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THE ONLY GRADUATE CAREER GUIDE TO

Chartered Patent Attorneys

2018/19

29th Edition

The go-to guide for anyone thinking of a career as a patent attorney – Kilburn & Strode LLP

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Where science meets law and commerce, working in intellectual property puts you at the forefront of 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 attorneys 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 why to join the profession before applying for roles 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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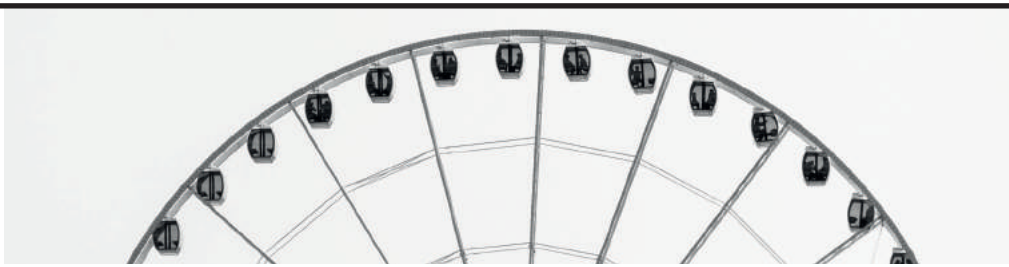

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INTRODUCTION FROM CIPA

Introducing the *IP Careers Guide to Chartered Patent Attorneys 2018/19* is CIPA Chief Executive Lee Davies. He tells us of a profession where law, technology and commerce converge, and where rewards are great for the skilful 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 practise 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, Chief Executive, 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.

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

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.

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 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. Less and less corporations 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, and others when they qualify in just one of the two jurisdictions.

Salary by region

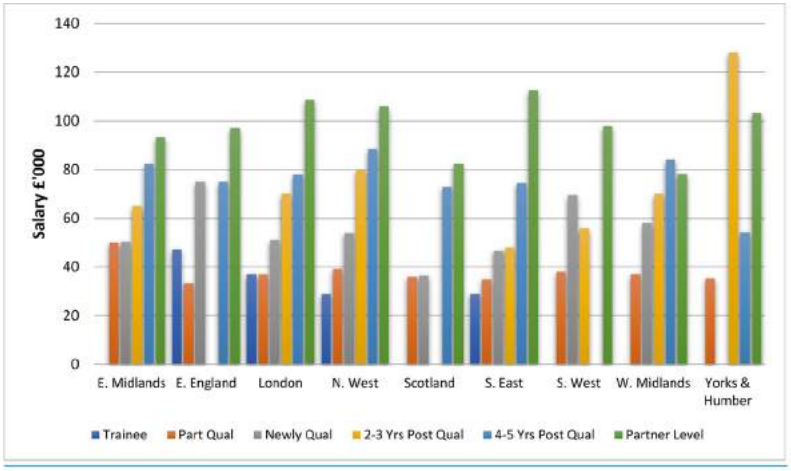
Contrary to popular belief, salaries outside of London are broadly the same as those within London. Certainly, being a patent attorney in another part of the UK would put you at no career disadvantage whatsoever compared with those based in London and in some cases you may find the experience gained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

PATENT SALARIES BY SENIORITY

Level	In current firm*	When moving firms*
Trainee	£32,100	-
Part qualified	£37,000	£36,000-45,000
Newly qualified	£53,300	£60,000-65,000
2-3 years post qualification	£68,700	£70,000-80,000
4-5 years post qualification	£77,300	£80,000-100,000
Salaried partner level**	£103,880	£110,000-140,000

* It is inevitable that one will achieve a higher salary when moving firms, rather than receiving salary increases within a firm as the hiring company will seek to make moving as attractive as possible. **Amounts are reflective of Partners on fixed renumeration.

AVERAGE SALARY BY UK REGION



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 and Pharmaceutical positions which generally have a lower base salary with a higher proportion via other benefits compared to others.

Patent attorneys' average percentage additional benefits (added to base salary):

- Trainee - 7.9%
- Part Qualified - 8.5%
- Newly Qualified - 13.7%
- 2-3 Year Post Qualified - 9.5%
- 4-5 Year Post Qualified - 9.5%
- Partner/Partner Designate - 20%

Everyone now receives a pension by law but there are many other benefits available. 75% of employees have their professional membership paid for, and around 60% receive some form of private health care. On average, employees receive 25 days holiday per year.

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).

Jobs by location, a click away:
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.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSIVITY IN IP

Andrea Brewster, **IP Inclusive** leader explains the relevance and importance of this recent initiative to the patent 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 administrators, 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 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. Our 'Careers in Ideas' outreach project creates and distributes resources for school and university students, their teachers and their careers advisers. Its 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 backgrounds. You may already have visited our website, www.careersinideas.org.uk, to find out about working in IP.

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.

> IP Inclusive is a catalyst for change... You should expect to find a welcoming and inclusive environment that is willing to accept you for who you are...

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 2017 events covered topics such as unconscious bias, "workplace allies", improving mental well-being in the IP professions, the business case for diversity and how "out" you can be at work.

Support schemes:
There are three IP Inclusive support groups: one for Women in IP; "IP Out" for the LGBT+ community; and "IP & ME" for BAME professionals and their allies. These 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 or "back to work" schemes.

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 well-being 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, but it already has wide support across the professions. There are over 120 signatories to our EDI Charter, from around the country. In 2017 we won the first ever Managing IP award for Corporate Social Responsibility. Our support groups are thriving and our events well attended.

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

Andrea Brewster OBE is an **IP Inclusive** leader, and is a Chartered UK Patent Attorney and a former President of CIPA.

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.

For businesses with an international footprint, IP is now at the forefront of their strategic thinking.

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

At home

The Intellectual Property (Unjustified Threats) Act came into force in October 2017. The Act:

- Protects businesses and individuals against intimidation to gain a commercial advantage where there has been no IP infringement.
- Makes it easier for those involved in a dispute to negotiate a settlement and avoid litigation.
- Brought consistency across the law as it applies to patents, trade marks and designs.

Also, after years of maintaining its fees at the same level, the UK's Intellectual Property Office (UKIPO) recently increased them. Despite this, the UKIPO remains a highly attractive jurisdiction for patent filings and searches, comparing favourably to other patent offices around the world both in terms of cost and efficiency.

Further afield

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 conduct European patent work entirely unaffected when the UK leaves the EU in 2019.

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). Despite the referendum vote to leave the EU, the UK Government has formally ratified the UPC Agreement. CIPA is confident that the UK will 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. Private practice attorneys are expected to offer wider services to industry than in the past, including 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.

As the profession and the international IP landscape changes, CIPA changes too. 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 others working towards professional qualifications. Once qualified, as a Fellow of CIPA you will benefit from professional development, and a professional body ensuring 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.

OTHER AREAS OF IP

Working in IP goes further than simply being a patent attorney. We spoke to a selection of **Trade Mark Attorneys** and asked them to explain what their role typically involves, as well as the skills, background and qualifications required for this niche area of work.

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. Working in IP goes beyond patents, so we asked a variety of experienced Trade Mark Attorneys to offer an insight into what their role typically involves, the necessary skills and qualifications and any advice they may have for anyone considering this IP career sector.

What is a trade mark?

A key part of working as a Trade Mark Attorney is an understanding of what you will be working with and why the work they carry out is important. Your first question should be, "what is a trade mark"? The answer? A form of intellectual property used by businesses to help consumers identify their brand and to distinguish themselves from others. Harry Rowe, Associate and UK and Chartered Trade Mark Attorney at 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". Essentially, anything a brand can use to identify and differentiate itself can be used as a trade mark, so your future role will be incredibly varied.

What does a Trade Mark Attorney do?

The primary focus of a Trade Mark Attorney's role is to protect brands for individuals and businesses. Katie Goulding, an attorney with HGF, says: "patents protect the invention, we protect the label and aesthetics". This means providing strategic advice about what a business or individual should protect, why, where and how they should do this and ensuring their rights are protected against others, as well as ensuring that any risks of being sued by any previous brand owners are minimised and avoided.

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

- Researching whether clients can use proposed new brand names or not.
- Drafting and managing applications to register trade marks both in the UK, and 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 startups 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 and qualifications:

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. Melanie Stevenson, a Chartered and European Trade Mark Attorney with Carpmaels & Ransford, studied French and Spanish and feels the role appealed to her transferable skills as a linguist such the ability to be analytical and look at language differently to others. In fact, many trade mark attorneys have a background in modern languages or history, as well as a variety of other arts subjects, for this reason.

Alongside these key transferable academic skills, a 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.

In terms of formal training and qualifications, it is necessary to complete two courses before qualifying as a trade mark attorney, 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.

CITMA, the Chartered Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys, offer full details of the routes into qualifications on their website, together with a prospective time-frame for training.

For 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 Boult Wade Tennant, offers the perfect summary: "if you are looking for an interesting, commercially-focused career, then the role of a Trade Mark Attorney could be for you". For those hoping to test and challenge their analytical, linguistic and persuasive skills whilst working with a wide variety of clients from all areas of business and commerce, working as a Trade Mark Attorney could be the ideal IP career decision and solution.

A collaborative article, thanks to contributions from Claire Birro & Dr Alicia Inastone (Cleveland Scott York), Rachel Conroy (Boult Wade Tennant), Louise Foster (AA Thornton), Katie Goulding (HGF), Jennifer Heath (D Young & Co.), Harry Rowe (Mathys & Squire) and Melanie Stevenson (Carpmaels & Ransford).

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 also use the search filters by 'Area of Specialism' on IP Careers' website to help you with this.

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 at www.ipcareers.co.uk.

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. ●

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

THE EMERGENCE OF WORK EXPERIENCE

Finding practical work experience in patent firms is challenging. Due to the variety of work and issues surrounding the confidentiality of clients and inventions, opportunities in this sector are rare – but they do exist. Read on to find out more.

Requirements

Patent work experience is normally unpaid (though travel expenses may be reimbursed) and can last anywhere from two days to two weeks. Prospective patent attorneys should be studying for a technical degree, typically science or engineering, though some firms will request specific disciplines. As with patent graduate roles, firms will be looking for applicants with a strong academic background who are on track for a 2:1 or above. You should be an excellent communicator with strong analytical skills, attention to detail and the ability to reason clearly and logically.

The application process

The application process will most likely consist of an online application form and/or CV and covering letter. If successful, candidates may be invited to a short interview assessment or telephone interview – tips for telephone interviews can be found on the IP Careers website. During the application process you will be expected to explain why you want to work for the company, what you think you'll gain and what you think will make you a good patent attorney. You may also be asked behavioural interview questions such as 'tell me about a time when you worked well in a team'.

> To become a successful patent attorney, you need to be an 'all-rounder' who can not only deal with the science element, but also the commercial aspects of advising clients on how best to protect their inventions. Proper work experience (ideally for a week or more) gives you the chance to assess your suitability towards these varying demands! We have recruited candidates from our summer scheme as they have been able to demonstrate their understanding of, and aptitude for, the job in practice.
>
> **Polly Shaw, Head of HR, Dehns**

> Our internships and open days include interactive workshops, insight from current trainees and the chance to ask all the questions you may have. Your experience will be interesting, fulfilling and fun, giving you the opportunity to explore the career options in the world of patent law.
>
> **Angela Butler, Head of HR, Carpmaels & Ransford**

Benefits

Not only will a patent internship allow you to gain invaluable experience and knowledge of what could be your future career, but it will also give you the opportunity to see first-hand what it's like to work as a patent or trade mark attorney. You will be able to see how the company interacts with their clients, get a feel for their ethos and a better understanding of what you can expect from a career with them. If you perform well during your work experience you may be offered a place on their graduate scheme the following year.

What will I do?

The specific nature of your work experience will differ greatly from firm to firm. You may have the opportunity to work on real cases as well as across teams and offices. You will almost certainly be able to work with various members of the team, including partners.

Some firms will place you in the position of an entry-level trainee patent attorney; here you could be reading patent applications, corresponding with clients and researching relevant legal documents. Other schemes will offer case lessons, workshops, group exercises, shadowing, mentoring and presentations. These sessions aim to build your technical knowledge and soft skills by analysing real IP problems with the support of fully qualified attorneys. Though your day to day tasks will vary, work experience in this sector will certainly give you an understanding of what a patent attorney does and develop some of the key skills needed to succeed in the profession.

And if I can't get work experience?

Don't panic! Opportunities in this profession are still rare and academic excellence is prized above work experience by most prospective employers. If you are unable to secure work experience, talking to one or two patent attorneys and visiting a patent firm before applying for graduate roles will greatly increase your chances.

Details of recruiters offering upcoming work experience opportunities, as well as open days, and further careers advice can be found at www.ipcareers.co.uk. ●

> Work experience provides invaluable benefits; it helps individuals gain a competitive advantage in a sector that demands extremely high standards.
>
> At Appleyard Lees we find that being in a 'live' working environment, learning key aspects of the role and working on client cases alongside qualified attorneys and trainees, candidates are able to experience how things really are and acquire a better understanding of the business, the sector and the commercial requirements.
>
> **Yvonne Sanderson, HR Director, Appleyard Lees**

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

CORPORATE VS. PRIVATE PRACTICE

Understanding how practices differ and what might suit you can often help to focus your job searching efforts, lead to greater job satisfaction and help to determine your career path. Adam Tindall from Appleyard Lees explains what the difference in work and environment can be 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 bureaucracy, organisational structures and processes, and even frustrated by the need for a great deal of 'face time' with dozens of people throughout the organisation.

Corporate

Industry is more IP savvy now than ever. 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 security or commercial position of your employer. This responsibility can be a little 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, 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 the private practice attorney inevitably receives instructions last minute from the client. They may also become embroiled in infringement and enforcement issues more often than their industry colleagues.

Career progression in private practice firms starts at trainee level, and lasts until you pass the requisite number of exams. The level of trust and autonomy given to you will depend on competence and perhaps wider firm policy. Some do not let you talk to a client until you are qualified, whereas some expose you to the outside world provided you 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). Being good at these is standard for achieving partnership level, but this can mean very different things depending on which firm you ultimately end up working in. It is not everyone's choice to achieve such status in the same way - not everyone wants to be head of an industrial department. 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 firm and your career development.

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

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 training is like with their employer.

Salary and benefits vary widely. It is worth knowing about reward packages, but your real concern 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 for a prestigious firm before training to become a UK and European patent attorney with the same employer. He now works at Appleyard Lees, a leading firm of European patent and trade mark attorneys.

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 pouring over textbooks, legal documents, scientific papers and of course patents, then you should probably not become a patent attorney.

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.

> You will need to be clear-thinking and rigorous in your analyses, critical of data and evidence.

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 the 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.

> More skills and training tips:
> 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.

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.

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 – do not underestimate how much your use of spelling and grammar will affect your first impression.

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.

Standing out from the crowd

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.

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. ●

Find application and CV tips:
www.ipcareers.co.uk/career-advice

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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INTERNSHIP
CARPMAELS & RANSFORD

SUDARSAN RAJAGOPAL

UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS
MSC-PHD BIOLOGY
CARPMAELS & RANSFORD
INTERNSHIP

"I felt that an internship would give me first-hand experience and help me decide if I should take the plunge."

Why did you choose to do an internship? How did it tie in with your overall career plans?
I had an introduction to intellectual property from an earlier stint at a University technology transfer office. While working as a patent analyst, I learnt that the business of translating ideas from the lab to the market was an elaborate exercise, carefully managed by several teams having different skill-sets. I was considering starting a career in intellectual property and realised several opportunities lay ahead for a person from a technical background such as mine. I could choose to continue as a patent analyst, work with an IP-focused consultancy or train to be a patent attorney.

