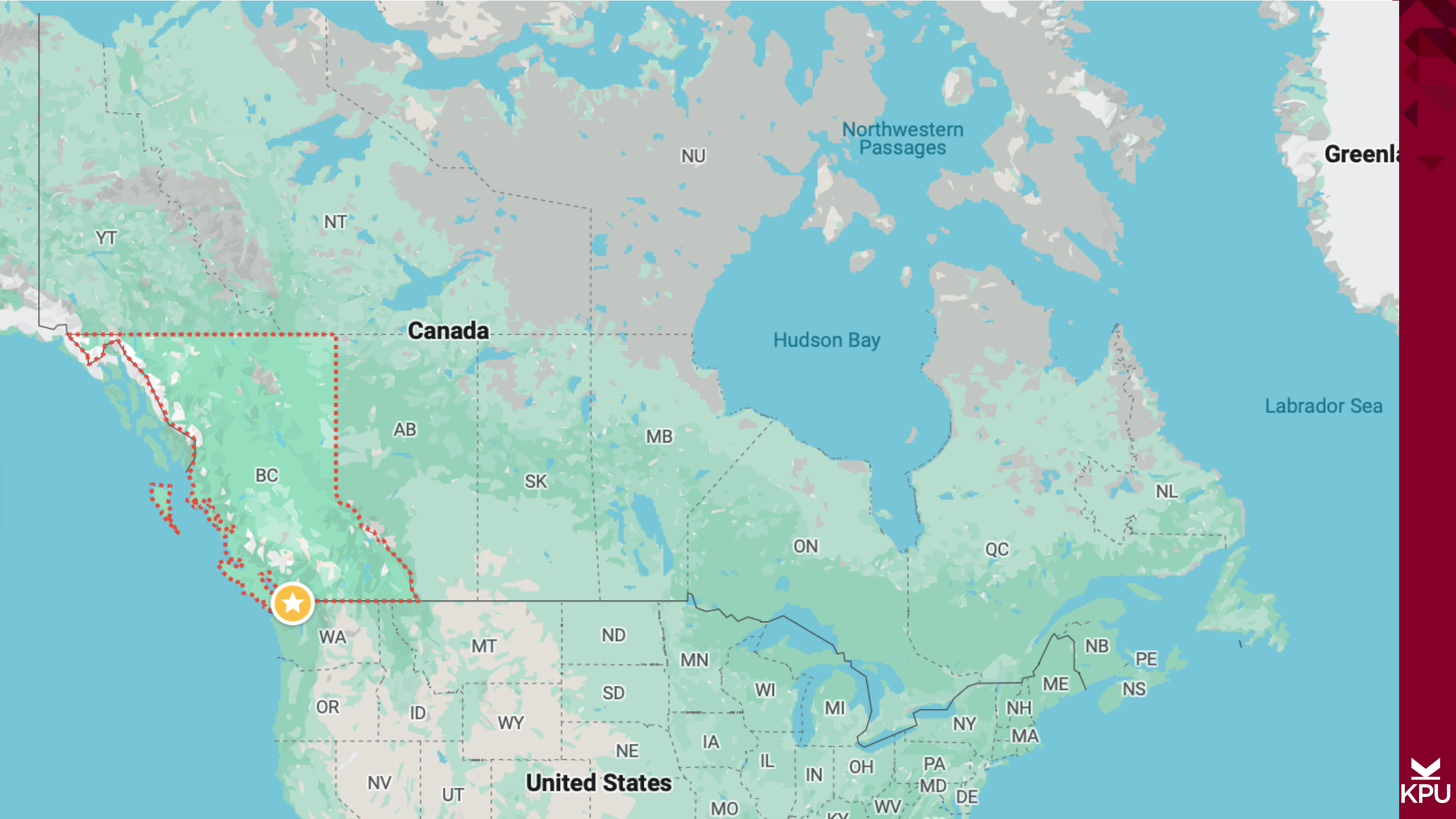
RPL reform at KPU

David P. Burns, Ph.D.

Associate Vice-President Academic



The proposed presentation summarizes an RPL-based admission program piloted at KPU on and the ways in which this test case was used to develop portfolio options for a series of other needs, including work with equity-deserving groups and mature learners. These examples will be examined, alongside the successes and challenges these projects entailed, through the lens of recent work in philosophy of education on questions of justice.





The Before Times

The Lockdowns

Post-Pandemic

The Before Times

The Lockdowns

Post-Pandemic

## British Columbia

*General shift away from grade-based reporting at the secondary level, and towards competency scales and portfolios.*

The Before Times

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**Holy maple syrup, this is going to be interesting!**

*Grade-based entry to post-secondary would be utterly changed or ended.*



## Path Dependence





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*Previous decisions and the legacy systems they have left behind limit future choices.*





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**What if this is the time to do what we said we wanted?**

# What if this is the time to do what we said we wanted?

*Philosophical Inquiry in Education*, Volume 29 (2022), No. 3, pp. 173-182

## *University Admissions, Justice, and Virtue*

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DAVID P. BURNS  
Kwantlen Polytechnic University

*This analysis will argue that university educators have an ethical obligation to advocate for admission policies that are not exclusively competitive in nature – what will be referred to later as levelling and remedy approaches. This argument will be detailed in four stages. First, it will use an anecdote and an appeal to virtue to argue that educators in universities should feel an ethical obligation to level the playing field of competitive admissions. Second, it will draw on the work of a Chris Martin and Ben Kotzee to provide a philosophical framework for my argument. Third, it will discuss examples from Scotland, Ontario, and British Columbia to consider the ways in which the status quo fails to meet our ethical commitments as educators. Fourth, and finally, it will posit the virtue-ethical argument that university educators should live out their commitment to being virtuous and philosophy of education by supporting admission policies that are not exclusively competitive.*

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## Who Should Go to University? Justice in University Admissions

Ben Kotzee, Christopher Martin

First published: 24 October 2013 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9752.12044> | Citations: 17

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**Correspondence:** Ben Kotzee, Jubilee Centre for Character and Values, School of Education, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT, UK.

Email: [h.b.kotzee@bham.ac.uk](mailto:h.b.kotzee@bham.ac.uk)



Volume 47, Issue 4  
December 2013  
Pages 623-641



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[Messy Ethics: Conducting Moral Participatory Action Research in the Crucible of University-School Relations](#)

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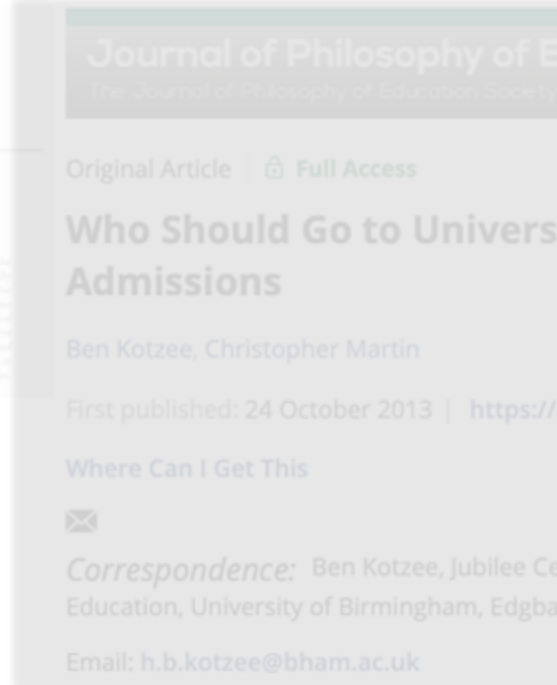


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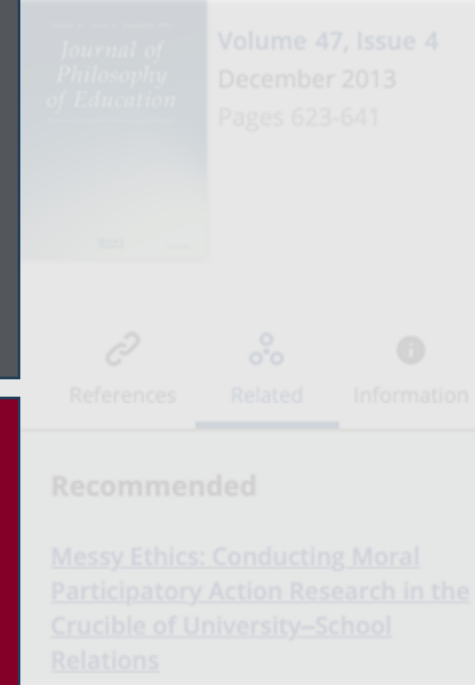
[Messy Ethics: Conducting Moral Participatory Action Research in the Crucible of University–School Relations](#)

