



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEWCASTLE  
AUSTRALIA

# BRIEF OVERVIEW

## COPYRIGHT - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

*This factsheet is intended for University of Newcastle staff members to use in the context of their employment only and provides general advice. University staff should contact the Copyright Advisor if they have specific questions or concerns.*

### What is copyright?

Copyright is a form of intellectual property (IP), a collection of rights intended to provide copyright owners with protection for their own material while allowing others to use it for legitimate public good.

### Why is it important for the University?

The University has a legal requirement for copyright compliance under the Copyright Act 1968 (the Act). Copyright and IP also inform policy and procedure at the University, including our [IP Policy](#) and [Procedure; Copyright Compliance Policy and Guidelines](#), and [Open Access Guideline](#).

### What is it important for me as a staff member?

The importance of copyright to the University as a whole flows through to staff. Course coordinators have an individual responsibility for copyright in their courses. Researchers need to be aware of copyright as it can impact their research processes and publications. Professional staff can also be impacted by copyright and IP in their work practices.

### Who owns the copyright in my work at the University?

Under the [IP Policy](#), course materials and works produced by professional staff are generally owned by the University. Scholarly and creative works are generally owned by the author/creator. Check the Policy for more information.

### What is 'third-party' copyright?

This is content where the copyright is not owned by you and/or the University. When reusing this external content, there are requirements you must follow so that you do not infringe copyright.

### The educational statutory licence

The Act includes an educational statutory licence which allows for you to share certain third-party material in your course without infringing copyright. There are some restrictions around how we can use this content – please see the individual information sheets covering images, music, video, etc., for more detailed information. The educational statutory licence **does not apply to MOOCs**, only to reuse in 'standard' (closed) university courses.

### Other permissions and licences

You may be able to rely on direct permissions or licensing from copyright owners to reuse third-party content, such as [Creative Commons licensing](#) or email permissions. For assistance please contact the **Copyright Advisor**.

### What about student use in assessments, etc.?

There is an exception in the Act for the reuse of copyright material by students. Students should be encouraged to appropriately reference all third-party content used in their assessments, including images, video, etc. Some referencing styles also require the inclusion of a copyright statement, even for student reuse (e.g. [APA](#)).

### What about use in my research and publications?

Unlike student assessments, reuse of copyright material in your research / publications will need clearance from the copyright owners. This includes reuse in theses. There are various ways to seek this permission, including online forms in publisher databases, direct contact, etc. The Copyright Advisor can assist with this process.

### Best practice

- Check out the University's [Copyright Compliance Policy](#) and [Guidelines](#) to understand your responsibilities.
- When relying on exceptions in the Act, permissions or licensing, follow the requirements for usage noted.
- Encourage your colleagues and students to respect copyright – don't 'authorise' infringement.
- Contact the Copyright Advisor to seek support or advice – see **Copyright Support** below.

## Copyright Support

Ask a question: [newcastle.edu.au/copyright-request](http://newcastle.edu.au/copyright-request)

Phone: (02) 492 16456

Web: [newcastle.edu.au/copyright-support](http://newcastle.edu.au/copyright-support)

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