Firms have varying areas of expertise so seek out firms that best match your interests and technical expertise.

I found the role of the patent attorney – capturing the essence of an invention in language – fascinating. However, I did have some reservations about this choice. It seemed quite daunting, especially since I would have to take a series of exams in a subject I had no exposure to – the law. While there is plenty of information out there about the role and what it entails, I felt that an internship would give me first-hand experience and help me decide if I should take the plunge.

Do you have any advice for someone seeking an internship?
Learn as much as you can about the firm you are applying to. The information can be found on the firm's website and publications such as the EPO register, law firm directories and IP Careers. Firms have varying areas of expertise so seek out firms that best match your interests and technical expertise. Internships can be hard to find. If possible, try to get internships at a few different firms to find an environment best suited to you.

What was the application process like – any advice?
After submitting my CV and a cover letter via the website, I had a short Skype interview. I discussed my educational background and I was asked to describe any recent research developments that I found interesting.

Prepare well in advance for the application process and interview. This will give you enough time to proofread everything before submission. This will also help you avoid gaffes such as failing to attach a carefully proofread CV to your email, while making claims to great attention to detail (I did this once!). Pick at least one invention, area of technology, or a research article and prepare a summary that you can communicate succinctly in an interview.

What attracted you to your role?
There are particular aspects of intellectual property that make the role of a patent attorney exciting. Firstly, you will come across inventions that are at the cutting edge of their respective fields of science, well before publication in scientific journals. Secondly, an attorney needs to effectively advance nuanced logical arguments verbally and in writing when negotiating with the patent office to seek a patent. Finally, while the patent describes the invention at hand, it must also anticipate the general heading of the progress of that technology and how competitors might work around an invention. This requires creativity and forward-thinking by the attorney to make patent protection future-proof.

What were your main duties?
The internship at Carpmaels lasted two weeks - an unusually long time, considering similar schemes on offer at other firms. This allowed time to really experience what it would be like to work at the firm, without it being a rushed affair spread over just a few days. Learning over the two weeks was divided between introductory training, tutorials, work shadowing and group case study work. This made it possible to learn the basics of intellectual property law and how it is put into practice in the real world. Working with the same people over two weeks also presented a well-rounded idea of the flow of work on a typical day. Additionally, this gave a glimpse into other aspects of the job including managing billing and administrative tasks. For me, the highlight of the internship was the case study which I worked on along other interns during the course of the programme.

What were the most important things you learned from the internship?
One of my primary concerns regarding this profession was the prospect of several exams looming large on the road to qualification. The meticulously planned internship served as an excellent introduction to the quality of training and support offered in-house and helped dispel these concerns.

I had read elsewhere that the role of a patent attorney is one where you train and work alone. I learned that this isn't wholly true at Carpmaels. While you are responsible for managing your workload, having a group of peers working in your practice area can be very helpful – as a sounding board for discussions, for assistance on tricky cases or simply to keep an eye on things when you're on holiday.

It is important to have colleagues who are friendly. Several events on the social calendar helped me to meet people throughout the firm, from trainees to partners, who all clearly enjoyed working at the firm. It is also important to me to find a workplace that places emphasis on employees balancing time between work and their personal interests.

INTERNSHIP
D YOUNG & CO

JESSICA STEVEN-FOUNTAIN

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON
MSC PHYSICS
D YOUNG & CO LLP
EASTER PATENT INTERNSHIP

"The internship gave me the perfect opportunity to find out if the career was for me..."

Why did you choose to do an internship?
The role of a patent attorney is not one that is particularly well known, so when I was considering a career in the profession I didn't know much about what the job entailed, and I had no idea whether it was something that would suit me. The three day internship offered by D Young & Co 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.

The best advice I can give is to do your research – we know you probably don't know very much about the firm or the profession, but we do want to be able to see that you're keen!

How did it fit with your overall career plans?
Like many undergraduate students approaching the end of their studies, I was struggling to choose a career path to follow once I graduated. During my third year at university, I heard about the career of a patent attorney through a careers fair at my university and was intrigued by the role – it seemed a perfect opportunity to apply the skills I'd learned throughout my degree without staying in academia. The internship gave me the perfect opportunity to find out if the career was for me, and to find out a little more about how to get into the profession.

What was the application process like?
The application process for the internship was quite a straightforward one – I sent in a CV along with a cover letter, and shortly afterwards was invited to participate in a brief telephone interview. The interview itself was really a two-way process – a trainee who had previously participated in the internship was involved in the conversation, which gave me the opportunity to ask any questions I had about the profession.

A few days after the phone interview, I was informed that I had been offered a place on the programme, and the rest is history!

The best advice I can give is to do your research – we know you probably don't know very much about the firm or the profession, but we do want to be able to see that you're keen! Other than that, I highly recommend you take advantage of the trainee or trainees involved in the telephone interview – regardless of whether or not you are offered a place, there is a lot to be gained from talking to someone who is actually doing the job.

What were your main duties?
The internship offered by D Young & Co is only three days long, but answered a lot of my questions about the profession. The aim of the internship is to give you an idea of the skills required to become a good patent attorney, and to give you the chance to interact with attorneys at all levels – from partners to trainees – to find out from them what the job involves (and what they really think about it!).

Throughout the three days, the interns participated in a number of activities, from mock hearings to written activities such as drafting claims for a patent application. We also received a number of informative talks about the career, and were invited to a number of social events after work to give us the opportunity to mingle with attorneys and trainees.

What were the most important things you learned from the internship?
By far the most important thing I learned from the internship was that the people with whom I would be working if I got a job as a trainee were the kind of people I would enjoy spending time with. That might seem silly, but ultimately how you interact with your colleagues makes a huge impact on whether or not you enjoy your career, so it really is important! And that isn't specific to any one firm either – patent attorneys are very social creatures (despite our tendency to be introverts), so if you do follow this career, you will see the people you meet on the internship at many a social event in the future!
But beyond that, I learned that the job is varied and challenging – I returned home exhausted every evening from the mental effort required to accomplish some of the tasks, but it was a fantastic feeling. I knew that I'd never get bored in this job!

Do you have any advice for someone seeking an internship?
My main advice would be to make the most of the application process. Through interviews, you'll likely get the opportunity to interact with attorneys and trainees, so be sure to ask them about the career while you have the chance!

Look around. The D Young & Co internship was advertised on the firm's website and on the IP Careers website, so I was able to find it with a limited amount of Googling.

Also, don't give up! We get a lot of applications and have to turn away plenty of good candidates, but that doesn't stop the keenest candidates reapplying the next year and sometimes being offered a place!

For latest IP internships:
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SUMMER PLACEMENT SCHEME DEHNS

DUKE QUINTON

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MBIOCHEM BIOCHEMISTRY
DEHNS
SUMMER PLACEMENT SCHEME

"For the duration, I felt like a true employee at the firm."

If I had to sum up my experience in one sentence, it would be this: if you are at all interested in pursuing a career as a patent attorney, then applying for a summer placement scheme, such as the scheme offered by Dehns, is a 'no-brainer'.

The Dehns two-week summer placement scheme (one of longest of this kind) offers a first-hand insight into what it is like to work as a patent attorney in private practice. I was fortunate enough to take part in the 2017 scheme. From start to finish, I was immersed in live client cases and worked with experienced attorneys on a large variety of tasks. For the duration, I felt like a true employee at the firm. Now, less than a year later, I work there as a Technical Assistant and am applying the skills I learned over those two weeks on a daily basis! The placement was split into three parts over Dehns' three largest offices (Brighton, London and Oxford), and getting a chance to visit each of these offices was eye-opening. Before starting the placement, I was set on starting my career in London. However, as the placement drew to a close, I realised that my dismissal of areas outside London was entirely unfounded. While I really enjoyed my time in all three offices, I found that the city of Brighton actually suited me the most. This meant that, when I came to submit a job application, this my first-choice office– something that I would never have considered had I not attended the placement.

Outside working hours, Dehns organised a number of social events for us to get to know the other fee earners and employees. We felt truly spoiled by the end!

My most important piece of advice in preparation for interview would be to practice explaining complicated things in simple ways.

Why did you choose to do an internship?
Before I started my final year at university, I had already done a great deal of research into the patent attorney profession and concluded that it would be the best career path for me. However, without any hands-on experience of life in the profession, I couldn't be certain that I was making the right choice. I therefore had no hesitation in applying!

How did it fit with your overall career plans?
The placement tied in perfectly with my career plans. I viewed the scheme as an opportunity for me to reaffirm my view of the profession and find out what it is like to work at Dehns. The placement made my subsequent job application to Dehns much less stressful, since I had already got to know the partners interviewing me and knew that I was applying to a thriving firm with a fantastic working environment.

What was the application process like?
My application process consisted of two stages, the first being a series of online tests and the second being a Skype interview. The online tests challenged my time efficiency and attention to detail – both of which are valued skills in the profession. My Skype interview was with a member of HR and a partner from the Life Sciences department. Most of the questions were technical and based around my CV. Among other things, we discussed the research projects I had engaged in over the previous two years. They also asked me some simple questions about patents.

My most important piece of advice in preparation for interview would be to practice explaining complicated things in simple ways. Understandably, many clients have no experience of patent law, and some do not have scientific backgrounds, so patent attorneys must be able to communicate effectively across these knowledge barriers. Interviewers will try to gauge your proficiency in this; they might say: "Explain your research project to me as if I had no experience in your field", or something similar. Make sure you have thought about this sort of question beforehand so that you are not caught off guard!

What attracted you to your role?
While I thoroughly enjoyed my studies at university, I decided that a career in academia was not for me. However, at the same time, I wanted to find a job where I could keep thinking and learning about biochemistry at a high level. I was first made aware of the patent attorney profession at a biotechnology conference. There, an experienced patent attorney highlighted the integral role that patenting plays in encouraging research and development. It became clear to me that this career would challenge me to quickly comprehend a plethora of fascinating biotechnological inventions on a daily basis – it was exactly what I was looking for.

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What were your main duties?
My main duties during my time on the placement included responding to Examination reports and making amendments to claim sets to bring them in line with European law (the 'claim set' of a patent defines the scope of protection that the patent confers). I particularly enjoyed working with two clients whose inventions were in the early stages of development. I had to do 'freedom to operate' analysis for both; in other words, I had to identify similar patents and patent applications in the field which might restrict the client's ability to commercialise their invention in the future. I had to read several patent documents in quick succession and use my technical knowledge to critically assess their relevance to the clients' developing inventions. Towards the end of the placement, we gave presentations to the partners on areas of intellectual property that interested us; I did a piece on patent trolls – possibly a little offbeat, but it seemed to go down well!

Do you have any advice for someone seeking an internship?
For any firm considering your application, your academic track record will be the first thing that they look at. However, interviewers are also looking for applicants who show a genuine interest in the profession from the outset. I would recommend reading some articles about the profession on IP Careers, catching up on the latest patent law news, and maybe even scanning through an Intellectual Property law textbook from your library – it will all be worth the effort!

TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY CLEVELAND SCOTT YORK

WASEEM ALDEEK

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS
MENG ELECTRONICS & NANOTECHNOLOGY
ST ALBANS

"The ability to communicate and express your technical ideas concisely and accurately is key... "

So...what now?
This is a question that many people face upon graduating from university and for myself, it was no different. Although I thoroughly enjoyed my degree and found many of the projects I undertook interesting and engaging, towards the end of my studies, I couldn't shake the feeling that specialising in one particular area of engineering was a little too restrictive.

...a core part of the job... involves strategically capturing the essence of an invention to achieve the broadest scope of protection possible.

On looking into potential graduate opportunities, I stumbled across an intriguing role stating: "Have you ever thought about becoming a patent attorney?". I immediately began researching the profession and found that the core skills and abilities required to thrive as a patent attorney, along with the intrinsic day to day duties of the role, really resonated with me. Coming from a family rooted in business, I have always had a keen eye on and interest in the workings of commercial enterprise; the premise of widening my scientific view by utilising my interests and technical abilities in a real world commercial setting really appealed to me. The patent profession promises to deliver an exciting career path by continually exposing you to a variety of innovative technology on the cutting edge. As someone who is passionate about science and technology, this was a major draw for me dedicating myself to pursue this career path.

How did you get a job with Cleveland Scott York?
I began by researching all the firms that were offering graduate positions in my field of expertise and made a list of the firms I believed I would be most suited to. High quality training and support during the qualification process, as well as compatible, company core values were the main things I was looking for. Consequently, I applied to all the firms that best reflected this criteria and Cleveland Scott York was amongst them.

The first stage of the application process involved a short telephone interview with one of the partners at the firm regarding my interests and motivations for wanting to join the profession. After passing this stage, I was invited to attend an assessment day with five other candidates in their London office and was asked to take a psychometric test prior to my arrival.

Upon arriving for the day, I was a little nervous about what was in store but everyone I met was very friendly and relaxed which helped to settle my nerves. The day consisted of face to face interviews, written exercises, a group exercise and presentation which were aimed to assess my abilities to both critically analyse and to express my technical understanding and ideas in a clear and concise manner. It was an opportunity to get my personality across but also to get to know my potential future colleagues as well. Looking back, it was a highly enjoyable experience; although the application process was rigorous, it made being offered the job all the more rewarding.

What will I be doing?
My day to day duties can vary but, generally, most of my work is concerned with the drafting and prosecuting of patent applications before an examining body. I work directly with partners and senior associates in my office which exposes me to a variety of patent related work across a wide range of technologies in my field of expertise.

Typically, the patent application process begins by meeting with inventors to understand their inventions and advise them on the best filing strategy moving forward. Then, using any provided notes and drawings, the patent application is drafted and filed. This is a core part of the job which involves strategically capturing the essence of an invention to achieve the broadest scope of protection possible for our clients.

Before the application can be granted, it is examined, mainly to see whether the proposed invention is novel and inventive over similar, existing technologies. At this stage, I put forward technical and legal arguments to counter any of the objections raised by the patent examiner and amendments may be made to help satisfy the examining body and put the application in order for grant.

As a trainee, there are commercial aspects to this work which you are continually encouraged to think about to allow you to develop your business acumen. During prosecution, it is important to maintain the broadest scope possible for your client whilst addressing and satisfying the objections raised by the examiner. This is one of the more challenging parts of the job but remains highly rewarding when you are able to successfully deliver for your client.

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What skills do I need to succeed?
I rely on many of the skills I developed throughout my time at university to successfully carry out my daily tasks, however, the learning curve remains particularly steep when starting out and, at times, it can feel a little daunting, especially in your first few weeks.

An analytical mind is important as you will often have to go through various technical and legal documentation to pick out useful information to argue against the examiner. A strong foundation in your technical area of expertise is a must as you will need this to quickly get to grips with the new technologies you will be working on and to produce your strongest technical arguments to win over the examiner.

The ability to communicate and express your technical ideas concisely and accurately is key in capturing the mechanics of an invention. As this profession is deadline driven, you will need to be able to juggle and prioritise your own workload.

Any advice for getting into the industry?
Make sure to research each firm that suits you sufficiently so that you can tailor your CV and covering letter to really grab their attention. With the competition for places being fierce, there is no harm in applying for as many firms as possible to increase your chances. With the road to qualification being challenging and requiring real commitment, make sure that this career path is definitely for you! ●

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TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY
J A KEMP

JAMES EGLETON

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
MCHEM & DPHIL CHEMISTRY
LONDON

"I have been able to take on responsibility for certain aspects of very interesting projects, often working alongside senior partners..."

The patent attorney profession combines law with a technical understanding of the basic science underlying new inventions. I work with a range of clients, from small start-ups to universities and large corporations, to secure patent protection in various jurisdictions worldwide for the inventions that they have created. I specialise in the chemistry and pharmaceutical fields, but the profession is open to anyone with an undergraduate degree in science, from mechanical engineering or electronics right through to biotechnology or plant science.

