

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (IP) POLICY

Principle

1. Edinburgh Napier University recognises the importance of Intellectual Property (IP) and is committed to encouraging and incentivising the development and exploitation of IP by members of staff and/or students. The University seeks to build an open, complementary and collaborative approach to exploitation of IP, in order to support our research and knowledge exchange activities and maximise benefit to the University, its staff, students and external parties.

Responsibilities

2. Schools within the University are responsible for the development and exploitation of IP relevant to their discipline. The Research and Innovation Office (RIO) maintains structures and procedures to evaluate and take forward opportunities for exploitation of IP and provides support to staff and students in relation to the promotion, protection and commercialisation of IP.

Intellectual Property Definition

3. Intellectual Property, generated and owned by the University, includes but is not limited to the following; inventions, patents, designs and design rights, copyright material, research results, trademarks, teaching materials, know-how, composition, article of manufacture, technical specification or drawing.

Ownership of Intellectual Policy

4. Edinburgh Napier University, under UK legislation, is the automatically assumed owner of all IP created or developed by employees of the University or anyone conducting work for the University during the course of their normal contractual duties or as a result of a task assigned by the University. IP created whilst in receipt of University funds or other resource and work by any postgraduate research (PsGR) student during the course of their studies is also owned by the University.
5. The University does not usually claim ownership of copyright in scholarly works (e.g. published textbooks or journal articles) and promotes the open dissemination of research outputs in accordance with the University's open access policy.
6. IP generated solely by undergraduate (UG) or taught postgraduate (TPG) students during the course of their studies remains the property of the student. Where there is joint ownership of the IP with an employee of the University, such students will be asked to assign IP to the University and be offered revenue-sharing arrangements in line with (8).
7. Ownership of IP which is introduced or created as a result of an externally funded project, of any type, is bound by the specific conditions contained within the corresponding agreement. The University promotes mutually beneficial agreements, favourable to all parties.

Exploitation of IP

8. IP may be commercialised in a number of ways including but not limited to, selling, licensing or by the creation of a spin-out company. Any member of staff or postgraduate research student, who has created University IP that has generated a commercial return, may be party to a revenue sharing agreement, to promote the fair distribution of income or royalties received from an external party, as a result of the exploitation of University IP.

This policy applies to University staff, students and to external parties working with the University.