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Where science meets law and commerce, working in intellectual property puts you at the forefront of the latest technological development, ideas and inventions, and adds legal skills to your scientific knowledge.

This guide takes you through the basics and beyond, from applications and exams, to first-hand reports from patent professionals at various career levels, to an **Employer Directory** at the back of the guide to help find your future employer, offering you plenty of reasons to join the profession before applying for jobs on www.ipcareers.co.uk.

'Should you decide to become a patent attorney, I guarantee you will never be bored.' Lee Davies, Chief Executive, CIPA

'The go-to guide for anyone thinking of a career as a patent attorney.' Gwilym Roberts, CPA
EPA, Chairman and Partner Kilburn & Strode LLP

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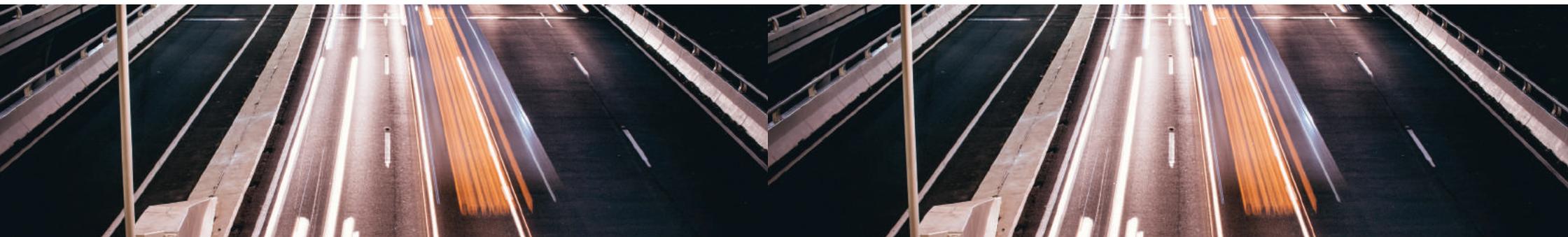
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Introducing the *IP Careers Guide to Chartered Patent Attorneys 2019/20* is CIPA Chief Executive Lee Davies. He tells us of a profession where law, technology and commerce converge, and where the rewards are great for the skillful and diligent practitioner.



Chartered Patent Attorneys are passionate about science, technology and engineering; they are experts in the application of the law as it relates to the protection of intellectual property and they enjoy working with innovators and creatives to take an idea from its most basic concept through to a marketable product which is protected by a well-crafted patent. The patent attorney will have the skills and knowledge to understand the underlying concepts of the original idea and work with the inventor to decide how best to protect the idea to prevent it from being copied.

The patent attorney's work does not end with the granting of the patent. Chartered Patent Attorneys are there to support businesses as they grow and thrive, helping them to defend their IP when others infringe against the protection offered by a patent. There will also be times when businesses are accused of infringing patents belonging to other companies and patent attorneys are the first port of call for expert advice.

Chartered Patent Attorneys are also able to advise on wider IP rights such as the protection of brand identity through trade marks and other rights such as registered designs.

The great 'buzz' about being a patent attorney is the ability to see cutting-edge technological developments as they happen. You will watch businesses grow. You will be there in the thick of it. You will be involved with obtaining patents and other IP rights both in the UK and worldwide, and you will have the opportunity to practice your technological skills, your legal skills and your language skills.

Should you decide to become a patent attorney, you will be joining a profession that has been in existence for more than a hundred years, but which continues to evolve to meet the changing needs of business and industry in the 21st century. I guarantee you will never be bored. ●

Lee Davies is Chief Executive of the Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys.

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WHAT IS A PATENT ATTORNEY?

Drafting effective patents requires a unique combination of science, law and language. Working as a patent attorney requires a scientific background to understand new technologies and the ability to explain them to others. Intellectual property specialists Mewburn Ellis explain more about this interesting and rewarding profession.

A patent attorney is a member of a specialised legal profession who is qualified to advise clients about patents (and usually other intellectual property rights) and help them get their patents granted by patent offices around the world. They may be employed 'in-house' by companies or work in private firms (just like solicitors).

If you work in a private firm, you will work for lots of different clients who might be individuals, universities, start-up companies, large corporations or overseas attorneys. A good patent attorney needs to be able to adapt to the different needs of a diverse client base and remain aware of new and emerging technologies.

You do not need a law degree - a degree in a science, engineering, technology or a mathematics based subject is strongly preferred. A science/engineering background is required to enable you to understand a client's invention. You will learn the necessary law on the job. This mix between science/engineering and law is one of the aspects that make the role of the patent attorney such an interesting career. Training usually takes four to five years and you will be required to pass various professional exams to qualify as a UK Patent Attorney and a European Patent Attorney.

Learn more about IP:

www.ipcareers.co.uk/career-advice

What is a patent?

A patent is an exclusive right granted by the state allowing its owner to control commercial exploitation of an invention. Inventions can relate to anything from computers and

electronics to pharmaceuticals and gene sequences, provided it is new and not obvious. In the UK, an inventor can ask the UK Intellectual Property Office (UKIPO) to grant them a patent. However, in return for their exclusive right to use the invention, the state requires that the inventor submits an application describing what the invention is and how to put it into practice. The UKIPO will then examine the application to assess if a patent should be granted.

If a patent is granted, the 'patentee' can stop others from using the invention for up to 20 years (as long as annual fees are paid to keep the patent in force). However, the patent is only effective in the UK. In other countries there are separate patent offices, laws and patent attorney professions.

What does a patent attorney do?

A patent attorney assists their client, or their employer, in obtaining a patent. This includes drafting the description of the invention and the claims, as well as communicating with the patent office to make the case for why a patent should be granted.

Drafting the description and claims requires a technical background in order to properly understand the invention and clearly explain it to others. Convincing the patent office that a patent should be granted requires good communication skills and the ability to analyse technical documents to spot what differentiates the new invention from what has already been done. Both require careful, precise writing to ensure that your words convey the exact intended meaning.

Anything else?

There is more to the job than just writing patents and arguing with examiners. Patents are just one aspect of intellectual property;

attorneys also need a good awareness of designs, trade marks and copyright.

Knowledge of these other forms of intellectual property is necessary for qualification and attorneys are expected to be able to advise on technical and commercial problems across the whole intellectual property field.

Patents are commercial tools for clients, so it is important to develop a knowledge of how they are applied in a business environment. This may include licensing the patent to allow other companies to use the invention, or advising on other contracts, for example developing new technology.

Attorneys also need to advise clients on their freedom to operate in a given field. This is done by researching and analysing any intellectual property owned by other companies and, if necessary, assessing the risk of infringing existing patents. If infringement occurs, or is alleged, patent attorneys may be involved with litigation and can represent clients before the Intellectual Property Enterprise Court.

What about other countries?

Patents are territorial – they only protect the invention in the country concerned. Many clients want their invention to be protected in many countries, and patent attorneys in the UK help with this.

The vast majority of UK Chartered Patent Attorneys are also qualified (by a set of rigorous examinations) to represent clients before the European Patent Office (EPO), which has the power to grant patents in all EU

countries and some others. In the future it may also be possible to obtain a single 'unitary' patent covering the whole of the EU (see The Future of the Profession article).

Outside of Europe, UK patent attorneys secure IP rights by instructing foreign attorneys. In return, the UK attorney will assist the foreign attorney in obtaining patent protection for their clients at either the UKIPO or the EPO.

What do you need to be a patent attorney?

- A good science or engineering degree and broad-based interest in science and technology. Have you ever taken something apart to see how it works?
- Excellent communication skills – especially in writing.
- A careful and thoughtful approach to words and language.
- Good people skills to deal with clients and explain complex technical and legal ideas to them.
- An ability to focus on the detail as well as being able to see the bigger picture.
- The ability to work to tight deadlines and to handle several projects simultaneously.

Why become a patent attorney?

Patent attorneys work in a unique space where law, commerce, and technology all overlap. One of the really engaging aspects of the job is that you actively utilise your scientific knowledge and your analytical reasoning every day. A lot of the job involves solving puzzles of one sort or another, which can require creative thinking and makes the job intellectually very stimulating. The variety of work, both in terms of clients and technology, makes being a patent attorney a very rewarding career. ●



SALARIES & BENEFITS

In the patent profession, you could earn up to £45,000 before you've even finished your exams. Qualification increases your worth further, and can be used as a passport to international opportunities. Fellows and Associates use the data from their annual salary survey to highlight what you could be earning from Trainee to Partner level.

Being a patent attorney can be a very rewarding career and the salary increases can be frequent and significant as you progress through the examinations. In UK private practices, salaries are by and large linked to qualification status up until the point you have qualified. Although in some instances, there can be differences in starting salaries for different technical specialisms depending on supply and demand.

Corporate vs. private practice

This article focuses on working in private practice for a firm of patent attorneys in the UK. Fewer corporations tend to hire attorneys at trainee level, and a career in-house most frequently begins post qualification or at the very least when you have had a few years' experience prior to qualification. Typically, attorneys can earn more in-house than they can in private practice for the years following qualification up until Partner level. However, once attorneys reach Partner status within a private practice their earning potential, in general, far outstrips what can be achieved in industry.

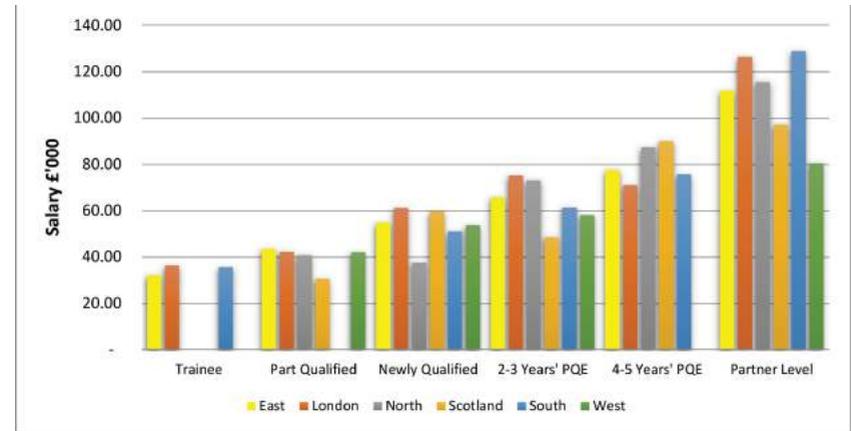
Average earnings

Patent attorneys do not move positions very frequently and salaries tend to increase in bursts. The market rate for a newly qualified attorney is around £60,000-65,000 but as you can see from the table below, salaries for attorneys who stay within the same firm can lag behind what they may be able to achieve on the open market. However, 'newly qualified' is to some extent ambiguous as some firms give a significant increase to their attorneys when they qualify in both Europe and the UK, others when they qualify in just one of the two jurisdictions.

Salary by region

Contrary to popular belief, salaries outside of London are broadly the same as those within London. Certainly, being a patent attorney in another part of the UK would put you at no career disadvantage whatsoever compared with those based in London and in some cases you may find the experience gained is more well-rounded during training as there may be more direct contact with clients from an early stage. Applying for positions in London

AVERAGE PATENT BASE SALARIES BY QUALIFICATION LEVEL



is highly competitive and it does not always occur to applicants to consider regional offices. As a result, those looking to enter the profession can have a better chance of succeeding when applying to regional firms, or firms with regional offices.

Benefits

In addition to the base salary, patent attorneys often earn bonuses and receive other financial benefits to complete their remuneration package. The ratio of additional benefits, predominantly bonus, to base salary tends to be the same across technical specialisms except for Chemistry & Pharmaceutical positions which generally have a lower base salary with a higher proportion via other benefits compared to others.

Patent attorney average percentage additional benefits add to base salary:

- Trainee - 2.6%
- Part Qualified - 10%
- Newly Qualified - 11%
- 2-3 Years Post-Qualified - 16.2%
- 4-5 Years Post-Qualified - 17%
- Partner/Partner Designate - 16.8%

Everyone now receives a pension by law but there are many other benefits available. 77% of candidates have their professional membership paid for, 60% of candidates are offered some form of private health care, with

the same percentage of candidates having exams or training courses paid for by employers. Furthermore, around 46% of candidates are offered flexible working hours, and around 42% are offered flexibility in their working location.

Being a patent attorney can be very financially rewarding and the chances of reaching the higher salaries are very good in comparison with other professional services sector positions. There is excellent job security and more often than not, there are more open positions than there are people to fill them (although getting into the profession in the first place as a new trainee remains very challenging).

Find IP jobs by location online:
www.ipcareers.co.uk/jobs

The above data has come from Fellows and Associates' annual salary survey completed by those working in the profession. ●

Fellows and Associates are a specialist recruitment consultancy entirely focused on the intellectual property sector. They work on positions in private practice and industry both in the UK and overseas: www.fellowsandassociates.com.

PATENT SALARIES BY SENIORITY

Level	In current firm*	When moving firms*
Trainee	£35,100	-
Part qualified	£40,900	£38,000-45,000
Newly qualified	£58,800	£62,000-67,000
2-3 years post qualification	£69,700	£70,000-80,000
4-5 years post qualification	£78,000	£80,000-100,000
Salaried partner level*	£115,200	£110,000-140,000

*It is inevitable that one will achieve a higher salary when one moves firms, rather than receiving salary increases within a firm as the hiring company will seek to make the proposition of moving as attractive as possible.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSIVITY IN IP

Andrea Brewster, **IP Inclusive** leader explains the relevance and importance of the IP Inclusive initiative to the patent and trade mark profession, as well as setting out the four key areas covered as part of this ongoing drive to promote a diverse, inclusive future.



At first glance, the IP professions do not look diverse. Although there are plenty of female trade mark attorneys, women are less well represented in the patent profession, especially in the more senior ranks. And both professions currently have less diversity than they should in terms of ethnicity, disability and educational background.

But dig deeper and you find professions that are open to change on this front, that are keen to attract and support a wider range of people. Both CIPA and CITMA are founding members of the 'IP Inclusive' initiative, which aims to promote diversity and inclusivity throughout the IP professions.

Its members include not just patent and trade mark attorneys, but also IP solicitors and barristers, IP Office examiners, patent searchers, IP paralegals, and many other professionals who work in the field. The other founding members were the IP Federation and FICPI-UK, actively supported by the UK Intellectual Property Office. Many more organisations and individuals have given

You should expect to find a welcoming and inclusive environment that is willing to accept you for who you are.

generously to support the movement since its inception.

In general terms, IP Inclusive raises awareness of diversity-related issues and provides a banner under which people can work together for change. More specifically, that work covers four key areas:

Awareness-raising upstream of the professions:

In order to improve diversity in any profession, you need to widen the pool from which it recruits. The 'Careers in Ideas' outreach project's aim is to raise awareness of IP-related careers, and in turn to encourage recruits from a greater range of backgrounds, including

from currently under-represented groups such as female STEM students, ethnic minorities and people from less privileged sections of society.

A best practice Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Charter:

This is a voluntary code of practice for IP professionals to demonstrate their commitment to greater diversity and inclusivity. Its signatories include both in-house departments and private practice firms – so when you're looking at prospective employers, you might want to ask whether they've signed up to the IP Inclusive Charter.

Training:

We also aim to provide cost-effective and accessible training in diversity-related issues. IP Inclusive organises seminars, webinars and discussion events and shares information and blog posts on issues of relevance. Our recent events have covered topics such as unconscious bias, "workplace allies", mental wellbeing in the IP professions, flexible working arrangements and the business case for diversity.

Communities:

IP Inclusive has three networking and support communities: "IP & ME" for BAME professionals; "IP Out" for LGBT+ professionals; and "Women in IP". All three are open to allies as well. These communities help the professions to understand and nurture colleagues from under-represented groups. Each organises its own social, networking, training and awareness-raising events, and provides safe spaces for its members to share their experiences and seek support and guidance from their peers.

Above all, IP Inclusive is a catalyst for change. So when you look at the IP professions in five or ten years' time, you should see much more diversity than you do now. And in the meantime, you should expect to find a welcoming and inclusive environment that is willing to accept you for who you are, so long

as you are hard-working, committed and good at the job.

Already we see patent and trade mark practices encouraging a wider range of recruits, reaching out to schools and universities with careers talks and work experience opportunities. We see them hiring professionals from different countries and cultures so as better to reflect their international client bases; offering flexible and part-time working to accommodate people who want a better work-life balance; training staff to overcome unconscious bias; and exploring workplace support measures such as mentoring, "back to work" schemes and mental health "first aid". Many organisations, in particular in industry, have EDI policies, dedicated EDI officers or diversity "champions".

It is not necessary to be white, or male, or middle class, to join our profession. It is not necessary to have studied at Oxbridge or to have had private schooling. Your gender and sexuality should not be relevant to your career development. Your physical requirements should be accommodated and your mental wellbeing safeguarded. This is the kind of profession that new trainees should be joining. And I hope that they – **you** – will continue to fight for this important cause.

IP Inclusive has been going since 2015, and has wide support across the professions. There are over 130 signatories to our EDI Charter, from around the country. In 2017 we won the first ever Managing IP award for Corporate Social Responsibility. Our three communities are thriving - we hope to create more in the future, including one for more junior IP professionals - and our events well attended.

To find out more about IP Inclusive, visit the website - www.ipinclusive.org.uk ●

Andrea Brewster OBE leads **IP Inclusive**. She is a Chartered UK Patent Attorney and a former President of CIPA.



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, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), 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 European Union Intellectual Property Office (EU IPO), which administers EU trade marks and designs rights.

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 literature and by holding regular seminars and workshops.

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

To carry out its functions the IPO employs a wide variety of people in a wide variety of roles. These include patent examiners, trade mark examiners, designs examiners, patents formalities examiners and policy experts. Trade mark and designs examiners are responsible for ensuring that valid trade marks and designs are registered. Patents formalities examiners ensure patent applications satisfy certain legal requirements.

All receive high quality training to carry out their role effectively. Some are graduates but this is not a requirement for these roles.

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).

For more about the IP profession:

www.ipcareers.co.uk/career-advice

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.

For further information on a career as a patent examiner with the IPO, write to:

Patent Examiner Recruitment
Intellectual Property Office
Cardiff Road
Newport NP10 8QQ
examinerrecruitment@ipo.gov.uk
Information Centre
UK calls: 0300 300 2000 ●

This article was contributed by Ben Micklewright, who joined the IPO as an examiner in 1998 with a degree in Mathematics and a doctorate in Mathematical Physics.



TRADE MARK ATTORNEYS

Do you have a keen analytical mind, excellent communication skills and a way of looking at language from different angles to others? Then a role as a **trade mark attorney** could be suited to you. Read on to learn more about this niche career.

Working in intellectual property goes beyond patents and the work of a patent attorney. We asked a selection of experienced trade mark attorneys to offer an insight into what their role typically involves, the necessary skills and qualifications required to succeed, plus advice they have for aspiring trade mark attorneys.

What is a trade mark?

An essential part of working as a trade mark attorney is an understanding of what you will be working with and why this work is valuable to brands, business and individuals. Therefore, your first question should be, "what is a trade mark"? The answer is a form of intellectual property used by businesses to help make their brand easily identifiable to consumers as well as distinguishing themselves from

third parties. Harry Rowe, an Associate and Chartered Trade Mark Attorney with Mathys and Squire, explains: "a trade mark can take a number of forms, including words, logos or more unconventional indicators...such as smells, sounds or even multimedia marks". In short, anything a brand can use to identify and differentiate their goods or services can be used as a trade mark. Most businesses will use some sort of trade mark, so anyone entering the sector can expect a varied role and workload.

What does a trade mark attorney do?

The primary focus of a trade mark attorney's role is to protect brands. Katie Goulding, Trade Mark Attorney with HGF Limited, told us: "patents protect the invention, we protect the label and aesthetics". This sees them providing strategic advice about what a business or individual should protect, as well as detailing why, where and how they should do this. Goulding also goes on to explain that trade mark attorneys are responsible for ensuring that a business' rights are protected against others in the face of potential trade mark applications or disputes, as well as advising on how best to minimise and avoid any potential risk of being sued by a previous brand owner.

A 'typical' day working with trade marks may see you:

- Researching whether clients can use any proposed new brand names without legal issues arising.
- Drafting and managing applications to register trade marks in the UK, the EU, and further afield.
- Preparing and working on court cases against third parties to secure and protect clients' trade mark rights.
- Seeking advice from attorneys overseas on local laws and practices.

- Liaising with the UK Intellectual Property Office on relevant issues.
- Offering advice on how brands can, should or should not be used on social media and in advertising.

Working as a trade mark attorney will see you advising companies of all sizes, from start-ups to established brands, and across a wide range of sectors, so it is varied and lively. There are also plenty of opportunities to move the role beyond the 'typical', such as assisting in training in-house creative and legal teams on new practice and developments.

Key skills:

Unlike working as a patent attorney, it is not necessary to have an undergraduate or postgraduate degree in a STEM subject to become a trade mark attorney. Similarly, you do not need to have a law degree.

What is important is that you possess a keenly analytical approach to your work and the ability to look at and work with language in an innovative way that others may not. In fact, many trade mark attorneys have an academic background in modern languages or history for this very reason.

Alongside having strong language and analytical skills, a typical trade mark attorney is also:

- An **excellent written & verbal communicator** – you will need to draft complex legal and technical submissions, offer clients concise commercial advice based on complicated areas of the law and argue persuasively.
- **Highly organised** – you will be driven by deadlines and working under pressure when receiving clients' instructions.
- **Commercially & globally minded** – an understanding of varied business practices and wider commercial and global influences is essential.
- **A keen reader** – you will need to stay up to date on IP law and practice, as well as marketing trends, as both are constantly changing.

Training and qualifications:

With regards to formal training and qualifications, as well as possessing a minimum of a 2:1 degree, it is also necessary to complete two courses before qualifying, as well as at least two years' relevant work experience. The first requirement is a part-time law course (offered by Queen Mary University London or Bournemouth University), providing a general grounding in English law plus a more detailed training in the specific areas of UK and EU trade mark, copyright and design law. The second is a practice course with Nottingham Law School, concentrating on the skills necessary for day to day practice, including advocacy, basic litigation and client meetings.

The Chartered Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys (CITMA), offer full details of the routes into qualifications on their website, alongside the prospective time-frame potential trade mark attorneys might be able to expect for this.

Learn more about CITMA:

www.ipcareers.co.uk/career-advice

So...why work as a trade mark attorney?

Rachel Conroy, a Partner and Trade Mark Attorney with Boulton Wade Tennant LLP, told us: "if you are looking for an interesting, commercially-focused career, then the role of a trade mark attorney could be for you". For anyone hoping to test and challenge their analytical, linguistic and persuasive skills whilst also working with a wide variety of clients from all areas of business and commerce, working as a trade mark attorney could be the ideal career option. ●

A collaborative article, with thanks to Rachel Conroy (Boulton Wade Tennant LLP), Katie Goulding (HGF Limited), and Harry Rowe (Mathys & Squire) for their contributions.

THE FUTURE OF THE PROFESSION

The patent profession has always had one eye on the future in order to meet the needs of creatives and entrepreneurs and to understand technical advances which make a better world for us all. This article discusses the ways in which IP legislation will shape the work of patent attorneys in the future, on both a domestic and a global scale.

There has never been a more exciting time to consider becoming a patent attorney. Innovation, creativity and new technologies are the engine room of the UK's economy, and legislative changes at home and abroad are changing the face of intellectual property protection.

The UK profession is estimated to be worth around £1billion to the UK economy and

On joining the patent attorney profession in the UK you are entering a global profession which is rightly proud of its heritage and considered among the best in the world.

operates on a global scale. Whilst the basic ingredients for those entering the profession remain the same – recruiting the very best scientists, engineers and technologists to train in this area of law – there are many new challenges and opportunities that will shape the profession in the future.

International scope

The market in Asia is booming, with more and more technological innovation continuing to emerge from countries such as Japan, China and South Korea. China, in particular, has been filing prodigious levels of patents in recent years. The United States remains a leader in the creative industries although, as a global region, Asia Pacific countries now contribute more in terms of revenue and jobs. Businesses from countries such as these are asserting their IP on a global scale and many rely on the expertise and skills of UK Chartered Patent Attorneys to protect their IP assets in foreign markets.

Seismic political changes are altering the UK's relationship with Europe. However, unlike many other professions, UK Chartered Patent Attorneys will remain largely untouched by them. This is because the European Patent Convention is not a piece of EU legislation and the European Patent Office is not an EU institution. This means that UK attorneys qualified as European Patent Attorneys (virtually all) will continue to be able to conduct

European patent work entirely unaffected by Brexit. It will be business as usual.

Greater harmonisation of IP rights across Europe is being sought through the creation of a patent system which will have unitary effect across the continent and the introduction of a Unified Patent Court (UPC). The UK Government ratified the UPC Agreement (UPCA) in April 2018. At the time of going to press, it was hoped that the UK would be able to play a full role after Brexit because the UPCA is not an EU instrument and the court will be international in scope. However, German ratification was still awaited and this was the subject of a constitutional challenge progressing through the country's courts.

There is also a drive to simplify procedures for obtaining IP rights in Europe through initiatives being spearheaded by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the European Patent Office. The use of online central filing systems and data sharing by national IP offices is increasing, whilst search systems are becoming more refined. For businesses with an international footprint, IP is now at the forefront of their strategic thinking. Patent attorneys are members of in-house teams at the heart of major business decisions. And private practice attorneys increasingly offer wider services to industry than in the past, including commercial and strategic business advice.

The future of the profession

IP is big business - a global business. The world recognises the strength and status of the UK profession, with UK Chartered Patent Attorneys being held in the highest regard. For example, of the 40,000 European patent applications filed every year by the UK's European Patent

Attorneys (EPAs), nearly 90% are for overseas clients. While UK Chartered Patent Attorneys form a fifth of all European Patent Attorneys, they file one third of all European patent applications. As explained above, Brexit will have no effect on this work. On joining the patent attorney profession in the UK you are entering a global profession which is rightly proud of its heritage and considered among the best in the world.

For more hot topics:
www.ipcareers.co.uk/career-advice

As the profession and the international IP landscape changes, so CIPA changes with it. We will continue to provide effective domestic and international lobbying and new benefits and services to members to help them compete more effectively in the global marketplace. As a student you will receive advice and support throughout your training and will be part of a network of like-minded people working towards their professional qualifications. Once qualified, as a Fellow of CIPA you will benefit from continuing professional development as your career progresses, and a professional body which campaigns tirelessly on your behalf, to ensure that you are represented at the highest level and can influence policy-makers in governments in the UK and around the world. ●

This article was contributed by the Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

IP 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 relevant acts and laws.

Is it necessary to study a STEM subject at university?

A degree in a science, engineering, technology or a mathematics based subject, or equivalent, from a recognised institution is strongly preferred. 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.

For those looking to also qualify as a trade mark attorney, a thorough understanding of UK and EU trade mark law and practice is essential and knowledge of related law and practice overseas can be useful.

Do I need to have a PhD?

The level of understanding obtained through a PhD could be beneficial in some technical areas. However, the case-load of a patent attorney often varies and it is unusual for a patent attorney to be able to concentrate solely on one specific subject matter area unless they work in-house. Consequently, the benefit of a PhD could 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. Nonetheless, some private practice firms do require trainees to have a PhD.

How do you become a patent attorney?

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

The examinations include those set by the Patent Examination Board (PEB), which must be taken in order to become a registered (UK) patent attorney. This is a two-tier system involving Foundation Examinations and Final Examinations. Candidates must pass one of the Foundation Examinations before they are eligible to sit the Final Examinations. University courses are available to obtain an exemption from some or all of the Foundation 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 the PEB are held annually. Consequently, the minimum length of time to become a Chartered 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 4-6 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

two years under the supervision of a European patent attorney before sitting the main examinations. For this reason, it is common for people to become registered patent attorneys before becoming European patent attorneys.

What other skills 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 of 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.

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 certain companies to which you would be particularly suited and you could start off targeting those. You can use the search filters by 'Area of Specialism' on IP Careers' website to help you

find roles suited to your degree background.

Can I get work experience?

Work experience in the profession is rare, though some firms do offer internship programmes. It is a good idea to register your interest as soon as you have decided to join the profession. Due to the varied nature of the work, and the complications associated with client confidentiality, many firms believe that structured work experience programmes do not offer sufficient value to either candidates or the employers that organise them.

For most prospective employers, academic excellence is prized above work experience. If you would like to gain first-hand insight into the operations of patent firms, and be able to demonstrate this experience on your CV, many recruiters host open days. You can find details of these events on IP Careers' website.

Read IP Employer Q&As:
www.ipcareers.co.uk/career-advice

Do firms recruit at particular times of year?

Vacancies for trainee patent attorneys tend to crop up as 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. ●

SEVEN ESSENTIAL SKILLS

The work of a patent attorney requires certain key skills. Prospective employers will look for evidence of these skills – or at least the potential to acquire them – in your CV and personal statement.

1. Communication skills

A patent attorney's work relies on good communication skills, both written and oral. You will need to be proficient at using words to define and describe; to explain and advise; to instruct and to question; and to persuade. You will have to communicate with scientists and engineers; business people; other lawyers; and tribunals such as courts and patent offices.

This variety is what makes the job so enjoyable, but it also demands a versatile communication style. You are, in effect, an interpreter between three worlds – technology, business and law – and you need to speak the language of each.

Of course, communication is a two-way process, so you must also be good at reading other people and at learning from what you hear.

You will be expected to develop more effective communication techniques throughout your career. But you should at least have a reasonable degree of skill from the start, and an enthusiasm for communicating. Expect employers to test for this with both written exercises and interview questions.

2. The ability to work alone

Particularly in private practice, a patent attorney works alone rather than as part of a team. You will therefore need to be able to manage your own workload, motivate yourself to complete tasks on time and be sufficiently self-critical to quality assess your output. Right from day one, you will have to conduct private research and study, whether for your day to day work or to get you through the qualifying exams.

If you are not keen on long periods alone, analysing and writing documents; if you would rather not spend the rest of your life poring over textbooks, legal documents, scientific papers and of course patents, then you should probably not become a patent attorney.

To be good at the job, you should have an enquiring mind, ...able to ask the right questions and learn quickly.

3. A technical bent

You will need to be comfortable with technical information, possibly over a wider range of technologies than you are used to. Even if you are a biochemist, for example, you might still have to get to grips with the mechanical or electrical aspects of a client's new drug delivery device. You will need to understand basic engineering drawings, circuit diagrams and flow charts, and of course graphs, spreadsheets and other common data presentation formats.

To be good at the job, you should have an enquiring mind. You must be able to ask the right questions and learn quickly, becoming just enough of an expert to provide the legal assistance your client needs. It will also help if your curiosity extends to the commercial aspects of your work: a patent attorney should be as interested in a client's business as in the technology it works with.

4. Analytical skills

Patent attorneys have to analyse large amounts of information and reach logical, well-reasoned conclusions. You will need to be clear-thinking and rigorous in your analyses, critical of data and evidence, comprehensive in your approach. You will need to get to grips with both the details of a situation and its 'big picture' implications, processing legal and commercial information as well as scientific.

5. An eye for detail

In this job, details matter; accuracy is essential. You really do have to care about getting exactly the right word, phrase or definition; one that's precise, apt, exhaustive, unambiguous and indisputable. Start with your CV.

If you find details tedious, or if inaccuracies slip into your work despite your good intentions, then this is not the job for you.

6. Lateral thinking

Patent attorneys have to be almost as creative as the inventors they work with. Are there alternative ways of protecting this technology? What will competitors do to avoid our patent? Is there another way of interpreting this document? How can we get round this legal problem? Should I look at this situation from another angle?

7. Time and stress management

You will have several pieces of work on the go at once, possibly for different clients and in different technical fields. Some will be urgent, some not; some large, some small; some complex and others relatively easy. New instructions or queries could arrive at any time. And all of this work will carry deadlines, whether legal deadlines or commercial ones driven by your clients' business needs.

As a patent attorney you will need to be organised. You will have to work quickly, but without loss of accuracy. You must learn

to prioritise your case load, to delegate where appropriate and to manage your time efficiently so that all of your tasks get due attention and within the right time-frame.

How do you cope under pressure? Can you maintain the quality of your output even as the work piles on? Can you recognise the signs of stress and take evasive action? Some people are inherently more susceptible to stress than others, and their work more likely to suffer as a result. If that applies to you, a career-long battle against stress could make you very unhappy.

For more on skills and training:
www.ipcareers.co.uk/career-advice

If you are thinking of becoming a patent attorney, ask yourself whether you feel comfortable in the areas described above. Ultimately, only you will know whether you have the necessary skill-set, or the inclination to acquire it. ●

Andrea Brewster OBE is a Chartered UK Patent Attorney and European Patent Attorney, a former President of CIPA and leader of the IP Inclusive initiative.



INTERNSHIPS & WORK EXPERIENCE

Deciding upon a career is an important and difficult choice to make. Within the intellectual property profession, work experience can offer an opportunity to gain a real insight into the work of a patent attorney, helping you answer the question - is the IP profession for me? Laura Collins, HR Advisor with D Young & Co, offers her expert advice for both finding and making the most of IP work experience.

If you've heard about the patent profession and seriously think it might be a good fit, an internship is the best opportunity there is to take the next step.
Sam Keyes, Technical Assistant, D Young & Co.

Requirements

IP firms offering work experience opportunities are looking for candidates with a genuine desire to find out about the IP profession and to gain a real perspective of what life as a patent attorney is like.

Candidates will need an exceptional academic record in a scientific or technical discipline. Some firms may have different work experience opportunities available for different departments so make sure to consider the criteria when applying.

As well as the above, other key skills that firms look for include:

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- The ability to work well in a team as well as autonomously.
- Good time management skills and an understanding of the importance of deadlines.
- Strong analytical skills.
- Meticulous attention to detail.

The application process

To find available work experience placements, visit the careers pages of different IP firms and also www.ipcareers.co.uk to see what

opportunities are on offer, or refer to the Job Finder table from page 186 of this guide. Some may advertise at different times of the year so, if an opportunity isn't available when you first look, don't give up!

Application processes can differ. For the first stage, you may be asked to complete an online application form or send a CV and covering letter. Vacancies are highly sought after and therefore you should try to include something in your application that will make you stand out. For a second stage, some firms may invite you to an interview, either in person or via telephone. During the whole process, it is important to show why you are interested in the work experience or internship opportunity and why you want to be a patent attorney. Make sure that you complete some research into the firm that you have applied to, the work of a patent attorney and the process of training to become qualified. Some firms may also ask behavioural interview questions that require you to provide examples from your previous experience. You could be asked to describe a time when you have worked well in a team or a time when you have met an important deadline for example. In advance of your interview, consider the key skills that you need to be a patent attorney and think of examples of situations where you have demonstrated these skills.

Good candidates will have an excellent knowledge of technology. However, we also want to see that candidates have the same passion that we do for clever ideas and invention.
Alan Boyd, Partner, D Young & Co.

Benefits

Work experience will allow you to obtain invaluable knowledge about the IP profession and take part in a range of activities to give you a taste of the work of a patent attorney. You may be asked to draft a claim or prepare an argument for a mock hearing. You will have the opportunity to spend time with and put questions to current attorneys and trainees and you will gain an honest impression of the firm that you visit and a feel for the atmosphere and ethos. All of these elements will ultimately assist you in making a decision about your future career.

The internship gave me the perfect opportunity to find out about the job and interact with both trainees and qualified attorneys, to find out whether the job was for me.
Jessica Steven-Fountain, Technical Assistant, D Young & Co.

Following work experience, some firms may offer subsequent longer internships or even the opportunity of a trainee position with the firm so make every second count!

What do I do if I don't secure work experience or an internship?

As previously mentioned, vacancies are highly sought after and there will be a lot of competition for places. It is important not to stop looking for opportunities if you are not successful in obtaining a place first time and remember that, if you have not managed to obtain a work experience placement, you are not precluded from applying for a trainee position with a firm.

Search latest internships online:
www.ipcareers.co.uk/jobs

You can also try to find out about the profession from other sources. Some universities invite patent attorneys to visit and give talks on the profession. You may also have the opportunity to visit a careers fair where you can meet representatives from different IP firms. Take every opportunity to speak to patent attorneys about the profession to assist you in answering the question - is the IP profession for me? ●

Laura Collins is an HR Advisor with leading IP firm D Young & Co.



CORPORATE VS. PRIVATE PRACTICE

Understanding how practices differ and what might suit you can help focus your job searching efforts and determine your career path. Adam Tindall from Appleyard Lees explains how the work and environment can differ within corporate and private practices for patent attorneys.

Some IP lawyers work directly for industrial firms (corporate or 'in-house') while others work in specialist law firms (private practice). In-house jobs are rarer, with most attorneys working in private practice. I trained and worked in-house for a huge engineering firm, then moved to private practice, giving me a relatively balanced view of both camps.

While the core skills are the same, they can be very different jobs. Drop an attorney trained and experienced in industry into private practice and they may be astonished at the demands placed upon them by a constant need for timeliness, speed, customer care and business development. Introduce an attorney who has had a lifetime in private practice into an industrial office and they may be dazzled by the demands of portfolio management, internal networking and decision making.

Corporate

Industry is more IP savvy now than ever before. Depending on where you end up, corporate IP departments generally require their attorneys to consider the issues of their firm as a whole, and to make judgments based on their understanding of what might be best for the company. Hence you may find yourself to be an important part of the commercial stability and development of your employer. This responsibility can be exciting but also overwhelming, but usually there are plenty of people in senior positions in relevant technical areas happy to advise.

Also, attorneys in industrial departments tend to have a focus on harvesting and evaluating IP in its many forms as much as registering and securing it. This is tremendous fun as you will be working with incredibly clever, creative and passionate people who have interesting things to say and show you. You occasionally have to deal with difficult people and questionable

ideas, but probably less often than in most other jobs.

Being an in-house patent attorney can be a very social occupation, and an ability to communicate, establish and maintain relationships is key. However, if you prefer, it is possible to find roles where you seldom have to leave your desk and can churn through work while others do the "people" stuff.

Some departments do all of the work themselves, some farm it out to private practice and some do both. For those that outsource, this puts a burden on the shoulders of the attorney to consider the business relevance of what they are doing to justify fees to their private practice colleagues.

Starting at the bottom, career progression through an industrial department will be from trainee to qualified attorney and then to Head of Department, should such an elevated opportunity arise. Industrial attorneys may spend much of their career performing the same tasks of invention harvesting, drafting, and prosecuting month after month with variation coming from different inventions from (mostly) the same core people in the business. Infringement and enforcement issues will also be part of the mix, further developing the attorney's advocacy skills. Hence a trainee and a highly experienced attorney may have a very similar diet of work. As an attorney becomes more senior, they may take on more managerial and training roles and ultimately significant strategic responsibility, or specialise in specific areas, subject to business need.

Private Practice

An attorney in private practice is expected to advise and educate clients and then, regardless of whether it's the right thing to do in the view of the attorney (within limits), the

attorney must then carry out the instructions of the client.

Private practice attorneys see a wider range of technology and brands than those in industry, and control of work flow is less easy to achieve as any client may contact you at any time with a need for immediate action. They may also become embroiled in infringement and enforcement issues more often than their industry colleagues.

