

Ask the Expert: Series 2025

Global Trends in Institutional IP Policies: Insights from WIPO's IP Policies Database

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Every innovation begins with an idea!

- How institutions manage ownership, protection, and use of IP – shapes what happens next.
- WIPO Database: institutional IP policies of 700+ universities and research institutions worldwide.
- Global resource: policies, templates, and agreements.
- 2024 upgrade: improved interface, updated content.



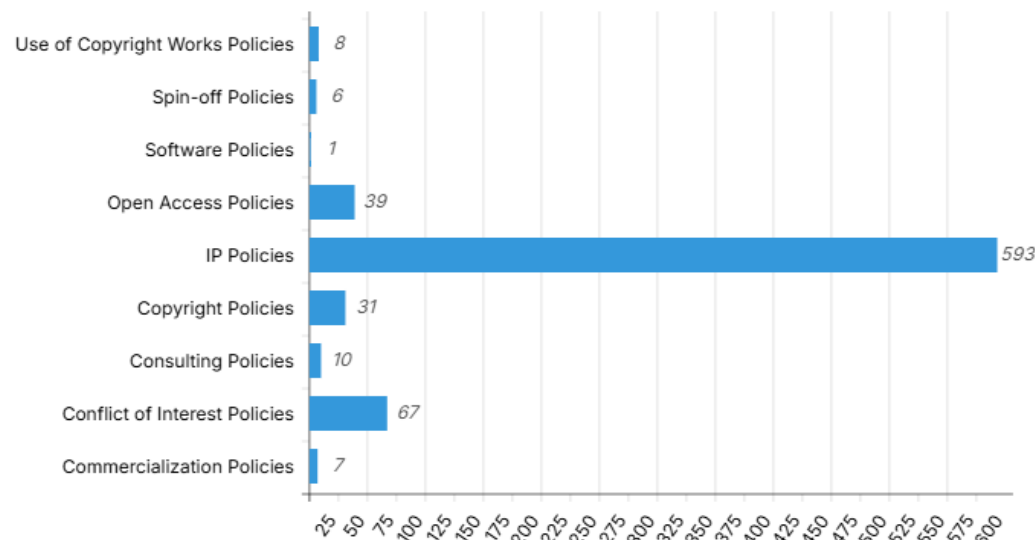
Which of these best describes your situation regarding your institution's IP policy?



Trend 1 – From

- Old focus: patent
- Current focus: inn
- Focus-based IP p

Institutional IP and related policies



Conflicts of Interest Po

Organisation	Leeds Beckett Univer
Author(s)	Head of Regulatory C Policy & Projects Offi
Developed in consultation with	University Registrar Financial Services; HR
Owner	Registrar & Secretary
Target audience	University colleagues, directors of subsidiar
Sensitivity	Public
Approved by	Governance & Nomin
Endorsed by	University Executive 1
For information	Audit Committee [10-
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Next review date	+02 years from last di
Status	Published
Appendices	Appendix A - The Sev

Example
- Making
- Register
- Conflict
- [Leeds Beckett University Principles of Governance for Students](#)
- [Guidance for](#)
- [Library and Co](#)
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in the policy register and consideration to the
on file by the policy owner.

Imperial College
London

Research Publications Open Access Policy¹

Authors covered by this policy

This policy applies automatically to the following categories of author: Imperial College Employees, Students, and - when publishing using their Imperial College London (**College**) affiliation - Associates (**Authors**).

Research outputs covered by this policy

This policy applies to peer reviewed journal articles and conference proceedings (**Author Accepted Manuscripts or AAMs**). Whilst this policy does not currently apply to theses, monographs, scholarly editions, textbooks, book chapters, collections of essays, datasets, software, code or other outputs that are not AAMs, the College strongly encourages researchers to make these outputs as openly available as possible.

Purpose of this policy

This policy allows Authors to make their AAMs available on an open access basis without embargo. The policy enables AAMs to meet certain funder obligations relating to making research funded by them available on an open access basis and to be eligible for submission to the next Research Excellence Framework exercise (**REF**).

Policy Overview

Authors are required to deposit their AAM into the College repository, Spiral, with a Creative Commons Attribution (**CC BY**) licence where it can then be made publicly available by the College without embargo. Authors will be fully supported by the College to achieve open access under the terms of this policy and, as such, to help ensure the validity of licences granted to the College under the policy, the College aims to provide prior notification to key publishers of the policy and related licences.

