

4.d. Intellectual Property and Research Commercialization

Subject	Research and Scholarly Activities	Effective From	Sep - 2011
Policy #	4.d.	Latest Revision	Feb - 2025
Title of The Policy	Intellectual Property and Research Commercialization	Next Review	Dec - 2025
Responsible Entity	University Management	Policy Pages	8
Definitions	Administration Materials: Means any material or documentation in any format (such as policies, procedures, business plans, contracts, subject outlines, Course outlines, examination documents, funding applications, reports, promotional brochures, business processes, software) that has been developed for the purposes of University administration, performance evaluation, marketing and legal services Artistic Works: Means a painting, sculpture, drawing, engraving, photograph or other similar work in any medium. Commercialize or Commercialization: Means to make, sell, copy, adapt, apply, publish, develop, license, franchise or otherwise exploit for the purpose of generating financial or other commercial gain or benefit. Computer Works: Means a computer program as defined by the UAE Copyright Law, Federal Law No. 40, 1992 as amended or replaced. Confidential Information: Means any information whether or not in a material form that the owner treats as confidential or which a recipient should be aware is confidential and includes: • information about an invention prior to the filing of a patent application; • un-patentable inventions, discoveries, knowledge, methods, processes and techniques; • trade secrets and know-how; • all information related to a patentable invention but not included in a patent application Course: Means a unit of study given by or on behalf of the University to any Student. Course of Employment: Means for an Employee the scope of duties set out in the terms and conditions of any workplace agreement of Al Ain University (AAU), the position description or duty statement or other agreement between the Employee and the University as at the time the Intellectual Property is created. Course Materials: Means all copyright material in any medium that is used for the purpose of instruction in a Course including but not limited to material used by the University as part of external study packages. Course Materials do not include material that is prepared by an Employee and used solely for personal use of that Employee in delivering Course tuition. Employee: Includes academic and professional staff employed by the University as full-time, part-time or casual. Intellectual Property: Means all proprietary rights in copyright, patentable and non-patentable inventions including field and laboratory books relating to such inventions, plant		

	varieties, registered and unregistered trademarks, registered and unregistered designs, Confidential Information, circuit layouts and all other rights of intellectual property resulting from intellectual activity in the industrial, scientific, literary or artistic fields. Moral Rights: Has the meaning ascribed to that term in the UAE Copyright Law, Federal Law No. 40, 1992. Net Revenues: Means the total of cash income and revenues received from the Commercialization of Intellectual Property, including royalties and license fees less all expenses incurred by the University in respect of Commercialization including legal costs and the costs of protecting, marketing and defending the Intellectual Property Office of External Relations: Means the University Organizational Unit constituted under that name or any successor thereto. Organizational Unit: Refers to a discrete budgetary, administrative or academic organizational unit within the University. It includes faculties, departments, research centers and administrative units. Originator: Includes an author, creator or inventor of Intellectual Property. Scholarly Material: Means any article, book, manual, musical composition, creative writing or like publication or any digital or electronic version of the same that contains material written by an Employee based on that Employee's scholarship, learning or research but does not include work that is a Computer Work, Course Materials or Administration Material. Student: Means a person enrolled in a Course or a program of study at the University. University: Al Ain University University Project: Means any independent program of research administered by the University which has the potential to generate Intellectual Property and which may include a program that is: • Funded by an external organization; or • Funded by a specific allocation of University funds or resources above that which is ordinarily provided to an Organizational Unit; or • Created by a team involving a Student and at least one University Employee; or • The subject of an agreement between the University and a third party. University Resources: Means University infrastructure and includes equipment, information technology, technical and administrative support, financial, human and legal resources. Visitor: Means any person other than an Employee or Student who takes part in a University Project or who visits any part of the University in which scholarship research or a related activity is conducted at the time they create Intellectual Property. It includes an adjunct, honorary, voluntary or similar appointment.
Purpose	To establish a structure for the ownership, reporting, identification, management and commercialization of Intellectual Property.
Scope	This policy applies to: • All professional and academic employees whether full-time, part time, continuing, fixed term or casual. • Visiting and adjunct academics

