

THE ONLY GRADUATE CAREER GUIDE TO

CHARTERED PATENT ATTORNEYS

2012/13

WHAT'S INSIDE

- ▶ In-depth career advice
- ▶ Graduate & senior profiles
- ▶ Salaries & career paths
- ▶ Professional qualifications explained
- ▶ Directory of graduate employers

"Inside Careers is the go-to guide for anyone thinking of a career as a patent attorney"

Gwilym Roberts, CPA EPA, Partner, Kilburn & Strode LLP





—
your
patent career
starts here
—

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Publisher

Cambridge Market Intelligence Ltd
The Quadrangle
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T: 020 7565 7900
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www.insidecareers.co.uk

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Acknowledgments

We are indebted to The Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys for their support, in particular to Iain Ross for his help throughout the preparation of the guide and for reviewing the text for balance and accuracy.

ISBN 978-1-86213-168-2

Printed and bound in the UK by
Cambrian Printers, Aberystwyth

Design

Anna Kirkham
Ascend Creative Ltd
Bandbox Design

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Introduction



Introducing the *Inside Careers Guide to Chartered Patent Attorneys* this year is Alasdair Poore. He gives us a glimpse into this industry which is a fascinating mix of technology, law and languages.

Businesses publicise their intellectual property; politicians love intellectual property; modern commerce depends on intellectual property, even the public at large encounter intellectual property every day. Patent attorneys are central to the protection of intellectual property. They see ideas when they are first conceived. They work with businesses to protect the ideas while they grow. They watch them as they are turned into successful products or used in business. And they are on the front line when the businesses want to stop others copying those ideas.

The *Inside Careers Guide to Chartered Patent Attorneys*, gives you the information to start an exciting career helping businesses bring ideas to market and protect them from unfair competition. 'Businesses' range from universities developing their research, through Government departments and Research Councils, to small and large enterprises – businesses in the UK, and all over the world.

The patent attorney is where science and the law meet. It puts you in the front line of technological development, because you

The patent attorney is where science and the law meet.

are talking to inventors and helping them to obtain protection for their inventions – and you are on a constant learning curve as you meet the latest ideas, whether electronics, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, physics, or mechanics, and whether in old industries from brewing to mineral extraction or new ones such as biotechnology or sustainable energy.

You are also at the front line of law, not just in the UK but all over the world, as businesses seek to protect their rights worldwide. Law which depends on international treaties, as well as national rules and the way the courts and patent offices interpret them. You can exploit your language skills, your technological skills and your legal skills, both in creative approaches to obtaining protection for intellectual property and analytical exercises of examining a competitor's product or patent rights, to assess infringement, and then use negotiating and advocacy skills in fighting to protect your client's rights.

Being a patent attorney should not leave you time to get bored, and gives you the chance to meet people from all over the world, and to be a key player in promoting innovation where innovation has become a key ingredient to success. If you decide it is a profession for you, I wish you your own success in a profession, which is stimulating as well as challenging. It has kept me engaged for many years. ●



Alasdair Poore was President of the Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys in 2010/11. He is Head of Intellectual Property at the law firm Mills & Reeve LLP, practising from one of the hubs of innovation, Cambridge.



THE PROFESSION

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What is a patent attorney?

If you are interested in science or engineering but don't fancy the idea of remaining in academia, then a career as a patent attorney could be for you; by using your technical know-how it is up to you to explain and protect new products and inventions on behalf of your clients. Find out more by reading on.

A patent attorney is anyone skilled and qualified in patents, and usually other intellectual property matters, who acts for others – inventors and companies usually – in securing, enforcing or advising about patents.

In the UK, however, the term 'patent attorney' is a protected title, and only those who have passed tough qualifying examinations and who have then decided to place their name on the statutory Register of Patent Attorneys are entitled to use the term.

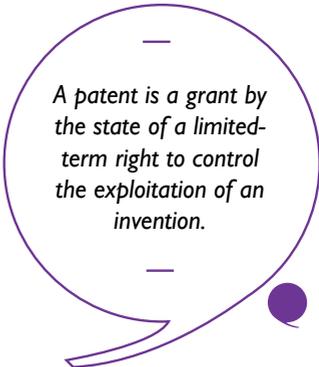
What does a patent attorney do?

In general, the patent attorney assists his or her clients or employers to secure effective protection for their innovations and developments which are based on 'inventions' and advises on the impact of patent rights owned by others on the client's or employer's business.

Within this overall area, the work can vary widely: some patent attorneys choose to do only patent work, even in some cases only in a specialised area, while others operate across the broad range of 'intellectual property'. Intellectual property is the term applied to a miscellaneous collection of rights which operate to control what may legitimately be copied and what needs permission. The four main types of intellectual property rights are patents, designs and trade marks (where registration systems operate to identify and define the right in question) and copyright.

Because of their bias towards the sciences, most patent attorneys do not often deal with literary or musical copyright matters but because of their contribution to protecting designs, artistic copyrights are important and the patent attorney needs to know how they work.

Although in many industries copyrights, designs, and/or trade marks are much more important than patents, this guide concentrates on patents. It should be emphasised, however, that all patent attorneys are trained broadly across the intellectual property field and are expected to be able to advise on a wide range of technical and commercial problems throughout that field.



A patent is a grant by the state of a limited-term right to control the exploitation of an invention.

So, what is a patent?

A patent is a grant by the state of a limited-term right to control the exploitation of an invention. The invention must be technical and practical, rather than purely intellectual; methods of playing card games or doing business, however novel and inventive, are not protectable by way of patents. However, new and unobvious methods of making things, mechanical, electrical and optical devices, and chemical compounds and formulations are all patentable.

Someone who invents any of these can ask the UK Intellectual Property Office (IPO) to grant them a patent. Originally, hundreds of years ago,

patents were granted directly by the Crown and the inventor had to petition various courts and other government officials in order to secure the right to stop others using the invention; they did not have to provide much detail of what the invention actually was, though it was necessary sooner or later to provide some sort of description.

Following the Industrial Revolution, which, of course, produced thousands of new inventions, the system became formalised. Government Patent Offices were set up and the requirements for securing a patent clarified. First, one had to make a written submission including a description of the invention and how to put it into practice, as well as some definitions, these being to define the scope of the patent, i.e. to clarify what others should not do. This would then be examined by officials and, if they agreed that you had an invention and that it was appropriately described and defined, they would give you a patent. The grant of a patent entitled the 'patentee', for a limited period (originally 14 years, but nowadays 20 years, provided you pay the renewal fees to keep the patent in force), to stop other people using the invention, albeit only in the country or countries where the patent had been obtained.

In order to render the ability to stop others effective, the description and the definition of the invention needed to be properly drawn up and it was this requirement that led to the development, in the first half of the nineteenth century, of so-called patent engineers, who, rather more than 100 years ago, turned naturally into 'patent agents', that is, agents acting for others to obtain patents and who are now called 'patent attorneys'.

The first and most fundamental requirement, if you are going to write down a description and some definitions of someone else's invention, is to be able to understand it. Most inventions are more or less technically based and accordingly the basic requirement for a patent attorney is technical ability. Almost all entrants to the profession now have a hard science or engineering degree.

The next requirement is to be able to write, not merely to go through the motions, but to

be able to reflect, in language which is clear, unambiguous, and desirably concise, what has been invented, and to be able to draw up a definition which includes within its scope things or processes which make use of the invention or 'underlying inventive idea', but which excludes things that people have done before. This is not so easy to do, but it is a skill which can be acquired by learning and practice. All this is very theoretical. A 'typical example' in the box on page 11 is intended to illustrate what a patent attorney does.



What about other countries?

Patents are territorial, i.e. they apply only in the country concerned, but inventions and innovations are not. So in other countries there are separate patent systems and patent attorney professions. Because of the international nature of intellectual property, there is a substantial degree of harmony between patent laws throughout the world and because of the commercial and economic aspects of patents, patent law is harmonised throughout the EU. This harmonisation enabled a European Patent Office (EPO) to be set up in the 1970s. It operates by virtue of a treaty between all of the current EU countries and some others, and acts to grant, for those inventions which survive a vigorous search and examination process, a bundle of individual patents. Most British patent attorneys are also European patent attorneys, who have qualified by examinations (exclusively directed to patent agency work) to operate before the EPO. Those examinations are set by the EPO in collaboration with the European patent profession.

Most patent attorneys also act to secure patents in other countries for their clients or employers via corresponding patent attorneys in those other countries. The overseas attorney will secure patent rights for the UK patent attorney's direct clients and, complementarily, the UK patent attorney will assist the overseas attorney in obtaining protection for his or her local clientele.

So do patent attorneys do anything else?

In addition to the core work of securing patents for inventions, patent attorneys often advise their clients or employers on policy in intellectual property matters and evaluate their freedom to act, having regard to the possible existence of the intellectual property, particularly patent, rights of others. They may also be involved in licensing inventions and in advising on other contracts concerning them, for example development contracts for new technology. Additionally, if infringement occurs, or is alleged, they may be involved with litigation matters and have the right to represent their clients before the Patents County Court.

Patent attorneys are a unique interdisciplinary mixture, operating in the areas where law, commerce and technology overlap.

So where does all this finish up?

Patent attorneys are a unique interdisciplinary mixture, operating in the areas where law, commerce and technology overlap. They need to have the ability to comprehend both the scientific and technical factors involved and the legal and commercial aspects. The patent attorney must be skilled in language, both oral and written and be able to act as a bridge between various parties. The patent attorney has the additional benefit of always working with new things and in recent years rising to new challenges, for example acting before the Patents County Court and, if they become an accredited litigator, before the High Court of Justice.

Becoming and practising as a patent attorney is seen by many as sufficiently satisfying to be an end in itself, but the mental and intellectual skills and discipline which it needs would form a fitting basis for an even more outstanding career for the determined and ambitious. ●



Richard Gallafent is a Chartered patent attorney, European patent attorney and a past President of the Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys. He has been in private practice for over 40 years.

April showers

A cheery plumber arrives at your office, announcing that he is frustrated at the inability to meet his customer's wishes to have a shower that does more than just spray water on to your head without going to the trouble and expense of a 'power shower', particularly one capable of firing intermittent bursts of water. He has made a working new showerhead which has a lever poking out of one side and by moving the lever you can change the flow from continuous to intermittent. He says he has tested it out, privately, in his own house, so it is still secret. He opens a cardboard box which he has brought with him, and takes out a standard showerhead which has been modified extensively with various bits of plastic, metal and rubber. He says this prototype works, but clearly it will need a lot of development before it can be made as a production item. He says he wants to call it the DOWNPOUR, since that goes well with the trading name of his company.



Leaving aside the questions of whether the design of the eventual item can be protected by registered design, or whether his name for it is registrable as a trade mark, the patent attorney discusses the item with the inventor and finds out how it works, how the invention came to be made, what people have done before (as far as the inventor knows) and how and why the device operates to produce an improved result. From this discussion, and from the inspection of the item, some idea of the 'inventive concept' emerges and the value of securing a patent (and the cost and timing involved in doing so) are explained. The plumber wants to go ahead, so the prototype is left with the patent attorney to take the next steps.

These include the preparation of a written description of the prototype and how it works and of at least one definition of a new and improved showerhead; the definition needs to include within its scope the handmade prototype, but also to cover any variants of it explained by the inventor or which occur to the attorney, but exclude known showerheads.

After some correspondence and further discussions, agreed documentation (and drawings) are produced and sent to the Intellectual Property Office (IPO). Later in the procedure, assuming the UK application has not been superseded (e.g. by a European one), examiners who work in that office carry out a search and compare what is disclosed by the documents found in the search with documentation submitted in the patent application to see whether the shower head described really is new and unobvious. The patent attorney may need to assess the position all over again in the light of the documents found by the examiner. Following that assessment, the attorney has to settle final wording with the IPO, sometimes involving written communication only, but other times involving an interview with an examiner or even (though this is rare) a formal hearing at which arguments for patentability of the new showerhead can be put forward. Finally, the patent is granted, by which time it is to be hoped that the plumber will have found some way of making money out of his new showerhead rather than just spending money on securing protection.

If the showerhead is successfully commercialised, imitators may come along and produce their own showerheads, perhaps using the same principles and perhaps building upon what the plumber originated. The patent attorney may be asked at that stage to advise whether the showerheads made by the competition 'infringe' the rights granted by the IPO, and this calls for care and analytical skill. If the inventor's rights are being infringed, the patent attorney may take action to try to have that infringement stopped, including, if necessary, in the UK taking action before the Patents County Court.



The future of the profession

Over the last few years the way in which patent attorneys and other intellectual property (IP) professions have worked has changed considerably. This is due to not only technological innovations, but the legislation relating to IP.

The Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys (CIPA) has been in existence for over 125 years, in which time the world in which patent attorneys operate has changed enormously, in ways in which the founding fathers of the Institute could never have envisaged. Whole new fields of invention have opened up and there have been considerable changes in the ways in which professionals operate.

What are the challenges and opportunities which will shape the profession in the future?

International dimensions

With increasing globalisation, international moves are being made towards achieving a uniform marketplace, not only in the European Union (EU) but also globally. There are also moves to simplify procedures for obtaining intellectual property rights. The use of a central filing of applications, in particular via the World Intellectual Property Office or the European Patent Office, is well established. There are now trials of systems for sharing data between national and international IP offices and for harmonising searching services. For most innovative companies, IP is at the forefront of their strategic thinking. As such companies wish to protect their innovations in all countries in which they operate, it is essential for the profession to keep up to date with all these developments to be able properly to advise their clients.

Another area which has been under consideration in international circles is the introduction of a single patent covering the whole of the EU. The EU Commission remains committed to the principle of introducing a

scheme and is continuing to look for ways to move it forward. Negotiations are also ongoing on proposals to introduce a central European Patent Court to simplify the litigation of European and Community Patents. The Institute has made proposals to the UK government for ways to improve the proposals and to ensure that the cost of litigating patents can be reduced.



It is not just call centres which are being outsourced to the Indian sub-continent. There are firms from that area offering cheap drafting of patent applications. These developments will inevitably lead to increased competition. UK firms of patent attorneys will have to be innovative in order to maintain the high share of international work which they have traditionally secured.

Opportunities for working abroad

EU law provides for the recognition of qualifications obtained in one member state in any other member state to which the

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professional wishes to migrate. An EU directive, which was passed in 2005 and entered into force in October 2007, not only provides for those who migrate from one member state to another to seek registration in the new host state on the basis of their home state qualification, but also allows practitioners to provide temporary services in another member state using the professional title from their home state.

Although there has been relatively little use yet made of the opportunities, there will be greater opportunities for UK based patent attorneys, especially those who are also qualified as European patent attorneys, to offer their services to clients abroad, either from the UK or by moving to another EU state. However, with these opportunities may come greater competition from practitioners from other EU states, so that members of the UK profession will have to continue to strive to provide the best possible service to clients in the UK and abroad.

Increasingly, there is widespread use of modern technologies and the internet. These are used to communicate with clients, obtain information, conduct research and communicate routinely with patent offices and other professionals around the world. These developments will continue to present exciting opportunities and challenges to the profession.

Changes to CIPA

In January 2010, major changes in the way the Institute operates came into effect. This was

due to the Legal Services Act 2007 coming into force. These changes were based on recommendations which proposed that the regulatory and representative functions of the 'front line regulators' of legal services providers (which include CIPA and the Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys (ITMA)) should be separated. As there are relatively small numbers of qualified UK patent attorneys and as most firms include both patent and trade mark attorneys as partners, CIPA and ITMA set up a joint regulatory board (IPReg) which draws membership from both institutes and is served by a common secretariat separate from the institutes. With a lay membership of over 50%, IPReg is able to ensure that the regulation of the profession operates in the public interest.

IPReg now has responsibility for setting and maintaining entry standards for the profession and standards of conduct and ethics, and performing a disciplinary function. A Legal Standards Board, a branch of which deals with complaints made against legal professionals, has been set up to in order to ensure IPReg maintains high standards at a reasonable cost. For CIPA members and their firms, there will shortly be opportunities to take on other professionals, both legal and non-legal, as partners and to allow outside investment in their firms, subject to tests of fitness-to-practise and fitness-to-own. These developments will continue to provide exciting opportunities for CIPA's members. ●

The Intellectual Property Office

At the heart of UK intellectual property law is the Intellectual Property Office (IPO). This organisation maintains and builds the framework for intellectual property rights, comprising patents, designs, trade marks and copyright. Here, we take a closer look at the IPO to help you understand its function.

Part of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), the IPO's role is to help manage an intellectual property (IP) system that encourages innovation and creativity, balances the needs of consumers and users, promotes strong and competitive markets and is the foundation of the knowledge based economy. It operates in a national and an international environment and its work is governed by national and international law, including various international treaties relating to IP to which the UK is a party.

The creation and development of new technologies and industries, and the encouragement and growth of commerce are all essential to the economic wellbeing of the UK. They depend not only on the ingenuity of scientists, engineers and others but also on the investment necessary to develop and market new ideas.

IP rights are widely acknowledged as an essential ingredient in many successful commercial enterprises. By giving legal owners of new ideas or brand names the right to stop others exploiting their ideas or names, IP rights create for innovators a system through which they can benefit from their creativity. This may be the invention of a method of making stained glass, the marketing of a new brand of soap, or the creation of a new musical work. These rights can be sold, hired, or licensed to others, or they may be used to safeguard investment in new ventures.

Although the IPO has a role in the formulation of international as well as domestic policy on intellectual property rights, it is only concerned with granting rights under domestic legislation which are effective in the UK. However, it also plays an important role under the European Patent Convention and the Patent Cooperation

Treaty, which provide alternative methods for obtaining or seeking patent protection in the UK and in the Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market (OHIM), which administers the Community Trade Mark and Design Right.

In addition, they are responsible for the role of IP rights in supporting innovation and offer a range of non-statutory services aimed at securing more effective use in the UK of IP and, through the search and advisory service, the technical information contained in patents. This also involves promoting an awareness of such rights, both through an extensive range of literature and by holding regular seminars and workshops.



IP rights are widely acknowledged as an essential ingredient in many successful commercial enterprises.

History

The IPO became an operating name of The Patent Office on 1 December 2008. Whilst the origins of the patent system go back to the fifteenth century, the Patent Office itself was set up in 1852 to act as the UK's sole office for the granting of patents for inventions. The Designs Registry,

which was set up in 1839, became part of the Patent Office in 1875. A year later, registration of trade marks also became a Patent Office function.

The IPO also includes policy divisions concerned with the formulation of national and international policy with regard to patents, designs, trade marks and neighbouring rights, including enabling companies and individuals to make the best use of IP rights. Although no registration of copyright is necessary in the UK, the Copyright and IP Enforcement Directorate of the IPO deals with the formulation of national and international policy with regard to copyright and administers the Copyright Tribunal. The Copyright and IP Enforcement Directorate includes an IP Crime Team, which is responsible for developing a national strategy for the enforcement of rights, particularly in areas relating to copyright and trade marks.

Working at the IPO

A patent examiner is responsible for searching, examining and granting patents that are filed at the IPO. As such, they work to make sure that an application is patentable and can be granted. This differs from a patent attorney, who acts on behalf of the applicant. They are responsible for writing and filing an application and responding to search and examination reports written by a patent examiner at the IPO, with the aim of getting the best possible patent granted for their client.

The basic qualification for a patent examiner is a first or second class honours degree in science, engineering, mathematics, or an equivalent qualification (e.g. corporate membership of one of the major professional institutions or relevant industrial experience). There are limited opportunities for patent examiners to work in specialised fields such as IP policy. More senior posts involve wider responsibilities such as hearings work. Trade mark and design examiners are civil service administrative grades. A number of these examiners are graduates. ●



Ben Micklewright joined the IPO as an examiner in 1998 with a degree in Mathematics and a doctorate in Mathematical Physics.



For further information on a career as a patent examiner please write to:

Patent Examiner Recruitment
Intellectual Property Office
Cardiff Road
Newport NP10 8QQ
patent.examiner@ipo.gov.uk

Information Centre
UK calls: 0300 300 2000
International calls: +44 (0)1633 814 000

Search and Advisory Service:
T: 0163 3811 010
www.ipo.gov.uk



Salaries in the patent profession

The patent profession offers trainees the opportunity for a stimulating career but what about the financial rewards? Starting salaries remain good despite the larger economic situation and continue to be so as you qualify and progress through your career. Christine Adamson tells us more...

Within European countries, the continuing economic problems have affected the profession differently. In the UK, there are fewer traineeships on offer and companies are postponing recruitment as a consequence of redundancies being made across the board. But salaries are remaining static at the higher level. The demand for the newly-qualified professionals remains high due to their well-developed skills and can be of immediate value to employers, without compromising on remuneration.

The number of candidates passing the European Qualifying Examinations (EQEs) to become European patent attorneys (EPAs) has grown recently, especially in Germany, the UK, France and the Netherlands. Firms have opened their doors to attorneys from a different jurisdiction – Europe or the Commonwealth principally, to try

and keep up with the demand. This trend has seen some cutbacks, as home-grown talent is slightly more plentiful than it has been for some years.

In the UK, some private practices are offering packages once reserved for multinationals – with attorneys being paid a salary, along with bonuses, health scheme, life assurance, pension and gym membership. At partner level, attorneys can expect a share in the firm's profits, which in recent years were substantial, but are currently affected by the downturn. Pressures on finances have enabled companies and firms to negotiate these down.

In the case of multinational companies, salaries are now bundled with benefits on a local level rather than across national borders.

Attorneys in Germany, UK, Switzerland and now France, remain substantially better paid than their counterparts in other parts of Europe. The differences are even higher when compared to Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. There are exceptions of course, such as Heads of Departments in multinational companies. At this level, factors such as experience in different countries, particularly in Europe and the US, will boost the value of the package they can command with signing-on bonuses and share-option packages available. This has certainly been the case recently, due to an increasingly litigious IP environment.

In the Far East, there has been a rise in Research & Development (R&D) activities which has spurred interest in IP specialists, thus offering further opportunities for UK/European attorneys. Remuneration packages in the Asia-Pacific region are substantially lower in some countries in



line with cheaper cost of living conditions, but for candidates with exceptional linguistic skills and knowledge – such as proven US/Chinese experience, packages can be substantial.

Companies have started to base their support staff, such as patent searchers, in India. Considerable expertise in this area is now found and costs are significantly lower.

If you are seeking a training contract, a salary in the £25,000 to £28,000 range is the norm. However, due to intense competition to enter the profession, some well qualified graduates have had to accept a figure below £20,000. By the time you qualify, however, you can expect upwards of £45,000, with a £5,000 increase generally offered after exam success in both the CIPA Finals and the EQEs. If you make partner the rewards will be well worth the effort where six figure packages and above are common.

You are most likely to make a start in your career in London, which offers a premium on

salaries and is where most of the opportunities are available. However, if you are seeking to develop your career outside of the London area, you may have to accept a lower package in exchange for the location of your choice. In-house opportunities are, to a large extent, obtainable only outside of London, as most patent departments are located close to companies' R&D facilities. ●



Christine Adamson and her husband Stuart, run an international executive recruitment consultancy based in London. They specialise in intellectual property, legal (especially in-house) and the pharmaceutical/healthcare sectors.

Christine also stood for the European Parliament in 1994 and 1999.

For job opportunities for qualified or part-qualified attorneys across Europe and a taste of what to expect in the future go to www.adamsons.com.

Job title	Earnings per year
Recent graduates	£25-28,000
Technical assistants (QMW/Foundation Level)	£28-35,000
Trainee - finals standard	£35-45,000
Qualified European patent attorney (with some UK advanced papers)	£45-60,000
Newly-qualified patent attorney	£60,000+
Post qualification experience (3 years)	£70,000+
Post qualification experience (5 years)	£80,000+
Head of IP Department (industry)	£100-250,000 (incl. benefits)
Partner in a private practice	£100-400,000 (incl. profit share)

Frequently Asked Questions

Inside Careers asked CIPA to address some of your more pressing questions. Read on to find out what the patent profession has to offer and what it takes to get started.

Is a patent attorney a type of lawyer?

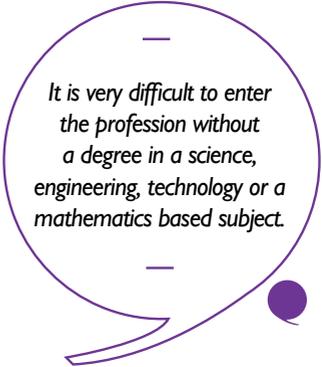
Yes, however, you do not need a law degree to become a patent attorney. Patent attorneys are a specialist type of lawyer monitored by their own regulator, IPReg. The role of a patent attorney involves advising clients on those areas of law applicable to intellectual property. Consequently, during training you will be required to develop a thorough understanding and knowledge of, for example, the UK Patents Acts 1977 and 2004, the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and the Trade Marks Act 1994. You will also be required to develop your knowledge of contract law, competition law and company law. When qualified, patent attorneys have a right to represent their clients in intellectual property matters before the courts.

Is it necessary to study a science subject at university?

It is very difficult to enter the profession without a degree in a science, engineering, technology, a mathematics based subject, or equivalent, from a recognised institution. Most firms also require at least a 2.1 in a first degree. A science/engineering background is required to enable you to understand a client's invention, even if it relates to subject-matter you have not previously encountered. This mix between science/engineering and law is one of the aspects that make the role of a patent attorney such an interesting career. A degree, although not necessarily a science degree, is required by the regulations governing the examinations for registration as a patent attorney in the UK. The European Patent Office permits non-science graduates to take the European Qualifying Examinations which enable someone to qualify as a European patent attorney but only if they can show they have undertaken ten years training with a firm of patent attorneys.

Do I need to have a PhD?

The level of understanding obtained through a PhD could well be beneficial in some technical areas. However, the caseload of a patent attorney often varies and it is unusual for a patent attorney to be able to concentrate on one specific subject matter area unless they work in-house. Consequently, the benefit of a PhD could well be limited in the sense that it would only be of benefit to those cases falling within the narrow definition of the technical area of your PhD. However, some private practice firms do require trainees to have a PhD.



It is very difficult to enter the profession without a degree in a science, engineering, technology or a mathematics based subject.

How do you become a patent attorney?

