

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROTECTION AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AT AUB

Fadia Homeidan, Ph.D.
American University of Beirut

RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Research: Research is the most significant example of a country's intellectual resources, economic strength and global competitiveness.

Innovation: Innovation is about the application of new ideas, discoveries and inventions.

Commercialization: is the process of introducing a new product or production method into commerce: making it available on the market.

Entrepreneurship: the act of creating a business while building and scaling it to generate a profit. (It is also about transforming the world by solving big problems).



RESEARCH AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Like most countries, expenditures in Lebanon for Research, Development and Innovation are dominated by institutions of higher education.

These institutions need to develop support systems for faculty and students to facilitate their research and assist them in transferring their ideas into innovation technologies.

These institutions also need to increase awareness of intellectual property and the transfer of intellectual property to enterprises (through licensing and/or startups).



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROTECTION AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AT AUB

IP Protection and TT:

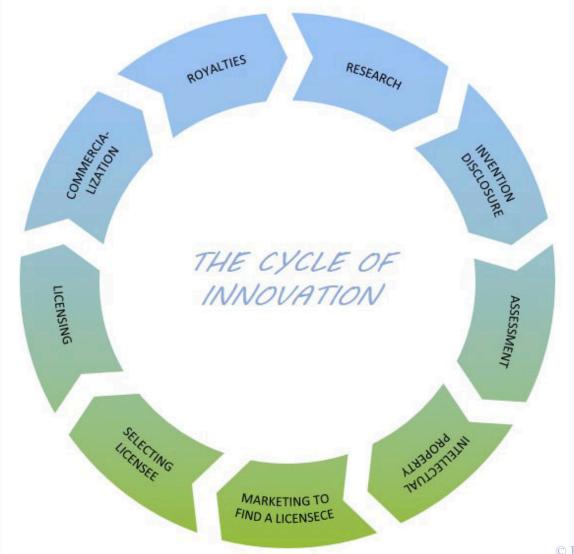
- 1. Enhances reputation of AUB, its faculty, staff and students
- 2. Supports AUB efforts to ensure graduating students have developed entrepreneurial knowhow and understanding of IP
- 3. Fosters enhanced research interactions with the private sector
- 4. Facilitates the transfer of technologies (licensing or startups)
- 5. Generates additional research funds



TTU TASKS

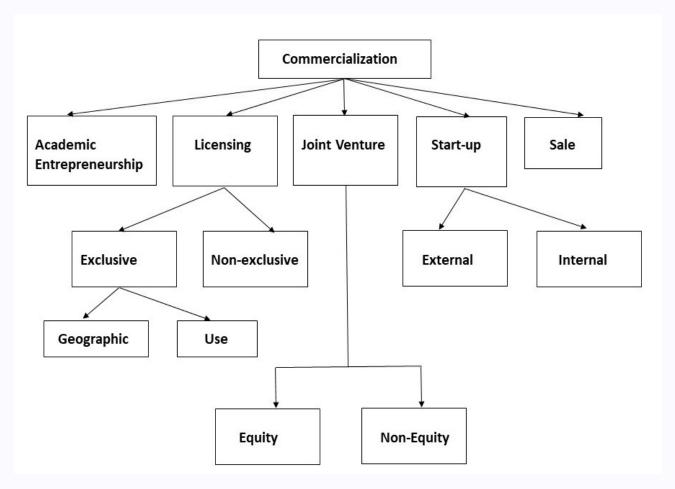
- 1. Amended IP policy which includes Royalty shares
- 2. Currently drafting students' IP ownership policy
- 3. Identifies Innovation/IP in Research Projects
- 4. Assesses patentability potential and coordination of patent filing, protection and follow up
- 5. Supports faculty members in transferring technology to industry and/or startups
- 6. Prepares MTAs and NDAs
- 7. Assists in defining innovative research priorities and secures funds
- 8. Carries outreach activities to AUB community
- 9. Hosts interns from local and regional universities







The Commercialization Cycle





State IP Protection and TT at AUB

	Issued Patents	Full Patent Applications	Provisional Patents	ТМ	©	Licensed and/or in Negotiation	No Action	Registered in Lebanon
Med/Nutr/Biomed	2	7	10	1	1	5	7	1
Eng/Chem/Phys	1	4	11			2	12	
Software/CS		2	2		3	2		1
Others (Ghata)	3				1	1		1

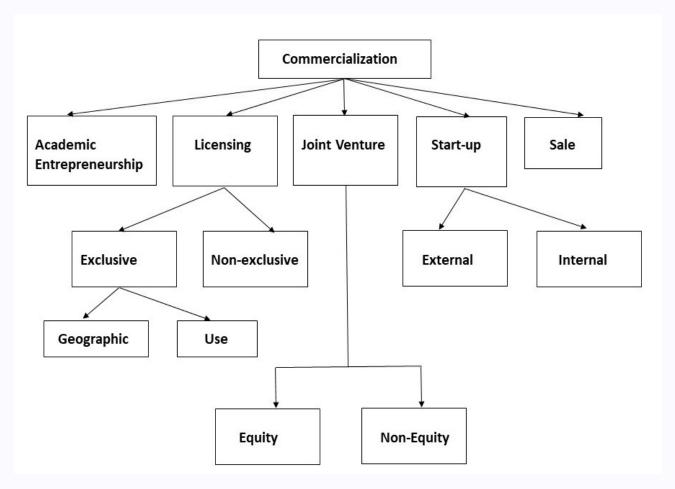


IP and TT Challenges

- 1. Limited financial resources in universities
- 2. Lack of qualified personnel in TT
- 3. Limited access to relevant industries in Lebanon and the region
- 4. Absence of National IP Policy /Strategy
- 5. Low national funding for R&D
- 6. System of IP registration in Lebanon
- 7. Absence of IP law enforcement



