

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

**Intellectual Property (IP)** is ideas, information and knowledge; in the University context IP can be viewed as the results and outcomes of research. “Intellectual” because it is creative output; and “Property” because it is viewed as a tradable commodity.

**Espacenet patent search** [https://worldwide.espacenet.com/advancedSearch?locale=en\\_EP](https://worldwide.espacenet.com/advancedSearch?locale=en_EP)

**Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)** are specific legal rights which protect the owners of IP. IPR can be subdivided into major categories, summarised in the table below:

IPR Category	Covers	Formal application process	Maximum duration
Patent	Inventions	Yes	20 years
Copyright, also see <a href="#">link</a> .	Literary, musical, artistic works, & software, database  Newspaper article	No	70 years after death of author  25 years after the end of the year in which they were published
Registered Design	Image; look & feel	Yes	25 years
Design Right	3D shape	No	15 years from design or 10 years from marketing
Registered Trade Mark	Name, logo	Yes	Unlimited
Trade Mark	Name, logo	No	Unlimited
Confidential Information, Trade Secret, Know How.	Unpublished secret information	No	Unlimited
Database Right	Databases	No	15 Years
Plant Breeders Right	New variety of plant or seed. Can also be registered as a Trade Mark	Yes	25 years trees, vines or potato 30 years
Performance Rights	First owner of the performance will have rights in their performance and any recording, film or broadcast of that performance	No	50 Years from Performance  50 Years from release of recording of Performance

Company Names – Companies House website  
UK domain names, URLs – Nominet website

Moral rights, for example, the right to be named as the author are associated with certain copyright works.

Publication rights gives you rights equivalent to copyright if you publish for the first time a literary, dramatic, musical or artistic work or a film in which copyright has expired.

Confidential Information, Trade secrets or Know How. There is no legal requirement for you to file a patent, you could decide to keep your invention secret but if it enters the public domain then you may lose your rights to it.

Confidentiality agreements. CDAs (also known as non-disclosure agreements) can be used to protect know-how or trade secrets.