



# Bitesize Guide: Intellectual Property

## What is Intellectual Property

Intellectual property (IP) is an umbrella term which is used to describe a range of legal rights that attach to certain types of information and ideas and to their particular forms of expression.

Universities and their employees need to be aware of different IP rights to ensure that they protect what they create, maximise their competitive position and avoid infringing the IP rights of other people and businesses.

Examples of types of work where intellectual property rights arise are:

- Inventions
- Literary and artistic
- Symbol, names and images used in commerce

**People often forget that intellectual property rights also arise in documents, such as reports, guides, training materials, booklets, diagrams etc.**

## Intellectual Property Rights

These fall into 2 categories:

### Registered rights

These are granted on application to an official body such as the UK Intellectual Property Office. However, even if granted, their validity can be challenged. Registered rights are monopoly rights, which means that, once registered, the owner can stop others from using the right without permission. They include patents, trade marks and registered designs.

### Unregistered rights

These arise automatically, give protection against copying or using the right, and include copyright, unregistered design rights, rights in unregistered trade marks and confidential information.

## Where to look out for it from a research and enterprise income perspective

- Where you are submitting a research bid for a project (either where the University is the lead or where the University is a partner)
- Where you are asked to carry out some research work on behalf of a Company



## Reasons to think about it

- To ensure that you are complying with the University's Policy for Managing Intellectual Property—please check the Research and Business Services intranet pages (Business and Engagement Resources>Policies, Procedures and Resources)
- To prevent third parties claiming they have intellectual property rights in the work created
- To ensure that the University protects what Principal Investigators and others working on the Project create
- To ensure that you do not inadvertently allow someone else to own your creations
- To ensure that no third parties use the University's IP without our knowledge or permission
- To ensure that you and the University can use your creations in future projects
- To ensure that the University's intellectual property is legally protected
- To determine if any revenue return or royalties can be received by the University from the outputs of your Projects
- To ensure that you or students from the University are able to publish the findings from your research or consultancy work
- To ensure that the project is properly costed taking into account intellectual property ownership and outcomes for the University
- To ensure that you clearly instruct the Legal Services Team who will be drafting up the form of contract for your projects to ensure that the maximum protection or appropriate use is given to your creations

## Legal Services contacts:

**Gillian Scribbins**

[gillian.e.scribbins@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:gillian.e.scribbins@northumbria.ac.uk)

0191 227 4089

## Research and Business Services contacts:

**Hugh Rhodes**

[hugh.rhodes@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:hugh.rhodes@northumbria.ac.uk)

0191 243 7638