	• Students of the University
Statement	The University seeks to provide an environment for the encouragement of creative work, the dissemination of knowledge and the advancement of teaching, learning and research. Intellectual Property created out of these activities is recognized by the University as a valuable asset. The University adheres to the principle that knowledge and ideas should be made available within the public domain for the benefit of the entire community but this must be balanced with the recognition of the importance of Commercialization of Intellectual Property for and on behalf of the University for a financial return. This policy seeks to facilitate, where appropriate, the Commercialization of Intellectual Property created by the University's Employees and Students. The University recognizes that Employees and Students as Originators are entitled to an equitable share of any financial returns from such Commercialization.
Procedures	<u>Ownership of Intellectual Property</u> <u>Intellectual Property created by Employees</u> The University, as an employer owns all Intellectual Property invented, created, made or designed by an Employee in the Course of Employment. This includes copyright in any material that is: Course Material; Computer Works; Administration Material; or Material created at the express request or direction of the University. An Employee may be required to sign an agreement to formally record AAU's ownership of AAU Intellectual Property, in particular to enable patent applications to be made. This includes agreements where an Employee is engaged on a University Project. Ownership of copyright in Scholarly Material or Artistic Works produced by an Employee shall remain with that Employee unless it is commissioned by the University as part of the Employee's duties or created as part of a contractual obligation between AAU and a third party. Where the University owns a copyright work created by an Originator (including Course Materials), the Originator may request a license to use the Intellectual Property in that work. Where the Originator wishes to use that Intellectual Property for purposes outside the Course of Employment, the University reserves the right to grant a non-exclusive license on conditions, or to not grant a license, if it considers the University interests, including Commercialization of the Intellectual Property would be adversely affected by such a grant. The University does not seek to claim ownership over any Intellectual Property created by an Employee outside the Course of Employment provided no use of University Resources has been used to generate that Intellectual Property. If University resources are used, then the University reserves the right to claim a negotiated percentage ownership of that Intellectual Property. Employees who bring existing Intellectual Property to AAU to be used in the Course of Employment, must provide evidence of ownership when disclosing that Intellectual Property to the University. This ensures their ownership and contribution to Intellectual Property development at AAU will be recognized.

Intellectual Property created by Students

The University makes no automatic claim to ownership of Intellectual Property created independently by Students who are not Employees of the University.

A Student may be required to assign his/her Intellectual Property rights as a pre-condition to involvement in a University Project. An assignment of Intellectual Property rights by a Student must not however be made a condition of enrolment in the University.

It is the responsibility of the head of a University Project to advise a Student he/she may be required to assign Intellectual Property rights. The deanship of scientific research will be responsible for coordinating advice to the Student to seek independent legal advice on the implications of an assignment.

The University, as part of any assignment of a Student's Intellectual Property rights, may impose restrictions on examination and publication of the Student's thesis in order to allow time to put in place protections for any Intellectual Property generated from a University Project. Notwithstanding, a Student shall be entitled to have any restrictions on publication removed within 24 months unless the University can provide reasonable evidence that the restriction should continue for a further period.

Any assignment of Intellectual Property rights by a Student will not affect ownership of copyright in a Student's thesis even if the Student is an Employee.

Where a Student has assigned Intellectual Property to the University under this Policy, the Student will be treated no less favorably than an Originator who is an Employee.

If an Employee is also enrolled as a Student and the subject matter of the Student's research is created by the Student in the Course of Employment, then the University, as the employer, will own the Intellectual Property in that research, subject always to thesis ownership arrangements.

Intellectual Property created by Visitors

Agreements relating to a Visitor's work at the University including ownership rights relating to Intellectual Property created during such work, must be agreed and signed prior to the commencement of the work. Intellectual Property created by a Visitor involved in a University Project will be owned by the University or owned in accordance with any agreement governing the conduct of that University Project. An agreement, assigning any such Intellectual Property will be required before the Visitor commences work on the University Project or uses University owned Intellectual Property.

Visitors participating in a University Project have an obligation to report the creation of Intellectual Property or inventions.

Visitors are required to keep confidential information confidential and such obligations will be contained in an agreement relating to the Visitor's work at the University.

Confidential Information

Employees, Students and Visitors who receive University Confidential Information must not disclose that information without express consent from the University. If required by operation of the law to make a disclosure, the Employee, Student or Visitor will first inform the University prior to making the disclosure.