Qualifying Threshold

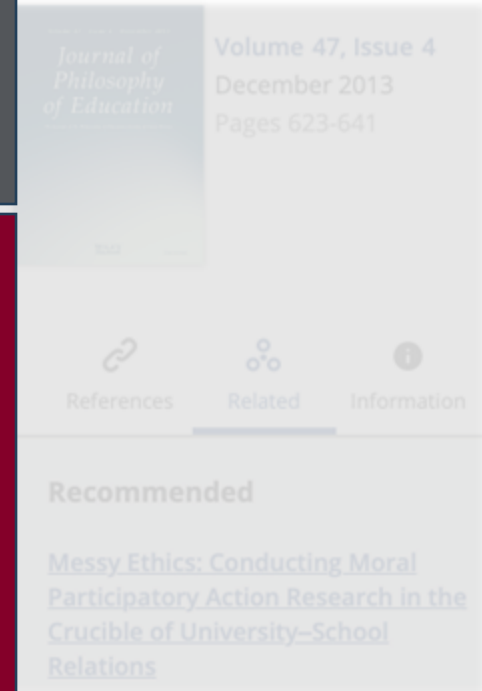
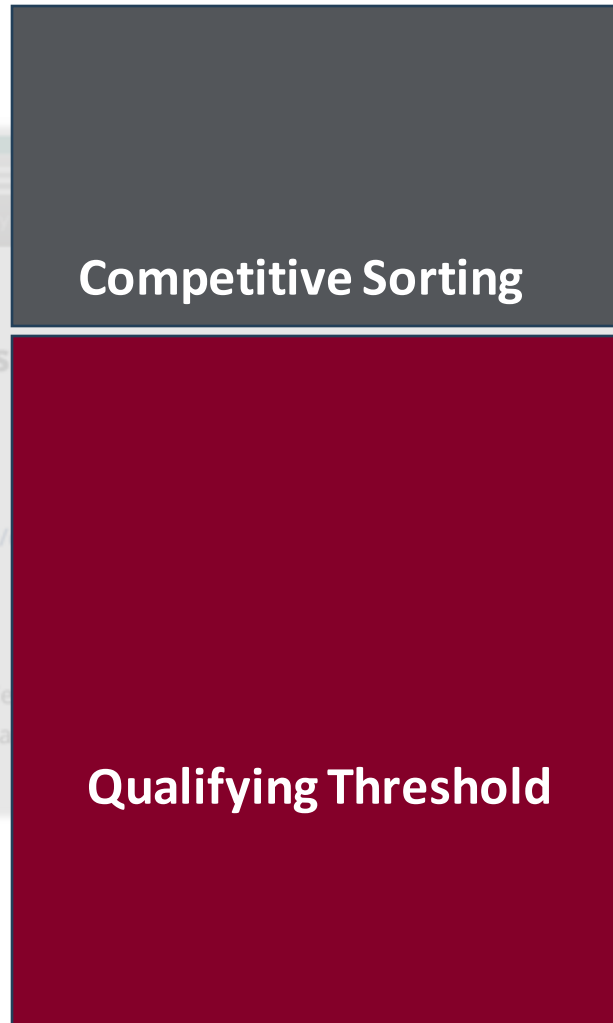
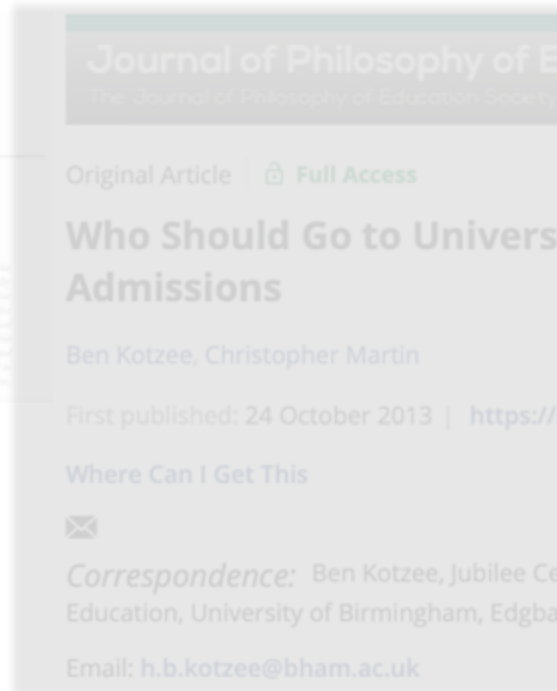


Competitive Sorting

Qualifying Threshold







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## Qualifying Threshold


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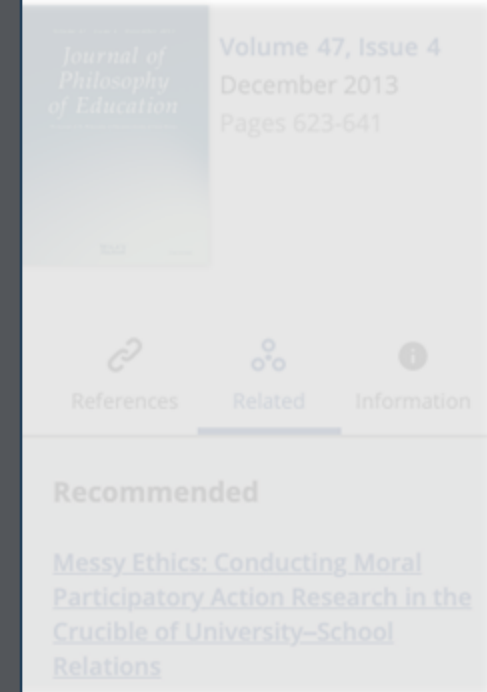
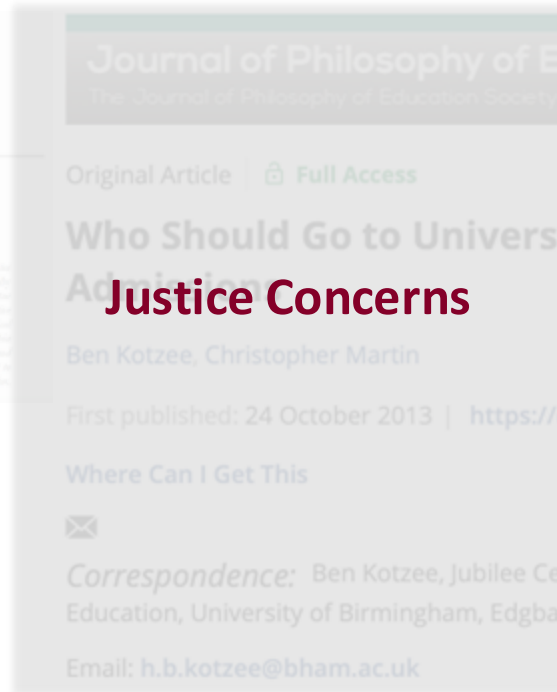
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# Competitive Sorting

Justice Concerns

Qualifying Threshold

## British Columbia

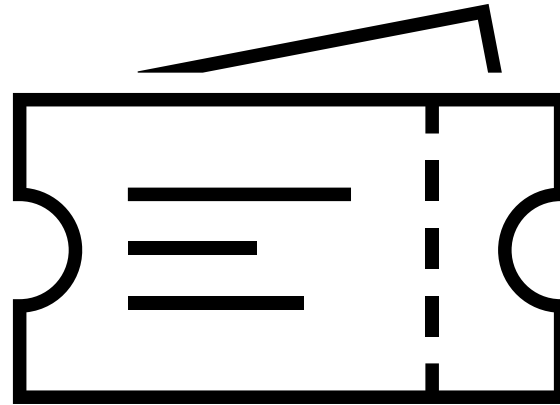
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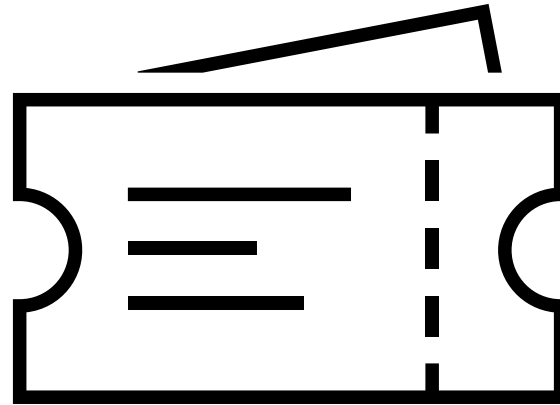
*Grade-based entry to post-secondary would be utterly changed or ended.*

**What if this is the time to do what we said we wanted?**

10 admissions



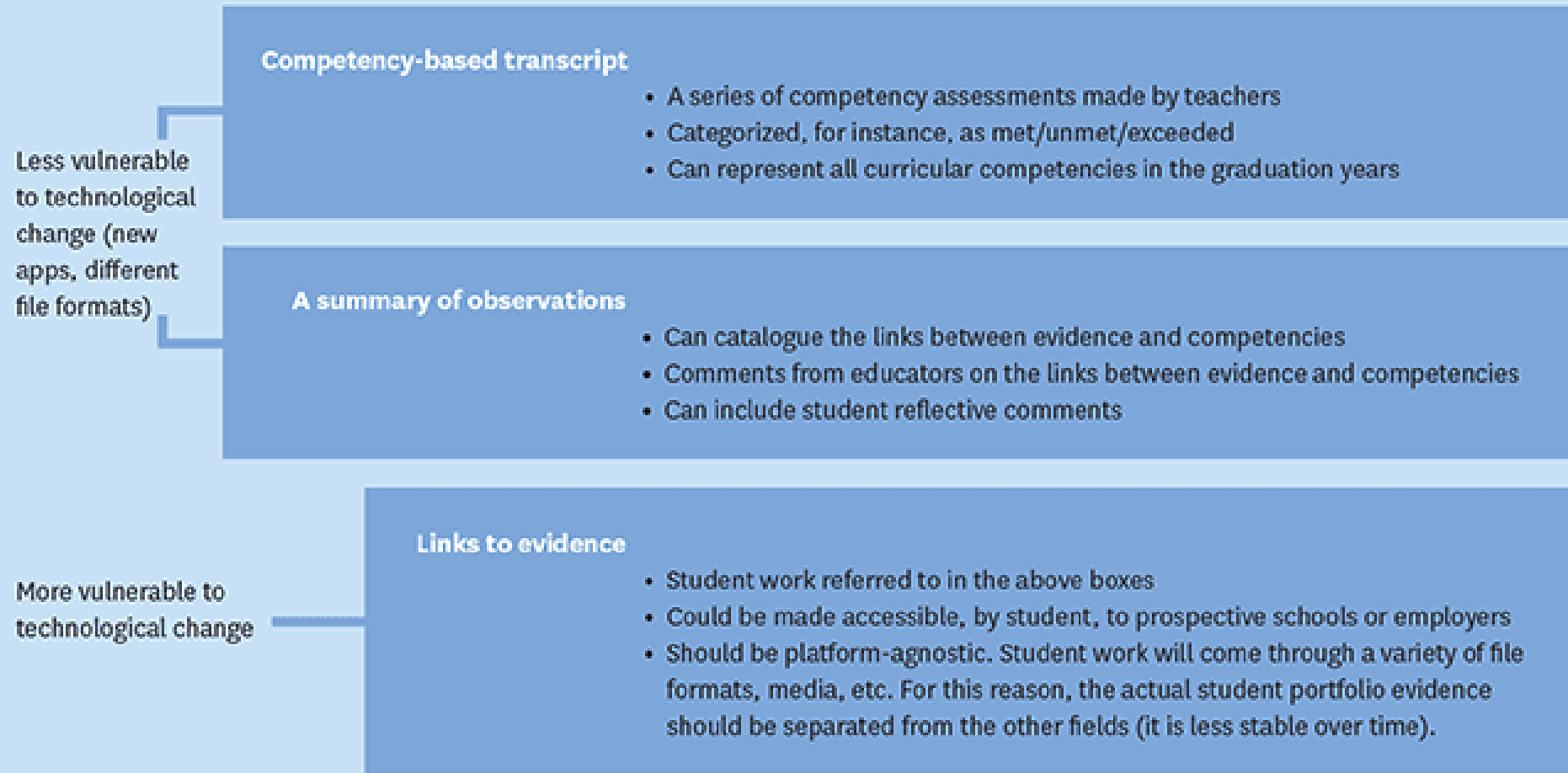
**Pretend I didn't.  
What would you show me?**



