

## Enhancing Innovation in Higher Education through Artificial Intelligence and Intellectual Property

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### Abstract

*The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and Intellectual Property (IP) within academic settings is rapidly advancing, with the potential to drive innovation and entrepreneurship. This study aims to explore how AI and IP rights can be utilized in higher education to support entrepreneurial activities among university students. The central hypothesis is that combining AI-driven tools with a well-structured IP framework can significantly improve the environment for innovation in universities, leading to greater student involvement in entrepreneurial efforts. Initial findings suggest that AI-driven tools, such as patent analysis software and market research algorithms, can make IP management more efficient and help identify innovations with commercial potential. Furthermore, universities with effective IP policies and support systems have demonstrated higher levels of student participation in entrepreneurial initiatives. In conclusion, incorporating AI and IP rights into the academic context encourages a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship among students. By offering the necessary tools and legal structures, universities can create an atmosphere that motivates students to engage in entrepreneurial ventures, ultimately contributing to economic growth and enhancing global competitiveness.*

**Keywords:** *Artificial Intelligence, Higher Education, Intellectual Property, Entrepreneurship.*

### Introduction

AI has embedded itself into our society in various, if not all sectors, including healthcare, law, the defence sector as well as employment. AI's development has been remarkable and there are numerous forms of AI such as generative models which play crucial roles in our everyday life. Utilising AI technology in areas such as education, thus, is inevitable if not necessary to keep afloat the technological advancements and developments.

The integration of AI into higher education institutions is rapidly transforming the landscape of innovation and entrepreneurship because AI technology is being utilised creatively to assist institutions, and as AI technologies evolve, they provide new opportunities for translating creativity and commercial ventures within the academic sphere.

Further, the integration of AI into education bridges the gap between old school education and our technological environment by providing a personalised approach to teaching for the benefit of each student.

This paper examines how universities can leverage AI to enhance the management and commercialization of their inventions and discoveries. The commercialization of technologies developed by academia has gained significant attention over the past three decades. As research funding has shifted towards emphasizing commercialization, universities have placed greater importance on the intellectual property created through their research activities.

Intellectual property plays an instrumental role in the university's technology transfer efforts. The technology transfer office serves as the conduit between the academic and commercial worlds, tasked with identifying, protecting, and commercializing the university's intellectual property. However, the success of

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these efforts depends on a broader set of factors beyond just the capabilities of the technology transfer office.

The adoption of AI technologies can enhance various aspects of the university's intellectual property management. AI-powered tools can assist in the identification and assessment of potentially valuable intellectual property, streamlining the patent application process, and optimizing licensing and commercialization strategies. Furthermore, AI can be utilized to monitor and detect potential infringement of the university's intellectual property, as well as identify new market opportunities for existing technologies.

This research employs a mixed methodology approach which is black letter methodology coupled with aspects of non-doctrinal approach and comparative methodology to analyse data from leading universities on student-led start-ups. The study also examines case studies of universities that have successfully integrated AI and IP rights to support entrepreneurship such as MIT, Stanford University, University of Cambridge, and National University of Singapore, all of which have integrated AI and IP rights successfully to harness innovation and entrepreneurship.

#### *Ai In Higher Education*

The incorporation of AI into higher education has grown significantly over the last twenty years. AI technologies are now widely used to streamline various university processes. AI enhances research capabilities by processing large volumes of data in real time, allowing researchers to identify trends, correlations, patterns, and anomalies that would be challenging to detect manually. Moreover, AI can predict research outcomes, enabling more focused and productive research efforts.

AI improves teaching and learning as it provides personalised and adaptive learning, catering to the unique needs of every student which make access to educational resources readily available to students by providing them with better tools for learning and research. Examples of this personalised learning approach can be seen through programs such as Smart Sparrow, Duolingo as well as Knewton.

In terms of innovation and entrepreneurship AI can assist entrepreneurs in academic settings to generate new ideas and substantiate them through market analysis, trend forecasting as well as consumer behaviour prediction. In addition, AI tools can streamline business operations such as financial management, marketing and customer service thereby allowing academic entrepreneurs to focus on innovation and entrepreneurial growth.