My job allows me to work in a business-orientated office environment whilst still having a strong connection to basic science. I particularly love the variety of work that the profession offers – no two days are the same! One day, I might be drafting a new patent application for a start-up biotech client, another I may have to formulate arguments to overcome objections raised by a Patent Examiner against an application relating to polymer chemistry, and on a few occasions I have had the opportunity to assist a partner at a hearing before the European Patent Office. These hearings take place in either Munich or The Hague when one of our clients is involved in a dispute with a third party over the validity of a recently-granted European patent. Another huge positive for me is that I have been able to take on responsibility for certain aspects of very interesting projects, often working alongside senior partners, from early on in my career.

If you are interested in becoming a patent attorney, my advice would be to find out as much about the profession as you can. Attend careers fairs and sign up for the informative open days that are offered by some firms. There are also very limited opportunities for internships and work experience. Beyond that, however, just give it a go and apply! Some firms have structured graduate recruitment schemes, but many welcome prospective applications. The biggest challenge to be aware of when joining the profession is that the qualifying exams are tough and require a lot of hard work; however, the rewards that the profession offers are worth it.

The selection process usually involves a combination of submitting written work, one or more technical interviews and possibly an HR interview. The technical interviews are actually quite fun – I think you really know whether the profession will suit you or not after you've experienced one. A typical task might be to describe the key features of a simple object, or to briefly summarise a research project you've done in terms someone with a basic undergraduate knowledge of your subject could understand. ●

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT MATHYS & SQUIRE

MICHAEL CHARLTON

UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE
MCHEM & PHD MEDICAL IMAGING AND RADIOCHEMISTRY
CAMBRIDGE

"I can reach the heights of my profession in a supportive and progressive environment.."

During my time in academia I became captivated by patents and the IP industry. I graduated with a Masters of Chemistry (MChem) at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne and then went on to do a PhD in Medical Imaging and Radiochemistry. I thought it was intriguing that the university could come up with some clever ideas itself, get these ideas patented and subsequently gain something from having these ideas protected.

After graduating I went on to work in Vodafone's Intellectual Property department as a Patent Engineer. From my experience working in-house, it became apparent that there is only so far you can go without training as a Chartered Patent Attorney. I was advised that if I was looking to apply to a private practice role, it might be useful to be exempt from the final exams. I therefore studied the PGCert in Intellectual Property Law at Brunel University whilst still working at Vodafone.

I joined Mathys & Squire and am now training as a Technical Assistant in the IT & Engineering practice knowing that I can reach the heights of my profession in a supportive and progressive environment.

Why IP?

I like to think that the IP industry can be characterised as having three main facets, similar to the sides of a triangle. On one side there is the legal specialism, or IP law protecting an invention; on another side there is the technological and scientific aspects, underpinning an invention; and the final side is the commercial or business motivation associated with an invention.

The fact that a patent attorney has the opportunity to assist with all sides of this triangle, working to deliver technically sound and commercially useful advice, in the context of an evolving area of law, is especially rewarding.

How did you get your job at Mathys & Squire?

I had a list of private practice firms who were recruiting and I was working my way through each of their application processes. I had a final interview with another firm lined up when Mathys & Squire responded to my application. I had a first and second interview with Mathys & Squire before my final interview with the other firm and I was impressed by the efficiency shown by Mathys & Squire throughout their recruitment process.

The interview process was straightforward; I was required to sit a written assessment prior to the first interview, which assessed my general technical competency as well as my accuracy and written English. I met the remainder of the team during the second round, which consisted of a role-specific technical exercise.

My advice for fresh graduates would be to make sure your CV is targeted to the firm to which you are applying. Invest time in researching that particular firm in detail and ensure you are able to reflect this in your application. Application errors, such as inputting the wrong firm name into your application, will only show you have a poor eye for detail and that you may not have the skills for the role from the outset.

Main day to day duties and the skills required?

As a general overview of my day, I first start by checking any dates which are due; these are known as 'stat dates'. These are basically formal deadlines from, for example, Patent Offices, which require a response by a date they set. Secondly I will then review any cases that have come in overnight. This is because I spend quite some time working with Japanese clients, and due to the time difference, I often get into the office in the morning and have to review materials they have sent through the night before. Once I've done my morning review, I will go away and get on with various tasks that require action. I have two main supervisors who check all my work, but around 80% of my day is spent working independently at my desk.

One of the main skills that I would say is required for this job is meticulousness; you need to have an eye for detail and be a sharp thinker. Working as a patent attorney is also deadline driven and therefore the ability to cope under pressure and work to multiple deadlines is paramount. You need to develop a structure to your working day and find one that suits you. The STEM background of aspiring attorneys should mean that they already have picked up quite a systematic way of working.

Interpersonal skills are also important, particularly when building relationships with a client base as well as your supervisor(s). As a Trainee, most work is desk based, but, as you progress to Associate and Senior Associate level, you will be visiting client sites more often. I have been with Mathys just over two years now and have already had direct contact with clients to gather technical information. It's important to bear in mind that you will be reflecting your firm as a whole when dealing with clients. For example, in-house IP departments talk between themselves and as it is such a small profession, you want to ensure you are providing the best impression of your firm – it may lead to work with further clients.

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www.ipcareers.co.uk/jobs

What would you like to achieve in the future?

By March 2019 I would like to have passed all four of my UK exams and have reached Associate level in the firm. Training and development at Mathys & Squire so far has been really helpful. The firm's in-house tutorials are exceptional – our own Associates deliver the tutorials so it's useful to gain perspective from individuals who have undergone the process already and, often, quite recently. Some of our Associates are Patent Examination Board examiners, so they have a real insight into how an examiner is going to review an exam script. ●

PATENT ATTORNEY (ASSOCIATE) SWINDELL & PEARSON

TIM GILBERT

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM
M.ENG & PHD CIVIL ENGINEERING
DERBY

"The synthesis of technical, legal and business development skills really appealed to me."

I came across the patent attorney career when I was in the final year of my PhD in Civil Engineering. I was really interested in a challenging career in which I could work long-term with one employer, and the synthesis of technical, legal and business development skills really appealed to me.

I knew that I would have opportunities to work on a diverse range of cases and benefit from the support and expertise of a close-knit team.

I can still remember the mixture of excitement and trepidation I felt on the morning of my interview at Swindell & Pearson. I knew that it would be a great place to work and train: Swindell & Pearson is a mid-sized firm with clients ranging from very small businesses to multinationals, so I knew that I would have opportunities to work on a diverse range of cases and benefit from the support and expertise of a close-knit team. I was initially concerned that the interviewers might be unfamiliar with my qualifications, but I realised early in the process that this worry was misplaced: the recruiting team are experts in figuring out whether you know enough and think in the right way to do the job.

The interviewers were my prospective supervisors, including the team's most experienced and senior patent attorney. They made a real effort to get to know me and supported me to do my best. They didn't just want me to show strong attorney skills – they also wanted to see that I was a reflective, enthusiastic and respectful person who could argue a point of view effectively and respond appropriately to all kinds of feedback. I am very glad that Swindell & Pearson requires all of those qualities from its staff – it's why we have such a supportive, collegiate working culture where everybody understands what is expected of them.

In the time I have been at Swindell & Pearson, I have often thought about how fortunate I am to be training here. My supervisors are highly skilled, senior patent attorneys who have invested a huge amount in my training. I had daily one-to-one consultations with them to discuss my professional development as well as my cases, and I received weekly tutorials from the most senior member of the team, as well as specific exam preparation courses.

Since early on, I have been able to regularly represent the business as part of my direct contact with existing and prospective clients. For example, I took up the opportunity to work in-house with one of our largest clients for six months as a secondee. I am now the 'face' of Swindell & Pearson for that client. This involves visiting their site regularly and tailoring our service to their requirements. I get to run my own 'direct client' cases from start to finish rather than just completing piecework for senior colleagues, meaning I have been able to develop my reputation as a trusted advisor. Most of my cases are 'managing associate' cases for which I am entrusted to discuss a global patent strategy with the client and instruct foreign associates accordingly. This is an enjoyable and challenging process and there is no risk of the job becoming repetitive. Our business development manager also works with me to develop new and existing relationships, helping me to achieve my long term goals.

The examinations for achieving UK and European qualified status require an investment of personal time over the first three to five years, particularly in early Autumn and late Winter. I held off disruptive decisions such as buying a house, but otherwise the exams have not been too stressful. Fortunately, I have always had the option at Swindell & Pearson not to sit all exams at once. The in-house training has been excellent, with training courses being run by colleagues who performed exceptionally well in those exams. I have also been able to attend external residential courses. I hope to have achieved European qualified status in 2018.

I also have been pleasantly surprised by how active and sociable Derby's professional networking groups are. The trainees and associates at Swindell & Pearson regularly attend CIPA, Young Professionals and Law Society meet-ups, which are great opportunities to meet new friends and make valuable contacts. ●

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SENIOR ASSOCIATE KILBURN & STRODE

Karen Fraser specialises in patent matters relating to computer software, computer hardware and business methods. She entered the profession in 2004, after completing a Bachelor of Engineering in Computer Science at the University of Madras, and qualified as an Indian patent attorney in 2006 and as a UK and European patent attorney in 2011.

KAREN FRASER

2017

Joined Kilburn & Strode LLP, London, as a Senior Associate

2015

Promoted to Senior Associate with Marks & Clerk LLP

2012

Joined Marks & Clerks LLP as an Associate Patent Attorney

2011

Qualified as a UK & European patent attorney with A.A. Thornton & Co., London

2006

Qualified as an Indian Patent Attorney in Chennai, India

Introduction

I specialise in patent matters relating to computer software, computer hardware, and business methods. Much of my work is at the cutting edge of computer implemented inventions, where inventions lie close to the border of patentability in Europe and the UK. I works closely with clients to identify aspects of their inventions that are eligible for patent protection.

I have a Bachelor of Engineering degree (B.E.) in Computer Science from the University of Madras (Chennai, India), which has helped me to integrate and interact seamlessly with my hi-tech clients. I am experienced in drafting and prosecuting applications across a broad range of technologies in the IT and electronics sectors and I advise clients on infringement and validity matters. Particular subject matter I work with includes data processing and retrieval, telecommunications, protection of sensitive data in compliance with Data Security Standards, user interfaces and data storage devices, among many others.

I manage the global patent portfolio for several of my clients, prosecuting applications in multiple jurisdictions including Europe, the US, India and Australia. In addition to being a European and UK Patent Attorney, I am also a registered Indian Patent Agent. My global outlook and experience allows me to provide strategic, commercially focused advice to clients, to enable them to align their IP strategy with their business objectives at all stages of the patenting process.

Why did you choose a career in the industry?

After 4 years of studying computer engineering, I decided that I did not really see myself as a software developer or coding expert, which is what many of my college mates were pursuing. I wanted a career in which I could make more of a direct impact in the commercial world. This made me investigate other career options where I could use my technical background as well as learn something more interesting and better commercially focused. In Chennai, India, in 2004 (when I graduated), the awareness and importance of Intellectual Property (IP) and patents for us 'then students' was not much; but a conversation with a family member who worked in an administrative role in this sector made me look into IP more. It sounded like exactly the thing I was looking for, and a fantastic opportunity to be able to work with inventors and companies to help them achieve their commercial goals, whilst learning IP law - which was completely new to me. It was this fascination that made me approach an IP firm in Chennai to learn about patents and what it means to be a patent attorney. I loved it so much, that now 14 years on I have never even once imagined the possibility of doing any other type of work!

What is a 'typical' day like for you? - be honest, too!

A working day for a patent attorney will vary depending on the stage you are at. Typical everyday jobs include working with my clients to understand the technical aspects of their inventions to draft and file patent applications and responding to the official objections by the UKIPO or EPO raised against their patent applications.

> When I hear from my clients about positive outcomes that my advice and input has helped bring to their business – it is a great feeling for me!

As I have developed more in my career many of my days now involve planning and participating in business development and client care meetings, trips and events; preparing strategic IP plans and workshops for my clients based on their present commercial focus and needs; planning and participating in internal programs and activities. I also help on the development of my team - such as managing training and mentoring for trainee patent attorneys and helping to recruit new talent.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

The client facing aspect of my role. I love this job because I think this is one of the few "tech" professions where there is a lot of interaction with clients. I love being part of discussions where I get to offer advice relating to my expertise in IP that commercially impacts clients' business plans, and establish how best to work with them to achieve their aims. When I hear from my clients about positive outcomes and that my advice and input has helped bring to their business – it is a great feeling for me!

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

Yes – it is worth noting that while most of the work is indeed related to technical matters, and maybe even closely related to one's degree or project: the patent laws and rules in place dictate how we are to use the information we have, to obtain a successful grant. Therefore, the job involves a lot of training under a qualified attorney (3 years at least), numerous rather difficult examinations and a skill for writing a lot of letters - both to your client and the patent office to explain your position as clearly as possible to obtain the result you want. Many new joiners are generally surprised by the number of letters and emails that are an integral part of the job – so please bear in mind that it is not just all about dealing with cutting edge technology all the time! ●

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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

2015

Promoted to 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 almost three 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.

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

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.

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!

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. ●

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FOUNDER & PARTNER PATENT BOUTIQUE

Simon Foster studied Materials Science at UMIST and Management of Intellectual Property at Queen Mary University of London. He has worked in both industry and private practice, and launched his own firm in 2014

SIMON FOSTER

2017

Patent Boutique took on their first graduate trainees

2014

Launched Patent Boutique after working in private practice for three years

2009

Qualified as a patent attorney whilst working in-house

2005

Graduated from QMUL with Masters in IP Management

2004

Graduated from UMIST with degree in Materials Science

Introduction

It all started while on an industrial placement during the third year of my degree. The research project I had been working on was selected for patent protection. I was put in contact with an external patent attorney whose job was to protect my invention and within minutes it became abundantly clear that their job was infinitely more interesting than mine (particularly the endless pipetting). So, I took stock and set about investigating the profession and how I was going to break into it.

I scoured websites, met with patent attorneys, attended open days, arranged work experience and did everything I could to place myself in the best position for entering the profession, including signing up for the master's at QMUL.

Starting In-House

After finishing my masters, my first role in the profession was with a global FMCG business supporting their fabric and homecare business. As is common for in-house trainees, I was thrown straight in at the deep end with a portfolio of European patent applications and oppositions that were my responsibility. The in-house training programme and mentorship were second-to-none and being part of a Europe-wide network of trainees within the same organisation meant there was always a friendly face to discuss training with.

Whilst still a trainee, I moved to London for an in-house role with a global leader in the generic pharmaceutical sector. Again, I worked on a portfolio of patent applications; however, now with responsibility for their global, rather than purely European, prosecution. Then, as my experience developed, I provided clearance opinions, supported litigations across Europe, and attended opposition and appeal hearings at the European Patent Office.

Moving to Private Practice

A couple of years after qualification, I took the opportunity to transition to private practice, joining the London office of a regional firm of patent and trade mark attorneys. I enjoyed the challenges of working in a firm and it gave me the understanding of the business of providing patent advice. In the aftermath of the financial crisis, and with the tools afforded by state-of-the-art technology, it seemed that my prospects might be better capitalised outside of a 'traditional' partnership.

> Managing the business may include anything from updating the website to choosing new office furniture or strategic decisions on recruitment and business direction.

Going It Alone

In 2014 I set out on my own and launched Patent Boutique. Within a year I was joined by two further partners, and we have since recruited experienced patent attorneys, trainees, and an excellent professional support team.

