



***Intellectual Property (IP):***  
***Yours and Everyone Else's***



# Intellectual Property (IP): Yours and Everyone Else's

The mission of City University of Hong Kong (CityUHK) is to nurture and develop students' talents and to create applicable knowledge for social and economic advancement. Undergraduate students have abundant opportunities to create new knowledge and come up with original creations, new inventions and discoveries. Such new creations, inventions or discoveries can be protected as different types of so-called “**intellectual property**” (**IP**). If you have created something or have an idea which may be useful to society or industry, please contact CityUHK's Knowledge Transfer Office (KTO), [kto@cityu.edu.hk](mailto:kto@cityu.edu.hk), which may be able to help you turn your creation and idea into something beneficial to society.

Just as you will want others to respect and acknowledge the IP that you create, it is equally important for you to respect and acknowledge the IP that others have created. Whenever you make use of the creations and ideas of others in your studies at CityUHK, you are expected to give them appropriate credit by following principles of **academic honesty** (**AH**) (<https://www.cityu.edu.hk/ah>).

This leaflet provides a brief general introduction to IP and AH.



## Intellectual Property (IP)

### What is Intellectual Property?

Intellectual Property exists in works including but not limited to actual products and processes; artistic, musical and literary works; and presentation of business ideas. Intellectual Property is a collection of rights, with the major IP being copyright (protecting original creations), patents (protecting new inventions) and trademarks (protecting signs and logos).

### Why is Intellectual Property important to you?

In your studies at CityUHK, you may be involved in the **creation of IP**, or in the **use of IP owned by others**, so it is important for you to understand IP in order to protect any IP you create and to avoid infringing the IP belonging to others. CityUHK's Intellectual Property Policy (“Policy”) at <https://go.cityu.hk/ippolicy> gives a detailed account of different forms of IP and their ownership. The income sharing scheme to the inventor(s) is also described in the Policy. Please consider the Policy to understand your rights. When it comes to photocopying materials or downloading music and other materials from the internet, do carefully follow the copyright laws and regulations. CityUHK's Run Run Shaw Library has a website that gives valuable information on copyright law: <https://go.cityu.hk/cright>.

### The most common types of Intellectual Property include:

#### Copyright

Copyright protects original work, i.e., work not copied from others. Copyright does not protect an idea but the form of expression of the idea. The expression can take the form of books, paintings, movies, pictures, computer programs, music and even performance. A copyright owner has the right to stop others

from doing any of the acts restricted by copyright, such as copying his/her work in any material form, issuing copies to the public, making copies available on the internet, broadcasting works by wireless or cable, adapting it and so on. Copying refers also to storing a copyright work in any medium by electronic means. Software source code (human readable programs) is also protected as copyright.

### **Patents**

A patent is granted by the patent office in each country or region to confer monopoly rights over a new invention in that country. Patents protect inventions of products and processes. They arise often, but not exclusively, from research in science, medicine, and engineering fields. The invention must be new (novel) and involve an inventive step, i.e., not be obvious to a person skilled in the art. Further, the invention must be useful, i.e., capable of industrial application. You should disclose your invention to Knowledge Transfer Office (KTO), [kto@cityu.edu.hk](mailto:kto@cityu.edu.hk), prior to any publication or presentation in any paper or electronic form, such as conference presentation, journal, posters and website, because such actions of public disclosure before filing a patent application damage novelty and thus the ability to obtain a valid patent.

### **Registered Designs**

A registered design, called a design patent in some jurisdictions, protects the new design (the aesthetic as opposed to functional design) of an article applied by industrial process, such as furniture design, jewelry design, graphic design, etc. Registration confers an exclusive right to manufacture and trade in articles made according to such a design or a design not substantially different from it. You should disclose your design to the University prior to any publication or presentation in any paper or electronic form, such as conference presentation, journal, posters and website, because such actions of public disclosure before filing a registration damage novelty and thus the ability to obtain a registration.

### **Trademarks**

A trademark is a distinctive sign that distinguishes the product or service associated with it from those of other entities. A trademark is typically a name, word, phrase, logo, symbol, design image or a combination of these elements. Some well-known examples are “Coca-Cola”, “iPad”, etc. While a user of an unregistered trademark may still enjoy some protection, a registered trademark owner holds a much stronger position to stop infringers.

### **Trade Secrets**

A trade secret is also loosely referred to as “confidential information”. A trade secret may or may not be patentable. It is proprietary know-how which can be an invention or formula. Unlike the IP described above, a trade secret has no expiry date as long as it can be kept confidential and still has distinctive value.

Please contact Knowledge Transfer Office (KTO), [kto@cityu.edu.hk](mailto:kto@cityu.edu.hk), with your initial questions regarding IP.



# Academic Honesty (AH)

## What is academic honesty?

According to the International Centre for Academic Integrity, academic honesty is 'a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to six fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility, and courage. From these values flow principles of behaviour that enable academic communities to translate ideals into action' (ICAI, 1999)

Academic honesty is thus a kind of 'code of conduct' that members of the academic community are expected to follow and which makes it possible for the academic community to achieve its aims and goals.

Academic dishonesty is regarded as a serious academic offence in the University. Any related offence may lead to disciplinary action with a penalty including without limitation, expulsion from the University, debarment from re-admission, deprivation of an academic award already conferred or revocation of a certification granted.

## Academic honesty at CityUHK

CityUHK is committed to high standards of academic honesty and students are expected to 'present their own work, give proper acknowledgement of other's work, and honestly report findings obtained' (CityUHK Rules on Academic Honesty).

To read the CityUHK Rules on Academic Honesty, visit:

<https://go.cityu.hk/ahrules>

## Learning about academic honesty at CityUHK

In order to learn about academic honesty, in your first semester of enrolment, i.e.,

- by 30 November for Semester A and summer admissions
- by 30 April for Semester B admissions

you are required to 1) complete an online tutorial, 2) take a quiz, and 3) fill out a declaration. If you don't go through this process, you will not be able to access your grades online.

To find out more about this requirement, visit:

<https://go.cityu.hk/ahureq>

To get started on the academic honesty tutorial, visit:

<https://www.cityu.edu.hk/ah>



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