Moreover, AI can help ensure that research and entrepreneurial activities comply with ethical standards and regulations, promoting responsible innovation and dismantle bias by detecting and mitigating biases in research and business processes, leading to more equitable and inclusive outcomes.

#### *Ai Tools in Ip Management*

The integration of AI tools in intellectual property management has revolutionized how innovations are identified, protected, and commercialized. AI-driven technologies streamline various aspects of IP management, making processes more efficient and effective. One significant application is patent analysis. AI-powered patent analysis tools can scan and analyze vast patent databases to identify relevant patents, prior art, and potential areas for new inventions. These tools use natural language processing and machine learning algorithms to interpret patent documents, extract key information, and present insights that help researchers and IP professionals make informed decisions.

For example, Innography uses AI to provide comprehensive patent analysis, helping users identify potential patent infringement, discover licensing opportunities, and understand the competitive landscape.

Similarly, PatentSight offers strategic patent portfolio management and benchmarking, assisting organizations in maximizing the value of their IP assets.

AI tools also automate the process of searching and monitoring trademarks, ensuring that new trademarks do not infringe on existing ones. These tools can analyze text and image trademarks, compare them against registered trademarks, and alert users to potential conflicts. TrademarkNow is an example of such a tool, using AI to provide quick and accurate trademark search results, enabling users to assess the risk of trademark infringement efficiently. Clarivate Analytics' CompuMark offers AI-powered trademark search and watch services, helping businesses protect their brands globally.

In managing large IP portfolios, AI can provide insights into the strengths and weaknesses of IP assets, suggest strategies for monetization, and identify gaps that could be addressed through new filings. For instance, Anaqua's IP management software uses AI to streamline IP portfolio management, offering tools for patent and trademark filing, prosecution, and maintenance.

IPfolio is another tool that provides AI-driven analytics to help organizations manage their IP portfolios effectively, offering insights into portfolio performance and optimization opportunities.

Competitive intelligence is another area where AI tools are making a significant impact. By monitoring competitors' IP activities, AI tools provide insights into their innovation strategies and potential areas of conflict. These tools analyze competitors' patent filings, research publications, and market activities, helping organizations stay ahead in the competitive landscape. For instance, Cipher uses AI to provide competitive intelligence by analyzing patent portfolios and innovation trends, helping organizations make strategic decisions about their IP strategies. In addition, PatSnap, an AI-driven platform, offers comprehensive competitive intelligence, patent analytics, and innovation insights, enabling organizations to track competitors and identify emerging trends.

AI also significantly enhances the due diligence process during mergers and acquisitions (M&A) by quickly analyzing large volumes of IP assets and identifying potential risks and opportunities. AI tools can evaluate the strength, validity, and scope of patents, helping organizations make informed investment decisions. Kira Systems, for instance, uses AI to conduct due diligence by extracting and analyzing information from IP documents, providing insights into potential risks and opportunities during M&A transactions. Luminance is another AI-powered due diligence platform that analyzes legal documents, including IP agreements, to identify critical information and assess risk.

The use of AI in IP management not only enhances the efficiency and accuracy of IP-related processes but also provides valuable strategic insights that drive innovation and competitive advantage. By leveraging AI tools, organizations can better manage their IP assets, protect their innovations, and gain a competitive edge in the market. However, these do not come without risk.

### *Challenges in Ip Management*

Administering and preserving IP assets in an environment with increased AI integration presents significant challenges, including legal regulatory issues, ethical and fair use considerations, data privacy and security, preservation of IP assets, enforcement and infringement issues, and education and awareness.

Jurisdictional variations complicate the international protection and enforcement of IP assets, as different countries have varying IP laws and regulations. Technological advancements often outpace legal standards, creating uncertainties around protecting AI-generated IP. Robust ethical guidelines and oversight are necessary to ensure that AI-generated IP does not infringe on existing works or perpetuate biases. The application of the fair use doctrine to AI-generated content is particularly challenging in academic settings

Data privacy and security are crucial as AI systems rely on large datasets, which may include proprietary or sensitive information. Protecting these datasets while using them to generate new IP is essential. Cybersecurity threats to IP assets are also increasing with the integration of digital and AI technologies.

