



IPASS (Intellectual Property Advice and Support Service)



Project: IPASS (Intellectual Property Advice and Support Service)

Lead institution: University of Portsmouth

IPO award: £30,000

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IPASS is a cross campus clinic which helps University of Portsmouth student startups identify, protect and exploit their Intellectual Property (IP) for commercial advantage. The clinic is staffed by suitably trained law students (IPASS Champions), who under the supervision of Joe Sekhon (Senior Lecturer in Intellectual Property Law and the Director of IPASS), provide IP advice to the University's student entrepreneurs. The IPASS champions all received rigorous training in IP law and related skills prior to joining the clinic. This training was delivered by a team of academics at the University via the IPASS Boot Camp.

One of the principal aims and objectives of the IPASS clinic has been to help establish a new generation of IP savvy student startups capable of exploiting their IP for commercial advantage. Given the success of the clinic over the past year in terms of the number of student entrepreneurs utilising its facilities, these students are in no doubt of the importance of IP for the survival and growth of their respective startups.

“Fast Forward Funding for the IPASS Clinic has had a huge impact at the University of Portsmouth. The University’s student entrepreneurs and mainstream student community now have a fantastic resource to deal with all their IP knowledge, training and advice needs”.

*Joe Sekhon
Senior Lecturer in Intellectual Property Law
University of Portsmouth*

Another significant aim and objective has been to develop the IPASS clinic into a sector wide model for dealing with IP generated by student startups; a model that can be used by Higher Education (HE) and Further Education (FE) providers across the UK. Progress has been made towards this objective - the Universities of Southampton, Bournemouth and Winchester as well as Highbury College have all expressed an interest in learning more about the IPASS model with a view to adopting it themselves.

The IPASS clinic has also helped to raise the profile of IP education as a means of enhancing employability for graduates across all degree disciplines; learning and teaching materials on the subject of IP have been requested by a number of departments and course leaders from across campus over the past year.

The 2012 Fast Forward Competition funding has enabled the project to fill a gap in the student support market for an IP advice support service for student startups. The importance of this funding cannot be underestimated; without it there would have been no structured face to face all year round support for students looking for assistance with the IP issues impacting their startups. In addition without the funding there would have been little appetite for reviewing cross campus curriculum to ensure that material on IP is included for future students. The IPASS clinic has set off a chain reaction of events which will ultimately lead to an increased number of students across the HE and FE sector learning about the importance of IP to the UK economy as a whole.



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