

# HARPER ADAMS UNIVERSITY

## Intellectual Property Policy

### Purpose and Definitions

1. **Policy Objective:** The overriding aim of the Policy is to use knowledge gained through research and other day to day activities at Harper Adams University to benefit the wider community, and whilst doing so, obtain a commercial return that can be reinvested in the University. To achieve this objective the University will identify intellectual property arising from its activities and secure Intellectual Property Protection as appropriate.
2. **IP Definition:** Intellectual Property (IP) can be defined as the output of intellectual activity, endeavour or creativity and forms the basis for protecting information, ideas and developments. Examples of IP include inventions, novel ideas, designs, trademarks and copyright material.
3. **IP Protection:** Intellectual Property can be protected by law through copyright, trademarks, patent and design protection. It is the policy of Harper Adams University to encourage, facilitate and exploit IP with a view to maximising the benefit for the University, its staff, students and society in general.
4. **IP Ownership:** IP generated by those working at Harper Adams University in the course of their work belongs to Harper Adams University [Patents Act 1977, Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988].

### The Generation of Intellectual Property

5. **By staff:** Harper Adams University provides the infrastructure, environment and other support processes that enable staff and students to use their specialist knowledge to transform their ideas to a point where they can be commercially exploited. In view of this symbiotic relationship Harper Adams University expects that any exploitation of IP will be in collaboration with the employee(s) generating the IP and that any benefits will be shared. This will include, for example, income from licensing agreements, assignment or sale of IP and royalty streams. On occasion the University may transfer rights to the individual generating the intellectual property, for example, when an academic book is produced.
6. **By students:** Intellectual property generated by students in the course of their studies and research will be the property of Harper Adams University if the University has provided funding or other resources (for example, but not limited to, staff time beyond normal project supervision or the use of specialist equipment) in support of the research or the student. Students will be asked to sign an agreement assigning first ownership rights to Harper Adams University.

In cases where the University has entered into a third party agreement/contract with an external sponsor that is supporting a student research project, the student will be exempt from assigning intellectual property rights to the University, and the provisions of the agreement/contract relating to intellectual property will take precedence. Where the agreement/contract states that the

7. **Third Party Contracts:** Research, development and other work funded by a third party must be the subject of an approved agreement between the parties. This agreement must clarify the

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