While the core skills are the same, they can be very different jobs.

Career progression in private practice firms starts at trainee level, which lasts until you pass the requisite number of exams. The level of trust and autonomy given to you will depend on competence and the policy of the firm. Some do not let you talk to a client until you are qualified, whereas some expose you to the outside world provided you can present the right image and harvest the right information.

Post-qualification, responsibilities grow in terms of the extent of the challenges attorneys are expected to deal with, the volume of work they should complete and also their responsibilities regarding business development (e.g. bringing in new work for the firm and/or managing existing clients). Being good at these is standard for achieving partnership level, if this is your goal, but this can mean very different things depending on which firm you ultimately end up working in. In some firms, there are levels within partnership one must work through before reaching the very top of the tree.

In private practice, one's relevance to the success of the firm is far more obvious than in industry. The amount of money you bring in and the clients you introduce to the firm provide and show obvious benefits, and this can be very satisfying. Of course, it also carries the risk that any failures will likewise have an impact on the

Find your future employer:
www.ipcareers.co.uk/search/employers

firm and your career development.

Job Security

Private practice firms obviously need qualified people, and few industrial companies that have IP departments could get rid of them entirely. As there are not many IP professionals in the UK, it is relatively rare that you will find yourself without a job, but you may have to move around in order to find one that offers you complete job satisfaction.

Questions to Consider

Whether you go for industry or private practice, remember that IP professionals are in short supply. Be sure to ask about internal and external training opportunities, as training is going to be a big part of your life for at least the next three years. Ask to go for coffee with current trainees and quiz them. Most likely they will not tell you any negatives about the firm you are interested in, but they almost certainly will be honest about what life is like with their employer.

Salary and benefits vary widely. It is worth knowing about reward packages, but your real focus should be finding a first job in a supportive firm and getting qualified. After that, many opportunities will be open to you.

Summary

One sector is not any more valid than the other, and whether you enjoy the job is probably more to do with the people you find there rather than the type of practice.

In either sector, this niche area of law has much to offer. If you are curious about the world and enjoy learning new things, I recommend it. ●

Dr Adam Tindall worked as a mechanical engineer and then trained to become a UK and European patent attorney with Rolls Royce. He is now a Partner at Appleyard Lees, a leading firm of European patent and trade mark attorneys.

IN-HOUSE PATENT DEPARTMENTS

Are you now interested in what working for a corporate (or 'in-house') patent department involves? **Ben Charig, a European Patent Attorney at Ocado**, has shared his experiences of moving to an in-house team to help you decide whether this type of work might be the right fit for your skills and interests.

I trained in private practice and moved to an in-house department nine months ago. Life in house is, so far, both similar to and different from life in private practice.

What's similar about in-house?

For my particular in-house role, the main objectives are to draft and file patent applications and to prosecute them to grant. I am responsible for educating my clients (who are now my colleagues rather than people from other companies) about the patent system. In particular, Ocado is relatively new to the patenting process, and the inventors I work with are interested in how their inventions can benefit the company. I answer my clients' IP questions and attend to the deadlines associated with their cases. I advise my clients about freedom to operate and infringement risk in view of competitors' patents. In due course, I will provide opinions about whether other companies infringe the patents that I have drafted and prosecuted.

What's different about in-house?

As an in-house attorney I interact more closely with my colleagues than I did in private practice. This is true of my dealings with

I get a deeper understanding of the motivations behind and advantages of the invention, which can help create a more robust and persuasive patent application.

my attorney colleagues, with whom I work collaboratively on lots of matters, and of my dealings with my inventor colleagues. I tend to get involved at an earlier stage in the inventing process than I did in private practice. This can be more rewarding and ultimately fruitful than being given an invention disclosure and left to draft a patent application in isolation – I get a deeper understanding of the motivations behind and advantages of the invention, which can help create a more robust and persuasive patent application. It can, however, extend the drafting process.

Although some in-house departments have a narrow range of technologies to focus on, we benefit from the fact that Ocado operates in

many technology areas, including mechanics, electronics and software, meaning that our patent portfolio is broad and varied. I enjoy discussing different technologies with the many interesting people who work at Ocado.

Because our department is relatively small, I also get involved in other activities, like helping look after the trade mark and design portfolios, administering some of the formal infrastructure that supports our work (such as deposit accounts at the different IP offices we file at, databases that record our cases, etc), and considering IP aspects of commercial agreements. I like a greater breadth of work, so am pleased about this opportunity. It has helped me understand better what IP actually means for a company.

Find more expert advice:
www.ipcareers.co.uk/career-advice

Not every in-house patent department or role is the same, of course, just as not every private practice firm or role is the same. In some in-house departments, the in-house attorneys manage rather than create IP portfolios: they decide which inventions to pursue patent protection for and in which territories. They then negotiate licences for the technologies protected by their families of patents, and make other commercial decisions, while the drafting and prosecution work is outsourced to private practice attorneys who make proposals for the managing in-house attorneys to accept or reject. ●



THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Securing a training place as a patent attorney is not easy. The profession remains one of the smallest in the UK, yet awareness of this niche career sector is growing, inevitably leading to competition. Your chances will be increased if you have the unusual blend of skills necessary and invest time and effort in the application process. Here, Polly Shaw, Head of HR at Dehns, offers her advice on how to complete successful IP applications.

Where and how to apply

Many private practice patent firms (such as where I work) operate annual recruitment cycles with a scheduled bulk intake of trainees. Usually these firms will still accept speculative applications throughout the year as well, but it is best to check IP Careers' website, as well as individual firm's websites, for the latest trainee patent attorney vacancies.

Most firms will now ask you to apply via a bespoke online application process, and some may also ask for submissions of written descriptive work. You may be tempted to fire off as many of these applications to as many varied firms as possible. However, you will generally need to research each firm to make sure that your approach is correctly tailored to their practice, the type of work they take on and their clients – exhausting! Better to therefore think about what you want from a firm before committing metaphorical pen to paper, as it is always quality, not quantity, that matters most when submitting applications. In this respect, firms will usually try and help you out a bit on their websites by describing some typical aspects of working life there.

Think about key questions that matter to you and whether each firm applied to will cater to your needs and interests. For example, what kind of firm size and culture appeals? Do you want to experience different offices throughout your training on a rotation system, or stay in one place? What kind of clients do you want to work with? Is it important to you that you work with a range of partners and clients?

Details matter! You are applying to join those who excel at language and attention to detail – never underestimate how much your use of spelling and grammar will affect your first impression.

CV and cover letters

Writing a cover letter or explaining why you are applying to a particular firm? Think very carefully about this. We don't ask for the sake of it. We want to know we are investing valuable recruitment time in people who have researched what we do, how we do it, and why this might suit both parties. Equally, make sure you are not just repeating a firm's own recruitment brochure back to them as part of this. We paid someone to write that - we know what it says.

Don't be afraid if you don't know an answer, but try to offer a logical alternative to show how you have still engaged with the question.

It can be hard to portray oneself as unique on paper without sounding a little 'out there'. This is a recruitment jungle where it can seem all about the academics, but don't be fooled. It's true that you need to be super capable – we are looking for people that excel at science, can put together logical and articulate prose, grapple with the pace of change and invention, formulate coherent and future-proof arguments, as well as get along with clients to build and retain business.

It can be an impossible task to find someone who ticks all these boxes. Firms know this and are not expecting the finished article to land on their doorstep. It is about promise and potential. Have a think about the areas of your experience that you can point to which back up your application. Have you won prizes? Published research? Previously involved

yourself in presenting? A common pitfall in this career is relying on the science side to get you through – many can struggle applying this in a practical sense to logical and persuasive writing and client relationship building, so consider what makes you ideally suited in principle all-round.

Recruitment tests

You may find that firms have some automated assessment tests as part of their selection process, usually to try and understand your use of language and attention to detail. Such assessments will usually be under timed submission conditions, and it is important to remain calm and finish the tests. The software will often give you the chance to have a practice go; so take up this opportunity.

You may be asked to submit a description of a particular object in order for your powers of analysis and explanation to be assessed. You are not expected to know everything, but what matters is how you approach describing your object, and the language you use to do so. It is important to be as precise, logical, and clear as possible. Keep in mind the difference between defining and describing an object and you will be on the right track.

The Interview

Interviewing style differs from firm to firm. Some will focus on technical questions. Others will ask more about what you know about the

profession and why you want to be a part of it and their firm in particular, so remember to mention why you are interested in that firm above others.

Don't be afraid if you don't know an answer, but try and offer a logical alternative to show how you have still engaged with the question and given it consideration. Make sure YOU have some questions for the interviewer, too. For example, ask them what has kept them at their current firm or what it is like to work there and what the current training culture is like.

Find cover letter writing tips:
www.ipcareers.co.uk/career-advice

If at first you don't succeed...

Patent firms often don't have the same trainee intake as some other professions so don't be disheartened if it is not an immediate success and if it what you really want. Ask for feedback and keep trying. ●

Polly Shaw is Head of HR at Dehns. Responsible for promoting graduate recruitment, she previously worked in HR roles with commercial law firms after studying history and law.



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VOLUNTARY VACATION SCHEME

BOULT WADE TENNANT LLP

HANNAH VICTORIA CRAMP



UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM
LLB LAW WITH SOUTHEAST
ASIAN LAW
BOULT WADE TENNANT LLP
VOLUNTARY VACATION SCHEME

“I wanted to see whether I would enjoy this area of work and whether I could see myself pursuing a career in this industry.”

Introduction

I came across the Boulton Wade Tennant LLP Vacation Scheme while in my final year of university. I started the week not knowing what to expect, but left knowing that I wanted to work in IP. The exposure to big clients and real-life cases was very impressive and convinced me that this type of work was definitely for me.

I started the week not knowing what to expect, but left knowing that I wanted to work in IP.

Why did you choose to do an internship?

I wanted to get an insight into what it's really like to work in IP. I took an Intellectual Property Law and Copyright module as part of my undergraduate degree, and I wanted to see where that could take me in practice and what the day-to-day life of a trade mark attorney is like. I was also interested to see what kinds of skills and attributes were important in this role and whether these matched my own. Mainly, I wanted to see whether I would enjoy this area of work and whether I could see myself pursuing a career in this industry.

How did it tie in with your overall career plans?

I knew that I wanted to use my degree in a law-based career, so the Vacation Scheme was an excellent opportunity to explore that route.

What was the application process like – any advice?

Applicants were required to submit a cover letter describing why they wanted to join the Vacation Scheme, and what makes a good patent/trade mark attorney. My advice would be to answer any application questions as honestly as you can, rather than trying to find the 'right' answer! Most firms will want to see something unique in your application that makes you stand out, so try to make it personal to you and focus on what you hope to gain from participating in an internship.

It is always a good idea to make a list of your skills and tailor your application towards those. Think about how you can use your strengths practically on the scheme, and how your personal skills would make you a good candidate. I found it useful to research what specific attributes were required for the internship, because then you can draw on your own experiences to show that you meet the criteria – perhaps an academic achievement, or a skill you have used in another job or at university.

What attracted you to your role?

The opportunity to work in an area which I really enjoyed studying. I love the theory behind trade mark law, so the idea of being able to put that into practice, and contribute to the registration of the brands and trade marks that consumers see every day, really appealed to me. I also liked the challenging nature of the role – I knew I wanted to be involved in a placement where I'd be encouraged to 'think on my feet' and apply my knowledge to complex scenarios.

What were your main duties?

The Vacation Scheme was very hands-on from the first day. We dealt with real cases and were asked to work in groups to come up with solutions to various problems. Usually we had to give oral presentations on our findings, and what I enjoyed the most was the chance to work across different teams and present on a range of trade mark matters. The types of challenges we were set would vary between contentious opposition work, to helping with the drafting of new trade mark specifications. Sometimes we would also be asked to provide written work. This was more challenging, because we would be given a case brief and a time limit, so you have to be able to work well under pressure.

We were also involved in talks, workshops and mock hearings which were really interesting, and very different from the theory-based lectures I had at university.

What were the most important things you learnt from your internship?

Communication is key. You have to be a very good communicator, both written and verbal, as you will likely be asked to contribute in these ways throughout any internship.

Attention to detail is also very important – you will be working alongside professionals whose job it is to analyse everything!

Do you have any advice for someone seeking an internship?

Even if you are unsure, definitely apply! Internships are an invaluable experience, especially if you are an undergraduate. You can learn so much by being surrounded by experts, and at Boulton Wade Tennant LLP everybody was always happy to answer any questions I had. Internships are great for this – whether you have specific questions about points of law or IP, or about the field more generally, you will come away from an internship/ vacation scheme with a better understanding.

What skills did you acquire or improve during your internship?

My communication skills definitely improved over the Vacation Scheme, and my confidence in speaking and presenting ideas publicly. I also learnt how to think more creatively; often there isn't an obvious answer to a problem and so you have to explore different options and utilise all of your resources.

It goes without saying, but I learnt a lot about the work that goes in to registering and maintaining a trade mark. The legal and practical knowledge I gained from the scheme put me in good stead when it came to being interviewed for a permanent position. ●

For latest IP internships:
www.ipcareers.co.uk/jobs

INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

CARPMAELS & RANSFORD

CLARISSA LUXTON



UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
MChem CHEMISTRY
CARPMAELS & RANSFORD
INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

“...Ask lots of questions – it’s the best way to find out about what the job is really like!”

Why did you choose to do an internship?

I applied for the intern programme at Carpmaels & Ransford because I was keen to gain further experience of the day to day work of a patent attorney. When considering the profession, it can be difficult to find out what the job really entails unless you can gain some hands-on experience. I found the internship invaluable as it gave an insight into the training and development as well as exposure to the daily activities of a trainee. It offered me the opportunity to confirm my choice to join the profession and find out what life at Carpmaels was really like.

How did it tie in with your overall career plans?

Whilst I enjoyed practical work at university, I knew a career in research wasn’t the path for me. I wanted a career in which I could seek intellectual stimulation without being confined to a lab environment and the role of a patent attorney does just that. The work is challenging and varied; it combines cutting-edge science with law to work towards an outcome that is commercially important to the client.

The internship experience enabled me to get a real idea of the work-flow on a typical day. It allowed me to build on my technical ability and background knowledge of science by developing my understanding of intellectual property law in support of my application for a graduate position.

What was the application process for the internship like – any advice?

Shortly after I submitted my CV and a covering letter explaining how I felt I would benefit from the internship, I was invited for a Skype interview. During the interview, I discussed topics I had found particularly interesting during my chemistry degree and my plans for my Master’s research project.

The interview was more informal than I had anticipated, so my main advice would be to relax. The partners aren’t trying to catch you out, they just want to see a genuine interest in the profession, so use it as an opportunity to ask any questions you might have about the internship and the activities you would be involved in. I would also suggest familiarising yourself with recent patent law news and keeping up to date with any scientific breakthroughs.

What were your main duties?

The two week internship at Carpmaels involved introductory training, tutorials, work shadowing and group case study work. Working on the case study allowed me to meet with many different departments and members of the firm and to get a real insight into the process of amending claims and interacting with clients. I also found it interesting to find out more about the litigation side of the role, which remains a particular area of interest for me.

There was also the opportunity to get involved with other tasks, such as listening to a webinar presentation. I especially enjoyed sitting in on a conference call because it allowed me to experience how the firm handles client cases first-hand.

I thoroughly enjoyed working in both the Chemistry and Life Sciences Pharmaceutical practice groups, looking after families of existing patents, informing clients of new developments and addressing any client queries. I also undertook research for a partner to support opposition cases and monitor for infringements of client patents.

Finally, I was given the chance to present my ideas to a room full of experienced patent attorneys. Whilst this was undeniably daunting, it was highly worthwhile and rewarding.

What were the most important things you learnt from the internship?

I had an absolutely brilliant two weeks on the intern programme. Being able to meet with people at various stages of their career, from technical assistants to partners, enabled me to get a real feel for the culture of the firm and served to further my ambition to pursue a successful career in this field.

The internship gave me the opportunity to gain a greater understanding of how a patent portfolio is managed, particularly in learning about the assessment process to determine patent eligibility, the drafting of patent

I found the internship invaluable as it gave an insight into the training and development as well as exposure to the daily activities of a trainee.

applications and the process of monitoring for potential infringements of patent rights.

Do you have any advice for someone seeking an internship?

Do your research to find out as much as you can about the firm you are applying to. Different firms have different areas of technical expertise so it is important to find the firm that best matches your interests and skill set. Also, ask lots of questions – it’s the best way to find out about what the job is really like! Through interviews, open days and internships you get the chance to talk to people at all different stages of qualification – make the most of this! I found it particularly helpful talking to recent trainees who knew the application process well and were able to give first hand experiences. ●

For latest IP internships:
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INTERNSHIP D YOUNG & CO

DR SAM KEYES



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON
MENG MECHANICAL ENGINEERING,
PHD BIO-ENGINEERING
D YOUNG & CO LLP
EASTER INTERNSHIP

“ I hoped the internship would reveal whether the role of patent attorney was a good fit to my skills and temperament . ”

Why did you choose to do an internship?

I became aware of the patent profession while working in postdoctoral research and teaching. I'd been led into academia by a fascination with cutting edge technology and the satisfaction of explaining complex things in a simple way.

...The profession is full of rewarding opportunities for people who love technology and thrive on the challenge of making a good argument!

A friend in the patent profession suggested the role of a patent attorney might scratch the same itches. My excitement with academic research had cooled as the day-to-day interaction with science dropped off, and I was starting to consider other options. The patent profession seemed to offer the opportunity to stay at the forefront of technology and really stretch myself on a daily basis. It also seemed that even at the highest level, attorneys never had to 'graduate' from that daily exposure to the interesting stuff. I knew if these impressions were right then I wanted in, but I also knew I needed to see it with my own eyes. The internship at D Young & Co offered the perfect chance to test the water.

How did it tie in with your overall career plans?

Although I was considering a career change, making the jump felt quite daunting as I was already settled professionally and geographically. Without the chance to see first hand what a career in intellectual property law involves, I wouldn't have had the conviction to make the jump. I hoped the internship would reveal whether the role of patent attorney was a good fit to my skills and temperament. D Young & Co has a large office in my city, and the internship was short enough to fit into a few days holiday, so it seemed a low risk way to answer my outstanding questions before making any life-changing decisions.

What was the application process like - any advice?

Applying was very straightforward. I submitted a CV and covering letter, and was later called for a fifteen-minute phone interview. What seemed to be most important on the phone was to show a genuine interest in the profession, with evidence I'd researched both the day-to-day role of an attorney and the details of the qualification process. Because internships are quite unusual, the Easter Internship at D Young & Co is very popular, and the firm rightly wants to prioritise applicants who stand to gain the most benefit from the experience. Only apply if you're seriously considering the profession, and if so, make sure that comes across in writing and on the phone!

What were your main duties?

The internship is short, but it's carefully structured to put interns through their paces across a number of activities. Most activities took place in a group setting with the other twelve or so interns, and included technical discussions, claim drafting exercises, and an oral advocacy exercise designed to simulate the cut and thrust of opposition proceedings at the European Patent Office. Most of these sessions were led by partners, who gave helpful feedback on our efforts. Between these windows into the role of an attorney and the necessary skills needed to thrive, we had a trip out to enjoy a fun activity together as a group. Lunch and dinner each day provided plenty of time to mingle in different settings with people at all levels of the firm, from new trainees to senior partners.

The internship is short, but it's carefully structured to put interns through their paces

What were the most important things you learnt from the internship?

It didn't take much time to realise the profession is full of rewarding opportunities for people who love technology and thrive on the challenge of making a good argument! After three days, the activities are likely to have either strengthened a hunch the profession is right for you, or made you want to run a mile. Either outcome is an invaluable insight for somebody weighing up their career options. Another key takeaway is the access the internship provides

to people. It's rare to be able to try the ethos of an employer on for size before applying for a job. Because the process of training as a patent attorney is a long one, choosing the right firm feels particularly important. One outstanding aspect of the internship at D Young & Co is the access it provides to people, enabling you to get an honest picture of both the profession and the atmosphere of life in the firm. No question is off limits; people want to be honest about what training and practicing as a patent attorney is really like. Personally, these interactions were the most impactful part of the whole experience. I finished the three days realising not only that I was ready to make the career jump, but that the culture of D Young & Co was where I wanted to land.

Read more Intern profiles online:
www.ipcareers.co.uk/career-advice

Do you have any advice for someone seeking an internship?

If you've heard about the patent profession and seriously think it might be a good fit, the internship is probably the best opportunity there is to take the next step. Whether you're an undergraduate, or, like me, are at a slightly later stage in your career, the experience will reward you. Whatever the three days leads to, you will have been stretched, informed, and hopefully had a lot of fun. The internship is only three days long, but if you go into it full of questions and ready to engage and make the most of it, then by the end it's likely you'll have answered the question: do I want to be a patent attorney? ●

TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

GLAXOSMITHKLINE

ASHLEY BROOM



BRISTOL UWE (BSC);
IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON
(PHD)
BIOCHEMISTRY
BRENTFORD

“The profession offers STEM graduates the chance to develop a new legal skill set and provides a varied and intellectually-stimulating workload.”

I took a very ‘non-standard’ route into the profession and, along the way, learnt that persistence pays off in the end.

Despite having a PhD and years of experience in an industrial setting, I found that my CV often ended up at the top of the reject pile at many private practice firms. This might have been because my early education (i.e. A-Levels and the like) wasn’t proving stellar enough for a profession where consistently high academic achievement can be a prerequisite.

Remember to ask what support they provide for their trainees because the learning curve can be steep, especially when you first join.

As frustrating as I found this, I also totally understood. The profession is small and super competitive. Firms need ways to whittle down the enormous list of high-quality applications which they receive each year. I just found myself needing to be a bit creative to bolster my CV. So...

- I read everything I could about being a patent attorney, including this very guide!
- I was fortunate enough to get a place on

the excellent Work Placement Programme at Appleyard Lees and, to this day, remain very grateful to them for that opportunity (other such placement schemes exist and are well worth exploring).

- I decided to fund myself through the PG Certificate in Intellectual Property Law at Brunel University and, in doing so, became exempt from the UK Foundation Level Examinations.
- I pestered friends of mine who were already trainees for application tips and advice for interviews.

After a while, I started to get more interviews and was absolutely thrilled to be offered my current role. Hence my lesson to anyone out there who might not have been successful on their first go is...don’t give up!

Why was I attracted to a job as a patent attorney?

I wasn’t enjoying life in the lab after my PhD. My experiments weren’t working, my motivation was low, and I found myself eager for a new challenge. When I learnt of the profession through a friend who was already a trainee, I knew straight away the job was for me. Having worked in the pharmaceutical industry, I already knew a little bit about the importance of Intellectual Property (IP) to companies who conduct research. But on the softer side of things, many of the skills which a patent attorney requires really resonated with me.

For example, I have always enjoyed learning about interesting new science. I liked looking at data, reading scientific literature and writing (I even quite enjoyed writing my PhD thesis)! I also enjoyed working with other scientists, being collaborative and problem solving. The role of a patent attorney encompasses all these aspects. You also need to be meticulous, have a strong eye for detail and be able to hit deadlines.

Being a patent attorney gives you the unique opportunity to see, and contribute to, the business/commercial goals of your client, whilst at the same time keeping abreast with developments in both the law and at the lab bench. It offers STEM graduates the chance to develop a new legal skill set and provides a varied and intellectually-stimulating workload. It’s a great job!

What was the application process like?

The initial stage of the application process involved submitting a CV and cover letter. My advice is to double and triple check your applications for any errors. Patent attorneys will spot them!

I then had three face-to-face interviews:

Firstly, I had a competency-based interview that explored why I wanted to be a patent attorney, what skills I had which would make me a good one and (completely out of left-field), how an airplane stays in the air! This question tested my ability to think logically about subject-matter out of my expertise, whilst under pressure.

Secondly, I had a technical interview where I was asked to complete some basic reading/writing exercises. I was also asked to verbally describe the key features of some simple objects. My advice with these tasks is to try and just relax and enjoy them. I also recommend you keep your descriptions succinct i.e. what features of the object are absolutely essential for it to function?

Finally, I met with our Head of Patents where the focus was on determining whether I’d fit into the culture of the department. This is an important consideration that employers do take into account. That said, be sure to also ask yourself the question “do I see myself fitting in here”? Remember that interviews are two-way streets. Also remember to ask what support they provide for their trainees because the learning curve can be steep, especially when you first join.

What are my main duties?

I support GSK’s Vaccines organisation and therefore spend lots of my time drafting and prosecuting patent applications relating to antigens, adjuvants, peptides, compositions and so forth.

I also spend a significant amount of time working on contentious issues, most notably preparing written submissions before the Opposition Division at the EPO. I have also recently been lucky enough to support some IP litigation, where GSK’s patents were being challenged by third parties.

Another aspect of my role (that may differ to those working in private practice) is educating the business on sound IP practices. You quickly learn that scientists love to publish, so ensuring that inventions are captured in a patent application ahead of publication is vital. In-house attorneys also have lots of agreement work to balance (e.g. confidentiality agreements, material transfer agreements etc) and it is vital to ensure that the terms in these contracts address who owns any arising IP.

Finally, like all trainees, I spend a significant amount of time preparing for examinations and participating in training courses and seminars. No sugar coating here - revision is demanding and the exams are hard. That said, it won’t last forever and there is lots of support available from attorneys who have been there, done that and got the t-shirt! ●

TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

HGF LIMITED

SAEED GHOLHAKI



UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM
M.SCI PHYSICS &
PHD NANOTECHNOLOGY
BIRMINGHAM

“I immediately realised that working as a patent attorney ticks all the boxes for me.”

Why did you choose a job in this profession?

I started considering my career options in the final year of my PhD. I knew that I did not want to stay in academia because the idea of working in a specific narrow field for the rest of my career did not appeal to me. On the one hand, I wanted a job involving science, about which I have always been very passionate and, on the other hand, I wanted a career that I knew would stretch me and provide a completely new avenue of endeavour.

Good written and oral communication skills are the most important as efficient and clear communication is crucial.

I was first introduced to the profession through a careers talk organised by the university. I immediately realised that working as a patent attorney ticks all the boxes for me. It involves a great deal of science and cutting-edge technology whilst, at the same time, it involves law which was new and attractive to me. In simple terms, the profession is the interface between science and law.

I was excited by the idea of being exposed to a large variety of subject matter. That was exactly what I was looking for.

What are your main duties?

Broadly speaking, the role of a patent attorney includes meeting with clients and advising them about their intellectual property rights (patents, trade marks, designs, copyright). Maximising the exploitation of those IP rights allows the rights holder to gain competitive advantage and to make more money than they would have done.

My work is mainly focused on the preparation of patent applications and with the process of getting the patent granted (which we call 'prosecution'). The prosecution involves receiving search and examination reports from an Examiner, who assesses the patent-ability of an invention, reviewing the Examiner's arguments and objections, advising the client on how to overcome the Examiner's objections whilst also obtaining maximum protection and finally preparing and sending a response to the Patent Office.

I have particularly enjoyed learning about clients' inventions and the commercial background in which they sit and then preparing the patent application. Preparation of a patent application includes drafting a detailed

description of the invention in precise terms and a set of claims which determine the scope of protection conferred by a patent.

I work on cases from the entire range of client businesses (from SMEs to multinational clients) in a broad range of scientific and technical fields. In one hour, I may be reviewing documents about a sophisticated telecommunication technology and in the next hour, I may be working on a case about improving the efficiency of a car. The job involves constant learning and analysis of new scientific and technology.

What skills are useful in this profession?

Good written and oral communication skills are the most important as efficient and clear communication is crucial for every task and duty of a patent attorney. This is important whether getting instruction from a client for a new invention, drafting a patent or constructing coherent and clear arguments against an Examiner's objections.

Time management skills also come high on the list as managing your time efficiently to minimise costs for the client and being able to prioritise well variety of tasks to meet deadlines is challenging.

It is also important to have a good understanding of scientific and technological principles in order to identify inventions within your field of expertise and to allow you to assess the novelty and inventiveness of the invention over the current state of the industry.

Meticulous attention to details is also a key skill because the smallest detail and difference can have huge implications in defending and negotiating a patent application or a potential infringement.

Is it a 9-5 job?

As a trainee you are generally not expected to work outside 9 to 5. However, to become a qualified UK and European patent attorney you must take several exams both at the UK and European level. The knowledge and the skills needed to pass these qualifying exams require a great deal of preparation and revision of both patent law and day-to-day attorney skills which are very likely to take significant time to master. Therefore, working outside of working hours will be needed. However, one of the great advantages of working in a large firm like HGF is having access to a lot of training material and training support within the firm. HGF also have an additional allocated training budget for each trainee that can be used to take external training courses.

Do you have any advice for anyone wanting to get into the industry?

The job market for trainee patent attorneys is highly competitive and one might expect to receive one or more rejections before being offered a job, so my first advice is to be persistent.

Secondly, having a good understanding of the role of a patent attorney and the profession as a whole is crucial in making a strong application and subsequently greatly increasing the chances of advancing through the stages of an application process. I personally found talking to trainees or firm representatives at careers events highly useful. ●

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ASSOCIATE PATENT EXAMINER INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE

DR LAURA DIXON



UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD
MBIOLSCI & PHD
MOLECULAR BIOLOGY
NEWPORT, SOUTH WALES

“My job allows me to see the latest advances in my field before they are published, and I find this incredibly fascinating.”

I have been working as a patent examiner at the IPO since September 2017 within the Biotechnology and Pharmaceuticals examination group. Before joining the IPO I undertook a PhD looking at gene regulation in the bacteria that causes tuberculosis.

Examiners work within an examining group that reflects their technical background, primarily on patent applications within their technical field.

Why did you choose a job in this profession?

I enjoyed my time doing research during my PhD, but I felt I was getting more and more specialised in a specific area. I wanted a job that would allow me to work across the entire life sciences and biotechnology field and allow me to keep abreast the latest advances. I became increasingly interested in the field of intellectual property during my academic careers and found out more about the field by attending events such as the Biotechnology Young Entrepreneur Scheme business competition and doing an internship in the Research Innovation Services department of my university. My job allows me to see the latest advances in my field before they are published, and I find this

incredibly fascinating. IP is a major driving force behind innovation and I am proud to be a part of the profession.

How did you get your job at the Intellectual property office? What was the application process like - any advice?

I applied through Civil Service Jobs. I filled in five competency-based questions alongside a template outlining my academic and professional background. The application process has changed slightly this year and now candidates are required to provide a 750 word personal statement alongside the template.

I was invited to a single interview, which consisted of some competency style questions, some technical questions and some interactive short tasks. The tasks are designed to assess your analytical skills and allow you to demonstrate your technical knowledge. There was also a short written task, which allows you to show your ability to write technical information in a clear and concise manner. After the interview I went on a tour of the office to see the facilities, found out about the benefits offered and was shown an overview of the IT systems used for examining.

The application process was different to many other jobs I have applied to because of the interactive tasks. I personally found it enjoyable because it was less about talking about

examples of when you have shown a skill and more about demonstrating the skill.

What are your main duties?

I am an associate patent examiner, which means I am responsible for searching and examining patent applications. Examiners work within an examining group that reflects their technical background, primarily on patent applications within their technical field. However, when training we will often work on some simpler mechanical cases in order to get to grips with the legal aspects before working on applications from highly technical background. This is important for learning and training.

There are two main elements to the role:

Searching:

- The purpose of this search is to identify any relevant documents that were publicly available before the patent was filed.
- We have access to secure databases that allow us to search previously published patents or journal articles without worrying about disclosing the invention.
- We identify documents that either disclose the invention, render it obvious or are the closest technical background we could find.
- A report is produced for the applicant outlining the results of the search.

Examining:

- Assess the application to determine if it complies with The Patents Act 1977
- Often involves writing up the documents identified during the search stage in more detail as evidence that an invention is not new.
- We also assess other areas of the law, such as sufficiency, support, clarity and if the subject in the application is excluded from patentability.
- We will write up an examination report to send to the applicant which outlines the outstanding objections.
- Assessing if amendments overcome – if so, we grant the patent and if not we

issue a further examination report.

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Do I need a legal background to join? What happens when you first start as an examiner?

No – you need a degree (2.2 or above) in a STEM subject or equivalent technical experience. When I joined the office I went on a two month full-time training program with the other new examiners, comprised of lectures, tutorials and coursework. This was delivered by senior patent examiners. The course covered the basics of UK patent law and provided enough legal knowledge for me to get started on the job and real casework.

Examiners work within an examining group that reflects their technical background, primarily on patent applications within their technical field.

After the training course is complete, you will typically move to an examining group and start working on real cases. You will be assigned a revising officer (a senior examiner), who will go through your work with you and provide guidance. Your revising officer will identify any further training that may be useful for you to attend and help you to understand legal aspects that you have not previously encountered.

You will have the opportunity to attend many other further training courses throughout your career as an examiner. After 2-4 years in the office examiners are offered the opportunity to do a Diploma in Intellectual Property Law.

As well as legal training, examiners are also encouraged to attend technical training to keep up to date with advances in their technical field. This may be attending conferences, lectures or product exhibitions and may take place internally or externally. For example, this year I attended a conference about using compounds from natural sources as therapeutics/pharmaceuticals.

to those that have been promoted to Patent Examiner (C1) grade or above.

What skills are useful in this profession?

- Degree-level knowledge or equivalent experience and an ability to apply that knowledge in practical situations.
- Analytical skills for technically complex scientific and/or engineering information and an ability to reach conclusions quickly, accurately and decisively.
- Communication - both oral and written.

Do you have any advice for anyone wanting to get into the industry?

Try to get some work experience if you can, but it is not essential. The IPO is now offering summer internships in Patent Examining. Keep an eye out for vacancies. An increasing number of patent attorney companies are also offering internships or open days now. Many recruiters appreciate it is difficult to gain experience in the IP field, so I would say it is helpful but not necessary to have experience. ●

Find the latest trainee jobs:

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Is it a 9-5 job?

Yes, but only if you want it to be! Examiners are required to work 37.5 hours per week, but can work anytime between 5am and 10pm. There are home working opportunities available



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TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY MARKS AND CLERK LLP

ALINE HEYERICK



UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS
MPHIL, PHYSICS
BIRMINGHAM

“For me, the best thing about this job is the variety of the work.”

Why did you choose to go into the IP profession?

I have always had a tendency to be interested in anything and everything, and I enjoy learning about lots of different topics. During my time at university, I found myself in the classic situation of knowing what I did not want to do after my studies (research), but not necessarily knowing what I wanted to do instead... until I learnt about the patent profession. Being able to apply my scientific and technical knowledge every day, in combination with the legal and client facing aspects of the job, immediately sounded appealing to me. That instinct has proven to be right as I love this job.

Drafting applications is very interesting work as it allows you to work directly with inventors, which helps you understand their thought process.

What advice would you give someone aiming to get into the IP profession?

In addition to the obvious advice of trying to get the best result you can in your

academic subject, I would recommend you develop your writing and presenting skills, as communication lies at the very core of being a patent attorney. At university, I was elected as Postgraduate President for a year, a very challenging and varied role. Taking on these extra responsibilities gave me lots of real-life experiences that I could draw from during my interview, and taught me invaluable leadership and time management skills that I have found useful in my career.

What was the application process like?

I applied for the role after seeing a careers talk by Marks & Clerk at university. I sent in a CV and cover letter and was invited for an interview. The application process involves an assessment day (don't expect obstacle courses or being asked what kitchen utensil best represents your personality), and then a second interview, which all test your technical, written and communication skills. When I applied for a position I was living in Scotland, and I was able to do the first interview via video conference from the Edinburgh office. I later traveled down to Cambridge and Birmingham for interviews with the Partners, where I was also able to meet other trainees.

What are your main duties within your role?

The main part of my day involves assisting qualified attorneys with their work. I get a wide

variety of work, and at the moment a lot of my time is spent drafting patent applications for electronics and software inventions. Drafting applications is very interesting work as it allows you to work directly with inventors, which helps you understand their thought process and really understand how the invention works.

I would recommend you develop your writing and presenting skills, as communication lies at the very core of being a patent attorney.

What opportunities for development are there at Marks & Clerk?

From your very first day, the training academy gives you the academic support and knowledge to pass your exams. Perhaps even more importantly, it provides trainees with a support network of fellow trainees around the different offices that will last throughout your career. Day-to-day, you receive training from highly experienced attorneys, and specifically

from your allocated mentor. There is also the opportunity to join specialist subject groups, which helps develop specialist technical knowledge, and allows you to travel around the different offices. Further professional training is also provided to help you develop non-technical business skills such as networking, communication, and personal effectiveness.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

For me, the best thing about this job is the variety of the work. Between talking to clients, inventors, and foreign attorneys, responding to patent offices around the globe, drafting new applications, and developing your skills as an attorney, no two days are the same. One of the great things about working at Marks & Clerk in particular is the people. We have a sociable office with a positive and supportive atmosphere, and colleagues often go out after work for food, drinks, and the occasional board games night! ●

For latest graduate IP jobs, visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk/jobs

TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

REDDIE & GROSE

JOANNE PHAM



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
MSCI NATURAL SCIENCES
(MATERIALS SCIENCE)
LONDON

“As a trainee, you aren’t expected to know how to do everything from the get-go and largely train on-the-job.”

I often get asked about how I found myself in the legal profession after graduating with a science degree. The profession is so technical that to become a qualified patent attorney, a science degree is either required, or strongly preferred. Since starting at Reddie & Grose, I have not stopped using my technical knowledge. Instead, I apply my technical knowledge in ways that may seem less traditional.

When I eventually got round to it, I researched more about the profession and applied to attend an open day offered by one of the firms. At the open day, there was strong emphasis on how if you have a curiosity for ‘how things work’, then this could be the profession for you. Realising that I enjoy watching shows from ‘How It’s Made’ to cooking shows on how to make gourmet versions of childhood snacks, it became apparent that I do have such curiosity and that this actually could be the profession for me.

How did you get your job at Reddie & Grose LLP?

I knew I wanted to work in London and for a medium to large sized firm and started applying from there. The application process at Reddie & Grose was straightforward and started off with an online application form. Thanks to that, it turns out that Reddie & Grose was the first firm that I applied to.

The HR team at Reddie & Grose were very efficient and I quickly had a first interview lined up. On the day, I had to do a technical written task prior to the first interview with one of the firm’s Partners. Before I knew it, I had a second interview arranged. The second interview was more technical and the written task I previously completed formed the basis for discussion.

The job involves a lot of reading and writing (some people would call patent attorneys professional letter writers), so be prepared.

Why did you choose a job in this sector/ profession?

I first encountered Intellectual Property through a short course offered as part of my degree. At the time, I was not yet seriously thinking about my career prospects. However, I did know that I did not want to stay in academia and becoming a patent attorney would tick that box.

This was followed by coffee with some of the firm’s current trainees. Here, the tables turned and I became the one asking questions. The coffee was informal and I found out more about the ins and outs of working at Reddie & Grose. When the offer came around, I quickly accepted.

meeting up with my supervising partner again. We would review the work I did and discuss whether any amendments need to be made.