As a partner of the firm my time is split between professional work, business development, and business management. Professional work is a mixture of drafting patent applications, responding to communications from patent offices, providing legal opinions, and meeting with clients. Managing the business may include anything from updating the website to choosing new office furniture or strategic decisions on recruitment and business direction. Whereas business development includes attending conferences and traveling abroad to meet with current or potential clients. And last, but by no means least, my role includes providing guidance and training to the firm's trainees.

The firm has expanded rapidly, and I am proud of the fantastic colleagues and clients we have acquired in such a short window of time. We have forged a contemporary and open-minded culture which allows our employees to flourish while enjoying themselves and their work: long may it continue.

Some advice

- Proofread your applications to firms, then proofread them again, and then ask family and friends to proofread them: any silly mistakes, e.g. typos, an email directed to the wrong firm (it happens), or the like, and your application will be destined for one place: the shredder!
- If you get a few rejections while applying, don't get downhearted.
- It sounds obvious but aim to pass your exams in as few attempts as possible, preferably first time – it gets harder to pass with each resit because there is only one set of past papers. The exams are not hard to pass, but they are easy to fail. ●

A-Z of IP recruiters online:
www.ipcareers.co.uk/search/employers

MANAGING PARTNER MARKS & CLERK

Kirsteen Gordon talks us through her career in intellectual property, from why she chose the profession after completing her undergraduate degree in Aberdeen to eventually being promoted to Managing Partner with Marks & Clerk LLP, one of the UK's largest intellectual property firms.

KIRSTEEN GORDON

2016

Became Managing Partner of Marks & Clerk LLP Cambridge office

2008

Promoted to Partner at Marks & Clerk LLP

2004

Qualified as a UK & European Patent Attorney

2001

Began training as a Patent Attorney

2000

Graduated from the University of Cambridge with a PhD in Organic Science

Introduction

I would never have imagined that I would be a Managing Partner in one of the UK's largest Intellectual Property firms.

I grew up in a tiny village in rural Scotland and wanted to be a PE teacher. I don't think I'd heard the term "Intellectual Property", and I thought the word "patent" only described a type of leather, until I was at University. I did, however, always enjoy both scientific and literary subjects, which I think was the first clue that the Patent Attorney profession would suit me well.

I started work as a Trainee Patent Attorney in London in 2001 and qualified as both a European and UK Patent Attorney in 2004 (I was fortunate enough to pass my qualifying exams first time!). I moved to the Cambridge office of Marks & Clerk LLP in 2008 and became a Partner later that year. In 2016 I became Managing Partner of the Cambridge office. Along the way, I have been on maternity leave twice, and worked part-time for a number of years.

Why did you choose a career as a Patent Attorney?

During my undergraduate study, I really enjoyed the intellectual challenge of understanding chemistry and science in general, so I decided to do a PhD. However, I found research mundane and I spent the majority of my time repeating experiments, doing scale ups or running chromatography columns and very little time actually thinking. I did, however, enjoy writing about science. By chance, a friend was a Patent Attorney and when she told me what the job entailed, I knew I would enjoy it. The role appealed to me as I could:

- Read and think about science without having to do any "practical" science
- Learn something new, i.e. the law
- Have a structured career path
- Have a good work/life balance

What do you enjoy most about your job?

This has changed over the years. When I was a Trainee, I really enjoyed learning how to apply the law to real life situations and learning the various skills of a Patent Attorney. I can still clearly remember how pleased I was when I filed the first patent application that I had drafted. During this period, I also liked the collegiality of being part of a large group of Trainee Patent Attorneys, enjoying many sociable evenings in London. Once I qualified, I loved learning how to run my own portfolio of clients and gained a lot of satisfaction from being able to provide a great service to them.

When I became a Partner, I started doing a significant amount of very complicated due diligence work to support clients with the launch of commercial products, which was an exciting challenge. I also started to build up my own team of Trainee Attorneys and became increasingly involved in the firm's business development efforts. Over the years, my team has grown and my involvement in the firm as a whole has expanded. I now enjoy seeing Attorneys and Trainees whom I have trained doing great work and building client relationships of their own. Marks & Clerk has also allowed me to put into practice some of my own business development ideas, and I make regular visits to the US and have been involved in numerous tenders for the firm. I now have a formal management role and naturally gain satisfaction when our office, or any of our team, perform particularly well!

What would you like to achieve in the future?

Lots! Looking out towards our clients and prospective clients, I would like to continue to improve the service we offer and develop new and interesting offerings. Looking internally, I would love to gain a position on the Marks & Clerk Board of Management so I can have a greater influence on how we run our firm. This would be a great position from which to drive through new initiatives such as increasing the number of secondments between our international offices, and further improving flexible working arrangements for our employees and Partners. I'd particularly like to help encourage and motivate young women entering the profession today to strive to reach the top – it is achievable! At Marks & Clerk we already recruit a significantly higher proportion of female trainees than the percentage of women graduating with STEM degrees in the UK, but we are working to improve this further.

When I was a Trainee, I really enjoyed learning how to apply the law to real life situations and learning the various skills of a Patent Attorney.

Advice for anyone wanting to get into the industry

We receive a large number of CVs for each trainee position we offer, and a large proportion of these CVs are from students with very strong academic track records. To stand out, it is important to write a well-structured and clear covering letter - make sure it is well organised and to the point, and free from spelling and grammatical errors (ask someone to proof read it for you!). When it comes to the interview, it is important to do all the basics right, i.e. be on time, do your research on the firm and interviewers, etc. Technical ability is crucial, but we are also looking for candidates who will work well within our teams and who will be able to communicate well with clients. It is therefore important to be yourself, be engaging, and try to connect with those interviewing you. ●

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.

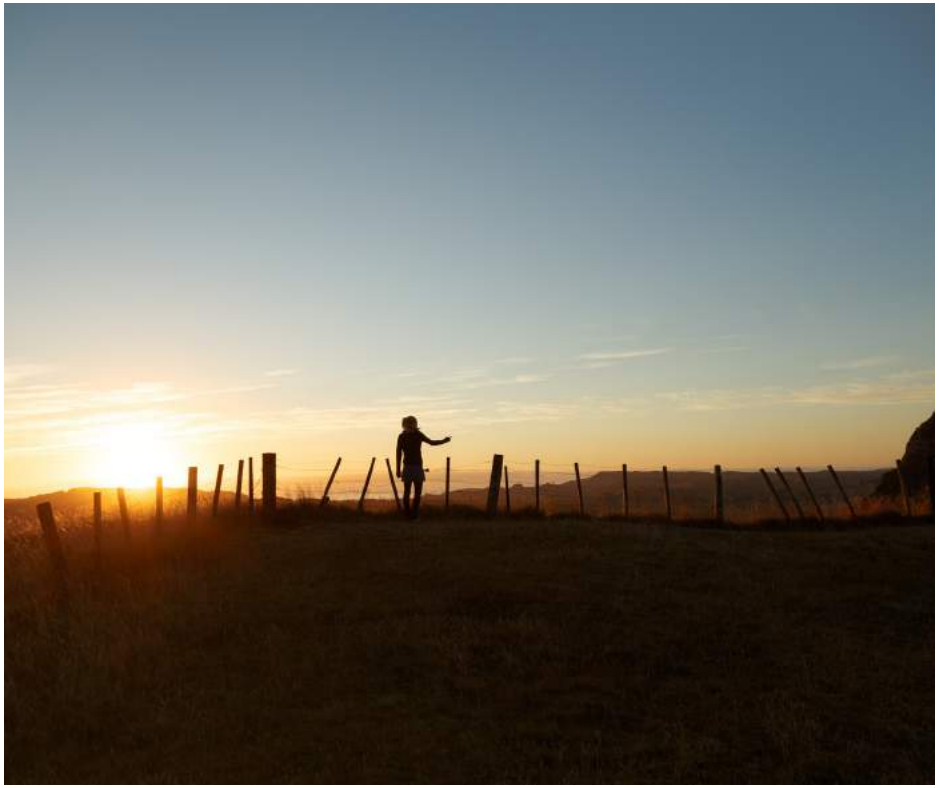
CIPA
The Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys
Patents • Trade Marks • Designs • Copyright

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 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.

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.

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! ●

Sara Jane Paines is Honorary Secretary of the Informals' Committee for 2017-2018. Sara Jane is a trainee patent attorney with Marks & Clerk LLP. She joined the profession in 2015 and has held various Informals' Committee positions over the past three 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 section of this guide.

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

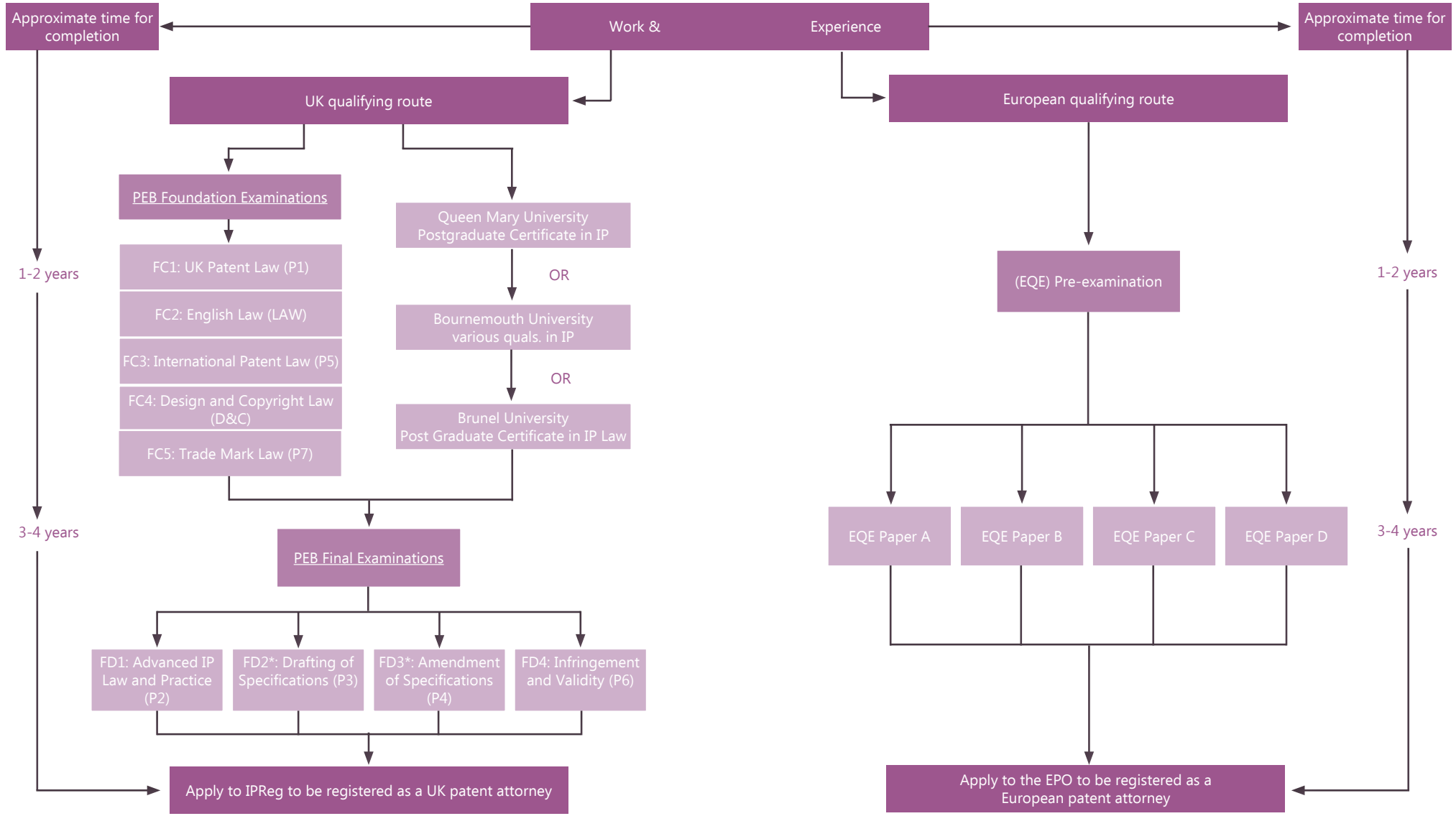
As the career of a patent attorney progresses, there are additional ways to develop further, such as the development of specific areas of expertise appropriate to the practice, the maintenance of a current knowledge base in the face of changing law and the adoption of other skills.

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.

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Bournemouth University

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 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

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. Our established intellectual property courses are developed and continually improved, demonstrating the breadth of the Law School's expertise and our commitment to provide professional and academic training in this challenging area.

We provide a range of courses for practitioners who wish to specialise in intellectual property (IP).

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 over one year, full-time and two years, part-time. Individual modules can be studied 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.
- 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.
- Delivered in a way that suits busy schedules and minimises the time spent away from the office.
- 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

EXPAND YOUR EXPERTISE

CERTIFICATE IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LITIGATION AT NOTTINGHAM LAW SCHOOL

START DATE: NOVEMBER 2019

This course will:

- Allow you to expand your business and your expertise, providing you with the ability to enforce your clients' Intellectual Property rights.
- Enable you to qualify to conduct High Court litigation.

This year the course will also be used to familiarise students with how, at each stage of the litigation process, a case would progress through the Unified Patent Court.

Visit **www.ntu.ac.uk/ip** for more information about this course and to apply

NOTTINGHAM LAW SCHOOL
NOTTINGHAM TRENT UNIVERSITY

FURTHER STUDY

Queen Mary University of London

Centre for Commercial Law Studies

Queen Mary Intellectual Property Research Institute
University of London

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

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

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

All students in the Professional Stream are required to study the core modules: Fundamentals of Law and Professional Ethics; Designs and Copyright Law; The Law of Patents I & II; Trade Mark Law I & II; and a compulsory Study Project where students develop skills in project management, commercial and litigation practice.

Optional modules may include Law of Competition; Information Technology Law; Intellectual Property Transactions; Media Law; Law of Patents I; Trade Mark Law I; Intellectual Property in Food, Biotechnology and Agriculture; and Intellectual Property in the United States.

ASSESSMENT

- Three-hour, 15-minute papers for each full core option, for example Patent Law I and II.
- Two-hour, 15-minute papers for each half option (if option is run).
- Study Project (one year, various submitted materials relevant to management of an intellectual property portfolio, equivalent to 15,000 words).
- Closed book examinations operate for all programmes.

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

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Minimum lower second class honours degree or equivalent – any discipline for Business Stream; 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.

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 and Unfair Competition papers 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, 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: ccls-ip@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

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Jobs in intellectual property

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AA THORNTON
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW

The firm

A.A. Thornton & Co. is a leading firm of intellectual property professionals, including UK Chartered and European patent attorneys, registered and European trade mark attorneys and IP solicitors based in London. Our heritage dates back over 100 years, making us one of the UK's longest-established and leading specialists in the field. We provide a comprehensive range of IP services. These cover all areas of patent, trade mark and design law and are structured to ensure full national and international protection. We also provide a full domain name service, covering both use and registration, as well as having our own in-house litigation team.

Our clients range from multinational corporations, to SMEs, to individual inventors, across a broad spectrum of industries and market sectors. Our client base covers the UK and many other parts of the globe, notably Europe, North America, India and the Far East.

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 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 attorneys 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
75

No. of partners
8

No. of qualified patent attorneys
9

No. of trainee patent attorneys
9

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
5

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
2

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, flexitime, season ticket loan

No. of placement opportunities
Varies

Application method
CV and covering letter by email

Contact information
Karen Genuardi, Head of People
A.A. Thornton & Co.,
10 Old Bailey
London, EC4M 7NG
E: recruitment@aathornton.com

For the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

EMPLOYER DIRECTORY

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
82

No. of partners
14

No. of qualified patent attorneys
25

No. of trainee patent attorneys
11

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
10

Offices recruited into
London, Bath and Cardiff

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, social events, life assurance, private medical insurance and income protection scheme

Application method
Application form by email

Contact information
E: ann-marie.dingivan@abelimray.com

For the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

NAME	Zayd Husseini-Eyre
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Cambridge
DEGREE	MEng Chemical Engineering

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 am yet to take any exams because the first step to becoming a qualified attorney is to attend the Queen Mary Intellectual Property Law course that runs once a year from September to December, which I will be joining this year.