**Pretend I didn't.  
What would you show me?**



**Figure 1: A model for competency-based assessment and admission**







The Before Times

The Lockdowns

Post-Pandemic



The Before Times

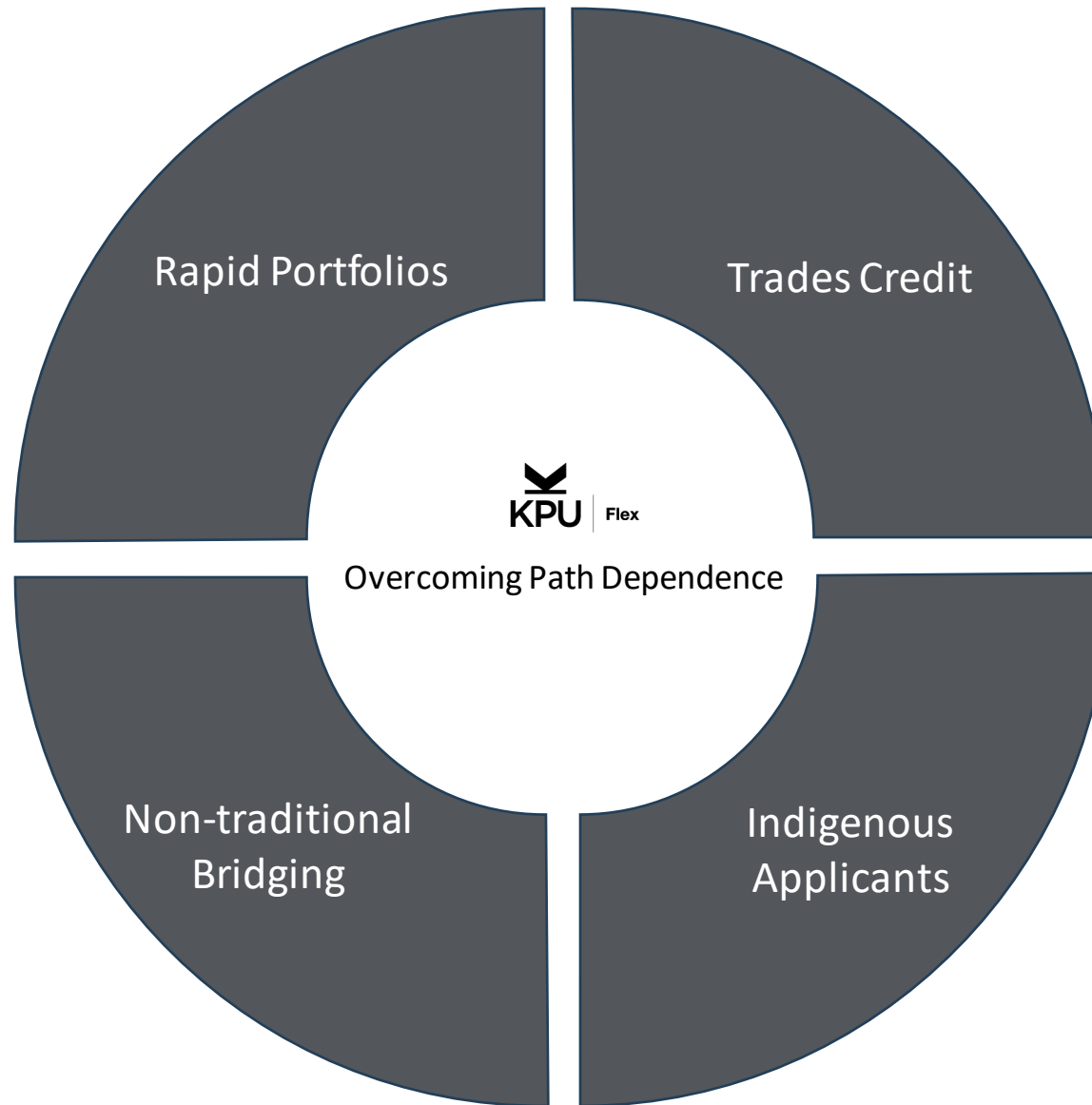
The Lockdowns

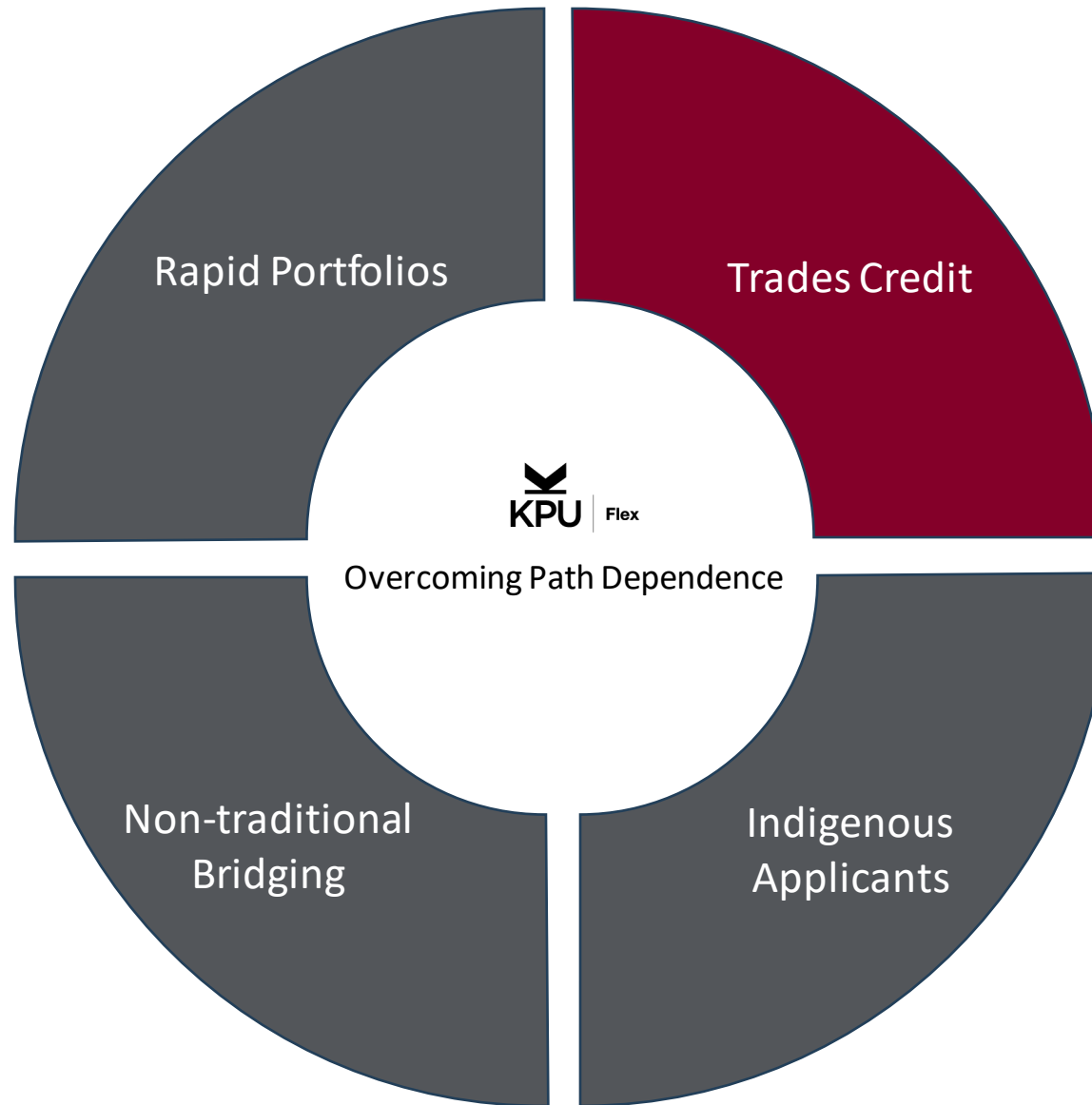
Post-Pandemic

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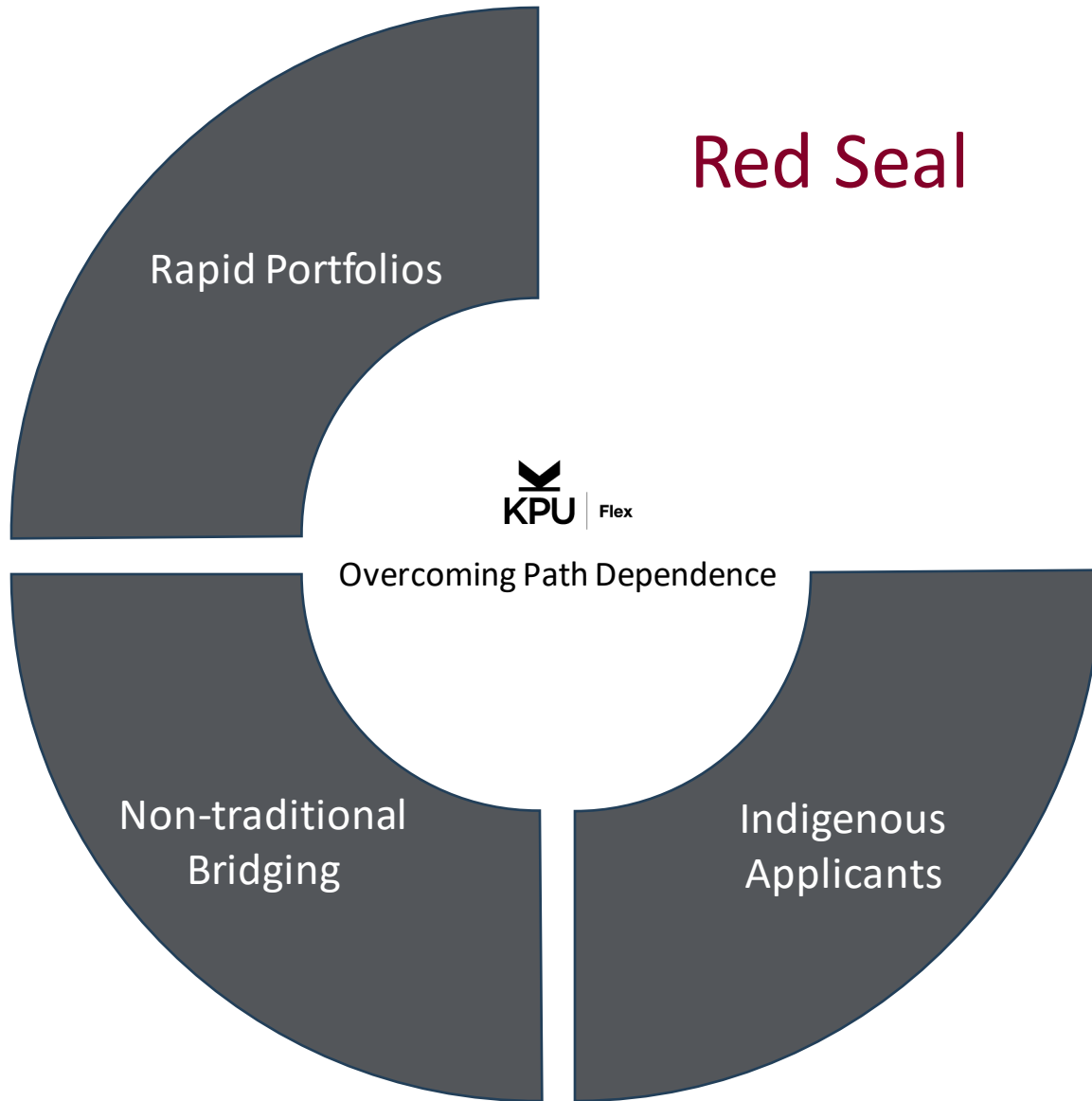
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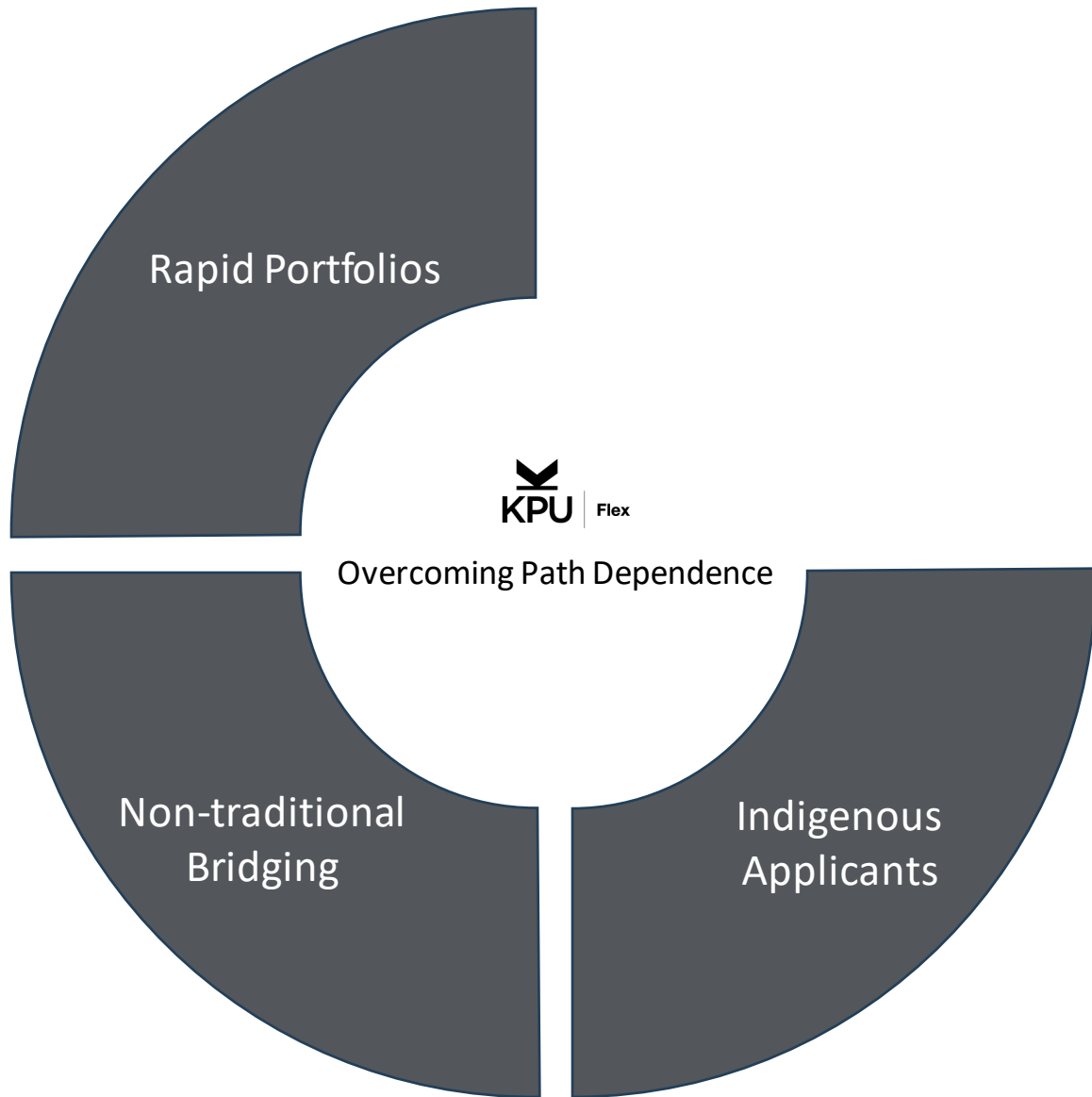
Post-Pandemic





