

Intellectual Property (IP) commercialisation by UK universities (the so-called 'technology transfer') is a fundamental driving force behind entrepreneurship and job creation. But often the lack of guidance from universities correlated with badly written and/or not readily available University IP Policies and/or Regulations may lead to a lack of entrepreneurial drive, both from students and academic staff.

We have set out to *investigate and rank* how UK universities approach the ownership\* and accessibility\*\* of the IP developed by their students (current and immediate past alumni).

The *investigation* was based exclusively on published (online or downloadable) University IP Policies and/or Regulations on student IP ownership and exploitation.

The *ranking* was compiled based on 2 main criteria – (i) the students' ease of retrieval of and access to their University's IP Policy and/or Regulations and (ii) the transparency (or lack) of the IP Policies and/or Regulations in acknowledging IP creation and ownership by students as a distinct category of creators and exploiters of IP.

The data for the IP Policies and/or Regulations was collected during the month of December 2020. Therefore, if you are representing an university, please feel free to sign-up on our website menu <https://www.ip-rank.co.uk/sign-up/> where you can upload your policies or regulations which we could not retrieve during our investigation or, alternatively, to indicate the location on your website where these can be found or freely downloaded.

The ranking has highlighted a wide range of variations in university legislation around student IP, which led to a grouping of the IP Policies and/or Regulations into 4 distinct Tiers. The top 2 Tiers are listing the universities which have published IP Policies, with Tier 1 universities providing a standalone Student IP Policy (thus separate from their 'Staff IP Policy'). Tier 3 universities have incorporated student IP ownership in their Regulations, frequently in University Regulations or University Policies on student admissions. Tier 4 universities do not have published or readily accessible IP Policies and/or Regulations.

This is the Second Edition of the *UK University IP Ranking* and is intended to encourage dialogue with stakeholders such as universities, their student entrepreneurs, as well as IP professionals and funders (both research and regional councils and private inventors). Thus, looking forward, we aim to refine our framework for ranking the IP Policies of UK universities based on stakeholder feedback, as well as on universities updating or making their IP policies readily available.

Therefore, feel free to [contact us](#) here to provide your feedback.

## JUDGING CRITERIA & RANKING

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In the university lists below, the Russell Group universities <https://russellgroup.ac.uk/about/our-universities/> are shown as (R) and the University of London Group universities <https://london.ac.uk/ways-study/study-campus-london/member-institutions> are shown as (UoL).

## TIER 1 - 29 UNIVERSITIES

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### **CRITERIA**

A standalone Student IP Policy exists and is easily retrievable and downloadable following a simple Google search using natural language and keyword combinations such as 'UniName IP policy for students'.

### **DISTRIBUTION BY REGION**



**TIER 1 - RANKING**

[University of Bristol \(R\)](#)  
[University of Edinburgh \(R\)](#)  
[Durham University \(R\)](#)  
[University of Glasgow \(R\)](#)  
[Newcastle University \(R\)](#)  
[University of Nottingham \(R\)](#)  
[University College London \(R\) \(UoL\)](#)  
[University of St Andrews](#)  
[Robert Gordon University](#)  
[Glasgow Caledonian University](#)  
[Glasgow School of Art](#)  
[University of South Wales](#)  
[Cardiff Metropolitan University](#)  
[University of Wales, Trinity Saint David](#)  
[Arts University Bournemouth](#)  
[University of Bradford](#)  
[Canterbury Christ Church University](#)  
[University of Central Lancashire](#)  
[University of Cumbria](#)  
[De Montfort University](#)  
[University of Derby](#)  
[University of Essex](#)  
[Harper Adams University](#)  
[Kingston University](#)  
[University of Lincoln](#)  
[Middlesex University](#)  
[Nottingham Trent University](#)  
[Sheffield Hallam University](#)  
[University of West London](#)

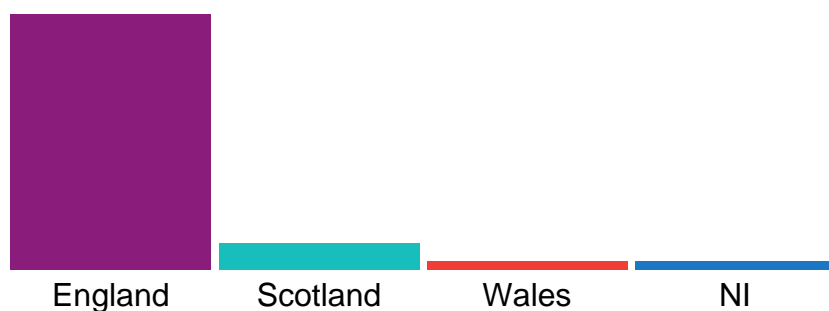
## TIER 2 - 68 UNIVERSITIES

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### **CRITERIA**

A university-wide IP policy exists and is retrievable and downloadable, sometimes with a medium degree of difficulty, following a Google search using natural language and keyword combinations such as 'UniName IP policy' or 'UniName intellectual property policy'. Some of the retrieved policies are unusually short (only 2 to 4 pages). Although the policy is exceptionally clear as to students' IP ownership rights, it also includes IP policies for staff, academic visitors and other persons engaged with the university. Nonetheless, the students' IP provisions of the IP policy may be viewed as a stand-alone section.

