



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

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Guidelines for commissioned research at Uppsala University

Decided by the vice-chancellor 18/06/2013

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Publication

Researchers at Uppsala University must be able to publish their own research results. This is regardless of who funded the research or who ultimately owns the results.

Only in exceptional cases will research commissions that may lead to that the university is forced to keep research results confidential be accepted, and then only if there are compelling scientific reasons to engage in the commission. Such commissions must be approved in each case by the University Director following an oral presentation.

Uppsala University and its contractual counterparty/parties can agree that the publication of results (whereby this includes all forms of academic publication of results, such as “papers” at scientific conferences) should be preceded by a prior examination. This is to enable the contractual counterparty/parties to exclude its own confidential information from the publication and to allow the contractual party/parties time to protect their intellectual property rights. The time periods for prior examination and for how long a publication can be delayed for applying for intellectual property protection should be reasonable and regulated in the agreement between Uppsala University and the contractual counterparty/parties. What may be considered reasonable in this regard may differ between academic disciplines, but is usually considered to be 30 days for examination and an additional 60/90 days delay for seeking protection.

Right of ownership

A party who has produced results own those results with regard to the “professor’s privilege” and its application at Uppsala University. Only for research (commissioned research) that is fully funded by an external party can the right of ownership pass on to that party as a direct consequence of the commission. The commission is regarded as fully funded if the external party pays both the direct and indirect costs at Uppsala University for the commission. Regardless of who shall own the results, Uppsala University and the individual researcher are entitled to use the results, free of charge, for further research and education purposes.

Ownership of information that a party disclose within a research collaboration and that does not constitute results of that research (background information) is not affected by the collaboration. Uppsala University and its contractual counterparty/parties can agree that a party may use another party's background information in case that this is necessary for the first party to be able to perform its part of the work in the project or to exploit its own results.

Confidential information

Confidential information is information of a confidential nature that is disclosed by a party to another party and is marked as confidential. Research results from Uppsala University are not regarded as confidential but may not be disseminated, otherwise than in accordance with the principles for publication (see above 1, publication). Under no circumstances is a party obliged to hold information secret that is directly or indirectly subject to disclosure by law.

It must be stated in the agreement between the parties how a party shall mark information as confidential.

Financial liability

Uppsala University admits no liability for indirect damages in research projects. This liability must always be limited in terms of amount. Financial liability beyond liability for damages is not accepted.