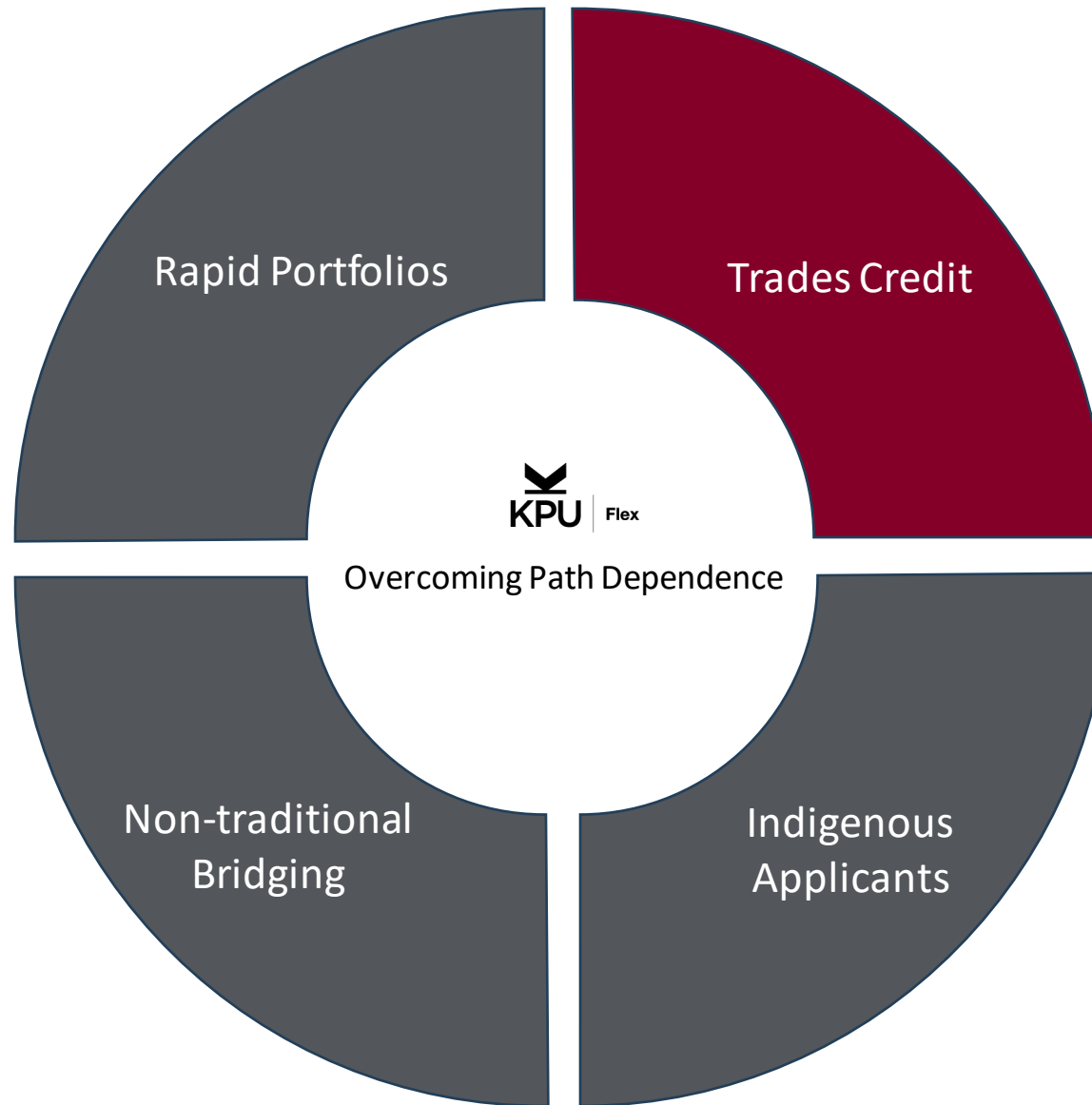
# Red Seal



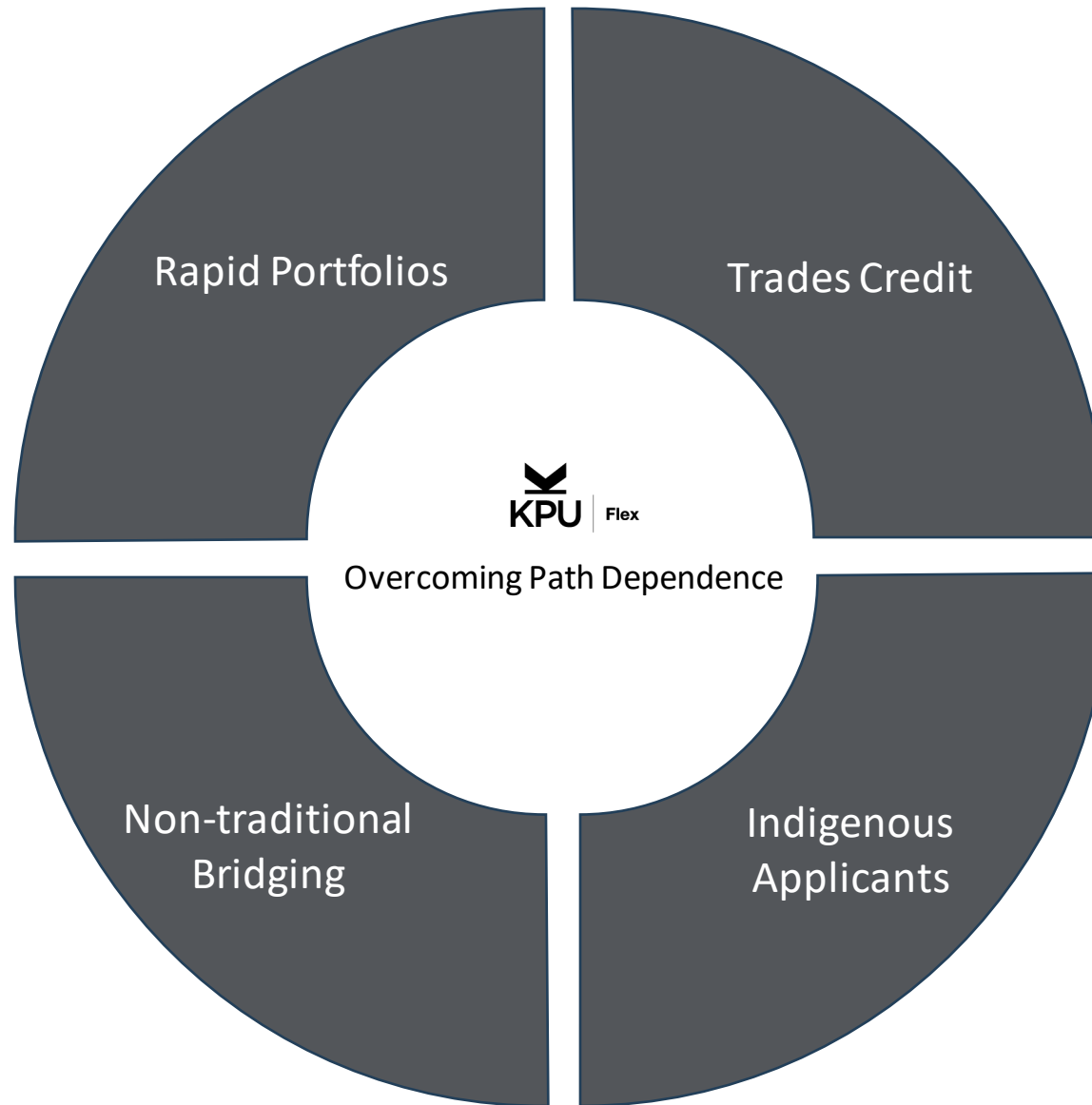


## UG Credit

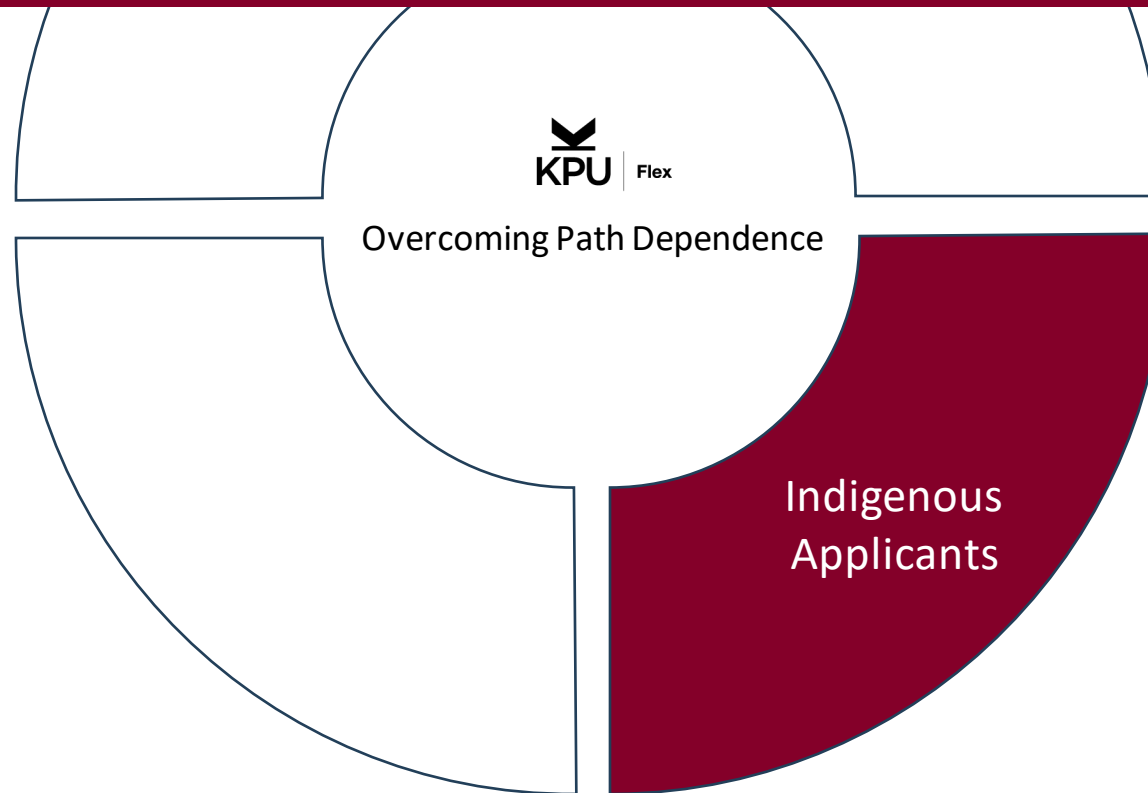


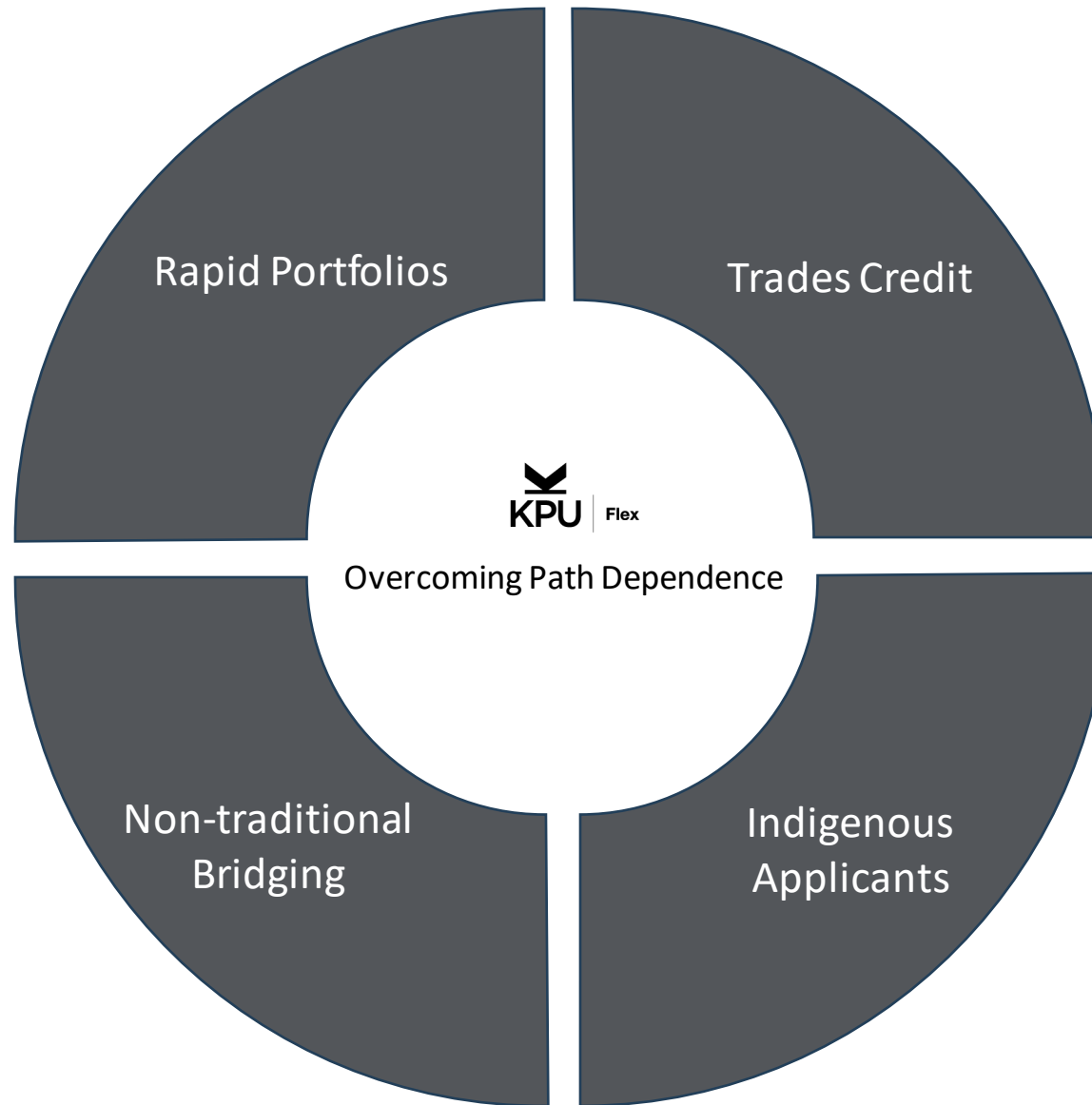


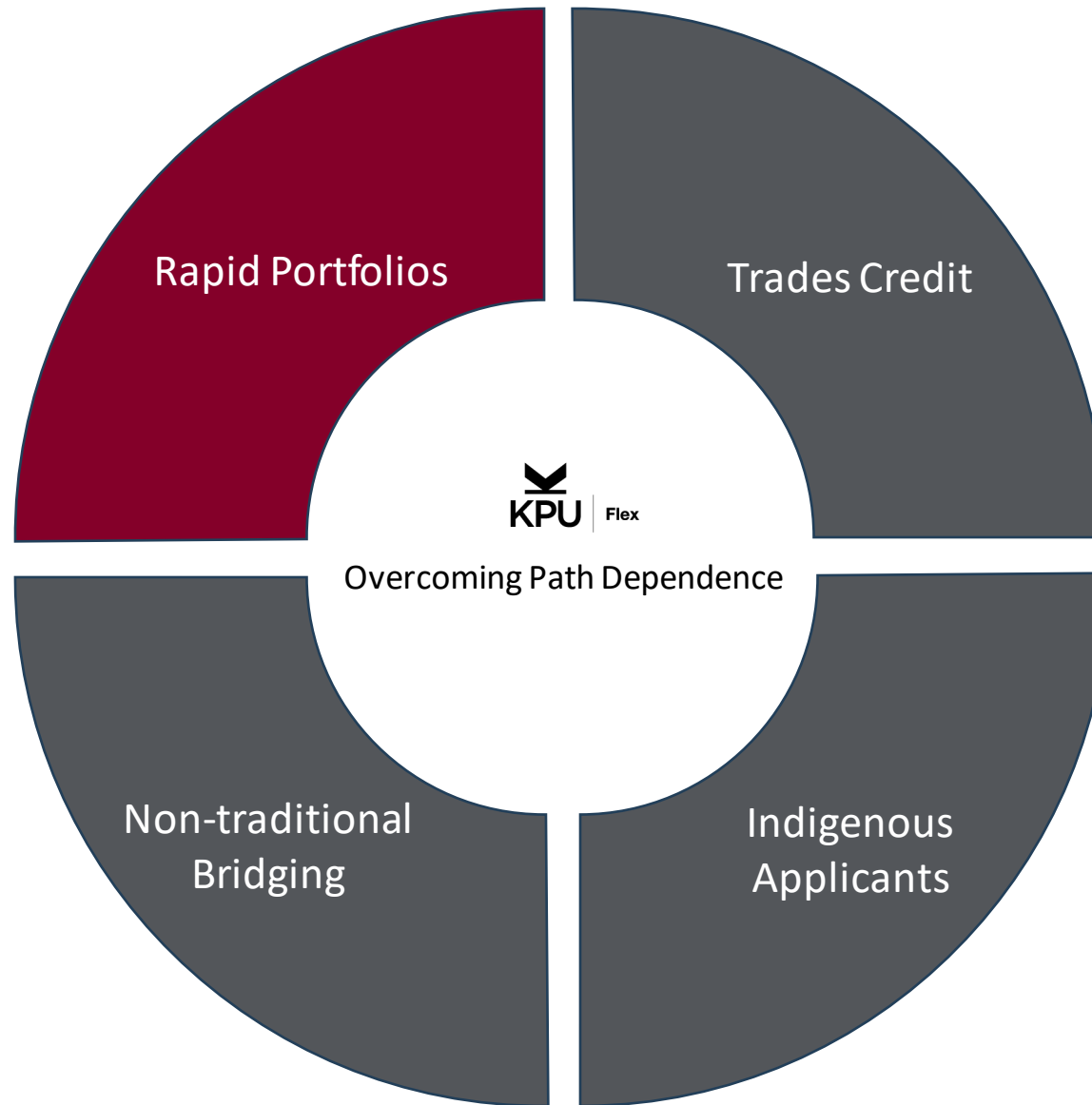




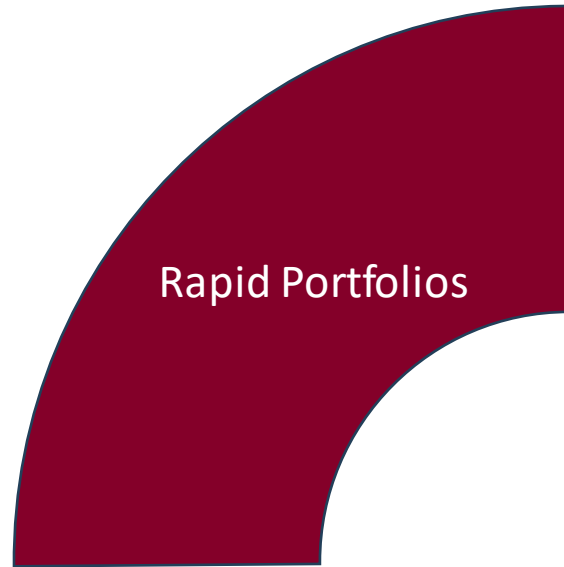