### **DISTRIBUTION BY REGION**



**TIER 2 - RANKING**

[Imperial College London \(R\)](#)  
[King's College London \(R\) \(UoL\)](#)  
[University of Leeds \(R\)](#)  
[University of Manchester \(R\)](#)  
[University of London, Queen Mary \(R\) \(UoL\)](#)  
[Queen's University Belfast \(R\)](#)  
[University of Southampton \(R\)](#)  
[University of York \(R\)](#)  
[University of Aberdeen](#)  
[Heriot-Watt University](#)  
[University of Stirling](#)  
[Edinburgh Napier University](#)  
[Queen Margaret University](#)  
[University of the Highlands and Islands](#)  
[Abertay Univesity](#)  
[Ulster University](#)  
[The Open University](#)  
[Bangor University](#)  
[Aberystwyth University](#)  
[University of Arts London](#)  
[Aston University](#)  
[University of Bath](#)  
[Bath Spa University](#)  
[Birmingham City University](#)  
[Bishop Grosseteste University](#)  
[University of Bolton](#)  
[Bournemouth University](#)  
[Brunel University London](#)  
[Buckinghamshire New University](#)  
[University of Chichester](#)  
[University for the Creative Arts](#)  
[University of East Anglia](#)  
[Edge Hill University](#)  
[University College of Estate Management](#)  
[University of Greenwich](#)  
[University of Hertfordshire](#)  
[University of Huddersfield](#)  
[Keele University](#)  
[University of Kent](#)  
[Lancaster University](#)  
[University of London, Goldsmiths \(UoL\)](#)  
[London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine \(UoL\)](#)  
[University of Royal Holloway \(UoL\)](#)  
[Royal Veterinary College \(UoL\)](#)  
[University of London, St George's \(UoL\)](#)  
[School of Oriental and African Studies](#)  
[London Metropolitan University](#)  
[London South Bank University](#)  
[Manchester Metropolitan University](#)

[University of Northampton](#)  
[Oxford Brookes University](#)  
[Plymouth University](#)  
[University of Portsmouth](#)  
[University of Reading](#)  
[Roehampton University](#)  
[Royal Agricultural University](#)  
[University of Salford](#)  
[University of Suffolk](#)  
[University of Surrey](#)  
[University of Sussex](#)  
[Teesside University](#)  
[University of West of England](#)  
[University of Westminster](#)  
[University of Winchester](#)  
[University of Wolverhampton](#)  
[Worcester](#)  
[York St John University](#)  
[LSE \(R\) \(UoL\)](#)

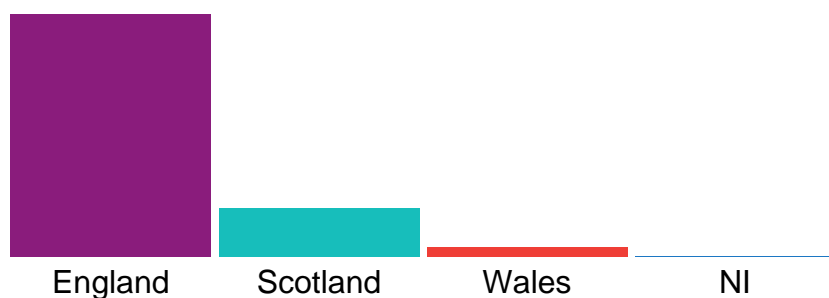
## TIER 3 - 31 UNIVERSITIES

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### **CRITERIA**

University legislation around student IP ownership exists and may be available online when employing a Google search. However, most of the legislation could only be retrieved by searching the universities' websites directly. The legislation is mostly found buried in University Regulations, University Policies or within Student Admission Brochures. As such, these sources only relate in-part to IP provisions for students and are mostly restricted to student IP ownership.

### **DISTRIBUTION BY REGION**





**TIER 3 - RANKING**

[University of Cambridge \(R\)](#)  
[Cardiff University \(R\)](#)  
[University of Oxford \(R\)](#)  
[University of Sheffield \(R\)](#)  
[University of Warwick \(R\)](#)  
[University of Strathclyde](#)  
[University of Dundee](#)  
[University of the West of Scotland](#)  
[Royal Conservatoire of Scotland](#)  
[Scotlands Rural College \(SRUC\)](#)  
[AECC University College](#)  
[Arden University](#)  
[University College Birmingham](#)  
[BPP University](#)  
[University of Brighton](#)  
[University of Buckingham](#)  
[University of Chester](#)  
[Coventry University](#)  
[Cranfield University](#)  
[University of East London](#)  
[Falmouth University](#)  
[University of Gloucestershire](#)  
[University of Hull](#)  
[Leeds Arts University](#)  
[Leeds Beckett University](#)  
[Liverpool John Moores University](#)  
[London Institute of Banking & Finance](#)  
[Loughborough University](#)  
[Newman University](#)  
[St Mary's University, Twickenham](#)  
[Staffordshire University](#)