The Commercialization Cycle





INFLUENCE OF EDUCATION ON ENTREPRENEURIAL SUCCESS

- 1. Business survival is much higher for those students who attend university.
- 2. A university graduate is likely to achieve 25% greater sales than a high-school dropout.
- 3. A student with a postgraduate degree is likely to achieve 40% greater sales than a high-school graduate.
- 4. Furthermore, a recent study of high-growth businesses created in the United States over 20 years determined that 85% had been created by college graduates.



Center for Research and Innovation

A culture of entrepreneurship is an important factor in generating economic gains from university entrepreneurial activities. Supporting student/faculty/staff entrepreneurs will impact our communities and contribute to job creation and economic growth.

CRInn is for those with entrepreneurship potential, to meet with people who can shape their ideas, to sit in a place where they can discuss ideas and find teams, and team members.



AUB-Center for Research and Innovation

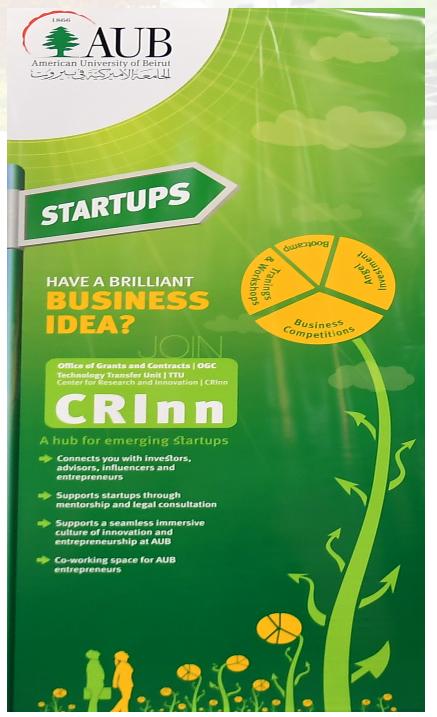
- 1. Serves as a platform for entrepreneurship and a hub for emerging technology startups
- 2. Runs business plan competition to identify viable startups
- 3. Provides educational and training sessions / workshops / seminars / inspirational talks/networking events
- 4. Provides mentorship for startups
- 5. Provides workspace and access for resources including equipped meeting rooms, event spaces and access to labs



Admission Criteria

Members must

- Be associated with AUB
- Have an idea to solve a problem
- Have a scalable, potentially profitable idea
- Commit to forming a team
- Commit to the residency requirements in CRInn
- Commit to attending events planned to help startups
- Commit to a timeline for advancing in their business
- Commit to participating in business competitions



CRInn Services

- Co-working space
- Designated workstations
- Entrepreneurship trainings
- *Ideation sessions*
- Business plan trainings
- Mentoring/coaching
- Media exposure
- Business financing trainings
- Business development workshops
- Connections to accelerators/incubators/investors and funders
- University resources and faculty and student talent
- Intellectual Property rights and protection
- Peer-to-peer knowledge transfer



Center for Research and Innovation

CRInn Serves as a platform for AUB's community innovation and entrepreneurship activities.

In the last 3 years, the interest by students for entrepreneurship training and for starting their own businesses had greatly increased.

The center does not invest in startups. It only provides resources to get the startups ready for investment and/or incubation/acceleration.

	15-16	16-17	17-18	Total
# Students Trained	183	755	633	1,571
#Attendees in the events	386	1,220	1,125	2,731
# Events	20	40	51	111
# Startups Approved for Residency	7	24	47	78

# Startups that Took Residence in CRInn	78
# Startups that have Launched	10
# Serious and Active Startups	30
# Startups Employees to-date	120
# Interns within Startups	11



EXAMPLES OF OTHER ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAININGS AND TEACHING PROGRAMS AT AUB

Competition / Program	Running Since	Total number of participants
IBDAA	2007	250 participants per year, with 8-10 winners
The Samir and Claude Abillama competition	2014	10 applicants per year coached and trained to improve their idea or product with 1-2 winners
The Darwazah Competition	2012	80 applicants and had 1-2 winners every year



Launched Startups







Gasometer

















EXAMPLES OF STUDENT STARTUPS

Startups which

Received Investment

Smart Tash Can

Instabeat

Moodfit

PROShield

Yalla Bus

Carpolo

Mr. Grocer

Gasometer

Kill My Routine

Find A Nurse

Examples of other Functional and

students' innovative ideas

being currently developed

Resense

Nanotechnology

Pitcrew

Gravity

Bus Map

Forward Osmosis

Cold-Brew Coffee