

## **THIRD PARTY CONTRACT RESEARCH INTRODUCTION**

### **The University-Industry Relationship**

In its approach to industrial interaction, the University has taken a flexible stance and an atmosphere of open encouragement to University-Industry interaction has clearly developed. Industry has responded by increasingly supporting specific projects as well as assisting in general terms, for example through the Development Fund. While many informal links now exist between individual academic staff and industry, it is apparent that these are of increasing complexity. A more formal arrangement is desirable, in part, to avoid difficulties which have arisen in the past from loosely structured contractual arrangements.

The following procedures relate to medium to long-term projects and are designed to regularise the University approach to external contracts and to assist staff in reaching equitable arrangements with companies supporting projects on campus. Specifically, external contract work requires a structured procedural arrangement in order to:

- develop and maintain a consistent approach to contractual matters within the University;
- provide a support service within the University to academic staff involved in negotiations and contractual arrangements;
- ensure that the University is able to provide all necessary services for the successful completion of the contract;
- protect the interests of staff and of the University regarding professional liability;
- develop and maintain equitable costings and charging rates;
- protect intellectual property rights;
- promote external contract work nationally and internationally;
- ensure compliance with University policy in matters of grant-type contracts from EU, Government etc.;
- maintain up-to-date records of contractual work and externally funded projects at the University.