At Reddie & Grose, alongside training on-the-job with real cases, I also have regular in-house training days. On these training days, I work on hypothetical cases and receive feedback from a partner or qualified attorney. The training days complement my work with my supervising partner well and ensure that I am exposed to a variety of the core concepts of Intellectual Property law.

The profession is deadline driven and you will need to be able to prioritise workload in this type of environment.

What are your main duties/roles?

As a trainee, you aren’t expected to know how to do everything from the get-go and largely train on-the-job. I work very closely with my supervising partner through the various steps of getting a real patent application to grant. It takes a while from drafting a patent application to getting the patent application to grant. As such, I get assigned cases at various stages in the patent application process.

With every case, I first start off spending time understanding the invention. Then, I would typically have a meeting with my supervising partner to discuss what action we need to take next. This may involve writing a letter to the client to advise them on what to do next, a letter to patent examiners responding to their objections, or a letter to foreign attorneys instructing them on what to do next. I would then go away and get on with it, before

Read more IP profiles online:
www.ipcareers.co.uk/career-advice

Do you have any advice for anyone wanting to get into the industry?

I found the open days offered by some firms very informative and you should definitely try to attend one of these. The profession is deadline driven and you will need to be able to prioritise workload in this type of environment. The job involves a lot of reading and writing (some people would call patent attorneys professional letter writers), so be prepared.

With regards to advice on the application process, the job is technical and you need to be able to break down ‘how things work’ in a way that is clear and precise. Practice doing this with everyday objects. It is very competitive to get a trainee patent attorney role, so do apply to many firms and tailor your application to that firm. Good luck! ●

PARTNER

APPLEYARD LEES

'I bought a suit, printed out copies of my CV and walked around Leeds visiting patent firms in the city without an appointment' - Bobby Smithson talks us through how determination and tenacity eventually led to a Partnership at Appleyard Lees.

BOBBY SMITHSON



2009

Joined the partnership of Appleyard Lees

2006

Qualified as both a UK and European Patent Attorney

2004

Obtained distinction in Post Graduate Certificate in IP from Manchester University

2002

Joined Appleyard Lees as a trainee patent attorney

2002

Graduated from University of Leeds with a first class degree in Chemistry

I wanted to be a solicitor from a young age. I didn't have a good reason – I was only about 12. I think it was because they were slightly revered and also they were the person that you called when you needed help. I wanted to be that guy.

During secondary school and especially into my A levels I showed a keen interest in Chemistry. That interest, combined with a brilliant A level chemistry teacher, led to a desire to find a job in which chemistry and the law were combined. In 1996 as a 17 year old A-level student, I wrote to BP in Hull to ask if I could do some work experience in their patents department in the summer holidays. They graciously wrote back and said that they only offer that kind of thing to people with a good degree in chemistry or chemical engineering. So I decided that was what I would do. In 2002 I graduated from Leeds University with a first in chemistry.

Getting a job

Getting a job as a patent attorney in 2002 was hard. There were lots more good graduates than there were trainee positions. Today, I am afraid to say, it is possibly even harder. I applied to over 50 firms and I got about 10 letters back, all rejections. The other 40 didn't bother to respond at all. Faced with this, I tried to take matters into my own hands. I bought a suit, printed out copies of my CV and walked around Leeds visiting patent firms in the city without an appointment. It is surprising how willing people are to talk to you when you make the effort to put yourself in front of them. Although this strategy didn't immediately lead to a job, it did allow me to speak to a number of patent attorneys and trainees to get an insight into the profession. One firm even took me to the pub with them. A few months and a many more rejections later, I had a call from Appleyard Lees – one of the firms in Leeds that I had visited. It seems that my CV along with an account of my eagerness had made it on the chemical partners desk and a trainee vacancy had arisen.

To get into the profession, academic prowess is probably not going to be your distinguishing factor. The academic achievements of the CVs I see is staggering, often with a first in their undergraduate degree, a PhD and post doctoral

experience. However, one thing I have seen again and again through my years in the profession is that the people who really want a job, really stand out. Those who are willing to go the extra mile. Those who take it upon themselves to do IP courses. Those who turn up at patent events. These candidates more often than not will find a way into the profession. You need, above all, to be tenacious.

Qualification

Qualifying as a patent attorney is difficult and takes a long time. The tenacity you will have shown to get into the profession will set you in good stead! One thing I would say is that all patent attorneys have been through it, which shows that it is, at least, possible. Most firms will offer various support such as external training, internal tutorials, study days etc., but ultimately it is down to you to put the time and effort in.

In my experience, although the study was long and difficult, it gave context to the work that I was doing every day in the office. This (sort of) made it enjoyable, but it certainly made me realise why I was doing it. I qualified as a UK and European patent attorney in 2006, four years almost to the day after starting in the profession.

Although the study was long and difficult, it gave context to the work that I was doing every day in the office.

Doing the job

Being a patent attorney is a very varied job, but the type of work you do is directed by your clients and their requirements. I do a lot of opposition and appeal work at the EPO, so I am regularly at hearings in The Hague or Munich – that is the nature of my clients'

businesses. Some attorneys do very little of this work, because their clients do not get involved in these types of matters. Some clients mostly require advice and guidance on other people's IP, whereas some clients mostly require you to draft and file patents on their IP. Some clients may be qualified patent attorneys themselves (perhaps in other jurisdictions) and give you very clear instructions, some will require much more input to help them understand the issues.

Being a patent attorney is a very varied job, but the type of work you do is directed by your clients and their requirements.

Partnership

In 2009, at 29, I was invited to join the Partnership of Appleyard Lees. This was what I had been working toward since I started in the profession, although if I am honest, I was not sure what it entailed. In partnership, you occupy a strange role that is both worker and business owner. Sort of like being a player manager, if you'll excuse the football analogy. As an example, as well as client work, I am in charge of the Japanese practice of Appleyard Lees. This involves monitoring all of the work that we do with Japan and keeping good relationships with our Japanese associates. In view of this I visit Japan at least once a year – just because it's hard work, doesn't mean that you can't also enjoy it. ●

For more about the IP profession:
www.ipcareers.co.uk/career-advice

PARTNER

BECK GREENER LLP

'Joining the partnership has kept the job interesting. I see it as a bonus that some years in, just as I was getting the hang of the day job, I needed to start learning how to run a law firm' - Anna Hatt talks us through her career, from completing her Masters degree to becoming Partner at Beck Greener LLP ("Beck Greener").



Why did you choose a career in the industry?

My mother said while I was still at school that I should become a patent attorney. I didn't listen: I had a future in scientific research in mind. However, in my masters year at university, and with a little practical experience of the highs and lows of lab work, I heard a patent attorney speak at the careers service. I realised Mum had been right all along.

I liked the idea of seeing the results of successful research, without working through the less successful bits. I was also interested in writing, languages and solving puzzles. Suddenly I was very enthusiastic about a career which combined these areas.

Even better, I was told that the patent attorney culture was friendly and did not involve long hours compared with other branches of the law. I liked the idea of being paid while I studied for post-graduate qualifications (and that was before tuition fees – of course it is even more important for people entering the profession now). I hoped that the profession would fit well with having children in due course. That has been the case: I now have three children and work part-time.

I am very happy that I chose to become a patent attorney. Other patent attorneys generally seem to feel the same way.

What is a 'typical' day like for you?

A typical day at the office for me would be dull to watch. I move green and orange files from one heap to another, while reading, typing, speaking on the telephone and talking to colleagues.

From the inside, however, it is varied and exciting. First I might be reporting that we have successfully revoked a competitor's patent so that the client can launch its new food carton design. Next perhaps I might turn to drafting a patent application for a fish feed. Then I could be arguing with a Patent Office somewhere round the world that my client's blood glucose sensor will offer a better alternative for people with diabetes.

Since joining the partnership in 2011, my job also involves management responsibilities. There are often formal or informal lunchtime meetings with other partners. If there are no meetings, I have lunch with colleagues (which usually also involves crossword solving) or take part in a firm-wide knitting group that meets every fortnight.

Other tasks to do in the office or at home in the evenings are reviewing court decisions on patent cases to write case reports for the Chartered Institute journal, and writing for the Chartered Institute textbook.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I love the fact that by definition our job always involves dealing with something new – if it's not a new idea, you can't patent it.

I also enjoy the job's international nature, and the chance to interact with clients, attorneys and Patent Office staff from a wide variety of countries.

Joining the partnership has kept the job interesting. I see it as a bonus that some years in, just as I was getting the hang of the day job, I needed to start learning how to run a law firm.

I love the fact that by definition our job always involves dealing with something new - if it's not a new idea, you can't patent it.

On a day-to-day basis I most enjoy the red-letter days, with trips to visit clients or to the European Patent Office. It is a real thrill to see a product you have worked on being made on a factory scale. EPO hearings involve a day of argument with a lot of thinking on one's

feet, and very clear feedback in the form of an immediate decision on who has won.

What would you like to achieve in the future?

I would like to continue to get better at the job. 19 years in, I still feel that there is a lot more to learn. I enjoy discussing interesting or tricky points of law with more senior colleagues and look forward to more of this in the future. I would also like to continue increasing my role in training trainees.

For latest graduate IP jobs, visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk/jobs

Do you have any advice for anyone wanting to get into the industry?

You have made a good start by consulting the IP Careers guide! It can be difficult to get a trainee position and it is worth applying to lots of firms. If possible, visit a firm before you start applying.

Think carefully about your covering letter. Our work involves clear communication and we are looking to see whether this is a strength of yours. A short, well-written letter is usually better than a long one.

Interviews will typically involve a discussion of how a mechanical object works. This comes more naturally to some candidates than others, and can be difficult for chemists and biochemists. If phrases like "rack and pinion" are outside your comfort zone, it is worth reading a basic mechanical textbook such as "The New Way Things Work" by David Macaulay. If you find such a book hard to put down, that is a good sign.

Good luck! ●

PARTNER

J A KEMP

Jimmy Nicholls has been with patent attorney firm J A Kemp since 2006. He has worked in the firm's London and Oxford offices and became a partner in 2016. He is now based in the Paris office. He joined the firm as a trainee patent attorney after completing a PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.



Why did you choose a career as a patent attorney?

I wanted to pursue a career in science after completing my PhD, but was ready to move away from the bench. I was interested in a role where I could continue to evaluate implications of results from scientific research, but apply them in a more commercial environment.

I learnt about the patent profession from a university friend who had qualified as a patent attorney. I was attracted by the mixture of scientific, legal and linguistic skills involved in the job. I was also attracted by the main entry requirement to the profession being a scientific qualification, such that I did not need to completely re-train as a lawyer. Instead, the specific legal knowledge needed to practise as a patent attorney would be learnt gradually while in the job, with a series of examinations to obtain the necessary qualifications being taken at various stages.

What do you enjoy most about the job?

The range of different types of work involved. We work for a variety of technology-based organisations, from universities to start-ups to large life sciences companies. Each type of organisation has different needs for patent protection – from securing investment/assisting commercialisation for universities and start-ups, to providing a valuable monopoly right around commercially important technologies for established life sciences companies. The work we do ranges from drafting/filing of a first ever patent application for a new start-up to defending a key patent protecting a commercial product against challenges by third parties.

I enjoy the satisfaction of seeing work I have carried out for a client achieve tangible results for their business. The quality of drafting of a patent could impact on whether a key investment needed to grow a business is made or not. Succeeding in defending a key patent could prevent competitors from developing similar products and help a client maintain a leading market position. One of the most important projects I have worked on related to defending patents being enforced against competitors in national courts – if we had not been successful in defending the patents, the client would not have been able to prevent competitors from using their technology. Defending

or opposing a patent involves oral hearings in which you act as an advocate putting forward arguments for your client, and responding to counter-arguments from attorneys on the other side, to try to persuade the tribunal of your position. The proceedings can be very complex, challenging and unpredictable and require quick thinking on the day!

I enjoy the continual exposure to new technologies and research findings. Another interesting aspect of the job is the international reach of the patent system – we work for overseas clients and also with attorneys in other countries, to obtain patents in a range of countries all around the world. Recently, I have also had the opportunity to work in our new European office in Paris and to help develop our business further in France and continental Europe, using both English and French in my work.

I enjoy the satisfaction of seeing work I have carried out for a client achieve tangible results for their business.

What is a typical day like for you?

My role is mainly desk-based but most days I will also have conference calls or meetings. It is often important to discuss cases with clients after providing initial recommendations in writing to agree a final decision as to how to proceed. It is also important to meet inventors in person to get to grips with a new technology.

On a given day, I will deal with a large number of different projects, each at different stages

in the patenting process – I may review a description of a new technology from a client and assess potential for patent protection, or review objections from a patent examiner for an ongoing patent application and evaluate how best to overcome these. I enjoy the variety this provides each day, and the challenge of managing a large number of ongoing projects at different stages. There can also often be unpredictable new actions such as a client asking for a new application to be drafted at short notice, or a client needing advice in a new dispute with a third party.

For more IP profiles, visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk/career-advice

Do you have any advice for anyone wanting to get into the industry?

My main advice would be to apply to as many firms as possible, as the patent attorney profession is becoming more and more popular, with limited new positions on offer each year and lots of competition for places.

If you are potentially interested in the profession, it is a good idea to put together a list of firms and find out details of their application processes in good time before the end of your degree/doctorate. Use the Job Finder table at the back of this guide to help you.

It can also be helpful to highlight technical specialisms or other expertise (e.g. language skills/relevant work experience) which may distinguish you from other candidates with similar qualifications. ●

SENIOR ASSOCIATE

TL BRAND & CO

Jessica Fuller joined TL Brand & Co as an Associate patent attorney in 2015. She is a fully qualified Chartered and European Patent Attorney and studied Natural Sciences at the University of Cambridge. Here, she shares why she chose a career in Patents, as well as advice for anyone considering a move into the profession.

JESSICA FULLER	
	
2018	Promoted to Senior Associate
2015	Joined TL Brand & Co.
2014	Fully qualified as a Chartered and European patent attorney
2010	Began training as a Patent attorney
2010	Graduated from University of Cambridge with a Natural Sciences degree

Why Patents?

I enjoyed my course at university but had realised during my final year project that a career in academia wasn't for me. I wanted to do something that would allow me to use what I had learned during my time at university, but that also involved more social interaction and had a more commercial slant.

I was interested in a career in law and had considered doing a law conversion course, but then found out about becoming a patent attorney. The fact that you can specialise in a certain area so quickly appealed to me, as did the on-the-job training which meant that you start doing real work straight away. I also liked that you are working at the cutting edge of technology, so would still be using your scientific background, but would also be involved in the broader aspects of working with clients that were developing inventions in a commercial setting.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I really enjoy the direct contact with clients that I have had throughout my training and in my current role. My company aims to function effectively as an in-house IP team for its major clients, which means that I am always closely engaged with R&D directors, general counsel and inventors and have to be ready to advise them across a varied commercial landscape. Talking through an invention with the inventor is definitely the best way to fully understand the concepts involved and it is motivating to see the passion that a lot of inventors have for their work.

This kind of close relationship with clients allows me to understand the commercial context in which inventions sit within the company. It is important to remember that patents don't exist in a vacuum and so you have to keep an eye both on what your client is doing now and what they may want to do in the future - not to mention what their competitors are up to! This strategic side of the job fits interestingly with the more technical scientific aspects and means that you come up against new challenges all the time.

The job is very varied, both in terms of the type of work and the subject matter involved. I work with clients of differing

sizes in various technical fields, who can have very different IP issues. I do everything from attending the initial inventor meetings and drafting the patent applications, through to preparing freedom to operate opinions and commercial licensing agreements. Working in IP is intellectually challenging and I have found that there is always something new to learn.

TL Brand & Co was founded four years ago and I had just completed my training at another firm when it was initially set up. The prospect of being part of a new company with the opportunity to have a role in how it grew and developed was exciting and so I made the move soon after it was founded. Being involved in a new, growing company provides a different aspect to the job and really makes you feel like you are part of the team.

Do you have any advice for anyone wanting to get into the industry?

It is important to be aware of how difficult the qualification exams are, as they can take over your life for a while. However, I don't think that the exams should put anyone off entering the profession as it really is worth the pain! Many firms have very good training schemes, often involving tutorials by associates that have just sat the exams themselves, and there are also external courses that you can go on to ensure that you are sufficiently prepared.

Working in IP is intellectually challenging and I have found that there is always something new to learn.

Some firms, though not all by any means, run open days, formal internships or offer ad hoc work experience placements. These are good opportunities, as they can give you a feel for what the job entails but are definitely not a requirement.

There is no particular period during which patent firms recruit new graduates but instead, firms tend to recruit as and when they need someone new to join their team. This means that you should send out a CV to all of the firms that appeal to you as soon as possible, so that they have it on file for when they start their recruitment process. However, the job is very detail-oriented so make sure there are no mistakes or typos in your CV and covering letter!

For more IP profiles, visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk/career-advice

Would you recommend it as a career?

I think IP is a great industry to be in, as it straddles science and law, as well as requiring good interpersonal skills and commercial understanding. It can be very rewarding watching an invention be developed from an initial idea through to a commercial product and it is interesting dealing with the unexpected challenges that this process can involve!

While it is intellectually demanding and an attention to detail is required, if you are someone who enjoys getting your head around new scientific concepts and communicating complicated ideas, a career in IP may suit you well. ●

CIPA & QUALIFICATIONS

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ABOUT CIPA

The Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys (CIPA) is the professional body of patent attorneys and other IP professionals in the UK.



Members

CIPA's members include patent attorneys who work in small, medium and large private practices and patent attorneys who work in industrial departments. The Institute has more than 4,000 members, some 2,360 of those being Fellows with the status of Chartered Patent Attorneys. Other members include trainee patent attorneys and other professionals with an interest in intellectual property law.

Purpose

CIPA's Royal Charter covers the entire field of intellectual property: patents, trade marks, designs, copyright and associated areas of law. Whilst patent attorneys focus primarily on supporting innovation through the grant and prosecution of patents, many advise clients on the full range of intellectual property protection needed to run successful and prosperous businesses.

CIPA is the representative body for the profession and works to promote the education, standing, training and continuing professional expertise of its members and to establish, maintain and enforce high standards of professional conduct and compliance with the law. These objectives and all of CIPA's membership benefits and services are delivered through four distinct themes:

- **Status** - Advancing and promoting the professional status of Chartered Patent Attorneys as a global brand. Chartered Patent Attorney is a protected title which can only be used by Fellows of CIPA.
- **Influence** - Working to influence intellectual property policy in the UK and abroad in the interests of its members and for the wider public good.
- **Learning** - Supporting the learning of its members, during initial professional formation when trainees, as well as through high quality, relevant, continuing professional development.
- **Community** - Providing the infrastructure and resources required for a vibrant community of practice to flourish.

Organisation

CIPA's elected Council is responsible for the direction of the Institute, this it achieves through the setting of a three year strategic plan which is subject to annual review. The strategic plan articulates CIPA's priority activities under the headings Status, Influence, Learning and Community. In arriving at these activities, CIPA's Council strives to consult fully with the membership and to canvass the opinion of key stakeholders such as the UK Intellectual Property Office and partner membership organisations including the Chartered Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys, the Intellectual Property Federation, the International Federation of Intellectual Property Attorneys and other representative bodies.

Much of CIPA's business is carried out through its network of expert committees and special interest groups. The committees range in activities from specialist technical groups looking at patent law, trade mark law,

copyright and design law, litigation and the life sciences, through to more general work such as how CIPA promotes the profession through its media and public affairs work, issuing business practice guidance to members, liaison with CIPA's international partners and its relationship with the world of academia. CIPA benefits from a highly engaged membership, where many members volunteer to give their time freely in committee work. A team of expert staff support the Council and CIPA's committees.

Find training courses online:
www.ipcareers.co.uk/search/courses

Education

The Education & Professional Standards Committee provides CIPA's overarching strategy for the initial education and support of trainee patent attorneys, through to the career-long Continuing Professional Development (CPD) needed to excel as a Chartered Patent Attorney. CIPA provides support for the 'Informals', a special interest group of student members who organise lectures, tutorials and, of course, social events for trainees. In addition, CIPA collaborates with a number of universities and other educational bodies in the provision of training courses for the UK and European qualifications. Qualified patent attorneys benefit from a programme of seminars and webinars designed to ensure that the UK profession is at the forefront of national and international intellectual property law. CIPA produces a range of students' training manuals in patents, trade marks and designs. CIPA is a recognised centre of excellence for the publication and distribution of practitioners' textbooks for the UK, European and international legal systems and the CIPA Guide to the Patents Acts is highly regarded as it provides an essential resource for IP professionals working in this area. Members benefit from a monthly journal containing articles, law updates and news. ●



THE INFORMALS

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



The Informals Committee is made up of a number of patent trainee volunteers from across the UK, who give up a little of their free time to help ensure the smooth running of the Informals for current and future trainees.

The Informals provides a support network for trainee patent attorneys at all levels, from their first days in the patent profession up to the day they fully qualify. The Informals Committee provides this support 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 giving assistance and advice to new and prospective members.

Education

Education starts from day one and continues throughout the working life of a patent attorney. Most trainees aim to become

dual-qualified – in the UK (as a Chartered Patent Attorney) and in Europe (as a European Patent Attorney). Firstly, trainees must understand and learn about patent law in preparation for the UK Foundation Examinations (or one of the equivalent university-based courses) and the European Pre Examination. Secondly, they must learn how to apply both the law and practical skills, such as drafting and prosecuting patent applications, in readiness for the UK Final Examinations and the European Qualifying Examination (EQE).

All employers provide some level of training, but patent trainees cannot expect to encounter every obscure situation in their day-to-day work. To help fill these gaps, the Informals Committee organises lectures, for the UK and European exams, to help guide trainees through the maze of the UK Patents Act, the Patent Cooperation Treaty, the European

Patent Convention and case law. All of the Informals' lectures are broadcast as webinars and are recorded. This means trainees who are not based in London, or who cannot attend lectures when they happen, are still able to benefit from our lectures.

With the assistance of other CIPA members, the Informals Committee also arranges tutorials for the UK Foundation Examinations, the UK Final Examinations and the EQE. Both recently qualified patent attorneys and patent attorneys of longer standing tutor small groups of trainees who are attempting past papers. In recent years, the Informals Committee has also organised mentoring for trainees who have struggled on previous attempts to pass the UK Final Diploma Examinations. This involves one-to-one coaching and review of past papers to hone examination technique.

The Informals provides a support network for trainee patent attorneys at all levels, from their first days in the patent profession up to the day they fully qualify.

The educational offerings provided by the Informals are the subject of ongoing review and update – the Committee often conducts surveys and requests feedback from trainees. As a result, the education system that you encounter as a future trainee patent attorney may differ slightly 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 know each other. Our Social Secretaries (in London) and Regional Secretaries (elsewhere

in the UK) organise various social events throughout the year. Typical events include a welcome party in autumn for new trainees, drinks in the local pub, curry nights, bowling, pub quizzes, Christmas parties, post-exam parties, punting and BBQs in the summer. Additionally, there is a sports representative on the Informals Committee who organises the annual 5-a-side football tournament in London.

The voice of the trainees

The Informals Committee acts as the collective voice of the trainees within the profession. Members of the Informals Committee also sit on other CIPA committees, in order to present the views and concerns of younger members of the profession to CIPA.

Keeping informed about the Informals

All trainees are encouraged to subscribe to The Yellow Sheet blog (yellowsheet.wordpress.com). The blog is frequently updated with information on upcoming lectures and social events, exam enrollment deadlines, and updates to the education and qualification process that may affect trainees. In addition, each month the Informals and CIPA publish The Yellow Sheet newsletter, which is distributed to all trainees with the monthly CIPA Journal. The paper newsletter contains updates about Informals events as well as the light-hearted 'wacky patent' feature.

In conclusion

If you decide to become a patent attorney, the Informals Committee looks forward to welcoming you, and hopes to see you at our educational and social events. You might also consider joining the Informals Committee when you join the profession – who knows, you may be writing this article in the future! ●

Matthew Veale is Honorary Secretary of the Informals' Committee for 2018-2019. Matthew is a senior trainee patent attorney with Wynne Jones IP. He joined the profession in 2015 and has held various Informals' Committee positions over the past few years.

QUALIFICATIONS & TRAINING

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

The patent attorney profession is a graduate profession. As a graduate trainee, you complete a minimum specified period of training in a firm, and during that time take professional qualifications. Once both the training and qualifications are successfully completed you may apply to become a registered patent attorney. The UK register is held by the UK Intellectual Property Regulation Board (IPReg); the European register by the European Patent Office (EPO).

Most firms require their trainees to qualify to be registered in both the UK and Europe since in order to represent clients before the EPO, you will need to qualify as a European Patent Attorney. It is usual for a person entering the profession to take four or five years to qualify.

Prerequisite Qualifications

The UK regulations require that you need to be the holder of a degree in order to be considered as a registered patent attorney. In order to take the European Qualifying Examinations (EQE) to qualify as a European Patent Attorney you must hold a science, technology, engineering or mathematics

(STEM) degree. In reality, potential employers tend to need you to have a degree in a STEM subject.

Professional Qualifications

There are two sets of qualifications to be undertaken. The diagram following this article shows the qualifications which must be obtained in order to qualify, and gives a broad indication of the time it will take.

UK QUALIFICATIONS

This qualification route is divided into Foundation and Final levels. Your employer will most likely have a preferred route that they will support you in undertaking.

Foundation level

You may qualify for the Foundation level by either undertaking the five Patent Examination Board (PEB) examinations or by undertaking one of the IPReg approved courses. These are listed in the IPReg regulations Rules for the Examination and Admission of Individuals to the Registers of Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys 2011, which can be found at: www.ipreg.org.uk

Final Level

There are four Final examinations; FD1, FD2, FD3 and FD4. The footnote over the page explains the relationship of the EQE examinations to the Final Examinations. IPReg recognises the EQE Papers A and B as equivalent to FD2 and FD3. These test knowledge of relevant intellectual property laws, the ability to draft and amend patent applications, and the ability to assess the validity of a patent and the infringement risks it presents.

EUROPEAN QUALIFICATIONS

Full details can be found on the EQE website at www.epo.org/learning-events

Pre-examination

This examination can be taken two years after the beginning of your period of training.

Other papers

Four papers, A, B, C and D can be taken after successfully completing the pre-examination. These cover the EPO's laws and procedures, the drafting and amendment of European patent applications, and the preparation of a formal opposition to a European patent.

Support for studying IN-HOUSE TRAINING

Most employing firms offer a formal or an informal training programme that both helps you develop the skills you need to work as a patent attorney, and supports you in developing the knowledge and skills required to successfully complete both the UK and European professional qualifications.

INFORMALS

The Informals provide a range of support for the trainee. You can read more about this in the Informals article in this guide (page 66-7).

STUDY GUIDES AND PUBLICATIONS

CIPA publishes a number of books to help students with training and examinations. These include general training manuals as

well as specific guides for most of the Final examinations. Full details can be found on the CIPA website.

EQE

The EPO offers a range of online materials to help you prepare for the examinations. Further details can be found on the EQE website.

PRIVATE TRAINING PROVIDERS

There are a number of private training providers that provide examination revision courses for both the UK and European examinations. The largest of these is JDD Consultants (see the Further Study section).

Continuing professional development

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.

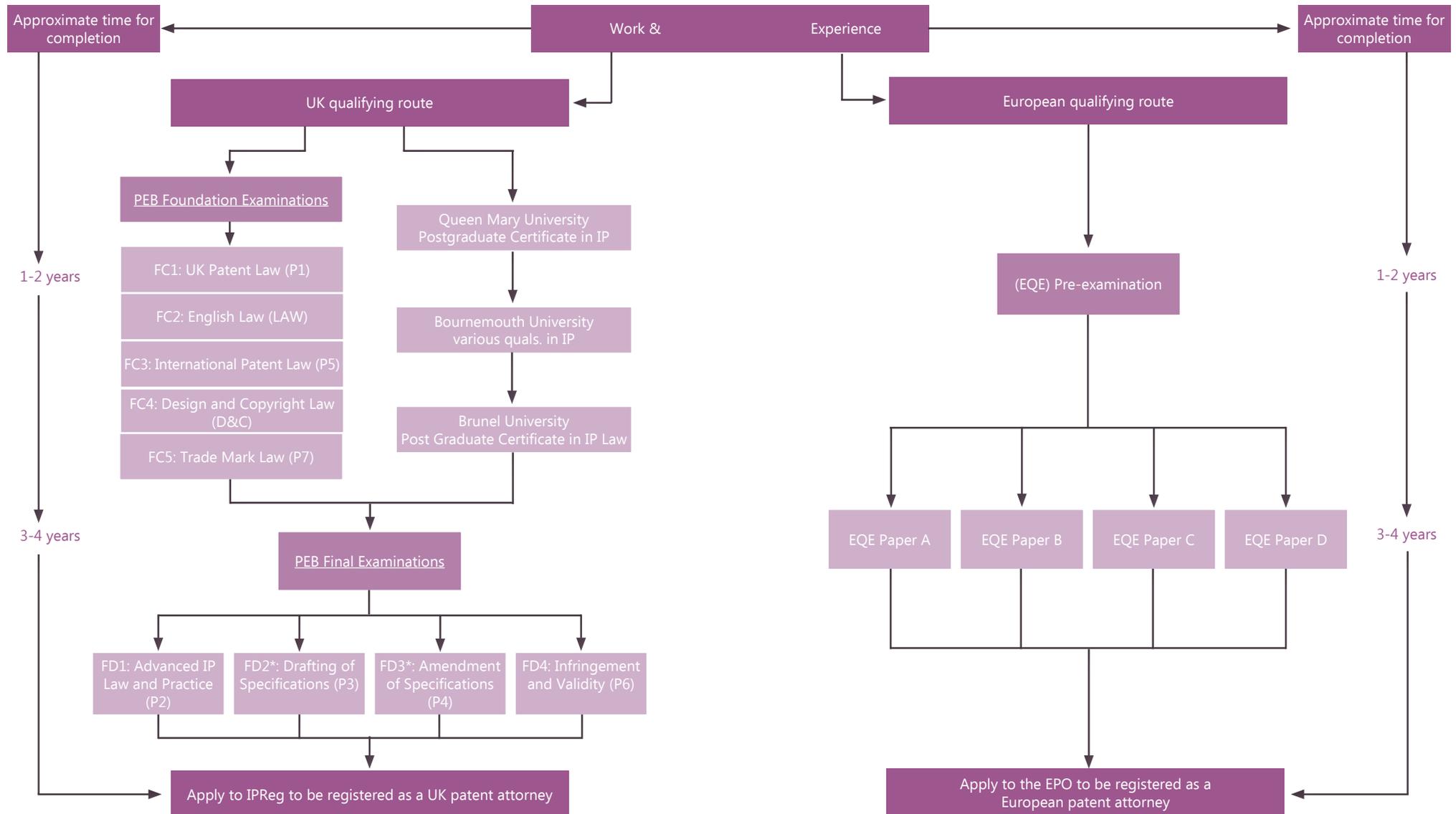
IPReg and CIPA have a vital part to play in this continuing education process. The Institute arranges a large number of seminars and webinars across the year and throughout the country. These seminars address many topics, from recent law and practice changes in the UK to a detailed examination of specialist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

CIPA also provides information to its members by way of monthly newsletter as well as other updates, both on its website and in the CIPA Journal. This information enables members to keep up to date with developments in the UK and across the world. ●



ROUTES TO QUALIFICATIONS



* Candidates who have passed the European qualifying examination as a whole or papers A and/or B of that examination are deemed to have passed Final Examinations FD2 and/or FD3.

FURTHER STUDY

Bournemouth University	74
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Queen Mary University of London	78





Intellectual Property at Bournemouth University

Bournemouth University (BU) has a strong international reputation in the intellectual property arena, specifically its Centre for Intellectual Property Policy & Management (CIPPM), which has a respected standing, both nationally and internationally, in research and legal education in different areas of IP law.

We offer intellectual property study at undergraduate and postgraduate level. Along with the PGCert and LLM courses detailed below, BU also offers IP law as an optional unit for final year LLB students. The unit involves collaboration with students from Design and Engineering where the law students are given the opportunity to advise students in engineering on their innovations. This element of the unit, culminating in prizes sponsored by CIPPM and patent attorney Professor Paul Cole, provides for a unique experience for students studying IP law at BU whilst preparing them for a career in IP law from the level of undergraduate studies.

We have helped to further the careers of many legal, engineering and science professionals, from organisations such as IBM, Nokia, Siemens, JP Morgan, Airbus and BAE Systems. Law firms that have sent or taken students include: Marks & Clerk, D Young & Co, HGF, Withers & Rogers and Baker & McKenzie.

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 (IPReg) and provides full exemption from the CIPA/CITMA Joint Education Board foundation papers. For many students, it is the first step to professional qualification. Many of our students hold degrees in a science

or technology subject. 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.

More than half of our students are sponsored by their employers and the course is delivered over three long weekends (from Thursday afternoon to Saturday) with online study over five months.

LLM Intellectual Property

This is a full-time option, which provides a thorough understanding of UK and European law, together with international conventions and practices affecting IP protection in the context of the global economy and the internet.

You will experience a unique blend of delivery and self-managed study over this one-year course and the completion of specific units will provide you with full exemptions from the CIPA/CITMA Joint Education Board foundation papers.

Pan-European Seal

CIPPM is a member of the Pan-European Seal Professional Traineeship Programme, promoted in partnership with the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) and the European Patent Office (EPO). Under the Pan-European Seal, students of the LLM Intellectual Property have the opportunity to apply for a 12-month paid traineeship at the EUIPO or the EPO. Training will take place at the headquarters of EUIPO (Alicante, Spain) and EPO (Munich, Germany) with a monthly allowance and other benefits. ●

CONTACT

Find out more about our Law courses:

T: +44 (0)1202 961916
E: futurestudents@bournemouth.ac.uk
W: www.bournemouth.ac.uk/law

JDD CONSULTANTS

SERVING THE IP COMMUNITY
SINCE 1983

JDD Consultants is an established name in IP training, having organised short courses on intellectual property since 1983.

Each year we hold residential revision courses to prepare candidates for:

- **The Foundation Certificate and Final Diploma PEB examinations** for trainee patent attorneys; and
- **The European Qualifying Examinations (EQE)** for Professional Representatives before the European Patent Office.

Our courses for the PEB exams are held mainly in **June, July and August** and our EQE courses in **November and December**.

They are held at a residential training centre in Milton Keynes and are delivered by patent attorneys. These face to face courses are supported by an online Moodle forum.

The benefits of JDD courses

Attendees have found the courses most helpful in preparing for the exams, providing focus to their revision work and developing techniques to successfully tackle the challenging Final Diploma and EQE exams.

The pass rates for those attending our courses have been substantially higher than for non attendees. And typically, each year a number of CIPA prize-winners have been attendees from our courses.

Our attendees come from a range of small, medium-sized and large patent firms, from industry, and from the UK, Ireland, Germany, Sweden and Asia.

Once you have joined an IP firm, ask your colleagues about JDD and visit our website to find out more about the benefits of attending a JDD course to help you through qualification. We look forward to seeing you on our future courses! We are a CIPA Approved Training Provider.

Web: www.jddcourses.co.uk Tel: 01234 294049

Email: jdd.consultants@ntlworld.com / admin@jddcourses.co.uk



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NOTTINGHAM LAW SCHOOL

NOTTINGHAM TRENT UNIVERSITY

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

A trusted provider in IP training

Our established intellectual property practitioner courses are industry-approved and taught by academics with significant industry expertise. We have a number of internationally recognised experts in a wide range of legal areas, as well as an Intellectual Property Research Group, which has collaborated with ITMA, CPA, IPREG and the European Patent Office.

We provide a range of courses for practitioners who wish to specialise in intellectual property (IP), from short, practitioner training to Master-level study and research.

LLM Intellectual Property Law

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 links to competition law, sport and medical innovation as well as the burgeoning area of Data Protection Law.

Areas covered 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 full-time over one year, or part-time over two years, to fit around your existing commitments. Individual modules are available for CPD credit points for those working in the legal profession.

IP Litigation and IP Advocacy

These courses are:

- Designed specifically for experienced

intellectual property practitioners.

- Delivered around 4 intensive modules running from Thursday to Saturday, to limit time away from the office.
- Approved by IPREG and satisfy the requirements for qualification as a trade mark litigator.
- Intended to enable trade mark attorneys to obtain rights to conduct litigation.
- Approved by IPREG to satisfy the requirements for qualification as a patent attorney litigator.
- Structured to allow students to apply their knowledge and skills in practice and provide continuing professional development.

Those who practise in the field of intellectual property face the pressure 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 intellectual property litigation rights before the Patents Court, the Intellectual Property Enterprise Court and on Appeal. Designed for those who have at least two years' litigation experience in intellectual property, the courses build upon students' existing knowledge and experience.

Other intellectual property courses include:

- Registered Trade Mark Attorney Intensive Qualification Course
- Professional Certificate in Trade Mark Practice
- Intellectual Property Basic Litigation Skills for Patent Attorneys
- Intellectual Property Basic Litigation Skills for Trade Mark Attorneys. ●

CONTACT

T: 0115 848 4460
E: nls.enquiries@ntu.ac.uk
W: www.ntu.ac.uk/ipcareers



Centre for Commercial Law Studies



Queen Mary has a long history of excellence in research and scholarship in intellectual property, spanning 35 years through the creation of the dedicated research institute – Queen Mary Intellectual Property Research Institute (QMIPRI), part of the Centre for Commercial Law Studies (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 Chartered Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys (CITMA). 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 intellectual property collections in Europe.

MSc in Management of Intellectual Property

One year full-time, two years part-time.

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The MSc programme is aimed at those wishing to gain an understanding of the growing importance of intellectual property in the modern economy.

The programme is available in 2 streams for those who wish to gain professional accreditation and those who simply wish to expand their knowledge of this fascinating area of law.

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

Optional modules may include Information Technology Law; Intellectual Property

Transactions; Media Law; Law of Patents I; and Intellectual Property in the United States.

ASSESSMENT

- Modules are examined by a variety of processes. For the professional stream this is mainly by standard examinations at the end of the semester or academic year.
- Study Project (one year, various submitted materials relevant to management of an intellectual property portfolio, equivalent to 15,000 words).

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Minimum lower second class honours degree or equivalent – any discipline for Business Stream; any subject area for Professional Stream. Students undertaking the professional stream wishing to undertake a career within the patents field would usually have a degree in science or engineering, but any undergraduate degree subject area is accepted.

Student Testimonial - Oliver Lam ; 2017 Graduate of MSc in Management of IP Law

"I chose to study the MSc Management of Intellectual Property course at Queen Mary in order to build practical knowledge of patents and other related forms of IP. The course was highly regarded and recommended to me by several IP professionals. One of the most attractive features of the course was the opportunity to sit the CIPA and CITMA professional qualifications, in addition to those required for the MSc. The lecturers were first class and made for an extremely insightful and interesting course."

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, Maastricht, 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, Professor 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.

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

Two-hour, 15-minute papers for each subject, plus additional two hour Patent Law and Law of Trade Marks for exemption from the CIPA

foundation level examinations. Closed book examinations operate for all modules.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A minimum 2:2 honours degree in any subject area, at least six months' experience and must either be currently employed or have previously been employed as a trainee patent or trade mark attorney (or within a similar role). Those wishing to become patent attorneys would usually be from a science or engineering background.