The training occurs, in the most part, on-the-job and generally involves working for one or more fully qualified patent attorneys in conjunction with a series of examinations.

The examinations include those set by the CIPA, which must be taken in order to become a registered patent attorney. This is a two-tier system involving Foundation and Advanced Level

Examinations and requires candidates to pass core Foundation Level Examinations before sitting the Advanced Level Examinations. Full-time courses are available to obtain an exemption from some or all of the Foundation Level Examinations.

Examinations are also set by the European Patent Office. These must be taken in order to become a European patent attorney. In addition, since many patent attorneys also handle trade mark work, they may also benefit from becoming a registered trade mark attorney (a UK qualification) and a European trade mark attorney.

How long will it take me to qualify?

The examinations set by CIPA are held annually. Consequently, the minimum length of time to become a registered patent attorney is two years. However, in reality it often takes longer, particularly if it becomes necessary to retake any of the examinations. Typically, it takes four to six years to become a registered patent attorney.

The examinations set by the European Patent Office are also held annually and require candidates to have worked for three years under the supervision of a European patent attorney before sitting the examinations. For this reason, it is common for people to become registered patent attorneys before becoming European patent attorneys.

What other skills or qualifications are required?

A patent attorney must be able to communicate effectively with personnel at all levels within an organisation, as well as with people having varying levels of understanding about patents. Therefore, it is important to have good oral and written communication skills. One of the main skills of a patent attorney is to be able to understand an invention on the basis of discussions with an inventor and to then draft a detailed specification directed to the invention. This process requires an ability to identify the core features of an invention. English, French and German are the official languages of the European Patent Office and a working knowledge of French and/or German can be beneficial.

What kind of salary can I expect?

The salaries of patent attorneys compare well with those of other professions such as accountancy and law. Salaries tend to be

relatively low initially, increasing gradually through training and increasing significantly following qualification.

Do patent attorneys work at the UK Intellectual Property Office?

No. The UK Intellectual Property Office (IPO) is an Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation, and Skills (BIS). Its role is to grant patents and register trade marks and designs. See page 14 for more details.

How do I go about finding a job?

One way is to decide whether you would prefer to work in an industrial patents department or in a private firm of patent attorneys. You could then apply on a speculative basis to potential employers. Depending on the subject you have studied at university, there may be particular companies to which you would be particularly suited and you could start off targeting those. You can find out quite a lot about firms through the internet and of course large companies having in-house departments will also usually have comprehensive websites.

Your job search could also be helped by obtaining the latest membership list of CIPA, which contains a list of names and addresses of all patent attorneys and firms in the UK. A very useful first step is to refer to the Employer Directory section at the back of this guide, or go to the Inside Careers website www.insidecareers.co.uk/pat, where current vacancies are posted. Alternatively, see the CIPA website www.cipa.org.uk for patent job opportunities. The CIPA Journal supplement which is published each month and free to members also includes a recruitment section.

Are there particular times of year when firms recruit?

Vacancies for trainee patent attorneys tend to crop up if and when the need arises. However, many firms find that they have more potential candidates if they seek to recruit towards the end of the academic year, as final year university students are approaching the end of their courses. A number of firms hold interviews early in the academic year, for vacancies to be filled during the following autumn. In general it is often a good idea to register your interest as soon as you have decided to join the profession. ●

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Avidity IP

Name	David Mills
University	University of Birmingham
Degree	MEng Materials Engineering
Location	Birmingham
Role	Trainee patent attorney (Technology)



Why a career in intellectual property?

I would say my interest in the intellectual property (IP) profession first stemmed from reading a case study of James Dyson during an A level Design and Technology class. However, it wasn't until I took a law module as part of my undergraduate degree that I began to realise a career in IP was a possibility. Following my first degree, I went on to take an engineering doctorate position based at Rolls-Royce plc, which enabled me to pick up various IP responsibilities, submit a few patents of my own and decide whether a career in IP really was for me.

When I finished my doctorate, I decided that an IP career ticked all the boxes: visibility of cutting-edge technologies, daily variation, stimulation and challenge, good career prospects and the added bonus of going some way to help innovators and designers secure rights to their work. Since amalgamating my interests and opting for a career in intellectual property, I haven't looked back.

Do you get any training?

Since joining Avidity IP in November 2011, nearly all my time has been spent learning how to be a patent attorney. In my first six months with Avidity, I have been undertaking a full-time structured patent attorney training programme which is unique in our industry and helps make Avidity stand out from the competition. Training is delivered over a six month period by a former patent attorney with structured learning, exam papers and attorney work mixed to provide a comprehensive and interactive training

package. Our training instils the teamwork, debate and continuous learning skills required for future best practice. All trainee attorneys start working for Avidity at our Birmingham office. At the end of the training programme the trainees are assigned to one of our office locations (Epping, Reading, Cambridge and Birmingham) where they are expected to integrate into their Professional Services teams and start creating value for the business.

As well as being provided with training support to develop my technical attorney skills, I am also being provided with ongoing development support to hone my business skills. At Avidity we know that to be a top class attorney we need to be able to communicate effectively and form strong business relationships. As an organisation we look to ensure that our attorneys are 'fully rounded'; not only does Avidity expect its attorneys to be technically proficient but it also requires them to have strong commercial acumen and client engagement skills and to be

I can see that having good organisational skills will be essential when juggling the demands of the business as well as working towards my exams.

effective managers and leaders. I have access to opportunities to develop my business and leadership skills through both in-house resources and external suppliers. I can see that having good organisational skills will be essential when juggling the demands of the business as well as working towards my exams.

What is it about the job that you like?

I enjoy the variety of work that comes my way: no two days are ever the same. Attorney work requires attention to detail, which particularly appeals to me. Problem solving, the need to formulate arguments and the activity involved in claim amendments and drafting are all aspects of the job that I particularly relish. Our emphasis on teamwork at Avidity is also important to me. I have the opportunity to work closely with other members of the Engineering team on a daily basis who are very supportive and I know I can call on them for guidance if I need it.

What future opportunities are there for you?

Starting a new career from scratch is a challenge, but having a supportive company behind me is a big plus. The company really wants its people to develop in their roles in order for them to reach their full potential.

Although I haven't been around for very long, I'm travelling to the USA to represent Avidity on a project to build an international partnership. This company is progressive and in tune with Avidity's approach to the IP business and we are excited about the opportunities working with them will bring. I will shortly be spending two weeks in the USA to work on the project with them, whilst helping to fully evaluate the opportunity we have to work together.



My advice when interviewing for any attorney position: be prepared by thoroughly researching the company.

Any advice for the interview process?

The interview process that I went through was informal but at the same time thorough and I felt I was put through my paces. I had two interviews and was then offered the job. The focus of the interviews was as much about how I would fit into the organisation as it was about the technical aspects of the role.

My advice when interviewing for any attorney position: be prepared by thoroughly researching the company. You need to familiarise yourself with the basics which you can probably get from its website: vision statement, company values, strategy. I would also recommend that you see what you can find out about the company in the news. The internet makes this relatively easy. Having knowledge of the company's business results, new initiatives or differentiators that makes the company stand out from the crowd can help to give you a leg up during the interview. ●



Beck Greener

Name	Charlotte Jemmett
University	University of Oxford
Degree	MChem Chemistry
Location	London
Role	Trainee patent attorney



I was introduced to the subject of patents at a science and engineering careers fair and was instantly attracted to the opportunity to work within a broad range of scientific areas. I also liked the idea of being involved in the latest scientific developments, without having to do the bench work myself.

Training

I joined Beck Greener straight after graduating with a Masters in Chemistry and have now been working here for two years. Since my first day in the office I have been working on 'real work'. Of course, when I started, I knew very little about patents and even less about patent law but I am gradually becoming familiar with the various aspects of patent prosecution.

I spend time with my supervising partner discussing the issues that are raised by each case and any letters that I draft are reviewed before they are signed out. We also have regular mentoring sessions for all of the

trainees to discuss how everything is going and to make sure that we are being exposed to a diverse range of work.

Last September I attended the Queen Mary Certificate Course in Intellectual Property Law, which is an intensive 13-week lecture course designed specifically for trainee patent attorneys. The course provided me with an excellent introduction to intellectual property law and the perfect opportunity to form friendships with trainees from other firms. Although I spent most of my Christmas reading statutes and case law, it was definitely worth it to gain exemption from the CIPA foundation level examinations and become 'part-qualified'.

I plan to sit one of the four UK final qualifying patent exams this November, and the recently introduced EQE pre-examination in February 2013. Although the amount of 'out of office' work can seem overwhelming at times there is lots of help and advice on offer. I have already been encouraged to attend external tutorials run by the Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys (CIPA) and I am currently enrolled on a year long lecture course run by the Centre for International Intellectual Property Studies (CEIPI).

Types of work

On a day to day basis, there is variety. One day you may be drafting a specification relating to the latest advances in lithium ion batteries. The next you may be preparing arguments to convince an examiner why a particular hairspray is novel and inventive.

—
Since my first day in the office I have been working on 'real work'.
 —

My average day would be spent in the office, working through my 'to do' pile or dealing with instructions which come in during the day. Part of the job is learning how to prioritise the tasks you need to do. This is based in part on the official deadlines that have been set but also on how your actions will affect your relationship with your client.

The majority of my work involves preparing responses to Examination and Search Reports from the European Patent Office (EPO) and the UK Intellectual Property Office (IPO). With every new case there is a new invention to learn about, as I had hoped, I am constantly using my scientific training. One of my favourite aspects of the job is attempting to find ways to overcome the examiner's objections, which often involves a great deal of creativity and persuasive writing. It is certainly a challenge, but it is very satisfying when you develop an argument which persuades the examiner to withdraw their objection.

Outside the office

The profession is not all about work and revising for exams. The CIPA Informals committee is very active in organising social events such as pub quizzes, summer balls and an annual boat party along the Thames.

As a firm we also have annual summer and Christmas parties and throughout the year we take part in inter-firm events such as softball games for which I am now a captain and the annual Informals five-a-side football competition.

Advice for anyone wanting to get into the industry

Unfortunately the industry has no standard 'graduate recruitment programme' as such. With the exception of a few large firms (which tend to recruit several graduates or postgraduates each year) most firms only recruit as and when the need arises. Therefore, unlike many other industries, there is no best time to apply.



I would advise reading a few real life patent specifications, in an attempt to familiarise yourself with typical 'patent language'.

I began to apply during the Christmas vacation of my final year at university and sent out further applications over Easter. I started by working my way through the Directory of Patent Attorneys on the CIPA website, and applied to every firm advertising a vacancy. I then sent around 20 speculative application letters to other firms – just in case! Since discussing this approach with other trainees I would advise sending even more speculative applications if possible.

Advice for the interview process

In addition to any 'normal' interview preparation (i.e. reading the firm's website, re-reading your cover letter and CV, etc.), I would also advise spending some time reading a few real life patent specifications, in an attempt to familiarise yourself with typical 'patent language'. It is inevitable that during an interview for this role you will be asked to give a technical description of a simple mechanical object, so it helps to have a few choice terms to mind.

It may also be helpful to familiarise yourself with the IPO website and the other types of intellectual property (i.e. trade marks, copyright and design) that exist. ●

Carpmaels & Ransford

Name	Jenny Archibald
University	Cambridge & Durham
Degree	MSci Natural Sciences & PhD Particle Physics
Location	London
Role	Technical assistant



Since starting at Carpmaels & Ransford, I have often been asked about my career path; moving on from a PhD in physics to a law-based profession may not seem to be an obvious move. To choose a career so different from the scientific field I spent eight years studying might well seem strange... until you understand the field of patent law.

Patent law has allowed me to use the skills and knowledge acquired during my studies, in a profession which suits me better. Trainees are recruited into the profession from a wide variety of scientific backgrounds. This reflects the wide variety of technical areas from which patentable inventions arise.

At Carpmaels, we concentrate on the practice groups of biotechnology, chemistry and engineering & IT. With my background in physics, I am part of the Engineering & IT group. This group sees a huge variety of work, from everyday objects, such as hangers and

window hinges, to medical devices, telescopes, aeronautical components and electronics.

While my specific technical knowledge is useful in understanding inventions, it was quickly apparent that an inquisitive mind and an analytical approach to problem solving are also essential.

I have found that there are many similarities between academic life and working in this profession. Understanding and absorbing large volumes of information from technical documents, while identifying and extracting the relevant and useful details, are key in both fields. Arranging my thoughts clearly and concisely, forming a coherent and convincing argument, is similar to writing a thesis and assuming personal responsibility for handling deadlines feels the same as managing a workload during an undergraduate degree or PhD.

However, instead of focusing on an ever-narrower specific aspect of science, this profession provides the opportunity to work in a broad range of fields, and on a wide variety of subject matter, even over the course of a single day.

This profession provides the opportunity to work in a broad range of fields, and on a wide variety of subject matter.

Looking at what my day involves

My day begins with a cup of tea while I catch up on emails from foreign attorneys or clients. I then check my prompt list, which tells me about any deadlines that might be coming up. From my very first week I was given responsibility for my own files. This means that I am responsible for preparing the required

work in good time before any deadlines. The relevant partner will have final approval and is available if I have any questions.

After checking my prompt list, I can prioritise my work for the day and get started on any reporting letters. These inform clients of new developments on their applications and address any client queries.

Late morning, I attend an in-house training session before joining some of the other technical assistants for lunch in the firm's café area. Carpmiels runs in-house tutorials for trainees in the first four months to introduce the major aspects of patent law and to provide a practical overview of the key aspects of day to day patent work.

After lunch, I continue with my work and have a few meetings with the partners. During these meetings, the partner will review my work and answer any questions I may have. Being thrown in at the deep end without any knowledge of patent law or practice may well sound intimidating but it is far less daunting than it sounds.

After work, I join several other technical assistants and associates at a bar near the office for a drink. The firm organises a number of sporting and social events throughout the year and these are a great way to get to know colleagues in other departments.

The best bits of my job

One of my favourite aspects of this job is the opportunity to fully manage my own workload. Keeping in mind all upcoming deadlines and prioritising when necessary, I can decide what I work on, structuring my day as I choose.



As a preparation for interview, it might be useful to practice some simple description exercises.

As a first year trainee at Carpmiels, I share an office with three other trainees. As well as quickly becoming friends, my colleagues are a great support network. As we progress, we share our experiences, enabling each of us to gain a more complete and rounded understanding. We can also support each other when we sit the qualifying exams.

Interview advice

As well as learning about the profession from Inside Careers and CIPA, I was fortunate enough to attend one of Carpmiels' Open Days. As well as formal presentations, we had the opportunity to chat to trainees, associates and partners in an informal setting. This was a very valuable opportunity to learn more about the profession and the practicalities of the job.

As a preparation for interview, it might be useful to practice some simple description exercises, as these often come up as part of the selection process. For example, pick a simple mechanical household object, and try to describe it clearly, concentrating on its essential features and how it works. ●

RGC Jenkins & Co.

Name	Tim Young
University	University of Oxford
Degree	MPhys Physics
Location	Farnham
Role	Trainee patent attorney



It was mid-way through my physics degree at Oxford University that I first became aware of the patent attorney profession. As time went on, having attended open days and presentations by patent attorney firms, I became sure that this was the job for me. An unoriginal thought, I know, but I wanted to continue being involved with science, yet I couldn't see myself working in academia. Becoming a patent attorney seemed the perfect solution.

I applied to several firms, but feel very fortunate to have secured a role as a trainee patent attorney at RGC Jenkins & Co. I have been working here for three months now, and haven't looked back!

The interview process consisted of a single interview with the partner who now supervises most of my work. I was asked questions about my knowledge of the profession, my career ambitions as well as technical questions related to my degree. Following the interview, I was set some written exercises which tested my ability to explain in writing how particular devices and concepts worked. If I was to give any advice for the interview process, I don't think I could do much better than to suggest reading this guide. I think you would be very hard pressed to find any recent entrant to the profession who hasn't at least partially read it!

Having only been in the profession for a few months, there is still much to learn, but I have already had to get to grips with a large

amount of patent law and to understand areas of technology that are completely new to me. From day one, I was given my own caseload to manage. At first this can be a little intimidating, but in the end I think it's the only way to start to learn the ropes and if I need any help there's always someone to offer me advice and support.

I work in Jenkins's small office in Farnham, Surrey. Here, with the London head office easily accessible, we have a small, friendly team of people from a variety of different academic backgrounds. The location also offers me the flexibility to work in London for a day if there is a lecture at the Chartered Institute or I simply fancy a change of scenery.

I was asked questions about my knowledge of the profession, my career ambitions as well as technical questions related to my degree.

The majority of my work is for foreign companies or attorneys (mainly from the USA) wanting to get a patent in Europe. These clients have usually already prepared

an international Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) application and it's my job to get it filed and prosecuted at the European Patent Office (EPO). This involves presenting arguments or making changes to the application to overcome any objections the examiner has made, all the while making sure our client is kept informed and our proposed course of action has met their approval. Deciding what changes to make to patent claims offers the biggest intellectual challenge in the job. Having to balance the need to address whatever objections the examiner has raised with the client's desire for broad scope requires considerable skill, which I will continue to develop.

The aspect of the job that I enjoy the most is finding out about new and exciting pieces of technology. I particularly look forward to getting the "Oh, that's how that works!" and "Isn't that clever!" moments when reading through a new case. I have worked in a variety of different subject areas, from electronics and semiconductor devices to telecommunication and display technology. Each presents its own set of challenges but it is this that I find most rewarding. In the future, I hope to test myself further by turning my hand to the drafting of original patent applications.

For now, I am continuing to work on cases and slowly but surely increasing my knowledge of the intellectual property sector. At the end of the year, I am going to attend the Certificate of Intellectual Property Law course at Queen Mary, University of London where I hope to gain more knowledge of trade marks, copyright and designs, which I don't come across on a

day to day basis. The exemption the course provides in the foundation level qualification exams won't be a bad thing either!



I particularly look forward to getting the "Oh, that's how that works!" and "Isn't that clever!" moments when reading through a new case.

After Queen Mary, I will have to study for further UK and European qualification exams; a prospect I await with a little trepidation. Colleagues in the office, who have recently sat some of the papers, say that the exams are difficult and require a lot of work. I am sure that this is true and I don't underestimate the difficulty of the challenge. However, I am reassured that the Jenkins partners are supportive and that they understand that passing every paper first time may not always be feasible. Because of this, I don't feel so much pressure as to make me too stressed out by the whole procedure! With any luck I will pass the exams and I can look forward to a long and successful career doing something I really enjoy. ●

More patent profiles can
be found online at
www.insidecareers.co.uk

SENIOR PROFILES

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Boult Wade Tennant

After training in London with Boult Wade Tennant, Matthew Spencer relocated to establish the firm's Biotechnology and Life Sciences practice in Cambridge. He tells us about his path towards developing the practice in a growing regional office.

MATTHEW SPENCER



2008

Became a partner at Boult Wade Tennant.

2006

Relocated to Cambridge office and recruited technical assistant to form local Biotechnology and Life Sciences practice.

2006

Awarded the drafting prize for performance in UK drafting finals examination.

2005

Qualified as a European and UK (Chartered) patent attorney.

2001

Joined Boult Wade Tennant as a trainee patent attorney in the London Office after graduating with first class BA and MSci degrees in Natural Sciences (Biochemistry) from Cambridge University (Jesus College).

Choosing a career in patents

My introduction to the world of patent law was fairly typical; certainly I hear many a similar story when interviewing potential new recruits for our group. Following completion of a laboratory based project in the final year of my undergraduate degree, I was not convinced that a life at the bench would suit me. A visit to the university careers service suggested the role of a patent attorney could fit the bill; a heady mix of new science and innovation but none of the tedious pipetting!

I investigated my options and was offered a Herschel Smith scholarship to complete an MSc in Intellectual Property Law at Queen Mary, University of London. After speaking to various people in the industry and my university tutors, I decided that strengthening my scientific credentials would be more valuable in terms of gaining entry into the patent profession. Another year in the lab was enough to convince me that a PhD was not for me and during that period I applied for a position as a trainee patent attorney.

Typical and not so typical tasks

I am not sure there is such a thing in this job. Today, for example, I am visiting our London office to interview a potential new recruit. Once I have reviewed all of the emails received overnight, I have two deadlines to deal with and also need to call a European Patent Office examiner to discuss a hearing I am due to attend next week in Munich.

The consistent aspects are that I am always busy and have multiple tasks to complete each and every day. Generally, my role involves everything from writing and prosecuting patents, to representing clients at hearings, to creating marketing strategies with colleagues and building our team. As a partner I am also active in business development and this involves establishing relationships with prospective clients, often necessitating business trips abroad.

Why I enjoy being a patent attorney

The office has a relaxed atmosphere but we are committed to offering a first rate service to clients. I also value being part of a partnership with a collegiate atmosphere. Everyone is very supportive of one another.

Of course, I relish the day to day work. Understanding a client's business and being able to give them the advice they need is both challenging and hugely rewarding. Recently, one of my clients was about to launch a product and we had not yet secured grant of their European patent covering the product. We were summoned to a hearing at the European Patent Office in Munich shortly before the launch date; the Patent Office examiner was inclined to refuse our application.

Together with the client, we reviewed the product in detail and determined exactly what we had to define in order to ensure the product would be covered by the patent. This allowed me in turn to develop a strategy for the hearing. The hearing went to plan and I was able to persuade the examiner to allow the patent application so as to protect the product in time for launch. The opportunity to make a positive difference is a daily one and I think this is perhaps the key to my enjoyment of the job.

Objectives and goals for the future

One central aim is to continue to grow the Biotechnology and Life Sciences group throughout the firm and its four office locations. I think it's very important that we continue to recruit the highest quality candidates in order to ensure our clients continue to receive a superb level of service.

On a personal level, I look forward to developing my role within the partnership at Boulton Wade Tennant. I have recently become a father for the first time so I would also like to make sure I can achieve the most elusive of goals – a healthy work/life balance – being home for bath time is a key goal!

Advice if you're considering patents

I won't lie; the industry is fiercely competitive.



As a partner I am also active in business development and this involves establishing relationships with prospective clients.

The volume and quality of applications we receive on a regular basis is phenomenal. I often wonder quite how I managed to land a job in the first place. Having said that, we look for people with a well rounded CV. Of course academic performance is central to any successful application. We expect to see excellent A levels and a first or 2.1 at least, in a relevant technical subject. More and more frequently candidates have postgraduate experience, often to PhD level (especially in my technical field).

However, it is also important that the candidate has other interests. A key skill in our job is time management and being able to handle multiple live matters. If a candidate can achieve a good degree whilst also running a club or competing in their sport of choice, this bodes well in terms of the skill set needed in our profession. Persistence is also a key asset. Whilst some of the larger firms recruit on a regular timetable, many firms recruit on an 'as and when' basis. This means that your CV may arrive at a time when a firm is not recruiting. However, I would recommend sending your CV again in six months time. Things may have changed by then. ●

Dehns

Neil Campbell is one of the Partners in Dehns' Chemical group. Neil started with the firm as a trainee after graduating with a first class honours degree in Natural Sciences (Chemistry) from University of Oxford.

NEIL CAMPBELL



2003

Became a Partner at Dehns.

1999

Qualified as a UK and European patent attorney.

1995

Graduated from the University of Oxford and joined Dehns' London office as a Technical Assistant.

Starting my patent career...

It was in my final year at university, after a year of academic research, that I decided that a life in a lab was not for me. I had made enough inactive white powder to last me a lifetime but I was still keen to use my chemistry degree in some fashion. Training to become a patent attorney is a well trodden path for someone in the position I was in.

It has to be said that in my field, chemistry, it is becoming increasingly difficult to secure a training position without a PhD. I was fortunate enough however to secure a training position at Dehns, one of the largest firms of patent attorneys in the UK and one with a very strong reputation in training. Training in the office environment is not at all like university as you learn on-the-job (and when exam time comes, you revise in your own time).

There are a couple of training courses which are often used by patent firms to get their trainees through the first set of exams. These are run by Brunel University and Queen Mary, University of London and it is worth checking whether a prospective employer will send you on these courses. Whilst I am not convinced they are a good preparation for the final exams, they provide an easier way to get through prelim exams and to meet other trainees at other firms.

How my career has progressed

Since qualifying and being made an associate and subsequently partner of the firm, I have been developing my own portfolio of clients and now find myself a frequent traveller around Europe. My workload is very much client based which means I meet inventors and draft their patent applications. However, within a large firm, like Dehns, there are likely to be partners concentrating on handling European work for companies based in the USA or Japan who need to get their patents sorted for Europe.

I personally enjoy meeting inventors and learning about their innovations and quite enjoy the travel aspects of the job. As long as it doesn't involve going anywhere near Heathrow. I would personally be less happy working with cases drafted by others all

day therefore it might be worth checking what type of work a particular private practice firm is offering to see what might suit you better.

A highlight for me is also the opportunity to argue my clients cases in proceedings before the European Patent Office. Patent attorneys almost act like barristers before the EPO, presenting orally to three examiners. If this appeals to you, it is again worth looking into whether your employer handles a lot of opposition and appeal work. Some in-house departments farm out this type of work and it might be rare in smaller firms.



My workload is very much client based which means I meet inventors and draft their patent applications.

Advice and working realities

I would strongly recommend working with as many different people as possible whilst training so that you receive a wide variety of work and experience the different ways a patent attorney works. It may be worth checking whether a prospective employer allows you to work with more than one partner as some do not.

Larger firms tend to encourage trainees into working specifically in their field, for example biochemists handle biochemistry, engineers handle engineering. If you are looking to handle work across a wider variety of technologies, small firms might be better for you.

The final exams are taken around four years into your career, although you would also sit a preliminary European exam at two and a half years. Please note these are difficult. If you have had enough of revision and exams then this career is not for you. For six months you are going to have some dull evenings and dull weekends spent at a desk with a large black book and failing at least one of the exams is common so you may well face a second round of revision.