# Admission through alternative achievement demonstrations



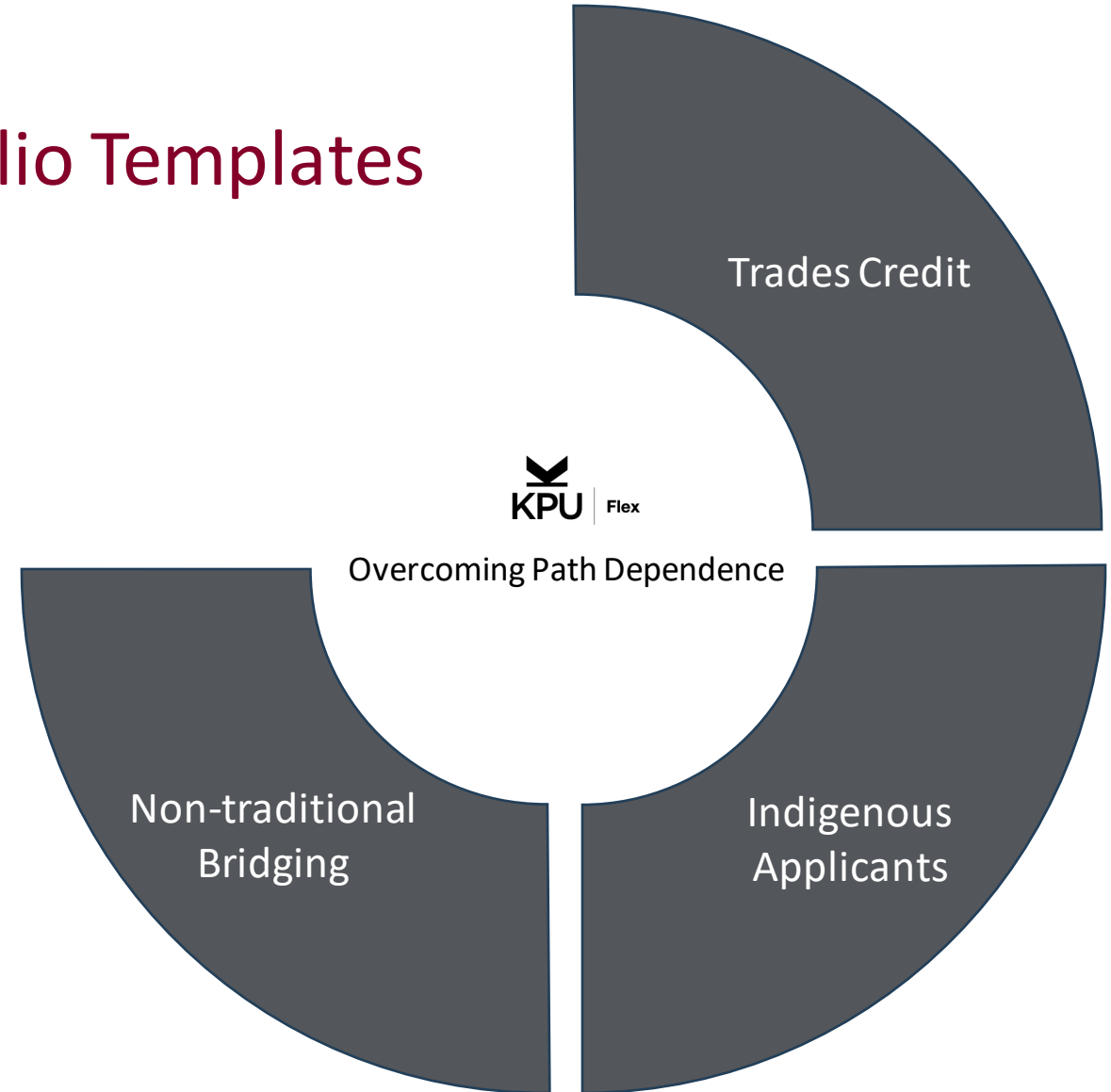




# Targeted Portfolio Templates



Rapid Portfolios



Overcoming Path Dependence

Trades Credit

Non-traditional  
Bridging

Indigenous  
Applicants

Ask instructors for courses and evidence suggestions.