The programme has been specifically designed in close cooperation with the CIPA and CITMA, 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

Apply online

W: qmul.ac.uk/msc-ip

W: qmul.ac.uk/pgcert-ip

Sharon Watson

MSc and Certificate Programme Coordinator

T: 020 7882 8098

Sarah Batty

IP Programmes Administrative Assistant

T: 020 7882 7320

E: pglaw-reception@qmul.ac.uk

Funding

Every year there are a couple of MSc full and partial scholarships available.

W: www.law.qmul.ac.uk/postgraduate/funding

EMPLOYER DIRECTORY



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JOB FINDER

AA THORNTON

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW

The firm

We are a leading Intellectual Property firm based in London. Our diverse team of committed and passionate individuals includes patent, trade mark and design attorneys, as well as litigation solicitors, working with clients across a huge range of technologies and commercial fields. We provide the full range of IP services to clients around the world, from prosecution to litigation, in patent, trade mark, design and copyright law.

Having an excellent understanding of our clients' industries and the challenges they face is key to us delivering commercial, insightful legal advice. Our highly qualified industry teams are made of attorneys and solicitors who work together to share knowledge and experience. We firmly believe **it's our people that make the difference** and that this sets us apart from others.

Our requirements

For patent work, we require a science or engineering degree with a proven academic track record. Typically we require a law or language-based degree for our trade mark trainees. All candidates are required to demonstrate good analytical and communication skills with a high level of accuracy and attention to detail. It is important that candidates enjoy working as part of a team and have a commercial approach to their work.

Professional development

Trainees are assigned to a partner or senior associate, who supervises all aspects of training. Trainees receive a broad range of work, which encompasses a variety of technical areas. The firm actively encourages trainees through both in-house training and external courses and lectures. Trade mark trainees are supported to pass their qualifying examinations to become a registered Trade Mark Attorney, and patent trainees to qualify as both a Chartered Patent Attorney and European Patent Attorney.

Qualified attorneys attend regular in-house CPD seminars and are encouraged to continually review their own development in the context of the firm's career development framework. ●

No. of employees

70

No. of partners

12

No. of qualified patent attorneys

11

No. of trainee patent attorneys

7

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

6

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys

1

Offices recruited into

London

Disciplines recruited from

Patents: science and engineering;
Trade Marks: law or language-based

Opportunities available

- ✓ GRADUATE JOBS
- ✓ PLACEMENTS

No. of graduate jobs

Typically 3 p.a.

Benefits

26 days' holiday increasing to 28, healthcare, pension scheme, study support, exam bonus, flexitime, season ticket loan

No. of placement opportunities

Varies

Application method

CV & covering letter by email

Contact information

Karen Genuardi, Head of People
AA Thornton & Co.,
10 Old Bailey
London, EC4M 7NG
E: recruitment@aaThornton.com

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Victoria Jones
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Cardiff
DEGREE	Physics
ROLE	Trainee Patent Attorney



Why patent law?

Curiosity rather than a predetermined career path led me to study physics at university, and after four enlightening years learning scientific theories and their technical applications, I remained undecided on where my skill-set would provide most value. In view of the academic exposure I had already acquired, I felt some industry experience might help me reach a decision. Two years of post-graduate work and travel enabled me to better understand my strengths and interests, and more narrowly define what I was looking for from a profession: intellectual stimulation, variety, the opportunity to expand my scientific knowledge and the opportunity to explore and develop a breadth of skills. Patent law, at the confluence of science, business and law, appeared to offer these aspects in abundance.

Why AA Thornton?

AA Thornton prides itself on the people it constitutes, and I can say with sincerity that this pride is justified. The entire team is supportive of one another's professional development, generating an environment within which learning is readily nurtured. Trainees begin receiving a broad range of challenging work as soon as they join, and have the opportunity to work with a variety of senior attorneys and

partners, all of which are approachable and willfully provide advice when solicited. The work involves everything from drafting and prosecuting patent applications, opposing and defending the validity of granted patents, and conducting FTO searches, to providing training within the firm, writing articles on new technology and law updates, and attending and presenting at public events.

Any advice for someone wanting to train as a patent attorney?

If you are inquisitive, analytical and detail-orientated by nature, then training to qualify as a patent attorney may lead to a fulfilling career.

I would suggest when applying for trainee roles, bear in mind that the path to qualifying entails an intensive training process, and therefore it is worth evaluating your choice of prospective firms on their ability to cultivate a supportive environment conducive to learning. The first few years of training are formative for a trainee, and the firm you choose may help determine the rate at which you pass your exams and ultimately your value as a patent attorney, not-to-mention how pleasant the journey will be along the way; so choose a firm that fits you. ●

Abel+Imray

The firm and client services

We are a long-established, medium-sized firm, having thriving offices in London, Cardiff and Bath, widely respected for the quality of our training. We are large enough to provide a full suite of IP services across all subject matter areas, and work for a wide range of blue-chip clients. Yet we are small enough to retain our ability to customise our services to each individual client's needs whether they are a start-up, which is new to IP, or a sophisticated in-house IP department. The firm punches above its weight as evidenced by our impressive portfolio of clients. We are planning for continued, steady and sustainable growth in the coming years and are regularly on the look-out for fresh new talent.

Academic and other requirements

We recruit outstanding graduates from a range of technical disciplines as required. Candidates will have top grades in English at GCSE or equivalent. Academic talent aside, we look for candidates who will be able to advise on the commercial relevance of IP to our clients and be the sort of people who will win business for our firm. Candidates should have an aptitude for logical analysis of problems, the ability to communicate with clear and concise English, and have the social skills to get on with client personnel of widely different status, ranging from company chairman to laboratory assistant. We value equal opportunities for all and are a founding member of the 'IP Inclusive' scheme.

Professional development policies

Considerable importance is attached to the training, supervision and mentoring of our recruits. Our in-house training is supplemented with external lectures and courses, including the Queen Mary Intellectual Property Law Certificate course. Our trainees have an excellent record in the various professional examinations and our firm is recognised within the profession as being one of the best training firms in the country.

We offer an open and friendly working environment, clear routes for career progression, and an emphasis on getting the work/life balance right, which we believe is why so many attorneys choose to continue their careers with us after qualification. ●

No. of employees

96

No. of partners

14

No. of qualified patent attorneys

22

No. of trainee patent attorneys

11

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

7

Offices recruited into

London, Cardiff and Bath

Disciplines recruited from

Patents: science degrees; Trade Marks: preferably law and languages degrees

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

Typically 1-3 p.a.

Benefits

22 days' holiday increasing to 30, healthcare, pension scheme, study support, season ticket loan, bike scheme, gym membership, social events, life assurance, private medical insurance and income protection scheme

Application method

Application form by email

Contact information

E: hr@abelimray.com

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Zayd Hussein-Eyre
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Cambridge
DEGREE	MEng Chemical Engineering
ROLE	Part-Qualified Patent Attorney



During my studies, I worked a couple of different summer internships to gauge my interest for working in a variety of fields. After completing my first internship at URS (now acquired by Aecom), in their advanced structures division, I quickly came to the realisation that engineering consultancy was not for me. Changing tack and interning as a tax advisor provided no further secure knowledge of what I wanted to do. It wasn't until the end of first term in my final year, when an alumnus from the Chemical Engineering department came to give a talk about IP, that I felt inspired.

I joined the Physics, Engineering, and IT team at Abel & Imray in September 2017. The job is a unique blend of science and law, a discipline I was always interested in. Fresh challenges are continuously being thrown up, and the variety of work keeps you on your toes – be it drafting, prosecution, litigation, or freedom to operate work. The variety of clients also provides exposure to a broad range of entities from lone inventors to large multinationals, all of whom appreciate that the attorneys have a strong technical background enabling us to converse on a similar technical level about the inventions.

Training starts on the first day of the job, and the partners don't refrain from delegating cases from the outset. My work is supervised by partners across all three offices, and I travel to the Bath office once a week to discuss some of the cases I have ongoing with the partners there, which accounts for around half of my current caseload. Learning occurs relatively quickly, and trainees are supported in assuming increased responsibility for cases such that a full, holistic, understanding of the whole patent process is gained.

I passed the exams for the Queen Mary Intellectual Property Law course in January this year (2019). This yearly course runs from September to December and is the first step to becoming a qualified attorney as it grants an exemption from UK foundation exams. Now that is under my belt, I will be sitting some UK final exams in October

The firm is medium sized but maintains a feeling of close-knit togetherness through regular travel between offices and (at least) monthly social events. This collaborative and supportive office culture is one of the main reasons that I enjoy my work at Abel & Imray. ●



**Make sure your career
is heading in the right
direction**



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Adamson Jones is a successful firm of patent and trade mark attorneys, which has grown steadily from a single-practitioner firm to a team of attorneys led by five partners. We recruit high calibre personnel and provide a level of service that consistently exceeds clients' expectations.

Our location

Our principal office is located within BioCity, Nottingham's healthcare and bioscience innovation centre, close to the city centre. The working environment is modern, in the heart of a thriving scientific and business community. We also have an office in Leicester city centre, which has an engineering focus.

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 mainly 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. We believe in treating people well, providing flexible working arrangements where appropriate, and when we find the right people we aim to retain them. Long-term prospects for those who join the firm are therefore excellent. ●

No. of employees

23

No. of partners

5

No. of qualified patent attorneys

9

No. of trainee patent attorneys

1

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

3

Offices recruited into

Nottingham and Leicester

Disciplines recruited from

All degrees considered according to the needs of the business

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

1

Benefits

25 days' holiday, healthcare, pension scheme, study support, bike scheme, performance bonus and social events

Application method

CV & covering letter by email

Contact information

E: careers@adamson-jones.co.uk

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

Appleyard Lees[®]

We are a leading IP firm with over 50 attorneys and specialist solicitors, providing clients worldwide with a full spectrum of advice and a fully integrated approach to all aspects of IP. With a global reach and local knowledge, we are experts in patents, trade marks, IP strategy, designs, copyright, contentious proceedings and disputes. From offices in Manchester, Leeds, Halifax, Cambridge and Alderley BioHub, we support some of the world's most innovative businesses and leading academic institutions, helping them to maximise the value of their IP throughout its entire life cycle.

Our people are at the forefront of our business and we invest in them to ensure that they have the right training and experience to deliver the highest quality service to our clients globally. Our highly dedicated team combine a broad range of legal and technical experience with real-world commercial insight to mentor individuals in becoming experts in their field.

What we look for

We are always keen to hear from talented individuals who are looking for the next challenge in their career; candidates who have a passion for work, a love for learning and a desire to be part of a friendly, supportive team. We want people who enjoy diverse, challenging work and who share our commitment to providing exemplary client service. With us, you will have the opportunity to train with some of the UK's leading attorneys and have the opportunity to work independently as well as part of a collaborative team.

We have a regular intake of trainees throughout the year and also run a 'Work Placement Programme', specifically designed to enable candidates to experience the diverse work of our attorneys.

Working for us also brings excellent benefits, competitive salaries, training and support and immediate involvement in real life day to day business.

We are an equal opportunities employer and welcome applications from all suitably qualified persons. ●

No. of employees

123

No. of partners

19

No. of qualified patent attorneys

30

No. of trainee patent attorneys

16

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

12

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys

1

Offices recruited into

Manchester, Leeds, Halifax, Cambridge, BioHub, Alderley Park

International opportunities

Yes

Disciplines recruited from

Electronics, software, chemistry & pharmaceuticals, engineering, physics, life sciences, biotechnology, trade marks and disputes

Opportunities available

- ✓ GRADUATE JOBS
- ✓ PLACEMENTS

No. of graduate jobs

Open

Benefits

25 days' holiday, pension scheme, health plan, study support, bike scheme, performance bonus, social events, life assurance, overseas travel, season ticket loan

No. of placement opportunities

Open

Application method

Online

Contact information

E: HR.Department@appleyardlees.com

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Richard MacLennan
LOCATION	Manchester
UNIVERSITY	Sussex, Nottingham
DEGREE	Molecular Medicine & Toxicology
ROLE	Trainee Patent Attorney



When did you decide to train as a Patent Attorney?

I first became aware of a career as a Patent Attorney during my placement year in industry during my undergraduate degree. During the placement, the concept of Intellectual Property (IP) and the value that this can have for a business became clear. I was fortunate enough to compete in the young entrepreneurs' competition, Biotechnology YES, which gave me more of an understanding of how crucial IP is to any business in the biotechnology sector and the career opportunities available.

What's it like working at Appleyard Lees?

The culture at Appleyard Lees is supportive and friendly with a focus on doing what is best for the client. Whilst I have been given the freedom to get involved in the day to day prosecution of cases there is always someone more experienced to ask advice on anything from a particular piece of law or for a second opinion on an amendment. I find the partners and senior attorneys approachable and I never feel I am unable to ask a potentially stupid question!

What are your main duties/roles in your current position?

My day to day work focuses on tasks given to me by my supervising partner. These tasks vary depending on the work that he has at the time but the majority of the work involves responding to examination and search reports issued by various intellectual property offices around the world. The inventions and areas of science are constantly varied and no two applications are the same. The variety and

breadth of science involved is always changing and never gets dull. I also regularly carry out literature research to help with any drafts that my supervising partner is currently working on. In addition to this I have also had the opportunity to be involved in a potential revocation action against a UK granted patent. This has been invaluable in helping me begin to get to grips with the law surrounding infringement and invalidity.

How do you see yourself progressing from your current position in the next 2-3 years?

My main progression in the next 2-3 years can obviously be measured in progress through the UK foundation exams, UK final diploma exams and beginning qualification as a European Patent Attorney. Although the exams are important Appleyard Lees are flexible with regards to how many you take each year and the time taken to qualify. Progress isn't only measured in exam passes, and progress would be a reduction in the amount of red pen that appears on my draft responses!

Do you have any advice for anyone wanting to work at Appleyard Lees?

My advice would be to apply even if there is no open position advertised. I know of a few trainees working here who have applied speculatively and were called back for an interview as soon as something suitable became available. Familiarise yourself with our website and read some of the blog and news articles. A general very broad view of how intellectual property can benefit a business would also help when it comes to an interview. ●

Barker Brettell

Intellectual Property

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. ●

No. of employees

128

No. of partners

27

No. of qualified patent attorneys

27

No. of trainee patent attorneys

17

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

14

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys

2

Offices recruited into

Birmingham and Southampton

Disciplines recruited from

Electronics, physics, engineering, chemistry, life sciences, pharma and biosciences

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

2

Benefits

25 days' holiday, healthcare, interest free loan and life assurance

Application method

Online

Contact information

Head of HR
100 Hagley Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham B16 8QQ
W: www.barkerbrettell.co.uk

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Tom Jeal
LOCATION	Birmingham
UNIVERSITY	Birmingham
DEGREE	Physics and Astrophysics
ROLE	Trainee Patent Attorney



Why patent law?

When I was at school I wanted to be a barrister, later on, I got more involved in the sciences, and went off to study physics. Whilst at university, I began to realise that a career in physics was not for me, but I still wanted to maintain a link to science and innovation. I started looking for a career to fit this brief, and came across intellectual property. As a patent attorney, I get to use my scientific knowledge, whilst simultaneously pursuing my earlier interest in the law.

Why Barker Brettell?

What struck me most about the firm, along with the immense pride that the attorneys take in their work, was the communal ethos. Whilst researching the career, the word 'solitary' came up a lot, and whilst this is not inaccurate, at Barker Brettell, the attitude is very much that your problem is your team's problem. The Birmingham office is largely open plan, and this harbours a collaborative environment which is not only a great place to share expertise and to learn, it also results in higher quality work for clients.

Training at Barker Brettell

One of the things that surprised me most upon joining the firm was how quickly I was thrown in at the deep end. This exposure is

great from a training perspective, and should really help with my exams. I share an office with my supervising associate who bears the brunt of my questions, but nobody at the firm is out of reach if you need help.

The bulk of my work is made up of patent prosecution before the European Patent Office, but the global nature of the firm's client base means I am also exposed to other jurisdictions such as China, the US, and Australia to name a few. Having to adapt arguments to suit different national laws is certainly a challenge, but a very interesting one! I have also been involved in a number of new patent drafts. These are often very exciting, and meeting inventors brimming with excitement over their new idea is always a privilege.

My advice

It's never too early to get serious about a career in IP. If you can get some experience in the field, even if it's just in the form of open days, and you are willing to put in the time and effort to research the career, firms will notice you. ●

BeckGreener

The firm

Beck Greener LLP ("Beck Greener") is a leading firm of European and UK patent and trade mark attorneys and an excellent place to work. You will enjoy being located in modern offices in Central London at the heart of London's legal and IP district. We also have an office in Alicante, Spain. Providing our clients with the best professional service is fundamental to our approach and we seek to recruit only the very best graduates who will work to our very high standards.

Range of client services

From the individual inventor and start-ups to major multinationals, from everyday household objects to a complex drug formulation requiring global protection, Beck Greener always aims to provide a high quality, distinctive service offering robust and commercial advice. 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 great success dealing with disputes in the English courts.

Recruitment requirements

We seek a range of enthusiastic graduates with either a first or a 2:1 degree (or postgraduate qualification) in an appropriate technical discipline to train as a patent attorney. Typically we recruit those with backgrounds in chemistry, biochemistry or biotechnology, electrical or mechanical engineering, electronics, physics, or in related disciplines. Trade mark trainees are usually selected from candidates with at least a good first degree who are solicitors or otherwise legally qualified.

Professional development

As a trainee patent attorney you will be given full training and support in order to become qualified as a Chartered Patent Attorney and European Patent Attorney. This comprises mentoring and supervision from the partners, in-house tutorials, external lectures and attending one of the courses to obtain the postgraduate certificate in intellectual property. Trainees are highly valued in our firm. Training is taken very seriously and all trainees are directly supervised by partners in a supportive and friendly environment. Several of our most recent partners in the firm started their patent careers at Beck Greener as trainee patent attorneys. ●

No. of employees

46

No. of partners

12

No. of qualified patent attorneys

14

No. of trainee patent attorneys

3

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

7

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys

1

Offices recruited into

London

Disciplines recruited from

Biotechnology, chemistry, electronics, engineering and physics

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

1-2

Benefits

25 days' holiday (rising to a maximum of 30 days), pension scheme, study support, season ticket loan, bike scheme, performance bonus and social events

Application method

CV & covering letter by email or post

Contact information

Ian Bartlett, Staff Partner
Fulwood House,
12 Fulwood Place
London WC1V 6HR

E: recruitment@beckgreener.com

W: www.beckgreener.com

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Thomas Dickson
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	University of Southampton
DEGREE	MPhys Physics with Astrophysics
ROLE	Trainee Patent Attorney



I have been a trainee patent attorney in the physics, electronics and engineering department at Beck Greener for 9 months. I have always been interested in physics but I had not considered working in the legal sector until I started temping in a law firm. Not wanting to entirely leave science and technology behind, and after some research, I discovered that a career as a patent attorney could tick all the boxes.

Since joining Beck Greener, I have found the work that I do to be an interesting blend of problem-solving, understanding new and cutting-edge technologies, and learning about the patenting systems of the UK, Europe and the rest of the world.

Getting the Job

I would advise anyone considering applying to be a trainee patent attorney to do some research and work out the kind of firm you would like to join. What is it about the firm, their ethos and areas of work that appeals to you? With regards to preparing for interviews, familiarise yourself with how a patent is written by reading one or two in an area of technology that interests you. Also in the interview, don't be afraid to ask questions.

Working and Training

From my initial research, Beck Greener stood out as somewhere I could see myself working. Everyone here has been very welcoming and I felt at ease during the interview process. Beck Greener is one of the longest established firms in the UK (and the world). They have a fantastic variety of clients and work, ranging from private inventors to SMEs to large multinationals. Variety like this is important when you are training. I feel I am part of a team made up of people who take great care in the work they do. I work on cases at various stages of the patenting process, from initial drafting of an application right through to final examination. I have regular meetings with my supervising partner, in which I learn the skills required to work on a broad range of patent cases.

Beck Greener has a forward thinking attitude towards environmental issues and social responsibility within the local community. The "STEM: Branching Out" project is a huge success and was awarded a Lord Mayor's Dragon Award in 2018.

In addition, there are regular monthly socials and I am looking forward to getting involved with the softball team during the summer months! ●



Boulton Wade Tennant is internationally recognised as a leading firm of Chartered and European patent and trade mark attorneys. The firm's core business is patents, trade marks, designs and related areas. The practice is divided into five technology-specific groups:

- Biotechnology and Life Sciences,
- Chemical and Materials,
- Engineering and Designs,
- High Tech and Electrical,
- Trade Mark and Domain Names.

Work

Our Patent and Designs groups are highly experienced, working with a range of clients from large corporates, to smaller and medium sized business, government bodies, academic institutions, research laboratories and individual inventors. Our attorneys also handle work from a global list of foreign attorneys.

The Trade Mark and Domain Names 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.

Our experts are proactive, communicative and responsive in dealing with client matters and 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. They 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 and trade mark trainees attend qualification courses and as well as internal and external seminars and tutorials, to support them through the series of exams. The qualifying process for becoming a European and Chartered Patent Attorney typically takes at least four years, and for becoming a Chartered Trade Mark Attorney, it is usually two to four years. ●

No. of employees

180

No. of partners

36

No. of qualified patent attorneys

19

No. of trainee patent attorneys

15

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

12

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys

3

Offices recruited into

London, Madrid, Berlin, Munich, Cambridge, Reading and Oxford

Disciplines recruited from

All practical sciences and technologies, maths, engineering, law and modern languages

Opportunities available

- ✓ GRADUATE JOBS
- ✓ PLACEMENTS

No. of graduate jobs

4

Benefits

23 days' holiday, healthcare, life assurance

No. of placement opportunities

Varies across practices

Application method

By email and post

Contact information

Recruitment, Boulton Wade Tennant,
Salisbury Square House
8 Salisbury Square
London
EC4Y 8AP

E: recruitment@boulton.co.uk

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Christopher Jones
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Cambridge
DEGREE	BA and MSci in Natural Sciences
ROLE	Patent Assistant



During my time at University, I discovered that the learning and problem-solving sides to my course were the parts that I enjoyed most, as opposed to conducting my own research. Accordingly, during my third year, I began looking for potential careers through the University Careers Service. I knew that I wanted to stay involved with Chemistry, using the skill-set I had been developing at University, and I also knew that I would enjoy a job that was challenging and varied. Thus, after reading around the subject, training to be a Patent Attorney sounded to me like the perfect career path.

My first interview was at Boulton Wade Tennant. I thoroughly enjoyed the interview, which was with two of the Partners with whom I would be working most closely. I knew immediately that I would like the atmosphere at the firm.

The work that I am involved with is extremely varied and stimulating; you constantly have to think outside the box. Not only do you have to be able to apply your technical knowledge, but you also have to work on the basis of your clients' commercial interests. When working on the cases, there is a great balance between the amount of supervision and independence.

At this stage, the majority of my time involves working with clients and colleagues to formulate strong arguments and amend patent applications, in order to persuade Patent Examiners around the world that our clients' applications are suitable for grant.

I am rapidly beginning to gain experience in almost all sides of the profession, including the drafting and prosecution of patent applications, despite having only been in the job for nine months. I am confident that I will continue to gain all of the experience that I may need in order to pass my finals in a few years' time, and continue to receive support as my career develops.

I would say that enjoying a challenge is an attribute that all people in the profession possess. If I were to give any advice to someone applying for a job, it would be to show a keen interest in learning new things and applying your knowledge. A major part of the job involves writing clear, persuasive letters, and attention to detail is key. Therefore, making sure that your cover letter and CV are effective, consistent and have no mistakes is also very important. ●

CARPMAELS & RANSFORD

Carpmaels & Ransford is a full-service European intellectual property firm at the forefront of a rapidly changing IP landscape.

As a trusted advisor to so many world-class companies and brands, we have been regarded as a pioneer in handling intellectual property for over 200 years. We are known for a consistent ability to anticipate client needs and apply unparalleled expertise to complex challenges.

We are unique in our ability to offer a truly integrated service, managing our clients' intellectual property from inception to commercialisation, enforcement, litigation and defence.

What sets us apart?

We offer an industry leading training programme which will set you up with the knowledge and skills you need for a rewarding career in IP. We are passionate about what we do and this enthusiasm makes for a stimulating and dynamic environment. Our collaborative ethos is at the centre of everything we do. Joining us as part of a large trainee cohort allows you to build a support network from day one. Through our programme you will gain colleagues and friends who will support you throughout your training and future career. You will be given varied and interesting work to do from day one. Working alongside partners and senior associates from across the firm, you will gain exposure to an extensive range of science and technology, giving you a thorough grounding in the areas we cover and the types of issues we help our clients with.

What can you expect?

Each year we take on up to 14 trainee patent attorneys. Trainee attorneys come on board as technical assistants and are assigned to one of our practice groups. However, there is strong integration across practice groups and teams and each new cohort works closely together, which makes for a dynamic and fun learning environment.

Once on board, you will participate in our six-month extensive tutorial programme before undertaking the Certificate in Intellectual Property law at Queen Mary College, London. As you progress through your career we continue to invest not only in your professional development, but also your commercial skills and business acumen. ●

No. of employees

262

No. of partners

25

No. of qualified patent attorneys

66

No. of trainee patent attorneys

46

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

6

Offices recruited into

Central London

Disciplines recruited from

Biochemistry, molecular biology, chemistry, pharmaceuticals, computer science, electronics, engineering and physics

Opportunities available

- ✓ GRADUATE JOBS
- ✓ PLACEMENTS
- ✓ INSIGHTS

No. of graduate jobs

Up to 14

Benefits

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

No. of undergraduate opportunities

14

Application method

CV & covering letter online

Contact information

Graduate Recruitment, Carpmaels & Ransford LLP, One Southampton Row, London WC1B 5HA

T: 020 7242 8692

E: careers@carpmaels.com

W: www.carpmaels.com/careers

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Lileth Rees
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Imperial College London
DEGREE	Biochemistry
ROLE	Technical Assistant



When I was approaching my final year, I knew that I wanted a job outside of academia but I wasn't ready to leave science and pursue a completely unrelated career path to my degree. I came across the concept of a patent attorney when attending a talk at university and immediately realised that the nature of the work and the challenges that it would provide, were exactly what I was looking for.

The demands of understanding new technologies quickly, communicating both legal and scientific arguments in a concise manner and switching between multiple pieces of work every day can be difficult to balance at first, but it is incredibly rewarding once you become settled into the job. However, one aspect that I did not consider when I joined Carpmaels & Ransford was the business side of professional services – maintaining strong client relationships is an important consideration, even as a trainee.

I have been working towards becoming a qualified patent attorney for over eighteen months, but at Carpmaels & Ransford you are trusted to take on real cases from (literally) day one. Although this may seem daunting, it allows you to get to grips with tackling

complex issues, in both science and intellectual property, from the start. You receive a lot of support from your supervisors (which are mainly senior associates and partners) and other trainees, making the transition to a professional job as smooth as possible. This includes a buddy system where you can freely ask more experienced trainees silly questions, creating a support network for new starters. The firm also arranges tutorials throughout your training to ensure you have the relevant background knowledge before taking exams, at both part-qualified and fully-qualified levels.

One of the main benefits of working here is that all staff are based in one London office which creates an invaluable collaborative atmosphere. Although the firm is fairly large, being on one site means we all know each other and it promotes a friendly working environment. My main surprise about Carpmaels & Ransford was the social life – some of my colleagues are now good friends and this is all down to the variety of social clubs and events offered by the firm. There are annual New Year and summer parties, a variety of sports teams, a book club, and even a bee club for our bee hives on the balcony! ●



cleveland scott york

The firm

Cleveland Scott York is a firm of patent and trade mark attorneys, with offices in London, Hertfordshire, the Thames Valley and Brussels. We provide comprehensive intellectual property services to a wide range of clients, including small and medium enterprises and multi-national corporations. We are a progressive firm with a knowledge-sharing culture and a reputation for excellence in training and professional development. We offer trainees a high level of support and encouragement throughout the qualification process, and we have a good record in helping candidates pass exams.

The role

You can expect a challenging and varied role, where your duties and responsibilities will expand in line with your knowledge and as your skills improve. You will gain experience in all aspects of patents, or trade marks, and related disciplines, working closely with a partner or an associate. We encourage trainees to contribute from an early stage. As a patent trainee you will be involved in drafting and prosecuting UK and European patent applications, opposition and opinion work. Trade mark trainees will be involved in filing and prosecuting UK, EUTM and international applications, oppositions and searches.

Candidates

An excellent academic record, including a good honours degree in science or engineering is a prerequisite for patent attorneys. We are looking for team players with a flexible, proactive and confident approach. Excellent written and verbal communications skills are essential, as are high levels of accuracy and an eye for detail.

We currently have a cohort of six trainee patent attorneys and two trade mark ones, and at the time of writing we have not decided whether we will recruit further in 2019, but by all means send us your CV. ●

No. of employees

60

No. of partners

11

No. of qualified patent attorneys

13

No. of trainee patent attorneys

6

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

13

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys

2

Offices recruited into

London, Hertfordshire, Thames Valley and Brussels

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

1

Benefits

25 days' holiday, pension scheme, study support, season ticket loan

Application method

CV & covering letter by email

Contact information

E: recruitment@csy-ip.com

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Khushbu Solanki
LOCATION	Reading
UNIVERSITY	Queen Mary, University of London
DEGREE	BSc. Biochemistry
ROLE	Technical Assistant



When I graduated with a degree in Biochemistry, pursuing postgraduate research appeared the natural path to follow.

That was until I stumbled upon the Patent profession at a careers talk. I found the concept of mixing science and law intriguing, leading me to consider whether this might be the career for me.

How did you get your job at Cleveland Scott York?

Rather than applying for trainee positions immediately, I opted instead to study for a Postgraduate Certificate in Intellectual Property Law at Brunel University. The course equipped me with a strong insight into Patent law and gave me the opportunity to speak to a lot of trainee patent attorneys. It also exempted me from the foundation exams that you must pass in the course of training to become a patent attorney.

Pursuing this route into the career meant I was able to learn much more about the profession before committing to it. It also gave me an advantage when it came to the highly competitive process of applying for trainee roles.

On completing the course at Brunel, I sent speculative applications to several different firms, including Cleveland Scott York. The interviews were very challenging, but they also helped me understand the differences between firms and what they offered.

Cleveland Scott York seemed very friendly and they had a great life-science team working on a variety of technologies.

What are your main duties/roles?

My role encompasses every aspect of filing a patent application; meeting clients, drafting patent specifications, filing patent applications, prosecution and Opposition, and collaborating with foreign attorneys.

I have also worked on design applications and advisory work. Of course, most of my work is carried out with the supervision and support of qualified attorneys, but my confidence is growing with every day that passes and I know it won't be long before I am much more independent, and that one day I'll be training my own trainees.

Additionally, I am responsible for studying the emerging case law and sharing the information with the other attorneys in my firm. We also have weekly trainee meetings where we trainees discuss our learnings of the week and have monthly tutorials on various topics on patent law and drafting to business development.

Beyond my day-to-day work, I am preparing for the UK and European qualifying exams, which are long and challenging.

Do you have any advice for anyone wanting to get into the profession?

If you are passionate about science and willing to work hard, then this is may be a good career choice for you. It may seem daunting at first, but everything makes sense as you progress.

The application process is tough but just try your best and do not give up. It is worth seeking work experience at different firms and making speculative applications to those firms which have not advertised a role. Good luck! ●



Find your dream IP role
online today



GRADUATE JOBS | INTERNSHIPS & PLACEMENTS | ADVICE

www.ipcareers.co.uk

C/M/S

Law . Tax

About CMS

CMS is a future-facing, global law firm with a long established patent attorney practice embedded within a large IP team based on London. We put the interests of our clients at the heart of everything we do across 70+ offices in 40+ countries in the UK, Europe, the Middle East, Asia and South America. With more than 1,000 partners and 4,500 lawyers, we work in cross-border teams to deliver top quality, practical advice no matter how complex the situation. CMS was named Law Firm of the Year at the prestigious 2018 British Legal Awards.

The CMS Intellectual Property group is one of the largest teams in Europe for patent and trade mark work. We have qualified patent attorneys working alongside IP, litigation, corporate and commercial lawyers. Our IP clients include blue-chip businesses, universities, research institutes, start-ups and spin outs, growth technology companies across all disciplines, law firms, governments and defence institutions.

The firm is recognised for its sector excellence and focus in technology and life sciences. Our legal expertise is matched by real world, commercial understanding of the markets in which our clients operate. As a future-facing firm, CMS embraces technology and is committed to new ideas that challenge conventional ways of doing things, if a better solution for clients can be found. We aim to anticipate and create sustainable and rewarding futures for our clients, people, and communities.

Opportunities available

We're looking for individuals who are excited at the prospect of using their scientific background, but in a legal context. These are rare opportunities, offering broad ranging client exposure and excellent training within the infrastructure of a top tier law firm. We are looking for candidates with an excellent track record and a minimum 2.1 (or equivalent) degree in Chemistry, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Computer Science, Electrical Engineering or Physics.

Training

You will be provided with ongoing training and development whilst studying for your Certificate in Intellectual Property (IP), and subsequently your UK and/or European Patent exams. You'll work alongside experienced colleagues and leaders in their field, who will guide you through the fundamental elements of international patent law and how to apply these to your client's needs. ●

No. of employees

>4,500

No. of partners

>1,000

No. of qualified patent attorneys

14 (5 patent attorney partners)

No. of trainee patent attorneys

5

Offices recruited into

London

Disciplines recruited from

All science & engineering degrees dependent on the needs of the business

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

2

Application method

Via CMS careers website or via email

Contact information

E: TalentAcquisition@cms-cmno.com

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

About D Young & Co LLP

Our reputation for excellence is recognised worldwide and we continue to be ranked as a top tier UK IP firm by all major UK legal directories. Over 200 staff (including partners, fee earners, paralegals, and business support teams) work for our offices in London, Munich and Southampton. From SMEs to global businesses, our international client base is diverse and spans all industry sectors and technologies.

We hold dear our culture of work-life fit, through which we promote personal success and the very best service for our clients. Whether you want to live in a city environment, in a coastal location or in the country, you can fully harness your career potential and enjoy life outside of work by joining D Young & Co.

Your career and development

The success of our clients, our firm and everyone who works at D Young & Co, is achieved through shared goals. We nurture and develop talent so from day one you will be fully supported towards developing the specialist legal knowledge needed to deliver real excellence. One to one mentoring is rare in the IP legal sector, however it is something that you will benefit from, as well as working with an exceptional team of welcoming and talented colleagues.

We believe that your career is precisely that; yours. We provide a clear path towards qualification understanding that it is important not to have a rigid approach to progression. We adopt an individualistic and flexible approach to professional development and will work with you to ensure that the route you take is appropriate for you. Our training has been recognised by The Legal 500: 'D Young & Co's reputation for training is second to none in the profession'. We are devoted to helping everyone continue to be the best they can be.

Your benefits & recognition

You'll find a friendly and supportive culture at D Young & Co, where hard work and dedication are recognised and rewarded. You will be empowered to see your contribution making a difference. As well as offering a competitive salary, we have a unique flexible benefits package which you can tailor towards your lifestyle. ●

No. of employees

214 (including Partners)

No. of partners

37

No. of qualified patent attorneys

46

No. of trainee patent attorneys

26

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

9

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys

1

Offices recruited into

London, Southampton and Munich

Disciplines recruited from

Chemistry, biotechnology, biochemistry, electronics, physics, computer technology, telecoms

Opportunities available

- ✓ GRADUATE JOBS
- ✓ INTERNSHIPS

No. of graduate jobs

6

Benefits

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

No. of internship opportunities

8-12 vacation opportunities

Application method

CV & covering letter online or by email

Contact information

120 Holborn, London EC1N 2DY

T: 020 7269 8550

E: recruitment@dyoung.com

W: www.dyoung.com/careers

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Matthew Gallon
LOCATION	Southampton
UNIVERSITY	Cambridge, Bristol (PhD)
DEGREE	PhD Cell Biology
ROLE	Technical Assistant



I joined D Young & Co in September 2016 after applying to a few patent attorney firms over that summer. Through an internship at one firm I learned about basic concepts of patent law and the patent application process, which greatly assisted in my later successful application to D Young & Co.

I work in a team of a handful of qualified attorneys and other trainees. The attorneys delegate tasks to us trainees, then provide feedback once we complete the work. The structure is reminiscent of an academic research group, with each individual working independently but the rest of the group providing support.

The aspect of the job I enjoy the most is its variety. I have worked on cases related to technologies ranging from mechanical processes for producing pipettes to therapeutic antibodies. Whilst the majority of my work when I first started was prosecution (arguing why an application should be granted), I was also involved in opposition work (attacking or defending granted patents) from literally my first day. The proportion of my work relating to oppositions has grown with my experience, and I have attended multiple hearings at the European Patent Office in support of my supervisor. I have also drafted patent applications, provided freedom-to-operate opinions (assessing whether a client's activities infringe existing patents) and conducted

patentability reviews (assessing whether an invention is patentable).

Generally, my work entails synthesising technical information from patents and research papers into some form of writing. For example, to draft an opposition statement I read relevant documents published before the patent application was filed then write arguments explaining why the patent should be revoked in view of those documents. Such tasks involve hours of concentrated reading, thinking, writing and re-writing, which is challenging but rewarding.

D Young & Co provides all the training and support required to pass the qualifying exams, including paying for courses and materials, offering study leave and providing in-house tutorials.

Overall, I am pleased to be training as a patent attorney with D Young & Co. The firm strikes the right balance between excellence and a relaxed environment. The highest standards are expected at all times but everyone is approachable and willing to help. Work-life balance is valued; I have been repeatedly encouraged to speak up if my work-load is too great.

If you wish to train as a patent attorney, I highly recommend D Young & Co to you. ●

Dehns

Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys

About Dehns

Dehns is one of the largest private practice patent and trade mark firms in Europe, with an international reputation for quality of work and service. Founded in 1920, our straightforward, business-orientated approach, combined with the technical excellence of our professionals, has ensured that we have continued to be a leader in our field for almost 100 years.

Client focused service

Clients work with an impressive array of Dehns professionals who provide clear, commercially-focused advice. We work hard to ensure that every client receives the best possible service, tailored to their individual requirements. Our range of graduate and postgraduate scientists means that we are confident of rapidly understanding a broad spectrum of technology. We are consistently ranked in the top tier by leading IP and legal directories.

Highly talented professionals

We recruit the brightest people with the perfect combination of ability, ambition and personality. This means that we have teams of highly talented individuals, who are driven by a desire to work in the field of innovation and committed to providing an excellent client service. We also offer a formal, structured work experience scheme. Our two-week summer placement provides prospective patent and trade mark attorneys with an opportunity to gain practical experience of a career within IP.

