

A WORD ON IP, THE LEV8 ACCELERATOR, AND THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD



Intellectual Property (IP) generated in a University environment often involves many different contributions and factors. Fully understanding the implications of this is important, and can be challenging for entrepreneurs. If University research is involved there may well be formal legal obligations between the University and the sponsor(s) of the research that you might not be aware of as a student entrepreneur.

Oxford's rules for IP ownership are set out in its [statutes](#). Similarly, the University has established [policies for determining claims to equity in new companies established by University members](#). **In the absence of other contributing factors, participation in the LEV8 programme in isolation will not result in any university claim on arising IP or on equity in ventures formed from the programme.** However, where such ventures also involve activities or individuals from the wider University, we recommend that applicants liaise with Oxford University Innovation (OUI) to help clarify likely ownership. In particular, any LEV8 applicants developing ideas based on current or past academic research conducted at the University should contact OUI. OUI will work with you to explore the facts and circumstances of your venture and help to reach a clear answer.

If the outcome of this exploration is that the IP in question is owned by the University of Oxford, those who generated the IP will benefit from the [University's revenue sharing arrangements](#). In this situation, you are still welcome to apply to join LEV8 accelerator, and applicant entry in this case will be offered on a case-by-case basis following discussion with OUI to be sure that we can proceed with your application.

