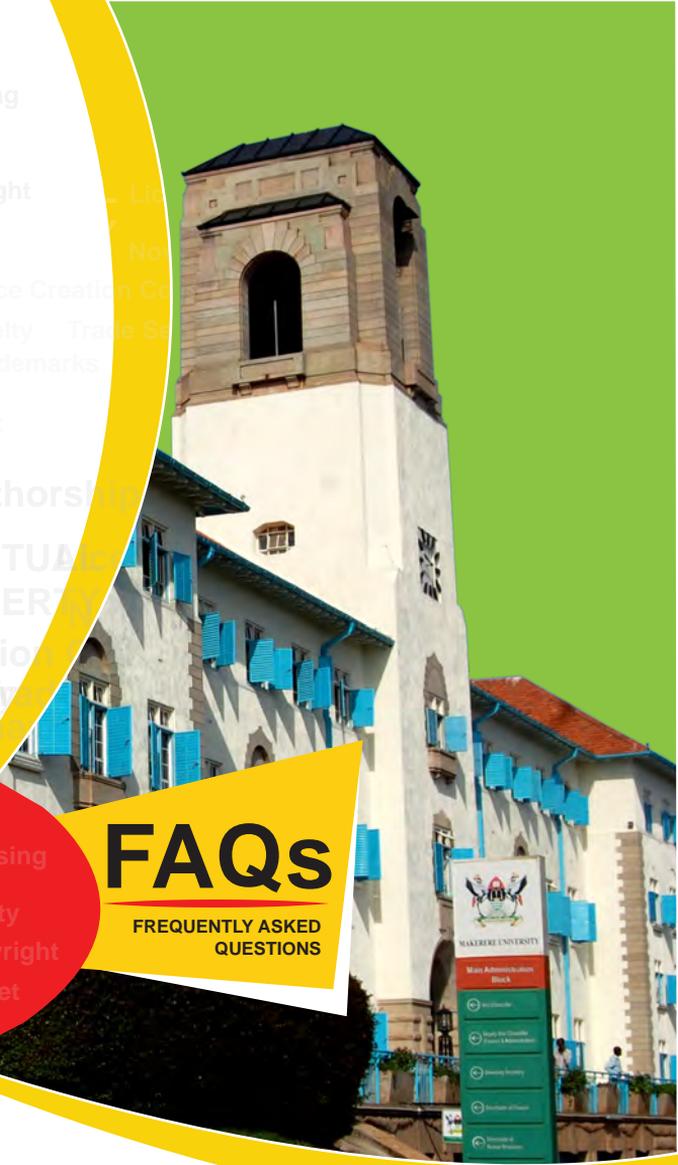




MAKERERE UNIVERSITY



# FAQs

FREQUENTLY ASKED  
QUESTIONS

# INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

DIRECTORATE OF RESEARCH AND GRADUATE TRAINING

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

## WHAT IS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY?



It refers to creations of the intellect, such as inventions; literary and artistic works; designs, symbols, names and images used in commerce.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN I HAVE AN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY?



You are required to disclose this to the **Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Office (IPTTO)** at the Directorate of **Research and Graduate Training (DRGT)**. It is important that this disclosure is made as it serves as an initial formal step to acquiring appropriate protection for an invention.

## CAN I PUBLISH MY WORK AFTER THIS DISCLOSURE?



No. This is because the disclosure provides notice of an invention to the University, and has no official status to protect the invention when a publication is made before a patent application is filed. It is therefore, recommended that publication is delayed until an application for IP protection has been made.

## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE DISCLOSURE?



The disclosure will be evaluated by the Intellectual Property Committee (IPC) to determine whether or not it can be protected and / or commercialised based on its potential benefits vis-a-vis costs of development, commercial viability and industrial relevance. Based on the recommendations made after the evaluation, the invention will be protected (where needed), marketed to potential inventors and then licensed for development into a product.

## WHAT IF I AM REQUIRED TO DISCLOSE MY INVENTION TO A SPONSOR OR AN INVESTOR?



No. This is because the disclosure provides notice of an invention to the University, and has no official status to protect the invention when a publication is made before a patent application is filed. It is therefore, recommended that publication is delayed until an application for IP protection has been made.

