



## GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION – UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

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### RESEARCH TOPIC: Intellectual Property (\$500)

#### CONTEXT:

The University of Waterloo is well known for its “creator-owned” model, where full intellectual property (IP) ownership is granted to the inventor under Policy #73. Although the policy provides the highest level of interpretation that grants IP creators with full right of ownership, issues regarding the protection of student IP still exist. The Graduate Student Association – University of Waterloo (GSA-UW) is specifically interested in understanding whether any barriers exist with respect to IP rights of graduate students.

#### REQUIREMENTS:

The following deliverables must be completed to the satisfaction of the GSA-UW President and/or Vice President of Administration prior to issuing compensation:

- Coordination meetings with GSA-UW VP Administration (~2 hours)
- Written report (5 – 10 pages not including bibliography/appendices, single spaced, 10 Arial)
- PowerPoint presentation to GSA-UW Council (10 – 15 minutes)

#### FORMAT:

The contracted researcher is required to produce a report with the following headings:

1. Purpose
2. Issue
3. Background
4. Key Considerations
5. Conclusions and Recommendations to GSA Council
6. Bibliography
7. Appendices (if necessary)

This format was modeled after public sector briefing note templates and can be referred to [here](#) for further guidance.

The following are specific questions that need to be addressed in the report:

1. How does our university’s student IP rights compare to other university practices?
2. Is there a best practice to protect student IP and patents in an academic setting throughout the innovation process (i.e., from ideation to implementation)?
3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of our university’s current approach to protecting student IP? Are there certain cases in which students are left disadvantaged (e.g., hackathons, ideation sessions, student-corporate events, and industry- or government-sponsored work)?

#### TIMELINE:

The research contract is to be issued in February and completed by June 2021.

#### PUBLISHING NOTE:

The report and presentation produced as part of this research contract will be the property of the GSA-UW and will be posted on the GSA-UW website. The author(s) will be identified on the final document.

#### APPLICATIONS:

Resumes/CVs, along with a brief statement of interest (2-3 paragraphs), should be sent to [gsa-admin@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:gsa-admin@uwaterloo.ca) by **February 26, 2021** using the subject line “GSA Research Contract Application – Intellectual Property”.