If you are considering applying for a job in this sector, you need to have a very good first degree from a very good university and at least a 2.1 or first as a minimum. Also, consider whether private practice may suit you better than an in-house department. Competition for places tends to be fierce across the board, so you should apply as widely as possible to maximise your chances of success.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, you need some particular skills to be good at this job. It is not just a requirement to be a good scientist, it is almost more important that you can write a coherent sentence, that you are organised and that you can convince clients that you are a safe pair of hands for their potentially very valuable property. ●



Gill Jennings & Every LLP

Mike decided to be a patent attorney because he wanted to remain involved in science, whilst at the same time trying his hand at business and making his fortune. Looking back, he finds that he has achieved his original ambitions as well as discovering some new things about himself along the way...

MIKE LORD



2007

Joined the partnership at Gill Jennings & Every LLP.

1998

Started working in private practice at Gill Jennings & Every LLP – trainee patent attorney up to qualified Associate.

1998

PhD in the Phase Transformations and Modelling Group at the Department of Materials Science, University of Cambridge.

1995

Graduated with a BA in Natural Sciences (Pt II in Materials Science) from Magdalene College, Cambridge.

Writing this profile has made me think about what I planned to achieve when I left university. The truth is that when I started thinking about my career, I didn't really have an understanding of what a professional role really involved, let alone what was going to motivate me in 10 or 20 years' time. When I decided to be a patent attorney it was because I wanted to remain involved in science, which I loved, whilst at the same time trying my hand at business. I thought I was more likely to 'make my fortune' this way than if I stayed on as a postdoc at university. In practical terms I wanted a good job that paid well, that would require me to develop new skills as well as benefit from those I had already, having worked so hard to get a degree from Cambridge.

I joined GJE in 1998, having obtained a PhD in Materials Science. I had studied as an undergraduate at Cambridge too and, having surprised myself with my degree grade, took the chance to do a PhD for the usual reasons (liked the academic lifestyle, wasn't ready to get a real job yet and, yes, wanted to call myself 'Doctor'). If you're wondering if a PhD will help you to get into the patent profession, from my personal experience in recruitment, it doesn't matter either way. For me, the applicants that shine at interview are those who are happy to 'be themselves', who are enthusiastic, can communicate well and demonstrate an interest in the role. As an applicant, the firm you're applying to must 'feel' right – so if you get a choice, I'd say to go with your instinct.

I remember that, for me, the main attraction to the patent profession was to be able to continue learning about new developments in science and technology and to meet the people pushing the frontiers of innovation (whilst being paid of course!). As I found out, in practice, the job of a patent attorney is essentially a legal one with a strong scientific context. What I didn't know when I chose this profession was that it would be the strong attorney-client relationships which make the job so rewarding. Relationships which I hope will last for my entire career. For me the 'good stuff' is all about people interaction. I also didn't realise the buzz I would get out of business. Private practice provides me with an immense diversity of clients in terms of size, structure, culture, industry

and technology, so there is always so much to learn. The more I can understand our clients' businesses the more I, and GJE as a firm, can add value. Clients want advice not just options so we try to deliver on that.

One of the essential attributes I didn't fully realise I'd need is the ability to communicate well in all sorts of situations and with all sorts of people. It's a critical skill which can always be improved upon. I am in a service industry in which success is heavily dependent upon good relationships. Being able to communicate well helps me to retain clients and attract new ones (and these are key factors by which my success at work is assessed). A good rapport with clients, along with openness and honesty helps to form strong working relationships.

I recently led a project to replace our practice management system. We were all under immense pressure to deliver and not only did I have to get the team to the finish line, I had to 'sell' fundamental new ways of working to my partners and to members of staff. These weren't skills I had been taught at university or in my professional exams.

Another attribute I hadn't considered greatly was whether I had the ability to really understand business, my 'commercial acumen' if you like. Of course, time in the job and having the opportunity to attend meetings; visit clients both in the UK and overseas; present at conferences; be a member of various business operations groups and business development teams; and pitch for work have all helped me to develop my skills in this area. Most senior patent attorneys are required to make decisions that impact upon the success of their own business and now as a partner at GJE it is an important part of my role.

I always aimed to be a partner – indeed you'll note my career is rather similar to others – I didn't change employer but I am extremely

privileged in this respect and to have been made a partner at GJE. It's far more challenging than I had originally thought when I was a trainee. It is a position which comes with immense responsibility; every individual of the firm is relying on me to drive the firm forward and ensure it is always successful. Responsibilities for client work often compete with training our new recruits in such areas as people management, business development, and business initiative and in particular, the ongoing drive to improve and integrate our internal IT systems. There is always lots to do, lots going on and a need for more time. Fortunately, I am the sort of person that likes to be kept occupied!



In practice, the job of a patent attorney is essentially a legal one with a strong scientific context.

So, going back to whether I have achieved the ambitions of my twenty-something year old self at university, well yes. I am in a great profession that brings intellectual challenge on a daily basis; it is an excellent job which pays well and, on a rare quiet day, I can continue to indulge my love of science. Much more than that though, I've discovered things about myself that I had never really appreciated at university and I now know what motivates me at work and why I commute to London each morning. As for making my fortune, define fortune... ●

Mathys & Squire LLP

Harvey Adams is a Partner at Mathys & Squire LLP and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys. He's found that since qualifying he has been able to specialise in high-value opposition and appeal work in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical fields.

HARVEY ADAMS



2006

Progressed to full Equity Partnership.

2002

Became a salaried Partner at Mathys & Squire LLP.

2000

Qualified as a UK and European patent attorney.

1999

Moved to Mathys & Squire LLP.

1996

Graduated with a Masters degree in Biochemistry from Oxford University and joined Mewburn Ellis.

I began to think about possible careers during my final year at Oxford University, where I was studying for a Master's degree in Biochemistry. I was encouraged by the university's careers service to complete an electronic questionnaire and this generated a list of potential careers for which I might be suited. One of these was as a patent attorney; the others, well, they're best left unsaid.

So, after conducting some initial research, I contacted the professional body for UK patent attorneys, CIPA, for additional information. I was put in touch with a couple of practising patent attorneys, one employed in industry and one in private practice. I took the opportunity to meet with them both, and obtained some valuable insights into the world of the patent profession and what I would be doing on a day to day basis.

I then sought and obtained some work experience in a private practice, sat in on a trial at the Patents County Court, and met the Patents County Court judge. He gave me his thoughts, from 'behind the bench', as to the ways in which the patent profession might develop over the next 30 years. Not only did all this research confirm that the career of a patent attorney was for me, but it also clearly demonstrated to any would-be employer that I was serious about the profession and knew what it entailed.

What I found particularly attractive about the profession (and still do today) is that it offers me a way of using science, which I have always enjoyed, in a problem solving context. It's either this or CSI...

Early years in the profession

In your development towards qualification, it will be important for you to obtain prompt, timely feedback on your work. Only in that way can you avoid repeating mistakes and acquiring bad habits. In the early years, you should probably not be too concerned about 'face time' with clients, but should concentrate on acquiring the basic skills and, each and every day, knowing more than you did before.

A variety of work is also very important, and for those in life sciences and chemistry, you should seek out some work on

mechanical subject matter. This will help you to pass the UK exams, especially the P3 exam in Drafting and the P6 exam in Infringement and Validity.

Preparation for exams is tough and you will need to balance the demands of the job with a need for thorough revision. Look for a firm which offers an internal system of tutorials and which provides assistance and feedback from more senior colleagues. Also ensure that you have a designated mentor, someone you have reliable access to and who can answer your questions even if they relate to the more obscure aspects of the law.



Finally, don't forget that whilst acquiring knowledge of the law is important, it must always be applied to a problem in a practical manner and using common sense. Think of two basic questions - What should the client do? What further information do they need?

From qualification to the present day

I joined Mathys & Squire in 1999, and became a partner at the firm in 2002. During that time

I have been fortunate to have worked with smart, enthusiastic colleagues, and to advise a wide range of domestic and international clients. Seniority in the firm has also given me the opportunity to recruit and develop ambitious young attorneys and to build a high-performing team that provides the best possible service.

Since qualifying, I have also had the opportunity to specialise. Likewise, whilst it will be important for you to obtain a level of skill and experience across all areas, especially in the run-up to exams and qualification, you should then have the opportunity to decide on the type of practice that you wish to build. Of particular fascination to me is high-value opposition and appeal work in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical fields. This provides an exciting challenge in understanding a complex problem, synthesising the issues and then finding the solution that is most favourable to the client. It's great to work with clients who appreciate the energy, the commitment, and, most importantly, the value of the strategic and tactical advice that my team is able to provide.

What skills are important?

My advice to anyone considering the profession is to have an enthusiasm for learning and an appreciation that there is always more to learn, whether it be in the scientific, legal or business environment. By being self-critical, and by striving for even higher levels of performance, you will always be one step ahead of the competition; you will certainly succeed.

Attention to detail is of paramount importance, commitment and work ethic too. These are usually a given, and are repeatedly quoted as key skills. But these qualities, even when coupled with a solid scientific and legal understanding, are simply the tools of the trade; it's what you do with them that counts. ●



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The skills you need

Patent attorneys really enjoy their work! It's mentally stimulating, constantly varying and well paid. It's also a friendly profession. You can even take it abroad if you want to. We take a look at some of the skills you might need if you want to become a patent attorney.

Four basic elements of the job to consider

1. Working independently for large chunks of time

You won't always have access to a second opinion so being able work independently is important.

2. Steady focused concentrated thought

The ability to not be distracted by interruptions helps enormously. This should have been developed at university to some degree.

3. Clear, reasoned, balanced conclusions

This is at the core of patent work. You need to be able to understand and question the technological terms your clients are using, but you don't have to compete with their overall expertise.

4. Putting those conclusions into persuasive written advice

Learning just what clear, balanced, persuasive drafting really means.

Being a patent attorney provides some interesting opportunities

- **Work alongside colleagues in small teams**

We work in small units where relationships with colleagues really matter. Working together and trusting one another are key.

- **Get constructive feedback on your reasoning**

We all have to develop a thick skin. The advice we give is quite often contradicted or rejected

by the IPO or EPO, so dealing with this criticism will have to be learnt.

- **Handle one to one meetings**

We deal primarily with one to one business relationships. We need these communications skills to get the information we need at each stage. These skills do not always come naturally to all of us.

- **Work for the good of society by protecting people's intellectual property**

It helps to believe in yourself and the services you are selling. A big motivator is the increasing belief that what we are doing underpins the whole basis of developing a democratic ordered society. This should be partly why you enjoy being a patent attorney. ●



Bill Jones is a registered UK and European patent attorney and trade mark attorney. He holds a BSc in Mechanical Engineering from Manchester University and trained with a major London practice before

going on to found and develop his own practice which he sold after nearly 20 years to a well-known international organisation. ip21 is his second such venture started at the beginning of 2000 and again offering full service IP advice to clients throughout the UK and overseas.



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Corporate or private practice?

Understanding how practices differ and what might suit you, can often help to focus your job searching efforts, lead to greater job satisfaction and help determine your career path. Robert Pidgeon from Appleyard Lees explains what the difference in work and environment can be within corporate and private practices for patent attorneys.

To start right at the beginning, ‘corporate practice’ involves working as an employee within an organisation that generates a substantial amount of patent or trade mark work – enough to justify employing an in-house patent attorney. In private practice, work can be for direct clients, for example UK companies or universities, or it can be so-called ‘agency work’ for overseas clients who want to obtain UK and European patents. Work for direct clients involves liaising with inventors and directly advising senior management. Agency work mainly involves taking patent specifications written by overseas patent attorneys and processing them to secure UK and European patents. Many private practices have a blend of direct client and agency work. The direct client work is often more challenging, but the agency work can be very profitable for a firm.

I spent three years in the patent profession with a medium-sized private practice firm and the next three years in corporate practice. Both periods were enjoyable and working on both sides of the fence helped me progress. At the end of that period I was able to make an informed decision on the type of work I would most like to do – private practice, but with an emphasis on direct client work, rather than agency work. At that time there was a good balance between private practice and corporate practice positions. That has changed. Latterly, many corporate patent departments have struggled to keep patent attorneys and there has been a drift towards private practice. Corporate patent departments sometimes cannot do all that is needed and send work out to private practice firms.

The work

The same core skills are needed to be effective in private practice and corporate practice. These include skills in writing, analysis, and argumentation. At least in the early years in the profession the work is likely to be similar – assessing inventions to determine the prospects of obtaining patent protection; drafting patent specifications; taking patent applications through their procedures to grant, amending and arguing as needed; advising on patent activity of competitors; and with more experience, patent licensing and handling contentious work – assessing the validity of patents, giving infringement advice, and formulating and presenting oppositions.

However, the person working in a private practice firm with a reasonable direct client base is likely to have more variety – inventions in different areas of technology; clients of different



sizes, in different business sectors; and a variety of legal problems to deal with, as those clients dig themselves into holes of various shapes and sizes. Most people in private practice enjoy the variety. The person working in corporate practice is likely to work in a narrower technical area and acquire a deep knowledge of it and the business of his or her employer. They are unlikely to find themselves in the byways of the law, which smaller companies seem to find with ease.



The same core skills are needed to be effective in private practice and corporate practice.

Summary of the differences:

- Variety may be greater in private practice but on the other hand private practice can sometimes be irritatingly 'bitty' as you jump from client to client or from technology to technology.
- In a private practice you can feel on the edge of things – the external adviser, an expensive person, to be used 'only with caution'.
- You may advise your clients what to do – but they tell you what to do and even if you think it's foolish, then, within reason, that's what you have to do.
- In handling patent work in corporate practice you are likely to be a fully involved member of a business team, deciding upon a course of action. You can often take decisions that a private practice attorney would have to refer to their client. This degree of involvement can be very satisfying.
- In private practice you will probably be expected to handle a range of work. A person who has an overriding interest in one technical area – say medicinal chemistry – is likely to be better off working in an appropriate corporate

practice setting than in private practice.

- People training in private practice have an advantage in terms of taking the professional examinations, arising from the variety of their day to day work.
- Corporate practice involves close contact with research and development personnel. Private practice has less and, in the case of a private practice which thrives on agency work, the direct contact with technical personnel could be very low.

The training

Training in private practice often seems unstructured, and can have a 'sink or swim' feel to it – I remember that this can be rather disconcerting. As a trainee you may have thrown at you anything that comes in, at about the right level (hopefully) for you to cope with. You have a go, get things wrong, you may or may not receive a reasonable explanation of why; you have another go and so on. It can feel as if you have left university and gone back to junior school. You may have to use your initiative to find background reading that helps you and pick the brains of others in the office with the time and inclination to help.

While many private practice firms now send trainees on the certificate courses at Manchester University or Queen Mary, University of London, many are reluctant to send trainees on all the later courses which are focused on assisting them in passing the examinations, feeling that their work experience, allied to the Institute tutorials and their own bookwork, should be enough. Aside from training as a patent attorney, training in other skills – for example, in how to use the firm's computer system, or in improving one's language skills – may be largely absent in private practice.

It is often thought that an important factor in getting a good training is the range of work done and consequently that private practice is the better training environment. However in my experience, a person who does manage to secure a training position in corporate practice is likely to feel that more time, effort, and money are being invested in him or her. Because of their narrower work diet it is widely accepted that trainees in corporate practice will need more help in order to pass the examinations and they



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are likely to be sent on more of the available courses. As for the wider aspects of training – in computer skills, languages, management, etc. – corporate practice usually wins hands down.

Training opportunities in corporate practice have reduced in recent years. You may have to find a first position in private practice even if in the longer term you want to work in corporate practice.

The culture

In a private practice firm the qualified patent attorneys usually work independently of each other, for their respective clients, but support each other during holidays and periods of illness. Their contact with a client will often be through just one of the client's staff, or a small number of people. There is room for people who are slightly awkward, eccentric, even bombastic, provided they can do good work and win the confidence and respect of their clients. Many such people would struggle to be effective in corporate practice where the patent attorney is not just 'the adviser', but a 'team member'.

In corporate practice there is often more of a 'team play' feeling, and an emphasis on doing work to further the company's interests. There will always be people in a more senior position

to the patent attorneys, who must be satisfied with the advice they receive. There is high interest in the performance of the company (which can affect bonus payments) and on comings and goings in the senior positions, in the company. Any takeover activity may affect the employees' position in a direct manner, and is likely to be a 'hot topic'.

The prospects and opportunities

In private practice the ladder upwards is short – trainee/technical assistant (TA), then qualified patent attorney, then, if it suits you and your firm, partner. There may be a 'feel good' step before partnership where you are called an associate. As a qualified patent attorney in private practice, and especially as a partner, you have some choice in the path your work follows. If you want to specialise in chemical patent work, or in trade mark work, you can work towards that. If you want to devote time to planning your firm's advancement or managing its operations, then provided your partners feel you have the qualities to do this, you are likely to find support. Running a business and playing a part in advancing a firm can be very rewarding. However, you will probably be expected to handle a reasonable amount of patent or trade mark work until the day you retire.

It is generally held that corporate practice pays higher salaries at the early stages of a person's career, but that private practice overtakes corporate practice later. I don't know whether those generalisations are true. What I do know is that salaries for new trainees often seem rather low but for qualified attorneys they are still good, whichever side you work on!

In corporate practice some patent departments have several tiers of management. Patent attorneys with managerial responsibility may no longer undertake detailed patent attorney work, but instead guide their junior colleagues, advise senior management, handle personnel problems, and negotiate and control budgets for patent expenditure – and, increasingly, manage the flow of work to private practice patent attorneys. Some of this management will be interesting, but it is not for everyone. It can be frustrating for patent attorneys who want to continue 'on the ground', but feel their expertise is undervalued in comparison with colleagues who have taken managerial positions.

You will read that the patent exams are hard but I believe that getting your first job is the key step.

Corporate practice has had to cope in past years with a large amount of merger and acquisition activity, leading to reorganisation and relocation. Until the recession struck private practice seemed to be the more settled branch of the profession. However the recession has caused difficulties indiscriminately and some corporate departments and some private practice firms have had a difficult time. In some cases expected pay rises and advancements have not materialised. Some firms have contracted, and have even closed less



profitable offices. Recruitment has slowed – but it has not stopped!

In summary

A few key words which to my mind characterise the branches of my profession are:

Private practice: good for training; varied work; varied clients; later, chance of running a business. Corporate practice: one client; narrow, but deep immersion in the technology/business; team working; corporate hierarchy.

You will read that the patent exams are hard but I believe that getting your first job is the key step. I would not be too fussy whether it is in private practice or corporate practice. Get started! You will learn more about the opportunities, and about where your skills lie, as you advance. ●



Robert Pidgeon is a Chartered patent attorney and European patent attorney. Having worked in private and corporate practice, he settled on a career in private practice. He is a Partner in Appleyard Lees, a medium-sized firm of patent and trade mark attorneys.

How to apply

Securing a training place as a patent attorney is not always easy. The profession remains one of the smallest in the UK, yet awareness of it as a career is growing and this inevitably leads to competition for places. Of course, your chances will be greatly increased if you have the unusual blend of skills that you need to be a successful patent attorney and invest time and effort in the application process.

Skills and qualifications

You will have read elsewhere in this guide that patent attorneys need to be able to understand technical information in order to properly understand an invention. A degree in a science subject is a basic requirement and employers will normally look for at least a 2.1 from a good university. They will also look for evidence that you have interest and ability across a range of science subjects, for example, a good spread of A level results. A PhD or time spent working in industry is also increasingly valued by employers.

At least as important are analytical and linguistic skills. A patent attorney needs to understand the law as it applies to any given application and act as an advocate in prosecuting and defending the case. Therefore, an applicant will need to have a strong interest in effective presentation of arguments, particularly in writing.

In order to progress in the profession and to enjoy the process, you will also need to be self-motivated, committed and able to hold it together under pressure.

Where to apply

An entirely reasonable approach is to apply to as many places as possible. However, you should consider before applying whether you are more interested in working in private practice or in industry. This can take the job in quite different directions.

Private practice (in which I work) is defined by the fact that they have clients who instruct them to act on their behalf. They are therefore under pressure to balance the needs of different clients. On the other hand, they tend to see a

range of work and come across a wider range of technical questions (which can help with passing the exams). It is worth noting that not all private practice firms recruit trainees and even those that do offer comparatively small numbers of positions each year.

Working in industry, there is more emphasis on working with inventors to 'invention spot' and working with business managers to design IP strategies which will work for the company.

The application

Although you may be sending off applications to many different firms, this should not mean simply posting off 20 copies of your CV. You will need to research each firm and make sure your application is suitable. At a basic level, you should check whether they have their own application form and whether they ask for any written work to accompany the application.

If written work is asked for, then this is something to take seriously. Firms receive a large number of applications from highly qualified



applicants and rely on the written work in deciding who to invite for interview. You are being given an opportunity to show that you can analyse how something works and explain this clearly. If asked to pick an object to write about, the ones that tend to work best are simple mechanical objects that have moving parts. Keep in mind the difference between defining and describing an object.

Otherwise, make sure that your CV is well laid out and free of spelling mistakes. If you don't already know, learn how to use an apostrophe. Misuse of the apostrophe is the kind of thing that really annoys a patent attorney.

Try to avoid merely asserting that you have the right skills to be a patent attorney – if you can, provide the evidence as well. Have you worked on a student journal, won prizes for your writing skills, or worked in areas of science outside of your immediate discipline? If so, put it in. A covering letter is also useful; treat it as another opportunity to show that you can communicate effectively in writing.

The interview

Interviewing style differs substantially from firm to firm. Some firms focus on technical questions. Others will ask a lot more about what you know of the profession and why you want to be a part of it. You should of course be prepared for both!

You may be asked about your project or about your PhD. However, remember that you are not being interviewed for a job as a bench scientist. Your interviewer will be less interested in what your project involved than in the way you explain it. You may also be asked questions to probe your scientific curiosity. You may have used a particular piece of apparatus for three years – but do you know how it works?

You may also be put on the spot and asked to think about some simple mechanical objects in the interview. It is unlikely you will be expected to come out with a perfect answer straight away. Your interviewer will be just as interested in your process of reasoning and your ability to think on your feet.

While interview nerves are inevitable, employers are looking for someone who will be able to

—
Try to avoid merely asserting that you have the right skills to be a patent attorney – if you can, provide the evidence as well.
 —

run meetings and who will eventually be able to present oral arguments at the European Patent Office. Therefore, try to stay calm and coherent, even if this means taking a bit of time to think about your answer.

Making a decision

You should also remember that at the end of all this, you may find yourself in the happy position of having more than one job offer. You therefore need to think about what you want from the firm. How do they support their trainees, both in their day to day work and for the examinations? Do they send trainees on a course that gives exemption from foundation exams and if not, what do they provide instead to get you through these? How many qualified people do they have working in your technical area? Asking some of these questions at interview should help you decide if the firm is somewhere you might want to work.

Finally, don't be too disheartened if you don't secure a place at your first-choice firm. Remember that most firms can offer only a handful of places a year and are unlikely to have more than one or two in your technical area. Many firms, both small and large, will be able to offer you excellent training and give you a firm foothold in this fascinating profession. ●



Rebecca Tollervy graduated with a BA in Biological Sciences from Oxford. She is a qualified patent attorney and a Fellow of the Institute. Rebecca is a Partner at Mewburn Ellis LLP.

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About CIPA



The Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys (CIPA) is the professional body that represents and promotes the patent profession in the UK. By implementing educational programmes and holding social events, they are helping to build highly skilled professionals for now and the future.

CIPA represents virtually all the 2,000 UK registered patent attorneys and includes those practising in industry, as well as those in private practice.

Objectives

CIPA's activities cover the whole field of intellectual property – patents, trade marks, designs, copyright and associated areas of law.

The objectives of the Institute include:

1. To act as a professional and representative body for Intellectual Property Practitioners in patents, designs, trade marks and other forms of intellectual property.
2. To promote the education, standing, training and continuing professional expertise of Intellectual Property Practitioners and to establish, maintain and enforce high standards of professional conduct and compliance with the law.

In 2007 the Institute celebrated the 125th anniversary of its foundation and began implementing significant changes in its organisation as required by the Legal Services Act 2007. These changes were completed in 2009 and enabled the Institute to delegate the regulatory functions to the IP Regulation Board. This Board also regulates the trade mark attorney profession in the name of the Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys.

Membership to CIPA

Those eligible to apply to become members include trainee patent attorneys (Student members), foreign and overseas practitioners (Foreign and British Overseas members) and

other professionals with an interest in IP (Associate members).

Fellows of CIPA have the right to use the protected titles 'Chartered patent attorney' or 'Chartered patent agent'. Entry on the Register gives the right to use the title 'patent attorney' and also provides the right to conduct litigation and act as advocates in the Patents County Court.

In November 1999, CIPA was granted the right to authorise appropriately qualified members to conduct litigation in the High Court (including the Patents Court) and to conduct appeals from the Patents County Court, the County Court and the Chancery Division of the High Court in respect of IP litigation. 'Patent attorney litigators' are Fellows of CIPA who have been awarded a CIPA Litigator's Certificate.

Management and facilities

Much of the Institute's business is carried out through an extensive committee structure of over 20 committees. A small Secretariat is employed at the Institute headquarters in Chancery Lane, London, where many committee meetings are held each week. The Institute accommodation includes several rooms available for members' use, including a library/meeting room, a smaller meeting room and the Institute Hall. The Hall is in active use throughout the week for internal and external meetings, lectures and seminars.

Helping the public

Information on all aspects of intellectual property is available from CIPA in printed form and on its website. In addition, CIPA organises free monthly IP clinics for members of the public at various locations around the UK.

Promoting improvements and IP awareness

The Institute maintains active contact with UK government bodies and with various international authorities so as to monitor and advise on proposed legislation and to promote improvements in laws.

In addition to committee meetings and exchanges, the Institute holds an extensive programme of meetings in London and across the country including general meetings, an Annual General Meeting and a variety of social and sporting events.

CIPA issues a monthly journal and supplement containing articles, law updates, news and advertisements. There is also an active and up to date CIPA website, www.cipa.org.uk. A highlight of the CIPA year is the annual CIPA Congress, which provides a business and social focus for the activities of the Institute, its members and their professional colleagues, both from home and abroad.

Education of the profession

The Institute runs an active and comprehensive programme of educational activities and also provides support for the Informals, a special interest group of student members who organise lectures and tutorials for trainees. The Institute also collaborates with a number of universities and other educational bodies in the provision of training courses for the UK and European qualifications.