The College is committed to disseminating its research and scholarship as widely as possible. In line with this it supports the principle that 'the results of research that have been publicly funded should be freely accessible in the public domain' and by adopting this policy, it enables authors to make their outputs available through open access (OA). The College continues to engage with research funders to develop sustainable open access publication strategies and with publishers to develop affordable routes to OA publishing of the Version of Record.

Policy requirements

1. Under its Intellectual Property Policy² the College confirms that, in keeping with normal academic custom, it generally waives its claim to copyright in research publications.

¹ This policy replaces the earlier Imperial OA policy.

² <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/research-and-innovation/research-office/research-policies/research-related-policies/ip-policy/>

Trend 2 – Balancing open science and protection

- Open science and IP protection
- Example: University of Cape Town aligns Open Access & IP Policies

4. Relationship to the Intellectual Property Policy

- Supports C

UCT seeks to protect the rights and privileges which the members of the UCT community enjoy in pursuit of knowledge, while at the same time balancing its commitment to social justice through the open sharing of information with others, and discharging its mission as a public university contributing to the greater public good.

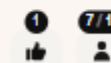
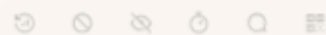
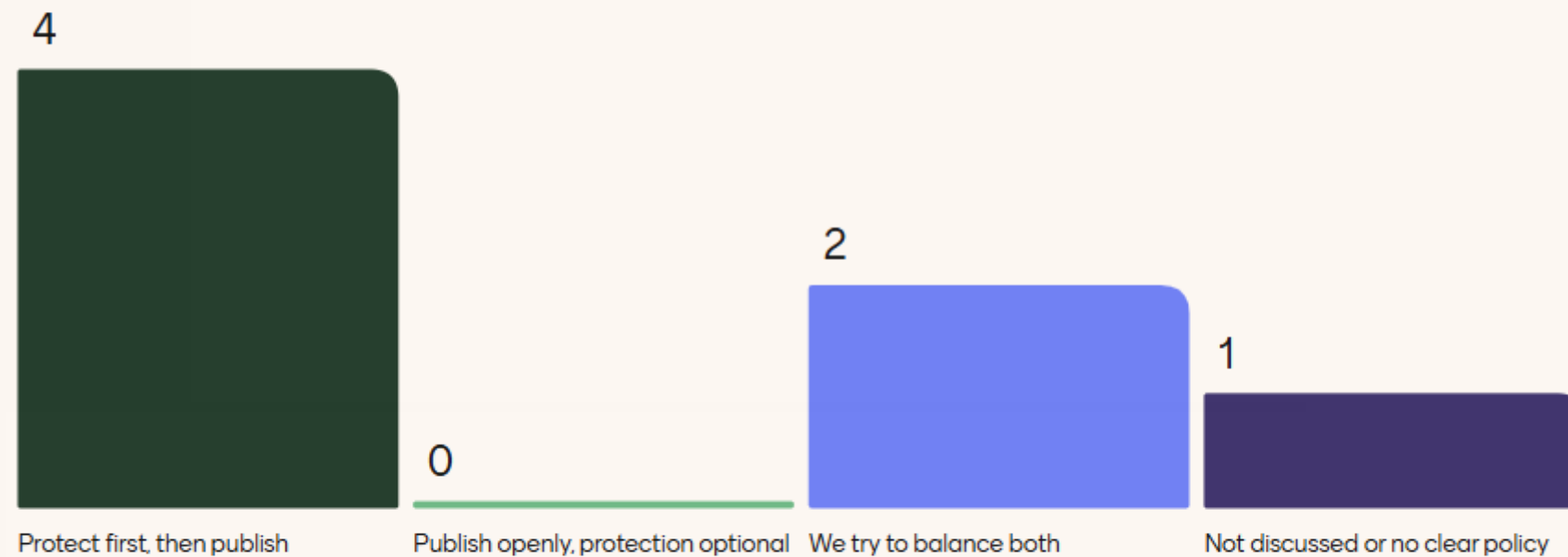
With respect to copyright and intellectual property, this policy is informed by the institution's [Intellectual Property Policy](#). In terms of the Intellectual Property Policy, the copyright in Scholarly Publication is automatically assigned to the author(s) unless UCT has assigned ownership to a third party in terms of a research contract.

https://uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/content_migration/uct_ac_za/59/files/Policy_Open_Access_2020.pdf

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Mentimeter

How does your institution approach the balance between Open Science and IP protection?