Professional development

We offer a stimulating working environment and, as a progressive firm, we want to invest in the brightest and most talented individuals from all walks of life. We place an emphasis on knowledge and training and are committed to development at all levels. Many of our attorneys have been awarded prizes for exceptional performance in qualifying examinations. Trainees are supported throughout their period of qualification via 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 a broad range of experience. We pride ourselves on fostering a friendly atmosphere within the firm, as we strongly believe that this, combined with a shared ambition for professional excellence, is vital to the success of the firm. ●

No. of employees

209

No. of partners

32

No. of qualified patent attorneys

55

No. of trainee patent attorneys

47

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

15

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys

2

Offices recruited into

London, Brighton, Bristol, Oxford, Munich and Manchester

International opportunities

Yes

Disciplines recruited from

Patents: usually STEM subjects; Trade Marks: any degree discipline

Opportunities available

- ✓ GRADUATE JOBS
- ✓ INTERNSHIPS

No. of graduate jobs

Approx. 8-10 each year

Benefits

25 days' holiday, healthcare, life assurance, critical illness cover

No. of internship opportunities

8-10 (Summer Placement Scheme)

Application method

CV & covering letter online

Contact information

Helen Joseph, HR Officer
E: careers@dehns.com
W: www.dehns.com

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Erica Thake
LOCATION	Oxford
UNIVERSITY	Durham
DEGREE	BSc Physics
ROLE	Technical Assistant



I first became interested in the patent profession when I was investigating pursuing a career in the legal sector in my final year at university. Working with patents was immediately appealing to me as it combined law with technology and science.

After attending a first interview in London and a second interview in Oxford, I was very pleased to be offered a job as a Technical Assistant in Dehns' Oxford office. I was particularly impressed by the friendliness of all of the Partners and Associates who interviewed me.

In my current position as a Technical Assistant, I work directly with a variety of Partners and Associates on a number of Physics, Electronics and Engineering cases. Some of this work will involve reading relevant documents and summarising these to clients. I can also regularly be found drafting letters to patent offices or agents addressing objections raised on a client's application. It is always a satisfying moment when you manage to convince an Examiner that an objection is unfounded!

One of the favourite parts of my job is being involved in drafting new patent applications.

This can involve getting to meet clients face-to-face to discuss their latest innovations. These meetings can be particularly exciting when new ideas come out of the meeting as a result of the discussions. It is also an excellent opportunity to get a better understanding of a client's technology.

From my time so far as a Technical Assistant, I have learnt the importance of being able to write clearly for different audiences. For example, I have learnt that whilst it may be appropriate to write a letter to a client containing high level technical details about their invention, when you are communicating with a foreign attorney who may be working off a rough translation, it is important to avoid complex and unnecessary language. Another skill that has been useful to me is time-management. Working as a Technical Assistant involves having to deal with relatively constant deadlines, therefore it is important to learn quickly how to prioritise your work based on urgency and how you work most efficiently.

Dehns is a very friendly and supportive firm to work for. The great attitude and warmth of everyone I work with is something I am still very thankful for. ●



EIP is an innovative, award-winning IP firm with offices in the US and Europe and was the first firm in the UK to combine patent attorneys and IP litigation solicitors to provide clients with a seamless service. It enjoys an excellent reputation for providing IP services primarily in niche specialisms and has an impressive list of direct clients which includes household name tech companies, leading electronic and software companies as well as global manufacturing, life science, food tech and engineering companies. 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 into specific sub-groups to reflect the various expertise of the attorneys and the services offered. These are: the class-leading electronics practice EIP Dynamics, EIP Brands, EIP Digital, EIP Designs, EIP Elements, EIP Energy, EIP Life, EIP Strategy, EIP Search and EIP Legal, which has twice been named "Managing IP UK Litigation Firm of the Year" in 2018 and 2019.

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, and all trainees benefit from high levels of tuition during qualification. EIP has established an ethos of developing trainees and has a good record of advancing 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 typically recruit candidates having an excellent undergraduate degree and optionally a Masters or PhD. The best candidates enjoy the challenge of working at a high intellectual level and dealing with complex issues. Due to the client-facing nature of the work, good social and communication skills are a plus. The firm has a friendly and flexible working environment with open plan offices and a smart casual dress policy. ●

No. of employees

150

No. of partners

23

No. of qualified patent attorneys

30

No. of trainee patent attorneys

19

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

6

Offices recruited into

Bath, Cardiff, Leeds and London

Disciplines recruited from

AI/ML disciplines, computing, electronics, engineering, maths and physics, chemistry & life sciences

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

4-5

Benefits

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

Application method

CV & covering letter by email

Contact information

Fairfax House
15 Fulwood Place
London WC1V 6HU
T: 020 7440 9510
E: careers@eip.com

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Charles Hempsted
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	University College London
DEGREE	MSci Physics (First Class Honours)
ROLE	Trainee Patent Attorney



How did you get your Job at EIP?

After sending off my CV and covering letter to EIP I had a brief informal video call with the Head of Talent Acquisition to discuss my application. After two interviews I was contacted and offered a position. During my interviews I had the opportunity to meet some of the people that I would work with if successful.

Why did you choose EIP?

There were two main reasons I chose EIP. One of them was the people who interviewed me. The other factor was the amount of direct client work I would handle, including interviewing inventors, drafting patent applications, and prosecuting applications.

What's it like working at EIP?

EIP is a modern, open-minded firm which trusts trainees with responsibility from the start. Within a couple of months of joining I was interviewing inventors and drafting patent applications. I've now been here for over a year and half and have drafted over twenty patent applications.

What are your main duties/roles in your current position?

When you first start, your workload is initially determined by your line manager. However, as you progress you work with more qualified attorneys. Every attorney has their own style and processes so this is a great way to get a lot of experience. I'm responsible for drafting patent applications, prosecuting patent

applications and speaking with clients to educating them on IP issues.

What skills have you found to be particularly useful in this sector/profession?

Attention to detail is a critical skill for any patent attorney. Making mistakes which cannot be easily corrected, can lead to a loss of rights for your client. Learning to prioritise your workload is essential. You can be working on several cases for different clients and being able to manage your cases so that you can meet the various deadlines is crucial.

How do you see yourself progressing from your current position in the next 2-3 years?

Within the next three years I hope to be a fully qualified patent attorney. There are UK exams, to qualify as a UK patent attorney, and European exams, to qualify as a European patent attorney. It is important that trainees get practical, real world experience dealing with patents to properly prepare them for the examinations. This makes EIP a great place to train.

What is your daily/weekly schedule generally like?

My day starts with checking my emails and planning out the tasks for that day. Learning to manage and prioritise your workload is vital. I often have meetings with senior attorneys to discuss cases and to receive training. Attending client meetings is also commonplace for trainees at EIP. ●



ELKINGTON + FIFE

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. ●

No. of employees

70

No. of partners

13

No. of qualified patent attorneys

20

No. of trainee patent attorneys

18

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

2

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys

1

Offices recruited into

London and Sevenoaks

Disciplines recruited from

All science and engineering disciplines considered for patent positions. All degree disciplines considered for trademark positions.

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

2

Benefits

25 days' holidays, healthcare, pension scheme, study support, flexitime, season ticket loan, performance bonus, social events.

Application method

Online

Contact information

Elkington + Fife LLP
Prospect House
8 Pembroke Road
Sevenoaks
Kent TN13 1XR
E: hr@elkfife.com

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Callum Anderson
LOCATION	Sevenoaks
UNIVERSITY	Imperial College London
DEGREE	BSc Physics
ROLE	Trainee patent attorney



I briefly encountered the patent system twice during my education, when I and a group of my peers were required to develop and market a product. Part of the development process was to investigate the various forms of intellectual property protection available to us. In both of these instances, the patent system struck me as an interesting mix of both technical and literary skill. In particular, the role of Patent Attorney seemed to offer a unique and interesting way to apply my degree.

My first impression of Elkington and Fife was a welcoming and friendly atmosphere, which would provide me with both the support and challenging work that I was looking for. After receiving my offer, I joined the electromechanical group in August 2016.

Upon joining, I was immediately involved with real client work and felt as though my input was making an important contribution to each case. The group handles a broad range of technical areas, meaning that each case is different and provides a unique challenge. The diversity of work I have been exposed to as part of the training process has increased over time, allowing me to familiarise myself with different areas of the patent system at a steady pace.

A typical day will involve working on several different cases, often at different stages of the patent process and concerning different technologies, and so the ability to manage a variety of tasks and targets is important. Our role is to provide a service to a client, which means completing work to the highest possible standard within the deadlines given to us. As I have progressed through the initial stages of my training, I have found that I am given an increasing amount of responsibility in managing my own caseload and deadlines. This level of trust between members of the team allows new trainees to feel like valued members of the firm straight away.

The goal of any trainee is to eventually become fully qualified, which means exams and requires a significant investment of time outside of work to be dedicated to independent study. However, the process is rewarding in both increased confidence in your work and the achievement of clear career milestones with each exam.

I have found this job to be interesting, challenging and rewarding during my time here. I would recommend that anyone interested in joining the patent profession do so with Elkington and Fife. ●



Start your career today
with IP Careers



With almost 7 000 employees, the European Patent Office (EPO) is one of the largest public service institutions in Europe. Its headquarters are in Munich and it also has offices in Berlin, The Hague, Vienna and Brussels. The EPO was founded with the aim of strengthening co-operation on patents in Europe. Through the EPO's centralised patent granting procedure, inventors are able to obtain high-quality patent protection in up to 44 countries, covering a market of some 700 million people.

The EPO is also the world's leading authority in patent information and patent searching. The EPO received over 174 317 patent applications and granted over 127 625 patents in 2018. Its free online patent database, Espacenet, contains more than 100 million technical documents from 100 countries, and its free neural machine translation service, Patent Translate, provides instant, high-quality translation in 32 languages, including Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Russian.

Our patent examiners are drawn from over 30 different European countries. They work at the cutting edge of technology, analysing the latest inventions in all kinds of technical fields in order to protect and promote innovation in Europe. Their daily work combines scientific expertise with analytical research and an eye for the legal aspects of intellectual property.

Do you have a Master's degree in engineering or science, a good working knowledge of at least two of our official languages (English, French and German) and some experience in industry? Then you too could be part of our team of patent examiners in Munich or The Hague. We offer a competitive net basic salary (EUR 5 650 - 8 050 per month, depending on experience) as well as various benefits and allowances.

The EPO provides a two-year training programme for newly recruited examiners, combining classroom learning with tutoring by individually assigned coaches. In addition to examiner positions, the European Patent Office offers further job opportunities, for example in patent law. ●

No. of employees

7 000

No. of qualified patent examiners

4 300

Offices recruited into

Munich, The Hague

International opportunities

Yes

Disciplines recruited from

Information and communication technology, engineering, science, law

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

Varies

Benefits

Relocation benefits and various allowances (e.g. household, dependents', childcare, education, expatriation, installation and rent allowance), all subject to personal circumstances

Application method

Online application

Contact information

W: epo.org/jobs

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk



You've read the careers guide section, hopefully you now know what a patent attorney does and that lots of firms have a long history and are a great place to work. All firms seem to offer similar benefits and training.

However, think again. In the right environment, being a patent attorney is an exciting and rewarding career. We provide that environment and experience to our trainees and attorneys. We stand out from the crowd in everything we do and that's why our clients value our work.

We see every new case as a challenge. We always think about how we approach problems and work with our clients to find the best solution for them that adds value to their business. That's what keeps clients coming back to us. We have the same philosophy in our approach to training our attorneys within Forresters, which is reflected in our excellent exam success rates.

As part of the firm's "clear direction" ethos, you will receive dedicated plain English training, which will help you to write in direct, jargon-free language. This is a great help when liaising with clients and colleagues, and a transferable skill which will improve communication of all kinds.

So what are we looking for?

You must be as passionate as we are about technology and providing a great service to our clients. You'll need to be a well-rounded person who works well in teams and enjoys problem solving.

In return you will have excellent career prospects and an environment that will help you fulfil your potential. Over 75% of our partners began their patent careers as trainees at Forresters. We place a high value on quality training and we fully fund attendance on training courses. We like to play to our strengths and we will provide you with the support to develop your niche within Forresters. ●

No. of employees

114

No. of partners

17

No. of qualified patent attorneys

24

No. of trainee patent attorneys

10

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

7

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys

3

Offices recruited into

Birmingham, Liverpool, London, Southampton, Munich

International opportunities

Yes

Disciplines recruited from

All science and engineering disciplines

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

2-4

Benefits

28 days' holiday (increasing to 31), healthcare, pension scheme, study support, flexitime, season ticket loan, bike scheme, performance bonus, social events, employee assistance programme

Application method

CV & covering letter by email or post

Contact information

HR Manager, Forresters, 4th Floor, Rutland House, 148 Edmund Street Birmingham B3 2JA

E: careers@forresters.co.uk

T: 0121 236 0484

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Ian Duncan
LOCATION	Birmingham
UNIVERSITY	Birmingham University
DEGREE	MEng Mechanical Engineering
ROLE	Trainee Patent Attorney



What's it like working at Forresters?

From your first week as a trainee you work on real cases with guidance from your supervising partner. This serves as a great introduction to the work that lies ahead and provides you with an early insight into the lifetime of a patent, from drafting an application all the way up to the successful grant of a patent. There are always opportunities to take on work from other partners and associates, which ensures both a steady and varied workload.

Forresters has a wide range of clients, from multinational companies to sole inventors. As a result, you are constantly exposed to new technologies and innovations; this is one favourite aspect of my role, as each week I can find myself going down the rabbit hole of researching new (and sometimes very niche) inventions and technologies.

What are the challenges of being a Trainee Patent Attorney?

One of the most challenging aspects of being a trainee patent attorney is the requirement to pass exams and balancing study time with your workload. One way in which Forresters support your progress during exams is by providing the opportunity to attend residential training courses for each exam. In addition, your colleagues are always on hand to answer

any questions you have or provide advice on tackling tricky topics; there is wealth of experience to draw upon here.

After leaving University, I initially worked for a multinational engineering and technology company. My role at Forresters is very different from what I had done previously, and this obviously brings challenges. However, my supervising partner and colleagues were incredibly supportive from day one and have helped me see that my previous experience only serves to enhance my abilities.

What are some of the skills I will need as a Trainee Patent Attorney?

The role of trainee patent attorney is very much a multidisciplinary role. You must be able to grasp technical concepts quickly as well as being able to apply the law, which often requires an element of lateral thinking. A keen eye for detail is also fundamental to success in this role. It is often the case that the success or failure of a patent application hinges on only a few sentences, or even a few words. Another useful skill is the ability to express your ideas effectively to colleagues and clients; both written and orally. Though you may know the specifics of a case inside out, you will often be talking to people who do not and often within time constraints which means the ability to communicate effectively is key. ●

Gill Jennings & Every LLP (GJE) is one of the UK's leading intellectual property firms and is consistently recognised by the leading UK legal directories, Chambers, Legal 500 and Managing Intellectual Property as a 'go-to' firm. Our success is down to the people we employ, who, above all, are engaged in our business and committed to our success. There are only a few more than 120 of us, so we're small and friendly enough for you to get to know everyone – and big enough to offer you a broad range of interesting work and great career prospects.

Why work for us?

Because you will have an interesting and exciting career, right from the start. Our culture is friendly, supportive and collaborative, and within this environment you receive excellent training and support, and take on real responsibility. Our structured training programme will provide you with a year of on-the-job learning before enrolling you for the Postgraduate Certificate in Intellectual Property Law. Ultimately you will aim to qualify as both a European patent attorney and a Chartered (UK) Patent Attorney. We assist you in these studies through in-house training, mentoring and coaching from senior attorneys while exposing you to a diverse range of cases and clients to help you become a well-rounded patent attorney. We challenge our employees from an early stage to carve out a career that will play to their individual strengths.

Alongside a range of great benefits and perks, we offer a competitive salary, reviewed annually, as well as upon exam success.

What we are looking for

Top academic results, including a first class or 2:1 degree in a relevant subject, are a must, but we are not just looking for academic success. The ability to think creatively, to ask questions and to develop and articulate solutions are just as important. We want graduates who demonstrate a passion for science or engineering and can contribute to the continued development of our business. ●

No. of employees

125

No. of partners

15

No. of qualified patent attorneys

36

No. of trainee patent attorneys

18

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

6

Offices recruited into

London

Disciplines recruited from

Chemistry, life sciences, electronics/IT, engineering and physics

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

3-5

Benefits

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

Application method

CV & cover letter online

Contact information

Gill Jennings & Every LLP,
The Broadgate, 20 Primrose Street,
London EC21 2ESW: www.gje.com/careers

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Dominic Jaques
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Warwick
DEGREE	MSc Physics
ROLE	Patent Technical Assistant



My interest in this career was sparked by the careful use of language that's involved in drafting a patent application. I had enjoyed the technical side of my physics degree course but liked the idea of producing more written work, so this kind of linguistic challenge really appealed to me.

The aspect of the job that I find most engaging is clearly communicating complex technical information to different audiences. It's important to be able to explain legal concepts to clients with little or no knowledge of patent law, but also to argue persuasively against experts like patent examiners and other attorneys representing your clients' competitors and to work effectively with attorneys in other countries. It's also exciting having the opportunity to keep in touch with developments in science and technology, but it would be unfair to say that the only interesting cases are those at the leading edge of research – one of my most memorable cases so far was about a new knitting tool.

I spend most of my time at my desk on tasks like drafting new patent applications, corresponding with clients and responding to letters from patent examiners. This certainly

means lots of reading, but you shouldn't see it as just paperwork – these things all involve doing a lot of thinking to get your head around new technical concepts and to pitch your writing for its particular purpose, which I really enjoy.

On top of this kind of deskwork, you will often need to get out of the office and meet clients face-to-face. GJE is keen to get its trainees used to facing clients as soon as possible, and I've had the chance to meet inventors from small enterprises as well as teams of researchers from our larger corporate clients. It's also sometimes necessary to travel to the various branches of the European Patent Office (EPO) in Germany and the Netherlands to represent your clients in person – and because GJE makes a point of exposing its trainees to every aspect of the job early on, I have attended three hearings at the EPO in my first year and a half.

If you're looking for a career that's intellectually stimulating and this mishmash of scientific, linguistic and interpersonal skills sounds like your niche, I would encourage you to think seriously about a career as a patent attorney (and to put GJE at the top of your list!). ●



GlaxoSmithKline Global Patents Department

GSK is a science-led, global healthcare company. With patient focus, integrity, respect for people and transparency underpinning our activities, we bring to market novel medicines to fulfil our mission to help millions of people across the world to do more, feel better and live longer.

The Global Patents department at GSK is a support function within GSK Legal responsible for advising on the intellectual property (IP) needs of the company. Global Patents plays an integral role in protecting research and development (R&D) investment and IP assets. We provide worldwide IP support across the three GSK businesses of Pharmaceuticals, Vaccines and Consumer Healthcare.

Trainees in Global Patents at GSK work alongside senior attorneys and can expect to spend their time drafting and prosecuting patent applications, as well as working on contentious issues, such as oppositions and appeals before the European Patent Office. Trainees are also involved in reviewing and advising R&D on IP clauses in contracts and agreements and educating the business on IP law, practises and strategies. A comprehensive training programme is provided, including in-house and external tutorials, seminars (e.g. foundation lectures organised by CIPA) and courses (e.g. Queen Mary Postgraduate Certificate in IP Law). Trainees are supported throughout their journey to passing both the European Qualifying Examination to become a European Patent Attorney and the appropriate national qualifying examination (e.g. to become a UK, Belgian, Italian or Swiss patent attorney).

We look for trainees with a 2:1 or 1st class degree and prefer new recruits to have had some research or industrial experience. Applicants must be able to demonstrate a desire and commitment to training and qualifying as a patent attorney and be passionate about science and medical innovation. We recruit team players with strong interpersonal, negotiating, analytical and problem-solving skills, who have exceptional written and spoken English and attention to detail.

GSK understands that keeping employees happy and motivated is key to success and has been consistently voted as one of the top 100 employers in the UK offering a wide range of fantastic employee benefits. GSK maintains an inclusive environment, which reflects the diversity of the patients and customers we serve. ●

No. of employees

134

No. of qualified patent attorneys

83

No. of trainee patent attorneys

6

Offices recruited into

Brentford, Stevenage, Ware (UK); Wavre, (Belgium); Siena (Italy); Nyon (Switzerland). We also have attorneys in the USA in Pennsylvania, North Carolina, New Jersey, Maryland and Massachusetts.

Disciplines recruited from

Life sciences

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

Approximately 2 per year

Benefits

26 days' holiday, bonus plan, employee recognition awards, GSK share plans, private healthcare, pension scheme, cycle to work scheme, ability to buy up to 10 days extra annual leave, flexible working, on site gym (amongst others).

Application method

Online application form

Contact information

W: <http://uk.gsk.com/en-gb/>

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk



Graham Watt is a busy but friendly practice with a respected and long-established client base. The firm provides a full and comprehensive range of IP services to a wide range of clients from individual inventors and small/medium start up enterprises to multi-national companies. Our range of professional services relate to all aspects of patents, trade marks, copyright and designs, which assist our clients in identifying, protecting and exploiting their IP assets in the U.K and worldwide.

Our team

We have a friendly and supportive culture, with a buddy system in place to guide new recruits and give them the best start possible. Our open door policy reflects our helpful and open environment, where you are able to discuss IP and business matters with any member of the team.

Our attorneys have a wealth of knowledge in disciplines such as immunology, biochemistry, biomedical science, engineering and chemistry, as well as all aspects of trade marks in a variety of sectors. Trainees get an all-round experience, gaining information and an understanding from experienced and knowledgeable attorneys. Tasks will be allocated with a view to developing the trainees' knowledge, with early exposure to opposition and other oral proceeding. Meaning our trainees are able to develop quickly into strong and knowledgeable patent attorneys.

The support team, which consists of IP secretaries, formalities manager, office manager and admin team, all strive to find new ways and systems to support the attorneys. Thereby ensuring the attorneys are doing what they do best and their work is done efficiently.

What we can offer

You can expect a diverse and challenging role with your responsibilities and duties increasing as we help you expand your knowledge and experience. Your working exposure will be wide-ranging, and you can expect to gain knowledge and interact with all aspects of the business.

At Graham Watt we ensure that you have the best possible chance in passing your exams by giving you supervised relevant work, guidance, external exam preparation courses, study leave and financial support for your professional exams. Once qualified, the support doesn't stop and guidance and mentoring from the firm continues. ●

No. of employees

15

No. of qualified patent and trade mark attorneys

5

Offices recruited into

Sevenoaks

Disciplines recruited from

Engineering and Biochemistry

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

2

Benefits

25 days holiday plus Bank Holidays (full time), study support and leave, assigned mentor, training costs included as part of training package, ongoing support once qualified, season ticket loan, on-site free parking, cycle scheme, eye care vouchers

Application method

CV & cover letter by email

Contact information

E: Careers@grahamwatt.co.uk

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk



Discover the latest IP roles
online today



GRADUATE JOBS | INTERNSHIPS & PLACEMENTS | ADVICE

www.ipcareers.co.uk

greaves | brewster

PATENT AND TRADE MARK ATTORNEYS

About us

At Greaves Brewster we're proud to have a distinct approach, mindset and location. It means we're able to do things a little differently.

From inception to enforcement, our services cover all facets of intellectual property rights across a range of established and emerging sectors. We handle the preparation, filing, prosecution and maintenance of patent, trade mark and design applications throughout the world. We also advise on IP strategy and are regularly involved in oppositions and IP disputes.

We believe that it is possible to be very successful whilst still acting in an ethically sound and satisfying manner. Whilst we continually act to maximize our client's business gains, when it comes to measuring our success, we do not believe financial gain to be the most important factor.

Opportunities available:

We are looking for outstanding applicants (bachelors, masters or PhDs) from any discipline who can demonstrate:

- Analytical and creative approaches to problem solving
- Excellent communication skills
- Attention to detail
- Independent thinking with strong collaborative skills
- A genuine interest in our business and values

A science background is required to train as a patent attorney. However, we also have graduate opportunities in our trade mark, support and IT teams.

Training

We are a progressive and modern firm with a truly welcoming and supportive working environment and can offer a bright future to new entrants.

We don't have a rigid programme for training as we think the best way to become a good attorney is to learn and grow on the job, with plenty of support and cooperation. Our ethos is to support and encourage our staff to work and cooperate on matters that are valuable and intellectually stimulating, as well as financially rewarding. We are passionate about training and have made it a core part of our business model. ●

No. of employees

24

No. of partners

4

No. of qualified patent attorneys

11

No. of trainee patent attorneys

2

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

1

Offices recruited into

Cheddar (Somerset)

Disciplines recruited from

All degrees dependent on the needs of the business

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

1-2

Benefits

25 days' holiday, pension scheme, study support and leave, assigned mentor, training costs, social events, ongoing support once qualified

Application method

CV & cover letter by email

Contact information

Greaves Brewster LLP, Copa House,
Station Road, Cheddar BS27 3AH
E: vacancies@greavesbrewster.co.uk

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk



Our priorities

Our clients are our top priority. They include many well-known household and industrial names who expect the highest standards of expertise and professionalism and we work hard to deliver that. It helps that we love the intellectual challenge of being patent attorneys and that we never lose the buzz that comes from being at the cutting edge of scientific and technological developments. Our colleagues are our next priority. We offer interesting and rewarding careers in a friendly, supportive and well-resourced working environment. Our emphasis is on team work, good communication and on developing individuals to their full potential. We respect and encourage diversity and equal opportunities and believe in a healthy work/life balance.

Our culture

We are proud of the strong reputation that we have built up over 160 years. We are changing and expanding all the time, always looking at new ways to deliver and develop our core services. Our recent expansion to our litigation service following Haseltine Lake's merger with Kempner & Partners is a perfect example of this. There's a strong international element to our work and we are extending our reach within Europe and beyond – providing great opportunities for travel and interaction with other professionals across the globe. We are using IT to extend quality safeguards and improve efficiencies. We see a wealth of new challenges and opportunities on the horizon and are confident of our ability to keep evolving in response to them.

Where might you fit in?

If you are careful, energetic and keen to learn and you have a top degree in a relevant technical field then we are keen to hear from you. We can provide you with a strong training experience, working closely with our senior attorneys to develop the core skills of a patent attorney. You will learn both on the job and alongside your peer group in 'HLK Academy', our dedicated in-house training school. You will enjoy financial and practical support for your professional exams. And after you qualify we will continue to offer you professional development opportunities throughout your career with us. A significant majority of our partners trained with Haseltine Lake Kempner, proving that if you have the aptitude and the commitment to quality you can go all the way. ●

No. of employees

189

No. of partners

34

No. of qualified patent attorneys

56

No. of trainee patent attorneys

18

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

7

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys

2

Offices recruited into

Bristol, London, Leeds, Glasgow and Munich

International opportunities

Yes

Disciplines recruited from

Physics, chemistry, electronics, engineering, life sciences

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

4-6

Benefits

25 days' holiday, pension scheme, season ticket loan, bike scheme, social events, relocation allowance.

Application method

Online application form

Contact information

W: <https://www.hlk-ip.com/index.html>

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Monique Henson
LOCATION	Bristol
UNIVERSITY	Manchester
DEGREE	PhD Astronomy & Astrophysics
ROLE	Trainee Patent Attorney



Like many trainees, I started my career in the patent law with little to no knowledge of intellectual property. Add to that my limited experience in electronics (largely from first year labs in my physics degree), and you can see why I arrived for my first day as a Trainee Patent attorney in the Electronics and Communications team at Haseltine Lake Kempner thoroughly convinced that I was out of my depth. For me, the biggest challenge when starting at HLK was overcoming my own doubts and reassuring myself that this leap into the unknown was the right thing to do.

What support have you received?

The combination of an in-house training programme (called HLK academy) and supervision from an experienced partner in the Electronics and Communications team helped me to find my feet. With two days a week dedicated to HLK academy for the first few months, trainees get a good grounding on the legal aspects of the job. As for the technical side of the role, I soon learned that it's the ability to pick up new subjects quickly that matters, rather than in-depth knowledge of one particular field.

One thing I've come to appreciate about working at HLK is that there's a real emphasis on training, which means that the focus for trainees is on developing skills to become a better attorney, rather than on simply passing exams and billing time.

What surprised you the most when you first started at Haseltine Lake Kempner?

That I got to leave my desk at 5! Coming from a PhD I was used to working late, and I was surprised by partners at HLK telling me to leave my desk and go home by quarter past five. These days I'm out of the office just after 4pm, as I've shifted my working hours to give me more free time in the evenings.

Do you have any advice for anyone wanting to work in patent law?

Reach out to trainees at firms you're interested in to get a better idea of what it's like to work there. I didn't have the confidence to do that when I was applying, but I know the trainees at HLK are always more than happy to answer questions over LinkedIn or meet up with someone locally for a coffee if they want to get an insight into the role and the firm. ●



HGF Limited is one of Europe's largest intellectual property specialist firms and one of only a few to offer a fully integrated IP solution, bringing over 200 patent attorneys, trade mark attorneys and IP solicitors together to provide a full-service IP solution. The firm has 20 offices across the UK, Ireland, The Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland and Austria.

Technical expertise

HGF has a strong group of strategic business units with experience and expertise covering chemistry, engineering, electronics, life sciences, nano-technology, trade marks and IP law.

Professional development

The training process is a challenge (one we hope you'll relish). We offer exceptional support in helping you get there, from your own personal training budget to internal and external development courses. Mentorship is provided by experienced partners and senior attorneys, to support the journey to full Chartered UK and European qualification.

Current success

HGF is ranked by Chambers & Partners, Legal 500, Intellectual Asset Management, Managing Intellectual Property and World Trade Mark Review. In addition, 13 HGF attorneys are listed as MIP stars, and 13 listed on the IAM Patent 1000 'World's leading patent professionals'. We regularly receive other awards including: Business Leaders Awards (Director of the Year), Worldwide Financial Advisor Awards (Golden Advisor, IP law firm of the Year) and many more.

What HGF can offer

HGF recruit graduates for traineeships throughout the year; each recruit is selected specifically for the technical team and office location.

A minimum of a 2:1 degree in a relevant STEM discipline is required. We seek to ensure that candidates' potential is unlocked by providing high quality training, and opportunities to attend events and seminars. HGF is a friendly, sociable and lively firm, with a professional but relaxed working environment. We believe in progressing people based on merit and will strive to work with you to achieve your career ambitions. ●

No. of employees

383

No. of partners

57

No. of qualified fee earners

89

No. of trainees

54

Offices recruited into

12 UK cities, and a further 8 offices in Ireland, Germany, The Netherlands, Switzerland, and Austria

International opportunities

Yes

Disciplines recruited from

Electronic Engineering, Physics, Chemistry, Life Sciences, Engineering, Law

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

15-20 p.a.

Benefits

27 days' holiday plus holiday purchase scheme, individual trainee training budget, annual performance bonus, private medical and dental cover, PHI, season ticket loan

Application method

CV & covering letter by email

Contact information

E: recruitment@hgf.com

W: <https://www.therightplaceforyou.info/>

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Jennifer Carlisle
LOCATION	Birmingham
UNIVERSITY	Bath
DEGREE	Chemistry
ROLE	Trainee Patent Attorney, Part-Qualified



I decided to apply for a position as a trainee patent attorney after a PhD and three years of working in research project management. During this time, I had realised that what I truly enjoyed was dealing with the technical side of science, and a career as a patent attorney seemed to fit this remit.

In the application process, my initial thoughts on HGF were that the company appeared to be very modern and forward thinking. I have worked here for three years now and I still believe this to be the case. For example, HGF have developed a set of "Values", which represent the culture of the firm. In addition, the company is keen to promote the IP Inclusive initiative, which aims to improve equality and diversity inclusion within the IP community. HGF also promotes a range of support mechanisms for mental health at work.

As a trainee at HGF, there is a lot of variation in my role. This has enabled me to gain experience in many different aspects of the job including assessing the patentability of new inventions, prosecution, and preparing or responding to opposition statements. I often attend client meetings to learn about

their inventions for drafting new patent applications. In addition, I was fortunate to be able to attend Oral Proceedings for an Opposition in The Hague.

At first, there is a steep learning curve. There are a number of new and very different skills to learn including the ability to read and digest lots of information quickly. The law is initially overwhelming but does click into place. My colleagues at HGF have been really very supportive and patient in providing feedback on how to improve my work, which has been very useful for preparing for the final exams. However, there is no pressure to qualify as soon as possible. There is a training budget that you can use to prepare for the exams at your own pace.

In summary, working at HGF as a trainee patent attorney is challenging but ultimately rewarding. It is refreshing to work at a company with a positive culture that encourages learning from one another. I look forward to qualifying in the next year or two and to the new challenges that being a qualified attorney will bring! ●

HINDLES

Patent & Trade Mark Attorneys

The firm

Hindles is a growing firm based in the centre of Edinburgh. We also have an office in Liverpool. We provide a full range of patent and trade mark attorney services to clients ranging from start-ups and SMEs to international corporations in Europe, the USA and Japan.

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. ●

No. of employees

15

No. of partners

2

No. of qualified patent attorneys

3

No. of trainee patent attorneys

3

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

2

Offices recruited into

Edinburgh and Liverpool

Disciplines recruited from

All mainstream science and engineering disciplines considered

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

1-2

Benefits

25 days' holiday, pension scheme

Application method

CV & covering letter by email

Contact information

W: www.hindles.co.uk

E: careers@hindles.co.uk

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Rebecca Douglas
LOCATION	Edinburgh
UNIVERSITY	Glasgow
DEGREE	PhD Physics
ROLE	Trainee Patent Attorney



I started studying for my M.Sci. in Physics at the University of Glasgow in 2007, choosing physics because I liked learning how things worked. It turned out that I also liked research, making a Ph.D. an obvious choice. After completing my Ph.D. and spending a year in postdoctoral research I was still having fun, but was concerned about becoming blinkered. There are a lot of fascinating developments in science and technology happening and I was only learning about a tiny fraction of them. I thought that training as a patent attorney sounded like a good route for broadening my exposure to new technology and would give me the chance to try out the new challenge of studying law. So, I researched the career and found myself applying to and interviewing with several companies, including Hindles in Edinburgh.

The interview was challenging, but fair, and I got the impression that my interviewers wanted to be sure that I was making the right decision in my career change, as well as making sure that I had the appropriate technical background. In turn, I was pleased to learn that the work would be varied, and that I'd be given the opportunity to be involved with a wide range of tasks from day one. I was delighted to be offered the position and I started in July 2017 - shortly before the Edinburgh Festival!

My favourite aspect of the work is definitely the variety. I've worked on everything from

drafts and oppositions through to IP audits, designs and trade marks, and I've been given plenty of opportunities to meet with our clients as well. The technology is just as varied; there are engine improvements, veterinary tools, gadgets for bicycles, safety equipment, positioning systems, biotech, photonics, renewables and more. All of this means that I'm constantly learning, but also making good use of my degree.

In October last year, I sat three of the five foundation exams, which I happily passed, and I'll sit the remaining two foundation exams, along with my first qualifying exam, later this year. I've been offered the opportunity to attend external courses to help prepare me for these exams and I'm also getting great support from the attorneys at Hindles, who are always happy to answer questions (or to set challenges!) There's a strong focus on learning by doing, which suits me, and I feel like my training is one of the top priorities for the company.

It's a challenging career to move into, and there seems to be a near-endless quantity of new things to learn, but that's part of the fun of it. If you want to use your skills in science, writing and communication and varied days appeal to you, then I can strongly recommend training as a patent attorney. So far, Hindles has given me the best possible introduction to my new career and I haven't looked back. ●



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, with additional offices in Düsseldorf, Milan, Madrid, Hamburg and Amsterdam. Our high standing amongst the leading IP firms in Europe is built upon providing clients with top quality IP legal services.

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

The size of Hoffmann Eitle as a firm ensures that we can provide counsel to clients in all areas of technology. We have an unrivaled 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 100 qualified attorneys with a further 40 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 trainees have a choice of studying for the Certificate in IP Law at Queen Mary University of London, or taking the Institute foundation examinations; and our London trainees spend six months in our Munich office, allowing them to attend hearings at the EPO.

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

No. of employees

400

No. of partners

43 (3 in London)

No. of qualified patent attorneys

100 (10 in London)

No. of trainee patent attorneys

40 (3 in London)

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

10 (none in London)

Offices recruited into

London, Munich, Düsseldorf, Hamburg, Madrid, Milan and Amsterdam

International opportunities

Yes

Disciplines recruited from

All science and engineering degrees

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

2 (in London)

Benefits

25 days' holiday plus UK public holidays, pension scheme, season ticket loan, private medical insurance, life assurance and critical illness cover

Application method

CV & covering letter by email to london_recruitment@hoffmanneitle.com

Contact information

Hoffmann Eitle
Harmsworth House
13-15 Bouverie Street
London EC4Y 8DP
T: 020 7427 0200
E: pm@hoffmanneitle.com

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Alex Lee
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Oxford
DEGREE	MChem Chemistry
ROLE	Patent Attorney



I first came across a patent during my final year research project. Intrigued by this curious document, which appeared to define the essence of an invention in a single sentence, I conducted research into the patent profession to discover what it was all about. Initially, I turned to the IP Careers Guide, and encouraged by what I had read, attended an open day at a patent firm to learn more about the patent attorney profession. After deciding that a career in patents was for me, I applied to numerous firms by sending them my CV and a covering letter.

The application process at Hoffmann Eitle involved two interviews and a written test. The interviews were conducted in such a fashion that meant they were not only a chance for the firm to assess my suitability, but also a chance for me to assess the firm's suitability. I was fortunate enough to be offered a job at Hoffmann Eitle, and have no regrets about accepting it!

From day one, I was involved in real cases, the technical subject-matter of which varied from batteries to pharmaceuticals. The work is challenging in a good way and there is always someone available to provide advice. My day-to-day work involves a wide variety of work including drafting and prosecuting

patent applications, oppositions and appeals, and advising clients on matters of UK and European law. All trainee work is carried out independently but reviewed by a supervising partner or an experienced attorney, which provides invaluable training.

Shortly after joining, I was sponsored by the firm to study for the Certificate in Intellectual Property Law at Queen Mary University of London (which substitutes for the UK foundation exams set by CIPA, the Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys). This course provided an opportunity to study the legal principles underpinning my day-to-day work, and to meet trainees from other firms.

A major benefit of being a trainee at Hoffmann Eitle is the opportunity to spend six months working in our Munich office. This secondment allowed me to work with many partners and attorneys there and to work with different clients. As Munich is the centre of the European patent system, there is the opportunity to attend numerous oral proceedings at the European Patent Office. Attending these is invaluable, and I certainly benefited greatly from observing first-hand how experienced attorneys present their cases. ●



The IPO is the United Kingdom's principal government authority on intellectual property (IP) with responsibility for patents, trademarks, designs and copyright. We are an Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS). As part of BEIS we are responsible for the role of IP rights in supporting and promoting innovation, helping to protect, define and reward creativity.

Patent Examiner role

Patent Examiners help companies to innovate and grow by granting high quality, valid patents. They scrutinise both the technical and legal aspects of a patent application, comparing the new invention against those found in patent databases, before considering whether or not to grant a patent.

