

# Guidelines on the Ownership of Intellectual Property Rights in Students' Work

This note provides guidance for students at the University on the handling of intellectual property rights — that is, copyright and the right of exploitation of inventions.

If you are a student at the University, then by default all the rights in work you produce as a student belong to you. This covers written works, artistic works, and recordings. Written works include computer programs, tables and so forth, as well as more obviously 'literary' writings. In particular, you own the intellectual property rights in any Masters or PhD thesis you produce at the University.

There may be exceptions to this rule if your work has been sponsored by a commercial organisation. In such cases the University's Research and Enterprise Office helps draw up a contractual agreement with the commercial organisation concerned which will cover any special intellectual property provisions.

In the course of your student work you may produce an invention, or part of an invention, which could be commercially exploited. The intellectual property in such an invention belongs to you. However commercial exploitation is difficult and costly to achieve. The University would seek to reach an agreement with you to assist you in exploitation and share the benefits.

When you submit a postgraduate research thesis to the University, both the Library and your department have the right to keep a copy. The Library regulations summarise how the University will preserve your rights while providing for academic access to your thesis.

You can find the University Regulations governing intellectual property rights under Regulations relating to Academic Affairs, Higher Degree Regulations and Procedures, and Library Regulations.

You can find information on respecting other people's intellectual property rights on the University's IPR web pages.