Trend 3 – Artificial intelligence considerations



IP policies should **clarify** ownership and inventorship in AI-assisted research.



Researchers must **disclose** when AI tools are used to generate or assist in inventions or publications.



Institutions should assess how AI-generated content is treated under IP law and define internal procedures accordingly.



Guidelines should promote transparency, documentation, and **responsible use** of AI in R&D.

Examples

Generative AI Policy

Please note that this policy is a “work in progress” as the usage evolves.

PURPOSE

Columbia University is dedicated to advancing knowledge tools. The landscape of Generative AI is rapidly changing. We encourage you to explore and experiment with these working group of faculty and senior administrators from v guidelines around the responsible use of these Generativ

We ask that you review this guidance on the responsible Columbia University. Based on our collective experience, anticipate that this guidance will evolve and be updated r

Generative AI (or “AI”) tools such as OpenAI’s ChatGPT, G others, have captured the public’s imagination as these to Generative AI tools have the capacity to expedite existing tools also have the potential to foster student learning an delivery. While the University supports the responsible us and present new risks that must be taken into considerati

Two key attributes of these tools are the risk that an input the output may be biased, misleading, or inaccurate. Their privacy, copyright, and academic integrity and bias, for ex

- if Generative AI is given access to personal informat rights of individuals, including in a manner that may l protection laws;
- if Generative AI is given access to confidential inform **intel**lectual property (IP) rights to that information an third parties through their independent use of the Gi
- Generative AI outputs may violate the **intel**lectual property rights of others, and might not themselves be protected by **intel**lectual property laws;
- Generative AI outputs might be factually inaccurate, and we might be exposed to liability if we rely on those outputs without properly reviewing them; and
- Generative AI may produce decisions that are biased, discriminatory, or otherwise inconsistent with our policies, or that are otherwise in violation of applicable law.



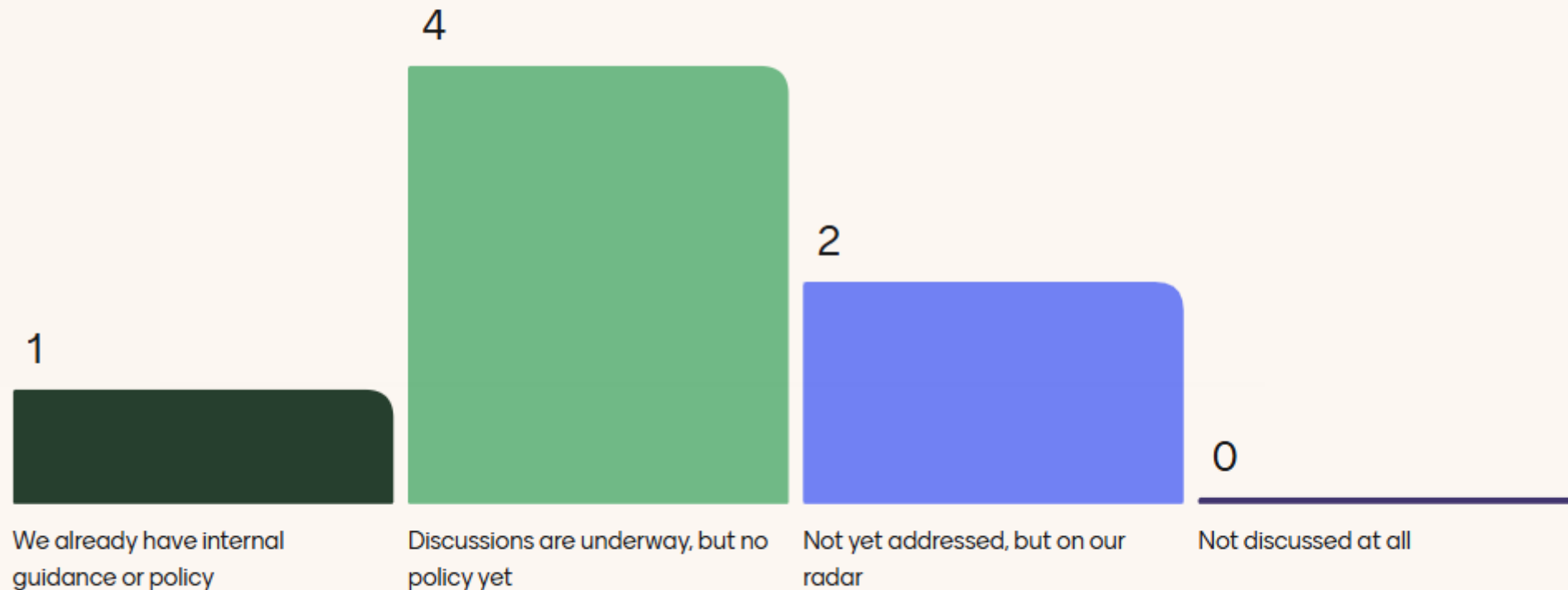
6.3.4.3. All use of Third Party Materials must be conducted in accordance with any contract terms that have been agreed with the supplier.

