



Guidance for Participation in Competitions/Showcases Involving Research or Innovation

by: Office of Assistant Vice-Chancellor Research, Innovation & Sustainability
(OAVCRIS), Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD)

Purpose of this Guidance

This guidance is intended for UBD staff and students participating in external competitions, awards, showcases, or innovation challenges where research, inventions, software, or creative work may be shared. It outlines how to participate confidently while protecting intellectual property (IP) and avoiding unintended loss of rights or commercial value.

Understanding Intellectual Property (IP)

Participation in competitions may involve disclosing various types of intellectual property. These include, but are not limited to:

IP Type	Examples	Risk of Disclosure w/o Protection
Patent	Inventions, technical solutions, mechanical devices, novel methods	Loss of novelty → not patentable if disclosed before filing
Copyright	Software Code, reports, slides, drawings, media content, creative works	Can be copied or reused by others without permission or credit
Designs	Product shapes, visual designs, GUI layouts, aesthetic elements	May be imitated or registered by others, reducing its commercial value

IP Type	Examples	Risk of Disclosure w/o Protection
Trade Secrets	Methods, formulas, internal data, unpublished techniques	Can be used, copied, or profited by others without permission, leading to loss of competitive edge.
Research Data	Proprietary or unpublished raw data, findings, models	Can lead to loss of novelty, misinterpretation by others and may affect journal publication, licensing opportunities.

Important: Disclosure of any of the above (even informally in competitions or showcases) may limit your ability to protect or commercialize your work.

- **Always consult the Office of Assistant Vice-Chancellor Research, Innovation & Sustainability (OAVCRIS) before sharing sensitive or potentially valuable IP.**

What You Can Safely Share in a Competition/Showcase

- Project summary and goals
- General innovation concept or solution
- Non-technical illustrations or mock-ups
- Public domain or previously disclosed materials
- High-level impact or relevance of your work
- Protected IP (e.g., patented or copyright material already catalogued at our office), clearly marked as such

If you intend to share any protected intellectual property, such as patented inventions, registered copyrights, or confidential portions of licensed work:

- Ensure it is properly marked (e.g., "Patent No. XX12345", "© 2025 Author Name")
- Avoid revealing underlying trade secrets or commercially sensitive implementation
- Please consult the Office of Assistant Vice-Chancellor Research, Innovation & Sustainability (OAVCRIS) before including it in your submission

What to Withhold or Generalize

- Detailed technical specifications or blueprints
- Source code, formulas, or proprietary methods
- Sensitive or unpublished data
- Any element not yet protected by patent, copyright, or internal disclosure
- Commercial strategies or future product plans

Before You Enter a Competition:

1. Review the competition's terms & confidentiality provisions.
 - Watch for clauses about IP ownership or public use.
2. Consult the Office of Research, Innovation & Sustainability
 - if you're unsure about the commercial or IP potential of your work.
3. Record your work internally
 - with a date-stamped disclosure, including sketches, drafts, or documentation.

If You Accidentally Disclose IP-Sensitive Information

If you believe you have **inadvertently shared information** with commercial or intellectual property value during a competition:

Contact the Office of Assistant Vice-Chancellor Research, Innovation & Sustainability immediately!!!

We will assist in assessing the impact, documenting the disclosure, and exploring any available IP protection or recovery strategies.

Support from Our Office

We are here to help you:

- Interpret competition terms
- Assess IP risks and protect your work

- Draft internal disclosures or support provisional filings
- Guide you in copyright, data rights, and trade secret management

Contact: ip.oavcris@ubd.edu.bn

Final Note

We encourage all UBD staff and students to take part in competitions and innovation platforms. They are valuable opportunities for growth and recognition. However, protecting your intellectual work is just as important as showcasing it!!

Please engage with us early so we can help you make informed, confident decisions.