

# THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

## GUIDANCE NOTE

### STUDENTS AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (Projects involving employees)

This note is for University students who may as part of their degree take part in a project involving University employees.

#### ***What is Intellectual Property (IP)?***

IP is a term used to describe the rights which protect ideas and other forms of intellectual creation. It is made up of a bundle of different rights. Some rights have to be registered to be effective, others arise automatically. IP can be split into 6 main categories as follows:

- ❖ Patents - protect inventions for products or processes
- ❖ Copyright - protects items such as written works, source code, diagrams
- ❖ Database Rights - protects collections of work or data arranged systematically
- ❖ Designs - protects designs for 3D objects or designs applied to them
- ❖ Trade Marks - protects marks used to denote the origin or quality of goods
- ❖ Know-How - not strictly IP but refers to technical, secret information protected by confidentiality arrangements.

A more detailed description of the different types of IP together with some practical examples of the sorts of things that they protect are set out in "IP and Confidentiality: A Researcher's Guide" available at <http://www.umip.com/images/download/file1.pdf> or, if you are already a University student, the University's intranet IP Awareness Resource available at <http://www.manchester.ac.uk/ipresource>.

#### ***Who owns the IP which I create?***

Rights in IP created by students of the University usually belong to the student, subject to some exceptions. Students across the University may become involved in projects where they create or contribute to inventions or other works that are capable of IP protection. IP created under projects by students where the student works on the project with one or more University employees is one of those exceptions. In such cases the student is required to transfer any IP which the student creates during such project to the University. This allows the University to protect and commercialise the IP from the project as a whole. IP which you create outside the project will be yours, subject to any other exceptions set out in the IP Policy.

#### ***Do I get any reward for the IP which I create?***

The University acknowledges the position of students who have created IP and seeks to ensure that they get proper recognition and reward as set out in its IP Policy. There is no obligation on the University to commercialise IP as its main areas of focus are teaching and research. If there are returns to the University from the commercialisation of such IP then such returns would be shared with you as the IP's creator in accordance with the University's IP Policy.

A copy of the current IP policy can be viewed at:

<http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/medialibrary/policies/intellectual-property.pdf>

The IP Policy is, however, a living document and may be subject to change by the University. Major changes are communicated to students affected by the changes.