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. ●

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AdamsonJones
Taking care of your IP

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 eight patent attorneys. 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
21

No. of partners
2

No. of qualified patent attorneys
8

No. of trainee patent attorneys
1

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
2

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
1

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 and covering letter by email

Contact information
E: careers@adamson-jones.co.uk

For the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

Appleyard Lees

We are a leading IP firm with over 45 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 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
112

No. of partners
19

No. of qualified patent attorneys
27

No. of trainee patent attorneys
14

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
11

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
2

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 & disputes

Opportunities available
✔ GRADUATE JOBS
✔ PLACEMENTS

No. of graduate jobs
5

Benefits
25 days' holiday, pension scheme, study support, bike scheme, performance bonus, social events, life assurance, overseas travel

No. of placement opportunities
Open

Application method
Online

Contact information
E: HR.Department@appleyardlees.com

For the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

NAME	Meg Booth
LOCATION	Cambridge
UNIVERSITY	Liverpool
DEGREE	Molecular Biology and Biotechnology

My journey to becoming a Trainee Patent Attorney

As a child I always loved science (or at least what I understood science to be back then) and I always wanted to go further than what the curriculum taught (I was that annoying student who always asked questions). This led to me pursuing a degree in Molecular Biology at the University of Liverpool and I was fascinated by all aspects of my degree from virus replication, to cancer genetics and biophysics – I found the whole course incredible. I decided that loving my subject so much, it seemed like a sensible idea to embark upon a PhD. However, I quickly realised that I didn't find lab work very fulfilling and I missed the variety that my undergraduate degree had provided. In January 2017, I attended a careers talk where I saw a presentation given by a Patent Attorney. I was immediately captivated by what sounded like the perfect career for me in that it would allow me to combine my technical background in molecular biology with my other interests in science communication, writing and managing client relations. I decided to find out if this was indeed my dream career come true and so I secured some work experience with a local patent firm. This confirmed that this was the perfect career for me and so I decided to leave my PhD and write up the data I had collected for a Masters degree, at the same time as applying for trainee positions.

Applying to Appleyard Lees

I applied to three firms, but the job at Appleyard Lees was the one I wanted most. I had read a lot about them on their website and reading so many positive interviews with current trainees on the IP Careers website made me want to work for Appleyard Lees even more. I found the interview process very enjoyable and again, this further solidified my desire to work for Appleyard Lees. My first interview comprised of a spelling and grammar test, a technical interview (which was related to my subject area) and a more general CV based interview. I felt my interviewers put me at ease and that they were trying to get the best out of me, which was in stark contrast to an interview that I'd had at a different firm where I felt like I was being interrogated. Everyone I met at both stages of the interview process was incredibly friendly and I felt that the office had a very welcoming, supportive atmosphere. Appleyard Lees are also unique in that they invite candidates back for a day work experience in the office following the first interview where you get to work on a real case.

Since Starting

I was thrilled to be invited back to the second stage and after a nail biting weekend of waiting, I was offered the job. Despite the offices being spread across four cities in the UK, I feel that I have been welcomed into a family. Every day presents new challenges and the opportunity to learn something new and solve problems in interesting ways. Whether this is new scientific or technical knowledge, a new skill or a new rule or article, I find that every day, my brain is in constant use from 9am until I turn off my computer around 5pm. I have only been with the firm for about a month (at the time of writing) and I am excited about my future with Appleyard Lees.

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
121

No. of partners
25

No. of qualified patent attorneys
26

No. of trainee patent attorneys
14

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
12

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
3

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
1

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

Graduate application deadline
Autumn

Application method
Online

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

For the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

NAME	Joe Morgan
LOCATION	Birmingham
UNIVERSITY	Oxford
DEGREE	Physics

Why Patent Law?
I wanted to get into patent law for two main reasons: the first reason was that, a career in research didn't appeal to me - I still wanted to be at the forefront of innovation and to make use of the specific technical knowledge that I had gained from my degree; the second reason was that, while completing my final year undergraduate project with an SME, I was able to discuss the needs of businesses to secure their IP rights with one of the products managers – this really interested me.

Why Barker Brettell?
Before sitting my final year exams, I applied to a number of firms offering trainee positions. Although Barker Brettell has an impressive client portfolio, the thing that appealed to me most about the firm was the friendliness of the staff and the firm's informal ethos. The application process for the position was simple: no psychometric testing, no perplexing questions; just straightforward interviews which I found to be quite easy-going. This reflects the firm's relaxed and personal approach when it comes to doing business – this suits my own style of doing things and is something that clients often really appreciate.

Training at Barker Brettell
As a trainee, a usual day is spent working with my supervising partner, with whom I share an office. He provides me with a steady stream of work and is my first port of call when I have any questions (and I have many!). Other attorneys within the team, with different technical backgrounds, also provide me with work and are always happy to help.

The vast majority of the work that I complete relates to UK and European patent prosecution. My main duties include reviewing search and examination reports, and reporting the findings to clients (both overseas agents and direct clients), as well as responding to examination reports. Occasionally, I have to research unusual client queries – this is really useful for the exams. I particularly enjoy attending new and existing client meetings, which often result in new patent drafting work.

Summary
Training to be a patent attorney is undoubtedly challenging at times, but it can also be extremely rewarding! I'm very glad that I chose to begin my training at Barker Brettell. ●

BeckGreener

The firm
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. 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 here as trainee patent attorneys. ●

No. of employees
42

No. of partners
12

No. of qualified patent attorneys
15

No. of trainee patent attorneys
1

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
6

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 and covering letter by email or post

Contact information
Ian Bartlett, Staff Partner
Fulwood House,
12 Fulwood Place
London WC1V 6HR
E: recruitment@beckgreener.com

For the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

ASSOCIATE PATENT ATTORNEY

NAME	Sarah-Jane Poingdestre
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Bath & Oxford
DEGREE	MChem & DPhil Organic Chemistry

Why did you choose a job in this profession?
I realised quite early on during my DPhil that life as a bench chemist was not for me. One of my main frustrations with academic research was that my chemistry knowledge was becoming too specialised and I often found it difficult to see the 'real world' application of the research I was doing. The patent profession stood out as it would let me apply the scientific knowledge and analytical skills I had developed in a commercial setting.

Training and path to qualification
Qualifying as a Chartered UK Patent Attorney and European Patent Attorney typically takes around five years and involves sitting a number of exams over this period. The majority of the training and preparation for these exams is on-the-job, although this is supplemented with lectures, courses and in-house tutorials. Beck Greener offers a supportive and friendly working environment and everyone's doors are always open.

What is a typical working day?
One of the things that attracted me to the patent profession was the opportunity to work in a wide variety of technological fields. My clients vary from individual inventors to multinational companies and the nature of the profession means that you are learning about new technology on a daily basis. One day you can be reading about the latest advances in solar panel technology and the next about novel techniques for the site specific delivery of drugs. Every case presents its own particular issues, resulting in an intellectually stimulating and challenging working environment.

A typical day can involve drafting a new patent application or developing counter-arguments in response to a patent examiner's argument that your client's invention is not patentable. Beck Greener encourages involvement in contentious work from an early stage in your career, and since qualifying as a European Patent attorney two years ago, I have had the opportunity to defend my clients' patents at oral hearings at the European Patent Office before the Opposition Division and Board of Appeal. Whilst incredibly nerve-wracking, this has certainly been a highlight of my career so far.

Over the past two years, I have been involved with the firm's "STEM: Branching Out" project. This has involved running "spot-the-invention" workshops at schools and providing pro bono assistance to help a student prepare and file a UK patent application for their invention. The opportunity to work with and engage young people with science and the patent profession has been extremely rewarding.

Outside of the office
The profession is not all about work and exams, and it is definitely possible to maintain a good work/life balance. Beck Greener is a very friendly and sociable firm and organises firm-wide annual summer and Christmas parties. There are also regular after work pub trips and we take part in the inter-firm softball games in the summer. ●

EMPLOYER DIRECTORY

BOULT WADE TENNANT

Boult 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
35

No. of qualified patent attorneys
19

No. of trainee patent attorneys
15

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
9

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
9

Offices recruited into
London, Madrid, 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, Boult Wade Tennant, Verulam Gardens, 70 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8BT
E: recruitment@boult.com

For the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

PATENT ASSISTANT

NAME	Rhodri Kendrick
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Cambridge
DEGREE	BA & MSci Natural Sciences

I knew from early on in the research project in my master's degree that academia was not for me and I had become aware of the importance of patents from a tech transfer project, so training to become a patent attorney was always on my radar. I applied for graduate jobs in various industries but my first interview in the patent profession was with Boult Wade Tennant, and I immediately knew that the industry and the company were right for me. The people who interviewed me were extremely friendly and they were genuinely interested in how I thought about problems, which was a stark contrast with the multiple-choice tests that I had completed for other job applications.

At Boult Wade Tennant, trainees work under the close supervision of partners and experienced attorneys, which means you receive feedback and on-the-job training every day. Despite this, I was given the freedom to manage my caseload and deadlines from very early on and this was a steep learning curve for me. However, my supervisors have always been willing to help when I have been too busy and the constant feedback means you quickly learn how to prioritise tasks and become more efficient.

A typical day entails checking my emails, prioritising deadlines for the day and completing various administrative tasks in the morning, before starting more substantial pieces of work in the afternoon. The substantial work most often involves writing letters to various patent offices around the world to convince them to grant our clients' applications. However, as I have gained more experience and knowledge of the law, I become involved in other work such as drafting new patent applications and providing advice on the patents of our clients' competitors. The best part of the job is getting to learn about new technologies every day without having to work in a lab.

My advice to anyone hoping to enter the profession would be to apply to as many firms as possible, because some firms operate in very different ways and you will work with the people who interview you almost every day. The interview really is a chance for both you and the interviewers to see whether you would work well together. I would also suggest making sure that there are no errors in your CV and cover letter because the job involves attention to detail and writing multiple letters every day. ●

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. We join up our knowledge and resources, blending vast experience with infectious enthusiasm, expert knowledge with a constant hunger to learn more and individual skill with great teamwork; a stimulating environment for trainees. The result is a combined intellectual powerhouse, working closely with our clients to generate the most incisive strategies and arguments.

What can you expect?
Each year we take on up to 10 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
252

No. of partners
23

No. of qualified patent attorneys
68

No. of trainee patent attorneys
37

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
5

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 10

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

No. of undergraduate opportunities
16

Application method
CV and 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 the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

NAME	Natasha Christian
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Leeds
DEGREE	Physics with Astrophysics

During my Master's research project, I realised that continuing in academia wasn't for me. I enjoyed my subject area, but had 'project envy', and was interested by the research going on around me. I wanted a career which would be challenging, and at the forefront of technology in my field, but which would allow for diversity in my day-to-day work. I think that patent law provides just that. Not only does the technology which passes my desk vary, but the tasks do too.

A lot of the skills which I gained from my degree are transferable to my current work. Being able to pick out relevant information from large documents, get to grips with new technologies, and communicate concepts concisely and accurately are all important. But what I have found to be a big step up from university, is that you need the ability to switch between topics and refocus quickly, take responsibility for managing your time and meeting deadlines, and consider what is best for clients commercially, rather than focusing entirely on the science.

Having only recently started in the profession, I am working towards becoming qualified as both a UK and European patent attorney. We work on real cases from day one, and the training that you receive from the partners and senior associates who supervise you on each case is invaluable. The firm also provides more structured training in the first year, including in-house tutorials which cover a little of everything, from how to get the printer to work, to basic law and patent practice, to German! This support will continue throughout our training, as we complete the Certificate in IP Law course at Queen Mary, University of London, and the UK and European qualifying exams, which are supplemented with advanced tutorials.

It's safe to say that there is a huge amount to learn, but there is a great environment in the office and there is always someone available to help, no matter how silly you think your question is. The social side of Carpmaels is also a huge plus point. There are plenty of sports teams and events to get involved with, and the firm hosts annual New Year and summer parties, as well as plenty of less formal get-togethers. We are also encouraged to get involved with further reaching events, such as organisation of the annual Intellectual Property Ball, which is a great way to meet people at other firms. Even without all of that, there's always Friday pub. ●

EMPLOYER DIRECTORY

CHAPMAN·IP

Background
Chapman IP is an entrepreneurial and growing company based in Southampton, Cardiff and Munich. We have seven qualified patent and trade mark attorneys and three trainees, supported by qualified patent and trade mark administrators and a formalities team.

Our practice and our clients
Chapman IP has an excellent, diverse client base which provides a good mix of direct client contact and overseas work. We specialise not only in patents, but also trademarks, designs, IP infringement and validity advice, and supporting IP litigation. Our attorneys are experienced in managing IP rights for major UK and international companies, and advising on IP strategy, licensing and due diligence.

Recruitment
The role of a patent attorney is suited to engineering and scientific graduates who want to work in the legal profession. Trainees are initially employed as technical assistants before eventually progressing to taking the UK and European professional qualifications.

We typically recruit one or two patent or trademark trainees each year.

Excellent career development opportunities exist within the company. We offer a competitive salary (and bonus) and the chance to work in a friendly, modern environment.

We are looking for candidates who are articulate, dynamic and have a strong academic track record. Candidates must also be able to demonstrate good interpersonal skills and attention to detail, along with the ability to express themselves in a clear and logical manner, both orally and in writing.

Full training, at the appropriate level, will be given as you work towards qualifying as a UK and European patent attorney.●

No. of employees
22

No. of partners
5

No. of qualified patent attorneys
6

No. of trainee patent attorneys
2

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
2

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
1

Offices recruited into
Southampton, Cardiff and Munich

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

Opportunities available
✔ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs
1-2

Benefits
25 days' holiday, pension scheme

Application method
CV and covering letter by email

Contact information
Chapman IP
Kings Park House
22 Kings Park Road
Southampton SO15 2AT
E: recruitment@chapmanip.com
W: www.chapmanip.com

For the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

PATENT ASSOCIATE

NAME	Thomas Gibb
LOCATION	Southampton
UNIVERSITY	Imperial College London
DEGREE	MSci Natural Sciences & PhD (Chemistry)

As my PhD was drawing to a close, I knew I was ready for a change. Whilst being at the cutting edge of research was always enjoyable and rewarding, I felt clear that my increasing specialisation was taking me away from what I enjoyed best; learning about and understanding the innovative technical solutions behind today's problems.

I had heard about the role of a patent attorney from others that had joined the profession, and their descriptions of the job had always intrigued me. In particular, I relished the thought of being able to use my scientific background in my day to day work, alongside getting to grips with real world, commercially relevant technology. As such, I began to research the opportunities available to me, aided in the most part by this very career guide!

I was lucky enough to join Chapman IP (formerly Chapman & Co) in November 2014, and I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here so far. Most of the time I undertake work as part of a small team, where my input is really valued. In my experience, Chapman IP is a very modern firm that is willing to give trainees a much higher level of responsibility than many other firms.

From my first day working here, I have been given real and important work to do including helping argue the patentability of applications, preparing advice for and meeting with clients, drafting opposition proceedings and preparing infringement opinions. I've also had the opportunity to draft several patent applications, the first within a week of joining, something that many other trainees at my level of experience have not yet attempted. Finally, I have also attended oral proceedings at the European Patent Office, a fantastic insight into the way patent examiners work.