The long-term preservation of digital IP assets requires effective digital archiving strategies to ensure accessibility and usability over time. Rapid technological changes can render certain IP assets obsolete, complicating their preservation and continued use. Strategies to manage technology obsolescence are vital for maintaining the value of IP assets.

Collaborative research involving multiple institutions and industry partners often leads to complex IP ownership and management issues. Clear IP agreements and strategies for joint ventures and partnerships are essential to avoid conflicts and ensure fair distribution of IP rights. Effective management of collaborative IP encourages innovation and ensures appropriate recognition and benefits for all contributors.

AI plays a significant role in detecting IP infringement, but it also presents new challenges as infringers may use sophisticated methods to evade detection. The complexity of AI-generated IP can lead to more disputes and litigation, requiring specialized legal expertise and resources. Advanced detection technologies and a robust legal framework are necessary to handle AI-related IP disputes.

### *Education and Awareness*

In the fast-changing areas of artificial intelligence and intellectual property, education and awareness are essential to ensure that academics, students, and entrepreneurs have the knowledge and skills needed to manage the challenges and opportunities in these fields.

### *Importance of IP Knowledge*

Understanding intellectual property is crucial for university communities to recognize the value of IP rights in supporting innovation and entrepreneurship. Many students and researchers may not fully understand how IP functions, its importance in protecting inventions, and the legal risks of IP infringement. Without this knowledge, they might miss out on protecting their innovations or face legal issues that could have been avoided.

Educational institutions should include IP education in their curricula, especially in programs related to business, law, engineering, and the sciences. This would raise awareness among students and faculty about the significance of IP in bringing research to the market and encouraging innovation. Courses on IP basics, patent drafting, trademark registration, and copyright law should be available at both undergraduate and graduate levels.

### *AI Tools in Education*

Using AI tools in education can greatly improve IP knowledge and entrepreneurship training. AI-driven platforms can offer personalized learning experiences, helping students understand the complexities of IP law, the patenting process, and the commercialization of innovations. These tools can also create simulations that allow students to engage in virtual IP management exercises, reinforcing their understanding of key concepts.

For example, AI-based learning platforms can create interactive case studies that simulate real-world challenges in managing IP in a startup environment. Students can learn how to apply for patents, handle trademark disputes, or manage licensing agreements in a controlled educational setting. These practical experiences are invaluable in preparing students for real-life IP management in their future ventures.

### *Ongoing Professional Development*

Given the rapid progress in AI and the changing nature of IP law, continuous professional development is important for both educators and students. Universities should provide ongoing training opportunities to keep faculty and students updated on the latest developments in AI, IP law, and how they intersect. This

can include workshops, seminars, and online courses that cover emerging issues like AI-generated inventions, data privacy in AI, and the ethical implications of AI in research and innovation.

Partnerships with industry professionals and IP law firms can offer valuable insights into current trends and best practices. Guest lectures from IP attorneys, patent examiners, and AI experts can provide students with a deeper understanding of the practical challenges and opportunities in these fields.

#### *Raising Awareness of Ethical and Legal Issues*

As AI technologies become more integrated into university settings, it's increasingly important to raise awareness of the ethical and legal issues related to using these tools. Students and researchers need to be informed about the potential risks associated with AI, including data privacy concerns, bias in AI algorithms, and the ownership of AI-generated content.

Universities should promote ethical responsibility by including discussions on AI ethics and IP in their educational programs. This should include topics such as the fair use of AI tools in research, the impact of AI on existing IP frameworks, and the challenges AI poses to traditional ideas of authorship and inventorship.

#### *Institutional Support and Resources*

To effectively manage IP and use AI technologies, students and faculty need access to support and resources within their institutions. Universities should establish dedicated IP offices or innovation hubs that provide guidance on patent applications, licensing agreements, and bringing research to market. These offices can also offer AI tools and software that assist in patent searches, trademark monitoring, and market analysis.

Moreover, universities should create awareness campaigns that highlight the importance of IP and the benefits of using AI in innovation. These campaigns can include informational sessions, webinars, and the distribution of educational materials that make IP law and AI technologies easier to understand.

