

What is a commercial activity?

A commercial activity is defined under the University of New Wales Act 1989 as an activity “comprising the commercial exploitation or development, for the University’s benefit, of any facility, resource or property of the University or in which the University has a right or interest” (section 6.3a). This includes the exploitation of intangible property and resources including knowledge, research and intellectual property.

Some examples of University commercial activities include:

- Sale of merchandise, books etc
- Attendance fees for courses (except where enrolment and fees are managed by UNSW Student Management)
- Lease of space
- Lease of equipment
- Consultancy
- Contract research.

What is not a commercial activity?

- Student fees and course fees which are administered and managed by UNSW Student Management, as well as admission fees and late application fees
- Contract research managed through Research Services – Research Services will manage registration issues for any commercial research run through their offices
- Activities managed by UNSW Global Pty Limited/NewSouth Innovations Pty Limited (NSi)– these will be registered by UNSW Global Pty Limited/ NewSouth Innovations Pty Limited (NSi)as necessary
- Internal funds transfers (ie equipment only available for hire by other UNSW units)
- Academic conferences, seminars and symposia
- Development events
- Field trips and student camps
- Housing services
- IT services
- The sale of laboratory animals
- Library fines
- Inter-library loans
- Library photocopying charges
- Marketing activities (for recruitment and alumni relations)
- Sale of course notes and materials to students.

Note: this list is subject to revision by the UNSW Council and Senior Management

Finance Advice 11/12/2007

If an invoice needs to be raised for goods and services, then it is a Commercial Activity (eg teaching for another university/entity and an invoice is raised to reimburse wages, expenses etc).