

Copyright and research

Copyright and research

Conferences and public lectures

Presenting at a conference

If you are giving a presentation at a conference and it includes copyright material created by other people, you will need to make sure that you secure the rights to use it. There are limited provisions in the Copyright Act that allow copyright material to be used at conferences. You can include a brief quote or short extract of text; see [insubstantial portions](#). You can also include material if you are critiquing or reviewing it; see [fair dealing for criticism or review](#).

You can also try and source material that is "copyright friendly". For example, [Flickr](#) has a wide range of photos licensed under Creative Commons, as does Google Images. See our guides:

- [Flickr and Creative Commons images](#)
- [Google images and Creative Commons images](#)


In most other situations, you will need to [get permission from the copyright owner](#).


If you intend to publish or make your conference presentation available online, you will need to make sure that any permission covers that as well.

The conference organisers may also wish to record your presentation, stream it or make it available online. You have the right to give or deny consent, and control how the recording is used. These are known as [performers' rights](#). It is recommended that if your presentation is recorded that the conference organisers provide a written explanation of how the recording will be used. Ideally, they will have a formal agreement for you to sign, but some of the smaller conferences may not use agreements or consent forms. Again, if you give your consent for your presentation to be recorded, you will need to make sure you have the rights to include any copyright material in your presentation in the recording.

Organising a conference

If the University is hosting a conference, it is important that steps are taken to make sure that the conference is copyright compliant.

If you wish to record the conference presentations, you will need to get consent from the presenters. The University's [audio/video/photograph release and IP licence form](#)  can be used. The consent deed also allows the recording to be made available online.

If you intend to film or photograph participants or presenters, you will need to get their consent. As above, the [audio/video/photograph release and IP licence form](#)  covers both filming and photographing. If you are just taking photographs, then you can use the photo release consent deed. For more information see [photographing or filming people](#).

If conference presenters have included copyright material created by other people in their presentation, they will need to make sure that they have the necessary rights to use that material. There are limited provisions in the Copyright Act that will allow material to be used at the conference and permission is generally required from the copyright owner.

If you intend to publish the conference presentations or make them available online, you will need to get permission from the presenters. Please [contact the Copyright Office](#) for more information.

The University has a music licence that allows music to be performed at conferences and other events hosted by the University. For more information see [the music licence](#).

If an external conference has hired a University venue for their conference and the University is not actually hosting the conference but is simply providing the venue, it is the responsibility of the conference organisers to ensure that they comply with copyright.