A range of students' training manuals in patents, designs and trade marks are also available. CIPA also produces a series of practitioners' textbooks for the UK, European and international systems in cooperation with commercial publishers. The CIPA Guide to the Patents Acts is particularly well known and provides an essential resource for IP professionals working in the area. ●

Dr Anna Denholm is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys and was President during 2003/04. Anna is a patent attorney with Collier IP Management.



The Informals - Student body of CIPA

The Informals is the student body of the Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys (CIPA). All trainees automatically become members of the Informals on joining the profession and are encouraged to take advantage of the various activities and events organised by the committee.

The committee is made up of a number of student volunteers from across the profession, who give up a little of their time to help ensure the smooth running of the Informals for current and future trainees.

The Informals provide a support network for trainee patent attorneys by organising lectures and tutorials to supplement the educational training provided by employers, organising social events, acting as the collective voice of trainees within the profession, and by giving assistance and advice to new and prospective members.

Education

Education is an ongoing process throughout the working life of a patent attorney. The early years, however, are the most daunting, as trainees must understand and learn vast amounts of law in preparation for the UK Foundation Examinations, or one of the university based courses. They must then learn how to apply both the law and practical skills, such as drafting,

in readiness for the UK Advanced Examinations and European Qualification Examinations (EQEs).

At the beginning, the trainee may well feel overwhelmed by the sheer volume of work and have trouble identifying the topics on which they should concentrate their efforts or where to find suitable source material. All employers provide some level of training, but the trainee cannot expect to meet every obscure situation in their day to day work.

The Informals committee organise lectures, at both Foundation and Advanced levels, to help guide trainees through the maze of the UK Patents Act, the Patent Cooperation Treaty, the European Patent Convention and the case law.

With the assistance of CIPA, the committee also arranges tutorials for the UK Foundation Examinations, the UK Advanced Examinations and the EQEs. Both recently qualified and experienced patent attorneys tutor small groups of trainees who are attempting past exam papers.

The education provided by the Informals is the subject of ongoing review and proposals to modernise the education system. The changes are gradual and will continue to be introduced over the next few years. As a result, the education system that you encounter as a future trainee patent attorney may differ from that described above.

Social events

These are an important part of the Informals' activities. They allow new, and not so new, entrants to the profession to meet and get to



Typical events include bowling, a pub quiz, several drinks parties, a Christmas party and a boat party on the Thames in the summer.



know each other informally. The social events include organised events and more impromptu gatherings. For example, it has become tradition over the years for students to retire to the pub after weekly lectures to have a drink and a chat with the lecturer that week.

In addition to the post-lecture drinks, the Informals committee try to organise at least one social event every month. Typical events include bowling, a pub quiz, several drinks parties, a Christmas party and a boat party on the Thames in the summer. Additionally, there is a sports representative on the Informals' committee to help coordinate football, softball and cricket matches. Every September there is a party for the new entrants to the profession as well as parties in appreciation of the tutors who assisted with preparation for the UK and European exams.

The voice of the trainees

The Informals committee acts as the collective voice of the trainees within the profession. Informals representatives, not all sitting on the Informals committee, also sit on the various CIPA committees in order to present the views and concerns of the younger members of the profession.

The monthly newsletter – The Yellow Sheet

This official blog of the Informals is available to all CIPA members. The Yellow Sheet includes details of forthcoming lectures, tutorials, social events and other items of interest to trainees. It is edited by the Informals committee and contributions are always welcome. However, it's not all serious – each month there are submissions from readers putting forward a suitably 'wacky patent' that they have spotted.

In conclusion

If you decide to become a patent attorney, the Informals look forward to welcoming you and hope to see you at future educational and social events. You might also consider helping with the organisation of the Informals activities – who knows, you may be writing this article in a future edition! ●



Candice Terblanche, Honorary Secretary of the Informals for 11/12, is a partly qualified patent attorney with Page White & Farrer in London.



Qualifications & training

To become a patent attorney, you will be required to have a relevant undergrad/postgrad qualification and complete a number of exams as part of a wider work based training programme. The rewards for becoming professionally qualified are manifold.

So, what qualifications do you need?

To start with, you will need a scientific or technical background; this usually means a science or engineering degree from a university or similar institution. This technical background is just the beginning. The would-be patent attorney must have the ability to acquire, and enjoy exercising, legal skills of drafting, analysis and logical thought and have a good grasp of the English language. Many of these skills are obtained through a series of exams and on-the-job training. Patents are becoming increasingly international, therefore a knowledge of French, German and increasingly Indian and Chinese, although not essential, is also highly valued.

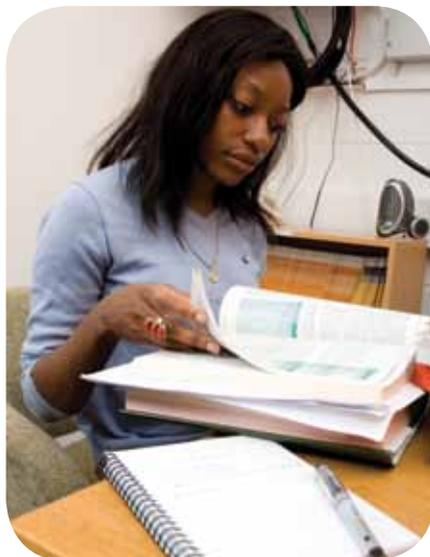
Training

Although it is possible to represent clients without being registered, the Government has continued to recognise that it is essential to protect the public by having an identifiable professional qualification in this area. A copy of the statutory examination regulations is available from the Intellectual Property Regulation Board (IPReg) which has responsibility for running the examinations leading to entry on both the Register of Patent Attorneys and the Register of Trade Mark Attorneys.

Giving a scientist the legal skills to be a patent attorney is usually by means of in-house training in a patent attorney's office or in a company patent department, supplemented by other studies. Admission to either register requires the passing of examinations and completion of a training period. It is usual for a person entering the profession to take four or five years to qualify. Academic training is also available, particularly Certificate and Masters courses

in Intellectual Property run by Queen Mary, University of London, Manchester University, Bournemouth University and Brunel University. These qualifications give exemption from some of the examinations.

Whatever the study time and guidance given to you by your employer, realise that most of the effort must come after working hours by way of study and practice. Your employer will teach you techniques in order to be able to use your abilities. Those same practical everyday techniques are the ones that will be examined in the individual papers. But you will be expected to do the bookwork part – learn the law, the procedures and the precedents – largely in your own time. And, as no practice can offer practical



exposure to every type of patent situation, there will always be areas where you will just need to learn the theory unaided.

Exams

Academic exams test knowledge and reasoning ability. Professional exams test your ability actually to do the job and you will not pass them until the examiners judge you are capable, theoretically, of practicing alone before the public.

For that latter reason, your professional exams are set and marked by working patent attorneys who know just what they want to see in the way of basic competence. They will need to be satisfied as to your essential individual ability to pick out the points that matter in a given situation and to advise and recommend a practical way round the difficulties identified.

One of the most frequent complaints is the inability of candidates to answer the actual question. You need to analyse the points surrounding the issue rather than displaying your current knowledge of other issues. You then need to recommend a course of action from the analysis into a practical usable form on which the client can act. Acquiring these skills doesn't come easily and there is no point in your taking any individual exam before you are thoroughly convinced you have mastered them.

Your trainer, colleagues and fellow trainees will help you to prepare for the individual exam papers. Your employer may send you on outside courses to facilitate your studies and study groups may be organised to help in a more formal basis during working hours.

You may find there is pressure to try to pass exams as quickly as possible. The reasons are understandable. Usually, you are paid noticeably more as soon as you qualify. Resist these pressures if you can. You won't pass the exams until you can show the examiners you are ready to be licensed and, in the meantime, you have a full-time job to cope with.

The Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys (CIPA) publishes a number of books to help students with their training and exams. These include general training manuals as well as specific guides for some of the advanced exams.

Full details are on the CIPA website at www.cipa.org.uk/pages/info-textbooks.

Continuing professional development (CPD)

As the career of a patent attorney progresses, there are additional ways to develop further, such as the development of specific areas of expertise appropriate to the practice, the maintenance of a current knowledge base in the face of changing law and the adoption of other skills.

IPReg and CIPA have a vital part to play in this continuing education process. The Institute arranges a large number of seminars across the year and throughout the country. These seminars address many topics, from recent law and practice changes in the UK to a detailed examination of specialist subjects and an overview of law and practice in other territories.

Such seminars also cover subjects relevant to the business side of the practice of many UK patent attorneys, aiming to provide knowledge and guidance in dealing with some of the issues that are likely to arise in the running of a practice. They also provide information to its members by way of updates, both on its website and in its monthly journal. This information enables members to keep up to date with developments in the UK and across the world.

Furthermore, in certain technical areas, email news groups exist, which enable those practising in those technical areas to share their knowledge and experiences specific to their practice. ●

Accredited universities

Universities offering exemptions for exams:

- Bournemouth University
- Brunel University
- University of Manchester
- Queen Mary, University of London.

CIPA approved courses also offered by:

- Nottingham Trent
- UCL
- University of Edinburgh.

For further information go to page 59 or visit www.cipa.org.uk.

FURTHER STUDY

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65 [NOTTINGHAM LAW SCHOOL](#) ▶



Intellectual Property at Bournemouth University

BU has a strong international reputation in the Intellectual Property (IP) arena, specifically its Centre for Intellectual Property Policy & Management (CIPPM), which specialises in copyright, industrial design, patents, trade marks, law & policy, IP exploitation and legal education.

Our graduates have gone on to work for big names in the IP arena (including Airbus, BAE Systems, China Chambers of Commerce, Environment Agency, GlaxoSmithKline, Johnson & Johnson, Nokia, Unilever and numerous leading law firms). They speak highly of their learning experience at BU.

Postgraduate Certificate in Intellectual Property

This part-time course is designed to give a detailed overview of substantive IP law and aims to improve your employability, particularly if you intend on working in IP intensive industries in a variety of legal and managerial roles.

The course is accredited by the statutory regulator, the Intellectual Property Regulation Board and is treated as equivalent to the old Joint Examination Board/CIPA papers (P1, P5, T1, T2, T5, D&C, Law); as well as the Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys papers (Foundations of Law, Design and Copyright Law, Trade marks A, Trade marks B). For many students, it is the first step to professional qualification.

Our students already hold degrees, typically in the sciences or in another relevant academic discipline. More than half of our students are sponsored by their employers. If you don't have prior legal knowledge, you will be supported by a range of online activities relating to foundational principles of law, such as the English legal system, contract law and tort.

The course is delivered in an executive format, requiring attendance over three block weekends in Bournemouth (Thursday afternoon until Saturday evening), with distance learning between weekends.

What you will study:

- Patents
- Trade Marks
- Registered & Unregistered Designs
- Copyright
- Exploitation
- Trade Mark Practice.

LLM Intellectual Property

LLM Intellectual Property is a full-time option and has also been developed in collaboration with the Joint Examination Board of the CIPA and ITMA. It offers a combination of key aspects of international commercial law with a thorough understanding of the policy dimensions of UK, European and International IP Law.

You will experience a unique blend of delivery and self-managed study over this one-year course and the completion of specific units on this course will provide you with full exemptions from the CIPA/ITMA Joint Examination Board foundation papers: Design & Copyright P1, P5, T1, T2, T5 and Basic English Law.

What you will study:

- Copyright & Trade Marks
- Patents & Designs
- International Patent & Trade Mark Practice
- Corporate Law
- International Economic Law
- Contemporary Business Issues
- Research Project. ●

CONTACT DETAILS

Find out more about our Law courses:
www.bournemouth.ac.uk/ip

askBU Enquiry Service
 T: 01202 961916
askBUenquiries@bournemouth.ac.uk
www.bournemouth.ac.uk/bright



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MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester

Postgraduate Diploma in Intellectual Property Law

The School of Law established in 1872 is one of the oldest and most prestigious in the country and has a long-standing international reputation as a distinguished centre of research at the forefront of innovative teaching and scholarship.

As the only provider in the North we offer an exciting programme which is designed to provide students with a thorough understanding of intellectual property law and practice.

The programme will be attractive to students with an interest in the practical and policy effects of intellectual property law. It is appropriate for students who may wish to continue with further study or enter the legal profession, public service or industry.

On completion of the programme successful students enrolled will be able to:

- Appreciate substantive intellectual property law in its UK, European and international context.
- Understand the way in which policies affect the law.
- Develop skills and knowledge which can usefully be applied in further study.

- Understand the internal law and policies concerned with security and protecting intellectual property in the global market place.
- Appreciate the international legal relations concerned with the protection of intellectual property.

Successful students will be able to gain exception from all CIPA Foundation Papers and thus progress to a more advanced state of training associated with their particular profession.

Modules include:

- Patent Law & Policy
- Copyright Law & Policy
- Trade Mark Law & Policy
- Unfair Competition Law
- Industrial Design Law
- International Aspects of IP Law.

Students will follow a fixed course of study for two days a week over one academic year.

Prior to the teaching and delivery of these course units, all students will attend a full week (eleven lectures, each of two hours duration) of 'foundation lectures', to provide an introduction to general legal framework principles. ●



CONTACT DETAILS

Apply online:
www.law.manchester.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught

T: 0161 306 1270
Enquiries: pg-law@manchester.ac.uk



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Centre for Commercial Law Studies

Queen Mary has a long history of excellence in research and scholarship in intellectual property, spanning almost 30 years through the creation of the dedicated research institute - QMIPRI, part of the Centre for Commercial Law Studies (CCLS). From April 2010 the Intellectual Property Institute (IPI) has operated from CCLS, based in Lincoln's Inn Fields.

At the time of establishing CCLS, Sir Roy Goode and the Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys (CIPA) began what is now a well-established relationship with CCLS, in the education of trainee patent attorneys and those seeking to enter the profession. Similarly over the years, CCLS has worked closely with the Institute of Trademark Attorneys (ITMA). This training continues today with programmes for patent and trade mark professionals that are among the most respected in the UK, attracting scholars from all over the world. CIPA has been an important part of QMIPRI's research life as well, making significant contributions to the IP Archive at Queen Mary, which is one of the finest specialist intellectual property collections in Europe.

MSc in Management of Intellectual Property

One year full-time, two years part-time

Programme description

This MSc programme is aimed at those who recognise the increasingly important role of intellectual property in our modern economy. There is continued need for expertise in intellectual property law and management in industry, commerce and the innovative and creative industries, and the MSc gives graduates the opportunity to study intellectual property to a high level. The programme offers a professional stream (for science and technology graduates seeking to become patent and trade mark attorneys) and a business stream, available to graduates from all fields looking to expand their knowledge of the application and management of intellectual property.

Programme outline

All students in the Professional Stream are required to study the core modules: Patent Law I & II, Copyright & Designs Law I, Law of Trade Marks & Unfair Competition I, Basic

Principles of English Law, and a compulsory Study Project where students develop skills in project management, commercial and litigation practice.

Full year options may include Creativity Publics & Performance, Fashion Furniture & Design, Innovation & Technology, Information Technology Law and IP Transactions.

Half options may include Licensing Practice, Media Law, Management of Innovation & Design and Principles and Practice of Enterprise Management. The following new modules, which are subject to approval, may include US Intellectual Property Law, Digital Intellectual Property Law, IP in Agriculture, Food & Biotechnology, IP in Sports, IP in the Creative Industries.

Assessment

- Three-hour, 15-minute papers for each full core option, for example Copyright and Designs Law I and II
- Two-hour, 30-minute papers for each half option, for example Licensing Practice (if option is run)
- Research Paper or Project for other modules (for example, Management of Innovation and Design)
- Study Project (one year, various submitted materials relevant to management of an intellectual property portfolio, equivalent to 15,000 words).

Closed book examinations operate for all programmes.

Students are offered the chance to undertake additional special papers for those intending to be Patent and/or Trade Mark Attorney (Professional Stream only). Those who opt to undertake these exams gain exemption from the CIPA and ITMA foundation-level exams and in line with the exemption criteria laid down by IPReg and also gain a pass in the additional Certificate of Intellectual Property Law.

Entry requirements

Minimum lower second class honours degree or equivalent - any discipline for Business Stream; natural or medical sciences or engineering for Professional Stream. Graduate degrees in mathematics, computer sciences or economics will be considered, but candidates must show that



a considerable amount of their previous study covered the areas of science and technology.

European Intellectual Property Institutes Network (EIPIN)

Students will have the opportunity to apply for a place on the European Intellectual Property Institutes Network. The network comprises, besides the CCLS at Queen Mary, IP institutes offering postgraduate education in IP in Alicante, Munich and Strasbourg. Two conferences are organised annually covering specific areas of current interest in IP and students may receive a certificate for submission of a report prepared jointly with students from partner institutions. EIPIN is led by the MSc Programme Director, Prof Guido Westkamp.

Postgraduate Certificate in Intellectual Property Law

One semester full-time.

Programme description

This is a full-time one-semester programme, which, at present, runs from mid-September to mid-December, with exams taking place in January.

The Certificate programme is an intensive 13-week programme designed exclusively for trainee patent attorneys. Trainees who successfully complete this programme will gain exemption from CIPA foundation level examinations. The objective of this programme is to provide the student with a broad, overall perspective of intellectual property law, so that later, in practice, he or she has a more balanced appreciation of the wider range of matters which modern intellectual property practice involves.

Programme outline

There is intensive coverage of the law and practice of Patent Law, Law of Trade Marks and Unfair Competition, Copyright & Designs Law and Competition Law.

There is also an introduction to aspects of Basic Principles of English Law, Practice and Evidence that are of special relevance to intellectual property practitioners.

The emphasis is primarily, but not exclusively, upon UK Law; thus, considerable attention is

paid to the European Patent Convention and to EC law and to other regional arrangements and international conventions which affect the activities of the UK practitioner.

Assessment

Three-hour, 15-minute papers for each subject, plus additional one-hour 45-minute Patent Law and Law of Trade Marks and Unfair Competition papers for exemption from the CIPA foundation level examinations.

Closed book examinations operate for all modules.

Entry requirements

Minimum second class honours degree or equivalent in natural or medical sciences or engineering. Graduate degrees in mathematics, computer sciences or economics will be considered, but must show that a considerable amount of their previous study covered the areas of science and technology.

The programme has been specifically designed in close cooperation with the CIPA, for the trainee attorney who, preferably, has been in an office for six months to a year and has already had an opportunity of becoming familiar with some of the language, documentation and procedure of patent and/or trade marks. ●

CONTACT DETAILS

Apply online
www.ccls.qmul.ac.uk/courses/msc-ip
www.ccls.qmul.ac.uk/courses/certificates/intellectualproperty

Sharon Watson
 MSc and Certificate Programme Coordinator
 T: 020 7882 8098

Sarah Batty
 IP Programmes Administrative Assistant
 T: 020 7882 7320
ccls-ip@qmul.ac.uk



Scan for more information



NEW PATENT APPLICATIONS

Training for the EQE

Venue: The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn,
Rolls Passage Entrance, 33 Chancery Lane,
London WC2A 1EN

The Training Programme on European Patent Law and Practice is an intensive 2-part course for candidates who are preparing for the main papers (A, B, C and D) of the European Qualifying Examinations (EQE) to establish whether they have the requisite aptitude and knowledge to represent applicants before the European Patent Office (EPO). Part 1 of the Training Programme runs in September each year, with part 2 in January.

- Queen Mary, University of London, has been running the EQE course successfully for over twenty years.
- It is taught by practitioners who deal with the EPO on a daily basis and have a wealth of experience in training professionals within their own firms.
- The course reflects the practical nature of the examinations, with an emphasis on studying past papers of the EQE.
- The Training Programme includes talks by successful candidates who have recent experience of the examinations.

For more information and to register please go to website www.ccls.qmul.ac.uk/events

The course is provided by the Centre of Commercial Law Studies, Queen Mary, University of London, 67-69 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3JB Tel: 0207 882 8100. For further information contact Katherine Zaim k.zaim@qmul.ac.uk

www.ccls.qmul.ac.uk/events



Queen Mary
University of London

Centre for Commercial Law Studies

NOTTINGHAM LAW SCHOOL

Nottingham Trent University

Nottingham Law School is one of the largest university law schools in the UK. We enjoy a national and international reputation for delivering high quality education and training across a broad range of academic and professional law programmes; from undergraduate to research degrees.

Intellectual Property programmes are an exciting and expanding area of the Law School, demonstrating the breadth of our expertise and our commitment to provide professional and academic training in this often challenging area.

Nottingham Law School provides a range of courses for practitioners who wish to specialise in Intellectual Property:

LLM Intellectual Property

Intellectual property is an exciting and increasingly important area of law, particularly internationally and EU wide. The course offers students the opportunity to explore intellectual property law in both the UK and EU contexts, together with the links to competition law, sport and medical innovation as well as the burgeoning area of Data Protection Law. Modules include:

- Intellectual Property
- IP Public Health Medical Innovation
- Data Protection and Privacy
- Competition and IP Law in the EU.

This flexible course can be studied over one year, full-time and two years part-time. Individual modules can be studied for CPD awards for those working in the legal profession. All LLM modules are accredited by the SRA for CPD purposes.

IP Litigation IP Advocacy

Our Intellectual Property Litigation and Advocacy Courses are built on a foundation of the successful practice masters course, the LLM in Intellectual Property Litigation.

These courses are:

- Designed specifically for experienced intellectual property practitioners.
- Approved by ITMA/IPREG and satisfy the requirements for qualification as a trade mark litigator and/or trade mark advocate.

- Designed to enable trade mark attorneys to attain litigation conduct rights only and then to choose whether to proceed to attain advocacy rights.
- Approved by CIPA/IPREG and satisfies the requirements for qualification as a patent attorney litigator (please note that both courses are required).
- Delivered in a way that suits busy schedules and minimises the time spent away from the office.
- Designed to allow students to apply their knowledge and skills to their own practice.
- Designed to provide continuing professional education.

Those who practise in the field of intellectual property face the traditional pressures of heavy caseloads, the complexity of cases and the need to keep up to date with new developments, legislation and case law in the UK, Europe and internationally. Nottingham Law School offers an IP litigation course which can enable practitioners to meet these challenges and exercise rights before the new Patents County Court and before the Intellectual Property Court and on appeal. Designed for those who have at least two years experience in intellectual property litigation, the courses build upon students' existing knowledge and experience.

Other Intellectual Property courses include:

- Registered Trade Mark Practice.

We are currently developing our portfolio of courses in Intellectual Property. Please visit our web pages or email us for up to date information. ●

CONTACT DETAILS

Full details of all our courses visit our website
www.ntu.ac.uk/nls

T: 0115 848 4460
nls.enquiries@ntu.ac.uk



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EMPLOYER DIRECTORY

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82	<u>DEHNS</u>	▶	112	<u>REDDIE & GROSE LLP</u>	▶
84	<u>EIP</u>	▶	114	<u>RGC JENKINS & CO.</u>	▶
86	<u>ELKINGTON & FIFE LLP</u>	▶	115	<u>SCOTT & YORK</u>	▶
88	<u>FORRESTERS</u>	▶	116	<u>VENNER SHIPLEY</u>	▶
90	<u>GILL JENNINGS & EVERY LLP</u>	▶	117	<u>WILSON GUNN</u>	▶
92	<u>HARRISON GODDARD FOOTE</u>	▶	118	<u>WITHERS & ROGERS LLP</u>	▶



The firm and client services

Our London and Bath offices and our Cardiff office (smaller but growing) all work directly with clients in the UK and overseas and have extensive links with associates throughout the world. Services extend over the whole range of intellectual property matters and a wide variety of subject matter is covered. We work for all types of clients, ranging from multinationals to start-ups and academic institutions and our clients include some who are undoubtedly among the leaders in their fields.

The firm's objective is to carry out high quality professional work and at the same time to maintain a friendly and not too formal atmosphere. We are proud that most of our new work is gained through recommendations.

Academic and other requirements

A degree in science for patent work. A degree in any discipline for trade mark work, although a background in law or languages is preferred and one or more science A levels would be an asset. Candidate should generally have grade A or A* for English language at GCSE or equivalent.

We look for candidates with an aptitude for logical analysis of problems and the ability to write clear and concise English, and who have the potential to handle client personnel of widely different status, ranging from company chairman to laboratory assistant. Managerial and administrative abilities are also assets.

Professional development policies

Considerable importance is attached to training. This is mostly provided in-house, but trainees also attend external lectures and courses, including the Queen Mary Intellectual Property Law Certificate course. Our trainees have an excellent record in the various professional examinations. We have a base in Munich, and there are occasional opportunities to work there. Patent trainees are encouraged to visit the EPO to attend hearings as preparation before having to undertake advocacy work themselves. Assistance is given with learning French and German. There are prospects of partnership for suitable person. ●

COMPANY DETAILS

No. of employees
65

No. of partners
14

No. of qualified chartered patent attorneys
21

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
8

No. of trainee chartered patent attorneys
5

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
0

Locations
London, Bath and Cardiff

No. of graduate vacancies
Usually 1-2

Disciplines recruited from
Patents: Science degrees; Trade marks: Law and languages

Min. degree required
2.1

Starting salary
Competitive

Benefits
22 days holiday, pension scheme, study support, flexitime, season ticket loan, life assurance, social events, childcare vouchers

How to apply
Covering letter and CV by email or post (state location preference as well as degree class and A level and GCSE results)

Contact information
Janet Senior, Abel & Imray
20 Red Lion Street
London WC1R 4PQ
janet.senior@patentable.co.uk

Application deadline
Ongoing, preferably by the end of January 2013



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VACANCY DETAILS

APPLICATION DETAILS

Trainee profile

Name	Julia Coggins
University	University of Edinburgh
Degree	MChem (Hons) Chemistry
Location	London
Role	Trainee patent attorney



Having graduated with a Masters in Chemistry, I was unsure what to do after university. I really enjoyed my area of science and I wanted to use the knowledge and skills I had acquired, but I knew I was not cut out for research.

