



UNIVERSITY OF  
LINCOLN

**SECRETARIAT & LEGAL SERVICES**  
**ACADEMIC POLICY SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>NAME OF ACADEMIC POLICY:</b>	Student Created Intellectual Property Policy
<b>PURPOSE OF POLICY AND WHOM IT APPLIES TO:</b>	<p>The policy acknowledges that University students own the IP in materials that they create in the course of their studies unless there is a written agreement to the contrary. Students enrolled with the University may be required to assign their IP to the University in a number of circumstances which will require them to complete and sign a Student Intellectual Property Rights Agreement.</p> <p>The policy applies to all students.</p>
<b>RESPONSIBLE BOARD/ COMMITTEE WITH ROUTE OF APPROVAL:</b>	Academic Board approved the policy on 18 March 2009.
<b>LEAD STAFF MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS UPDATE:</b>	Dean of Research
<b>PERSONS CONSULTED IN DEVELOPING POLICY:</b>	The new policy was considered by members of Academic Board and, the Academic Affairs Committee
<b>POLICY FINALLY APPROVED BY:</b>	Academic Board on 18 March 2009
<b>DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:</b>	Immediate effect
<b>DETAIL OF DISSEMINATION:</b>	The new policy was circulated to relevant staff in July 2009 and is available on the Secretariat's portal site
<b>PROPOSED DATE OF REVIEW</b>	To be confirmed.
<b>SECRETARIAT OFFICER – MAIN CONTACT:</b>	Officer to Academic Affairs Committee
<b>DATE:</b>	26 June 2009

## UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN

### POLICY ON STUDENT CREATED INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

This policy should be read in conjunction with the University of Lincoln's overarching Policy on Intellectual Property Rights. This says:

*Para 3.5 Students of the University are covered by this policy to the extent that any part of this policy is incorporated into regulations applying to their programme of study.*

#### **Principles governing the treatment of student generated Intellectual Property (IP)**

The term "student" shall include all students registered/enrolled on University of Lincoln degree programmes or other course programmes.

The University of Lincoln acknowledges that its students own the IP in materials that they create in the course of their studies with the University unless there is a written agreement to the contrary. Students enrolled with the University may be required to assign their IP to the University in circumstances described below.

#### **IP created during research**

Research projects form a part of many degree programmes at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. Such projects are often proposed by members of academic staff and will usually be connected in some way to that academic's on-going research interests. In such cases, students may draw upon the academic's expertise or join a team to investigate one particular aspect of a much larger research programme, thereby drawing on the considerable expertise, reputation and infrastructure of the group.

In some cases the research programme may be conducted under the terms of agreements with, or research grants from, outside parties, including both commercial and non-commercial funding bodies. These terms may require that IP generated in the research programme be owned by the outside body or the University, or be licensed to the outside body.

#### **Assignment of student generated IP to the University**

In circumstances where the University determines that IP may be generated in the course of a student's participation in a research project and that it may require use or control of that IP for teaching, research or commercialisation purposes it will require such students to assign their IP to the University and to complete and sign a Student Intellectual Property Rights Agreement to give effect to such an assignment. In exchange, the University undertakes to treat students in the same way as members of staff for the purposes of the commercial exploitation of that IP. This is done by applying the University's Policy on Intellectual Property Rights and associated procedures as if students are employees.

## **Circumstances where the University will require a student to sign a Student Intellectual Property Rights Agreement:**

### **(i) Postgraduate Research Students**

Postgraduate Research Students will be required to complete and sign a Student Intellectual Property Rights Agreement to assign any IP they create in the course of their research to the University. Normally, and to achieve best practice they should sign such an agreement before they complete enrolment. In the case of existing students who have enrolled without assigning their IP they should be requested to sign a Student Intellectual Property Rights Agreement as soon as possible.

### **(ii) Undergraduate and taught postgraduate students**

Undergraduate and taught postgraduate students will not be required to assign their IP to the University before they complete enrolment. However prior to them embarking on research projects which the University considers to have the potential to generate commercially exploitable IP they will be required to sign a Student Intellectual Property Rights Agreement. The faculty in which the student is enrolled will act for the University in determining whether and when a student should sign a Student Intellectual Property Rights Agreement. Advice on this matter will be available to faculties from Enterprise@Lincoln.

## **Commercialisation of IP owned by a student**

Students may at any time approach the University with a view to seeking support for the commercialisation of IP belonging to them. This will generally involve the Student assigning ownership and exploitation rights in the IP to the University. In consideration for this assignment, the Student will benefit under the University's Policy on Intellectual Property Rights and associated procedures as if s/he is a member of Staff.

Students should consult with their supervisor or tutor in the first instance on any matter relating to this Policy.

Enterprise@Lincoln can advise on general principles of commercialisation of IP and give more specific assistance once assignment of student IP to the University has taken place.

## **Regulations, handbooks, offers and induction**

The University of Lincoln will update all relevant regulations, handbooks, offers and induction programmes to incorporate reference to this policy.

The parties shall do everything reasonably required to give full effect to the rights given and the transactions covered by the policy.