Rapid Portfolios

Trades Credit



Overcoming Path Dependence

Non-traditional  
Bridging

Indigenous  
Applicants

## Going program by program.

Rapid Portfolios

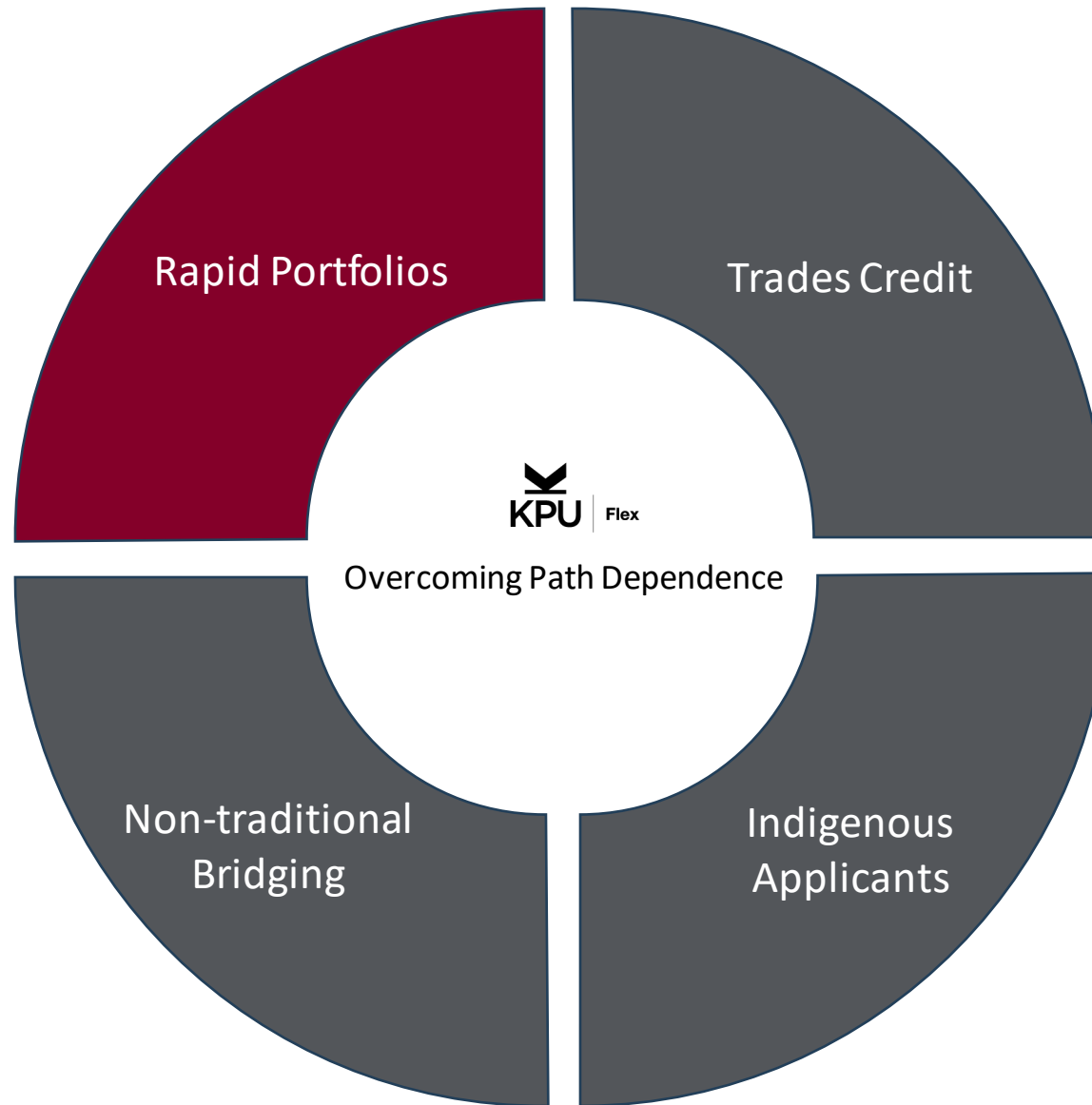
Trades Credit



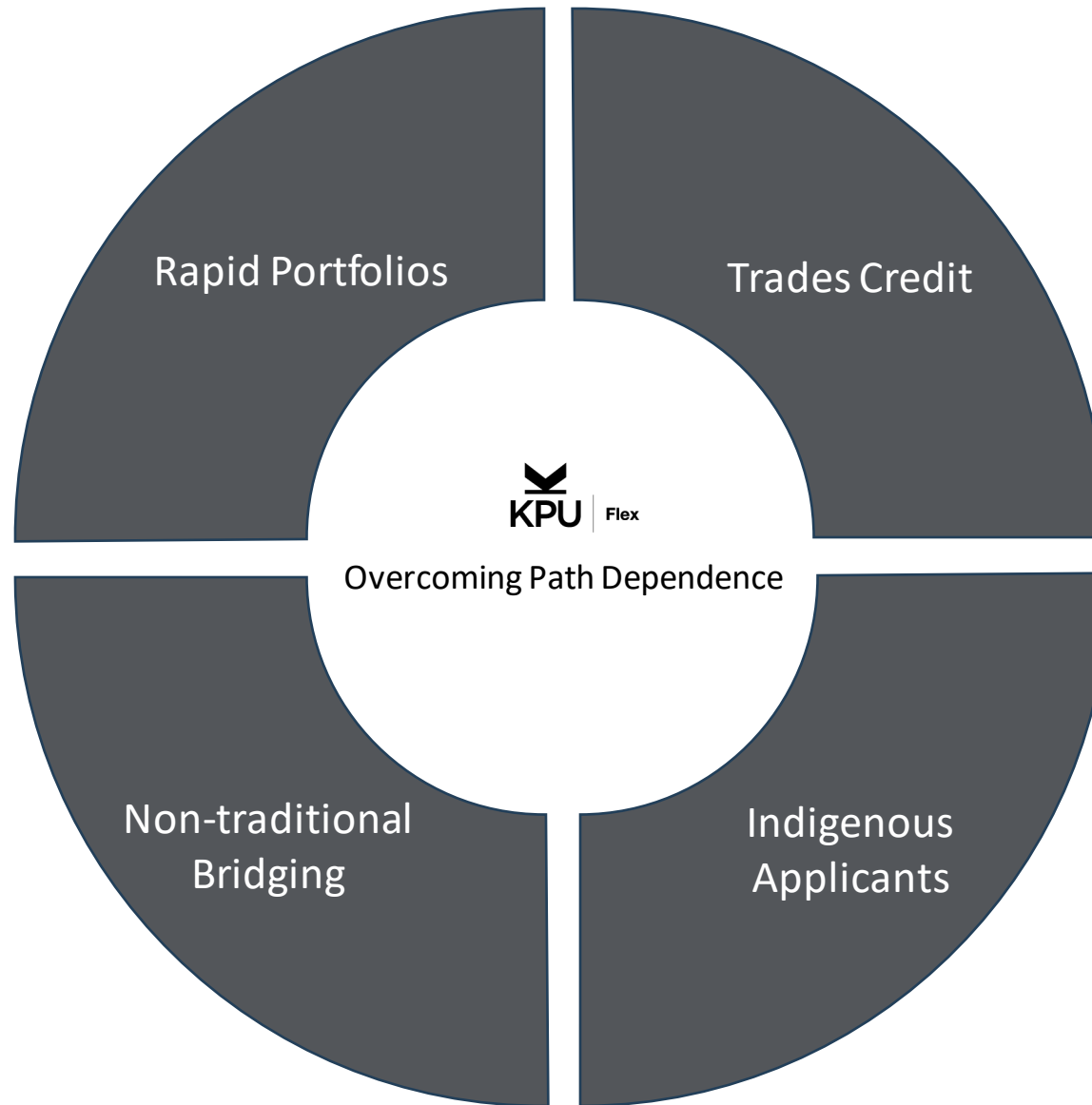
Overcoming Path Dependence

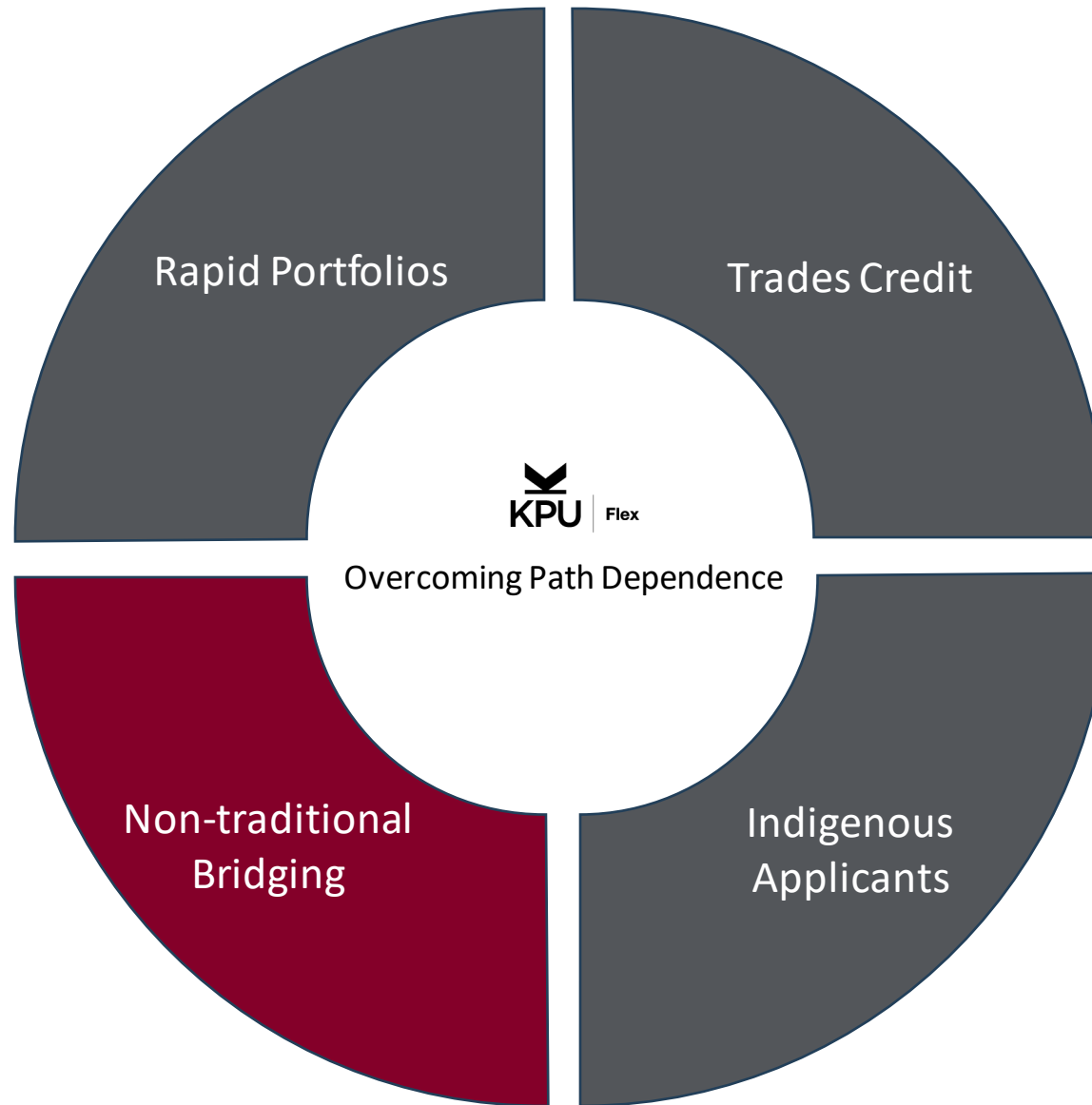
Non-traditional  
Bridging

Indigenous  
Applicants









