Barker Brettell

Intellectual Property

UNIVERSITIES



Barker Brettell has worked with universities for many years, advising legal teams, commercialisation units, technology transfer departments and spin-out companies on how to protect and exploit intellectual property assets.

Our 45-strong team of patent, trade mark, design and copyright attorneys ensure that innovation – whether in the form of research, ideas and concepts, technical inventions, new product design, names or brands – is identified, captured, protected, commercialised and, if appropriate, licensed.

We work closely with academics, researchers and technology transfer managers to help them meet their objectives.



CLIENTS

In the UK, we work with several Russell Group universities and associated commercialisation units including Isis Innovation (The University of Oxford), The University of Cambridge, The University of Nottingham, Imperial Innovations (Imperial College London), The University of Southampton, The University of Sheffield and Warwick University.

Overseas, we also work for a number of universities and research institutes, including The University of Liege, The University of Columbia in New York, New York University, Stanford University, Oregon Health Science University, Princeton, MIT and The University of Washington, to name but a few.

Our sector experience means clients benefit from:

- Our ability to balance the needs of the IP commercialisation office and the academics involved, keeping to budget, delivering projects on time while helping all parties better understand the IP framework.

- The high technical ability of our attorneys make it easier for us to communicate and engage with inventors. Many of our attorneys have research experience beyond a first degree with some being inventors in their own right so we understand the science.
- A proven track record in identifying commercially viable ideas and helping universities turn ideas into revenue.

TECHNOLOGIES

We advise university clients working in a wide range of specialist areas including:

- Aerospace
- Antibodies & biologics
- Biotechnology & life sciences
- Chemistry & chemical engineering
- Defence and security
- Diagnostics
- Electronics
- Energy
- Engineering
- Environmental and clean technologies
- Healthcare
- IT, software & telecommunications
- Manufacturing
- Medical equipment/ medical devices
- Pharmaceuticals
- Physics & materials
- Process engineering
- Regenerative medicine



EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- Drafting and filing new patent applications for a university relating to real-time 3D X-ray video imaging which were then assigned to a spin-out company who we continued to advise. The spin-out was acquired by a large global corporation who retained our services and invested a further £12m in continued product development and commercialisation. The product is now in use in a number of airports and is being sold worldwide.
- Preparing and filing new UK patent applications for various aspects of an organ perfusion system for a leading university spin-out company, which were later combined into three PCT filings to reduce costs while keeping options open. We have now begun prosecuting these cases in several countries while the company continues to attract significant investment and win awards.
- A leading UK university with ambitions to be networked globally required trade mark advice relating to the development of a new brand name for use overseas, during the same time as a UK rebrand was in progress. Our recommended strategy and comprehensive searches

ensured the client could meet its objectives, on time and within budget and the registration process is now underway

RECOGNITION



- Shortlisted for IP Awards 2026 – Managing IP
- Top Tier Firm 2026 – Legal 500
- Ranked in Sweden, United Kingdom: England & Wales – WTR 100
- Ranked as a Top Tier Firm for 10+ years – IP Stars 2026
- Ranked as a Recommended Firm – IP Stars 2026
- Cyber Essentials Certified Plus
- CITMA – Net Zero Pledge Signature



Key contact:

Jennifer Atkinson
Patent partner and
Head of Universities

Tel: +44(0)121 456 0012
jennifer.atkinson@barkerbrettell.co.uk
www.barkerbrettell.co.uk