

Intellectual Property (IP) Rights

Sheffield Hallam University is an applied institution that prioritises working with business and whose research and innovation portfolio is focused on outcomes that are impactful on the economy and society. Many of the institution's academic staff have a background as practitioners in the subject matter they teach and research, giving them deep insight into real-world problems and the viability of potential solutions to those problems.

The technology transfer office function at Sheffield Hallam University is provided by Research and Innovation Services (RIS), operating in a hub-and-spoke structure. With core services (e.g. intellectual property and commercialisation management) at the centre and discipline-specific support embedded locally, the RIKE team maintains an effective institution-wide view of research and innovation activity while also engaging extensively with the academic community on the ground.

Commercial opportunities are recorded and appraised by the central team. Plans to develop and exploit commercial opportunities, whether by spinout or otherwise, are formulated by RIS in collaboration with academic stakeholders. Intellectual property underpinning such opportunities is assessed by the RIKE team, and applications to secure registered rights (design, patent etc.) are handled via qualified, contracted external services. Geographic coverage of registered intellectual property rights is typically prioritised by market size and consideration of the balance between cost and opportunity.

Sheffield Hallam University's Commercialisation Opportunities Group (COG) provides governance as part of the institution's academic board structure, chaired by the PVC for Research, Innovation and Knowledge Exchange. COG comprises representatives of senior academic management, RIS, finance and legal. It is responsible for considering spinout proposals, with recommendations passed to UEB for sign-off. COG meets quarterly and is also called upon for decisions between scheduled meetings. The university has also established Sheffield Hallam Innovation and Enterprise Ltd- a wholly owned subsidiary of the institution that serves as the vehicle for holding equity in spinouts.

To request a copy of Sheffield Hallam University's most up to date IP policy, please email innovation@shu.ac.uk.