



Research Overhead Rates Policy

Table 1: UCC retains ownership of Foreground Intellectual Property (IP)

Foreground IP Ownership	Partner	Partner Licensing Terms	Overhead Rate ^a : Serviced Lab-based Research ^b	Overhead Rate ^a : Desk-based Research ^b
University	Sponsor (Enterprise)^c	Exclusive royalty-free licence to commercialise		
	Large		80%	60%
	Medium		75%	55%
	Small		70%	50%
	Sponsor (Non-Enterprise)		75%	55%
University	Sponsor (Enterprise)	Non-exclusive royalty-free licence to commercialise		
	Large		50%	40%
	Medium		45%	35%
	Small		40%	35%
	Sponsor (Non-Enterprise)		45%	40%
University	Sponsor (Enterprise)	Exclusive royalty-bearing licence to commercialise [Option to Negotiate]		
	Large		50%	40%
	Medium		45%	35%
	Small		40%	35%
	Sponsor (Non- Enterprise)		45%	40%
University	Sponsor (Enterprise)	Non-exclusive royalty-bearing licence to commercialise [Option to Negotiate]		
	Large		40%	35%
	Medium		35%	30%
	Small		30%	30%
	Sponsor (Non- Enterprise)		30%	30%
University	Sponsor (Enterprise)	Licence for research and training [non-commercialisation purposes]		
	Large		30%	30%
	Medium		30%	30%
	Small		30%	30%
	Sponsor (Non-Enterprise)		30%	30%
Additional Considerations [For Internal UCC Use Only]				
1. Alignment of overhead rates: Enterprise/non-enterprise co-funded projects		Where the non-enterprise partner has a non-negotiable rate, this rate can apply to the enterprise partner		
2. Use of University background IP for commercialisation purposes [where required for use of Foreground IP]		Increase above relevant standard rate is negotiable		
3. Exclusive/non-exclusive royalty-bearing licence to commercialise incorporated within contract		Increase above relevant ' <i>option to negotiate</i> ' rate is negotiable		
4. License limited to specific, defined field		Reduction below relevant rate is negotiable (-10% maximum).		
5. Jointly created IP via Joint Ownership Management Agreement (JOMA)		Rate negotiated separately based on inventive contribution by either party		

Table 2: Sponsor retains ownership of Foreground Intellectual Property (IP)

Foreground IP Ownership	Partner	Partner Licensing Terms	Overhead Rate ^a : Serviced Lab-based Research ^b	Overhead Rate ^a : Desk-based Research ^b
Sponsor (Enterprise)^c	University	Licence for research and training [non-commercialisation purposes]		
Large			70%	60%
Medium			70%	60%
Small			60%	50%
Sponsor (Non-Enterprise)			70%	60%
Sponsor (Enterprise)	University	Exclusive royalty-free licence to commercialise		
Large			40%	30%
Medium			40%	30%
Small			35%	30%
Sponsor (Non-Enterprise)			35%	30%
Sponsor(Enterprise)	University	Non-exclusive royalty free licence to commercialise		
Large			50%	40%
Medium			50%	40%
Small			40%	35%
Sponsor (Non-Enterprise)			50%	40%
Sponsor(Enterprise)	University	None (Contract research)		
Large			100%	80%
Medium			100%	80%
Small			75%	60%
Sponsor (Non-Enterprise)			80%	80%
Additional Considerations [For Internal UCC Use Only]				
1. Use of University background IP for commercialisation purposes [where required for use of Foreground IP]			Increase above relevant standard rate is negotiable	
2. Jointly created IP via Joint Ownership Management Agreement (JOMA)			Overhead negotiated separately based on inventive contribution by either party	

Table Notes

^aOverhead is calculated as the relevant percentage of all direct costs.

^b*Serviced Lab-based Research — Definition:* Research activity that occurs in the context of a serviced laboratory environment, and/or entails the use of advanced computer infrastructure (eg. computer science projects) and/or has a fieldwork component.

Desk-based Research — Definition: Research activity with space requirements that are limited to office and/or library usage, and equipment requirements that are limited to standard computer and office equipment usage.

