

Intellectual property

Key information for thesis writers

Research repository

Doctoral candidates and masters students are required to deposit a digital copy of their thesis in the University of Auckland research repository. Masters theses are available to University members and PhD theses are able to be viewed by anyone in the world with access to the Internet unless embargoed. Once posted on the Internet your thesis is published for the purposes of the Copyright Act and you must ensure that you have permission to include other people's work in your thesis and make it publicly available online.

[Find out how to deposit your thesis](#)

Permission

It is important to consider copyright early on in your studies. Short quotes from academic works are unlikely to breach copyright. However if you include a whole work (photographs, graphs, diagrams, drawings, poems), or a substantial amount of a work in your thesis then you must get permission to reproduce it. If you are seeking permission, ensure that the permission includes posting the thesis into the University repository.

[Find out how to get permission to reproduce material](#)

Performances

If you are intending to include a video or a sound recording of a performance in your thesis you need to get written permission from anyone who has contributed to the performance or the recording, as each holds copyright over their own work. This includes people like producers, directors, camera or sound operators, musicians, composers, actors, costume and set designers and dramaturges. You should ask each of them to sign a release form that states they give you permission to include their work in your thesis and have it held in the University's publicly available research repository. You do not need to get a release form signed if you have commissioned and paid a contributor to perform or record the work for you, but you should acknowledge their contribution in your thesis.

Joint authorship

A work of joint authorship will arise if you have collaborated with one or more persons to jointly create a work. Copyright in that work will be jointly owned with that person or persons. For it to be a work of joint authorship, the contribution of each author is not distinct from the other authors. This means you cannot copy or publish that work without the written permission of your co-author(s).

Publication

If you are publishing work such as a journal article or a book, or giving a conference presentation that you hope to later include in your thesis, you will need to ensure that either you retain copyright or a licence (or right) to include that work in your thesis. If you sign a publishing agreement that gives your copyright to the publisher you cannot use the work again without obtaining the publisher's permission.

[Find out more about publication contracts](#)

Increasing your impact

Research has shown that making your research available under a creative commons licence such as the CC-BY v4 licence may increase your impact.

Print-on-demand and predatory publishers

Once your thesis is made available online you may be approached by a publisher who offers to publish it as a book on a 'print on-demand' basis. Beware of print-on-demand publishers: the manuscript is not refereed as per standard scholarly practice neither do the publishers contribute any formatting or copy-editing normally associated with 'publishing'. Print on demand publishers may ask the University to remove your thesis from the research repository. It is important if you do proceed, you specify to the publisher that the University has a right to keep the whole digital version of your thesis on the website.

There are also a number of questionable open access publishers. If you are approached by a publisher you are unfamiliar with please check with your supervisor or other authors in your field before submitting to these journals.

Further information

- [Copyright for research and publication](#)
- [Copyright for students](#)

If you have specific intellectual property queries you can email copyright@auckland.ac.nz.