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Policy Document Approver	Council
Responsible Body/Person	Council
Next Review date	June 2027
Superseded documents	None
Related documents	Affiliation Agreement
Related HE Standards	4.1.1, 5.2
Related National Code Standards	

1. PURPOSE

To define the Intellectual Property rights of the **AUT** and provide guidance for students and researchers affiliated with the AUT on Intellectual Property issues.

2. DEFINITIONS

Definitions for any words in **Bold** in this document can be found in the [Policy Glossary](#). The first instance of each defined term has been outlined in bold.

3. SCOPE

This policy applies to the Australian University of Theology, **students** enrolled in **courses** of the AUT, with special reference to **Higher Degree by Research** candidates, researchers affiliated with the University, academic staff of the **Affiliated Colleges**, and **AUT staff**.

4. POLICY STATEMENT

In general, the University asserts its Intellectual Property rights ownership over **curriculum**, data sets and its own reports and research, subject to the exceptions listed below. The AUT also supports academic staff, **HDR** candidates, and researchers to promote and disseminate their research, and so does not, in general, assert Intellectual Property rights over their work.

5. PRINCIPLES

- 5.1 The Australian University of Theology asserts Intellectual Property rights over the **curriculum** of all AUT courses and units, as well as student data sets.
- 5.2 AUT does not assert Intellectual Property rights over any work of students enrolled in an AUT course, and explicitly does not assert IP rights over the work of Higher Degree by Research candidates.
- 5.3 In general, AUT will not assert Intellectual Property rights over the work of academic staff of any Affiliated College unless an explicit arrangement has been made to the contrary (for example, as part of a funding agreement).
- 5.4 In general, AUT will not assert Intellectual Property rights over the research and scholarship outputs of AUT staff unless an explicit agreement has been made to the contrary (for example, as part of an employment contract or funding agreement).
- 5.5 In general, AUT asserts Intellectual Property rights over the reports and work

produced in the course of an AUT employee's duties, unless an explicit agreement has been made to the contrary.

- 5.6 University researchers, including HDR candidates, should be mindful that other individuals or groups may have a claim to a share of the IP rights of a project (for example, indigenous peoples, partner institutions or those who have funded the research) and should formalise an agreement on IP rights before commencement of the research.

6. RELATED LEGISLATION

[Higher Education Standards Framework \(Threshold Standards\) 2021](#)

7. REFERENCES

[National Principles of Intellectual Property Management for Publicly Funded Research](#)

[National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research, 2025](#)

[Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research, 2018](#)

[Ethical conduct in research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and communities: Guidelines for researchers and stakeholders](#)

8. VERSION HISTORY

Version	Approved by	Approval Date	Effective Date	Changes made
1.0	Academic Board	3 March 2017	3 March 2017	New
2.0	Board of Directors	5 June 2023	5 June 2023	Related documents and references updated; reference made to explicit agreements, indigenous people and other potential IP holders.
3	Council	26 May 2025	26 May 2025	Updated references; new document template and minor changes.

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