## Overcoming Path Dependence

A large, solid maroon shape that is a quarter-circle sector, positioned on the left side of the slide.

Non-traditional  
Bridging

## Overcoming Path Dependence

Non-traditional  
Bridging

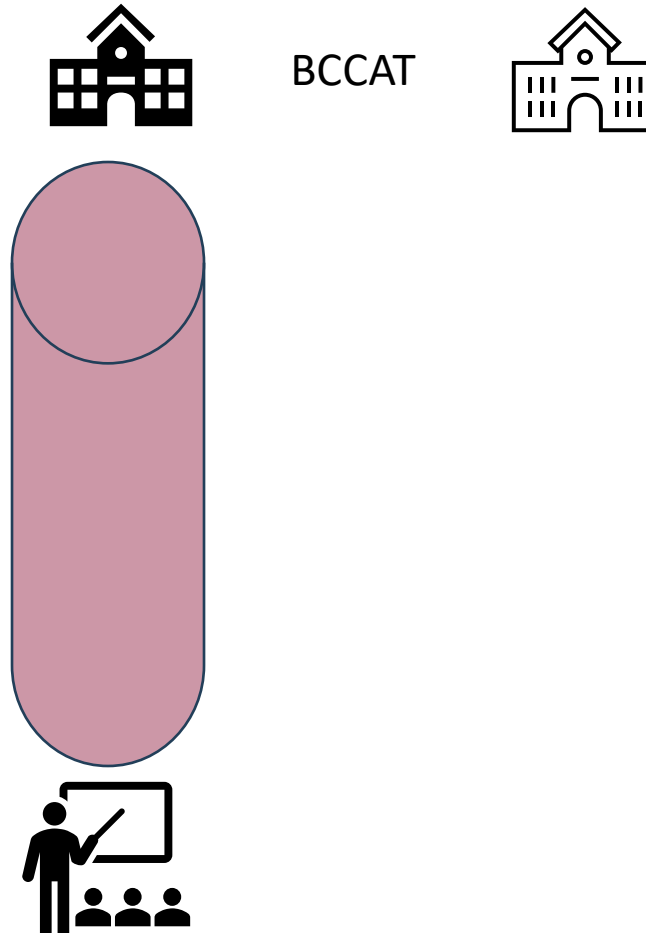


BCCAT



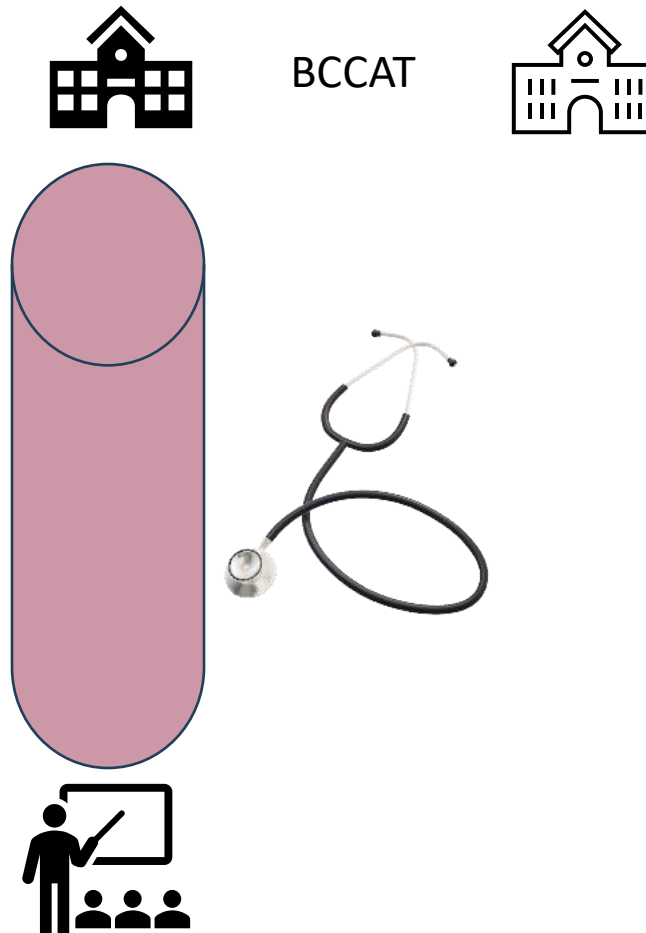
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Non-traditional  
Bridging