My degree included a year in industry working in R&D for GlaxoSmithKline, where I learned the importance of intellectual property and how it was used and valued by large pharmaceutical companies. After graduating and looking further into what a career as a patent attorney would involve, I began applying for jobs as a trainee patent attorney. I was delighted to be offered a place at Abel & Imray, not least because of the good reports of the firm, including its successful exam record, that I had been given by trainees and junior attorneys I had had the opportunity to meet after my interviews.

Abel & Imray is an extremely friendly medium-sized firm with a strong emphasis on quality of work and on training. Last year I attended the Queen Mary course, along with another trainee (from our Bath office). I really enjoyed being exposed to different areas of IP through the course, and I think it is a great way to get through the first set of professional exams. The firm also encourages you to attend CIPA's

lectures and other CIPA events that may be of interest (including CIPA's monthly drinks night!).

I handle work for many different clients, including large multinational companies, academic institutions and individual inventors, as well as handling work from patent attorney firms from outside Europe. It is great to have so much variety when you first start your training – as well as providing excellent preparation for the professional exams, it gives a broader idea of what the job will entail when you qualify.

I work closely with several different partners and in a variety of chemical and biological areas. Working with different people is hugely beneficial as it exposes you to a variety of different styles and of course to different client expectations and demands. As mentioned above, the firm is very friendly, and all the partners and attorneys are very willing to answer questions. The firm also has regular attorney meetings so everyone can get together for training and discuss ideas and issues.

Overall, after eighteen months of training, I can say that it has been challenging but very rewarding and enjoyable, and I am very much looking forward to my future in the profession. ●





AdamsonJones was established as a single-practitioner firm in 2000, but now has two partners (the second of whom joined the firm as a graduate trainee in 2001), four other qualified patent attorneys (two of whom also qualified with us from scratch) and three trainees. Our support staff includes four Certified Patent Administrators, two of whom were amongst the first cohort to achieve that qualification and two who have recently done so.

Our location

Our offices are located within BioCity, Nottingham's healthcare and bioscience innovation centre, close to the city centre.

Our practice

Our clients range from small start-ups and established private companies to multinational corporations. The work is predominantly in patents, though we also have a growing trade mark practice, as well as a good deal of design registration work. Our work is predominantly for direct clients, but with a healthy mix of diverse incoming agency work. The practice encompasses most technical areas.

Our recruitment aims

We work as a team and are committed to excellence in the work that we do. We look for people who share those values: high calibre individuals with a record of academic achievement, who can contribute to the continuing growth and development of the business. Our objective is continued steady growth over the coming years. Our preference is to train new entrants to the profession and to instil our values in them. The technical backgrounds that we look for in new graduate trainees depend on the needs of the business at the relevant time.

We believe in treating people well and when we find the right people we aim to retain them. Long-term prospects for those who join the firm are therefore excellent. ●

COMPANY DETAILS

No. of employees
17

No. of partners
2

No. of qualified chartered patent attorneys
6

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
2

No. of trainee chartered patent attorneys
3

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
0

Locations
Nottingham

International opportunities
No

No. of graduate vacancies
1-2

Disciplines recruited from
All degrees considered according to the needs of the business

Min. degree required
2.1

Starting salary
Competitive

Benefits
25 days holiday, pension scheme, study support, performance bonus

How to apply
Covering letter and CV by email

Contact information
careers@adamson-jones.co.uk

Application deadline
Ongoing

VACANCY DETAILS

APPLICATION DETAILS



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AdamsonJones'
live jobs

The firm

Alistair Hindle & Associates is a small, rapidly growing firm based in the centre of Edinburgh. We provide a full range of patent and trade mark attorney services to clients ranging from start-ups and SMEs to international corporations.

We pride ourselves on providing high quality, commercially focused advice. Most of our new work comes to us by way of recommendations and so we are strongly committed to providing our trainees with the training required to ensure that they become excellent practitioners. Training is predominantly in-house but our trainees are also encouraged to attend appropriate external courses.

We offer a pleasant, friendly working environment and an interesting case load dealing predominantly with direct clients. As a result of our ongoing growth, long-term career prospects are exceptional.

Recruitment

We are looking for personable candidates with strong analytical and communication skills, attention to detail, and the ability to pick up complex technical ideas quickly. Applicants should have a good honours degree in a major scientific or engineering discipline. Vacancies are advertised from time to time but speculative applications are also welcomed. ●

COMPANY DETAILS

No. of employees
10

No. of partners
1

No. of qualified chartered patent attorneys
4

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
2

No. of trainee chartered patent attorneys
1

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
0

Locations
Edinburgh

International opportunities
No

No. of graduate vacancies
1

Disciplines recruited from
All mainstream science and engineering degrees considered

Min. degree required
2.1

Starting salary
Competitive

Benefits
25 days holiday, pension scheme, study support

How to apply
Covering letter and CV by email or post

Contact information
Dr Alistair Hindle
Alistair Hindle & Associates
66 Hanover Street
Edinburgh EH2 1EL

Application deadline
31 January 2013



Scan for
Alistair Hindle
& Associates'
live jobs

VACANCY DETAILS

APPLICATION DETAILS



Firm history and structure

Avidity IP was established in 1989 and currently employs 80 people in the UK. Until 2011 it was known as HLBBshaw Group. The company has a worldwide client base ranging from large multinational organisations to SMEs and individuals, all of which receive the same high quality service, irrespective of size.

Working at Avidity IP

Avidity IP is an innovative and exciting place to work. It's a place for people who have a passion about what they do for a living, who want to share it with others in a drive for something worthwhile and different. It's a business where change is normal, excellence is ordinary and where you find out pretty quickly that almost everything has something extraordinary about it.

Range of client services

Although patent filing and prosecution is the mainstay of the company, Avidity IP also has a successful trade mark practice. It is well known for its high performance in difficult practice areas such as EPO patent oppositions and IP litigation, areas where it has never been short on lateral thinking.

To meet the needs of its clients, Avidity IP operates through technology groups: chemistry and materials science; electronics, telecoms and computer science; engineering; life sciences; pharma and nutrition.

Training

Every other year at least we seek to recruit five or six trainees to start with us in the autumn. There is a structured training programme that runs for six months, led by an experienced patent attorney, which sets up our trainees to be exposed to a broad range of patent work appropriate to their technology during the remainder of their training with us, which could be in any of our offices. As well as in-house training, we send trainees on appropriate external courses and exam revision programmes. ●

COMPANY DETAILS

No. of employees
82

No. of qualified chartered patent attorneys
11

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
3

No. of trainee chartered patent attorneys
14

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
0

Locations
Birmingham, Cambridge, Epping, Leeds and Reading

International opportunities
No

No. of graduate vacancies
6

Disciplines recruited from
Chemistry, computer science, electronics, engineering, life sciences, materials science, pharmaceutical and nutrition and telecoms

Min. degree required
2.1

Starting salary
Competitive

Benefits
22 days holiday, study support, life assurance, bike scheme, performance bonus, social events

How to apply
Covering letter and CV by email or post

Contact information
Louise Wallis
Avidity IP
Merlin House, Falconry Court
Bakers Lane, Epping
Essex CM16 5DQ
louise.wallis@avidity-ip.com

Application deadline
Ongoing

VACANCY DETAILS

APPLICATION DETAILS



Scan for
Avidity IP's
live jobs



The firm

Beck Greener, a well known, medium-sized firm of patent and trade mark attorneys are in modern premises in Fulwood Place with views over the gardens in Grays Inn. As our building was fitted out to our own specifications it provides comfortable and convenient accommodation. We are still located in the same area of London as the original firm, which was founded in 1867. We know that traditional values have a place even for a business which is forward looking.

Range of client services

From the individual inventor to the major multinational, from a simple board game to a complex drug formulation requiring global protection, Beck Greener always aims to give the best professional service. We handle all kinds of technical subject matter and the whole range of intellectual property. We also have a particularly strong practice in trade marks. We have run litigation, with great success, in the English courts.

Recruitment requirements

The firm has made a commitment to training its own recruits as the best way to obtain potential partners who meet Beck Greener's high standards. We seek chemists qualified to first degree or PhD levels, and graduate engineers or physicists with expertise in telecommunications engineering, computer engineering or IT generally. Our own assessment of the quality of the candidate is more important than the class of degree. Trade mark trainees are usually selected from candidates who are solicitors or otherwise legally qualified.

Professional training

We pride ourselves on the high quality of our professional work and training. Our trainees are generally successful in their examinations at the first attempt and consistently win prizes for the highest marks in individual papers. Trainees are encouraged to attend external courses to supplement comprehensive in-house training under the direct supervision of the partners. ●

COMPANY DETAILS

No. of employees
45

No. of partners
10

No. of qualified chartered patent attorneys
12

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
7

No. of trainee chartered patent attorneys
4

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
0

Locations
London

International opportunities
No

No. of graduate vacancies
1

Starting salary
Competitive

Benefits
25 days holiday (rising to a max of 30), study support, season ticket loan, bike scheme, social events

How to apply
Covering letter and CV by email or post, explaining why you are interested in becoming a patent attorney

Contact information
Ian Bartlett, Staff Partner
Beck Greener
Fulwood House, 12 Fulwood Place
London WC1V 6HR
T: 020 7693 5600
F: 020 7693 5601
mail@beckgreener.com
www.beckgreener.com

Application deadline
Ongoing



Scan for Beck Greener's live jobs

VACANCY DETAILS

APPLICATION DETAILS



Firm history and structure

Barker Brettell is a modern limited liability partnership. It has expanded significantly in recent years and a full range of academic backgrounds is represented. There is a high level of client contact, with strong emphasis on providing the most appropriate attorney and service for each client's requirements.

Clients

Barker Brettell has a high proportion of UK based clients, which means there is a high level of original drafting work. The firm also has a significant international presence with an extensive portfolio of international clients. Although many clients are medium to large multinational enterprises, the firm provides services to many single inventors, universities and small to medium-sized manufacturers in the UK.

Services

Barker Brettell is committed to providing a personal service by building strong relationships with clients to better understand their needs.

The firm's focus is to provide advice to clients on all aspects of using and protecting intellectual property. Our attorneys also regularly advise on contentious matters and attend hearings before the European Patent Office and the UK Intellectual Property Office.

Recruitment and professional development

Barker Brettell is always interested to hear from high calibre graduates as well as qualified, or part qualified, attorneys who are looking for a career move within the profession. Regular firm-wide training events take place, including discussions and presentations, together with question and answer sessions. Every trainee is provided with study leave and a personal training budget to assist in the preparation for the many exams required to achieve the European and UK qualifications. ●

COMPANY DETAILS

No. of employees
99

No. of partners
19

No. of qualified chartered patent attorneys
23

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
9

No. of trainee chartered patent attorneys
4

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
1

Locations
Birmingham, London, Southampton

International opportunities
No

No. of graduate vacancies
2 (across locations)

Disciplines recruited from
Scientific & engineering backgrounds

Min. degree required
2.1

Starting salary
Competitive

Benefits
21 days holiday, healthcare scheme, pension scheme, study support, flexitime, season ticket loan, life assurance, performance bonus

How to apply
Covering letter & CV by email or post

Contact information
HR Manager
Barker Brettell
100 Hagley Road, Edgbaston,
Birmingham B16 8QQ

Application deadline
Ongoing

VACANCY DETAILS

APPLICATION DETAILS



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Brettell's live jobs

Trainee profile

Name	Richard Abel
University	Durham University
Degree	MSci (Hons) Theoretical Physics & PhD Physics
Location	Birmingham
Role	Trainee patent attorney



As a student I found science subjects the most rewarding and after completing my undergraduate degree I chose to stay at university to study for a PhD. I enjoyed my time in research but did not want a career as an academic or research scientist. Working as a patent attorney offered the chance to continue being involved in science and technology, but from a more commercial standpoint.

I joined Barker Brettell in 2011. Established c.1850, it is one of the largest intellectual property firms in the UK, evidenced by the tremendous depth of experience and expertise present. It was reassuring to know that I would have experience in a wide variety of technologies and that the capacity exists to involve trainees in all the many facets of the profession. Despite the size of the firm the

experience is not impersonal; much of my time was spent with my supervising partner and other professional and support personnel who were actively involved in my development.

There was a great atmosphere among the staff and everyone was friendly and welcoming. There were social events and some of the staff also made use of the local squash courts and golf courses together.

A career as a patent attorney is one of few where you will experience genuine lifelong learning. The combination of science, law and linguistics is probably equally as rare. The profession is challenging and rewarding, but a good work/life balance can be maintained. I recommend the career to you and Barker Brettell as a place to start it. ●





Boulton Wade Tennant is internationally recognised as a leading UK firm of Chartered Patent Attorneys and European Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys, with offices in London, Reading, Oxford and Cambridge. The firm's core business is patents, trade marks, designs and related areas. The patent practice is divided into four technology-specific groups:

- High Tech and Electrical
- Engineering and Designs
- Biotechnology and Life Sciences
- Chemical and Materials.

The trade mark group is one of the largest in the UK and highly regarded. The team assists in the selection, protection, management and enforcement of trade marks and advises on domain name disputes, copyright and other IP issues.

Work

Boulton Wade Tennant has a wide range of clients from international organisations with multiple filings and complex portfolios to medium and small sized companies who supply a steady stream of work. Our attorneys also handle work from foreign attorneys who need assistance within the firm's jurisdiction of the UK and Europe.

The firm's attorneys need to be proactive, communicative and responsive in dealing with client matters. Our attorneys are not only skilled in their specific technology, they also understand the law relating to the drafting of patent specifications, filing and prosecuting patents, design and trade mark applications, and conducting oppositions, appeals and revocation actions. Attorneys also carry out IP audits, provide strategic advice and portfolio management, and advise on licensing, infringement and enforcement matters.

Training

Graduates are mentored by a partner and work alongside senior attorneys on client matters. All patent trainees attend the QMUL course and also attend internal and external seminars and tutorials, to support them through a series of exams. The qualifying process for becoming a European patent attorney and chartered patent attorney takes at least four years. ●

COMPANY DETAILS

No. of employees
180

No. of partners
25

No. of qualified chartered patent attorneys
18

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
5

No. of trainee chartered patent attorneys
13

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
4

Locations
London, Reading, Oxford and Cambridge

International opportunities
No

No. of graduate vacancies
Up to 4

Disciplines recruited from
All practical sciences and technologies, law and modern languages

Min. degree required
2.1

Starting salary
Competitive

Benefits
23 days holiday, healthcare scheme, pension scheme, study support, season ticket loan, life assurance, social events, childcare vouchers, contractual bonus

How to apply
Covering letter and CV by email or post

Contact information
Recruitment, Boulton Wade Tennant
Verulam Gardens
70 Grays Inn Road
London WC1X 8BT
recruitment@boulton.com

Application deadline
Ongoing



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VACANCY DETAILS

APPLICATION DETAILS

Trainee profile

Name	Victoria Russell
University	University of Cambridge
Degree	PhD Physics
Location	London
Role	Trainee patent attorney



One too many frustrating days in the lab, supervising yet another failed experiment, convinced me that a career in research was not for me. However, a fascination in 'how things work' - which had originally lead me to do a PhD - was something that I had never lost. I wanted a job that involved learning about new science, required problem solving and understanding complex concepts whilst also offering a clear career path with constant new goals. After a year in the profession, I have been pleased to find that this is what being a patent attorney is all about.

In my day to day job I am involved in the prosecution of patents for a wide variety of inventions. The applications require me to communicate with both the applicant (ranging from small start-ups to large multinational companies) and other patent professionals around the world. I am required to write persuasive responses to patent examiners, explaining the technical detail of my client's invention, but also to advise our clients on the legal issues that arise in a case, maintaining an eye to their commercial objectives. I spend much of my time discussing my work with my supervising partners and other professional colleagues, who all take an active interest in my professional development and training.

As with most trainee patent attorneys, when I began to look for a job I sent quite a number of speculative applications to many firms. However, when I came to interview at Boulton Wade Tennant I was struck by how friendly and approachable all the people I met were and how enthusiastic they were about their job. I was also attracted to the firm by its long-standing professional reputation and experience. Since starting at Boulton Wade Tennant I have learnt to appreciate the benefits of being in a larger firm with lots of trainees too. This means there is always someone on hand willing to answer all your silly (and not-so-silly) questions. It also makes the firm a very sociable and supportive place!

A career as a patent attorney offers a very rare mixture of science, law and linguistics. Over your career, you will never stop being exposed to new ideas and concepts. For me, this makes the profession an exciting prospect which is both challenging and rewarding. However, in my experience being a patent attorney also offers a great work/life balance. I would thoroughly recommend both the patent profession and Boulton Wade Tennant to anybody looking for a life as a 'hands-off' scientist! ●



CARPMAELS & RANSFORD

Being a leader in our field is not an accident. It's the product of expertise and experience, underpinned by a lot of hard work.

Maintaining that position requires constant learning and improvement, the desire to set continually higher standards and the ambition to exceed client expectations, not merely meet them.

Carpmaels & Ransford has been at the vanguard of intellectual property for over 200 years. Our pioneering roots in London now extend to Munich and around the globe with long-standing client relationships in the USA, Asia and across Europe.

Our continued ability to attract the brightest and best talent is fundamental to our success. The firm provides a supportive environment where talent can flourish.

Everyone in the firm, from the most experienced partner to the newest trainee, is hungry to learn, stretch their intellect and become better at what they do. There's no environment more stimulating for a trainee because you'll have the opportunity to learn from a wide range of partners and associates.

We can't promise you it will be easy. In fact, it is rigorous and demanding. However, you'll find the atmosphere welcoming, enjoyable and rewarding. We can also promise you a training programme that is second to none.

Our firm is packed full of enthusiasts for whatever we do. Outside work we are skiers, surfers, musicians, singers, horse riders and sailors, to name a few. We believe that multi-faceted people make for a more dynamic workplace. We encourage individual talent and originality, rather than a corporate uniform.

What unites us is the intellectual energy that runs through our firm, the depth of our knowledge, our combined skill in solving the most challenging problems, our awareness of the necessity for pragmatic advice, and our commitment to exceeding client expectations. ●

COMPANY DETAILS

No. of employees
147

No. of partners
16

No. of qualified chartered patent attorneys
42

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
3

No. of trainee chartered patent attorneys
23

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
1

Locations

London and Munich (for prep for hearings in the EPO)

Other opportunities

Open days offered

No. of graduate vacancies
4-6

Disciplines recruited from
Biochemistry, molecular biology, chemistry, computer science, electronics, engineering and physics (law and languages for TMs)

Min. degree required
2.1

Min. UCAS points
320

Starting salary
Highly competitive

Benefits

23 days holiday, healthcare scheme, pension scheme, study support, season ticket loan, life assurance, bike scheme, social events

How to apply

Covering letter and CV by email or post

Contact information

Graduate Recruitment
Carpmaels & Ransford
One Southampton Row
London WC1B 5HA
T: 020 7067 1643
careers@carpmaels.com
www.carpmaels.com

Application deadline

13 December 2012



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Carpmaels &
Ransford's live jobs

VACANCY DETAILS

APPLICATION DETAILS

Trainee profile

Name	Isobel Barry
University	University of Cambridge
Degree	Natural Sciences (Chemistry)
Location	London
Role	Trainee patent attorney



At the end of my four years at Cambridge I found myself in a similar position to many of my peers: I was passionate about science and continuing to do a PhD seemed like the sensible option. However, the idea of focusing solely on a narrow area didn't appeal to me and I knew that my communication skills trumped my clumsiness in the laboratory. It took a few different jobs after graduation for me to gain a clear idea of what I wanted from a career. By the time I came to reading about the patent profession I could see that it ticked all the right boxes for me.

It's important to understand what the job is about before applying; it isn't for everyone but if you are the right fit then it is very rewarding. You'll be able to put your scientific or engineering background to good use and will find yourself working in fields you might not have imagined. Some call it a 'vertical learning curve', as you need to simultaneously get to grips with new methods of working, the vast field of patent law, unfamiliar technical areas and your clients' commercial priorities. Being able to work to deadlines is an essential part of the job so organisation and time management are vital. If you enjoy applying yourself to understanding new material, sorting the salient points from the unimportant and preparing convincing arguments, you'll enjoy every day in the patent profession.

At Carpmaels, assistants work for several different partners, giving us exposure to differing ways of working as we develop our skills in the profession. I believe this is one of the reasons that the firm's training is so successful and it adds to the challenge as there are many different partners' expectations and deadlines to manage! The wealth of experience in the firm comes into play in the in-house tutorials run for new starters and for those undertaking the professional examinations, as well as in the regular meetings for discussing recent case law and practice points. It's great to see even the most experienced members of the firm challenging and learning from each other, right until the end of their careers.

I find the focus on quality at Carpmaels extremely satisfying; the goal is to deliver the best possible service to the client, not simply to get as many cases across your desk as possible. Everyone works hard together to achieve this goal and the supportive atmosphere in the office aids this. However, we know how to unwind too and there are plenty of social occasions attended by attorneys and support staff alike. There are also plenty of opportunities to meet others in the profession at the events organised by CIPA and the Informals. The excellent work/life balance means you get the best of both worlds. ●



D YOUNG & CO INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

About D Young & Co

D Young & Co ranks as one of the top firms in Europe. We are proud to have been recommended by *Legal 500* and *Chambers* as a top tier patent and trade mark firm, were awarded the *MIP UK Trade Mark Prosecution Firm* in 2012 and *The Lawyer IP Law Firm of the Year 2011*. We are also delighted to become the first firm of patent and trade mark attorneys to establish a Legal Disciplinary Practice in the UK.

We offer a friendly and enjoyable working environment with a strong focus on work/life balance. The Partners are pleased to be recognised as an Employer of Choice, through our achievements with Best Companies 2012, CIPD People Management Awards 2011 and 2012 and Employee Benefits Award 2012.

Clients

Representing clients in a wide range of technologies spanning many industry sectors, our clients include blue-chip and global organisations, research institutions, start-up companies, academic institutions and SME's. Our attorneys understand the value of our clients ideas and work hard to protect and manage the intellectual property that underpins their business. Our detailed understanding of their needs comes from personal contact, teamwork and commercial experience. We build teams of expert advisors, matching technical skills and knowledge with client requirements.

Recruitment

To meet the demands of a diverse and expanding client portfolio we welcome applications from highly qualified attorneys, graduates and professional support staff who have the drive and desire to achieve and succeed.

Professional development

D Young & Co believes in recognising and rewarding employee development by providing a comprehensive and structured training programme toward professional qualifications alongside an excellent benefits package. All assistants are encouraged to attend training courses including the QMUL, as well as a large range of internal and external revision courses for the qualifying exams. ●

COMPANY DETAILS

No. of employees
182

No. of partners
34

No. of qualified chartered patent attorneys
40

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
7

No. of trainee chartered patent attorneys
13

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
1

Locations
London and Southampton

International opportunities
No

Type of work experience offered
Internship

No. of work experience vacancies
c. 2

No. of graduate vacancies
c. 2

Disciplines recruited from
Biotechnology, chemistry, electronics, software engineering and physics

Min. degree required
2.1

Starting salary
Competitive

Benefits
25 days holiday, healthcare scheme, pension scheme, study support, interest-free loan, season ticket loan, life assurance, bike scheme, performance bonus, social events

How to apply
Covering letter and CV online or by email

Contact information
D Young & Co LLP
120 Holborn
London, EC1N 2DY
recruitment@dyoung.co.uk
www.dyoung.com/careers

Application deadline
Ongoing



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VACANCY DETAILS

APPLICATION DETAILS



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Dehns

Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys

Dehns is one of the largest firms of patent and trade mark Attorneys in Europe with offices in London, Brighton, Oxford and Munich. The firm was founded in 1920 by Frank B. Dehn and has an internationally established reputation for providing a high quality service in a wide range of sectors including: engineering, electronics, communications, IT, physical and materials science, chemical, biotechnology, pharmaceutical and life sciences.

With offices situated in major cities, fee-earners have potential to work in other offices, while our permanently staffed office in Munich provides secondment opportunities.

Client focused service

Dehns' clients enjoy the benefits of an impressive array of professionals that pride themselves on clear, commercially focused advice. Our range of over 70 graduate and postgraduate scientists means that we are confident of rapidly understanding any technology in whatever field it may be. We are consistently ranked in the top tier by *Managing Intellectual Property*, the *Legal 500* and *Chambers* legal guides.

Highly talented professionals

We recruit excellent people which means that we have a team of highly talented individuals, stimulated by working in the field of innovation, all committed to providing excellent service to our clients. We focus on a strong team ethic based on sharing experiences, expertise and intellectual assets which assures continued business success.

Professional development

We recognise that our people are our most valuable asset and, as a consequence, place a strong emphasis on training and development. Indeed, many of our attorneys have been awarded prizes for their exceptional performance in qualifying examinations. Trainees are supported and encouraged throughout their period of qualification through regular in-house tutorials and by working closely with partners. They become involved in many different aspects of patent, trade mark, registered design and copyright work so that they gain the broadest range of experience possible. Patent trainees study towards the Certificate in Intellectual Property Law, attending either the Queen Mary College or Brunel University.

We pride ourselves in fostering a friendly atmosphere in the firm and our professional staff enjoy a healthy work/life balance. ●

COMPANY DETAILS

No. of employees
139

No. of partners
27

No. of qualified chartered patent attorneys
52

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
16

No. of trainee chartered patent attorneys
25

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
3

Locations
London, Brighton, Munich and Oxford

International opportunities
Yes

No. of graduate vacancies
3-4

Disciplines recruited from
Patents: Various science degrees;
Trade marks: All degrees considered

Min. degree required
2.1

Starting salary
Competitive

Benefits
22+ days holiday, healthcare scheme, pension scheme, flexitime, season ticket loan, life assurance, gym membership, bonus, study support

How to apply
Application form, covering letter and CV by email or post to Jane Jolly, HR Manager

Contact information
careers@dehns.com
www.dehns.com

Application deadline
Ongoing



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VACANCY DETAILS

APPLICATION DETAILS

Trainee profile

Name	Jennifer Brown
University	University of Oxford
Degree	MEng (Hons) Materials Science
Location	London
Role	Technical assistant



I remember when researching the patent profession and reading a number of graduate profiles that an extremely common reason for entering the profession was “I love science, but research was not for me”. Having not done a PhD I was not exactly in this situation myself, however, having been in the profession for nearly three years I can see exactly why the patent profession can be such a good fit for people with this outlook.