Chapman IP have encouraged me to develop my knowledge of the law surrounding patents by preparing articles for publication in various journals, and by supporting me through courses directed towards both my foundation and final level patent exams. Throughout my time at Chapman IP I have never felt out of my depth, with a network of approachable and helpful people ever present. Outside of work the firm is very friendly, with regular away days and social events.

Chapman IP is a highly enjoyable place to work and a fantastic place to train. My colleagues are hardworking and dedicated, and I would recommend anyone who is interested in training to become a patent attorney to apply.●

EMPLOYER DIRECTORY

cleveland scott york
energise ideas

The firm
Cleveland Scott York is a firm of patent and trade mark attorneys, with offices in London, Hertfordshire, Thames Valley and Brussels. The firm provides 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 as your knowledge and 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. All trainees are encouraged 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 searching.

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 expect to recruit at least one trainee patent attorney and are also recruiting part and newly qualified attorneys. ●

No. of employees
60

No. of partners
11

No. of qualified patent attorneys
12

No. of trainee patent attorneys
4

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
14

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 and covering letter by email

Contact information
E: recruitment@csy-ip.com

For the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

NAME	Alan Currie
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Heriot-Watt
DEGREE	Masters in Mechanical Engineering

I am a Trainee Patent Attorney with Cleveland Scott York having joined in January 2018. Previously I worked offshore in the oil and gas industry as a 'Measurements While Drilling' Engineer and latterly as a Mechanical Asset Engineer onshore at a refinery. After a feeling of dissatisfaction with how my roles were turning out, I decided to change.

What was the application process like – any advice?
Generally, each firm requires a covering letter and CV as the first stage. With Cleveland Scott York I was then scheduled for a telephone interview with one of the partners. Following this I was invited to a recruitment day with six other potential candidates. During the day we were put through various exercises and interviews. It was an intensive process, but I felt I was assessed more thoroughly and fairly than other interviews I had attended. My main advice for any application process is to not get disheartened with rejections and on the day of interviews, be honest with your skills and expectations of the job.

What are your main duties/roles?
I would say I am still quite early in my career but keep a busy schedule with challenging tasks. I work closely with one partner who I help with various jobs such as filing responses at various Intellectual Property Offices, drafting claims for a new patent, filing amendments in response to examiners remarks, revising for upcoming exams, meeting with current and potential future clients to discuss their needs, preparing invoices and emails etc.

What skills are useful in this sector/ profession?
From what I have gathered so far, at the heart of the profession is the ability to break down an invention/product/process, understand how it works and explain why it's different from something else. I find being able to compare specific concepts helps as often it is very small details that differentiate one invention from another, cutting through a lot of waffle to get to the main ideas of the patent/invention is important. Finally, being able to read a long, complicated document and summarise it coherently is essential to the job.

What would you like to achieve in the future?
To be brief, I want to pass the exams to qualify as a UK/EU patent attorney.

Do you have any advice for anyone wanting to get into the industry?
I was lucky enough to chat with some Patent Attorneys before I decided to apply for a position. I found that it very useful to make sure I knew what I was getting into. Having had a few jobs since university, I can tell you that no job turns out to be exactly what you imagined it would be day to day, so my best advice is to find out as much as possibly about the daily tasks before you commit yourself. I have found that most patent attorneys are very open and honest regarding matters like this, so it's worth trying to have a chat with someone that has been in the industry for a while. ●

EMPLOYER DIRECTORY

D YOUNG & CO INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

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
170

No. of partners
34

No. of qualified patent attorneys
40

No. of trainee patent attorneys
23

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 and 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 the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

NAME	Thomas Ricketts
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	UCL & Oxford
DEGREE	PhD Neurology/Genetics, Biological Sciences

I began applying to firms by responding to advertised positions and sending speculative applications. I was invited to interviews at a few firms which each had very different interview processes. D Young & Co had a single interview day meaning the application process moved quite quickly. Shortly after the interview day I received and happily accepted the offer to work and train at D Young & Co.

From day one I have been given responsibility and work-variety, which has been one of the best things about working here. I have been exposed to very different types of technology from car air bags to vaccines for animals! As a result I am always learning something new, whether it is related to science/technology, law or business.

The core of my work centres on the prosecution stage of the patent application process; responding to communications from the European Patent Office. I am regularly involved with client calls and have had the opportunity to visit clients abroad. I am also lucky enough to be regularly involved in working on opposition cases which is not always common so early on in the profession.

D Young & Co provides excellent support for training and development. As you will know, there are a number of exams to pass on the way to fully qualifying as a patent attorney and this can be daunting. D Young & Co pays for training and exams and also offers time-off for study leave. Outside of also providing access to in-house tutorials and external courses, there is a very open and supportive environment within the firm. Whether it is interacting with other trainees also going through the same process or qualified attorneys and partners, there is always help on offer.

I have found training as a patent attorney involves a steep learning curve. At D Young & Co there is a friendly environment that is supportive with work and also recognises the importance of a good work-life balance. There are regular social events that allow you to get to know everyone within the firm.

If you are looking for a career with variety that mixes law, science/technology and business then I highly recommend a career as a patent attorney. It is an intellectually stimulating job and it feels very rewarding to help clients achieve their goals and protect their inventions. If this sounds exciting to you, then I strongly recommend applying to D Young & Co. ●

Dehns

Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys

Dehns is one of the largest private practice patent and trade mark firms in Europe, with a rich history spanning almost 100 years. Our practical, commercially focussed approach to intellectual property helps us to turn inspired thinking into patents, trade marks and registered designs that are valuable commercial assets for our clients.

Client focused service

Clients work with an impressive array of Dehns professionals who provide clear, commercially-focused advice. 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 Managing Intellectual Property, the Legal 500 and Chambers legal guides.

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 place an emphasis on knowledge and training and are committed to development at all levels. We have a well-established history of training winners of national prizes awarded 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
180

No. of partners
31

No. of qualified patent attorneys
55

No. of trainee patent attorneys
47

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
16

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
5

Offices recruited into
London, Brighton, 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 and covering letter online

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

For the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

NAME	Jacob Watfa
LOCATION	Munich
UNIVERSITY	Imperial College London
DEGREE	MEng Mechanical Engineering

Why Dehns?

Dehns has a fantastic reputation for both the quality of its work and its training. This, coupled with the opportunity to move to Germany meant that choosing Dehns was really a no-brainer!

What's it like working at Dehns?

Great! As a firm we generally have a very social atmosphere. In our office we operate an open door policy, so everyone is welcome to go in to each other's office to talk and ask questions, whether they're support staff, trainees, associates or partners. This creates a friendly atmosphere throughout the office, and there are always people available and willing to help with any questions you might have. Our office also has regular and varied social events, and the firm as a whole has a summer party and a Christmas party which all of the offices attend.

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

From day one I've been involved with every stage of patent prosecution, from drafting right the way through to grant, and even after grant. A large amount of my time is spent reasoning with various patent offices as to why certain inventions are new and inventive over what currently exists in the public domain, and trying to secure a patent for our clients. Whilst most of my work tends to be with large, multinational companies, I have also traveled to meet new clients and been involved in giving advice to start-ups, which is an incredibly rewarding experience.

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

Not only the ability to write clearly and concisely, but being able to verbalise and sum up your thoughts to discuss them with your supervisor is incredibly helpful. Also, what I've really come to appreciate is the skill of being able to quickly take short hand notes during meetings (or even Oral Proceedings at the Patent Office) to help recall important bits of information when you need them.

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

Hopefully being successful in the (notoriously difficult) qualifying exams for both Europe and the UK! I feel that Dehns has given me a great platform to achieve this and has already offered me a lot of support in this regard. ●

EMPLOYER DIRECTORY

EIP is a dynamic, forward-thinking firm and one of the fastest growing IP practices in the UK; it has, most recently also opened two international offices - in the USA and in Düsseldorf, Germany. It enjoys an excellent reputation for providing IP services primarily in niche specialisms and was the first UK IP firm to incorporate patent attorneys and IP litigation solicitors in a combined partnership. EIP has a leading electronics and software practice and a significant presence in the life sciences, medical devices, pharmaceuticals and chemical sectors.

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

EIP offers trainees the opportunity to interact and liaise directly with clients. The training programme is focused on direct supervision by the partners, who are leaders in their field, and all of the trainees benefit from high levels of tuition during qualification. EIP has established an ethos of developing trainees and has a good record of 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, progressive and mutually supportive working environment along with a smart casual dress policy and stylish modern offices.

No. of employees
150

No. of partners
24

No. of qualified patent attorneys
30

No. of trainee patent attorneys
8

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
6

Offices recruited into
Bath, Cardiff, Leeds and London

Disciplines recruited from
AI/ML disciplines, chemistry, computing, electronics, engineering, maths and physics

Opportunities available
✔ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs
4-5

Benefits
20 days' rising to 25 days' holiday, healthcare, pension scheme, study support, flexitime, season ticket loan, bike scheme, performance bonus, social events

Application method
CV and covering letter by email

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

For the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

NAME	Carl Bryers
LOCATION	Leeds
UNIVERSITY	Lancaster
DEGREE	PhD in Space Physics

How did you get your job at EIP?
After finishing my PhD in February 2014 I began applying for jobs to become a trainee patent attorney through online job advertisements. I received a phone call from EIP's recruitment manager for an informal chat about my degree, PhD and the job. I was invited to attend an interview in their London office in May and after making it through that first interview I attended a second interview in the Leeds office where I would be based if successful. The interviews were relatively informal and friendly. I was pleased to learn that I had been successful and began working in August 2014.

Why did you choose a job in this profession?
It was during my PhD that I decided I wanted to leave academia. The uncertainty of a career as a post-doc researcher did not appeal to me and increasingly the work I was doing seemed more and more abstract; I wanted to work in an area that was more applicable to the real word. As a self-confessed gadget enthusiast the idea of working with cutting edge technology piqued my interest.

What are your main duties?
At this stage in my career I can summarise my job into three main areas: writing patent applications, prosecuting patent applications and admin. Writing a patent application firstly involves liaising with inventors to discuss their idea in detail to determine what the invention is and how it works. The next step involves describing the invention so that it can be easily understood, describing all of the features of the invention and claiming the invention to provide the best protection for the inventor. Of all the work I do, this is certainly the most interesting and satisfying. I get to learn about new technologies in all areas of physics while enabling the inventor to obtain protection for their invention.

Once a patent has been filed, it is examined by the patent office. The next steps then involve prosecuting the patent. An examiner will search in patent databases to determine whether the invention is new or whether it may be deemed obvious from what has been done before. My job is therefore to argue that the invention is not known and is not obvious over the documents cited by the examiner. The final part of the job involves discussing the patent procedure with clients, preparing invoices, organising my workload, preparing emails and forms and keeping up to date with patent law.

What are the most stressful parts of the job?
The most stressful part of my job is consistently having to perform at the highest level. In this profession every word counts. An entire patent application may be granted or denied because of one sentence, or even one word. Attention to detail is therefore imperative. At EIP there is a network of friendly and helpful people who are more than willing to help out.

What would you like to achieve in future?
The goal for every trainee patent attorney is to pass your exams. EIP are very flexible about when you choose to sit exams; they recognise that everyone works differently and there is no pressure to sit exams straight away.

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
61

No. of partners
12

No. of qualified patent attorneys
18

No. of trainee patent attorneys
15

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, flextime, 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: Sandra.Snelling@elkfife.com

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www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

NAME	Callum Anderson
LOCATION	Sevenoaks
UNIVERSITY	Imperial College London
DEGREE	BSc Physics

I briefly encountered the patent system twice during my education, where 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 after. 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.

IPCareers
Jobs in intellectual property

100s Jobs

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Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets

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 165 000 patent applications and granted over 10,5000 patents in 2017. 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 5 500 - 7 800 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
6,850

No. of qualified patent examiners
4,528

Offices recruited into
Munich, The Hague

International opportunities
Yes

Disciplines recruited from
Information and communication technology, engineering, science, law

Opportunities available
✔ GRADUATE JOBS

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: jobs.epo.org

For the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

EMPLOYER DIRECTORY

FORRESTERS
Clear direction

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.

So who 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 fulfill 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
108

No. of partners
17

No. of qualified patent attorneys
26

No. of trainee patent attorneys
12

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
10

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
3

Offices recruited into
London, Birmingham, Liverpool, 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 and covering letter by email or post

Contact information
Alex Beattie, Partner
Forresters, 3rd Floor
119-121 Cannon Street
London EC4N 5AT
E: careers@forresters.co.uk
T: 020 7283 8989

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www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

NAME Kate Selwyn
LOCATION London
UNIVERSITY Durham
DEGREE BSc Cell Biology, MSc Stem Cell Technology

Why I chose to become a patent attorney

I first became aware of the world of intellectual property whilst completing a Business Enterprise module during my undergraduate degree at Durham University. When I finished my undergraduate degree, I still wasn't sure what I wanted to do, so I went on to complete an MSc in Stem Cell Technology at the University of Nottingham. This allowed me to gain further insight into the commercialisation of scientific inventions. It became clear that I wanted a career that required my scientific background, but I didn't feel that the lab was the right environment for me. I became fascinated with the multidisciplinary world of patents which combines science with business and law. Whilst researching the career path as a patent attorney, it became clear that it was a diverse and progressive career with rewarding benefits which would use my scientific knowledge. I joined Forresters as a trainee patent attorney in the Life Sciences and Chemistry team two years ago.

My typical working day

Although my typical day is as varied as the technologies I work with, most days start by dealing with emails, some of which are received overnight. A lot of our clients are based in the USA and so work on a different time-zone to us. I will then check my upcoming deadlines and send out any necessary reminders. After that, most of my day is spent working on cases, reviewing prior art and trying to think of ways to overcome objections from the patent office. I work closely with a supervising partner or senior associate who are always on hand to provide guidance and check over my work. One of the biggest challenges I've found of being a patent attorney; you need to be on top of your work and organised enough to be able to push your plans for the day aside and take on an urgent case if necessary.

I will soon start preparing for my next round of exams, which begins with a residential training course. Having passed my first set of UK foundation exams, I feel confident that this is the right career path for me. In October this year, I will sit the remaining UK Foundation exams, before starting to sit the European exams next year.

Why I am pleased I chose Forresters

From day one, I worked with my supervising partner on real cases. This has involved working on cases pursuing patent protection in the UK and Europe, as well as in Russia, India, Australia and the US (to name a few). At present, the technology I'm involved with ranges from medical devices to laundry detergents to vaccines!

Forresters provides invaluable support for exams. We attend residential training courses and the partners support our training in-house by going through past papers, or setting daily "questions of the day" in the run up to our exams. There are a number of trainees within the firm, all at different stages of qualification. This means there is always someone on hand to provide advice regarding the exams or training process. Two years on, I've really enjoyed my training so far. Although it is a steep learning curve getting to know the legal aspects of patent law, it's an incredibly interesting and rewarding job which puts you at the forefront of your technical field. If you have the motivation to study while putting this into practice at work, I recommend this career path! ●

EMPLOYER DIRECTORY

GJE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

About us

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 100 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
115

No. of partners
13

No. of qualified patent attorneys
30

No. of trainee patent attorneys
18

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
5

Offices recruited into
London

Disciplines recruited from
Chemistry, life sciences, electronics/IT, engineering and physics

Opportunities available
✔ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs
2-5

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

Application method
CV and covering letter online

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

For the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

NAME	Claire Windle
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Leeds
DEGREE	PhD Molecular and Cellular Biology

After finishing my PhD I briefly worked as a postdoctoral researcher. However, I came to the conclusion that remaining in academia would mean a lack of career stability and I would continue to work in only a small area of science.