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Non-traditional  
Bridging



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BCCAT



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Bridging



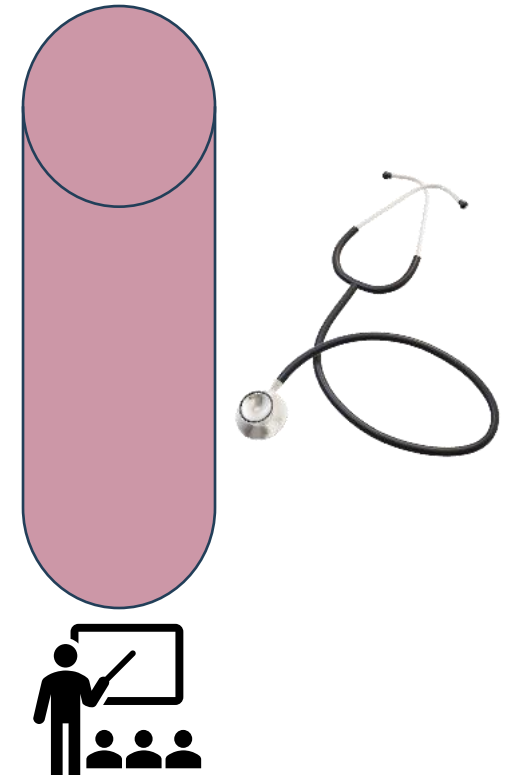
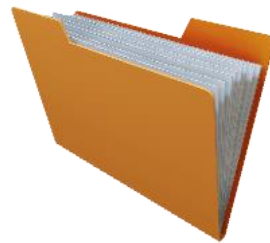
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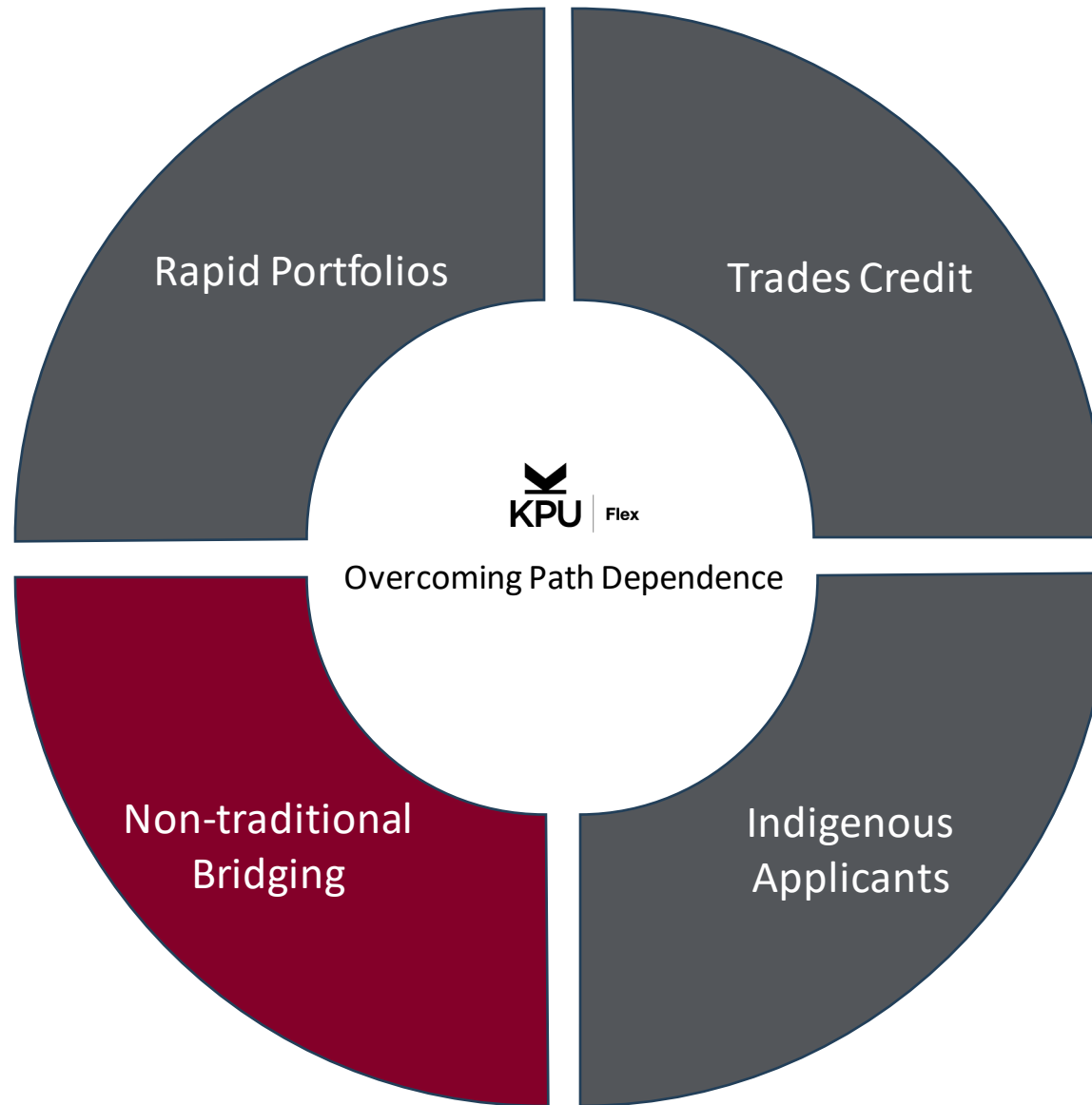
BCCAT

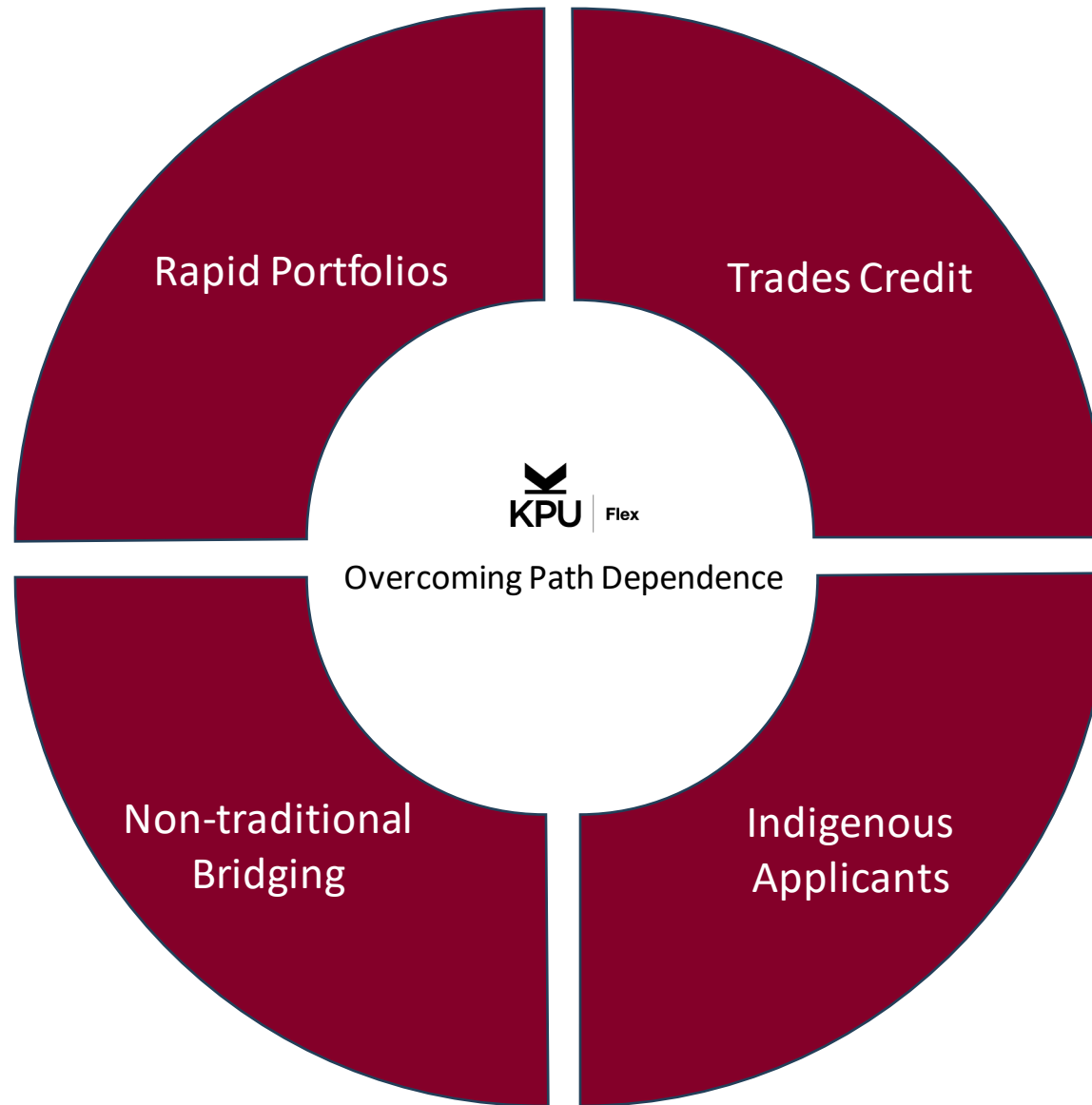


Non-traditional  
Bridging











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