6.3.5. Artificial Intelligence

6.3.5.1. Current legislation around the ownership of materials that have been created through the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) varies between different jurisdiction across the globe. In many countries, the law has not caught up with recent developments in AI, and only awards copyright to a human creator. For example, in the UK copyright law in this field has not changed substantively since 1989: the author of a “computer generated” copyright work is “the person by whom the arrangements necessary for the creation of the work are undertaken”, and it is sometimes unclear who that person is. Moreover, the AI tool may be making use of information scraped from other Third Parties’ websites in which IPR may subsist, and the output of the AI tool may infringe that other IPR. Therefore, Employees and Students must take reasonable care when making use of any Third Party AI tools for University activities to ensure that such use does not encumber or restrict the University’s right to make use of the materials, IP (and related IPR) arising from the activities in accordance with this policy or meet with any obligations under Third Party Contracted Activities or inadvertently infringe Third Party IP and/or IPR. Similarly, Employees and Students should be careful not to disclose (input) any Confidential Information or personal information when using a Third Party AI tool, as the Third Party will have access to that information and may not respect its confidentiality or privacy.

6.3.6. If there is any doubt as to whether or not a particular piece of IP can be used for a proposed purpose, the CIP Team must be consulted prior to use.

How does your institution address IP issues related to the use of AI?



Trend 4 – Genetic resources & traditional knowledge – New WIPO's Treaty



WIPO Member States adopted WIPO Treaty on IP, GR and Associated TK on May 24, 2024.



The Treaty aims to enhance the efficacy, transparency and quality of the patent system with regard to GRs and TK associated with genetic resources (aTK) and **prevent patents from being granted erroneously for inventions that are not novel or inventive with regard to GRs and aTK.**



The Treaty establishes a **mandatory patent disclosure** requirement – this requires patent applicants to **disclose the country of origin of the GRs and/or the Indigenous Peoples or local community providing the aTK**, if the claimed inventions are 'based on' GRs and/or aTK. If such information is unknown, the source of the GRs or aTK should be disclosed.



A failure to disclose the required information would be subject to appropriate, effective, and proportionate **measures**. Where there has been fraudulent intent in regard to the disclosure requirement, post grant sanctions or remedies may be provided for. Fraud aside, no Contracting Party should revoke or render unenforceable a patent solely on the basis of an applicant's failure to disclose the required information.



In addition, the new instrument would invite countries to establish databases of GRs and aTK.



The new patent disclosure requirement could be a measure to indirectly support implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol by their respective Contracting Parties.

New guidelines for researchers



ARTICLE 12 - TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND GENETIC RESOURCES

- Researchers should s GRs and aTK used in
- WIPO has developed support Treaty-alignec practices.

- 12.1. When Research is conducted at the Institution using TK and/or GRs, provisions of national legislation must be observed,²⁵ which provisions may include prior informed consent, and access and benefit-sharing, and the need to obtain any relevant permits.
- 12.2. The Institution shall formulate procedures and mechanisms for access to GRs/TK in order to comply with national legislation.
- 12.3. When filing a patent application for inventions based on GRs and/or associated TK (aTK), patent disclosure requirements for those GRs and aTK that may apply under national legislation shall be observed.
- 12.4. The Institution should implement procedures and systems to track and trace GRs and aTK used in its research to facilitate compliance with any such patent disclosure requirements under national legislation.
- 12.5. In accordance with the above, the Institution shall include provisions in all Research Contracts about the protection and exercise of any IP rights which may arise from the use of TK and/or GRs.