Patent examining offers an unusual opportunity to combine your scientific and technical knowledge with legal skills. We are seeking people with highly developed analytical and critical skills, as well as the communication skills necessary to express complex technical and legal arguments along with strong oral communication skills to communicate effectively with colleagues and customers. The office deals with a wide range of subject matter, from chemical compounds to smart phones; we endeavour for each examiner to work in areas appropriate to their qualifications and interests.

Recruitment requirements

Patent examiners require or are expected to achieve at least a 2:2 degree or equivalent in a relevant science, engineering, computer science or mathematics subject, or relevant industrial experience at that level. GCSE/O-level grade C or above in Mathematics and English is also required. Additional requirements may be necessary in specific technology areas.

Professional developments

No exams are required, instead examiners undergo a two month in-house training period on joining the Office. Trainees are then assigned to a Senior Examiner who supervises further development and on-going training. A technical training programme also provides continual opportunities for development within different areas of technology. ●

No. of employees
1,200

Offices recruited into
Newport (South Wales)

Disciplines recruited from
Science, engineering, mathematics, telecommunications and computer science

Opportunities available
✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs
Up to 50

Benefits
25 days' holiday rising to 30 over 5 years, pension scheme, flexible working and salary set according to civil service pay bands appropriate for technical specialists

Application method
Online

Contact information
E: adminvacancies@ipo.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/intellectual-property-office

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Dr Jamie M. Frost
LOCATION	Newport, South Wales
UNIVERSITY	Edinburgh
DEGREE	MChem & PhD Chemistry
ROLE	Associate Patent Examiner



How did you get your job at the Intellectual Property Office?

A marvelous act of serendipity. I was post-docing in Canada at the time and preparing to move back to the U.K. – I randomly ended up on the Io's Twitter® feed and they were advertising for people with chemistry backgrounds. I applied through Civil Service Jobs in the normal way. I was able to attend my interview in person, but the office is happy to arrange interviews over Skype® for people that are living abroad, so don't let your geographical location put you off applying.

What is your weekly schedule generally like?

Unpredictable. You can schedule a quiet morning (no meetings, no technical training, no project work) to get some casework done and then out of the blue you might get a phone call from an attorney who wants to ask a question about office practice or discuss your examination report on a case that is approaching its compliance date. Complex issues can take most of the day to resolve and before you know it you have to re-prioritise tomorrow's workload. Managing your work flow can be stressful, especially when unexpected issues arise during a prosecution, but I have a supportive line manager and the collegiate

nature of the office means that there is always someone around to ask for help or bounce ideas off (patent examiners are never short of an opinion).

What's it like working at the Intellectual Property Office?

Brilliant. Patent examining requires attention to detail for prolonged periods, so small changes in your environment make a big difference to your job satisfaction. We have a wellbeing suite with a full-sized snooker table, pool table, dart board, PS4®, Xbox One® etc to help us make the most of our downtime. The office also has a private entrance to Tredgar House (a National Trust managed property with vast gardens), so if you are finding a case particularly torturous you can go and stretch your legs in a green space.

We also frequently get visits from high-profile business leaders. Joe Fairley for example (the co-founder of Green and Blacks®) came to give a talk recently about the importance of IP and everyone got a free bar of chocolate!

Do you have any advice for anyone wanting to work at the Intellectual Property Office

You need a sturdy mug (you will get through a lot of hot drinks) and an open mind. ●



About ip21

ip21 is an industry leader in client centred, commercially focused Intellectual Property Services. We offer the usual comprehensive range of IP legal services, but we also specialise in ongoing commercial consultancy including licensing negotiation, valuation of IP assets, market/competitor analysis and product commercialisation advice.

Our team includes professional client account managers and expert commercial consultants as well as our top-class legal team of patent, trade mark and design attorneys and assistants. In the UK, we have offices in Norwich, London, Cambridge, Chelmsford and Bury St Edmunds to geographically cover all of East Anglia, although our clients come from all over the UK, and the world. The majority of our client work on the patent side involves mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, computer software, renewable energy and consumer product development.

What we are looking for

We are looking for ambitious, pro-active graduate trainees keen to develop both IP legal analytical skills and the communication, sales and consultancy skills to add value to our clients' businesses and our own. Great interpersonal skills and exemplary written and verbal communication are a must, as is a hard-working and adaptable approach to the trainee role and its development over time.

Trainees can expect a wide variety of client work from an early stage originating from a diverse and often demanding client base, and expect to head out to business networking events, conferences and client meetings on a regular basis. We consider candidate applications from any STEM subject graduate (typically to Masters level) and we are particularly looking for demonstrable experience/interest in general business and technology as opposed to purely academic excellence.

What we can offer

Beyond the attractive benefit package we offer all employees (including up to 30 days' holiday), our trainees will have the opportunity to develop a broad commercial and legal skillset. Our offices throughout East Anglia allow our staff to work in a beautiful region with a stunning countryside and coastline, low crime rate, affordable housing and strong social community. Norwich was recently acknowledged as the 'UK's happiest city to live and work in' by the Guardian Newspaper. ●

No. of employees

25

Offices recruited into

Norwich, Chelmsford, London

Disciplines recruited from

All STEM subjects

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

1-2

Benefits

25-30 days' holiday, private healthcare, pension scheme, life assurance, social events, childcare vouchers, retail discounts, performance bonus

Application method

CV & cover letter by email

Contact information

E: info@ip21.com

W: www.ip21.com/our-team/join-our-team

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk



Who we are

ipconsult was established in 2006 and was one of the first companies to offer an alternative approach to many IP practices. We have a core of employed staff, including qualified attorneys, technical assistants and patent and trade mark administrators, and a network of qualified consultants with expertise in various specialist fields, opening the door to flexible working.

What we do

We are a small and nimble firm of patent and trade mark attorneys providing conventional IP related services as well as bespoke IP management and advice on a consultancy basis. We help clients protect, manage and importantly commercialise their IP. We regularly help our clients to secure business support, investment and grant funding to help propel their innovation towards the market in the UK and overseas and have been involved in the successful licensing and sale of IP assets. With commercial support from the outset we help a significant number of our clients extend their IP rights outside the UK and help them build and manage their overseas IP portfolios in line with their business strategy.

Where we are

Our main office is based in the seaside town of Swanage, but our client base is throughout the UK. Our main office provides a central hub that supports our employees and consultants enabling them to provide a full service with the option of working remotely or at our office.

Our clients

Our clients are mainly SME and start-up businesses, but we also represent a number of larger companies and we have a growing range of overseas originating work, mostly in software and engineering related subject matter.

Our network

We work closely with a network of professional specialists and businesses to identify new clients and assist existing clients and were recently acknowledged as one of the top 20 firms filing new UK patent applications.

We are focused on driving innovation and continuously work to further develop connections locally and at a national level to enable more clients to successfully commercialise their IP.

Trainees

We are looking for experienced trainees who think creatively. You will be expected to deal directly with clients and provide IP advice with a strong commercial perspective. ●

No. of employees

5

No. of qualified patent attorneys

2

No. of trainee patent attorneys

1

Offices recruited into

Swanage

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

1

Benefits

25 days paid holiday, flexible working, private healthcare

Application method

CV & cover letter by email

Contact information

E: officemanager@ipconsult.co.uk

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

J A Kemp is one of the largest UK and European patent and trade mark attorney firms, with offices in London, Oxford, Cambridge, Paris and Munich.

J A Kemp's patent attorneys handle patent applications in the UK, Europe and worldwide. The firm has particular expertise in patent oppositions and appeals, especially before the European Patent Office. The firm also conducts intellectual property litigation.

J A Kemp has a varied client base ranging from startups, spinouts and SMEs through to some of the largest corporate clients and most prestigious academic institutions in the world.

What we are looking for

Bright graduates suited to an intellectually challenging and rewarding career that brings together a unique blend of science, law and business skills.

Trainee Patent Attorneys: Candidates should have an excellent track record of achievement at school and university, with a minimum of a 2:1 honours degree in a scientific or technical subject, preferably physics, engineering, computer science, chemistry or biosciences. We are open to applications from candidates holding or studying for a first or higher degree or doctorate.

Essential skills: Excellent spoken and written English, an enquiring and analytical mind, an eye for detail, motivation, drive, team player qualities, listening skills, leadership and people management skills.

What we offer

Our programme of training takes you right through to qualification as a patent attorney (European and UK Chartered). We support you with one to one mentoring, external courses, internal tutorials and on-the-job training. Our reputation for training and our record of first-time examination success are second to none. We will continue to support your professional development throughout your career. We offer a sensible work/life balance combined with excellent salary prospects, flexible working and generous benefits. We have a friendly and supportive culture. ●

No. of employees

213

No. of partners

44

No. of qualified patent attorneys

63

No. of trainee patent attorneys

19

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

7

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys

2

Offices recruited into

London, Oxford and Cambridge

Disciplines recruited from

Relevant scientific or technical subjects

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

6

Benefits

20 days' holiday plus 8 additional flex days, pension scheme, group income protection, group life assurance scheme, travel and accident insurance, performance bonus, enhanced maternity and paternity package, study support, bike scheme.

Application method

CV & covering letter

Contact information

E: careers@jakemp.com

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Sally Higson
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Cambridge and UCL
DEGREE	MSci and PhD Chemistry
ROLE	Trainee Patent Attorney



Like a lot of people, I greatly enjoyed my PhD research but knew halfway through that I didn't want to make a career out of it. I didn't find the day-to-day labwork very engaging and, on a more practical note, the lack of job security also turned me off. I met some patent attorneys at a STEM careers fair, and the more I heard about working in patent law, the more it appealed to me. In particular, I was more interested in reading and writing about research than doing it myself, and I wanted an intellectually challenging job in which I could use my scientific knowledge in a commercial context.

I've worked at J A Kemp for two years now. The support provided for our training and professional development includes in-house tutorials, weekly team meetings, a monthly 'junior journal club' where trainees review case law, regular webinar viewings, and plenty of ad-hoc teaching from the partners as we work on cases with them.

Every trainee is assigned a partner as their mentor, who provides a lot of their work for the first few months as well as a friendly face they can go to with any questions or problems. That said, we quickly start working with several different partners, which provides

a great wealth of experience to learn from. As J A Kemp is a fairly large IP firm, we get to work on an interesting and diverse range of inventions - I regularly work in the fields of pharmaceuticals, biologics, polymers, process chemistry, electrochemical devices and more.

A 'typical day' for me might involve, for example, responding to client queries, preparing written arguments, researching case law, discussing a case with a partner, analysing 'prior art' scientific documents and/or calling up the UK or European patent office. The job is very deadline-oriented and you do need to be organised, but the firm has a range of systems in place to facilitate this and our secretaries are always willing to help.

An IP firm like J A Kemp is also a very friendly, sociable place to work, with plenty of firm-organised events and parties, more casual trainee-organised quiz nights and sports, as well as just simply heading to the pub after work.

If you like the sound of an intellectually stimulating career with a commercial focus on scientific advances, I'd heartily recommend you apply! ●

Keltie

Keltie is an innovative and commercially-focused IP firm with an award-winning working environment and an enviable mix of clients. If you join us, you will be welcomed into a modern, forward-thinking firm where a culture of hard work, reward and enjoyment go hand in hand. Your contributions and ideas will be heard and your personality will be celebrated.

Experience

Keltie's training focuses on gaining knowledge and experience through exposure to real attorney work. Our trainees are exposed to a wide range of interesting and demanding IP matters from the outset. Qualified attorneys work closely with trainees throughout their training and every job is an opportunity for learning. Trainees are trusted with the responsibility of interacting with clients at an early stage; they are not hidden from view behind a partner's signature and can take ownership of their own work with pride, enjoying the satisfaction of building valuable client relationships from day one.

Variety

Trainees work in different client teams across many technologies and across the entire IP lifecycle, including patent drafting, patent prosecution, IP strategy and contentious matters. Although one partner has oversight of a trainee's workload and development, trainees will work with many attorneys across the firm, gaining a great breadth of experience.

Support

At Foundation level, trainees can choose between the Foundation examinations or the Bournemouth University course, both complemented by an in-house seminar series. At Finals level, trainees are encouraged to tackle exams at a pace that suits them. Exam-focused tutorials are available in-house and each trainee is provided with a budget for external courses. The combination of early exposure to a wide variety of work, frequent input from qualified attorneys, and tutorial support gives rise to consistently excellent and prize-winning exam performances from our trainees.

For more information on Keltie, including our graduate open days, visit our website. ●

No. of employees

115

No. of partners

18

No. of qualified patent attorneys

25

No. of trainee patent attorneys

16

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

9

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys

1

Offices recruited into

London, Cambridge and Galway

International opportunities

Yes

Disciplines recruited from

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.

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

3-4

Benefits

25 days' holiday, healthcare, life assurance, buying & selling holidays, pension scheme, season ticket loan, study support, performance bonus, social events

Application method

CV & covering letter online

Contact information

No.1 London Bridge
London SE1 9BA
E: graduate.recruitment@keltie.com,

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Emma Arbabzadah
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Imperial College London
DEGREE	PhD Photonics
ROLE	Patent Assistant



I got into patent law through what is probably a fairly standard route. After graduating with a degree in Physics, I decided to try out the world of research and undertook a PhD in Photonics. I really enjoyed my time in the lab, but after continuing as a Post Doc for a year and a half decided it was time for a new challenge. And perhaps a bit more stability than a career in research could offer!

I had friends who'd gone into patent law, so I got the low-down from them and did some research of my own. I applied to a few firms whose websites (and IP Careers guide profiles!) I liked the look of, and was invited to interview at Keltie. I was initially a bit worried about moving from a relaxed university atmosphere to what I thought might be a very formal one, but these fears were eased after meeting future colleagues. Keltie is a very friendly place, and this was reflected in my interviews, where it was clear that getting to know me was just as important as testing my technical ability. I was offered a position in the Generalist (Engineering) group, and have been here for nearly three years now.

As a trainee at Keltie you will get to work with a number of different supervisors, for a

number of different clients, and doing various different types of work. So you will not be short of variety! I've found that people are very willing to get you involved if you show interest in a specific type of work, so you really do have a say in shaping the make-up of your work load. Working with multiple qualified attorneys is also a big positive for me, as it's helpful to see how different people approach things.

My typical day might include, for example:

- Chatting with a supervisor about a case. Everyone at the firm is very approachable, and willing to help when needed.
- Writing arguments to submit to the patent office. This often forms a big part of my day.
- Corresponding with a client about their portfolio. At Keltie we get to interact with clients from day one which is great for building confidence.

Training as a patent attorney can be challenging, but is ultimately very rewarding. Keltie offers a supportive environment, which is important for such a demanding job, and I would definitely recommend it as a great place to begin and develop your career. ●

Kilburn & Strode

Kilburn & Strode is a partnership in the true sense of the word. We work collegiately as a firm, pooling our knowledge and experience, and collaboratively with our clients to achieve their goals. Established in 1906, we are one of Europe's leading patent and trade mark firms.

We're known for professional, commercially-minded advice delivered in plain English by expert attorneys. We believe in tailoring our approach to fit each client and we thrive on the challenge of helping them to navigate the complex world of patents, trade marks, designs and copyright.

With many leading science and technology specialists amongst our attorneys, the firm is ideally placed to advise on the legal, technical and commercial interests that come together in this complex area of the law.

Our approach to training

We're known for the quality of our structured training programme, and it's the support we offer that really sets our approach apart, starting with a partner or associate who will mentor you throughout. Another key difference is the level of responsibility – expect to be in client meetings early on in your training. You'll be supervised, but we know that the best (and most enjoyable) way to learn is to let you roll up your sleeves and get stuck in alongside other members of the team.

The exams can be tough, but the good news is that if you're part of the Kilburn & Strode team, we'll do everything we can to help you succeed.

Our people

Our firm is rated as one of the best places to work in patents and trade marks. We keep some very demanding clients happy with advice of the highest standard, all whilst keeping our people happy too. We work closely together, and every member of the team is equally respected – secretaries, paralegals, attorneys and our business support teams. ●

No. of employees

193

No. of partners

24

No. of qualified patent attorneys

50

No. of trainee patent attorneys

33

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

8

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys

4

Offices recruited into

Central London

International opportunities

Yes

Disciplines recruited from

Patents: STEM subjects; Trade Marks: any degree discipline

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

10

Benefits

28 days' holiday, life assurance, healthcare, pension scheme, performance bonus, study support, in-house training programme – Advance, agile working, season ticket loan, cycle to work scheme, gym membership, social events, CSR initiatives, EAP, eye care vouchers and flexible benefits including: travel insurance, dental insurance, health cash plan, and critical illness.

Application method

CV & cover letter online or by email

Contact information

T: +44 (0)20 3947 4200

E: hire@kilburnstrode.comW: www.kilburnstrode.com

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Tomos Thomas
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Imperial College London
DEGREE	PhD Physics
ROLE	Trainee Patent Attorney



Why I chose to become a patent attorney

I haven't always wanted to be a patent attorney. Growing up I loved science and computers, but I had such limited knowledge of possible STEM careers that I wasn't even sure whether or not I should go to university. I went to study physics as it was my strongest subject and enjoyed it so much that I ended up doing a PhD. During my PhD studies, I came across patent documents and found them fascinating. I then worked as a satellite engineer for a couple of years, which was great, but I wanted more variety and to do something that was technology-based but with a more prominent commercial aspect. Remembering the patent documents I had read, I looked into the job of patent attorney, and the more information I found, the more appealing it seemed. I spoke to a couple of people I knew from university who had joined the profession, and they talked about the necessary attention to detail required for the job and having to study again – and these are things I like, so this career really appealed to me! I decided to go for it and haven't looked back since.

Why I chose to join Kilburn & Strode

Coming from a medium-sized engineering firm, I wanted to join a relatively larger IP firm. Visiting the Kilburn & Strode office during the application process I got the impression of a lively and exciting firm, and I was impressed by their approach to corporate social responsibility, modern ethos, and employee benefits. One aspect that particularly appealed to me was that I would be joining a cohort of new trainees that would all start at the same time at the same office. That definitely helped me to integrate quickly into the firm and it's been fun settling in together.

What's it like working at Kilburn & Strode

There's so much going on at Kilburn & Strode. My day-to-day work is very varied. Among the

topics I've worked on are telecommunications, cloud computing, medical devices, and fintech. The stage within the patent lifecycle of each piece of work varies too, and I've already gained a broad experience and been given plenty of responsibility. The work environment is very professional while still being relaxed and friendly. Similarly, the firm has adopted a modern and inclusive outlook. For example, there are plenty of social activities and also an awareness that drinking based socials are not for everyone and shouldn't be the only way we can socialise. There's also plenty of things to get involved in besides work - recently I've played 5-a-side football and had lunchtime Italian lessons.

In terms of training, most of the time I work for a single senior attorney, who is a great mentor, but I am also learning different approaches from working with others. I'm pushed to produce work of a high standard and that's definitely helping me to progress quickly. Trainees at Kilburn & Strode have the opportunity to get involved with all aspects of the business, ranging from prosecuting patent applications, to developing relationships with clients, to attending meetings with policy makers. Through this exposure to a wide variety of tasks and situations, trainees quickly develop essential skills.

My advice for anyone applying for trainee attorney positions

From the outside, trying to get into this profession can seem daunting, but it's worthwhile. My impression is that firms vary a lot, and that the trainee experience varies accordingly, so do your research beforehand. Even if you're not totally convinced that this is the profession for you, you may find that a particular firm or interview tilts the balance one way or the other. It's a big commitment, so making that extra effort will pay off. ●



Patents | Trade Marks | Designs | Copyright
European Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys

About us

Lawrie IP is a rapidly expanding firm of European patent and trade mark attorneys based in Glasgow. We are a client and employee-focused firm who invest time in getting to know our clients. We pride ourselves on giving clear, accessible and, most importantly, useful IP advice to all our clients. Likewise, our attorneys work with each other as a team, our focus being on giving clients the best possible service.

Lawrie IP is committed to ensuring that it has all necessary systems, procedures and policies in place to allow it to deliver the best possible service to our clients. We therefore invest significant resource and effort in the quality of our internal processes and procedures and data protection. To exemplify this, we have achieved and successfully maintained ISO 9001:2015 Certification for Quality Management Standards and ISO 27001:2013 Certification for Information Security Management.

We are highly ranked in Managing Intellectual Property's 2018 IP Stars Firm rankings for both patent and trade mark prosecution work in Scotland. We are also ranked by the World Trade Mark Review and the Intellectual Asset Management. Lawrie IP has also signed up to the IP Inclusive Charter, which demonstrates our commitment to supporting and promoting equality, diversity and inclusion in the IP profession.

Why work for us?

We are a values-driven firm, these values being core to the way that we work with clients, and the way that we interact with each other. We value our employees, because they are key to the success of both our clients' businesses and our business. We offer a friendly and supportive working environment and the opportunity to develop your career in line with the growth of the business.

We are committed to providing tailored, high quality training and encourage our attorneys to express their ideas so that we can continually improve our services. As part of our continued growth, attorneys are provided with a number of business development opportunities to engage with new and existing clients.

What are we looking for?

The ideal candidate will be motivated, conscientious and diligent, and will take ownership and responsibility for their work. We are looking for candidates who are interested in developing their own client portfolio, while assisting with the growth and expansion of the firm. ●

No. of employees

22

No. of partners

3

No. of qualified patent attorneys

3

No. of trainee patent attorneys

3

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

3

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys

1

Offices recruited into

Glasgow

Disciplines recruited from

Chemistry, Life Sciences, Physics, Engineering and Computer Software

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

1-5

Benefits

Private healthcare, pension scheme, flexible working, performance bonus, social events

Application method

CV & covering letter by email

Contact information

E: recruitment@lawrie-ip.com

W: www.lawrie-ip.com

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Samantha Moreton
LOCATION	Glasgow
UNIVERSITY	Strathclyde
DEGREE	Ph.D. Chemistry
ROLE	Trainee Patent Attorney



How did you get your job at Lawrie IP?

The interview process comprised of an initial telephone interview, followed by a face-to-face interview and then a final meeting with the directors over lunch. I was asked a range of questions about my skills and experience and was also presented with some technical questions and written tasks. As part of the process, I was also given the opportunity to speak to one of the trainees about their experience in the firm.

The interview process is thorough, but I got the impression that the interviewers wanted to get to know me and make sure that I was the right fit for their team. It also gave me the opportunity to learn more about the role and the team I would be working with, which was an important part in helping me decide that Lawrie IP was the right firm for me.

What is it like working at Lawrie IP?

From my first day working at Lawrie IP, I was provided with a variety of tasks for a range of different clients. As part of a client-focused firm, I have interacted with clients since my first day and attend regular client meetings. This is great for building confidence in your ability to provide accurate advice and is excellent

training for when you are responsible for your own clients.

Training is provided by the qualified attorneys who are supervising the cases on which I am working. I am provided with constructive feedback, which allows me to learn and grow in confidence as I become more experienced. All the qualified attorneys are very friendly and approachable, and I never feel in a position where I can't ask them a question or ask them to explain something in a bit more detail.

What opportunities are there for development at Lawrie IP?

As part of a growing firm, I am actively encouraged to get involved in other aspects of the business to help with my career development. I am a member of our "ISO team", which involves taking on extra responsibilities to ensure that we maintain our ISO accreditations. I also attend regular networking events to engage with prospective clients and other members of the IP profession.

Lawrie IP is a fantastic place to work, and I highly recommend it as an excellent firm to develop your career. ●

Marks&Clerk LLP

About us

Marks & Clerk is one of the world's leading intellectual property firms and the UK's largest firm of Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys. Our international coverage is extensive, with a network of offices in Europe, Asia and North America. Working closely with our associated solicitor firm, we provide a comprehensive range of intellectual property services to a variety of clients, from multinational corporations to the latest start-up ventures, in all sectors worldwide.

What we offer

Our extensive network and the strength of our client portfolio gives our attorneys a great platform to develop their careers, and to work on the technology that best suits their experience and interests. While we are the UK's largest Patent and Trade Mark Attorney firm, our people tell us that's not how it feels on the inside, because each office has a distinct identity and a strong sense of community. At Marks and Clerk, we value diversity and welcome applications from people of all backgrounds.

Each year we recruit a group of trainees across our UK offices, who are given the support needed to achieve qualification as Chartered (UK) and European Patent Attorneys. Our comprehensive in-house Training Academy, combines lectures and tutorials with mentoring and supervision from Partners and other qualified attorneys. The Academy has a strong track record and our trainees regularly receive national prizes for their examination success. In addition, our accredited business skills training supports wider career development. We offer excellent remuneration, benefits and career development so you can enjoy a rewarding career in intellectual property.

What we are looking for

We recruit graduates with degrees in electronics, engineering (all disciplines), computer science and AI, science and mathematics. We also welcome applications from those completing a doctorate, who are undertaking postgraduate research or who are working in industry.

Working as a Patent Attorney is a unique, challenging and rewarding role. If you have the right qualifications, outlook and ambition, we want to hear from you! ●

No. of employees

354

No. of partners

52

No. of qualified patent attorneys

96

No. of trainee patent attorneys

45

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

25

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys

11

Offices recruited into

London, Birmingham, Oxford, Cambridge, Manchester, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen

Disciplines recruited from

Electronics, Engineering (all disciplines), Computer Science and AI, Mathematics, Scientific

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

Up to 15 across all locations

Benefits

26 days' holiday, pension scheme, study support, life assurance, season ticket loan, bike scheme, employee assistance programme, social events

Application method

Online

Contact information

E: recruitment@marks-clerk.com

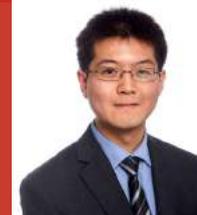
W: www.marks-clerk.com/graduates

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Jian Siang Poh
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Cambridge
DEGREE	PhD, Organic Chemistry
ROLE	Trainee Patent Attorney



What first attracted you to Marks & Clerk?

The "Away Days" that Marks & Clerk offers as part of the in-house Training Academy stood out the most for me. Every two or three months, all of the Trainees in the year group get together for a social event, followed by a training session focusing on some of the skills needed for our day-to-day work and the qualifying exams. It's a great opportunity to catch up with your peers and establish a support network.

What skills have you found to be particularly useful in this sector/profession?

A few crop up regularly - good written and/or oral communication, time management, technical subject knowledge and how to apply it. However, if I were to pick one skill in particular, it would be attention to detail. Many cases hinge on the tiniest nugget of information you can extract from a number of documents, with which you can argue your case and thereby allow you to obtain the best possible protection for your client.

Give us an idea of the range of clients you work with and the variety of technologies?

The clients I work with vary from world-famous multinationals, to local start-ups and single inventors. It is sometimes challenging to work with a wide variety of clients because your advice needs to be tailored according to how familiar the client is with IP, but this in itself makes our work dynamic and exciting. In terms of technologies, I've worked on patenting new

active pharmaceutical ingredients and the processes involved in their synthesis, organic light-emitting compounds, new purification methods and medical devices. Because of its size and wide range of clients, Marks & Clerk is a place where you can keep learning and apply your technical expertise.

Tell us about your career highlight to date?

In my first year, I was able to attend two appeal hearings in Munich with my supervisor. Needless to say, they weren't easy cases and it is quite intense in the hearing room (fortunately as a Trainee, you can spectate without the pressure!). However, I was able to make some suggestions during the breaks that were well received, and overall it made for a unique and interesting experience.

What opportunities are there for development at Marks & Clerk?

I am directly supervised by several Partners and qualified Associates, which has given me experience with different writing styles and ways of arguing cases. In addition, the Training Academy provides weekly webinars and assignments that help you prepare for the exams. Thanks in part to this, I was awarded the Chris Gibson Prize for passing with the highest mark in one of the UK qualifying exams. Marks & Clerk provides a great environment for you to learn effectively, benefit from the experience of colleagues and grow into a capable and confident patent attorney. ●



Mathys & Squire is a 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. We have been established for over 100 years but have a dynamic approach and progressive culture.

Our requirements

We seek to recruit the very brightest and best graduates with a background in engineering and science. A curiosity about how things work, and an analytical mind and first rate communication skills are essential. Our business is focused on providing added value to our clients, so we also look for an appreciation of the commercial implications of intellectual property.

Your development

We have an impressive portfolio of clients, from household names to emerging technologies. Our annual graduate intake is increasing 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 have an informal and friendly atmosphere; we know that hard work must be balanced with fun so we have a very active Social Committee which organises events from soft ball to quizzes to black tie parties.

We have a good record of helping trainees to prepare for professional examinations. We run internal tutorials and provide access to external courses. All of our trainees work under the direct supervision of a partner or associate, having exposure to clients from the very earliest stage of their career, and taking more personal responsibility for clients and their 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 so we have a visible career progression framework. In summary, we like to think that we offer a stimulating environment and a well rewarded career. ●

No. of employees

199

No. of partners

27

No. of qualified patent attorneys

63

No. of trainee patent attorneys

29

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

5

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys

2

Offices recruited into

Cambridge, Oxford, Manchester and London

Disciplines recruited from

Biochemistry, Chemistry, Physics, Engineering and IT related disciplines

Opportunities available

- ✓ GRADUATE JOBS
- ✓ INTERNSHIPS

No. of graduate jobs

4-6

Benefits

25 days' holiday excluding bank holidays plus an extra day's leave for your birthday, healthcare, pension scheme, study support, season ticket loan, bike scheme, gym membership, social events, life assurance, income protection.

No. of undergraduate opportunities

Varies

Application method

CV & cover letter by email

Contact information

E:grads@mathys-squire.com

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Bethany Myers
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Durham/ Imperial College London
DEGREE	Chemistry (MChem and PhD)
ROLE	Technical Assistant



During my PhD, I really enjoyed studying chemistry and applying my knowledge to practical situations. However, over time I came to realise that remaining in academia was not for me. Whilst I wanted to have a career that would allow me to stay in touch with science, I did not want to work in the lab. Patent law was not something that I had particularly considered, but after talking to numerous firms at careers fairs I discovered that it was exactly what I was looking for.

I have been working at Mathys & Squire for just under two years now, and I do not regret my decision in the slightest! The focus so far has been to learn on-the-job, and from day one I have been encouraged to give things a go. I have worked on cases in a variety of chemistry fields (most of which have nothing to do with my PhD) under the supervision of Associates or Partners. The type of work is variable, from drafting patent applications, reading search and examination reports, writing to clients and responding to communications from Examiners, to meeting with clients and managing their patent portfolios. It is this variety that makes the job interesting.

My formal training began last September with

the Certificate in Intellectual Property Law course at Queen Mary, and I am now preparing for the UK qualifying examinations through in-house tutorials provided by attorneys at the firm. Following these examinations, I will start working towards the European pre-examination and subsequently the European qualifying examinations. In addition to this formal training, Mathys & Squire run enrichment training sessions which are based around different areas of law or practical aspects of the job.

Starting a new career from scratch was a daunting prospect, but my colleagues have supported me and have made me feel part of the team. There is a steep learning curve and training takes a long time, so it is important that the people that you are working with help you through it. Everyone that I have worked with at Mathys & Squire has been very friendly and they are always willing to answer my questions.

There have also been numerous ways to get to know my colleagues outside of work. These include organised events such as games night, bake sales and the summer and Christmas party, in addition to more impromptu pub trips. ●



About the firm

Maucher Jenkins is a recognised leading firm of UK and European Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys, Attorneys-at-Law and IP Litigators. Our diverse client base includes individual inventors and entrepreneurs, early stage/start-ups, SMEs and multinational corporations. Some of our larger clients are headquartered in the United States and Japan. Our growing IP litigation practice handles disputes in the European, English and German courts.

We have offices in London, Farnham, Munich and Freiburg. We also have satellite offices in Cambridge, Edinburgh and Basel, together with a representative office in Beijing. We have 15 partners and over 130 staff (attorneys and business support) across the firm.

Our standards are high, but we offer the right candidates stimulating work, excellent professional development and early responsibility. We are a friendly firm and we take pride in our professional, encouraging and supportive culture.

We are proud to attract the most talented and brightest people to this specialist and unique area of law. The work is varied and may include both non-contentious and contentious matters. Secondment opportunities to our German and Chinese offices are available.

Graduate applications

Candidates should have a relevant degree with at least upper second-class honours. 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.

All necessary training will be provided to lead to full qualification as a UK Patent Attorney and European Patent Attorney.

Our trainees will be interacting with clients, so confidence, together with strong social and communication skills is beneficial, together with the ability to work in a team. ●

No. of employees

130

No. of partners

15

No. of qualified patent attorneys

26

No. of trainee patent attorneys

11

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

9

Offices recruited into

London and Farnham

International opportunities

Yes

Disciplines recruited from

Communications engineering and computer science, electronic engineering and physics

Opportunities available

- ✓ GRADUATE JOBS
- ✓ PLACEMENTS

No. of graduate jobs

2-3

Benefits

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

No. of placement opportunities

1-2

Application method

CV & covering letter via our website

Contact information

Alyssa Whittam, Maucher Jenkins
26 Caxton Street
London, SW1H 0RJ
E: Alyssa.Whittam@maucherjenkins.com
W: www.maucherjenkins.com/careers

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Andrew McGlone
LOCATION	Farnham
UNIVERSITY	Glasgow
DEGREE	PhD Electronics, Nano-scale Engineering
ROLE	Technical Assistant



Applying

After applying through IP Careers, I was invited to London to interview for the position of Technical Assistant at Maucher Jenkins. The single interview was in two stages: a short technical exam, then a discussion with the hiring partner and an associate attorney. During the discussion, answers to the technical exam were discussed, focusing on the questions that I found most challenging. This was a good opportunity to demonstrate my analytical skills and problem-solving abilities.

Work

The partners, associates, other trainees and support staff at Maucher Jenkins have been down to earth and approachable. I have a manageable workload that has been steadily increasing as I gain more experience and confidence.

The subject matter of the cases I work on is varied and interesting: the bulk of my workload relates to communications technology, but I've helped prosecute applications relating to semiconductor devices, optical science, mechanical engineering and even commercial appliances.

As a Technical Assistant, I typically prepare draft letters to the EPO or UKIPO which are then checked by and discussed with a supervisor. I'm mostly left to work at my own pace and expected to use my own initiative to prepare drafts.

I also have regular opportunities to meet clients and get involved with business development.

Useful Skills

Since working as a Technical Assistant I have had to draw on almost every aspect of training and education I gained as an undergraduate and post-graduate student. This is very satisfying and I don't believe there are many other careers where this would be the case.

I would identify some of the more important key abilities for a trainee as:

- working unsupervised for long periods of time;
- receiving feedback & constructive criticism (and adapting based on this);
- communicating in a clear and concise manner;
- attention to detail.

Support

In-house tutorials and training are provided in addition to day-to-day, one-on-one supervision. The partners at Maucher Jenkins show a genuine interest in training me, and this makes me feel valued as an employee.

Future

I look forward to taking the Intellectual Property PGCert at Queen Mary University in September this year and progressing through the UK and EU exams. ●



Why Mewburn Ellis?

Mewburn Ellis is the forward-looking IP firm. We work with organisations building the brands and technologies that will define tomorrow. We help them use their intellectual property to navigate that journey - to imagine, plan, nurture, protect and deliver their innovations to market.

Ranked top tier, the firm is synonymous with quality and technical excellence.

What can you expect?

Graduate recruitment is at the heart of our firm and is something we invest a lot of time and energy into. We are renowned in the profession for our training programme and offer a professional education in conjunction with hands-on practical experience. This includes the opportunity to work with diverse and exciting clients in a supportive and relaxed environment.

Our trainees work with at least four partners or senior members of staff. They move between principals about every six months and often this involves a change in geographical location too. After about three years we expect a trainee to have settled into one of our offices to further develop their career.

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.

What are we looking for?

We have vacancies across all science disciplines to join us and work towards qualification as a UK and European patent attorney.

We are looking for people with an active mind and a desire to develop new skills. You should have a broad-based interest in science as well as specific knowledge of your particular degree field. Excellent communication skills (especially in writing) are vital. Good people skills and general commercial sense are also beneficial. No prior knowledge of patent law is required.

So, if you're ambitious, committed, forward-looking and enjoy a challenge, come join us. In exchange we promise you a stimulating and rewarding career, cutting edge work and a chance to be part of our growth story. ●

No. of employees

250

No. of partners

42

No. of qualified patent attorneys

64

No. of trainee patent attorneys

26

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

8

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys

1

Offices recruited into

London, Bristol, Cambridge and Manchester

Disciplines recruited from

Any scientific disciplines

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

10

Benefits

23 days' holiday plus 6 'flex' days, bonus scheme, pension scheme, study support, flexible working, interest-free season ticket loan, health scheme (includes: group life assurance, (3 x salary) permanent health insurance & health assessments), enhanced maternity & paternity pay; plus others such as bike 2 work scheme, eye care vouchers etc.

Application method

Online application form or CV & cover letter by email

Contact information

E: graduate.recruitment@mewburn.com

W: <https://mewburn.com/about-us/recruitment/>

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Joseph Newcombe
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Sussex and UCL
DEGREE	MChem, and PhD in Chemistry
ROLE	Trainee Patent Attorney



Getting into the role

I thoroughly enjoyed my degrees and knew I wanted to stay in the field of science. Poor job security put me off pursuing a career in academia. I came across patent law during my PhD and realised that it requires technical scientific knowledge and analytical skills, both of which were aspects of research that I enjoyed.

I undertook a short internship at another IP firm and attended an open day at Mewburn Ellis while considering where to apply, both experiences were incredibly informative. I applied early on to many firms with offices in London. Mewburn Ellis were fastest to get back to me and offered me a role months before other firms picked up my application.

Life at the firm

From my first day in the office, I have been working on real cases. The workload largely requires digesting information, and communicating it to others. I find communicating technical information to specific audiences a very engaging part of the job.

Mewburn Ellis has an unusual practice of rotating trainees between different partners for approximately 6-month intervals. This means we get to experience different caseloads and working practices of partners at the firm. Some moves require relocation to different offices, all of which are in vibrant cities.

Many partners here were trained in-house and remember being in our position. As a result, trainees are respected within the firm. From early on I have been in direct contact with clients and my work is usually billed in my name. This

establishes relationships with our clients that are important in later years.

I have been exposed to an extensive range of topics (within chemistry). My cases have involved pharmaceuticals, building materials, food additives, analytical equipment and dyes amongst many more.

A typical day

My daily tasks fluctuate, however, a typical day involves:

- Reviewing instructions from foreign attorneys
- Responding to clients queries about their patent portfolios
- Disseminating examination/ search reports to clients
- Drafting arguments in response to patent examiners
- Drafting patent applications

Challenges

The coming years present many challenges, not least, in preparing for the UK and European qualifying exams. Mewburn Ellis provide regular tutorials for trainees. These have already helped me progress a lot. Trainees here also attend the Queen Mary Certificate in Intellectual Property Law which exempts us from the foundation exams to reach UK qualification.

If you are enthused by new technology and its inner workings, as well as analysing complex technical information and communicating it effectively, then patent law may well be a good fit for you. I find the job stimulating and fulfilling, whichever level you are at within the firm, there is always more to learn! ●

MohunAldridgeSykes

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ATTORNEYS

About us

Mohun Aldridge Sykes is a young and growing firm of IP professionals based in the Northern Powerhouse city of Leeds. The firm prides itself on its consistently high level of service and quality of work across a range of sectors, with the vast majority of its clients being based in the United Kingdom. Whilst covering all aspects of patent and trade mark practice, our emphasis is on understanding the wider business needs of our clients and providing sound commercial advice.