In my opinion, a career as a patent attorney offers the opportunity to be involved with science combined with a large number of other advantages. For me, the most important aspects of the job, aside from the strong science focus, are that the job offers variety both in the work performed on a daily basis and the technology you deal with. It also provides a daily academic challenge (I never leave the office feeling like I haven’t been intellectually stimulated), and the opportunity to have a more commercial aspect to your work.

The training at Dehns is very hands-on and you are given your own cases from day one. I remember being very daunted by this at first, but I have quickly come to realise that this is the best way to learn. I work for an associate and four partners which I believe is invaluable as it gives me insight into different people’s perspectives on the job and has allowed me to formulate my own working style. It also increases the variety in my work as it ensures I

am involved with a broad range of technologies, a number of different clients and a range of types of work. Although of course, working for so many different people requires me to manage my time effectively and ensure that I am on top of all my upcoming deadlines!

As mentioned, I am involved with work for a number of different clients and this includes overseas clients, in particular in Norway. This has provided an opportunity for travel both within the UK and to Norway.

At Dehns, trainees attend the Brunel or the Queen Mary course to obtain exemption from the UK foundation exams. I am now at the stage in which I am starting to prepare for my UK and European final exams. Whilst this requires studying outside of work hours, Dehns run in-house tutorials and there are a large number of people who have recently taken the exams who are willing to help and advise where possible.

Dehns, and the profession in general, is very friendly and sociable. Twice a year Dehns holds firm-wide social events, which are a good opportunity to meet everyone from the different offices. I have also met trainees from other firms at CIPA lectures, playing inter-firm softball and at monthly CIPA drinks. From my experience, the career as a patent attorney is a varied and stimulating career with a good work/life balance. ●





EIP is a dynamic, forward-thinking firm and one of the fastest growing IP practices in the UK. It enjoys an excellent reputation for providing IP services primarily in niche specialisms and is trailblazing in the UK by incorporating patent attorneys and IP litigation solicitors in a combined partnership. EIP has a leading electronics and software practice and a significant presence in the life sciences, medical devices, pharmaceuticals and chemical sectors.

With offices in London, Bath, Cardiff, and Leeds, EIP has an impressive local client base in the UK which includes major software developers, banks, supermarkets, biotech companies, medical device manufacturers and electronics design consultancies. The firm also works for several large multinationals headquartered in the United States and Japan. The practice is organised in ten groups to reflect the various expertise of the attorneys and the services offered. These are: EIP Brands, EIP Digital, EIP Designs, EIP Dynamics, EIP Elements, EIP Green, EIP Life, EIP Legal, EIP Strategy and EIP Search.

EIP offers trainees the opportunity to interact and liaise directly with clients. The training programme is focused on direct supervision by the partners, who are leaders in their field. One of the partners is a world-renowned author on the European Patent Convention and all of the trainees benefit from high levels of tuition during qualification. EIP has established an ethos of developing trainees and has a good record of retaining qualified attorneys to advance their careers to partner level.

The firm's patent attorneys and trainees include experts in a range of technical fields. A significant proportion have industrial experience built up in research posts prior to joining the profession, others join direct from academic studies. EIP will typically recruit candidates having an excellent first degree and optionally a PhD. The best candidates enjoy the challenge of working at a high intellectual level and dealing with complex issues. Because of the client-facing nature of the work, good social and communication skills are a definite plus. The firm has a friendly, progressive and mutually supportive working environment along with a casual dress policy and smart modern offices. ●

COMPANY DETAILS

No. of employees
60

No. of partners
15

No. of qualified chartered patent attorneys
18

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
3

No. of trainee chartered patent attorneys
10

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
0

Locations
Bath, Cardiff, Leeds and London

International opportunities
Yes

No. of graduate vacancies
3-4

Disciplines recruited from
Biotechnology, chemistry, computing, electronics, engineering, maths, physics

Min. degree required
2.1

Starting salary
Competitive

Benefits
20 days holiday plus bonus holidays, healthcare scheme, pension scheme, study support, season ticket loan, bike scheme, performance bonus

How to apply
Covering letter and CV by post or online

Contact information
Fairfax House, 15 Fulwood Place,
London WC1V 6HU
careers@eip.com
T: 020 7440 9510
www.eip.com

Application deadline
Ongoing



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VACANCY DETAILS

APPLICATION DETAILS

Trainee profile

Name	Emma Wilkins
University	University of Oxford
Degree	BSc (Hons) Physics
Location	London
Role	Associate



When I initially began my physics degree, I thought I would probably remain in academia for the rest of my career. However in my final year, I began to feel like I wanted to do something a bit different; I knew I wanted to continue to learn new things and challenge myself intellectually, but I wanted to do so in a less academic environment.

A career as a patent attorney stood out to me straight away, as I would still be able to use the skills and knowledge I had learnt on my degree, but I would also have the opportunity to learn about cutting-edge technologies and the chance to do more writing (which I have always enjoyed).

I joined EIP in September 2011, and with nine months under my belt, I can confidently say I'm very happy with my career choice! EIP is a young and forward-thinking firm that is willing to give trainees a much higher level of responsibility than many other firms. From the offset, I've been given real and important work to do, such as helping to argue the patentability of applications and, within just a few weeks of joining, the challenge of drafting my first patent application (something many other trainees at my level of experience haven't even attempted yet). I get many opportunities to talk to the inventors, both in person and on the phone. EIP have also encouraged me to get involved with the business side of things, by getting me involved in developing a new-starter induction

program, for example. This offered yet another dimension to an already varied and stimulating career.

Although EIP certainly gives you wings to fly, I have never felt lost or out of my depth here, as there is a really helpful and approachable network of people who are always willing to help out. I mainly work under one partner, who provides the bulk of my training and support, but I have also been encouraged to work with a number of different partners and this has given me an insight into the varied approaches of the different partners and has helped me begin to develop my own approach.

One of my favourite aspects of the job is arguing the patentability of applications. This involves reviewing documents that an examiner has cited against your patent application and spotting flaws in the examiner's arguments. I find it really satisfying to spot something that an examiner has misunderstood or overlooked, particularly when you manage to convince the examiner to accept your arguments.

One thing to note about the profession is that there is a great deal to learn and it takes a long time and a lot of hard work to become completely competent - around ten years according to my supervisor! However, one great thing about the profession is that, once you have put in all that time and effort, you will be rewarded by becoming an invaluable member of the IP profession! ●



elkington and fife LLP

Elkington and Fife LLP are proud to provide a high quality service to our clients in all aspects of intellectual property protection. We have a particular expertise in high-level opposition and contentious work, especially at the EPO. We have also been very successful at delivering drafting services directly for a variety of large corporate clients. These strengths are balanced with work for an interesting variety of national and international clients operating in a wide range of technical disciplines.

The firm

The firm was established in 1927 and operates as a limited liability partnership, with offices in London and Sevenoaks. Each trainee can expect to work closely with more than one partner and to be exposed to all aspects of work. Our relatively limited recruitment means that successful trainees can expect a long-term future within the firm.

Graduate applications

We seek trainees with an excellent technical background to deal with a broad range of subject matter, the drive to succeed and push our practice forward, together with an excellent command of English. Proficiency in German and/or French would be an advantage. We welcome applications from new graduates and especially from applicants having research or development experience.

Professional development

Training is given high priority, both through a close working relationship between a trainee and others in the team, as well as through external preparatory courses and internal seminars. ●

COMPANY DETAILS

No. of employees
56

No. of partners
10

No. of qualified chartered patent attorneys
15

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
2

No. of trainee chartered patent attorneys
4

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
0

Locations
London and Sevenoaks

International opportunities
No

No. of graduate vacancies
2

Disciplines recruited from
Chemistry and electronics

Min. degree required
2.1

Min. UCAS points
240

Starting salary
Competitive - experience related

Benefits
20 days holiday, BUPA (after three months), pension scheme, flexitime

How to apply
Covering letter, CV and an example of technical writing by email

Contact information
Sandra Snelling
Elkington and Fife LLP
Prospect House, 8 Pembroke Road,
Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1XR

Application deadline
Ongoing



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VACANCY DETAILS

APPLICATION DETAILS

Trainee profile

Name	Samantha Coffey
University	Durham University
Degree	MChem (Hons) Chemistry
Location	London
Role	Technical Assistant



I graduated in 2008 after having completed a year in industry at GlaxoSmithKline. It was during this time that I decided that, although I enjoyed chemistry, research was not for me. Whilst on placement I was exposed to the world of IP and I decided that a career as a patent attorney seemed to be an ideal career path bringing together science, law and business.

After graduating, I applied speculatively to various patent firms around the country and accepted a position as a technical assistant at Elkington and Fife LLP.

I have been working for Elkington and Fife LLP since January 2009. Training here starts from day one and no two days are the same. The work includes writing letters, reporting and responding to official communications from the EPO, UKIPO and foreign patent offices around the world, national litigation, opinion work, prior art searches, assignments, oppositions and appeals. The subject-matter of this work varies and can range from chemical compounds (including high value pharmaceutical products) to baby suits! I have found that the level of client contact and responsibility increases with experience. The team at Elkington and Fife LLP and, in particular, my supervisor have provided and will continue to provide help and support throughout my training.

Elkington and Fife LLP pay for trainees to attend the Queen Mary Certificate in IP, which

provides an exemption from the UK foundation examinations and I passed this in 2010. The course is an intensive three-month course and provides a good grounding for the rest of one's career and also has a social aspect providing the opportunity to meet other trainees.

I have subsequently taken my UK final examinations and EQEs in November 2011 and March 2012, respectively and am awaiting results. Preparation for these exams is carried out on the job and the training is somewhat similar to an apprenticeship in this way. Although it is necessary to study extensively outside work in order to pass these examinations, I found that there is always help around the office to answer questions and provide tutorials and seminars when needed. Our monthly case law discussions are particularly helpful.

If you are going to be successful as a trainee patent attorney, you must be academically able but much more than that. You have to be resilient, focused and hard-working. You must also want to be challenged on a daily basis and have the willingness to learn in order to be retrained in law. Your grammar and literacy skills must also be up to scratch and you will need to be sociable in order to interact with clients and colleagues.

A career as a patent attorney is not for everyone, but for the right person it is a highly challenging, rewarding and stimulating career. ●





Firm history and structure

Although Forresters is a long-established firm (founded in 1884), we have a relatively young partnership and take a modern and progressive approach to business. We have thriving domestic and international practices, spread over four offices.

Range of services

We cover all areas of intellectual property and a very wide range of technological subject matter, with the patent attorneys being divided into a life sciences group and a technology and engineering group. A large proportion of our work is direct representation at the European Patent Office, and we have a permanent office in Munich, manned by one full-time partner. We encourage UK-based partners and qualified assistants to spend one or two weeks at a time working in the Munich office.

We have a strong trade mark practice and were named the UK trade mark law firm of the year for both 2010 and 2011 in the Corporate INTL legal awards.

We pride ourselves on providing clear and concise advice to our clients. All of our attorneys undertake specific training in the use of plain English.

Minimum academic requirements

A good scientific or technical degree, coupled with excellent command of the English language.

Annual leave entitlement

20 working days (in addition to bank holidays), increasing with length of service and/or examination success.

Professional development

Each trainee will work directly with a qualified attorney, whilst undertaking certain tasks for other partners and associates. We have a structured training programme and our trainees have attained a high examination success rate in recent years. The firm sends candidates on residential courses to prepare for the examinations and encourages them to attend lectures in central London. ●

COMPANY DETAILS

No. of employees
91

No. of partners
9

No. of qualified chartered patent attorneys
19

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
8

No. of trainee chartered patent attorneys
6

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
3

Locations
Birmingham, London, Merseyside and Munich

International opportunities
Yes

No. of graduate vacancies
1-2

Disciplines recruited from
Chemistry, computer sciences, engineering, life sciences and physics

Min. degree required
2.2

Min. UCAS points
300

Starting salary
£23,500

Benefits
20 days holiday, healthcare scheme, pension scheme, study support, flexitime, season ticket loan, bike scheme, performance bonus, social events

How to apply
Covering letter and CV by email or post

Contact information
Alex Beattie, Recruitment Partner
119-121 Cannon Street
London EC4N 5AT
T: 020 7283 8989
abeattie@forresters.co.uk

Application deadline
Speculative applications welcomed



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VACANCY DETAILS

APPLICATION DETAILS



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Gill Jennings & Every LLP is a top ranked European patent and trade mark attorney firm that helps companies around the world protect and unlock the value of brands and innovation.

With a vital mix of professional expertise and extensive technical knowledge, our attorneys are committed to providing an excellent level of service to clients. We pride ourselves on our ability to understand the commercial goals of our clients and develop IP strategies to help achieve these goals. For this reason, we look for much more in future trainees than academic success; as important is the ability to think creatively, to ask questions and to develop and articulate solutions.

Each trainee works in one of two specialist departments (IT & Engineering and Life Sciences) where they gain experience from working closely with a number of Partners and attorneys. Our aim is to provide each trainee with broad-ranging experience and we do this by ensuring trainees work with a variety of businesses which require different patent services and service levels; these include multi-nationals, university spin-out companies and venture capital funded start-ups.

Training to be a patent attorney is not an easy option; it requires considerable intellect, hard work and dedication. The exams are tough, but we are there to provide support and guidance. The first qualification that our trainees study for is the Postgraduate Certificate in Intellectual Property. After gaining more work experience they then study to qualify as both a European patent attorney and a British patent attorney. We offer a range of in-house and external lectures, seminars and tutorials to compliment private study and, of course, close support, coaching and mentoring to provide the best start possible to what we hope will be a long and successful career in IP. ●

COMPANY DETAILS

No. of employees
80

No. of partners
12

No. of qualified chartered patent attorneys
24

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
5

No. of trainee chartered patent attorneys
12

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
1

Locations
London

International opportunities
No

Type of work experience offered
Internship

No. of work experience vacancies
2-4

No. of graduate vacancies
2-4

Disciplines recruited from
Chemistry, Electronics/IT, Engineering and Physics

Min. degree required
2.1

Min. UCAS points
300

Starting salary
Competitive

Benefits
22 days holiday, healthcare scheme, pension scheme, study support, season ticket loan, life assurance, bike scheme, social events

How to apply
Covering letter and CV by email or post

Contact information
Gill Jennings & Every LLP
The Broadgate Tower, 20 Primrose St
London EC2A 2ES
careers@gje.co.uk; www.gje.co.uk

Application deadline
Ongoing



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VACANCY DETAILS

APPLICATION DETAILS

Trainee profile

Name	Ravi Raja Rayan
University	University of Cambridge
Degree	MSci Natural Sciences (Physics)
Location	London
Role	Trainee attorney



The patent attorney profession is a small, almost hidden world, but once you have found and tried it, you'll wonder why you hadn't discovered it sooner. It is the only profession I know that allows you to use your science background for real world applications, exposes you to all the newest technology and at the same time provides all the perks of a city professional, without their working hours.

When I started working at Gill Jennings & Every (GJE) I was given real cases to work on right from the start, as they know the best way to learn in this profession is by doing. They put a lot of focus into training their trainees, with regular in-house lectures and a lot of exposure to all aspects of the job, making it an ideal place to start your career.

Because GJE attracts work from a number of large industry leaders, I often find myself working on important new technologies months before they are revealed. There have even been occasions where I have been reading news articles discussing rumours about an upcoming product, only to realise that the speculation was around a product that I had been working on.

The firm also specifically caters towards start-ups and individuals, which in some ways can be even more interesting. Working with smaller companies you have the opportunity to see

some really innovative ideas and can be involved in the growth of a business from its inception.

With such a diverse range of clients and inventions, it's very difficult to get bored here. If I need a break from the cryptography patent I am working on, I can just shift my attention to the patent for a robotic arm or even a simple wood screw. With each new technology you work on, you learn exactly how it works and know it well enough to argue your case to a patent examiner. As a result, at the end of each day you go home an expert in another field of technology.

Everyone at GJE, including new trainees like myself, gets their own office and the fact that it's located in one of Central London's newest, tallest skyscrapers makes it an amazing place to work. There is a fantastic mix of personalities, which is great from a training point of view, as you can pick and choose the styles and approaches that your colleagues use, to help develop your own. Everyone is always more than happy to lend a hand as they have all had to train from the ground up as well, so I never feel bad about asking questions, even the really simple ones.

So if you're considering a career in patenting and are looking for a place to start, I would thoroughly recommend you come and join us at GJE. ●





Harrison Goddard Foote (HGF) Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys and HGF Law is a leading full-service IP firm. With over 50 qualified attorneys and in excess of 150 staff. HGF is one of the top five patent firms in the UK. From nine office locations we service clients across the UK, Europe, USA and Asia.

Technical expertise

Our business groups operate in the broadly defined technical areas of chemistry, pharmaceuticals, life sciences, computing and electronics, physics and engineering, nanotechnology, trade marks, law; and oppositions and appeals.

Professional development

HGF's approach to trainee development and progression is supportive; patent trainees are allocated a personal training budget covering costs of seminars and professional exams, starting with a university course (Queen Mary, University of London or University of Manchester) to achieve foundation level qualification. Trade mark trainees achieve professional qualifications fully funded by the firm. Mentorship is provided by an experienced Partner or Senior Attorney throughout training.

We supplement professional qualification with training courses designed to develop the commercial and management skills we require.

Future plans and current success

The *Legal 500* describes HGF as 'a very well-organised operation' employing individuals with 'excellent knowledge, experience and analytical acumen'. Business success has enabled growth: our office space in York, London, Manchester, Glasgow and Sheffield has doubled, with further UK offices planned for 2012/2013. We recently won *Managing Intellectual Property's* Scottish IP Firm of the Year for a second consecutive year.

What we offer and what we look for

HGF regularly recruits graduates for traineeships. We require at least a 2.1 in the relevant discipline, plus commercial awareness of how IP benefits clients. We ask trainees to work hard and in return offer a supportive training environment, with genuine career development.

HGF is a young and lively firm, with a professional but relaxed working environment. Our regular social events allow people from different offices and teams to meet and relax together. ●

COMPANY DETAILS

No. of employees
121

No. of partners
30

No. of qualified chartered patent attorneys
42

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
8

No. of trainee chartered patent attorneys
11

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
3

Locations

Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, London, Manchester, Sheffield and York

International opportunities
No

No. of graduate vacancies
Several per year

Disciplines recruited from
Chemistry, electronics, engineering and physics, law, life sciences, trade marks

Min. degree required
2.1

Starting salary
£24,000

Benefits
25 days holiday, healthcare scheme, pension scheme, study support, season ticket loan, life assurance, performance bonus, social events

How to apply
Covering letter and CV by email

Contact information
recruitment@hgf.com
www.hgf.com

Application deadline
Ongoing



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VACANCY DETAILS

APPLICATION DETAILS

Trainee profile

Name	Rachel Jones
University	University of Sheffield University of Manchester
Degree	PhD and BSc Biochemistry PgDip Intellectual Property
Location	Leeds
Role	Patent assistant



I first learnt of the patent profession when I came across the Inside Careers Guide in my university careers library. At the time I was in the final year of my PhD project, and although I had thoroughly enjoyed my research, I found that I had missed the variety of my undergraduate projects. What I wanted was a job that allowed me to work on a wide range of subject matter at the cutting-edge of science. I also wanted to be employed within a commercial setting that would offer me career security and career progression. I was put in touch with a patent attorney and, after discussing the career in-depth, I started to realise that the patent profession might offer everything I was looking for.

I was offered a six-week internship at Harrison Goddard Foote (HGF) in January 2009 which gave me the opportunity to find out what day to day life in the profession is like. I thoroughly enjoyed my internship. I was given real cases to work on and my supervisors were very approachable and quick to offer a helping hand. I found there was a great atmosphere among the staff, particularly amongst trainees, so when HGF offered me a permanent position as a trainee attorney, I didn't hesitate to say yes!

From day one my job has been varied and interesting. I've been involved in cases at all

stages, from initial meetings with inventors to taking part in oral proceedings at the European Patent Office in Germany. At HGF, trainees are exposed to a wide range of subject matter which is extremely valuable for our training and is one of the reasons why HGF trainees have such a successful record in the qualifying examinations. The learning curve is steep but the support I receive from my supervisors and other attorneys in the firm is excellent.

There are excellent prospects for career progression at HGF as it is the fastest growing IP firm in the UK. From my experience, HGF is a sociable, modern firm, with social events organised throughout the year ranging from pub crawl treasure hunts to charitable sporting events. The firm provides a flexible and supportive approach to training by allowing trainees to do the courses they wish, at a time they feel ready. Each trainee is allocated their own training budget which we can spend in whichever way we consider most appropriate to assist in passing the exams.

The job is a fascinating combination of science, business and law. I'd certainly recommend the profession to you and I'd recommend HGF as a great place to train. ●



HOFFMANN · EITLE

MÜNCHEN · LONDON

The firm

Founded in 1892, Hoffmann · Eitle is one of the oldest and largest intellectual property law firms in Europe. The firm has full-service offices in both London and Munich. Our high standing amongst the leading IP firms in Europe is built upon providing clients with top quality legal services.

Hoffmann · Eitle's clients are mainly large multinational companies, the majority of which are based in America and Japan. Both our offices have English as their principal working language.

The size of Hoffmann · Eitle ensures that we can provide counsel to clients in all areas of technology. We have an unrivalled reputation for advocacy in inter partes hearings at the European Patent Office.

Job prospects

In the last decade, the firm has expanded rapidly. We now have over 75 qualified attorneys with a further 30 technical assistants at various stages of training. We have much to offer the right candidate. We provide first class training, carried out under the close supervision of highly skilled attorneys. Our London trainees spend six months in our Munich office, allowing them to attend hearings at the EPO. Our trainees have a choice of attending the QM course or taking the Institute foundation examinations.

Hoffmann · Eitle provides highly competitive remuneration packages to their trainees. The steady growth of the partnership reflects our desire to retain the many excellent graduates that we have recruited and trained.

Hoffmann · Eitle is seeking to recruit in the area of electronics and/or telecommunications to start 2013. ●

COMPANY DETAILS

No. of employees
350

No. of partners
34 (4 in London)

No. of qualified chartered patent attorneys
65 (8 in London)

No. of trainee patent attorneys
30 (5 in London)

Locations
London and Munich

International opportunities
Yes

No. of graduate vacancies
1

Disciplines recruited from
Chemistry, engineering, electronics, telecommunications and physics

Min. degree required
2.1

Starting salary
c. £30,000

Benefits
20 days holiday, healthcare scheme, pension scheme, season ticket loan

How to apply
Covering letter and CV by email

Contact information
David Sproston
Hoffmann · Eitle
Harmsworth House
13-15 Bouverie Street
London EC4Y 8DP
london_recruitment@hoffmanneitle.com
www.hoffmanneitle.com

Application deadline
Ongoing

VACANCY DETAILS

APPLICATION DETAILS



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J A KEMP

J A Kemp is one of the largest UK and European Patent and Trade Mark Attorney firms, with offices in London, Oxford and Munich.

J A Kemp's team of patent attorneys drafts, files and prosecutes patent and trade mark applications in the UK, Europe and the rest of the world. The firm has particular expertise in patent oppositions and appeals within Europe, especially before the European Patent Office. The firm also assists with cases before the UK Patents Courts and provides expert support for high-profile patent litigation in the UK and elsewhere. J A Kemp works for a huge variety of clients, from startups, spinouts and SMEs through to some of the largest corporate clients and most prestigious academic institutions in the world. J A Kemp also has a network of attorney firms throughout the world who instruct the firm on behalf of their clients.

What we are looking for Trainee Patent Attorneys:

Minimum 2.1 honours degree in a relevant scientific subject, at least 360 UCAS points and, for our Biotechnology & Life Sciences Group, someone who is completing or has completed a PhD.

Trainee Trade Mark Attorneys:

Minimum 2.1 honours degree, preferably in Law.

Essential skills: excellent spoken and written English, accuracy and an eye for detail, the ability to explain complex matters clearly, proactive, outgoing and friendly, team player and a good listener.

What we offer

We offer a programme of training to take you right through to qualification as a patent attorney (European and UK Chartered) or trade mark attorney. We support you with one to one mentoring, external courses, internal tutorials and on-the-job training. Our reputation for training and record of first-time examination successes are second to none. We will continue to support your professional development throughout your career with the firm. ●

COMPANY DETAILS

No. of employees
173

No. of partners
33

No. of qualified chartered patent attorneys
44

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
5

No. of trainee chartered patent attorneys
11

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
1

Locations
London, Munich and Oxford

International opportunities
No

No. of graduate vacancies
6

Min. degree required
2.1

Min. UCAS points
360

Starting salary
Competitive

Benefits
25 days holiday, pension scheme, study support, flexitime, season ticket loan, life assurance, performance bonus, social events

How to apply
Covering letter and CV by email

Contact information
J A Kemp
14 South Square
Gray's Inn
London WC1R 5JJ

Application deadline
Ongoing, usually to join in Sept/Oct

VACANCY DETAILS

APPLICATION DETAILS



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Trainee profile

Name	Vijay Chudasama
University	University College London
Degree	MSci Chemistry & PhD in Organic Chemistry & Chemical Biology
Location	London
Role	Trainee patent attorney



After completing my PhD, I was interested in pursuing a career which was intellectually stimulating, allowed me to use my scientific knowledge, offered the potential to develop my skill set and represented a new challenge. The role of a patent attorney seemed to tick all the boxes! I had some exposure to the patent profession in the pharmaceutical sector and I was interested in the interaction between cutting-edge science and law.

Training

As a trainee patent attorney, my job doesn't change so much as evolve – I am gradually introduced to new aspects of the role through on-the-job training as appropriate bits of work come up. As a trainee at J A Kemp, you have a mentor who oversees most of your work. Your mentor is mainly responsible for your development, though other people are always happy to help. The firm also provides a full programme of in-house tutorials covering all of the fundamentals of patent law. These are not just informative, but also an opportunity for trainees from across the firm to interact. We also have monthly discussions between all of the trainees on legal decisions and how they impact our work.