During my PhD I worked in a very interdisciplinary institute on a project which combined both biochemistry and organic chemistry. From working in this environment I knew that I wanted a career where you are exposed to a wide range of scientific research. I had briefly come across the role of a patent attorney through my studies and after talking to a friend of a friend who was in the profession, I decide to apply to some firms.

I joined GJE's Chemistry and Life Sciences team in 2016. The main thing I enjoy about the job is the variety of work that you come across. On a daily basis I can work on pharmaceuticals to biotech to food and drink innovations. I think if you enjoy learning about new developments in research you will not be bored in this career.

It is not only the scientific content of the work that varies. Since starting at GJE I have gained experience in patent prosecution, drafting, oppositions, commercial strategy and freedom to operate projects. From day one, trainees are given their own cases to work on whilst being supported by an experienced attorney. In this way trainees get to work with different partners and senior attorneys which gives you experience of different working styles.

In this profession there is always something new to learn which can be challenging, but it gives you a great feeling of achievement!

GJE provides a very supportive and friendly environment to work in. There is always a more experienced team member to help you out with any questions you may have. This support really helps you to learn and develop skills whilst on the job. GJE also provide tutorials and know-how meetings which help to supplement your training.

If you have a passion for science and are looking for a challenging and rewarding career then I would definitely recommend the patent profession and training at GJE!

EMPLOYER DIRECTORY

HASELTINE LAKE LLP
EUROPEAN PATENT AND TRADE MARK ATTORNEYS

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 staff 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. 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 'HL 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, proving that if you have the aptitude and the commitment to quality you can go all the way. ●

No. of employees
163

No. of partners
28

No. of qualified patent attorneys
50

No. of trainee patent attorneys
16

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
4

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
2

Offices recruited into
Bristol, London, 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

Application method
Online

Contact information
W: www.haseltinelake.com

For the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

NAME	Grace Wood
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Warwick
DEGREE	Masters by Research in Physics (MSc)

I enjoyed my time studying physics at University, but knew that a life in academia or research was not for me. I was much more interested in real world applications of physics, and I didn't want to be constrained to a narrow area of research. In my penultimate year, I discovered the IP profession, and that a career as a patent attorney offered the chance to be involved in cutting-edge technology relating to a huge breadth of subject matter.

I started working in Haseltine Lake's Electronics team in 2015. During the first few months, I attended the "HL Academy", an in-house training program set up to support new trainees. The academy was extremely helpful in giving me an overview of various aspects of the job, which gave better context to the work I was doing day to day.

A few years on, I really enjoy the challenge of analysing technical information and converting a complex situation into straight forward business-focused advice. I have also been surprised about how much I have enjoyed the people side of the job. Building friendly business relationships which require a high level of trust is very rewarding. I have been fortunate enough to go on a secondment to one of our clients in Edinburgh, where I worked closely with inventors on the technology they were developing at the time. This gave me the opportunity to develop good working relationships with the inventors and IP managers, as well as to better understand how IP is used in a commercial setting.

IP work is varied, interesting and rewarding. However, the UK and European qualifying exams are very difficult and require a huge commitment in terms of personal study in your free time. Nonetheless, once the exams are out of the way you have a skill set which is in demand with growing IP work, driven by the need in all companies for constant reinvention and innovation.

Haseltine Lake is very supportive in the lead up to exams, and provide in-house tutorials alongside external preparatory courses. There is a lot of opportunity for progression within the firm, as well as an emphasis on allowing attorneys to find the right work-life balance for their particular circumstance, which is very encouraging for people coming up through the firm.

While the career path of a patent attorney is challenging, working as a patent attorney can be an enormously rewarding career.●

EMPLOYER DIRECTORY

HGF

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 160 patent attorneys, trade mark attorneys and IP solicitors together to provide a full-service IP solution. The firm has 16 offices across the UK and Europe.

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, a IAM 300 Global IP strategist and 10 of 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
324

No. of partners
53

No. of qualified patent attorneys
89

No. of trainee patent attorneys
40

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
25

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
6

Offices recruited into
Nationwide and Europe

International opportunities
Yes

Disciplines recruited from
Electronics, engineering, physics, chemistry, life sciences and law

Opportunities available
✔ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs
15-20 p.a.

Benefits
25 days' holiday, holiday purchase scheme, annual performance bonus, private medical cover with access to further benefits like 50% off gym membership

Application method
CV and covering letter by email

Contact information
E: recruitment@hgf.com

For the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

NAME	Katherine Munro
LOCATION	York
UNIVERSITY	Sheffield
DEGREE	Physics

I came across the patent profession after completing my degree. I knew I wanted to stay in the scientific field but wanted to avoid research and academia. After detailed research into what being a patent attorney entailed, the combination of science, law and business greatly appealed to me. Training as a patent attorney provides stimulating intellectual challenges but also requires a commercial mind set. I applied to HGF as they came across as a friendly yet professional firm. During my interviews this also came across strongly and I was delighted to accept when offered the job.

The training support provided at HGF is a definite bonus; while you mainly train on-the-job, HGF provide in-house tutorials to help with exam preparation and further training. I also have a weekly tutorial, along with another trainee, with my supervising partner where I can discuss areas I'm currently unsure about and learn some of the more detailed aspects to patent law.

At first working on cases can be a little intimidating but there is always someone who is willing to help if you need, and you're not expected to be perfect at the start! I also routinely discuss how I can improve my work with my supervising partner. There is a real team attitude at HGF which provides a supportive working environment. As a trainee patent attorney no day is quite the same, I can go from responding to a communication from the European Patent Office about a medical device to drafting an application for the oil and gas industry for UK filing. The variation of inventions, clients and tasks is a great part of the job.

There is a great social side, from an annual quiz to a summer BBQ and office get togethers. Every year HGF also holds a CPD conference for all attorneys where a variety of seminars are given by internal and external speakers about recent and upcoming changes in IP law; even the newest of trainees are invited to these conferences and it is a great opportunity to further develop your professional knowledge.

This is a rewarding and fascinating career path constantly offering new challenges. HGF as a firm is welcoming and supportive and this results a very positive working environment in which to learn and grow as a patent attorney. ●

EMPLOYER DIRECTORY

HINDLES

Patent & Trade Mark Attorneys

The firm

Hindles is a growing firm based in the centre of Edinburgh. We provide a full range of patent and trade mark attorney services to clients ranging from start-ups and SMEs to international corporations 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

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 and covering letter by email

Contact information
W: www.hindles.co.uk
E: careers@hindles.co.uk

For the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

NAME	Rebecca Douglas
LOCATION	Edinburgh
UNIVERSITY	Glasgow
DEGREE	PhD Physics

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 the middle of July - 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, I expect to sit three of the five foundation exams, and I'll sit the remaining two the following 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. ●

EMPLOYER DIRECTORY

HOFFMANN EITLE

The firm

Founded in 1825, 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 ensures that we can provide counsel to clients in all areas of technology. We have an unrivalled reputation for advocacy in inter partes hearings at the European Patent Office.

Job prospects

In the last decade, the firm has expanded rapidly. We now have 95 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 their 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
39 (3 in London)

No. of qualified patent attorneys
95 (10 in London)

No. of trainee patent attorneys
40 (6 in London)

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
8 (in Munich)

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, healthcare, life assurance

Application method
CV and covering letter by post or email

Contact information
Hoffmann Eitle
Harmsworth House
13-15 Bouverie Street
London EC4Y 8DP
T:020 7427 0200
E: pm@hoffmanneitle.com

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www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

NAME	Eve O Connor
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Trinity College Dublin
DEGREE	Electrical and Electronic Engineering

I first encountered patents towards the end of my bachelor's degree. After conducting further research into the field, I decided that there were many advantages to pursuing a career in patent law in London, and I applied, amongst others, for a trainee position at Hoffmann Eitle.

The application process involved two interviews, both being carried out by the partner responsible for the department to which I was applying and a senior attorney. I also had the opportunity to meet with other trainees and discuss what it was like to be a trainee patent attorney. The interview process was challenging, but the firm put a lot of effort into ensuring that information about the position was available to the applicant as well as assessing that the applicant was suitable for the position.

I was happy to accept a job at Hoffmann Eitle as it seemed to be an exciting and engaging place to work. A particular draw for me was the opportunity to spend six months in our office in Munich during my training. Hoffmann Eitle London also combines all the benefits of a small and friendly office with the advantages of working in a large and dynamic firm.

From my first day, I was given files to work on, covering a variety of clients and a variety of technologies within my field of study. All trainee work is carried out independently but reviewed by a supervising partner or an experienced attorney. This provides invaluable training not only in the legal aspects of the job and in communicating with clients and various patent offices, but also in quickly developing time management and organisational skills.

As a trainee, I have been involved in a wide variety of work including drafting and prosecuting patent applications, oppositions and appeals, and advising clients on matters of UK and European law. Clients vary from small businesses and private inventors to large, multinational companies. One of the most satisfying parts of this role is being able to use so many aspects of my degree in a way that is not possible in many research or engineering roles while also continuing to learn and develop new skills.

The next stage of my training will be spending six months working in our office in Munich. This secondment allows trainees to work with other partners and attorneys and to work with different clients and in different technology areas. Munich is also the home of the European Patent Office, so this secondment offers the exciting opportunity of regularly attending hearings in examination, opposition and appeal proceedings before sitting the European and UK qualifying exams. ●

IPCareers
Jobs in intellectual property

100s Jobs

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www.ipcareers.co.uk

Intellectual Property Office

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 20

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 the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

EMPLOYER DIRECTORY

J A KEMP

PATENT ATTORNEYS • TRADE MARK ATTORNEYS

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
200

No. of partners
42

No. of qualified patent attorneys
51

No. of trainee patent attorneys
24

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
6

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, study support, bike scheme, performance bonus, group income protection scheme, group life assurance scheme, travel and accident insurance.

Application method
CV and covering letter

Contact information
E: careers@jakemp.com

For the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

NAME	Eleanor Healey
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Oxford
DEGREE	DPhil Structural Biology

Although I really enjoyed my PhD, by the third year in the lab I'd come to the decision that a career in scientific research wasn't for me. I was looking for an intellectually challenging career that would allow me to use my scientific knowledge but also learn new skills and tackle different challenges. It seemed that a career as a patent attorney met these criteria. I sent out a number of applications and was lucky enough to be offered a position as a trainee in the Biotechnology and Life Sciences Group at J A Kemp.

J A Kemp's training programme starts from your first day at the firm. Every new trainee is assigned a partner as a mentor who has overall responsibility for your training and career development. You will also work with a number of different partners, which allows you to see different approaches to the job. As well as on-the-job training, the firm runs a programme of introductory tutorials to cover all of the key legal basics. This is supported in later years by dedicated tutorials in preparation for the European and UK exams.

At J A Kemp you get to work on real cases right from the start. I now work with a large number of different clients. These include world-class university tech transfer offices and a variety of businesses, ranging from biotech start-ups through to international pharmaceutical companies. In the course of a typical day my work might include writing a new patent application, preparing arguments to file at the Patent Office and discussing a case with a client over the phone. My cases cover diverse subject areas, including sequencing technologies, cell culture methods, antibody therapies and diagnostics. The daily variety of tasks and technologies is something I love about the job. The work is challenging, but there is always someone to ask if I need help.

As I learn the job and develop my skills, I look forward to interacting more and more with the firm's clients and eventually taking a leading role. J A Kemp has a global client base and the firm's qualified attorneys travel to the USA, Japan and many other parts of the world to visit clients and professional contacts.

J A Kemp is a sociable and supportive place to work. We have regular team socials, Christmas and summer parties and weekly trainee drinks.

In summary, I would recommend this career to anyone looking for an intellectually challenging job where they can apply their scientific knowledge in a commercial setting. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first three years at J A Kemp. Apply now! ●

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
101

No. of partners
15

No. of qualified patent attorneys
30

No. of trainee patent attorneys
18

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

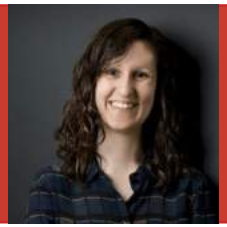
Application method
Online

Contact information
No.1 London Bridge
London SE1 9BA
E: graduate.recruitment@keltie.com,

For the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

PATENT ASSISTANT

NAME	Emma Arbabzadah
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Imperial College London
DEGREE	PhD Photonics



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 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
176

No. of partners
21

No. of qualified patent attorneys
45

No. of trainee patent attorneys
37

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
5

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
5

Offices recruited into
London

International opportunities
Yes

Disciplines recruited from
All degrees considered

Opportunities available
✔ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs
10

Benefits
22 days' holiday plus 6 days' flexi-leave, life assurance, healthcare, pension scheme, performance bonus, study support, season ticket loan, cycle to work scheme, gym membership, social events, EAP, eye care vouchers and flexible benefits including: travel insurance, dental insurance, health cash plan, critical illness and childcare vouchers.

Application method
CV and covering letter by email

Contact information
E: hiring@kilburnstrode.com
W: www.kilburnstrode.com

For the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

NAME	Wouter Mooij
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Imperial College London
DEGREE	PhD Chemistry

Why I chose to become a patent attorney

As an undergraduate student in Amsterdam, I never thought I would pursue this career. I thought lectures on intellectual property given throughout the course were dull. The legalese seemed miles away from any practical application.

A trip to an agrochemical company changed my perspective. The lead in-house counsel of the company, along with his colleagues, enthusiastically explained how the patent application process ties in with research and the commercialisation thereof. I could suddenly see the importance of intellectual property much more clearly.

Their presentation led me to apply for an internship at a London firm. Fortunate to be given the opportunity, I spent a week exploring chemistry and life sciences patents. The attorneys kindly showed me how in patents, science, law and people intertwine. I was hooked.

Why I chose to join Kilburn & Strode

A partner at the firm I interned at recommended that I apply to Kilburn & Strode. "We like them," he said. I followed his advice and applied.

During the application process, I learned that Kilburn & Strode would recruit a large cohort of trainees that year. This was important to me, because I believed having other trainees in the same boat would provide camaraderie, as well as support, if needed. Moreover, it transpired that the firm was friendly, progressive, and keen to hire people from non-traditional backgrounds. I was convinced it would be a great company to join.

Now, I am glad I joined. There are many trainees – all from a different (technical) background and all very willing to help or give advice. The attorneys, associates and partners are knowledgeable and supportive. Most of the time I work for a single partner, who is a great mentor. With her understanding, her eye for detail and her linguistic precision, she continually challenges me to be at my best.

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

It will take at least three years of training to become a qualified patent attorney. Accordingly, to make the journey as enjoyable as possible, you should join a firm that fits **you**.●

EMPLOYER DIRECTORY

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.

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 science, engineering, computer science or maths. 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
346

No. of partners
52

No. of qualified patent attorneys
89

No. of trainee patent attorneys
44

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
21

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
10

Offices recruited into
London, Oxford, Cambridge, Birmingham, Manchester, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen

Disciplines recruited from
Scientific, mathematics, engineering and computer science

Opportunities available
✔ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs
Up to 15

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 the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

NAME	Minghui Sun
LOCATION	Manchester
UNIVERSITY	Hong Kong University of Science & Technology
DEGREE	MPhil, Electronic and Computer Engineering

What first attracted you to Marks & Clerk?
I applied to Marks and Clerk whilst working overseas because the firm has a strong international reputation. During the interview process, I was impressed by the professionalism of the HR team and fee earners, and everyone I met was friendly and approachable.

What does a typical working week look like?
There is no such thing as a typical week as there are always new and interesting projects to work on. I work closely with several supervisors who assign work to me and help to ensure that I can gain experience in a number of different areas. Patent prosecution is probably the main component of my work every week, but the types of client and technology vary greatly. There have also been plenty of opportunities for drafting work and research/review work for larger-scale projects (eg EPO oppositions and appeals, and freedom to operate reports).