Leeds is the vibrant unofficial capital of Yorkshire and combines world class arts, sport and entertainment with close proximity to some of the most beautiful countryside in the UK.

Key Requirements

- Excellent communication skills
- Science or engineering degree (2:2 min)
- Analytical approach to solving problems
- Ability to work within a team
- Good with detail.

Opportunities

We are currently seeking able, talented graduates from science and engineering disciplines to train as patent attorneys in our Leeds office.

Successful applicants will begin solving real client problems from the very start, under the close supervision of qualified attorneys. Trainees will be supported and encouraged on their journey to qualification and beyond. Client-facing skills and a positive attitude to development feature high on our list of requirements. ●

No. of colleagues

10

No. of directors

3

Offices recruited into

Leeds

Disciplines recruited from

Science or engineering

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

Benefits

30 days' holiday, competitive salary, access to a performance-related bonus after qualifying period

Application method

CV & cover letter by email

Contact information

E: careers@mohun-ip.co.uk

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

m MURGITROYD

About us

Murgitroyd is a pan-European patent and trade mark attorney firm, with 15 offices in Europe, 2 business development hubs in the US (East and West Coast) and a patent searching facility in Nicaragua.

Our 290 staff serve a wide variety of clients, from the world's largest corporations to SMEs to cutting-edge entrepreneurs, universities and research institutions, across all industry sectors.

We were founded in 1975 by current Chairman Ian Murgitroyd, an entrepreneur himself, and his ethos of "finding a better way" is a thread that has run throughout the business's development, giving rise to an innovative and forward-thinking company culture.

We pride ourselves on providing a tailored, one-stop global service to our clients, delivered to the ISO 9001:2015 quality standard. We go the extra mile for our clients, and are dedicated to providing world-class customer service at every interaction.

Above all, we are an ethical firm, with a culture of respect for all with whom we work and for our planet, and clear corporate values of honour, wisdom, anticipation and clarity.

Opportunities available

If you'd like to be part of a growing global team with a passion for innovation, and the opportunity to make your mark in an environment that nurtures and develops the best talent, then we'd love to hear from you.

We're looking for candidates (with either a Bachelor's, Masters or PhD qualification) who can demonstrate:

- Excellent communication skills
- Analytical and creative approaches to problem-solving
- Independent thinking with strong collaborative skills
- Interest in building and growing our firm
- Strong collaborative skills

Training

We provide a customised training and mentoring programme for our trainee attorneys. ●

No. of employees

290

No. of directors

45

No. of qualified patent attorneys

41

No. of trainee patent attorneys

14

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

18

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys

3

Offices recruited into

Aberdeen, Belfast, Dublin, Glasgow, Helsinki, London, Milan, Munich, Newcastle, Nice, York

Disciplines recruited from

All degrees dependent on the needs of the business

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

Dependent on needs of the business

Benefits

Competitive holiday entitlement, study support, UK pension, healthcare schemes and global travel opportunities.

Application method

CV & cover letter by email

Contact information

Mary Quinn, HR Director

E: mary.quinn@murgitroyd.com

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

Established in the 1870s, Page White and Farrer is one of the leading firms of specialist patent and trade mark attorneys in Europe. We have a wide range of clients from well-known blue chip organisations; to lone inventors and start-ups, where our advice can make a material difference to the success of the company. We also work with a diverse range of technology, making the work as varied as it is interesting.

Working environment

We have a friendly and supportive atmosphere, exemplified by our dress-down policy, and our flexible starting hours, with the opportunity to work from home at more senior levels. Our working environment is particularly suited to self-motivated individuals that are looking for a proactive role both within the development of the firm itself and with clients. Our approach is dynamic and progressive where new ideas are always welcome. Lastly, we pride ourselves on the approachable nature of everyone in the firm, from trainees to directors alike.

The firm has a main office located a short distance from Kings Cross and Chancery Lane in central London, and an office in Munich, with secondment opportunities available in the Munich office for more experienced trainee levels and above.

Training

Our trainees qualify as both UK and European patent attorneys. Each new trainee is able to choose to attend either Queen Mary University or University of Bournemouth to complete the Postgraduate Certificate in Intellectual Property Law, gaining exemption from the UK foundation exams. We have a good record in passing exams and provide in-house tutorials, plus CIPA memberships.

Graduate applications

We recruit throughout the year, in the field of computer science, electronic engineering, physics, biochemistry, chemistry, and related disciplines. We are particularly looking for candidates with experience in fields related to artificial intelligence. We welcome application from those with a PhD, and are looking for well-rounded individuals with excellent communication skills. ●

No. of employees

75

No. of partners

12

No. of qualified patent attorneys

19

No. of trainee patent attorneys

10

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

2

Offices recruited into

London and Leeds

Disciplines recruited from

Biochemistry, chemistry, computer science, electronic engineering and physics

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

4

Benefits

25 days' holiday, pension scheme

Application method

CV & covering letter by email

Contact information

Tim Searing,

E: tim.searing@pagewhite.com

T: 0207 831 7929

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Matthew Bannister
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	UCL
DEGREE	MRes Electronic Engineering
ROLE	Technical Assistant



Why I chose to become a patent attorney

After my undergraduate degree I began pursuing a career in research, so completed a Master of Research, which led into studying towards a PhD. Towards the end of my PhD I realised that I wasn't enjoying research and wasn't suited to academia. Still wanting to be challenged and use my knowledge and skills gained throughout my studies, I came across Patent Law.

Being a Patent Attorney requires an understanding of science and technology across a variety of subjects, as well as good communication skills. The diversity in subjects is what I enjoy most about the job; I have worked on topics such as a telecoms systems, computer game software, and reactor coolant systems. Before starting in the profession I had no prior experience of the majority of these areas, and every case provides the opportunity to learn something new and interesting.

Training & Qualification

Aside from technical knowledge and communication skills, the job requires knowledge of the relevant law. As a physicist, this was unfamiliar to me, and I have found learning about the law to be a very interesting and challenging aspect of the job. Learning the law is mostly self-directed while working – I was given an active case on my first day, and have learned a lot through reading, talking with other trainees, and talking to my supervising attorneys. Working on actual cases from day one helped to provide context to what I

was learning, as well as an early opportunity to get to know the different technologies.

The firm offers the opportunity to attend either Queen Mary University or University of Bournemouth for the Postgraduate Certificate in Intellectual Property. I attended Bournemouth, and found it to be very interesting and a great opportunity to meet trainees from other firms.

My next steps towards qualification are taking the UK Higher Exams later in 2018. Qualified attorneys at the firm run tutorial sessions in the months preceding the UK and European exams, with self-directed study forming the rest of the preparation. Unlike some firms, there is no pressure to take the exams until you feel ready, which exemplifies the supportive nature of the firm.

The Firm

I find the working environment to be friendly and relaxed. Initially there is a heavy focus on developing your understanding of the technology and law, without having to meet targets. The firm is continually developing and growing - since I started there have been three new partners, as well as the opening of the Munich office. The work/life balance is also very good – the flexible starting hours mean I can start work at 10am and avoid rush hour, and very rarely do I have to work late.

I thoroughly enjoy working here, and would encourage anyone interested in joining the profession to put Page White and Farrer at the top of their list! ●

PATENT BOUTIQUE

Launched in 2014 and based in Shoreditch, Patent Boutique LLP was created with a view to doing things a bit differently.

Our energetic team members work closely together to provide the best possible client service. We invest in our people and systems, and embrace modern working practices, which are difficult for established firms to migrate towards.

We really enjoy what we do, and our clients enjoy working with us.

The Work

The response to our offering has been extremely positive and so the firm has grown rapidly.

Our clients include multinational pharmaceutical companies, global FMCG manufacturers, SMEs, start-ups, and universities, to name but a few. The workload will be varied. Initially trainees will work on an excellent mix of drafting, prosecution and other pre-grant case work, with the opportunity to work on contentious matters as their experience and confidence grows.

Our trainees work directly with the full range of attorneys across the firm, providing the breadth of experience needed to excel.

Recruitment

Autumn 2020 will be our third graduate intake and we plan to recruit two candidates to join our ever expanding team.

Candidates need to be articulate and affable, have a range of interests, and demonstrate academic excellence. Realistically, successful candidates need to have, or be on track for, a first-class honours degree and/or a masters with distinction. Our interviews are challenging and test a range of skills.

Full training will be given as you work towards qualifying as a UK and European patent attorney, including attending the Queen Mary certificate in intellectual property law. We expect a lot from our technical assistants and provide an environment in which they can thrive. ●

No. of employees

15

No. of partners

3

No. of qualified patent attorneys

7

No. of trainee patent attorneys

3

Offices recruited into

London

Disciplines recruited from

Engineering, computing, electronics, chemistry and life-sciences

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

2

Benefits

25 days' holiday, performance bonus, healthcare, pension, study support, season ticket loan

Application method

CV and covering letter by email

Contact information

E: recruitment@patent.boutique

W: <https://www.patent.boutique/>

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Chris Rodger
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Sheffield
DEGREE	MEng Materials Science, Engineering
ROLE	Technical Assistant



Why did you choose Patent Boutique?

When I attended my interviews, I was struck by the friendly and engaging nature of everyone that I met at the firm. I was also excited by the chance to be a part of the first intake of trainees at Patent Boutique. It was clear that the firm was thriving, and growing as a result, so this was not an opportunity to be missed.

I am pleased to say that my initial impressions of the firm have since been confirmed. The importance placed on employee wellbeing and having modern working practices makes Patent Boutique an excellent choice for anyone thinking of joining the profession.

What are your main duties/roles in your current position?

Since day one, I have been given the opportunity to work on a wide range of tasks. My work includes meeting with clients to discuss their inventions, drafting applications and plenty of prosecution work. I have gained experience working with a variety of clients, from independent inventors to multinational companies with large in-house IP departments.

How do you see yourself progressing from your current position in the next 2-3 years?

Having recently taken and passed the Queen Mary certificate in intellectual property law,

the next stage for my training is to take the pre-EQEs, the EQEs and the UK finals exams. Alongside the significant preparation required for these exams, I will also continue to perform client work to enable me to expand my skills and experience.

What challenges have you come across and what support have you received?

On my first day, with minimal legal knowledge, the prospect of being given client work to complete seemed daunting. However, I have been given the support required to ensure that the work is challenging but achievable. This has continued as I have gained more experience, with the level of independence increasing.

Internal tutorials on different aspects of patent law have been provided, which offer opportunities to have detailed discussions about areas that I may not have come across in my day to day work.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience so far at Patent Boutique. I have been made to feel welcome, encouraged to take ownership of my training, and supported in my development throughout. I would recommend anyone who is considering joining the profession to put them at the top of your list! ●



**Make sure your career
is heading in the right
direction**



GRADUATE JOBS | INTERNSHIPS & PLACEMENTS | ADVICE

www.ipcareers.co.uk

PHILLIPS & LEIGH

The firm

Established over 130 years ago, Phillips & Leigh has been offering a complete IP service to clients and associates across the globe.

At Phillips and Leigh, we pride ourselves on working closely with our clients and associates to get the fullest understanding of their situation and matching both short- and long-term business strategies with the best routes forward to obtain the required outcomes for clients.

Range of client services

Phillips & Leigh serve a wide range of clients ranging from large multinational corporations to SME's and single inventors. For some of our clients, there is a high level of client contact with the emphasis of tailoring our service to meet their individual needs. Our patent attorneys and support staff have backgrounds and experience in a wide range of technical disciplines. At present, we are composed of five attorneys, three partners and two associates. Our firm offers advice to clients in all areas of technology pertaining to patents, trade marks, designs, IP due diligence, domain name registrations, defence and enforcement of IP rights and IP portfolio management and filing strategies.

Recruitment requirements

Phillips & Leigh seek graduate entrants fresh to the IP industry or with some experience. Whilst we are happy to receive applications from candidates from all technical disciplines, we are particularly interested in hearing from graduates with expertise in computer science or IT to support our computer implemented invention (CII) practice.

Professional development and training

Phillips & Leigh personnel have acted as examiners for the UK examinations and the European Qualifying Examination, and one have sat on the UK Joint Examination Board. This allows us to give well focused training tailored to the requirements of the candidate and the examinations.

We also encourage all staff to attend external courses to gain valuable skills from other experts in the profession. ●

No. of employees

12

No. of partners

3

No. of qualified patent attorneys

4

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

2

Offices recruited into

London

Disciplines recruited from

Computer science, electronics, electrical engineering, IT and physics

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

2

Benefits

25 days' holiday, season ticket loan and study support

Application method

CV & cover letter by email or post

Contact information

T: Lin Luder - 020 7822 8888

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk



Potter Clarkson LLP is a full-service IP firm that's 'going places', quite literally, with the opening during 2018 of new staffed offices in London, Stockholm and Copenhagen (adding to our already significant presence in Nottingham). Following this exciting expansion, we now provide an even better place to train and work as a patent or trade mark attorney, or IP solicitor, including the opportunities for secondments between offices.

With over 76 patent and trade mark professionals and 9 IP solicitors and around 115 support staff working together across our integrated offices, supported by state of the art IT infrastructure, video conferencing and meeting room facilities, we have considerable legal, scientific and commercial strength.

Potter Clarkson is consistently ranked in the top tier of major legal guides, such as Legal 500 and MIP. Unlike most UK patent and trade mark firms, we also hold three independent ISO accreditations which evidence our high level of service provision, information security and environmental awareness. We pride ourselves on providing expert IP advice delivered by an approachable and engaged team, helping our clients develop IP strategies to support their commercial objectives. Our firm acts for many leading household names including AstraZeneca, Nokia, Unilever and Eli Lilly, as well as SMEs and universities.

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 IP professionals. The organisation and infrastructure of the firm and its dedicated support staff equip our experts with all they need to apply their skills efficiently and deliver exceptional service to clients. We also recognise the increasing importance of a healthy work-life balance and wellbeing, which our dedicated HR team help promote.

To excel as a patent or trade mark attorney requires hard work, dedication and many talents: strong scientific understanding, excellent language skills and commercial acumen. However, our comprehensive and highly regarded training programme will make your training experience varied, challenging and rewarding, ensuring remarkable success in professional examinations.

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

No. of employees

200

No. of partners

42

No. of qualified patent attorneys

48

No. of trainee patent attorneys

16

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

12

No. of IP solicitors

9

Offices recruited into

Nottingham, London, Stockholm and Copenhagen

Disciplines recruited from

Biotechnology, Chemistry, Electronics, Engineering, Physics and Law

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

6

Benefits

24 days' holiday, healthcare, life assurance, employee travel assistance, pension scheme, buying and selling holiday scheme, flexible working and working from home, annual away days

Application method

Online

Contact information

Potter Clarkson LLP
The Belgrave Centre
Talbot Street
Nottingham NG1 5GG

W: www.potterclarkson.com/careers

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Bethany Seccombe
LOCATION	Nottingham
UNIVERSITY	Cardiff
DEGREE	Chemistry
ROLE	Patent Assistant



Pre-Potter Clarkson

During my degree, I came to the realisation that I enjoyed learning about a diverse range of scientific areas, so I knew a career spent doing research in a specific area of Chemistry wasn't for me. Luckily, I was introduced to the patent attorney profession during my year abroad at the University of Toronto, as my supervising professor was acting as an expert witness in a patent dispute. Seeing the work of a patent attorney close up, it seemed to be the perfect fit for my future career.

Once I had graduated, I applied to a number of firms. Although the interview at Potter Clarkson involved both tough chemistry and IP questions, the partners who interviewed me were all really supportive. As part of the interview, I also went for lunch with some of the current trainees, which was a great way to find out more about the firm and confirmed that it was the right fit for me. When I received an offer, I eagerly accepted and began working at PC in the Chemistry department in March 2018.

Working at Potter Clarkson

This past year I have been working on real cases under the supervision of a number of partners. A typical day includes analysing cited documents, responding to examination reports, drafting patent applications and more.

I will often be working on cases in completely different chemical fields, such as small-molecule drugs, refrigerants, polymers or medical devices. Many of these subjects are completely new to me and so being able to quickly research and understand each new technical area is essential.

Excitingly, PC has recently opened three new offices in Stockholm, Copenhagen and London. As part of my training, I have had the opportunity to shadow a partner visiting Stockholm. The trip involved meeting with clients, providing advice on the patentability of new ideas and assessing their global IP strategy.

Beyond the 9 to 5

The firm does everything it can to help us pass our professional exams. In addition to providing study-leave days and sending trainees on external revision courses, senior attorneys provide in-house tutorials to fully prepare us. Last autumn I sat my first three foundation exams - it was a challenge balancing work, study and a social life but thankfully I passed all three!

Life at PC is very sociable. From the annual away-day, summer BBQ and Christmas party to various intra-firm sports clubs, quiz nights and the boardgames group, there's something for everyone - I've discovered a love of climbing! ●



REDDIE & GROSE

About Reddie & Grose

Reddie & Grose is an internationally renowned firm of European and United Kingdom patent, trade mark and design attorneys. With over 50 attorneys based in London, Cambridge and Munich, we offer services across all key technologies, with particular strengths in electronics and software, chemistry, mechanical engineering and biotechnology. Several attorneys also specialise in trade mark work.

Range of client services

We handle the full range of IP rights for a global client base ranging from SMEs through to large corporations. In the UK and Europe we work closely with solicitors, barristers and other members of the legal profession to support clients in litigation before the courts.

Professional development

The firm has an outstanding reputation for training and the majority of partners trained with the firm. Every trainee takes part in our bespoke training programme which complements the day to day training provided by 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. Trainees are encouraged to take advantage of courses and lectures provided by the Chartered Institute, Queen Mary, University of London and other organisations which supplement the thorough practical training provided internally. German and French language classes are held in the London office.

Minimum academics requirements

Good honours degree in a scientific or technical subject, as well as excellent English. ●

No. of employees

150

No. of partners

23

No. of qualified patent attorneys

41

No. of trainee patent attorneys

19

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

9

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys

4

Offices recruited into

London, Cambridge and Munich

International opportunities

Yes

Disciplines recruited from

Patents: Science and Engineering degrees;
Trade Marks: all degrees considered

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

2-7

Benefits

25 days' holiday, healthcare, salary sacrifice pension scheme, season ticket loan, cycle to work scheme and death in service

Application method

Online

Contact information

Reddie & Grose LLP
The White Chapel Building
10 Whitechapel High Street
London, E1 8QS

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	James Burgess
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Manchester
DEGREE	MEng Mechanical Engineering
ROLE	Technical Assistant



How did you get into the profession?

In my final year of university when looking for jobs, I came across the role of a Patent Attorney. It wasn't something I had thought about before, however the profession stood out to me for a number of reasons. I realised it would be well suited to my technical knowledge and communication skills, and would give me the opportunity to work with a range of new technology. As well as this, there is clear career progression, and as technology improves so does the demand for patent work.

One of the main reasons I applied to Reddie & Grose was their focus on support and training. I had heard how tough qualifying exams could be so it was reassuring to see they provide a structured training program including a two week training camp upon starting and then fortnightly training sessions. They also hold many tutorials and seminars for trainees about to take exams. Trainees also undertake external courses such as the Queen Mary University course which provides exemption from the UK foundation papers and, leading up to the European Qualifying Exams, trainees currently attend seminars at CEIPI in Strasbourg. The investment in trainees is evident considering exam performance.

What are your main roles and responsibilities?

I work directly for a partner at the firm, although I am often given work from others too. A large section of my work so far has been responding to examiners at either the UK or European patent offices and presenting arguments in favour of my clients invention. I also correspond a lot with clients who range from foreign attorneys to large companies to lone inventors. My approach to each client must be tailored to them and their specific knowledge and requirements. I have also done some patent drafting and in the future I look forward to working on contentious issues such as an opposition.

I was given real cases to work on right from the start. It is standard to then go through the work I produce with my partner, who will correct and guide me. As I experience more and more work the less guidance I need and the more efficient I become. I would say the most important skill is the ability to clearly and concisely explain technology and express your opinions of it, as you will often be discussing the intricate details of an invention and what makes it better than another. There is a steep learning curve with a lot of new information to learn, particularly regarding IP law. However there is constant support to help you progress and ensure you are producing top quality work. ●



SAGITTARIUS IP

With offices in Marlow and Cambridge, Sagittarius IP is a firm of patent attorneys which specialises in advising clients in the life sciences.

About

Established in 2002, we have grown year on year and have an enviable portfolio of clients ranging from SMEs to industry leading FTSE 100 companies, including start-ups, academic research organisations and university spin-outs.

Our practice is dominated by direct rather than agency work and attorneys therefore have extensive opportunities to engage closely with clients. We offer a range of patent services, including drafting, prosecution, freedom-to-operate analysis and due diligence investigations, as well as providing IP strategy and portfolio management advice.

We are a highly focused and collaborative team with a passion for helping our clients achieve maximum value from their intellectual property. Our goal is to maintain exceptionally high standards and to continually exceed our clients' expectations.

Training

Having a highly capable team is crucial to the success of Sagittarius IP. The firm includes employees at a range of stages in their IP careers, providing a supportive network for individuals as they advance through their training. All attorneys in the firm are involved in providing in-house tutorials and trainees are also offered the opportunity to attend external courses.

The Partners have all been involved in IP education and know the importance of providing full support during training. Therefore, as well as being given direct supervision and training by their Line Managers, all trainees are allocated Training Mentors who will provide help and guidance throughout the process.

We typically recruit one trainee per year. If you have a strong academic background in chemistry or biological sciences, we welcome speculative applications. ●

No. of employees

19

No. of partners

4

No. of qualified patent attorneys

4 (excluding Partners)

No. of trainee patent attorneys

2

Offices recruited into

Cambridge and Marlow

Disciplines recruited from

Chemistry, Biochemistry, Biological Sciences

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

0-2

Benefits

25 days' holiday, pension scheme, healthcare, study support, social events

Application method

CV & cover letter by email or post

Contact information

E: mail@sagittariusip.com

W: http://www.sagittariusip.com

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Lewis Bell
LOCATION	Cambridge
UNIVERSITY	Cambridge
DEGREE	PhD Molecular Biology
ROLE	Technical Assistant



After my PhD, I embarked on a postdoctoral research project which I thoroughly enjoyed but proved that academia wasn't for me. I had learned of the patent profession from several talks and friends who had begun training, and I was lucky enough to be invited to several interviews for trainee positions, including at Sagittarius IP through a recruitment agency. After two very friendly interviews with the Partners of the firm and the senior attorneys I was offered a position in the Cambridge office. What made Sagittarius IP stand out for me was their personable approach. There was no overly-formal "interview day" with many candidates competing and being shepherded together. I have subsequently found that this extends from the way clients are handled, right through to HR, pastoral care and training.

Working at Sagittarius IP is challenging but never daunting. The approachability of everyone, from newly qualified and senior attorneys to the Partners, means that there really is no such thing as a daft question. For example, when I first started a series of in-house tutorials was arranged to prepare me for attendance at Queen Mary. These tutorials

were given by each of the qualified attorneys, senior attorneys and Partners.

Since starting at Sagittarius IP in 2017, I have been involved in many different aspects of the job and given a lot of responsibility. In my first year, I was taken to Munich for an appeal hearing. Since then, I have worked on several drafts, been involved in an opposition and met with multiple clients to discuss their inventions and patent filings. I have also recently begun to work in-house with one of our clients. This involves working on-site with the client one day each week, discussing filing and patent strategy with the scientists directly, and has exposed me to a totally different way of working.

The toughest part of the job is obviously the studying. There is a lot to cover and the learning curve is steep – law is very different from science! I also found it difficult to get back into studying having been outside of that environment for several years. However, I soon found a routine, and this has been key. Everyone at Sagittarius IP has helped me achieve this and is always on hand should I need any advice, study materials or just a friendly ear. ●

SANDERSONS

Patent & Trade Mark Attorneys

Sanderasons was founded in London in 1956 by Laurie Sanderson. Following a move to Colchester in the 1960s, the firm has continued to grow, becoming renowned for our ability to provide quality services to clients on a global scale. Now based in new offices at the University of Essex Knowledge Gateway technology and innovation park, we are ideally placed to help businesses grow.

Who we are today

We are based in Colchester and are proud to be a 'local' firm, but we operate globally with clients and agents in all countries of the world. Our offices in London offer a convenient meeting location for clients if required. We work across a range of industries and trainees will quickly learn to adapt their skills to different technologies, all aspects of IP and will aim to become qualified in both patents and trade marks.

At Sanderasons we pride ourselves in developing strong partnerships with our clients, and in being knowledgeable and passionate about all aspects of intellectual property. Our highly pro-active service gives us the flexibility to tailor the way we work to meet each client's individual needs.

Why Sanderasons?

We are a well-established firm, with a young, forward-thinking partnership. We actively encourage a healthy work/life balance, and achieve this through our informal atmosphere, varied and interesting client-base and beautiful location. We are a small, friendly firm with most of our staff members staying with us for many years. As a small firm, our trainees are very quickly involved in all aspects of the process from initial client meetings to assisting partners with complex litigation.

Opportunities Available

We are happy to receive applications from graduates with a minimum of 2.1 degree in an appropriate technical discipline to train as a patent attorney. We are particularly interested in those with backgrounds in engineering, biotechnology and electronics.

Training

Trainees will work closely with our partners and associates. They will receive support and on-the-job training. They will be expected to work independently under the supervision of their mentor. Training costs will be covered where appropriate by prior agreement. Study leave for exams will be provided where possible. ●

No. of employees

12

No. of partners

2

No. of qualified patent attorneys

3

No. of trainee patent attorneys

2

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

1

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys

2

Offices recruited into

Colchester

Disciplines recruited from

All technical degrees dependent on the needs of the business

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

1

Benefits

20 days' holiday, pension scheme, study support and leave, assigned mentor, training costs, social events, ongoing support.

Application method

CV & covering letter by email

Contact information

E: mail@sanderasons.co.uk

W: www.sanderasons.co.uk

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk



UK & European Patent Attorneys
Registered Trade Mark Attorneys

Schlich are European and UK patent and trade mark attorneys, focusing on protection and enforcement of intellectual property in biotech, chemical, pharmaceutical and mechanical technologies.

We act for local, national and international clients. Through our associates, we protect and enforce IP globally. Contentious matters represent a speciality of ours; we have particular expertise before the Opposition Divisions and Appeal Boards of the European Patent Office and have acted before the UK IPO, the UK courts and trade mark tribunals in the UK and at the EUIPO.

Technically, we are a mix of chemists, biochemists and geneticists. This is reflected in our client list, which includes multinational pharmaceutical companies, major biotech companies, international law firms and, closer to home, UK companies that carry out waste destruction, paint recycling, bacteriophage therapies and food processing etc. We are at the forefront of the CRISPR patent battles at the EPO, representing Intellia Therapeutics, Inc.

Technology, such as electronic filing, enables us to operate from our offices located in Littlehampton on the south coast of England.

We provide employees with full training from in-house training and tutorials to external training through recognised professional bodies. Our internal monthly meetings and teamwork make us a cohesive unit of professionals. For inter partes proceedings it is essential to know what each member of the team is doing. Sharing of knowledge and experience means our clients are always supported by the whole team, even if they have only met one of us.

Training extends across the whole firm and applies to all. At our monthly support liaison meetings you will find the records manager running through updates on electronic filing procedures, new rules for filing Powers of Attorney and paying renewal fees at patent offices across the world. ●

No. of employees

18

No. of qualified patent attorneys

6

No. of trainee patent attorneys

3

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

3

Offices recruited into

Littlehampton, West Sussex

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

Varies

Benefits

25 days' holiday, pension scheme, study support, social events

Application method

Online

Contact information

9 St Catherine's Road

Littlehampton

West Sussex, BN17 5HS

W: www.schlich.co.uk

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk



About us

Secerna LLP is a progressive and expanding firm of Chartered and European patent attorneys based in York and Newcastle. We deal with clients worldwide assisting some of the world's most innovative businesses to protect and enforce their intellectual assets. We build long-term business relationships with our clients, based on exceptional trust, teamwork and value for money.

Opportunities

Due to the firm size and expansion, there is great opportunity in personal and professional development. Individuals can expect to be exposed to a range of business situations, range of clients and technology, such as providing strategic advice to corporate clients, dealing with day to day matters with in-house teams and discussing new technology with inventors. We are a growing firm, committed to our recruitment plans and develop bespoke training programmes for each recruit.

What we offer

We have a great depth of technical expertise across a broad range of technologies and in particular in the fields of telecommunications, computer-implemented inventions, oil and gas delivery technologies and assisted and consumer service solutions. In addition, the Life Sciences and Pharmaceutical groups have considerable experience working in the fields of NCEs, bio-therapeutics, nucleic acid-based diagnostics and regenerative medicine.

As a trainee patent attorney at Secerna you will be given full training and support as you work towards qualifying as a Chartered and European Patent Attorney and will work closely with senior attorneys with a track record of successful training. We appreciate you'll be an individual too and will bring your own personal skills, areas of interest and unique abilities to our team. At Secerna you will have an exceptional opportunity to further your career within a supportive and friendly environment.

What we are looking for

We are looking for graduates with good technological knowledge in their field, good interpersonal skills, who are motivated and keen to learn new skills; as well as candidates that are keen to qualify as a patent attorney and become a partner in a growing firm. ●

No. of employees

13

No. of partners

2

No. of qualified patent attorneys

6

No. of trainee patent attorneys

4

Offices recruited into

York and Newcastle upon Tyne

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

1-2

Benefits

25 days' holiday, healthcare

Application method

CV & covering letter by email

Contact information

E: docketing@secerna.co.ukW: www.secerna.co.uk

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Jonathan Roberts
LOCATION	York
UNIVERSITY	Lancaster
DEGREE	PhD in Physics
ROLE	Trainee Patent Attorney



Why did you decide to pursue a career as a patent attorney?

During the course of my PhD I was fortunate enough to be involved in the filing and prosecution of several patent applications. I therefore gained first-hand experience in the world of intellectual property. Immediately, I was intrigued and, upon researching what the career might entail and speaking with several patent attorneys, I decided that a career as a patent attorney would not only satisfy my desire to learn about new technology but would also be well suited to my particular skillset.

What's it like working at Secerna?

Working at Secerna has been fantastic and I immediately found it to be a comfortable and friendly working environment with support always on hand if needed. The range of clients I have worked with has satisfyingly expanded my scientific knowledge into areas I hitherto knew nothing about, and, as our clients include international enterprises, individual inventors, universities and SMEs, I have also gained invaluable experience in client management. My duties have also been highly varied, ranging from patent drafting to prosecution and has provided me with a broad experience even though I am relatively new to the profession. This broad range

of clients and responsibilities is certainly a perk of working at a smaller firm and has given me experience that I might not have otherwise had.

What skills are required?

Many different skills are required to be successful in the patent profession. For example, good communication skills are vital as they are employed daily as you will be required to explain challenging concepts to fellow colleagues, clients and patent offices – not all of whom will have English as a first language. You should also be self-motivated as you will be required to compliment the skills and knowledge that you are acquiring during daily practice with study in your own time. Other desirable skills are good problem-solving skills, time management and attention to detail. If you feel you have these skills, find the overlap of science, law and commerce fascinating and have a keen interest to learn new things then I would definitely recommend a career as a patent attorney.

What progression opportunities are available?

I have found the firm to be flexible and if you are keen to develop there is a great supportive network to help you do this. ●

SLINGSBY PARTNERS

The firm

Slingsby Partners LLP is a patent attorney firm based in central London. The firm has a strong and growing client base of technology companies from across Europe. We are particularly proud that the great majority of our instructions come through recommendations from existing clients. This success is a result of the strong professional relationships we build with our clients at all levels of the firm. We are recommended by The Legal 500 and IAM Patent 1000.

Slingsby Partners is focused on providing patent advice to predominantly UK and European technology companies in the fields of engineering, electronics and the physical sciences. Our clients range from start-ups to large multinationals. The core of the firm's practice is patent drafting and prosecution, but we have a depth of experience across every area of patent procurement and exploitation, from patent due diligence and acquisition to multi-jurisdictional litigation and licensing.

Graduate recruitment

We are looking for highly motivated individuals with exceptional communication skills to join our close-knit team. You will need a strong academic background and a collaborative and enthusiastic approach to work. All our partners and associates are involved in training and from day one you will be working on a wide range of IP matters directly with our clients.

We take an active interest in our trainees' progress towards qualification as European and UK Chartered Patent Attorneys. The breadth of the firm's work means your day to day training will be directly relevant to the professional exams you will need to undertake. We also provide in-house exam-specific tutorials and encourage our trainees to attend external lectures and courses. ●

No. of employees

31

No. of partners

4

No. of qualified patent attorneys

10

No. of trainee patent attorneys

8

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

1

Offices recruited into

London

Disciplines recruited from

Physics, engineering, electronics, computer science and materials science

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

2-3

Benefits

25 days' holiday, healthcare, pension scheme, study support, season ticket loan, bike scheme, gym membership, social events

Application method

CV & covering letter by email

Contact information

Slingsby Partners LLP

1 Kingsway

London WC2B 6AN

E: info@slingsbypartners.com

W: www.slingsbypartners.com

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Anna Bools
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Exeter
DEGREE	BSc Physics
ROLE	Part-Qualified Patent Attorney



Gaining a job at Slingsby Partners LLP involved a concise application process consisting of submitting a CV and covering letter via IP Careers and attending a single interview. Having already submitted preliminary tasks, completed psychometric tests and attended multiple interviews over a number of months as part of applying to other firms, I was delighted to receive an offer from Slingsby Partners in the week following my interview.

The interview itself was comprehensive and included a number of challenging tasks, which I now realise were chosen to provide an indication of my ability to carry out the everyday work of the firm. I found the interview to be very thorough, but the friendly and relaxed atmosphere of the firm certainly came across, so I did not hesitate to accept my offer.

From day one at Slingsby Partners, I was encouraged to hit the ground running. Starting in May, I had a few months in the office to get my bearings before beginning the Queen Mary course in September. Following a whirlwind drafting masterclass in my first month, under careful supervision I was involved in drafting three applications by the time I attended my first lecture. This is certainly unusual for a new trainee.

The majority of the firm's work is direct client prosecution. I believe that one of the benefits of working for a smaller firm is that

you are encouraged to be involved in client communication very early on. I was fortunate to participate in client meetings and phone calls within just a month or two of starting the job.

Being thrown in at the deep end definitely resulted in a steep learning curve and the first few months involved a lot of adaptation to my surroundings. For example, a significant amount of reading is required for each new case.

However, I feel that the skills developed during a science degree do stand you in good stead in this job. For example, the perseverance required to understand a new technical invention even when, at first reading, the relevant patent specification doesn't seem to make any sense.

Being a trainee at Slingsby Partners involves working with all senior attorneys and partners which I think helps to yield a very cooperative environment. However, this does mean that no one person is responsible for your workload so time management definitely plays a big part of this role.

Having now completed the Queen Mary course, over the next few years I will be aiming to sit some of the UK and European qualifying exams and through experience also hope to develop my ability to advise clients on a wide range of IP matters. ●



Stratagem IPM was formed in 1999 in order to respond to a developing need within the biotechnology industry to provide management of intellectual property, along with clear and decisive strategic advice, and has now expanded to cover all technologies from life sciences and medtech to cleantech and high technology. Our service is built on understanding the specific requirements of our clients, coupled with an emphasis on taking decisive action; it is not the Stratagem approach to simply provide options and opinions and then leave our clients to make their own decisions.

We have commercially trained intellectual property experts with first-hand experience of many, if not most industries; further details of which can be found on our website. We would encourage anyone who is interested in joining our team to contact us, even if the industry or sector in which they specialise is not listed, as our approach effectively translates to the majority of industries and applications.

Our experience, knowledge and expertise have proven effective wherever a company has a need to protect and/or exploit their intellectual property and we work as part of our clients business in order to meet the objectives required from their intellectual property assets. Our services are applicable to all types of company; from individuals and start-ups to multi-national corporations, and will develop alongside any advancements and expansion to the business/company.

Stratagem is a full-service, UK-based, out sourced intellectual property law firm with offices in Cambridge, Bristol and Oxford and global reach through our ever expanding network of foreign legal contacts and clients. Our team of qualified patent attorneys, trade mark attorneys and solicitors consider IP from a commercial perspective and it is our hands on management approach which serves to enhance the value of these assets.

Our Mission Statement: To deliver a strategically different IP management service to build successful businesses with and for our clients. ●

No. of employees
45

**No. of qualified patent attorneys/
solicitors**
14

No. of trainee patent attorneys
7

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
4

Offices recruited into
Cambridge, Bristol and Oxford

Contact information
W: www.stratagemipm.co.uk
E: mail@stratagemipm.co.uk
E (recruitment): patricia.willett@stratagemipm.co.uk
T: 01223 550740

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Dr Uybach Vo
LOCATION	Toft, Cambridge
UNIVERSITY	Birmingham (BSc), Manchester (PhD)
DEGREE	Biochemistry (BSc), Biophysics (PhD)
ROLE	Trainee Patent Attorney



During my PhD at a multi-disciplinary institute, I worked in collaboration with an international pharmaceutical company on a project which combined both Biochemistry and Physics. I found my PhD project to be particularly interesting whilst working in this environment as I was exposed to a wide range of scientific subject matter. I knew that I did not want to be restricted to a particular scientific field after my PhD and decided to look for alternative careers where I could continue to work within a range of different scientific areas. I had briefly come across the role of patent attorney through a careers event at university.

After further research into the role of patent attorney, I found that the combination of science, law and business greatly appealed to me. I decided to apply to a small number of firms, including Stratagem IPM, and was lucky enough to be invited for some challenging but fair interviews with various companies and, whilst I found my interview with Stratagem IPM to be technical, I was impressed by the variety of work that was on offer.

What I enjoy most about the role is the varied nature of the work, which includes multiple areas within the life and physical sciences such as complex biotech innovations, optics, microfluidics and diagnostic devices. It is not only the scientific content of the work that

varies; since starting at Stratagem IPM, I have gained experience in patent prosecution, drafting and freedom to operate projects. I have also worked on commercial contracts, agreements and due diligence projects as well as regularly attending client meetings and getting to meet the inventors.

From the outset, trainees are given their own cases to work on whilst being supported by an experienced attorney. The varied nature of the business means that trainees often get the opportunity to work with numerous attorneys and experience different working styles. There is a comprehensive training programme here at Stratagem IPM which is very flexible in order to suit the needs of the trainee. We have in-house tutorials as well as external training courses to assist with the exams. Although the role can be very demanding and stressful at times due to exams, complex subject matter and workload, Stratagem IPM provides a very supportive and friendly environment in which to work. This support really enables you to learn and develop skills whilst on the job.

If you have a passion to be at the cutting edge of science and are looking for a challenging and rewarding career, then I would recommend joining the patent profession and considering a position with Stratagem IPM as it is a fantastic firm for which to work. ●



Find your dream IP role
online today



The Firm

Sweetinburgh & Windsor is a growing firm of UK and European patent and trade mark attorneys with a focus on providing only the highest quality of service to its varied list of clients, who range from large multi-national corporations to independent inventors. We pride ourselves on our approachability and expertise in all areas of the patent profession, which is why the majority of our clients come to us through recommendation.