^cEnterprise Definitions (Table 3):

Enterprise Category	Headcount [Global]	Annual Turnover [Global] OR	Annual Balance Sheet [Global] Total
Large	>250	> € 50 million	> € 43 million
Medium	< 250	≤ € 50 million	≤ € 43 million
Small	< 50	≤ € 10 million	≤ € 10 million

Source: Modified from European Commission SME definitions available at:
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/files/sme_definition/sme_user_guide_en.pdf

Appendix A: Finding the Correct Research Overhead Rate for your Project

When preparing/finalising the budget for your research funding proposal, the first point of contact is UCC Research Support Services (RSS) — please go to the [Contact Us](http://www.ucc.ie/research) page of the RSS website (<http://www.ucc.ie/research>) to identify the Research Support Administrator who liaises with your funding sponsor.

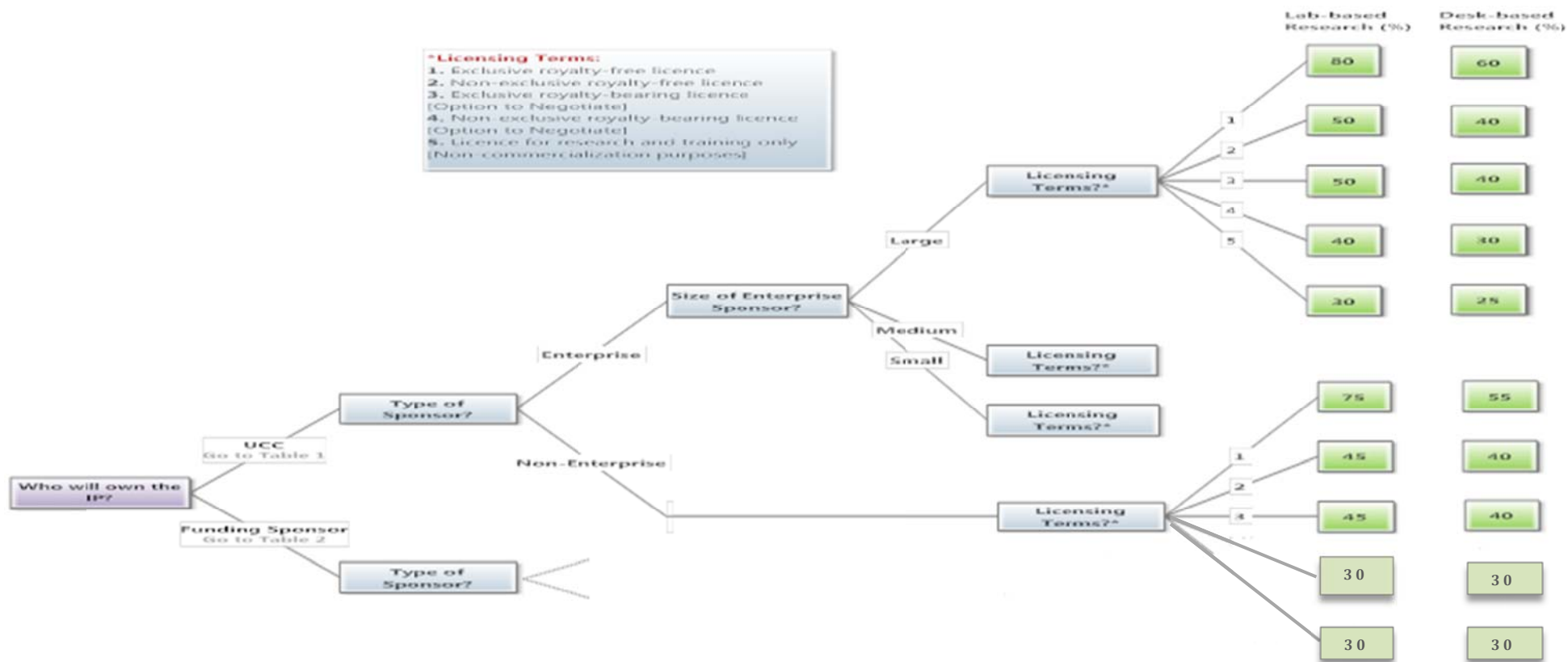
Research overheads at the appropriate rate must always be included in your project budget. This policy document provides information on:

1. The correct overhead rate to be included in your project budget.
2. The correct application of the overhead rate.

An illustrative decision tree is included below to help you identify the correct rate for your project. If you have any queries about any aspect of this policy and its correct application, please contact UCC Research Support Services.

All budgets (at application and post-award), including incorporation of the correct overhead rate, must be approved by UCC Research Support Services before final sign-off.

