

Intellectual property Q&A for the UT-VU Mechanical Engineering BSc assignment

Suppose IP is generated during the project, does that lie entirely with the UT/VU?

For assignments at the VU or UT: yes, see <https://www.utwente.nl/en/service-portal/organisation-regulations-and-codes-of-conduct/legal-affairs/ipr-guideline-for-students#who-owns-the-ipr> and especially the flow chart found in 'downloads'. If a student does not want to give up their IP rights, they should choose another assignment where IP is not an issue. If money is made based on something the student developed/invented, the student is entitled to his share of the profits. With companies, the same applies to the student. Between company and university, this is settled in a three-party agreement.

Can a student sign an NDA between student-company-UT/VU?

Yes, we prefer to use the standard three-party-agreement (student + company + university) for this. There are different versions with and without confidentiality, those are <https://www.utwente.nl/en/et/student-mobility/documents/>. Sometimes companies want to use their own version, which is possible but needs to be approved by the legal department, so it may take some time. The agreement is not signed by the internal supervisor on behalf of the university but by someone higher up. Student can email to the bsc-assignment-me-et@utwente.nl and then Marike Rupert arranges it.

The student must give the paper and the final presentation, but in it some things may not be shown. What is the UT/VU policy on this? For example, will a final presentation be held in small group or the paper not be included in the generic proceedings?

The internal supervisor should always be able to read the full report to do a proper assessment. However, this supervisor, as an employee of the university, is also bound by any confidentiality within a signed agreement. The version that the student uploads on Canvas does become public with that, so that may pose a problem. Same goes for the presentation, which is also public. Preferably, the student just goes along in the normal process and figures/plots/other details can be censored and that is enough. If it is really necessary to have a closed presentation, that is another form of assessment (presentation without an audience) so it may have to go past the exam committee.