UQ's Intellectual Property Policy - PPL 4.10.13

Information for Students

What is intellectual property?
Intellectual property or IP is the product of your creativity and intellectual efforts, often an idea about how to do something in a new way. IP is like personal property – it can be owned, sold (assigned) and rented (licensed). IP can be valuable, and can be protected by law and legal agreements. Legal categories of IP include patents for inventions, copyright in a written work such as thesis or journal article, trade marks for words or phrases, new designs of products, software and circuit layouts, and new plant varieties.

What are the student’s rights in relation to IP?
You own the IP you create during your studies at UQ, including your thesis, unless certain situations apply. These situations often arise if non-UQ parties provide resources to projects or give scholarships.

For example:
- Employers own the IP created by their employees. If you are employed as a research assistant, then UQ will own your IP created in that role.
- Students often create IP in collaboration with their UQ supervisor so this IP will be jointly owned between you and UQ (as your supervisor’s employer) to allow UQ to manage the IP.
- If an industry or commercial body funds your project, then they may want to own or receive a licence to your IP in return for the money they contribute.
- If a hospital or other research institution allows you to conduct your studies on their premises, with their patients or facilities, then they may receive a licence to your IP in return for this access.

Where someone else needs to own your IP created during your study at UQ, such as in the above situations, then UQ will ask you to sign a Student IP and Confidentiality Agreement (SIPCA).

What’s in the SIPCA?
The SIPCA requires:
- Student to give ownership of IP to UQ.
- Keep confidential information confidential.
- Provide UQ with a complete copy of all project data at the end of your project or your study at UQ.

You may be required to sign a SIPCA as a condition of enrolment so ensure UQ can ensure students can immediately commence studies or projects.

If your IP leads to commercial benefit, you will receive a share of the net commercialisation returns which are earned in accordance with the UQ policy.

Is there anything I need to watch out for?
If you have a non-UQ scholarship (such as a scholarship from your employer or another industry entity) you may have already assigned your IP. You can still study at UQ, but please talk to your UQ supervisor to manage any issues.

More information

Independent advice
You can seek independent legal advice by making an appointment with the UQ Student Lawyer:

UQ Policy on Intellectual Property:
For more information, see the full UQ IP Policy PPL 4.10.13. Always discuss any concerns about IP or confidentiality with your project or study supervisor. https://ppl.app.uq.edu.au/content/4.10.13-intellectual-property-staff-students-and-visitors#Procedures.

Student charter
The UQ IP policy is incorporated by reference to the Student Charter conditions of enrolment of Students.