#### *Collaborative Learning and Interdisciplinary Approaches*

Encouraging collaborative learning and interdisciplinary approaches is key to building a comprehensive understanding of AI and IP. By bringing together students from different academic backgrounds, universities can create a more well-rounded educational experience. For instance, law students could work with engineering students on projects that require both technical expertise and legal knowledge, such as developing and protecting a new AI-driven technology.

Interdisciplinary courses that combine elements of law, computer science, business, and ethics can provide students with a broad education that prepares them for the complex challenges of modern innovation. These courses can also emphasize the importance of teamwork and communication, which are critical skills in the real-world application of AI and IP management.

#### *Long-Term Impact of Education and Awareness*

In the long run, the efforts to educate and raise awareness about AI and IP will be evident in the ability of students and researchers to innovate responsibly and effectively. By equipping the next generation of entrepreneurs and innovators with the knowledge and tools they need, universities can ensure that they are not only protecting their own intellectual assets but also contributing to broader societal and economic goals.

### *Case Studies of Leading Universities Which Have Utilised Ai and Ip*

Several prestigious universities have successfully integrated AI and IP rights to support entrepreneurship within their institutions.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) is a global leader in integrating AI and intellectual property to harness innovation and entrepreneurship. The MIT Quest for Intelligence initiative and the MIT-IBM Watson AI Lab exemplify their commitment to advancing AI research. These programs not only push the frontiers of AI technology but also embed AI into practical applications across various industries.

The Technology Licensing Office (TLO) at MIT plays a crucial role in managing the intellectual property generated by MIT researchers. By providing robust support for patent applications and licensing agreements, the TLO ensures that innovations are protected and can be commercially exploited. This integration has led to several successful startups and spin-offs from MIT, contributing significantly to the entrepreneurial framework. The streamlined IP processes facilitated by AI-driven tools like patent analysis software have made it easier for researchers to identify and protect commercially viable innovations, thereby accelerating the transition from research to market.

Similarly, Stanford University has long been at the forefront of AI research, with the Stanford Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (SAIL) being a central hub for AI advancements since 1962. SAIL's contributions have been pivotal in shaping the AI landscape, influencing both academic research and practical applications.

Stanford's Office of Technology Licensing (OTL) facilitates the transfer of innovations from the laboratory to the marketplace. By leveraging AI tools to streamline IP management and ensure robust protection of research outputs, Stanford has created a supportive environment for innovation. The integration of AI in IP management has led to more efficient identification of patentable technologies and strategic management of IP assets. This has resulted in numerous successful startups, including some of the most well-known tech companies globally, originating from Stanford's entrepreneurial framework.

The University of Cambridge has established the Cambridge Centre for AI in Medicine, which focuses on applying AI to solve complex medical problems. This center is a testament to Cambridge's dedication to integrating cutting-edge AI research with practical applications that have real-world impacts.

Cambridge Enterprise, the university's commercialization arm, supports the transition of innovations from research to market. By managing IP rights effectively, Cambridge Enterprise ensures that innovations are protected and can be developed into viable commercial products. The integration of AI tools in the IP management process has enhanced the ability to identify and protect valuable IP assets, leading to successful commercialization efforts. The University of Cambridge's strong IP policies and support systems have resulted in high levels of student and faculty engagement in entrepreneurial activities, ensuring a vibrant innovation network.

The National University of Singapore (NUS) has multiple AI research initiatives and collaborations, particularly in the fields of healthcare and urban solutions. These initiatives highlight NUS's commitment to leveraging AI for solving critical societal challenges.

NUS Enterprise, the university's entrepreneurial arm, aids in managing IP rights and supports the commercialization of research outcomes. By integrating AI tools for market research and patent analysis, NUS Enterprise enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of IP management. This integration has led to successful startups and innovative solutions that address real-world problems. The robust IP framework at NUS, combined with AI-driven insights, has increased student and faculty engagement in entrepreneurial ventures, contributing to the university's reputation as a hub for innovation and entrepreneurship in Asia.