Other resources

- **WIPO Database of Contracts Related to Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources and Data**
- **Publications**



Trend 5 – Incentives for Researchers

Joint Institute of Mechanical Engineering of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus – IP Policy

по мере необходимости

VII. Стимулирование

38. Управление ИС включает использование Организацией материальных и нематериальных способов стимулирования авторов и лиц, содействующих созданию и использованию ОИС, а также иных субъектов Политики Организации в любых сочетаниях, с учетом имеющихся у них ресурсов и требований законодательства в сфере ИС.

39. Вознаграждение авторам за создание ОИС и лицам, содействующим им, выплачивается на основании приказа руководителя Организации при наличии следующих документов:

- охранного документа на ОИС;
- документа, обосновывающего участие работника в создании ОИС;
- договора с автором ОИС;
- договора с лицами, содействующими созданию ОИС;
- расчета размера вознаграждения за создание ОИС с учетом его технико-экономической значимости;

решения комиссии, назначаемой приказом руководителя Организации по установлению размера вознаграждения.

40. Вознаграждение авторам за использование ОИС и лицам, содействующим им, выплачивается на основании приказа руководителя Организации при наличии следующих документов:

- документа, обосновывающего участие работника в создании ОИС;
- договора с автором;
- договора с лицами, содействующими использованию ОИС;
- акта об использовании ОИС, подтверждающего факт и дату начала использования ОИС;
- расчета размера вознаграждения за использование ОИС с учетом его технико-экономической значимости или дохода от использования ОИС;
- решения комиссии, назначаемой приказом руководителя Организации по установлению размера вознаграждения.

41. Суммы вознаграждений не могут быть ниже установленных законодательством минимальных размеров.

42. Способ стимулирования создания и использования РИД также включает проведение конкурса на лучшую постановку патентно-лицензионной деятельности среди научных структурных подразделений Организации и среди научных сотрудников в возрасте до 40 лет.

Подведение итогов конкурса проводится Комиссией по ИС ежегодно ко Дню изобретателя и рационализатора Республики Беларусь.

Победителям конкурса выплачивается денежное вознаграждение.

VII.42. The method of stimulating the creation and use of RID also includes holding **a competition for the best implementation of patent and licensing activities among the scientific structural divisions of the Organisation** and among scientific employees under the age of 40. The results of the competition are summarised by the IP Commission annually on the Day of the Inventor and Innovator of the Republic of Belarus. The winners of the competition receive a cash prize.

Promotion criteria

UK - Academic Promotion Pathways Linked to Entrepreneurship (APPLE).

- Explores how systems underpinning academic career progression can be better aligned to support E&I.
- Examines the current state of play with ASPECT partners (network of universities seeking to enhance research commercialization within the social sciences, arts and humanities) in terms of recognition, reward and workload allocation and co-create solutions.

USA – Promotion & Tenure Innovation & Entrepreneurship (PTIE) Coalition.

- Global movement to support the recognition of I & E impact by university faculty in promotion, tenure & advancement.
- Involves considering not only the traditional academic outputs (like peer-reviewed publications) but also other indicators such as successful TTs, commercialization of research, patents, startup creation, industry partnerships, community engagement, and economic development.

www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abj2098



Trend 6 – Recognizing entrepreneurship



- Universities moving from IP management to start-up creation.
- Example: Lancaster University – Quinas Technology (ULTRARAM™).
- Transparent equity builds trust and impact.

Trend 7 – Aligning with industrial & trade policy



Example: European Chips Act links IP with industrial strategy.



Clear rules on background/foreground IP essential.



Strong IP frameworks = preferred partners.



Alignment with national/ regional strategies

https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/europe-fit-digital-age/european-chips-act_en

Trend 8 – Tech transfer for the public good



Socially Responsible Licensing (SRL): combines impact and sustainability.



Examples: Oxford vaccine, Yale Global Access, UCT health innovations.



IP as a tool for progress (SDGs).