Moral Rights

The University recognizes the right of an Originator to be acknowledged as the creator of Intellectual Property, and the right to object to derogatory treatment of that Intellectual Property. The University will take all reasonable steps to ensure that the Moral rights of the Originator are respected and to endeavor that others respect those Rights.

	Subject to any contracted obligation to which the University is a party, the use of the whole or part of the work of an Originator shall be appropriately acknowledged in accordance with academic practices. The University recognizes that Moral Rights are personal in nature and cannot be sold or licensed or assigned and vest in the Originator irrespective of his/her employment status and ownership of copyright in the materials. <u>Decisions as to Commercial Exploitation</u> <u>Obligations to Make Disclosures of Intellectual Property</u> An Originator who creates any Intellectual Property reasonably capable of Commercialization and to which the University must report, as soon as possible after its creation: report that fact to the head of their Organizational Unit and to the Office of External Relations; and provide full details of the Intellectual Property created and the names of the Originators in a form prescribed by the University through the Office of External Relations ; and provide sufficient details in the disclosure to enable the Office of External Relations to make an assessment of the value of the Intellectual Property; and take all reasonable steps to protect the Intellectual Property pending a decision by the University. No public disclosures such as publication or presentations or submissions to journals or conference abstracts should be made unless authorized. Where there is any doubt as to whether Intellectual Property may be capable of Commercialization, it is the responsibility of the Originator to see clarification from the Office of External Relations. <u>Investigation of Commercial Viability</u> The Office of External Relations will in conjunction with the Originator, undertake a preliminary investigation to determine patentability of the Intellectual Property as well as its Commercialization viability. The Office of External Relations shall also be responsible for applying for any provisional patent on an invention. If the Office of External Relations and/or the Originator(s) believe(s) that the confidentiality of certain information must be maintained in order for Intellectual Property to be protected or successfully exploited, the head of the Organizational Unit shall: consult with the Originator and any other relevant parties; and Determine a time when publications of the information may take place. <u>Reporting on Intellectual Property</u> The Office of External Relations must report to the Dean of Scientific Research at least every four (4) months: all details of disclosures made in the preceding four (4) months its proposed strategies on Commercialization, protection and viability; the costs incurred on individual patents, the status of commercial agreements associated with patents; and recommendation for maintenance/termination of any patents. <u>Recommendation of Strategies for Protection of Intellectual Property</u> The Office of External Relations shall be responsible for recommending strategies for protection of all Intellectual Property to Dean of Scientific Research & Graduate Studies. Proposals for Commercialization and protection of Intellectual Property shall take into account of the University budgetary provisions. Management of Intellectual Property
--	--

	protection will be undertaken by the Office of External Relations. Any decision relating to Commercialization will be made on the basis of appropriate legal, financial and commercial advice. Where possible the Office of External Relations will consult with the Originator(s) but shall be under no obligation to do so. <u>Procedures for Commercialization decision making</u> If, with respect to a disclosure of Intellectual Property, the University makes no decision by the end of a twelve (12) month period from the disclosure date or in the case of a provisional patent from the date of filing; or decides at any time prior to the relevant period in the dot point above the University does not wish to protect or Commercially exploit the reported Intellectual Property, then the Originator(s) is (are) free to protect or Commercially exploit in any manner they choose. The Originator(s) will be notified in writing of a decision by the University as to whether or not it intends to proceed to Commercialization of relevant Intellectual Property. The Office of External Relations may, in cases where a period in excess of twelve (12) months is required, seek permission from the Originator(s) for an extension of time for continued management of the Intellectual Property. All Commercialization agreements concerning Intellectual Property must be prepared, negotiated and executed in accordance with AAU contract management requirements and financial delegations. <u>Registration of Intellectual Property Rights</u> <u>Patents</u> The Office of External Relations, on behalf of the University, is responsible for managing the University's patent portfolio and maintaining a Register of Patents. If the University agrees to proceed with protection of the Intellectual Property through a provisional patent application: the Office of External Relations will discuss with the Originator(s) and the head of the Organizational Unit the requirements for filing the application and the timeframe for submission of the application; the Office of External Relations will be responsible for preparation and submission of the application, with the assistance of the Originator(s) and external patent attorneys; and the cost of filing all patent applications will be borne by the Office of External Relations. Where the University approves termination of patent protection, the Intellectual Property rights will be offered to the Originator(s). The University will give the Originator(s) at least 30 days written notice of its intention not to proceed with patent protection. The University reserves the right to recover its costs up to the time of transfer. <u>Trademarks and Registered Designs</u> The University's Legal Office shall be responsible for managing the University's portfolio of trademarks and designs and for preparing and submitting applications. <u>Registration Costs</u> The cost of filing applications will be borne by relevant Organizational Unit. <u>Distribution of Financial Returns</u> Where the University derives any financial return from the Commercialization of Intellectual Property, it shall be distributed in accordance with the provisions set out below, unless otherwise specified in agreed contractual arrangement(s) specific to the Commercialization. The Originator shall not be entitled to any return in relation to copyright material when
--	--

