



25 YEARS OF BRINGING
INNOVATION TO LIFE
1993 – 2018

UCL BUSINESS

BRINGING INNOVATION TO LIFE

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Impact of Fee Reductions on Ability of Universities to Access the Patent System – Developed Country Experience

Anne Lane

Executive Director

UCL Business PLC

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Overview



- ❑ Technology transfer in the UK
- ❑ UCL Business (UCLB) - what we do, how and why
- ❑ Patenting activity in UK universities

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Technology Transfer Organisations in the UK

McMillan report (Sept 2016) definition of technology transfer (TT)

“The commercialisation of university-owned research outputs through the licensing of IPRs (patents, copyrights, know-how, databases and design rights) to existing companies and setting up new spin-out companies. These are ‘technology push’ rather than ‘market pull’ mechanisms”

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Comparison of UK University Structures

All TT entities provide:

- Identification & assessment of invention disclosures from university research
- Protection of IP
- Investigation of commercial landscape
- Licensing
- Set-up of spin-out companies and management of portfolio of investments

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Models of Technology Transfer Support

- Internal TTO
- Internal TTO with external spin-out support
- Wholly-owned subsidiary TTB
- Part-owned subsidiary TTB
- Contracted out
- Shared TTO/TTB

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Comparison of Key UK University Structures

HEI	Model
UCL*	Wholly-owned subsidiary UCL Business PLC
Cambridge*	Wholly-owned subsidiary Cambridge Enterprise LTD
Oxford*	Wholly-owned subsidiary Oxford University Innovations Ltd
Manchester*	Wholly-owned subsidiary with external spin-out support UMI Ltd
Imperial College*	Part-owned subsidiary (with separate spin-out support IP Group Ltd)
Nottingham	Internal TTO with external spin-out support
Leeds	Internal TTO with external spin-out support
King's College*	Internal TTO with external spin-out support

* Top 6 by research grants & contracts

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UCL – UCLB Commercialisation Environment

- ❑ UCL owns employees' intellectual property
- ❑ UCL shares any revenue with employees
- ❑ UCL assigns IP to UCLB if requested to by UCLB
- ❑ UCLB commercialises IP
- ❑ Revenue from commercialisation

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Developing New IP from Basic Research

- UCLB has 16 Business Managers and Directors covering the range of faculties and embedded into the Institutes and Departments.
- The Business Managers work with academics and clinicians to identify new technologies developed at UCL.
- These are evaluated for commercial potential and then patent protected or registered designs filed where appropriate.
- Develop a technology to add value and make it more market ready.
- UCLB invests strategically into new technologies to develop them to a stage where they can leverage larger external funding.

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£10,873

Million in turnover



12

Proof of concept projects
funded with £878,349



58

New patent applications



258

Active licences



67

Spinouts created



74

Equity holdings



237

Patent families



34

Drug discovery projects
in development

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UCL & Top 6 HEIs

- ❖ Annual patent spend (filing, prosecution & maintenance) ~ £1.5 m
- ❖ 5 year annual average 40 PCT applications
- ❖ Annual PCT spend ~ £220k
- ❖ 25% reduction on filing fees for 5 applications ~ £6,875 saving*
- ❖ 3% overall saving on PCT spend, 0.4% overall patent spend saving
- ❖ Average patent applications for top 6 HEIs 127
- ❖ 0.9% overall saving PCT spend (assuming all applications are PCT)

* assuming £5500/PCT

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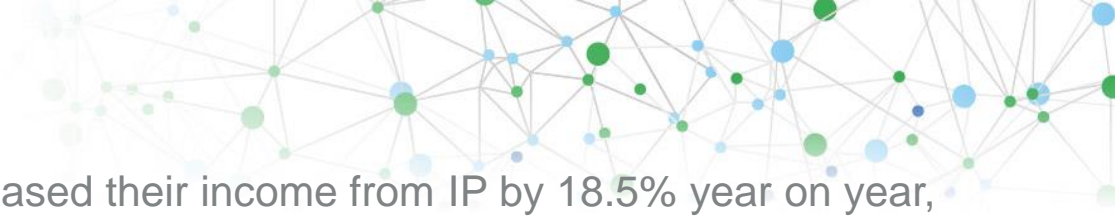
❖ HE-BCI Data – Average HEI


❖ **2011-2012**

- ❖ Invention disclosures 27
- ❖ Patent applications 14
- ❖ Average PCT spend (assume 10 PCT) £55,000
- ❖ Average saving 12.5%
- ❖ Total patent spend saving 8%

❖ **2015-2016**

- ❖ Invention disclosures 34
- ❖ Patent applications 16
- ❖ Average PCT spend (assume 12 PCT)
- ❖ Average saving 10%
- ❖ Total patent spend saving 7%

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- ❖ Universities in the UK have increased their income from IP by 18.5% year on year, generating £155 million during 2014-15 (Higher Education Funding Council for England).
 - ❖ Universities in the UK are increasingly judged on income generated from IP rather than patent number
 - ❖ UK applicants filing abroad is negligible
 - ❖ Market size drives patenting strategy
 - ❖ UK government wants increased innovation from universities – R&D tax credits, Patent Box
 - ❖ Increasing number of other types of IPR being used by universities

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- ❖ 2014 EC report almost 80% of UK universities viewed patent costs as a barrier to filing
 - ❖ Fee reductions at the EPO resulted in ~20% increase in patent applications in the mid-1990s (de Rassenfosse & van Pottelsberghe de la Potterie 2012)
 - ❖ Reducing patent fees increases number of patent applications but not levels of innovation (Nicholas 2011)
 - ❖ There is mixed evidence of a positive link between patenting and innovation (Hall & Harhoff, Baldrin & Levine)
 - ❖ PCT fee reductions would result in significant cost savings for the average UK HEI
 - ❖ However not clear if this would significantly increase ability to access to the patent system



Anne Lane

Executive Director

UCL Business PLC

The Network Building
97 Tottenham Court Road
London W1T 4TP

Tel: 020 7679 9000

Fax: 020 7679 9838

Web: www.uclb.com

Email: info@uclb.com

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