The integration of AI and IP management in these leading universities are success stories and has led to significant benefits, including the efficient identification and protection of valuable innovations, streamlined commercialization processes, and increased engagement in entrepreneurial activities. These institutions serve as exemplary models for how AI and IP can be effectively integrated to create thriving hubs of innovation and entrepreneurship. By leveraging AI tools and robust IP frameworks, these universities have not only enhanced their research capabilities but also contributed to economic growth and global competitiveness.

Moreover, the integration of AI and IP management within universities has a profound effect on student engagement in entrepreneurial activities. By providing advanced tools, robust support systems, and encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration, universities like MIT, Stanford, Cambridge, and NUS create an environment where innovation thrives. This support not only enhances the quality of student-led projects but also increases the likelihood of these projects being successfully commercialized, thereby contributing to a vibrant entrepreneurial environment.

### *Student Entrepreneurship*

Artificial Intelligence -driven tools and a robust IP framework have significantly contributed to the increase in entrepreneurial activities among students at prestigious universities. At MIT, AI tools have enabled the creation of sophisticated biotechnology start-ups like Ginkgo Bioworks , which designs custom microbes for various markets, and Formlabs, which specializes in advanced 3D printing technology. These companies benefited from MIT's strong support in IP management and AI resources, which allowed students to protect and commercialize their innovative ideas effectively.

Similarly, Stanford University has seen the rise of notable start-ups such as Snapchat, a multimedia messaging app, and DoorDash, an on-demand food delivery service. Stanford's robust IP framework and AI research facilities have empowered students to develop cutting-edge technologies and secure their inventions, thus creating a thriving and evolving entrepreneurial environment.

At the University of Cambridge, student-led start-ups like Cambridge Temperature Concepts , which develops medical devices, and Arm Holdings, a semiconductor and software design company, have emerged. The university's emphasis on AI-driven innovation and comprehensive IP policies has provided students with the necessary tools and protections to advance their ventures successfully.

The National University of Singapore has also witnessed a surge in student entrepreneurship with start-ups like Zopim , which offers customer support software solutions, and Carousell , an online marketplace for new and secondhand goods. NUS's investment in AI research and a solid IP framework has facilitated the growth of these companies by ensuring students can leverage AI technologies and protect their intellectual creations.

Harvard University has produced renowned start-ups such as Facebook, a leading social networking service, and Cloudflare , which provides internet security and content delivery network services. Harvard's robust IP policies and AI-driven tools have played a crucial role in supporting student entrepreneurs by providing them with the resources to innovate and secure their technological advancements.

At the University of Oxford, AI-driven start-ups like Mind Foundry , which develops advanced machine learning solutions, and Oxbotica , specializing in autonomous vehicle software, have thrived. Oxford's strong IP framework and focus on AI research have enabled students to develop and protect their innovative projects, driving entrepreneurial success .

Consequently, AI-driven tools and a robust IP framework have significantly increased student entrepreneurial activities at these prestigious universities. These institutions have created an environment where students can innovate freely, secure their intellectual property, and bring their cutting-edge technologies to market, leading to the creation of successful start-ups across various industries.

## *AI and IP*

Leveraging AI tools in IP frameworks and the link between the two concepts, as described throughout this paper, is an apparent one and the intersection between AI and IP in higher education is gaining momentum. Institutions like Harvard University, Washington University, and the University of California, are developing AI tools to address equity, privacy, and intellectual property rights concerns.

Harvard University is particularly active in this area through its Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society, which conducts extensive research on AI ethics. The center's focus includes reducing bias and ensuring fair treatment across different demographics. Additionally, Harvard's Privacy Tools Project aims to develop methods and tools to enhance data privacy and confidentiality while enabling meaningful data analysis. Harvard Law School also plays a crucial role, offering courses and conducting research on the implications of AI on intellectual property law, exploring how existing frameworks can adapt to new technologies.

The University of Oxford is particularly active in this field through its Institute for Ethics in AI. This institute explores the ethical implications of AI, focusing on ensuring fairness and reducing biases in AI systems. It collaborates with various stakeholders to promote equitable AI development. Additionally, Oxford's Department of Computer Science is at the forefront of developing privacy-preserving technologies, including secure multiparty computation and differential privacy, to protect user data while enabling AI applications. Oxford's Intellectual Property Research Centre examines the legal challenges posed by AI, including issues around the ownership of AI-generated works and the adaptation of existing intellectual property laws to new technologies.