	used as Course Materials for Students. Net Revenues from Commercialization received by the University shall be distributed as follows: 33.33% to the Originator(s); 33.33% to the University; 33.33% to the relevant Organizational Unit(s). Where more than one Originator is involved, the Originators shall determine how their share of Net Revenue shall be divided between them, and inform the University of their decision. Such decision shall be provided in writing no later than six (6) months from the disclosure date. If the Originators do not provide a decision in writing by the due date then the University may make a decision as to the sharing amongst the Originators. Such decision shall be communicated in writing to the Originators. Distributions of Net Revenue will be made to the Originator(s) regardless of whether they remain employed by the University. If an Originator is deceased, the distribution will be paid to the estate (or beneficiaries). The University will withhold payment when it believes the law requires it to do so. <u>Copyright Compliance</u> Copyright compliance is managed by the University under the UAE Copyright Law, Federal Law No. 40, 1992. Contractual arrangements under that Act with UAE Copyright Law allow universities to reproduce and communicate copyright material for educational purposes under specific conditions. In order to ensure and maintain copyright compliance, all material intended for distribution to Students for Courses and for which the University does not own the copyright or which contains copyright material not owned by the University, must be managed in accordance with the paragraph below. Material referred to in the above paragraph must be submitted to the Deanship of Scientific Research & Graduate Studies which material will be appropriately stored. Material referred to in the paragraph above must not be loaded or stored into any repository or technological based storage system, including personal websites, other than by the Deanship of Scientific Research approval. The Deanship of Scientific Research & Graduate Studies will manage the copyright permissions and reporting processes. <u>Intellectual Property Agreement</u> The University may enter into agreements concerning Intellectual Property rights and ownership including Intellectual Property assignments, which will override the provision of this policy. This includes agreements with external bodies, Employees and Students. <u>Dispute Resolution</u> If a dispute arises as to the operation of this policy, or as to any matter on which the operation of this policy relies, the Deanship of Scientific Research & Graduate Studies will appoint a mediator to assist the parties in resolving their dispute. If such a dispute cannot be resolved through the assistance of a mediator, the Deanship of Scientific Research & Graduate Studies will appoint a suitably qualified person to conduct an investigation into the dispute. Such appointment(s) or persons may be external to the University and where more than one person is appointed to an investigation one of those persons will be an external appointment. The person(s) conducting the investigation will act expeditiously and will have access to all
--	--

	persons and relevant information to fully investigate the matter consistent with the principles of natural justice. The investigation may entail gathering evidence and interviewing the parties to the dispute which may include Employees and Students. The parties to the dispute may make submissions in writing to the investigator(s). Confidentiality will be respected at all time during the investigation process, within the constraints of needing to fully investigate the matter. The outcomes of the investigation together with recommendations will be forwarded to the Deanship of Scientific Research & Graduate Studies. The Dean of Scientific Research will review the outcomes but is not bound to accept the recommendation of the investigation. Following receipt of the investigation the Dean of Scientific Research & Graduate Studies shall make a finding on the dispute which shall be in writing and shall be final and finding on all parties to the dispute. <u>Information and Education</u> Upon adoption of this policy, the University shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that it is communicated and explained to Employees and Students. Such steps will include induction and training sessions and published material available for Employees and Students including material published on the University's website.
Recent Changes	