## DOES THE UNIVERSITY HAVE AN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY POLICY?



Yes, the University has an Intellectual Property Policy which is available online at <https://policies.mak.ac.ug/policy/intellectual-property-management-ipm-policy>

## WHO OWNS THE INVENTIONS I CREATE?



In accordance with provisions in the Makerere University's Intellectual Property Policy, the University owns any intellectual property created by its employees in the course of their employment. Other provisions on ownership may apply in certain circumstances such as collaborative and sponsored research.

## WHO PAYS FOR THE COST OF IP PROTECTION?



IP protection and related costs will be borne by the University unless otherwise provided.

## HOW SOON WILL A PATENT BE GRANTED AFTER AN APPLICATION IS MADE?



This varies depending on the procedure and other factors in different filing jurisdictions. It is relatively fast in countries where there is no substantive examination on an application. The procedure is however longer and can go beyond eighteen months in countries where substantive examination is undertaken on an application.

## WHAT IS THE TERM OF A PATENT?



A granted patent is valid for twenty (20) years from the filing date of the application.

## WHAT KIND OF PROTECTION DOES A PATENT OFFER?



It grants the patent owner an exclusive right to stop or prevent others from the commercial use of the patented invention. Once an invention is patented, it cannot be commercially made, used, sold or distributed without the consent of the patent owner

# IS THE PATENT VALID WORLDWIDE?



No, patents are territorial rights. As such, the exclusive rights are only valid in the country or region in which a patent has been filed and granted.

# WHAT IS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER?



It is the process by which a technology, know how or expertise developed by an individual or organisation is transferred to another individual or organisation.

# HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO TRANSFER TECHNOLOGY TO THE MARKET?

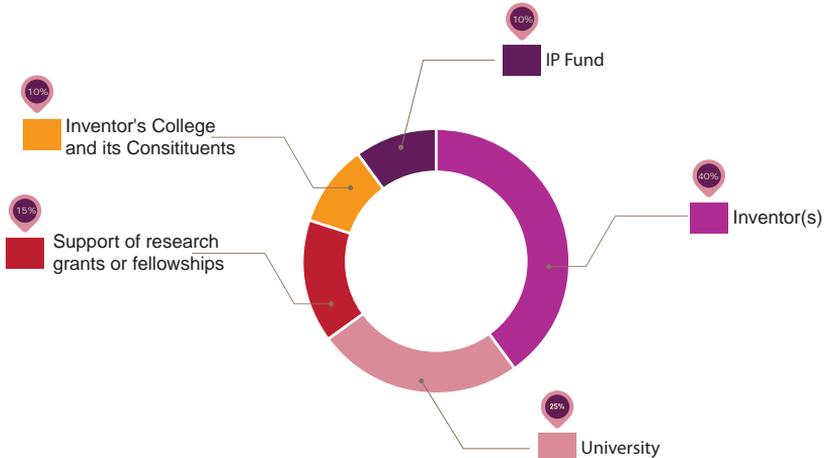


Identifying the right partner to license your technology to may take months or even years, depending on the stage of development of the technology. Other factors include competitive technologies, commercial potential of the technology and the level of resources required to bring the technology concept to the market.

# HOW IS THE REVENUE DERIVED FROM COMMERCIALIZATION DISTRIBUTED?



Intellectual property protection and other related costs will be deducted from any income received from commercialisation. Thereafter, the net income / royalty would be distributed as shown below.





## MORE INFORMATION

INFO

**40% [INVENTOR(S)]**  
Commercialisation Distribution

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## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF UNIVERSITY INDUSTRY COLLABORATIONS?



It provides an avenue for researchers to engage with industry, understand their technological needs and develop innovative solutions to help address these needs.

It is a means of mobilising additional research funding.

It promotes the creation of new companies to enhance the country's competitive advantage on the global market.

Such collaborations provide access to state of the art scientific equipment ((which may not be available in the university labs) to enable researchers pursue new or further research.

It enhances faculty productivity through increased publications.

Enhances the university's institutional image.

Provides an opportunity to find future employment for undergraduates and graduate students.

The society benefits through the creation of new products and services.

## HOW WOULD MAKERERE UNIVERSITY MEASURE SUCCESS IN TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER?



Both numeric and non-numeric indicators will be used in measuring success. Numeric indicators include the number of invention disclosures, patent applications, granted patents, licensing agreements and the number of startup companies. Non-numeric indicators include the ability of Makerere University to attract and retain faculty, outstanding graduate students, enhanced collaboration with the private sector for the development and transfer of innovative technologies.

## CONTACT:



MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

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