Decision Tree (Illustrative — web-version currently in preparation)



APPENDIX B: Approved (Non-Enterprise) Funding Sponsors with Overhead Rates Not Compliant with Policy [Under Review]

All research grant applicants are strongly encouraged to include postgraduate students in their proposals, especially on grants/awards where zero or reduced overhead funding is provided.

In addition to fees, the University receives two streams of additional income for registered PhD students through the Core Grant — as part of the normal grant and through income that is allocated based on research metrics (for each graduated PhD).

1. Scholarship/Fellowship Awards [All national agencies]
2. Atlantic Philanthropies
3. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
4. European Commission Research Programmes
5. Heritage Council

18. The Medical Research Charities Group (MRCG) incorporating:
Alpha One Foundation
Alzheimer Society of Ireland
Arthritis Ireland
Asthma Society of Ireland
Bee For Batters, The Soairse Foundation
Brainwave - The Irish Epilepsy Association
Children's Fund for Health, Temple Street Hospital
Children's Leukaemia Research Project
Cystinosis Foundation Ireland

6. Irish Government Departments
7. Marine Institute
8. NAITRL
9. National Institutes of Health (US)
10. National Science Foundation (US)

DEBRA
Diabetes Federation of Ireland
Duchenne Ireland
Fighting Blindness
Heart Children Ireland
Irish Cancer Society
Irish Heart Foundation
Raynaud's & Scleroderma Ireland
Irish Thoracic Society
Meningitis Research Foundation
MS Ireland
Muscular Dystrophy Ireland
Parkinson's Association of Ireland
Research and Education Foundation, Sligo General Hospital

11. Royal Irish Academy
12. Teagasc
13. Wellcome Trust
14. HSE
15. All UK medical charities
16. Irish Aid
17. Arts Council

Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Research Foundation
St John of God Research Foundation
St Patrick's Hospital Foundation
St Vincent's Anaesthesia Foundation
Sightsavers International (Ireland)
The Rutland Centre
The Childrens Medical and Research Foundation
The Cystic Fibrosis Association of Ireland
The Mater Foundation

APPENDIX C: Derogation from Research Overhead Rates Policy — Approval Process

If a funding sponsor proposes an overhead rate for a research project that is lower than the relevant UCC overhead rate (and the sponsor is not pre-approved (ref. Appendix A)), then agreement must be sought on an acceptable rate from the relevant University authorities using the process detailed below. **Prior to agreement, no commitments relating to overhead should be made with the sponsor.**

1. As a first step, please contact [UCC Research Support Services](#) at the earliest opportunity. Advice will be provided on the appropriate overhead rate for your project including licensing options.
2. Taking into consideration the requirements of UCC and the sponsor, the Principal Investigator (PI) proposes an overhead rate to their Head of College.
 - a. Information that should be furnished at this stage:
 - IP status/licensing terms for the project in question (and other relevant information that determines the appropriate overhead rate)
 - Details of previous engagement(s) with relevant sponsor (including overhead rate(s) charged)
 - Detailed justification for deviating from Research Overhead Rates Policy.

In this respect, the inclusion of postgraduate students in the project proposal should be considered.

An additional consideration is a first engagement with a sponsor of strategic importance.

- b. In the case of companies and other entities where the overhead rate is negotiable, the PI should inform the sponsor of the appropriate overhead rate for the project they are proposing to support. If an issue is raised by the sponsor regarding this rate, the PI should not reach agreement on a reduced rate but, firstly, consult with their Head of College/College Financial Analyst. The College will consider the request in consultation with UCC Research Support Services.
 - c. In the case of funding agencies/foundations/charities, the overhead rate may be fixed and non-negotiable, or there may be no overhead available. The PI should consult Appendix B of this document for an approved list of sponsors with overhead rates that are not compliant with UCC Research Overhead Rates Policy.
3. If, following negotiation, agreement can be reached regarding an acceptable overhead rate, the Head of College/College Financial Analyst will make a recommendation to the VP Research & Innovation (VPRI) and Bursar to accept the terms.
4. The VPRI and Bursar sign-off on the overhead rate on behalf of the University.

This process should be undertaken as early as possible — at funding application stage (if relevant) or early in the contract review process. A minimum of 10 working days before application/contract sign-off is required

Where a project benefits from a reduced overhead rate, for all future projects stemming from the same collaboration, the appropriate UCC overhead rate will apply without exception. The relevant sponsor should be notified of the ‘one-time only’ arrangement on contract agreement.