Aspects of the job

A patent attorney acts as an intermediary between clients and patent examiners. This involves explaining an invention and its advantages to an examiner or explaining the

examiner's objections to a client and advising on ways to overcome these objections. You get to read about inventions from all sorts of technological areas, keeping your knowledge base at the cutting-edge of science without having to work in research.

You also meet with inventors and get involved in drafting patent applications. It can be fascinating to see at first-hand how an invention is being put to use in practice.

The social side

J A Kemp organises and supports various activities such as sponsored runs, sports matches, quiz nights, summer barbecues and Christmas parties. They are most enjoyable and a good way to socialise with other members of the firm. The CIPA Informals committee is also very active in organising social events to bring together people from different firms.

One of the great benefits of my job is that I'm able to strike a good work/life balance. J A Kemp operates a flexible hours system based around a core period from 10.00 and 16.30. The total hours you are expected to put in are certainly better than the hours some of my friends in the City are doing. It means you actually have time outside the office for a social life! I think I made a good decision to enter into this profession and I would certainly recommend it to someone who wants to be involved with science without being confined to the lab. ●



Keltie

Background

Keltie is a leading firm of patent and trade mark attorneys based in the City of London. We represent UK and overseas clients over a wide range of industry sectors who wish to protect, exploit and enforce their IP rights in the UK, Europe or worldwide. In addition to work originating from our network of overseas associates, we have a substantial direct client base made up largely of UK and European companies with whom we have built excellent relationships.

Our key areas of patent expertise are in IT, telecoms and electronics; bioscience and medical technologies; chemistry and materials science; automotive, aerospace and marine technologies; environmental technologies; physics and electromechanical engineering. We also have a strong trade marks practice and advise in relation to domain names, copyright and designs.

Graduate recruitment and training

We are always on the lookout for dynamic and talented graduates to join our firm. If you join us, you will be welcomed into a modern, forward-thinking firm that works hard and plays hard. Your contributions and ideas will be rewarded and your personality will be celebrated. You will get to work with different teams who will support you as you pick up valuable experiences on route to qualification. You will be exposed to a wide range of IP matters and will be given the responsibility of interacting with clients at an early stage.

Minimum academic requirements

A good degree in science or engineering for patents, or in law or business-oriented disciplines for trade marks, combined with an excellent command of English and attention to detail.

Salary and benefits

A competitive package is offered which includes a profit share scheme, private healthcare and other benefits. ●

COMPANY DETAILS

No. of employees
62

No. of partners
9

No. of qualified chartered patent attorneys
16

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
7

No. of trainee chartered patent attorneys
7

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
4

Locations
London

International opportunities
No

No. of graduate vacancies
3

Disciplines recruited from
All degrees considered

Starting salary
Competitive

Benefits
25 days holiday, healthcare scheme, pension scheme, study support, season ticket loan, life assurance, bike scheme, gym membership, performance bonus, social events

How to apply
Covering letter and CV by email

Contact information
Peter Wiggert
Keltie
Fleet Place House, 2 Fleet Place
London EC4M 7ET

Application deadline
Ongoing



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VACANCY DETAILS

APPLICATION DETAILS

Trainee profile

Name	Gemma Sparrow
University	University of Oxford
Degree	Master of Physics and Philosophy
Location	London
Role	Patent assistant



Like many who enter the profession, when I first encountered the role it was the technical variety and real world context that made it stand out for me. Bringing together a scientific background with a legal role directly relevant to business makes the patent profession quite unique. Since joining Keltie the role has really come alive, and I have seen why the patent profession is so important in supporting technology companies to protect their ideas, which are the foundation of their business.

Our daily activities of drafting patent applications and formulating and presenting arguments for patentability are our bread and butter. Understanding the relevant technology, what is 'clever' about it and why, and being able to express this using clear language (that will translate well!) is essential. In private practice, clear communication is also a major part of looking after your clients: jargon needs to be avoided and the complexities of the patent application process should be explained with care. Understanding your client's specific needs and expectations is also key: more patent-savvy clients may already have a good understanding of the patent system and may instead be looking for specifically tailored, high level, strategic advice.

The remit of the job goes beyond filing and progressing patent applications, and includes a spectrum of issues relevant to our clients' businesses. From proposing cost effective filing strategies to providing an opinion on

infringement or attacking a third party's patent, the goal is always to be down-to-earth and commercially relevant.

Keltie is a fundamentally down-to-earth firm. It is refreshing to be part of a flat, unstuffy structure and to work in an open plan office. It's amazing the difference this makes: teamwork happens naturally and the day never goes by without some teasing and banter.

This is a youthful and energetic firm where new starters are given immediate client contact and a real variety of interesting work from the start. Training at Keltie is hands-on and we learn through the experience we gain. Each new starter typically works with two or three supervisors on different pieces of work, so you get a balanced view of how to approach the work and you can develop your own style. A typical workload for a trainee could include analysing and reporting examination reports, preparing monthly reports on a patent portfolio, attending client meetings or telecons and drafting a patent application from scratch.

We are encouraged to get stuck in to marketing, give opinions and suggestions for the firm and to enjoy the social side of working as a team. Everyone pulls their weight and is engaged with what they are doing. At Keltie new starters can feel a sense of ownership over their work because we are given responsibility and allowed to run with it. ●



Kilburn & Strode

With a diverse client base, from individual inventors through to start-up companies to global brands with products that are household names, Kilburn & Strode LLP is firmly established as a leading patent and trade mark firm. *Legal 500* and *MIP* rank Kilburn & Strode as a top tier patent firm. Our trade mark team have recently won *MIP*'s 'UK Trade Mark Prosecution Firm of the Year' and 'Trade Marks Law Firm of the Year, UK' by *Lawyer Monthly*. Many of our attorneys are recognised as leaders in their fields by these legal publications.

Our attorneys work across all of the scientific disciplines; from chemistry to life sciences, engineering and IT to electronics and physics.

What makes Kilburn & Strode unique?

Our approach to training

From the start, new trainees participate fully in casework and interact with our clients; they are encouraged to challenge themselves and build on their specialist fields. Trainees are fully supported throughout their training – our qualified attorneys are always on hand to answer questions and give advice; they often lecture on external courses, including the IP Certificate course at Queen Mary, so are well used to mentoring students.

Our ethos

We combine a strong work ethic and commitment to delivering excellence to our clients with a friendly and supportive working environment, which places an emphasis on a healthy work/life balance for all staff. Central to this is our flexitime system; which allows staff to manage their workload and personal commitments, as well as generous holiday/flexi leave entitlements.

Our people

We provide a friendly, sociable environment; the atmosphere is relaxed and the people are approachable and willing to lend a hand.

Our proposition

We offer graduates the opportunity to develop into excellent attorneys; the path to qualification is rigorous, requiring a high level of commitment. We are dedicated to training and committed to ensuring that our trainees realise their full potential. In addition to providing top class training and continuing professional development, we offer competitive salaries, a contributory pension scheme, life assurance and other benefits to successful candidates. ●

COMPANY DETAILS

No. of employees
125

No. of partners
20

No. of qualified chartered patent attorneys
37

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
6

No. of trainee chartered patent attorneys
12

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
1

Locations
London and St Albans

International opportunities
No

No. of graduate vacancies
2-4

Disciplines recruited from
All degrees considered

Min. degree required
2.1

Starting salary
Competitive

Benefits
21 days holiday, pension scheme, flexitime, season ticket loan, life assurance, social events

How to apply
Covering letter, CV and application by email or post

Contact information
Deena Bowman, Office Manager
careers@kstrode.co.uk
www.kstrode.co.uk

Application deadline
Ongoing



Scan for Kilburn & Strode's live jobs

VACANCY DETAILS

APPLICATION DETAILS

Trainee profile

Name	Thomas Leonard
University	University of Cambridge
Degree	BA (Hons) Natural Sciences
Location	London
Role	Associate



Like many scientists that become patent attorneys, the original appeal came from being able to continue to learn about my degree subject without having to go near a laboratory. I have now been in the profession for four and a half years and have no regrets about choosing either the career or Kilburn & Strode.

We are a leading firm with a great reputation, a central London location and an esteemed history. But aside from that, it is also a great place to work.

Starting as a brand new trainee can be daunting, but the firm could not have been more welcoming. Everyone is willing to help and answer any questions you may have, both from trainees and from other qualified attorneys, since the firm recognises that even once you are qualified your professional development and education continue.

There is an extensive collection of qualified attorneys that are involved in the training and education for the exams, both within the firm and outside. They encourage trainees to get involved with the CIPA exam tutorials, and additionally provide a significant number of lecturers to externally organised revision courses, including the Queen Mary Certificate – just one of the reasons we have an excellent reputation not only within the profession, but also amongst trainees from all firms. I passed all my exams first time around, something I know was made possible by the assistance provided to me by my colleagues.

Whilst there is a very strong work ethic, there is also a relaxed atmosphere here that seems to me to be unrivalled in the profession. The patent attorney world is a small one and there are plenty of opportunities to socialise with members from different firms. From talking to others, I can genuinely say that Kilburn & Strode seems to be one of the best places to work.

The firm operates a flexitime system (almost unheard of in the profession) and has generous holiday entitlement. Prior to qualification, all work is supervised by your line manager, but as a trainee I was in contact with a client by my third day (in other firms clients may not even know you exist until you are qualified), a testament to the trust the firm puts in you. I was also attending client meetings very early on, and this client exposure makes the job both more interesting and rewarding. There are plenty of opportunities to work in a wide range of technical fields for varied clients - from individual inventors to large multinational firms.

Trainees are also assisted in their career progression by an appraisal scheme in which targets for the year are discussed and agreed between the trainee and the partner. Trainees are encouraged to attend various networking and social events to develop relationships with potential clients. In addition, the partners also provide guidance on steps that can be taken to assist in progression from associate to partner.

I would honestly and whole-heartedly recommend Kilburn & Strode to anyone that is considering joining the profession. ●

Marks&Clerk LLP

As the leading UK and European partnership of patent and trade mark attorneys, the firm has a long history of providing intellectual property (IP) advice from its extensive UK and overseas offices. Our size enables us to provide a full range of IP services as well as having specialisms in most areas of advanced technology. Our clients are a wide spectrum of national and multinational organisations.

What we can offer

Each year we look to recruit a small group of trainees, based around our various UK locations who will have the opportunity to train as patent or trade mark attorneys. Whilst both professions are relatively small they attract many high quality candidates who are looking for alternative scientific or legal careers. We have resources dedicated to training candidates in both professional and managerial skills as well as using external training resources.

What we are looking for

As a trainee patent attorney you will be expected to have gained at least a 2.1 degree in a scientific, engineering or IT based subject in particular physics or electronics graduates. We welcome applications from those completing a doctorate or who are undertaking postgraduate research.

We are not only looking for technical excellence in your chosen field but also for trainees who have an interest in the commercial world and who understand the context and importance of intellectual property to their clients. ●

COMPANY DETAILS

No. of employees
311

No. of partners
61 (UK LLP partners)

No. of trainee chartered patent attorneys
31

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
6

Locations
10 offices nationwide

International opportunities
Yes

VACANCY DETAILS

No. of graduate vacancies
10

Disciplines recruited from
Scientific, engineering and IT degrees

Min. degree required
2.1

Starting salary
Competitive

Benefits
22 days holiday, healthcare scheme, pension scheme, study support, flexitime, season ticket loan, life assurance, bike scheme, gym membership, social events

APPLICATION DETAILS

How to apply
Covering letter and CV by email

Contact information
Marks & Clerk LLP
90 Long Acre
London WC2E 9RA
T: 020 7420 0000
recruitment@marks-clerk.com

Application deadline
12 January 2013



Scan for Marks & Clerk's live jobs

Trainee profile

Name	Dominic O'Connor
University	University of Bristol
Degree	MEng
Location	London
Role	Trainee patent attorney



Why I chose the profession

I began my career working in engineering in the defence aerospace industry, and then in the oil and gas industry. Although these experiences were useful in many ways I wanted to try something different while keeping a technical aspect to my work. I had the idea of becoming a patent attorney while reading a careers guide at university. The job seemed to involve the type of work I thought I would enjoy and I thought the job would suit me well. I liked the idea of working at the forefront of technology in many different scientific fields, while helping inventors make the most of their inventions.

Training

All trainees are assigned a mentor who will provide the trainee with work and oversee his or her career development. Trainees are usually enrolled on the Certificate in Intellectual Property Law at Queen Mary, University of London although this practice varies between the offices. The course is full time for three months and covers all areas of IP Law, including Patents, Trade Marks, Copyright, Designs and Competition Law.

Trainees are encouraged to attend in-house training seminars run by partners of the firm which will discuss, for example, new case-law developments or finals exam questions.

Trainees are also encouraged to attend lectures organised by the Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys (CIPA) and also external training courses for practice before the European Patent Office.

The job

The involves using many different types of work but the bread and butter of the job is the prosecution of patent applications before national or regional patent offices. This will involve using your technical and legal knowledge, and being able to convey to the examiner the merits of your client's invention.

The law is new to everyone who joins the profession and so it is important to be able to learn this, and useful to have an interest in the law.

Why Marks & Clerk?

Being one of the larger firms in the profession has many advantages. For example, the training Academy for new trainees was an extremely useful way of experiencing a wide range of tasks and work which otherwise might not have been available. The in-house seminars and discussion groups make good use of the large pool of qualified attorneys available. With many offices in the UK and overseas there are opportunities to work elsewhere in the firm as part of my career development. ●



Having just celebrated its centenary, Mathys & Squire is a growing firm of patent and trade mark attorneys advising on all aspects of intellectual property. We seek to combine technical expertise, specialist legal skills and commercial awareness to help maximise our clients' rewards from innovation and minimise their risks in bringing that innovation to market.

Our requirements

We seek to recruit the very brightest and best graduates with a background in engineering or science and with strong communication skills. Our business is focused on providing added value to our clients, so an appreciation of the commercial implications of intellectual property is important.

Your development

We have an impressive portfolio of clients, from household names to emerging technologies. Our annual graduate intake is increasing and so we have a sufficient number of trainees at each level of qualification that all trainees benefit from the experience of those ahead of them, as well as from the support of others within their peer group. We also have an informal and friendly atmosphere; we know that hard work must be balanced with the social side.

In order to help prepare you for professional examinations we provide access to external courses and internal tuition. All of our trainees work under the direct supervision of a partner or associate, having exposure to clients from joining the firm, and taking more personal responsibility for clients and cases as they develop.

We recruit with the long-term in mind and our aim is to train those who join us to be future partners of the firm and, in that regard, we have a visible career progression framework. In summary, we like to think that we offer a stimulating environment and a well rewarded career. ●

COMPANY DETAILS

No. of employees
117

No. of partners
15

No. of qualified chartered patent attorneys
32

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
3

No. of trainee chartered patent attorneys
15

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
0

Locations
Cambridge, London, Manchester, Reading and York

International opportunities
No

VACANCY DETAILS

No. of graduate vacancies
4-6

Disciplines recruited from
All engineering and science degrees considered

Min. degree required
2.1

Starting salary
£27,000 minimum

Benefits
22 days holiday, pension scheme, study support, season ticket loan, bike scheme, social events

APPLICATION DETAILS

How to apply
Covering letter and CV by email

Contact information
grads@mathys-squire.com

Application deadline
31 January 2013



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Trainee profile

Name	Bethany Gibbs
University	University of Cambridge
Degree	Neuroscience
Location	London
Role	Technical assistant



I joined Mathys & Squire as a trainee three years ago, after graduating from Cambridge with a degree in Neuroscience. I initially found working in the profession quite daunting, particularly when considering the number of exams I needed to pass in order to qualify and the practical knowledge needed in order to carry out my day to day job.

As a trainee I work directly for one of our partners, who is responsible for my training and supervision. From my first day at Mathys I was given real cases to work on and have now been involved in most stages of patent prosecution; from responding to issues raised by various patent offices around the world to drafting oppositions.

Although my background is in neuroscience, I have worked on patents spanning a broad range of biological and pharmacological subject matters. The variety of work is enormous: from getting to grips with new technology to the practical aspects of preparing the right forms

for the filing of an application, or researching a point of law in response to a question from a client. This variety means that no two days are the same in the office and is also one of the things that I particularly enjoy about the job.

The firm is very friendly and there are always lots of people to ask if I have a question – one of the things that drew me to the firm was the large number of trainees, all at different levels. This means that more experienced colleagues are able to help with exam preparation by passing on their expertise.

If you have a genuine interest in science in a commercial context, and want to begin a challenging and rewarding career, then patent law may be for you. I have not regretted my decision to train to be a patent attorney (except perhaps when attempting to explain the profession to my friends and family!) and would recommend highly both the profession and the firm to anyone who is thinking of applying. ●



Mewburn Ellis

LLP

Firm history and structure

Mewburn Ellis is a limited liability partnership (LLP) and is one of the larger firms of patent attorneys in the country with offices in Bristol, Cambridge, London and Manchester. We have grown rapidly over the last ten years and have a young age profile. While we take our work seriously, the firm is still a relaxed and informal place to work.

Range of client services

We advise clients about patents, trademarks, designs and industrial copyright and are involved in work in emerging fields of technology, due diligence work and substantial numbers of oppositions. Our clients range from universities and start-up companies to major international companies based in Europe, North America and Japan.

Professional development

We recruit graduates each year and have an excellent track record in getting trainees through the professional examinations. Our trainees rotate between working for different partners in two or three of our offices so that they are exposed to working in different subject areas and for a range of clients. In addition to learning at work and on our internal training scheme, there are also opportunities to attend external courses, in particular the QMUL Certificate in Intellectual Property course, and training seminars for EPO exams in Strasbourg.

After qualification, many of our newly qualified attorneys have been on extended working visits to other countries, including the USA, Japan and China, to continue their professional development.

We are keen to continue expanding the firm and the partnership and are interested in hearing from motivated and entrepreneurial candidates with the skills needed to qualify as patent or trade mark attorneys. ●

COMPANY DETAILS

No. of employees
c. 170

No. of partners
32

No. of qualified chartered patent attorneys
48

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
7

No. of trainee chartered patent attorneys
15

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
1

Locations
Bristol, Cambridge, London and Manchester

International opportunities
No

No. of graduate vacancies
6-8

Disciplines recruited from
All scientific backgrounds

Min. degree required
2.1

Starting salary
Competitive

Benefits
23 days holiday, healthcare scheme, pension scheme, study support, flexitime, season ticket loan, life assurance, bike scheme, social events

How to apply
Covering letter, CV and application form by post

Contact information
www.mewburn.com

Application deadline
Ongoing (early applications advised)



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live jobs

VACANCY DETAILS

APPLICATION DETAILS

Trainee profile

Name	Paul Dunne
University	University of Cambridge
Degree	PhD in Biophysical Chemistry
Location	Various
Role	Trainee patent attorney



As with many patent attorneys, I started looking into the profession part way through a PhD having realised that an academic career no longer appealed to me. My interest had been sparked by a friend at Mewburn Ellis who spoke enthusiastically about the job and the firm and suggested that I attend one of Mewburn Ellis' open days.

The open day I attended gave me an excellent introduction to the practical aspects of the job, and presented the opportunity to speak to people at all levels of the firm, from new trainees to partners. I was impressed by the way that the firm actively sought to engage with potential trainees and was struck by the friendliness of everyone I met. Having attended the open day, I applied to lots of firms and was lucky enough to be offered training positions at Mewburn Ellis and another firm. I decided to accept the position at Mewburn Ellis based on my positive experiences, and started work in September 2010.

The majority of learning in the initial stages was through doing the job. From the start, I was responsible for working on real cases across a diverse range of scientific areas, carrying out a variety of tasks and corresponding directly with clients. Although the work often appeared daunting at first, the work was chosen to suit my level of ability and people were always happy to offer guidance and patiently provide feedback.

The majority of my work came from the partner who I was initially placed with, but other partners passed on any work that they thought

was appropriate, particularly work writing new patent applications.

I've found one of the best things about being a trainee at Mewburn Ellis is the quality of its in-house training. The firm provide regular tutorial sessions, to help develop practical skills such as how to write a patent application, as well as lectures, for example on a specific area of law. These are run by the most experienced partners in the firm and provide an excellent way of learning.

Another aspect of being a trainee at Mewburn Ellis which I enjoy is the fact that trainees move every six months to work with different partners for the first few years of training. This exposes you to a range of working styles, as well as different types of technologies and clients. This mixture of influences and experience helps to select and shape your own working style. Since the moves between partners often involves moving between the firm's London, Bristol, Cambridge and Manchester offices, the system also provides an excellent opportunity to meet people across the firm and to live in some exciting cities.

A career as a patent attorney provides an excellent mixture of science, law and business. It gives you a greater understanding of the way things work: from the science behind a new product to the commercial considerations that go into the sale of that product. I'd thoroughly recommend it as a career choice and wish you the best of luck with your application! ●





Page White & Farrer is a well established firm of UK and European patent and trade mark attorneys. The firm, founded over 125 years ago, has a dynamic partnership and energetic environment.

Work

We have a high proportion and good variety of rewarding direct client work. Dealing with direct clients provides an excellent opportunity to acquire those skills required for qualification. Our client base includes large well known blue chip organisations and a large number of SMEs. We also deal with start-up companies where our advice can make a material difference to the success of the company. Our clients cover a large range of technologies, the electronics and telecommunication fields and an expanding biotech and chemistry practice.

Working environment

Our firm has a friendly atmosphere, exemplified by our 'dress-down' policy. Our working environment is particularly suited to self-motivated individuals who are looking for a proactive role both in the firm and with clients.

Training

Our trainees are encouraged to qualify as UK and European patent attorneys or registered trade mark attorneys. We support regular attendance at lectures and tutorials organised by CIPA/ITMA and in-house tutorials.

Most of our trainees attend the Queen Mary University of London Certificate course and have a good record in passing exams. We believe that this is because we are able to provide the range of work which facilitates professional development. Our trainees are at various stages of qualification and provide each other with good motivation and support.

Graduates application

Patents

We welcome applications from graduates, those with a PhD or work experience in industry in the field of:

- Computer science, electronic engineering and physics
- Biotechnology and chemistry
- Speculative applications from holders of degrees not specified above.

Trade marks

We welcome applications from any discipline, particularly law. ●

COMPANY DETAILS

No. of employees
75

No. of partners
9

No. of qualified chartered patent attorneys
13

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
2

No. of trainee chartered patent attorneys
13

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
0

Locations
London

International opportunities
No

No. of graduate vacancies
5

Disciplines recruited from
Biotechnology, chemistry, computer science, electronic engineering, physics

Min. degree required
2.1

Min. UCAS points
340

Starting salary
Competitive

Benefits
25 days holiday, pension scheme, season ticket loan, bike scheme

How to apply
Covering letter and CV by email

Contact information
Ms Kelda Style
T: 020 7831 7929
F: 020 7831 8040
kelda.style@pagewhite.com

Application deadline
Ongoing



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VACANCY DETAILS

APPLICATION DETAILS

Trainee profile

Name	Candice Terblanche
University	University of Stellenbosch
Degree	BEng Electrical & Electronic Engineering
Location	London
Role	Trainee patent attorney



Patents as a career

One of the great attractions to engineering was the emphasis on problem solving. However I wanted a career that would allow me to use my ability to communicate and use some creativity. Working in patents combines creative problem solving with an ability to communicate inventive ideas. Working with other science professionals allows me to say things like, 'There are ten kinds of people in this world, those who understand binary and those who don't' around the office.

About me

I joined Page White & Farrer in 2007 as a graduate and attended the Certificate in Intellectual Property Law course at QMUL the same year with four other trainees from the firm. I sat my UK qualifying exams in 2009. I will be sitting my EQEs next year.

Training – exam support

PWF encourages trainees to take exams when they feel that they have gained sufficient experience and advice is always available as to which exams, how many and when.

Because of the number of trainees, there is always support for the exams at the level at which you require it. This varies from practical advice from those who have just sat the exams

(eat flapjacks!), study groups with those sitting the exams with you and academic advice from the more qualified attorneys.

Training – day to day

In terms of day to day training there is a large amount of direct client work and I have had client contact from day one. This has allowed me to gain experience working with large clients. There is also a focus on staying up to date with the latest case law and law changes and small group meetings are held where these issues are discussed. Trainees are also encouraged to attend lectures held by CIPA and generally have a high level of involvement.

Social

Social events are encouraged and Christmas and summer parties are organised by the firm. We regularly take part in Seasonal inter-firm sporting events such as football, cricket and softball matches. We are also well-represented on the Informals committee with at least one Page White trainee being a member over the past five years.

Page White & Farrer offers a training environment that is very open and questions are greatly encouraged. After all, the other trainees all want to know the answer too! ●



Potter Clarkson LLP is a great place to train and work as a patent attorney.

With over 50 patent and trade mark professionals and around 90 support staff working together in a single office in Nottingham, we have massive legal, scientific and commercial strength.

Our firm is consistently ranked in the top tier of all three major legal guides: *Legal 500*, *Chambers UK* and *Managing Intellectual Property (MIP)*. Potter Clarkson was named 'UK Patent Prosecution firm of the year 2011' by MIP.

On numerous occasions Potter Clarkson has been selected ahead of other leading UK and European firms to handle some of the most challenging and commercially important patent cases in Europe.

The formula for our success is simple. We recruit the very best people and invest heavily in their training and personal development to produce outstanding patent professionals. The organisation and infrastructure of the firm and its dedicated support staff equip our patent experts with all they need to apply their skills efficiently and deliver exceptional service to clients.

Training and qualification as a patent attorney requires hard work and dedication. To excel you need many talents: strong scientific understanding, excellent language skills and commercial acumen. It may seem daunting, but we can make your training experience varied, challenging and rewarding.

Our dedicated training partner and comprehensive training programme have delivered remarkable success in professional examinations, with candidates from the firm winning prizes for their results on numerous occasions.

