

Legal Services and the Research Process at Wits

Research projects are often facilitated through various agreements that contract parties to provide funding, deliver outcomes, transfer materials, keep ideas confidential, etc. It is, therefore, necessary to employ the services of competent legal expertise to facilitate the research process.

The University Research Office has recently acquired a legal service and will in future be offering this service for research intensive matters. This means there are now four¹ ports of call for legal service at Wits: (i) Legal Office, (ii) Wits Enterprise, (iii) Wits Research Office and (iv) Wits Health Consortium.

The question is where is the most appropriate port of call for my legal needs?

Where do you go for the most appropriate legal service?

The diagramme below illustrates where best to take you legal need.

Note: Please do not move your existing matters as this would only delay the process!

¹ This excludes the Wits Law Clinic and similar externally focused services

Where should I take my legal need?

Is your legal need related to managing research or results of research?

Yes

No

Yes, the primary purpose of my need is to facilitate a research project or the results/outputs of research, or more specifically my need relates to one or more of:

- Research collaboration between Wits and other universities and/or third parties
- Memoranda of Understanding (MoU)
 - To promote research;
 - To stimulate research collaboration;
 - Memoranda of Agreements (MoA) related to: Confidentiality; Funding of research projects; Publication of research results; Material transfers; etc.
- Any IP issues including patenting, trade marks, or other forms of protection of outputs of research;
- Human resource issues related to research projects, including:
 - Exchange of students &/or staff; Postgraduate students; Postdoctoral / Research fellows; Bursaries and fellowships; etc
- Legal compliance in a research context, including:
 - Tax implications (if any); Limitation of liability (indemnity); Insurance and risk management.
- Licensing any rights to external parties and/or transferring IP to external parties

No, my need relates to:

- Student and staff disciplinary action;
- Investigations;
- Student affairs (sports, campus life, residences, SRC, student services, excursions);
- Procurement;
- Purchases and sales;
- Disputes and litigations;
- General University trademark / branding matters and licensing of Wits brand;
- Risk management: OHS, insurance;
- University services such as CNS, PIMD, Security, CDP, Marketing;
- University initiated collaboration for strategic planning purposes;
- Undergrad student funding;
- General international exchange of student and staff;
- Donations.

Is your need IP intensive, related to contract research and/or relating to transfer of IP?

Yes

No

2. Please take the matter to Wits Enterprise: x79084 or www.wits-enterprise.co.za

3. Please take the matter to Research Office: Legal Services, Senate House 5th floor, 7 1328

1. Please take the matter to the Legal Office, Senate House 5th floor, 7 1242

4. Clinical trials and other health science related research : Wits Health Consortium: www.witshealth.co.za