

Policy Statement on Intellectual Property (including Inventions) and Results that may arise from taught students who undertake a research project led by University staff:

Policy on ownership and use

This Policy statement was approved by ULTSEC at its meeting on the 6 March 2013 and by UEB on 16 April 2013.

Context.

Each year a significant number of undergraduate and taught postgraduate students, “Taught Students”, will be given the opportunity as part of their student experience to undertake a research project alongside University researchers. These projects can involve partner organisations and external financial support provided under contractual terms and/or involve other researchers and/or have the potential to generate intellectual property which could be of benefit to society. In order to provide the students with this valuable experience and to avoid breaching contract terms agreed with third parties it is essential that the University is clear as to how it would require intellectual property to be treated in such cases. It is considered that the appropriate route is through a formal University Policy which is part of the regulations accepted by students of the University.

Whilst Taught Students are working alongside University staff undertaking research, the University is keen to ensure that they have the opportunity to integrate into the project teams. Accordingly, the University would wish to treat such students as if they were members of the University’s staff in terms of academic acknowledgement and reward should opportunities for commercialisation arise.

It is not the intention of this policy to restrict or in any way inhibit the ability of Taught Students to engage in their educational activities as registered students including research that is conducted independently but supervised and guided by an academic member of University staff as part of their studies.

As a Policy Statement, it does not aim to deal exhaustively with all possibilities, but sets a framework within which decisions can be reached in individual cases. Any dispute concerning the interpretation and application of this Policy will normally be referred to the Director of Research and Enterprise Services in the first instance.

Policy Statement on Taught Student Involvement in Research Projects led by University Academic Staff.

In order to permit involvement in major research projects led by University Academic staff to students undertaking taught programmes it is necessary that we align the basis for student involvement in such work with that relating to University staff.

Taught Students who register with Newcastle University accept that, should they be afforded the opportunity to be involved in research projects led by University academic staff, they would:

- treat all information received through the project as confidential and only disclose such results as are agreed with the Principal Investigator on the Project; and
- transfer to the University on completion of their involvement in the Project any and all interest they may have in intellectual property rights (e.g. patents, copyright) generated by the Taught Student alone or jointly with others.

In consideration of the above the University agrees that:

- the Taught Student will be appropriately acknowledged on any publications that arise from the project in line with academic practice; and
- in the event that the Taught Student made an inventive contribution which led to the filing of a patent application or generated software of commercial interest s/he will benefit from a share of any commercial revenues that the University receives in accordance with its policy on commercial revenue sharing with its own academic staff.

To heighten awareness, the programme should reinforce awareness of this policy during the appropriate induction session and through documentation provided to students in support of such opportunities.

Where Taught Students are offered this opportunity they will be reminded of the applicability of this policy by the project supervisor, to which they will have already agreed through registration, as part of dissertation/project approval and be required to confirm that they wish to proceed as part of that approval process.

Intellectual Property as dealt with under this policy would not apply to the creation of or contribution towards literary and artistic works.

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