If you are ready for the challenge, we'd love to hear from you. ●



COMPANY DETAILS

No. of employees
140

No. of partners
23

No. of qualified chartered patent attorneys
39

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
3

No. of trainee chartered patent attorneys
10

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
1

Locations
Nottingham

International opportunities
No

No. of graduate vacancies
4

Disciplines recruited from
Biotechnology, chemistry, electronics, engineering, law, physics

Min. degree required
2.1

Starting salary
Competitive

Benefits
24 days holiday, pension scheme, study support, life assurance, social events

How to apply
Covering letter and CV by email

Contact information
Jane Goring
Potter Clarkson LLP
Park View House
58 The Ropewalk
Nottingham NG1 5DD
careers@potterclarkson.com

Application deadline
Ongoing



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VACANCY DETAILS

APPLICATION DETAILS



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Firm history and structure

With a client base representing companies from the FT Global 100 and FTSE 100, Reddie and Grose LLP is recognised as a leading patent and trade mark firm. Fourteen partners, eight associates and six assistants are based in our London office. Four partners, one consultant, three associates and one assistant are based at our Cambridge office, along with support staff.

The firm has a good reputation for training its assistants and the majority of partners trained with the firm. Members of the firm are active in committees and councils of professional bodies in the UK and internationally, including the Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys and the Institute of Trade Mark Agents.

Range of client services

The firm acts for large corporations through to sole inventors in the domestic and global markets. We offer a range of intellectual property services covering all technologies with particular strengths in electronics and software/chemistry and biotechnology. Several partners and assistants specialise in trade mark work.

Professional development

Trainees are encouraged to take advantage of courses and lectures provided by the Chartered Institute, Queen Mary, University of London and other organisations. These supplement the thorough practical training given in the offices under the supervision of one of the partners. German and French language classes are held in the London office.

Minimum academics requirements

Good honours degree in a scientific or technical subject, preferably with GCSE in French and/or German as well as excellent English. ●

COMPANY DETAILS

No. of employees
71

No. of partners
18

No. of qualified chartered patent attorneys
28

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
9

No. of trainee chartered patent attorneys
6

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
1

Locations
Cambridge and London

International opportunities
Yes

Work experience offered
Yes

No. of graduate vacancies
2-4

Disciplines recruited from
Patents: Science and engineering degrees;
Trade marks: All degrees considered

Min. degree required
2.1

Starting salary
Competitive

Benefits
25 days holiday, healthcare scheme, pension scheme, study support, season ticket loan, social events

How to apply
See website for guidance

Contact information
Recruitment
Reddie & Grose LLP
16 Theobalds Road
London WC1X 8PL

Application deadline
Ongoing



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VACANCY DETAILS

APPLICATION DETAILS

Employee profile

Name	Gillian Taylor
University	University of Cambridge
Degree	Natural Sciences (Chemistry)
Location	London
Role	Partner



During my final year studying Natural Sciences at the University of Cambridge, I realised that although I enjoyed science, working in a lab was definitely not for me. I decided that I wanted to find a job in the 'real world' that would enable me to develop other skills, such as writing and communication skills. The job of a patent attorney seemed to offer the opportunity to do this, whilst at the same time using the scientific knowledge I had spent four years building up. I joined R&G as a trainee after graduating in 2003.

Like most trainees in private practice, I was assigned to a particular partner, who has been responsible for my most of my training and supervision. A great deal of what I learnt during my training came from the day to day experience of preparing, filing and prosecuting patent cases under the supervision of my partner. Although my background is in chemistry and physics, I have worked on patents spanning a broad range of subject matters. This variety ensures that the work remains challenging and is one of things that appeals to me most about my job.

From a very early stage, I was given my own cases and was encouraged to interact directly with the clients. Much of my work has been for a few large multinational companies, which has enabled me to build up good working relationships with the clients and also gain an understanding of their business. In 2007, I was lucky enough to have the chance to work on secondment for one of our large clients and spent almost a year working at their patent department in Switzerland. This provided an invaluable opportunity to see things from the other side of the fence and I have no doubt that the experience has helped me to provide better advice to my clients.

It usually takes around four years to qualify as a patent attorney and to do so you need to pass a series of final exams in both the UK and Europe. There's no denying that the exams are very tough and require a great deal of work and commitment. But at R&G my on-the-job training was supplemented by in-house tutorials, as well as external courses and seminars. These courses are valuable not only from a learning perspective but also because they allow you to make friends and contacts within the profession. ●





About the firm

We are a firm of patent and trade mark attorneys and certified patent, trade mark and design litigators. We were founded in 1937 in London and have built one of the largest and most successful intellectual property practices in the UK. We have offices in Bristol, Farnham, London and Munich.

We represent clients from all parts of the globe, whose interests span a wide range of industries, including: fast-moving consumer goods, IT, telecoms, financial services, electronics, materials, manufacturing, life sciences, medtech, pharmaceuticals, media and aviation.

We have built a reputation for honesty, clarity, creativity and tenacity in the pursuit of our clients' commercial goals. We achieve them through the highly focused protection, defence and enforcement of patent, design and trademark rights in the UK and internationally.

The firm has extensive experience of representing clients at the European Patent Office, not only for the filing and prosecuting of patent applications but also in opposition and appeal proceedings for both domestic and overseas clients.

Our standards are demanding, but we offer the right candidate stimulating work, exposure to cutting-edge technology, excellent professional development, early responsibility and a supportive atmosphere.

Graduate applications

Candidates should have a relevant degree with at least a 2.1 (Hons). They must be able to write in clear and concise English. A PhD would be an advantage. Candidates should have the commitment and drive to deliver excellent client service, whilst studying for and passing professional examinations.

New graduates will initially be based in our London office, but may have the option to move to our Bristol or Farnham offices. Additionally, for candidates with good German, a placement in our Munich office may also be possible.

All necessary training will be provided to lead to full qualification as a chartered patent attorney and European patent attorney. ●

COMPANY DETAILS

No. of employees
80

No. of partners
14

No. of qualified chartered patent attorneys
17

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
8

No. of trainee chartered patent attorneys
9

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
0

Locations
Beijing, Bristol, Farnham, London, Munich

International opportunities
Yes

No. of graduate vacancies
1-2

Disciplines recruited from
Scientific and engineering backgrounds

Min. degree required
2.1

Starting salary
Competitive

Benefits
25 days holiday, healthcare scheme, pension scheme, flexitime, season ticket loan, life assurance, bike scheme, performance bonus, social events

How to apply
Covering letter and CV by email or post

Contact information
Martin Leach, Head of HR & Admin
RGC Jenkins & Co.
26 Caxton Street, London SW1H 0RJ

Application deadline
Ongoing



Scan for RGC
Jenkins & Co.'s
live jobs

VACANCY DETAILS

APPLICATION DETAILS

scott | york

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW

Our firm

Scott & York was founded in 1977, trading originally as Sommerville & Rushton. In 2006 the practice was bought out by the St Albans partners and has been operating independently since then, with February 2009 seeing the opening of our London office. Our head office is in modern, well-equipped space in St Albans, supported by the most up to date infrastructure available. The office is located little more than a 20 minute train journey into St Pancras International and even closer to open Hertfordshire countryside. We pride ourselves on being a progressive, reliable and approachable firm for clients and a fulfilling and enjoyable place to work.

Our work

Our clients range from small UK enterprises through to multinational blue chip companies and are drawn from all aspects of industry. We are a firm of both patent and trade mark attorneys specialising in working with all forms of IP – patents, trade marks, copyright and design - around the world. Although the firm is divided into three broadly based Practice Groups covering computers, electronics, life sciences, chemicals, materials, engineering and design, the teams work together in the interest of our clients. We also have a network of trusted attorneys serving every country in the world.

Our trainees

It is fair to say that we are passionate about what we do and only recruit people with the same dedication and passion. We run a comprehensive in-house training programme supplemented with carefully chosen external events. We welcome applications from graduates with an interest in the commercial world and who possess excellent written and oral skills in English. Foreign language skills are also an advantage. In turn, we will give structured support and every opportunity to successful candidates to train towards qualification with a view to a long-term career at Scott & York. ●

COMPANY DETAILS

No. of employees
21

No. of partners
2

No. of qualified chartered patent attorneys
7

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
3

No. of trainee chartered patent attorneys
1

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
1

Locations
London and St Albans

International opportunities
No

No. of graduate vacancies
1

Disciplines recruited from
Computing, electrical/electronic and mechanical engineering, physics

Min. degree required
2.1

Starting salary
Competitive

Benefits
25 days holiday, healthcare scheme, pension scheme, study support, flexitime, season ticket loan, life assurance, bike scheme, performance bonus, social events

How to apply
Covering letter and CV by email, post or online

Contact information
Recruitment Partner
Scott & York Intellectual Property Law
45 Grosvenor Road
St Albans, Herts AL1 3AW
T: 01727 854215
recruitment@scott-york.com
www.scott-york.com

Application deadline
Ongoing



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VACANCY DETAILS

APPLICATION DETAILS

Venner Shipley

Venner Shipley is one of the leading firms of European patent and trade mark attorneys, representing a broad range of clients including major domestic and international corporations, SMEs, universities and individual inventors.

Since its foundation in 1947, the firm has grown to provide a full range of services covering patents, trade marks, designs & copyright, domain names and all other aspects of intellectual property, in all areas of science, technology and design. Our services extend beyond rights protection, to involvement in enforcement and licensing activities.

We are particularly proud that so many of our attorneys are recognised as experts in their respective fields by, among others, the *Legal 500*, where we are consistently ranked within the top ten patent and trade mark firms.

Our aim has always been to provide the highest standards of service, while recognising that responsiveness and reasonable fees are just as important as technical and legal expertise.

We always seek to understand and involve ourselves in our clients' business, to help them match their protection requirements to their business needs. With prudent management of their intellectual property, we believe that we can achieve positive commercial benefits. By exploiting new developments, avoiding conflicts with the rights of others or determining a commercial value for the intellectual assets of a venture, our team has the relevant knowledge and experience to deliver the right result. ●

COMPANY DETAILS

No. of employees
75

No. of partners
13

No. of qualified chartered patent attorneys
CPA: 28/EPA: 29

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
4

No. of trainee chartered patent attorneys
14

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
2

Locations
Cambridge and London

International opportunities
Yes

No. of graduate vacancies
Varies

Disciplines recruited from
Scientific and engineering backgrounds

Min. degree required
2.1

Min. UCAS points
360

Starting salary
£26,000

Benefits
20-25 days holiday, healthcare scheme, pension scheme, study support, season ticket loan, life assurance

How to apply
Covering letter and CV by email or post

Contact information
Julie Blackford, HR & Office Manager
jblackford@vennershipley.co.uk

Application deadline
Ongoing



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VACANCY DETAILS

APPLICATION DETAILS

WilsonGunn

PATENT & TRADE MARK ATTORNEYS

Background

Founded in 1864, we are one of the oldest patent and trade mark attorney firms in the country. We have offices in Manchester, Birmingham, Chesterfield and London. Currently we are seeking graduates to join our offices in Manchester and Birmingham.

Clients and services

We serve a wide range of local, national and international clients, from individuals to multinational corporations and enjoy a relatively high proportion of direct client work. We advise clients in relation to all aspects of intellectual property law including patents, trade marks, designs and copyright. Although we deal primarily with obtaining intellectual property rights for our clients we also advise on enforcement, licensing and related matters.

Graduate applications

For patent trainees we generally seek candidates with a broad based technical background. Most attorneys in the firm deal with a broad range of subject matter. Patent trainees also have the opportunity to train as trade mark attorneys. Occasionally we recruit a specific trade mark trainee and will consider a scientific or legal background. For all trainees good communication skills are essential, especially an excellent command of English.

Professional development

The firm has a commitment to training through a close working relationship between trainee and a designated partner, as well as internal and external courses and seminars. ●

COMPANY DETAILS

No. of employees
60

No. of partners
5

No. of qualified chartered patent attorneys
11

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
11

No. of trainee chartered patent attorneys
7

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
6

Locations
Birmingham, Chesterfield, London and Manchester

International opportunities
No

No. of graduate vacancies
2

Disciplines recruited from
Chemistry, electrical, electronic and mechanical engineering and physics

Min. degree required
2.1

Min. UCAS points
300

Starting salary
Competitive

Benefits
25 days holiday

How to apply
Covering letter and CV by email

Contact information
james.robey@wilsongunn.com

Application deadline
Ongoing



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Wilson Gunn's
live jobs

VACANCY DETAILS

APPLICATION DETAILS

Withers & Rogers

Firm history and structure

Founded in 1884, the firm has grown steadily in recent years. It is now a group of limited liability partnerships, of which Withers & Rogers LLP, the professional practice, is the largest. The firm is based in four offices: London, Bristol, the Midlands and Sheffield. We operate in four principal practice groups: Electronics, Computing & Physics; Advanced Engineering; Life Sciences & Chemistry; and Trade Marks, which are represented across all of the offices. We also have a number of specialist practice groups including Higher Education, Clean Technology, Medical Devices and Aerospace & Defence.

Range of client services

We offer clients a full range of intellectual property services. Filing patents and trade marks is our core business, but registered design, design right, copyright, domain name registration and enforcement, due diligence and licensing work is also undertaken.

Professional development

The firm has a structured career development process to provide a balanced approach that is designed to produce well-rounded patent and trade mark attorneys. Trainees are usually assigned to one partner specialising in their practice area, but will work with other attorneys as well.

The firm runs an in-house training programme. Our tutorial system is particularly extensive, with a programme of up to 32 tutorials each year, from which regular, structured feedback is provided. The firm also provides extensive practical training, including on its bespoke case management system and digital dictation system, and extensive printed and electronic manuals and reference materials are available.

We encourage trainees to attend appropriate external courses. There are further opportunities for training after qualification, for example, to achieve the LLM at Nottingham Law School to become a patent attorney Litigator. In-house German and Japanese training is provided as required.

We also get trainees involved meeting clients and in the marketing process very early on and encourage membership of networking organisations. ●

COMPANY DETAILS

No. of employees
133

No. of partners
28

No. of qualified chartered patent attorneys
24

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
6

No. of trainee chartered patent attorneys
11

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
2

Locations
Bristol, London, Midlands and Sheffield

International opportunities
No

No. of graduate vacancies
3

Disciplines recruited from
All degrees considered

Min. degree required
2.1

Min. UCAS points
300

Starting salary
Competitive

Benefits
23 days holiday, healthcare scheme, pension scheme, season ticket loan

How to apply
Covering letter and CV or applications form by email or online

Contact information
Angela McCleave
4 More London Riverside
London SE1 2AU

Application deadline
Ongoing



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**Withers &
Rogers' live jobs**

VACANCY DETAILS

APPLICATION DETAILS

Trainee profile

Name	Justin Wilson
University	University of Oxford
Degree	MBioch Biology
Location	London
Role	Associate



As I was coming towards the end of my degree, I started to think about that eternal dilemma that faces most university students: What am I going to do with the rest of my life? I had enjoyed my studies and had always had a fascination for science; I knew, however, that a PhD was not for me. Then I came across the patent profession, which seemed a fascinating combination of science and law.

I started at Withers & Rogers in September 2005 working in the Life Sciences & Chemistry practice group. We have a diverse range of clients ranging from sole inventors and small companies to universities and large corporations. While specialising in life sciences, I get exposed to a large array of different technologies, ranging from basic mechanical inventions to complicated biochemical ones. I have worked on patent applications for golf equipment, trainers, simple medical devices, vaccines and pharmaceutical drugs. It is very enjoyable working on such a variety of different technologies since you regularly get to see interesting new inventions rather than doing the same thing day in, day out. This also means that you are always having to learn about new technologies and to figure out how they work, which can be quite taxing.

My training at Withers & Rogers is largely experience-based. Primarily, I am given work

by two people, although at one time or another I have worked with most attorneys in the office. Working with different people helps, as you are exposed to different aspects of the job and the different approaches of each person, although you also have to learn their idiosyncrasies as well! Importantly, people in the office are always willing to lend a friendly ear for when you have those stupid questions to ask. There are numerous in-house tutorials for trainees aimed at passing the UK and European qualifying exams and trainees are also encouraged to attend external tutorials, lectures and courses. The training programme seems to work well as the exam success rate for trainees is relatively high.

Withers & Rogers is a very friendly and sociable firm. A number of events are organised every year including the Christmas and summer parties and you can always find people to go out with for lunch or for a few drinks after work. There is also a good attitude within the firm to the work/life balance.

If you have a background in science or engineering, an enquiring, analytical mind and enjoy finding out about innovations from both a scientific and legal viewpoint, the patent profession might well be for you. ●



REFERENCE TABLE

JOB REFERENCE TABLE

Company	No. of employees	No. of partners	No. of trainees	Locations	International opportunities	Type of wk experience offered	No. wk experience vacancies	No. graduate jobs
Abel & Imray www.patentable.co.uk	65	14	5	London, Bath, Cardiff		-	-	1-2
AdamsonJones www.adamson-jones.co.uk	17	2	3	Nottingham		-	-	1-2
Alistair Hindle & Associates www.ahpatent.com	10	1	1	Edinburgh		-	-	1
Avidity IP www.avidity-ip.com	82	-	14	Birmingham, Cambridge, Epping, Leeds, Reading		-	-	6
Beck Greener www.beckgreener.com	45	10	4	London		-	-	1
Barker Brettell www.barkerbrettell.co.uk	99	19	5	Birmingham, London, Southampton		-	-	2
Boult Wade Tennant www.boult.com	180	25	17	London, Reading, Oxford, Cambridge		-	-	up to 4
Carpmaels & Ransford www.carpmaels.com	147	16	24	London, Munich		-	-	4-6
D Young & Co www.dyoung.com	182	34	14	London, Southampton		Internship	c. 2	c. 2
Dehns www.dehns.com	139	27	28	London, Brighton, Munich, Oxford		-	-	3-4
EIP www.eip.com	60	15	10	Bath, Cardiff, Leeds, London		-	-	3-4
Elkington & Fife LLP www.elkfife.com	56	10	4	London, Sevenoaks		-	-	2

Min. degree required	Min. UCAS points	Starting salary	No. of days holiday	Other benefits	How to apply	Application deadline	Further info - PG
2.1	-	Competitive	22	pension scheme, study support, flexitime, season ticket loan, life assurance, social events, childcare vouchers	Email covering letter and CV	Ongoing	68 ▶
2.1	-	Competitive	25	pension scheme, study support, performance bonus	Email covering letter and CV	Ongoing	70 ▶
2.1	-	Competitive	25	pension scheme, study support	Email covering letter and CV	31 Jan 2013	71 ▶
2.1	-	Competitive	22	study support, life assurance, bike scheme, performance bonus, social events	Email covering letter and CV	Ongoing	72 ▶
-	-	Competitive	25	study support, season ticket loan, bike scheme, social events	Email covering letter and CV	Ongoing	73 ▶
2.1	-	Competitive	21	healthcare scheme, pension scheme, study support, flexitime, season ticket loan, life assurance, performance bonus	Email covering letter and CV	Ongoing	74 ▶
2.1	-	Competitive	23	healthcare scheme, pension scheme, study support, season ticket loan, life assurance, contractual bonus, social events, childcare vouchers	Email covering letter and CV	Ongoing	76 ▶
2.1	320	Highly competitive	23	healthcare scheme, pension scheme, study support, season ticket loan, life assurance, bike scheme, social events	Email covering letter and CV	13 Dec 2012	78 ▶
2.1	-	Competitive	25	healthcare scheme, pension scheme, study support, interest-free loan, season ticket loan, life assurance, bike scheme, performance bonus, social events	Email covering letter and CV	Ongoing	80 ▶
2.1	-	Competitive	22+	healthcare scheme, pension scheme, flexitime, season ticket loan, life assurance, gym membership, bonus, study support	Email application form, covering letter and CV	Ongoing	82 ▶
2.1	-	Competitive	20+	healthcare scheme, pension scheme, study support, season ticket loan, bike scheme, performance bonus	Email covering letter and CV	Ongoing	84 ▶
2.1	240	Competitive	20	BUPA, pension scheme, flexitime	Email covering letter, CV and technical writing	Ongoing	86 ▶

JOB REFERENCE TABLE

Company	No. of employees	No. of partners	No. of trainees	Locations	International opportunities	Type of wk experience offered	No. wk experience vacancies	No. graduate jobs
Forresters www.forresters.co.uk	91	9	9	Birmingham, London, Merseyside, Munich		-	-	1-2
Gill Jennings & Every LLP www.gje.co.uk	80	12	13	London		Internship	2-4	2-4
Harrison Goddard Foote www.hgf.com	121	30	14	Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, London, Manchester, Sheffield, York		-	-	Several per year
Hoffmann · Eitle www.hoffmanneitle.com	350	34	30	London, Munich		-	-	1
J A Kemp www.jakemp.com	173	33	12	London, Munich, Oxford		-	-	6
Keltie www.keltie.com	62	9	11	London		-	-	3
Kilburn & Strode www.kstrode.co.uk	125	20	13	London, St Albans		-	-	2-4
Marks & Clerk LLP www.marks-clerk.com	311	61	6	Nationwide		-	-	10
Mathys & Squire www.mathys-squire.com	117	15	15	Cambridge, London, Manchester, Reading, York		-	-	4-6
Mewburn Ellis LLP www.mewburn.com	c. 170	32	16	Bristol, Cambridge, London, Manchester		-	-	6-8
Page White & Farrer www.pagewhite.com	75	9	13	London		-	-	5

	Min. degree required	Min. UCAS points	Starting salary	No. of days holiday	Other benefits	How to apply	Application deadline	Further info - Pg
	2.2	300	£23,500	20	healthcare scheme, pension scheme, study support, flexitime, season ticket loan, bike scheme, performance bonus, social events	Email covering letter and CV	Ongoing	88 ▶
	2.1	300	Competitive	22	healthcare scheme, pension scheme, study support, season ticket loan, life assurance, bike scheme, social events	Email covering letter and CV	Ongoing	90 ▶
	2.1	-	£24,000	25	healthcare scheme, pension scheme, study support, season ticket loan, life assurance, performance bonus, social events	Email covering letter and CV	Ongoing	92 ▶
	2.1	-	c. £30,000	20	healthcare scheme, pension scheme, season ticket loan	Email covering letter and CV	Ongoing	94 ▶
	2.1	360	Competitive	25	pension scheme, study support, flexitime, season ticket loan, life assurance, performance bonus, social events	Email covering letter and CV	Ongoing	96 ▶
	-	-	Competitive	25	healthcare scheme, pension scheme, study support, season ticket loan, life assurance, bike scheme, gym membership, performance bonus, social events	Email covering letter and CV	Ongoing	98 ▶
	2.1	-	Competitive	21	pension scheme, flexitime, season ticket loan, life assurance, social events	Email application, covering letter and CV	Ongoing	100 ▶
	2.1	-	Competitive	22	healthcare scheme, pension scheme, study support, flexitime, season ticket loan, life assurance, bike scheme, gym membership, social events	Email covering letter and CV	12 Jan 2013	102 ▶
	2.1	-	£27,000	22	pension scheme, study support, season ticket loan, bike scheme, social events	Email covering letter and CV	31 Jan 2013	104 ▶
	2.1	-	Competitive	23	healthcare scheme, pension scheme, study support, flexitime, season ticket loan, life assurance, bike scheme, social events	Email application, covering letter and CV	Ongoing	106 ▶
	2.1	340	Competitive	25	pension scheme, season ticket loan, bike scheme	Email covering letter and CV	Ongoing	108 ▶

JOB REFERENCE TABLE

Company	No. of employees	No. of partners	No. of trainees	Locations	International opportunities	Type of wk experience offered	No. wk experience vacancies	No. graduate jobs
Potter Clarkson LLP www.potterclarkson.com	140	23	11	Nottingham		-	-	4
Reddie & Grose LLP www.reddie.co.uk	71	18	7	Cambridge, London		Yes	-	2-4
RGC Jenkins & Co. www.jenkins.eu	80	14	9	Beijing, Bristol, Farnham, London, Munich		-	-	1-2
Scott & York www.scott-york.com	21	2	2	London, St Albans		-	-	1
Venner Shipley www.vennershipley.co.uk	75	13	16	Cambridge, London		-	-	Varies
Wilson Gunn www.wilsongunn.com	60	5	13	Birmingham, Chesterfield, London, Manchester		-	-	2
Withers & Rogers LLP www.withersrogers.com	133	28	13	Bristol, London, Midlands, Sheffield		-	-	3

	Min. degree required	Min. UCAS points	Starting salary	No. of days holiday	Other benefits	How to apply	Application deadline	Further info - Pg
	2.1	-	Competitive	24	pension scheme, study support, life assurance, social events	Email covering letter and CV	Ongoing	110 ▶
	2.1	-	Competitive	25	healthcare scheme, pension scheme, study support, season ticket loan, social events	See website	Ongoing	112 ▶
	2.1	-	Competitive	25	healthcare scheme, pension scheme, flexitime, season ticket loan, life assurance, bike scheme, performance bonus, social events	Email covering letter and CV	Ongoing	114 ▶
	2.1	-	Competitive	25	healthcare scheme, pension scheme, study support, flexitime, season ticket loan, life assurance, bike scheme, performance bonus, social events	Email covering letter and CV	Ongoing	115 ▶
	2.1	360	£26,000	20-25	healthcare scheme, pension scheme, study support, season ticket loan, life assurance	Email covering letter and CV	Ongoing	116 ▶
	2.1	300	Competitive	25	-	Email covering letter and CV	Ongoing	117 ▶
	2.1	300	Competitive	23	healthcare scheme, pension scheme, season ticket loan	Email covering letter and CV or application	Ongoing	118 ▶

OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE IP ARENA

Adamson & Partners International Executive Search & Selection has over 20 years' experience in recruiting Intellectual Property specialists – in the areas of Patents, Trademarks and Licensing – in the UK, throughout Continental Europe and Asia/Pacific.

We have built strong relationships with our clients, private practices as well as 'in-house' blue-chips, and now have a large number of contacts throughout the international marketplace.

If you would like to discuss opportunities available within the IP arena at the current time, we would be delighted to advise you on an informal basis. We pride ourselves on our high quality and professional approach, and contact with us will be dealt with in the strictest confidence. Please contact any member of the team as follows:

International IP Division

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Stuart Adamson

Managing Director

stuart.adamson@adamsons.com

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Senior Consultant

rene.chung@adamsons.com

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Senior Consultant

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Christine Adamson

Director

christine.adamson@adamsons.com

UK IP Division

Milli Bouri

Senior Consultant

milli.bouri@adamsons.com

Matthew Parry

Consultant

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ADAMSON & PARTNERS

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