Our broad spectrum of clients means that our day to day work stretches to all corners of IP. Specialising in patents, trade marks and designs, we guide our clients through every step of the application process and beyond, allowing excellent opportunities for our trainees to gain vital experience in a vast range of areas.

Working Environment

A happy and healthy working environment is also at the forefront of our business. Our growing team of attorneys and support staff are adept in maintaining a professional, yet comfortable and always friendly atmosphere in the office. The nature of the patent profession means it can be challenging at times, which is why we ensure that everyone at the firm is provided with the help and support they require throughout their working experience.

Training

Trainees are an important part of the next stage of our growth at Sweetinburgh & Windsor, which is why we dedicate ourselves to providing our trainees, not just with the tools and knowledge to reach UK and European qualification, but also with the skills and assets required for a successful career as a patent attorney. This is achieved through a diverse workload with aspects taken from all of our attorneys, one to one support sessions, training courses and regular direct contact with clients and overseas attorneys from an early stage in your training. ●

No. of employees

8

No. of partners

3

No. of qualified patent attorneys

4

No. of trainee patent attorneys

2

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

1

Offices recruited into

Crawley, West Sussex

Disciplines recruited from

Chemistry, Life Sciences, Physics, Engineering/Mechanical

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

1

Benefits

25 days' holiday, pension scheme, study support, flexible working, social events

Application method

CV & covering letter by email

Contact information

E: mail@sweetwindsor.com

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk



Swindell & Pearson provides a high-quality, client-focused service to companies, academic institutions, government agencies and individuals. Formed 140 years ago, we are one of the UK's leading specialists in patents and trade marks. Some of the world's foremost multi-national companies trust our attorneys with their patent and trade mark portfolios.

Client relationships are very, very important to us and we really care about delivering outcomes our clients want. We are patient, approachable, friendly, responsive and dependable.

We know that our reputation is only as good as the individuals we employ. We therefore recruit people with potential and help them fulfill that potential. We pay our trainees well and invest very heavily in their training.

You will work under the direct supervision of experienced attorneys and receive one-on-one constructive feedback on your work. Training includes internal courses, regular seminars and external courses. You will work on cutting edge technology and, unusually, be given early responsibility and your own caseload. A large proportion of your work will be for direct clients where you work directly for the owner of the patent. You will benefit from contact with clients and will be encouraged to become more independent as you develop. You will initially share office space with other trainees, in a friendly and supportive environment and will quickly become a respected and valued member of the team.

Trainees are based in our head office in Derby's professional quarter. Derby has the UK's highest export value per capita and is one of England's fastest-growing cities. It is also an affordable place to live, not far from the Peak District, and just a two-hour train ride from London.

We work on a meritocracy basis where hard work and success are rewarded. The majority of our IP directors trained with the firm, providing proof that we firmly believe that our trainees are our future.

We would welcome speculative applications at any time. ●

No. of employees

55

No. of partners

9

No. of qualified patent attorneys

10

No. of trainee patent attorneys

7

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

7

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys

1

Offices recruited into

Derby

Disciplines recruited from

Physics, engineering, natural sciences, computer sciences, applied mathematics

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

1-2 p.a.

Benefits

Up to 33 annual leave days per year, pension scheme, study support, cycle to work scheme, social events.

Application method

CV & covering letter by email

Contact information

E: recruit@patents.co.uk

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Henry Makings
LOCATION	Derby
UNIVERSITY	Cambridge
DEGREE	MEng – Mechanical Engineering
ROLE	Patent Advisor



Why patents?

I feel like the job of being a patent attorney offers everything I was looking for in a career. It not only fits the analytical and problem-solving aspects of my personality but it provides a fast-paced and highly-varied environment where I'm working on inventions at the cutting-edge of technology every day. I was also drawn to the prospect of working for a wide range of different clients.

Choosing Swindell & Pearson

I wanted to work for a firm which provided personalised mentoring and support throughout my training, allowing me to develop in line with my ambitions, as opposed to merely being another fish in a sea of trainees. And I thought S&P sounded like the perfect fit!

Practical learning is the key focus of the firm's training. Trainees aren't just given piecemeal items; they start real work right away and they're given the responsibility to manage cases through the entire patent prosecution process. Trainees also receive almost daily one-to-one supervision with the firm's most senior attorneys; learning directly from someone with so much experience in this way is invaluable and it allows trainees to quickly develop their skills. The close-knit nature of the firm

also means that trainees have a large team of additional mentors to help support them throughout their career.

Interviews

As with many companies, the first stage of the process was a telephone interview. However, something which really struck me was that this call was with the firm's managing director (now my supervisor)! For me, this was one of the best illustrations of the firm's ethos. It showed the interest that senior attorneys take in the development of trainees and also gave me a great impression of what life would be like. When I hung up the phone, I knew S&P was somewhere I would be challenged and pushed to achieve my full potential.

The job

I'm just coming up to the end of my first year with S&P and everything has been great! In a couple of months, I'll be taking the first step towards qualification by sitting my first set of exams. Although slightly daunting, I think sitting the exams will really aid my day-to-day work and trainees who have previously passed them are very willing to help.

In the future, I'm looking forward to an even greater variety of work, more independence and building my own portfolio of clients. ●

TL BRAND & Co

TL Brand & Co is a small full-service IP law firm assisting in-house counsel and R&D directly with strong commercial understanding and a common-sense, practical approach. We are a very successful growing firm, based in central London.

The structure of TL Brand & Co was devised differently from the traditional IP firm from the outset. Our staff operate in a highly interconnected fashion, supporting each other beyond their core functions. Attorneys will also be trained to understand fully the support functions necessary to allow the firm to run effectively, consequently gaining business management understanding alongside professional training and development.

Set up four years ago as an environmentally conscious paperless office our aim has been to cut out needless printing and filing. Using a cloud-based software system, we reduce our waste and also are able to work anywhere there is an internet connection. Our employees tend to work from home at least once a week, something that is encouraged to maintain a good work/life balance.

Training will involve working with our senior attorneys and attending qualification courses, plus internal and external seminars and tutorials. We believe the best way to learn is through understanding the client and their business, and to that end trainees will attend client meetings and hearings from the start. There are excellent long-term prospects for assisting in the future development and expansion of this new firm.

Our clients range from multinationals with head offices in the UK and US to smaller UK based companies and overseas law firms. We are frequently asked by our clients to advise in connection with wider commercial issues such as agreements, acquisitions, toll manufacturing and trade secrets. Although a young firm, the majority of our attorney-client relationships are long established at a personal level.

While we work on a wide variety of technology, the firm is primarily chemistry and biotechnology oriented. ●

No. of employees

10

No. of partners

1

No. of qualified patent attorneys

3

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

1

Offices recruited into

Central London

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

1

Benefits

25 days' holiday, healthcare, pension scheme, performance bonus, life assurance, home working, flexitime, study support, social events, bike scheme

Application method

CV & covering letter by email

Contact information

E: info@tlbrand.co.uk

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk



We work with the brands and technologies that shape the way we live and work today. If you want to work with innovative clients and creative brands, and value independence within a team environment — we could be the firm for you.

We always:

- help you to develop, learn and progress throughout your career
- provide excellent employee benefits at all levels
- encourage inclusion, diversity and collaboration
- ensure the physical and mental wellbeing of our people
- give back through our charity and community partners

The sectors we're active in include chemistry and materials; consumer brands; life sciences and health; automotive, engineering and industry; software, telecoms and technologies; and creative, media and games.

Our team advises over 1,900 clients in the UK and overseas including small, medium and large organisations, universities and research bodies. We're proud to work with some of the world's leading companies including DePuy, Fulham FC, Hermès, Hitachi, JD Sports, Konica Minolta, Lidl, nChain, Nisa, nPower, Puma and Stanley Black & Decker.

As a firm we value enthusiasm, collaboration, attention to detail and a willingness to drive the practice forward. Our attorneys build strong relationships and long-term trust with their clients, taking the time to truly understand the businesses we work with, and providing straight-talking, commercial and pragmatic IP advice.

We specialise in British, European and international patent, trade mark, design and copyright law, from strategy through to litigation and dispute resolution. We're a global firm with a local feel, operating from offices across the UK including London, Leeds, Cardiff, Milton Keynes, Newcastle and Bristol. Our attorneys are ranked in The Legal 500, IAM Patent 1000 and IP Stars for 2019. ●

No. of employees

90

No. of partners

19

No. of qualified patent attorneys

23

No. of trainee patent attorneys

4

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

12

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys

1

Offices recruited into

Leeds, London, Cardiff, Milton Keynes and Newcastle

Disciplines recruited from

Any

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

As required

Benefits

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

Application method

CV & covering letter by email, see website for details

Contact information

W: <https://www.udl.co.uk/our-firm/join-us>

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

Venner Shiple

Venner Shiple LLP is a leading firm of European patent and trade mark attorney and lawyers. We have offices in London, Cambridge, Guildford, Manchester and Munich, and work with clients based across the globe. Our diverse range of clients includes well known multinationals (both domestic and internationally headquartered), small and medium-sized enterprises and universities.

We have a team of over 75 partners and associates who are dedicated to offering comprehensive advice relating to all aspects of intellectual property. We have qualified Chartered and European patent attorneys from diverse academic backgrounds, with graduate and postgraduate qualifications in all of the major scientific and technical disciplines. Our teams focus on Electronics & Software, Chemical & Life Sciences, Engineering and Trade Marks. Within each of these teams, we have experts recognised as being at the top of their field.

Venner Shiple is a modern firm with a distinctive culture which aims to foster ingenuity, flexibility and teamwork. We look to employ people with excellent technical and interpersonal skills who are keen to work in an area where they are constantly learning about new things. We give our attorneys an opportunity to use their specialist knowledge of science and technology to help protect future innovations, whilst also helping them develop skills to deal with the commercial aspects of patents. We always seek to understand and involve ourselves in our clients' businesses to help them develop a commercially viable IP strategy. We work with clients to exploit new developments, avoid conflicts with the rights of others, and determine the commercial value for the intellectual property assets of a venture. ●

No. of employees

122

No. of partners

26

No. of qualified patent attorneys

40

No. of trainee patent attorneys

30

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

5

Offices recruited into

London, Cambridge, Guildford, Manchester and Munich

Disciplines recruited from

Chemical & life sciences, electronics & engineering and law

Opportunities available

- ✓ GRADUATE JOBS
- ✓ PLACEMENTS

No. of graduate jobs

1-2

Benefits

20/25 days' holiday, healthcare, life assurance, childcare vouchers, eye test vouchers

No. of placement opportunities

Up to 4

Application method

CV & covering letter online or by email

Contact information

W: www.vennershipley.co.uk/careers

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Nusrat Rahman
LOCATION	Guildford
UNIVERSITY	Hong Kong University of Science & Technology
DEGREE	BEng Electronic Engineering
ROLE	Trainee Patent Attorney



What made you apply to be a patent attorney?

In the final year of my degree in Electronic Engineering, I was exploring jobs mostly in the software development industry. However, I was not sure that I wanted to pursue a career purely in software development. I unexpectedly received a job offer as an in-house Patent Engineer in a company specializing in high performance routers and networking solutions.

I thoroughly enjoyed my work in the in-house patent department. After a few years in that role, I decided to start my formal training as a UK and European patent attorney at Venner Shiple.

Why did you apply to Venner Shiple?

Venner Shiple has a great reputation in terms of being one of the best IP firms in the UK. When I went in for the interview, I was very pleased to see how friendly the people were, and they made sure I was comfortable and encouraged open communication. The interview process was fairly easy and straightforward. After the interview, I was sure that Venner Shiple would be a good fit for me. Despite being a big firm, each and every employee is treated with respect, and is valuable to the firm.

What type of work have you done?

I have done a broad range of work since I started working here. I work on prosecution and drafting of UK and EP patent applications related to a wide range of technologies in the field of electronics. The clients that I work with include large multinational corporations. An added advantage of being based in Guildford at Surrey Research Park was that I also get to work with a number of small-to-medium enterprises and start-up companies based around our office. The variety of clients helped me grow my technical knowledge significantly. I also learned various ways of drafting and prosecution of patents based on the preferences and needs of various different clients.

What has been your most interesting piece of work?

One of the best learning experiences for me was attending oral proceedings with my supervisor before the examining division. It was very interesting to see how my supervisor communicates with the examining division and presents the arguments, and more importantly how the examining division reacts to arguments. I helped my supervisor with preparing proposals on the spot during the hearing based on the examining division's comments, and finally the examining division approved one of our proposals.

How is the training?

I have enjoyed my on-the-job training quite a lot. While I am given enough responsibility to organize my own workload, I also get constructive feedback and mentoring from my supervisor. I also have opportunity to provide significant inputs to the work and at the same time learn from my supervisor. It is a perfect balance of getting valuable advice and comments on my work and also having the freedom to work in my own style. I am also encouraged to do tasks at my own pace so that I can maximize my learning experience. At the same time, I am learning how to be more time efficient as my responsibilities increase over time. For UK foundation level qualification, the firm sends its trainees for the Queen Mary course. I completed the course in 2019, and I felt that the course is very helpful in terms of studying together in a team, and getting to know fellow trainees. The firm also provides additional training through internal seminars and tutorials. Trainees are also encouraged to attend a lecture series at CIPA, which provides an introduction to the topics studied in more detail during the Queen Mary course on Intellectual Property. ●

WilsonGunn

PATENT & TRADE MARK ATTORNEYS

Background

Opening our doors in 1864, we are one of the longest established firms of Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys in the country. The firm was founded in Manchester, where our head office is located, and we also have offices in Birmingham, Chesterfield, Liverpool, London and Dublin.

Clients and services

We serve a wide range of local, national and international clients, from individuals to multinational corporations across all sectors, and enjoy a 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.

We pride ourselves on our commercial approach combined with a user-friendly style, and we are consistently recognised by the major legal directories.

Graduate applications

For trainee patent attorneys we seek candidates with a broad based technical background. Most attorneys in the firm deal with a broad range of subject matter. For trade mark trainees we seek candidates with a 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 structured in-house training supplemented by external courses and tutorials.

Trainees are involved with casework from the beginning, and our high proportion of direct client work means that trainees can expect client contact from an early stage. Trainees can also expect a varied and interesting caseload. We encourage trainees to take on responsibility as soon as they are able. Once qualified, attorneys enjoy a high degree of autonomy. ●

No. of employees

63

No. of partners

9

No. of qualified patent attorneys

16

No. of trainee patent attorneys

5

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

12

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys

4

Offices recruited into

Birmingham and Manchester

Disciplines recruited from

Chemistry, life sciences, electrical, electronic and mechanical engineering, physics, law

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

2

Benefits

25 days' holiday plus extra holiday for long service and buy/sell holiday days, pension scheme, study support, bike scheme, performance bonus, social events

Application method

CV & cover letter by email

Contact information

E: graduates@wilsongunn.com

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Scott Macdonald
LOCATION	Manchester
UNIVERSITY	Manchester
DEGREE	BSc Chemistry
ROLE	Technical Assistant



What brought me to the patent profession?

Throughout school, I was always torn between a career in law or science. In the end, I chose to pursue a degree in chemistry. I thoroughly enjoyed my degree course, but my interest in law always remained. After University, I considered careers in pharmaceuticals, energy and healthcare. However, after reading a number of patents for my degree project's literature review, and subsequently delving deeper into the subject, I discovered that a career combining both law and science did in fact exist.

Why and how did I apply to Wilson Gunn?

I hoped to remain in Manchester after completing my degree, and chose to apply to Wilson Gunn for a number of reasons. A primary one was that they recruited into, and were looking to expand, their Manchester office. I had also read that the firm had a long history in the city and a strong reputation for providing quality professional advice to local businesses.

I submitted an application and was invited to an interview. The interview was a surprisingly pleasant experience, and from it I received a great first impression of the firm. Needless to say, I was delighted when I was offered a position.

Why I am happy I chose to join Wilson Gunn

From the outset I was made to feel a welcome and valued member of the team. As I hadn't given it much thought at the time, I soon realised that joining a "medium sized" firm was a fortunate decision. As with many firms, each technical assistant works alongside one of the firm's partners, who you report to and discuss work with on a daily basis. However, all partners, attorneys and staff members in

the office are approachable and the office maintains a sense of community.

I have had great experience working with a number of large clients, managing and prosecuting their global patent portfolio, whilst also working with a number of smaller clients and inventors. Despite its size, I have found that Wilson Gunn retains a number of high-profile clients as a result of our team of adept and dedicated attorneys.

What is life like for a trainee at the firm?

From my experience so far I have found that trainees are given a great deal of responsibility and in return are expected to produce work to a high standard. If you can do so, there is no hesitation in involving you in important and difficult cases. Within my first six months I had been greatly involved in the prosecution of a client's international patent portfolio. This has given me valuable experience of patent prosecution in several countries worldwide, most notably the US, China, Japan and Australia.

Trainees at Wilson Gunn sit the PEB foundation examinations, and in-house training is supplemented by external courses and tutorials. A number of the partners are tutors on respected university courses on patent law, which is indicative of Wilson Gunn's interest in supporting trainees and the firm's passion for maintaining the quality and reputation of the profession.

Wherever you apply, good luck in the application process and I wish you a successful and rewarding career. ●



European & Chartered Patent Attorneys
Trade Mark Attorneys

Withers & Rogers is one of Europe's largest dedicated intellectual property law firms, with offices in London, Bristol, the Midlands, Sheffield and Munich. Established more than 130 years ago, we remain as passionate as ever about making intellectual property work to our clients' best advantage. Today, our clients include many renowned, innovative organisations from across Europe, North America and Asia.

We operate in four principal practice groups: Electronics, Computing & Physics; Advanced Engineering; Life Sciences & Chemistry, and Trade Marks. We also have a number of specialist practice groups including Higher Education, Clean Technology, Medical Devices and Aerospace & Defence.

Your development

When you start your training at Withers & Rogers, from the get-go you'll be given the support and guidance you need to succeed and pass your exams to qualify as a chartered UK and European patent attorney or a chartered trade mark attorney.

Throughout your training, you'll attend courses, lectures and tutorials to give you the very best chance of success. Our own extensive in-house tutorial programme contains up to 32 tutorials each year, providing regular and structured feedback to trainees as they work towards qualifying.

The main focus of your training, however, will be exposure to a wide variety of work on actual live cases. This is where you will quickly develop your 'real world' skills and understanding of the role, as well as the culture and working practices that have led to our firm's reputation and success. This includes involvement in client meetings, the marketing process, and we encourage membership of networking organisations from early on in the training process.

Who can apply?

Generally, trainee patent attorneys will need an engineering or science related degree. We hire graduates with a strong academic record in a technical subject, but above all, we're looking for people who can demonstrate a passion for technology. All trainees need to be able to demonstrate excellent verbal and written communication skills as well as strong commercial awareness. ●

No. of employees

200

No. of partners

30

No. of qualified patent attorneys

60

No. of trainee patent attorneys

16

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

5

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys

2

Offices recruited into

London, Bristol, Leamington Spa, Sheffield and Munich

International opportunities

Yes

Disciplines recruited from

Various engineering, science, law and modern language disciplines

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

1-5

Benefits

23 days' holiday increasing to 28, healthcare, pension scheme, study support, season ticket loan, bike scheme, performance bonus, sabbatical leave, healthcare cash plan and more

Application method

Online

Contact information

E: recruitment@withersrogers.com

W: www.withersrogers.com/careers/

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Sheri Jeyakumar
LOCATION	Bristol
UNIVERSITY	Cardiff
DEGREE	MEng Medical Engineering
ROLE	Trainee Patent Attorney



About me

I studied Medical Engineering at Cardiff University. It is primarily a mechanical engineering degree, but I had exposure to a combination of medical devices, machinery and electronics. I came across patents during work experience in a medical device company in Ireland – we were trying to work around another company's patent!

Working in engineering was interesting, but I found it to be quite slow paced as you work on one project for an extended period of time. The idea of working on a wide variety of subject matter from different technologies really drew me into the world of IP.

Choosing Withers & Rogers

Withers & Rogers really stood out during the application process. In comparison to rigorous engineering assessment days, the selection day was more focused on who I was as a person. The interviewers were friendly and I thoroughly enjoyed the day.

I have grown a lot since starting work at Withers & Rogers. I have been challenged intellectually but I have been supported throughout, and everyone in the office is approachable. I especially appreciate the patience my managers have while I have been learning the legal system as well as new technical concepts!

My advice for those applying to Withers & Rogers is try not to be too nervous on the selection day! They are trying to find who you are as a person and they can only really do that if you're relaxed enough to talk to everyone.

My first year at Withers & Rogers

I am predominantly trained by three supervisors and have had exposure to a wide variety of technology, writing styles and clients. I have been involved in prosecution of pending applications, going to inventor meetings, drafting patent applications, been exposed to opposition procedures and involved in marketing.

The hardest part is learning a lot and trying not to be discouraged. You have to accept that you aren't going to know everything, but the only thing that matters is that you are willing to learn. Everything I do is passed through multiple people before being sent out, so there's no worry about doing 'the wrong thing'. Everyone starts from somewhere!

I am approaching my first set of exams, which are the UK qualification exams. We were given the choice of exams or a university course, and I chose the exams because they suit me better than coursework in general. ●



About Wynne-Jones

As one of the fastest growing IP firms in the UK Wynne-Jones IP is a vibrant, dynamic, modernising and fast-moving firm with an enthusiastic, talented and highly motivated team of positive and like-minded individuals. We are a full service firm meaning we cover patents, trade marks, designs, IP strategy, IP licensing and enforcement, IP audits and IP renewals. With offices in Cheltenham, London, Cardiff and Telford we have been working with many exciting clients across the world, including world-renowned blue-chip organisations, Russell Group Universities and SME's who are at the forefront of innovation. At Wynne-Jones IP we pride ourselves on the forward-thinking environment that we have created. Our working environment is continuously evolving and encourages career progression, professional development, contribution and inclusion in on-going projects whilst also ensuring all members of the Wynne-Jones IP team feel supported and able to thrive.

We part-own AIPEX BV- a pan-European IP law firm along with several other firms in key European countries. Wynne-Jones IP provides opportunities for trainees to work on AIPEX's accounts and gain additional experience in working with large IP portfolios. In addition, there are opportunities to take part in exchange programmes and meet and share best practice with over 250 other trainees and qualified attorneys within the AIPEX network.

Training and beyond Wynne-Jones IP

Under the Wynne-Jones IP Training Academy, the firm offers a structured 4-5 year programme to provide training in both IP law and business management. The firm's approach ensures that graduates are thoroughly supported and are best prepared for examinations and real-life practice. Graduates are also exposed to a commercial and business environment much earlier, meaning they develop IP practice management skills more quickly.

What we're looking for

Candidates can be from a range of technical disciplines and on track to receive a 2:1 or above. You will be adept at problem solving, have an eye for detail, have excellent communication skills and have the ability to meet deadlines. ●

No. of employees

56

No. of partners

4

No. of qualified patent attorneys

7

No. of trainee patent attorneys

11

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

5

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys

1

Offices recruited into

Cheltenham (with occasional working in London and Cardiff offices)

Disciplines recruited from

All degrees dependent on the needs of the business

Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs

1

Benefits

24 days' holiday including a celebration day, pension scheme, study support and leave, assigned mentor, structured training programme, training costs included as part of training package, health insurance, social events, ongoing support once qualified

Application method

Online application form

Contact information

E: careers@wynne-jones.com

For application deadlines, the latest jobs and events visit:

www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Rebecca Quiney
LOCATION	Gloucestershire
UNIVERSITY	Bristol
DEGREE	BSc Biochemistry
ROLE	Trainee Patent Attorney



Entering the profession

Like many students entering into my final year at university, I didn't know exactly what I wanted to do upon graduating. I had enjoyed studying Biochemistry and wanted to pursue a career which would enable me to use and develop the knowledge that I had gained throughout my degree without spending my days behind a lab bench.

Having also been interested in law, I sought advice from the University careers service about the options available to me. It was at this point that I was asked if I had considered becoming a patent attorney. After a bit of digging, I realised that this was an ideal solution to my problem! The profession requires a unique combination of scientific, legal and commercial knowledge which immediately caught my interest.

In order to gain experience in the field of intellectual property, I initially joined Wynne-Jones as an administrative assistant. I immediately found that all of the senior attorneys were not only approachable but all encouraged me to ask questions if there was anything that I didn't understand. Within 6 months I had been offered a position as a trainee patent attorney and, delighted at the opportunity, I grabbed it with both hands!

Training at Wynne-Jones IP

From the moment I joined the training academy, I was exposed to real life cases, attending new client meetings and drafting client correspondence under the supervision of our qualified patent attorneys. I work in

the Life Sciences team and am predominantly supervised by a Partner at the firm. However, I have also received work and supervision from various other attorneys throughout my training. Each attorney has their own style of working and this varied exposure has enabled me to begin to develop my own.

I am now four years into my training and am still enjoying it (barring the exams!). My day to day work tends to involve a lot of prosecution, including drafting of new applications and corresponding with both clients and patent offices. I am still supervised but the amount of input required is decreasing with time.

The Wynne-Jones training academy is unique in that it not only provides the technical guidance required for day to day tasks, but also supports your professional development. Throughout my training I have received tutorials dedicated to exam preparation, marketing and business development to build the skills required to become a well rounded patent attorney.

Looking to the Future

At the time of writing this article I have just received my most recent set of exam results and I am delighted to have passed all four final European Qualifying Exams. I will soon apply to be listed as a European Patent Attorney on the list of professional representatives at the European Patent Office.

With one more UK qualifying exam to pass, the finish line is now in sight, and I am excited for what the future holds! ●

JOB FINDER

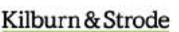
Provides summary information on employers recruiting Trainee Patent Attorneys, including page numbers in the left-hand column to make finding detailed information in each employer's 'Company Profile' easier.



Company	No. of employees	No. of partners	No. of qualified patent attorneys	No. of trainee patent attorneys	Offices recruited into	International opportunities	TYPES OF OPPORTUNITIES				GRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES							UNDERGRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES		Further info (page)	
							Graduate jobs	Internships	Placements	Insights	No. of jobs	No. of days holiday	Benefits					No. of opportunities	How to apply		
													Pension scheme	Healthcare scheme	Study support	Performance bonus	Season ticket loan				Social events
 AA THORNTON <small>INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW</small>	70	12	11	7	London	X	●	-	●	-	3	26	●	●	●	-	●	-	Varies	CV & covering letter by email	82
 Abel+Imray	96	14	22	11	London, Bath and Cardiff	X	●	-	-	-	1-3	22	●	●	●	-	●	●	-	Application form by email	84
 AJ Adamson Jones <small>Taking care of your IP</small>	23	5	9	1	Nottingham and Leicester	X	●	-	-	-	1	25	●	●	●	●	-	●	-	CV & covering letter by email	87
 Appleyard Lees	123	19	30	16	Nationwide	✓	●	-	●	-	Open	25	●	●	●	●	●	●	Open	Online	88
 Barker Brettell <small>Intellectual Property</small>	128	27	27	17	Birmingham and Southampton	X	●	-	-	-	2	25	●	●	-	-	-	-	-	Online	90
 BeckGreener	46	12	14	3	London	X	●	-	-	-	1-2	25	●	-	●	●	●	●	-	CV & covering letter by email or post	92
 boulton <small>WADE TENNANT</small>	180	36	19	15	London, South East & Europe	X	●	-	●	-	4	23	●	●	-	-	-	-	Varies	By email and post	94
 CARPMAELS & RANSFORD	262	25	66	46	Central London	X	●	-	●	●	Up to 14	23	●	●	●	-	●	●	14	CV & covering letter online	96

Company	No. of employees	No. of partners	No. of qualified patent attorneys	No. of trainee patent attorneys	Offices recruited into	International opportunities	TYPES OF OPPORTUNITIES					GRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES						UNDERGRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES	How to apply	Further info (page)	
							Graduate jobs	Internships	Placements	Insights		No. of jobs	No. of days holiday	Benefits							
														Pension scheme	Healthcare scheme	Study support	Performance bonus				Season ticket loan
 cleveland scott york	60	11	13	6	London, South East & Brussels	X	●	-	-	-	1	25	●	-	●	-	●	-	-	CV & covering letter by email	98
 C/M/S Law . Tax	>4500	>1000	14	5	London	X	●	-	-	-	2	TBC	●	-	-	-	-	-	-	Online or by email	101
 D YOUNG & CO INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY	214	37	46	26	London, Munich, Southampton	X	●	●	-	-	6	25	●	●	●	●	●	●	8-12	CV & covering letter online or by email	102
 Dehns Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys	209	32	55	47	Nationwide, Munich	✓	●	●	-	-	8-10	25	●	●	-	-	-	-	8-10	CV & covering letter online	104
 eIP	150	23	30	19	Nationwide	X	●	-	-	-	4-5	25	●	●	●	●	●	●	-	CV & covering letter by email	106
 E+F ELRINGTON + FIFE	70	13	20	18	London and Sevenoaks	X	●	-	-	-	2	25	●	●	●	●	●	●	-	Online	108
 Europäisches Patentamt European Patent Office Office européen des brevets	7000	-	4300	-	Munich, The Hague	✓	●	-	-	-	Varies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Online	111
 FORRESTERS Clear direction	114	17	24	10	Nationwide, Munich	✓	●	-	-	-	2-4	28	●	●	●	●	●	●	-	CV & covering letter by email or post	112

Company	No. of employees	No. of partners	No. of qualified patent attorneys	No. of trainee patent attorneys	Offices recruited into	International opportunities	TYPES OF OPPORTUNITIES				GRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES							UNDERGRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES	How to apply	Further info (page)	
							Graduate jobs	Internships	Placements	Insights	No. of jobs	No. of days holiday	Benefits								
													Pension scheme	Healthcare scheme	Study support	Performance bonus	Season ticket loan				Social events
 GJE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY	125	15	36	18	London	✗	●	-	-	-	3-5	25	●	●	●	●	●	●	-	CV & covering letter online	114
 gsk	134	-	83	6	Nationwide, Europe & USA	✓	●	-	-	-	2	26	●	●	-	●	-	-	-	Online application form	116
 GRAHAM & WATT CO LLP	15	-	5	-	Sevenoaks	✗	●	-	-	-	2	25	●	-	●	-	●	-	-	CV & covering letter by email	117
 greaves brewster	24	4	11	2	Cheddar (Somerset)	✗	●	-	-	-	1-2	25	●	-	●	-	-	●	-	CV & covering letter by email	119
 Haseltine Lake Kempner	189	34	56	18	Nationwide and Europe	✓	●	-	-	-	4-6	25	●	-	-	-	●	●	-	Online application form	120
 HGF	383	57	89	54	Nationwide and Europe	✓	●	-	-	-	15-20	27	●	●	-	●	●	-	-	CV & covering letter by email	122
 HINDLES Patent & Trade Mark Attorneys	15	2	3	3	Edinburgh and Liverpool	✗	●	-	-	-	1-2	25	●	-	-	-	-	-	-	CV & covering letter by email	124
 HOFFMANN EITLE	400	43	100	40	London and Europe	✓	●	-	-	-	2	25	●	●	-	-	●	-	-	CV & covering letter by email	126

Company	No. of employees	No. of partners	No. of qualified patent attorneys	No. of trainee patent attorneys	Offices recruited into	International opportunities	TYPES OF OPPORTUNITIES					GRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES						UNDERGRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES	How to apply	Further info (page)	
							Graduate jobs	Internships	Placements	Insights		No. of jobs	No. of days holiday	Benefits							
														Pension scheme	Healthcare scheme	Study support	Performance bonus				Season ticket loan
 Intellectual Property Office	1200	-	-	-	Newport (South Wales)	X	●	-	-	-	Up to 50	25	●	-	-	-	-	-	Online	128	
 IP TWENTYONE	25	-	-	-	Norwich, London and Chelmsford	X	●	-	-	-	1-2	25-30	●	●	-	●	-	●	CV & covering letter by email	130	
 ip consult	5	-	2	1	Swanage	X	●	-	-	-	1	25	●	●	-	-	-	-	CV & covering letter by email	131	
 JA KEMP <small>PATENT ATTORNEYS - TRADE MARK ATTORNEYS</small>	213	44	63	19	London, Oxford and Cambridge	X	●	-	-	-	6	20	●	-	●	●	-	-	CV & covering letter	132	
 Keltie	115	18	25	16	London, Cambridge and Galway	✓	●	-	-	-	3-4	25	●	●	●	●	●	●	CV & covering letter online	134	
 Kilburn & Strode	193	24	50	33	Central London	✓	●	-	-	-	10	28	●	●	●	●	●	●	CV & covering letter online or by email	136	
 Lawrie IP <small>Patents Trade Marks Designs Copyright European Patents and Trade Mark Applications</small>	22	3	3	3	Glasgow	X	●	-	-	-	1-5	TBC	●	●	-	●	-	●	CV & covering letter by email	138	
 Marks&Clerk LLP	354	52	96	45	Nationwide	X	●	-	-	-	Up to 15	26	●	-	●	-	●	●	Online	140	

Company	No. of employees	No. of partners	No. of qualified patent attorneys	No. of trainee patent attorneys	Offices recruited into	International opportunities	TYPES OF OPPORTUNITIES				GRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES							UNDERGRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES	How to apply	Further info (page)	
							Graduate jobs	Internships	Placements	Insights	No. of jobs	No. of days holiday	Benefits					No. of opportunities			
													Pension scheme	Healthcare scheme	Study support	Performance bonus	Season ticket loan				Social events
 Mathys & Squire	199	27	63	29	Cambridge, Oxford, Manchester and London	✗	●	●	-	-	4-6	25	●	●	●	-	●	●	Varies	CV & covering letter by email	142
 MAUCHER JENKINS	130	15	26	11	London and Farnham	✓	●	-	●	-	2-3	25	●	●	●	●	●	●	1-2	CV & covering letter online	144
 Mewburn Ellis	250	42	64	26	London, Bristol, Cambridge and Manchester	✗	●	-	-	-	10	23	●	●	●	-	●	-	-	Online or CV & covering letter by email	146
 Mohun Aldridge Sykes	10	3	-	-	Leeds	✗	●	-	-	-	TBC	30	●	-	-	●	-	-	-	CV & covering letter by email	148
 MURGITROYD	290	45	41	14	Nationwide and Europe	✗	●	-	-	-	TBC	TBC	●	●	●	-	-	-	-	CV & covering letter by email	149
 page white and farrer	75	12	19	10	London and Leeds	✗	●	-	-	-	4	25	●	-	-	-	-	-	-	CV & covering letter by email	150
PATENT BOUTIQUE	15	3	7	3	London	✗	●	-	-	-	2	25	●	●	●	●	●	-	-	CV & covering letter by email	152
PHILLIPS & LEIGH	12	3	4	-	London	✗	●	-	-	-	2	25	●	-	●	-	●	-	-	CV & covering letter by email or post	155

Company	No. of employees	No. of partners	No. of qualified patent attorneys	No. of trainee patent attorneys	Offices recruited into	International opportunities	TYPES OF OPPORTUNITIES				GRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES							UNDERGRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES	How to apply	Further info (page)	
							Graduate jobs	Internships	Placements	Insights	No. of jobs	No. of days holiday	Benefits					No. of opportunities			
													Pension scheme	Healthcare scheme	Study support	Performance bonus	Season ticket loan				Social events
 POTTER CLARKSON	200	42	48	16	Nottingham, London, Stockholm & Copenhagen	✓	●	-	-	-	6	24	●	●	●	●	●	●	-	Online	156
 REDDIE & GROSE	150	23	41	19	London, Cambridge and Munich	✓	●	-	-	-	2-7	25	●	●	-	-	●	-	-	Online	158
 SAGITTARIUS IP	19	4	4	2	Cambridge and Marlow	✗	●	-	-	-	0-2	25	●	●	●	-	-	●	-	CV & covering letter by email or post	160
 SANDERSONS <small>Patent & Trade Mark Attorneys</small>	12	2	3	2	Colchester	✗	●	-	-	-	1	20	●	-	●	-	-	●	-	CV & covering letter by email	162
 Schlich <small>UK & European Patent Attorneys Registered Trade Mark Attorneys</small>	18	-	6	3	Littlehampton, West Sussex	✗	●	-	-	-	Varies	25	●	-	●	-	-	●	-	Online	163
 SECERNA <small>IP SPECIALISTS</small>	13	2	6	4	York and Newcastle-Upon-Tyne	✗	●	-	-	-	1-2	25	●	●	-	-	-	-	-	CV & covering letter by email	164
 SLINGSBY PARTNERS	31	4	10	8	London	✗	●	-	-	-	2-3	25	●	●	●	-	●	●	-	CV & covering letter by email	166
 STRATAGEM <small>INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT</small>	45	-	14	7	Cambridge, Bristol and Oxford	✗	-	-	-	-	Varies	TBC	●	-	-	-	-	-	-	Enquire directly	168

Company	No. of employees	No. of partners	No. of qualified patent attorneys	No. of trainee patent attorneys	Offices recruited into	International opportunities	TYPES OF OPPORTUNITIES				GRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES							UNDERGRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES		Further info (page)	
							Graduate jobs	Internships	Placements	Insights	No. of jobs	No. of days holiday	Benefits					No. of opportunities	How to apply		
													Pension scheme	Healthcare scheme	Study support	Performance bonus	Season ticket loan				Social events
 SWEETINBURGH & WINDSOR <small>Intellectual Property</small>	8	3	4	2	Crawley, West Sussex	X	●	-	-	-	1	25	●	-	●	-	-	●	-	CV & covering letter by email	171
 MINTEL & PEARSON LTD <small>Intellectual Property</small>	55	9	10	7	Derby	X	●	-	-	-	1-2 p.a.	Up to 33	●	-	●	-	-	●	-	CV & covering letter by email	172
TL BRAND & Co	10	1	3	-	Central London	X	●	-	-	-	1	25	●	●	●	●	-	●	-	CV & covering letter by email	174
 udl Intellectual Property	90	19	23	4	Nationwide	X	●	-	-	-	Varies	25	●	●	●	-	●	●	-	CV & covering letter by email	175
Venner Shipleigh	122	26	40	30	Nationwide and Europe	X	●	-	●	-	1-2	20-25	●	●	-	-	-	-	Up to 4	CV & covering letter online or by email	176
 WilsonGunn <small>PATENT & TRADE MARK ATTORNEYS</small>	63	9	16	5	Birmingham and Manchester	X	●	-	-	-	2	25	●	-	●	●	-	●	-	CV & covering letter by email	178
 withers & rogers <small>European & Chartered Patent Attorneys, Trade Mark Attorneys</small>	200	30	60	16	Nationwide and Europe	✓	●	-	-	-	1-5	23	●	●	●	●	●	-	-	Online	180
 WYNNE-JONES <small>Own thinking IP</small>	56	4	7	11	Cheltenham	X	●	-	-	-	1	24	●	●	●	-	-	●	-	Online	182



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