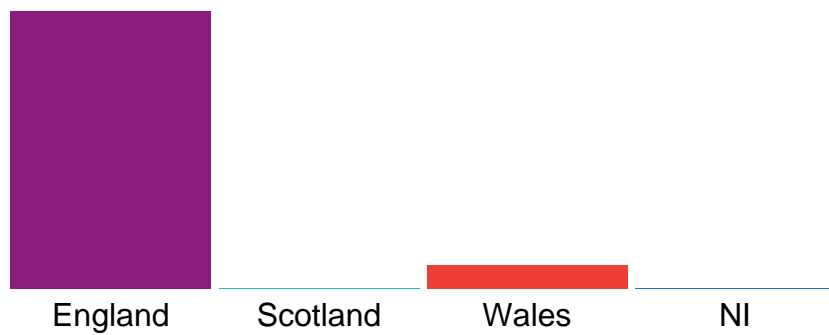
## TIER 4 - 26 UNIVERSITIES

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### CRITERIA

Specific university legislation around student (or even staff) IP ownership does not appear to exist. Furthermore, even when some university hyperlinks indicate that IP-related policies may exist, these are only made available upon site login using a university ID. Nonetheless, some universities make available Copyright Policies or Research Ethics Policies or Regulations (which touch upon types of IP rights).

### DISTRIBUTION BY REGION



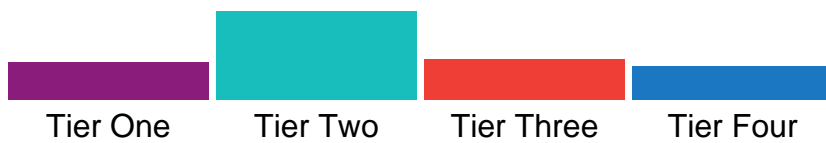
**TIER 4 - RANKING**

[University of Birmingham \(R\)](#)  
[University of Exeter \(R\)](#)  
[University of Liverpool \(R\)](#)  
[Swansea University](#)  
[Wrexham Glyndŵr University](#)  
[Anglia Ruskin University](#)  
[University of Bedfordshire](#)  
[University of Law](#)  
[Leeds Trinity University](#)  
[University of Leicester](#)  
[Liverpool Hope University](#)  
[University of London](#)  
[University of London, Birkbeck \(UoL\)](#)  
[University of London, City \(UoL\)](#)  
[Courtauld Institute of Art \(UoL\)](#)  
[Institute of Cancer Research \(UoL\)](#)  
[London Business School \(UoL\)](#)  
[Royal Academy of Music \(UoL\)](#)  
[Royal Central School of Speech and Drama \(UoL\)](#)  
[Northumbria University](#)  
[Norwich University of the Arts](#)  
[Regent's University London](#)  
[Southampton Solent University](#)  
[University of St Mark & St John](#)  
[University of Sunderland](#)  
[Writtle University College](#)

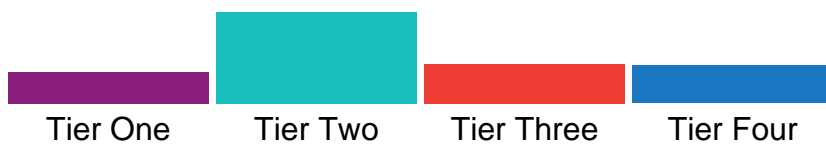
**DISTRIBUTION BY REGION**

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**UK**



**ENGLAND**



**SCOTLAND**



**WALES**



## ENDORSEMENTS

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**Jeff Skinner - London Business School**

This ranking brings complete transparency; every university needs be in the top tier and now knows how to get there.



**Professor Alan Barrell - Cambridge Innovation Academy**

A much needed study leading to pathways to follow for innovative and entrepreneurial young people to explore and understand the importance and value of Intellectual Property and how to protect it. This is a “first of kind” information channel and very well researched and presented. Deserving of attention and support.



**Sandy Finlayson - MBM Commercial**

This is a timely and long overdue initiative which will assist stakeholders to streamline the Commercialisation process, help to develop new ‘Best Practice’ initiatives and contribute to the creation of more high potential companies.

## THE 2020 IP RANKING IS JUDGED AND ADMINISTRATED BY

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IdeasPatch helps inventors fund the cost of IP portfolios (mostly patents, but also designs and trademarks which are part of the same portfolio of IP rights). IdeasPatch is part of a group of companies which provides free tools for innovators to store, showcase and fund their ideas.



IP (patent, design, trade mark) protection: drafting, filing and prosecuting of IP applications, IP consultancy, IP strategy development, IP Audits, investor readiness and due diligence, management of IP portfolios, IP training & education, retained IP support for young companies.

\* UK students generally own any IP they create in a university environment (as undergraduate students, but often also as graduate students) by virtue of the fact that students are generally not defined as / assumed to be employees of the university.

\*\* The UK legislation dealing with IP ownership comprises the UK Patents Act 1977, the Registered Designs Act 1949, the Trade Marks Act 1994, the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and the Intellectual Property Act 2014. The default IP ownership position is that the IP belongs to its creator unless this position is altered by contract (typically employment or consultancy contracts).