The University of Cambridge is another leading institution in this area. The Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence at Cambridge addresses the ethical and societal impacts of AI, emphasizing the importance of creating inclusive and fair AI systems. Cambridge's Computer Laboratory conducts research on data privacy and security, focusing on developing algorithms and systems that ensure the confidentiality and integrity of user data in AI applications. The Centre for Intellectual Property and Information Law at Cambridge explores the intersection of AI and intellectual property, including how AI inventions are protected under current laws and potential reforms to accommodate new technological advancements.

These leading and prestigious universities show how AI has been developed to deal with IP issues to protect them and to continue entrepreneurial endeavours.

### *Challenges of Ai Integration into Education*

One of the primary challenges is the potential over-reliance on AI technology. As AI systems become increasingly sophisticated, there is a risk that students and researchers may depend too heavily on these tools, potentially stifling creativity and critical thinking. AI tools are designed to assist and enhance human capabilities, not replace them. Therefore, it is crucial to strike a balance between utilizing AI for efficiency and maintaining the human element of innovation and problem-solving.

The rapid pace of AI development often outstrips the evolution of legal frameworks. Current IP laws may not adequately address the complexities introduced by AI-generated content, leading to uncertainties around ownership, authorship, and protection of IP. For instance, traditional copyright law typically grants rights to human creators, but AI-generated works challenge this notion. Updating legal frameworks to reflect these new realities is essential to provide clarity and protect the interests of all stakeholders involved.

Currently legislation is focused on AI ethics rather than focus on dealing with the evolving threat from AI technology.

Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach. Legal frameworks must be updated to provide clear guidelines for AI-generated IP. IP management practices should be enhanced to leverage AI's capabilities while ensuring alignment with ethical standards and institutional goals. Investing in



cybersecurity is critical to protect valuable IP assets from cyber threats. Providing continuous education and support to stakeholders will empower them to navigate the evolving IP landscape effectively.

Consequently, developing effective IP management practices are vital for maximizing the potential benefits of AI integration. This includes using AI tools for patent analysis, trademark searches, and competitive intelligence, which streamline the identification and protection of valuable innovations as mentioned above. However, managing IP assets in an evolving technological landscape requires continuous adaptation and strategic foresight. Universities, globally, must develop robust IP management systems that leverage AI while ensuring that these practices align with broader institutional goals and ethical standards akin to the efforts by Harvard, the University of Cambridge and the University of Oxford.

As AI and digital technologies become more integrated into IP management, the threat of cyberattacks and data breaches increases. Protecting sensitive data, including proprietary research and personal information, is paramount. Investing in advanced cybersecurity measures is crucial to safeguard IP assets from malicious actors. This includes implementing strong encryption protocols, regular security audits, and comprehensive incident response plans. By prioritizing cybersecurity, universities can protect their intellectual property and maintain the trust of researchers, students, and external partners.

To effectively navigate the complexities of AI and IP integration, ongoing education and support for all stakeholders are essential. Academics, entrepreneurs, and administrators must be equipped with the knowledge and skills to manage IP assets effectively and ethically. This includes training on the latest AI tools, understanding evolving legal standards, and developing strategic IP management practices. Additionally, encouraging a culture of collaboration and open communication can help address potential issues and promote a shared vision of innovation and entrepreneurship.

## Conclusion

This paper explored how AI has been leveraged and utilised as an IP tool in educational settings in order to empower universities enterpreneurial activities and student engagement.

The dual role of AI in education, as both a tool for learning and an object of study, highlights the need for comprehensive educational policies that address the integration of AI technologies and the development of digital literacy and AI ethics. While AI presents opportunities for innovation as shown the University of Harvard, the University of Cambridge and NUS entrepreneurship, there are many concerns about the potential for over-reliance on AI tools, as well as security and policy considerations.

Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach, including updating legal frameworks, enhancing IP management practices, investing in cybersecurity, and providing education and support to stakeholders involved in creating and administering IP assets.

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