Trend 9 – Evidence & Impact

**Institutional
Capability
Framework
(ICF)**

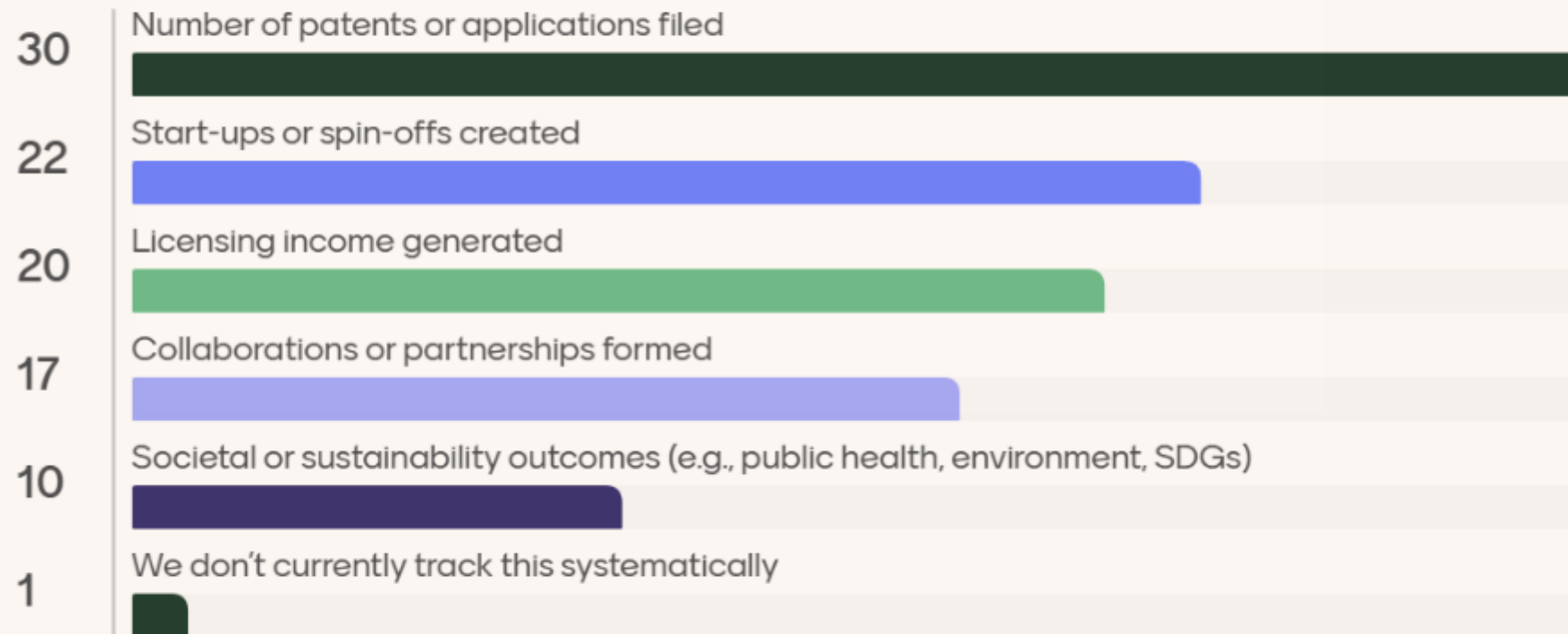


**Knowledge &
Technology
Transfer (K/TT)
Metrics**

- Diagnosing institutional health and drivers for innovation productivity
- Designed to **improve innovation performance** by addressing institutional enablers



How does your institution measure the impact of its IP and innovation activities?



Intellectual Property Policy

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Trend 10 – Keeping policies alive and visible

(18) The Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation is responsible for the implementation of this policy.

(19) The Intellectual Property and Commercialisation Team is responsible for the administration of the Intellectual Property Policy, for education and information relating to IP, for the commercialisation of RMIT's IP, the management of RMIT's IP assets, and the disbursement of net revenue.

Review

(20) This policy and related procedure will be reviewed every **five** years.

(21) The procedure and resources associated with this policy may be reviewed at any time at the discretion of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation.

Section 5 - Procedures

(22) **Intellectual Property Procedure.**

Section 6 - Definitions

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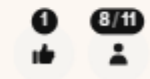
How ready do you think your institution is to respond and adapt to emerging trends in IP policy and innovation management?

My institution is well prepared to adapt to emerging global trends in IP policy and innovation management (such as Open Science, AI, etc)

2.1

Still building foundations

Already adapting proactively



Closing Thoughts



- Modern IP policies = strategic frameworks for impact.
- Enable fairness, transparency, and sustainability.
- WIPO Database helps institutions learn, compare, and evolve.

"Innovation begins with ideas — impact begins with policy."
Let's turn knowledge into value, responsibility and strategically.

Thank you!