Give us an idea of the range of clients you work with and the variety of technologies?
The clients I work with include world-famous multinationals, local and overseas SMEs and local start-ups. A lot of my work originates from local inventors, but I also receive work from foreign attorneys whose clients are looking to gain patent protection in the UK or Europe. The technologies range from electronic circuits, computer hardware and software, telecommunications, general electronic systems and printing techniques - all of which suit my background and knowledge.

Tell us about your career highlight to date
During the preparation of an opposition, I was tasked with looking for relevant prior art documents that could form the basis of our strategy. I was able to locate several key documents which were used in the opposition. It is always a delight when my work gets acknowledged by supervising attorneys and clients. From day one, I felt like my input really was valued.

What opportunities are there for development at Marks & Clerk?
At Marks & Clerk, I receive thorough on-the-job training every day from highly skilled and experienced attorneys. Also, Marks & Clerk provides a Training Academy to guide trainees through the qualifying examinations. This includes twice weekly webinars from skilled attorneys and solicitors within Marks & Clerk and I have found these sessions to be invaluable. There are several away days throughout the year where trainees from the different offices meet up for group study sessions and social events. Thanks no doubt in part to the training provided by Marks & Clerk, I was awarded the Moss Prize for passing two of the UK's patent qualification exams with the highest aggregate mark.

At Marks & Clerk I feel both challenged and well supported – part of a real community. ●

EMPLOYER DIRECTORY

MATHYS & SQUIRE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

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 or science. A curiosity about how things work, 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 and so we have a sufficient number of trainees at each level of qualification that all trainees benefit from the experience of those ahead of them, as well as from the support of others within their peer group. We 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 our 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
151

No. of partners
25

No. of qualified patent attorneys
57

No. of trainee patent attorneys
19

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
4

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
1

Offices recruited into
Cambridge, London and Manchester

Disciplines recruited from
Biochemistry, chemistry, physics and engineering & IT related disciplines

Opportunities available
✔ GRADUATE JOBS
✔ INTERNSHIPS

No. of graduate jobs
4-6

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

No. of internship opportunities
Variable

Application method
CV and covering letter by email

Contact information
E: grads@mathys-squire.com

For the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

NAME	Bethany Harriss
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Durham
DEGREE	Chemistry (MChem and PhD)

During my PhD, I realised that remaining in academia was not for me. Whilst I enjoyed learning about new chemistry and solving the problems that I encountered, I wanted a career outside of the lab that would allow me to work on a broader range of projects. Patent law was not something that I had initially 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 a year 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 tackle anything that comes my way. I have worked on cases encompassing a wide breadth of chemistry (most of which have nothing to do with my PhD) under the supervision of either an associate or a partner.

On a day-to-day basis the work includes drafting patent applications, reading search and examination reports, corresponding with clients and responding to Examiners. During this process, we often arrange to meet clients to discuss their invention and the importance of the patent to them. It is this variety of work that makes the job interesting.

In September, my formal training will begin with the Queen Mary Postgraduate Certificate in Intellectual Property Law programme, after which I will start preparing for both UK and European patent exams. Mathys & Squire also run enrichment training sessions which are based around different areas of law or practical aspects of the job and in the run up to exams they provide more focused tutorials.

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 I have worked with at Mathys & Squire has been helpful and friendly, and they are always willing to give me their time.

There have also been numerous ways to get to know everyone outside of work. These have included organised events such as games night, bake sales and the summer and Christmas parties, in addition to more impromptu pub trips. ●

EMPLOYER DIRECTORY

About the firm

Maucher Jenkins is a recognised leading firm of 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 offices are sometimes 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, 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 and covering letter by email

Contact information
Emily Hutley, Maucher Jenkins,
26 Caxton Street
London SW1H 0RJ
E: Emily.Hutley@maucherjenkins.com

For the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

NAME	Stefan Siegel
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Kings College London
DEGREE	Physics and Philosophy

The application process

The application process was simple. I sent a covering letter and my CV to HR and was invited to attend an interview. The first impression of the firm on the day of the interview was forward-looking, friendly and gave me the confidence that this firm is dedicated to training technical assistants to become excellent patent attorneys.

Why did you choose Maucher Jenkins?

Maucher Jenkins stood out with their well-established international presence (in the UK, Germany, Switzerland and China), giving me potential opportunities to explore working in different countries and with different clients. I have had the great opportunity to work in London, Farnham and Munich in the ten months that I have worked at Maucher Jenkins.

What's it like working at Maucher Jenkins?

Working at Maucher Jenkins is opportunistic, positively challenging and supportive. The training is individual and the work you get depends on what you enjoy and what you seek out to do. My colleagues from all sides (fellow trainees, associates, partners and staff) are approachable and are there to support me throughout. A good balance of independent work as well as teamwork creates an environment which allows me to learn much quicker and more than I could have imagined ten months ago.

What's your day like?

My day begins with a cup of coffee and planning my workload for the day which generally includes prosecuting patents (i.e. reading a patent application and arguing why it is new in comparison to similar patent applications) and discussing my argument with the supervising attorneys/partners who guide me in the right direction. An important part of my weekly schedule includes socialising with my colleagues to discover what work everyone is involved with and to offer a hand where I can. This allows me to get work experience in different sectors, such as more recently performing background research on a potential opposition law suit.

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

- Analytical skills - reading and analysing a variety of inventions is a big part of my role at Maucher Jenkins;
- Time management and organisational skills - keeping a spreadsheet/diary to track progress on tasks;
- Ability to take a positive approach to everything - mistakes will happen and are part of the learning curve;
- Being proactive - Maucher Jenkins has a large variety of different IP work and, from my experience, having an open mind and approaching partners/attorneys allows you to take part in any or all of the work. ●

EMPLOYER DIRECTORY

Mewburn Ellis

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

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

Professional development
We recruit a reasonably large number of graduates each year and have an excellent track record in getting trainees through the professional examinations. Our trainees rotate between working for different partners in at least three of our offices (presently not including our Munich office) so that they are exposed to working in different subject areas and for a range of clients. In addition to learning at work and on our internal training scheme, there are also opportunities to attend external courses, in particular the QMUL Certificate in Intellectual Property course, and training seminars for EPO exams in Strasbourg.

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

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

No. of employees
180

No. of partners
41

No. of qualified patent attorneys
54

No. of trainee patent attorneys
22

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
9

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
5-10

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

Application method
Online application form or CV and covering letter by email

Contact information
W: www.mewburn.com
E: graduate.recruitment@mewburn.com

For the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

NAME	Anna Mudge
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Durham
DEGREE	PhD in Plant Molecular Biology

I enjoyed my degree in Biochemistry enough that I was considering pursuing a career in academia. However, I realised towards the end of my PhD that lab work was not what I wanted to do long term. One thing I did know was that I wanted to continue to use my technical knowledge and analytical skills in my career, whilst doing a job which would keep me interested and engaged.

After doing some research, it appeared that a career as a patent attorney would satisfy all these requirements. I attended a couple of open days at IP firms, including Mewburn Ellis, which provided an introduction to the profession and a valuable opportunity to talk to people at all stages of their careers, from current trainees to partners. I ultimately applied to several firms and was offered a role as a trainee patent attorney by Mewburn Ellis.

From my first day, I was exposed to real cases and worked for real clients. This was challenging in a positive way and there was always someone available for advice. After managing my own work during my PhD, I enjoyed having this responsibility early on. Presently, my day-to-day work involves writing to clients about their cases, presenting arguments to patent examiners, and advising clients on their patent portfolios whilst answering any queries that they might have. I really enjoy interacting with our clients – the job is not only about analysing technical information (although I do this daily as well)! Almost all trainees enter the profession without any law experience. This means that the first few years of work are accompanied by learning the law and professional exams. A real advantage of Mewburn Ellis is the high quality of the training provided. I attend regular in-house tutorials with the other trainees which cover the practical side of the job, the relevant law, and exam preparation. Trainees also attend the Certificate of Intellectual Property Law course in London, which exempts us from some of the professional exams and is a great way of meeting trainees from other firms.

Another benefit of the firm is that trainees move between our four offices (London, Bristol, Manchester and Cambridge) during the first few years. We sit with a partner for about six months before moving onto another who is often in a different office. This scheme is hugely beneficial for trainees as we are exposed to lots of different clients and a variety of work, and we also get the opportunity to live in several great cities. The scheme is also invaluable for fostering the friendly environment of Mewburn Ellis because everybody gets to know everyone else.

If you are interested in new technologies, learning about how things work, using language effectively while writing about complex technical ideas and using your analytical skills, then this job may well be for you. I encounter all these things almost every day which makes the job both interesting and satisfying, and even after the exams are over, you will never stop learning! ●

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
21

No. of trainee patent attorneys
11

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
2

Offices recruited into
London

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 and covering letter by email

Contact information
Tim Searing,
E: tim.searing@pagewhite.com
T: 0207 831 7929
F: 0207 831 8040

For the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

NAME	Matthew Bannister
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	UCL
DEGREE	MRes Electronic Engineering

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! ●

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Jobs in intellectual property

100s Jobs

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at www.ipcareers.co.uk

GRADUATE JOBS | INTERNSHIPS & PLACEMENTS | ADVICE
www.ipcareers.co.uk

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 2019 will be our second 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, at least 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
6

No. of partners
3

No. of qualified patent attorneys
5

Offices recruited into
London

Disciplines recruited from
Engineering, 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

Graduate application deadline
31 October 2018

Application method
CV and covering letter by email

Contact information
E: recruitment@patent.boutique
W: https://www.patent.boutique/

For the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

EMPLOYER DIRECTORY

POTTER CLARKSON

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

With over 55 patent and trade mark professionals and around 90 support staff working together in a modern single UK office in Nottingham, with state of the art IT infrastructure, video conferencing and meeting room facilities, we have massive legal, scientific and commercial strength.

We have IP solicitors working alongside our attorneys enabling us to be a full-service IP firm. Award winning, the firm 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 the high level of service provision, information security and environmental awareness that we have. We therefore deliver proven expertise with a top tier service too, enabling clients to benefit commercially from the IP investment. Potter Clarkson 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 patent and trade mark 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.

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
160

No. of partners
34

No. of qualified patent attorneys
44

No. of trainee patent attorneys
10

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
5

No. of IP solicitors
6

Offices recruited into
Nottingham

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

Opportunities available
✔ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs
4-6

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 the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

PATENT ASSISTANT

NAME	Stephen Moore
LOCATION	Nottingham
UNIVERSITY	St. Andrews
DEGREE	MSci, PhD Laser Physics

Pre-Potter Clarkson
An eight-year research career across three industries following a PhD puts me at the more mature end of the age range for new patent trainees. I look back fondly on those years and, for me, it ensured that the lab bench and any ambition to be the next Jobs or Einstein had been fully exhausted.

I applied to Potter Clarkson and one other local firm. Potter Clarkson was my clear preference. The interview was fairly relaxed, and I got a strong impression of a friendly top-class team. I snapped up the resulting offer, but I'd be lying if I said I didn't have lingering doubts about the career change.

Working at Potter Clarkson
Eighteen months in and I can honestly say working as a trainee at Potter Clarkson is terrific! Potter Clarkson is a top tier firm with over 160 staff and with its principal office in Nottingham. There are over 60 attorneys including approximately 10 trainees - and 6 IP solicitors. This results in an excellent training environment. There is a collegiate culture among the trainees which provides great support through the exams and a strong social atmosphere. The large number of professionals creates a knowledge sharing culture amongst attorneys. Seminars and practice meetings give practical advice into all aspects of practice, including less common post-grant and litigation proceedings.

On-the-Job Training
All trainees are mentored by a senior attorney and work on real cases from day one. Common tasks include responding to patent office exam reports, drafting new patent applications and communicating with clients about such activity. I have also had the opportunity to work on an opposition (attacking a granted patent for invalidity) and preparing arguments prior to oral proceedings (when the Examiner has had enough!). The senior attorney supervises and signs off the work. The evolution of my drafted work into their polished product is the "on the job training," and the process becomes leaner as you progress. The mentors are great at providing constructive feedback and encouragement and saying 'good job,' when appropriate.

Other Activities
After 12 months, trainees are given responsibility for responding to new general enquiries, a daunting experience! Trainees at PC are also encouraged to participate in business development and I have attended a few exhibitions and events.

Senior attorneys run tutorials to help trainees prepare for exams. The exams are a pain, but if you're good enough to be recruited you'll be fine. Last year, I had to prepare for my exams with three pre-school children and a wife sitting harder medical exams at the same time. I passed all three and even won a prize! ●

EMPLOYER DIRECTORY

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 and Cambridge, 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
140

No. of partners
22

No. of qualified patent attorneys
41

No. of trainee patent attorneys
20

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, pension scheme, season ticket loan

Graduate application deadline
December 2018

Application method
Online

Contact information
Reddie & Grose LLP
The White Chapel Building
10 Whitechapel High Street
London, E1 8QS

For the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

NAME	James Burgess
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Manchester
DEGREE	MEng Mechanical Engineering

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 is a firm of patent attorneys specialising in advising clients in the chemical, pharmaceutical and life sciences sectors from our offices in Marlow and Cambridge.

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
17

No. of Partners
3

No. of qualified patent attorneys
4 (excluding Partners)

No. of trainee patent attorneys
2

Offices recruited into
Marlow, Cambridge

Disciplines recruited from
Chemistry, Biochemistry, Biological Sciences

Opportunities available
✔ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs
0-2

Benefits
25 days' holiday, healthcare, pension scheme, study support, social events

Application method
CV and covering letter by email or post

Contact information
E: mail@sagittariusip.com
W: http://www.sagittariusip.com/
T: 01628475931

For the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

Schlich is a growing firm of European 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.

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
17

No. of qualified patent attorneys
6

No. of trainee patent attorneys
3

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
2

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 the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

EMPLOYER DIRECTORY

SECERNA
PATENT & TRADE MARK ATTORNEYS

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 and covering letter by email

Contact information
E: docketing@secerna.co.uk
W: www.secerna.co.uk

For the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

NAME	Jonathan Roberts
LOCATION	York
UNIVERSITY	Lancaster
DEGREE	PhD in Physics

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. This success is a result of the strong professional relationships we build at all levels of the firm. The firm is recommended in 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. The core of the firm's practice is patent drafting and prosecution for our clients, who range from start-ups to large multinationals. The firm also has a depth of experience across every area of patent procurement and exploitation, from patent due diligence and acquisition to multi-jurisdictional litigation and licensing. The firm is particularly known for guiding high-tech European companies through patent disputes in the United States. The firm's attorneys have been successful over many years at opposing and defending patents during opposition and appeal proceedings at the European Patent Office.

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 of 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
27

No. of partners
4

No. of qualified patent attorneys
10

No. of trainee patent attorneys
7

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
1

Offices recruited into
London

Disciplines recruited from
Electronics, computer science, materials science, engineering and physics

Opportunities available
✔ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs
1-2

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

Application method
CV and covering letter by email

Contact information
Slingsby Partners LLP
1 Kingsway
London WC2B 6AN
E: info@slingsbypartners.com
W: www.slingsbypartners.com

For the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

SWEETINBURGH & WINDSOR
Intellectual Property

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
7

No. of partners
3

No. of qualified patent attorneys
4

No. of trainee patent attorneys
1

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 and covering letter by email

Contact information
E: mail@sweetwindsor.com

For the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

EMPLOYER DIRECTORY

SWINDELL & PEARSON LTD
Patent & Trade Mark Attorneys since 1878

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 and 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 fulfil 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, proof that we firmly believe that our trainees are our future.

We would welcome speculative applications at any time.

No. of employees
52

No. of partners
7

No. of qualified patent attorneys
9

No. of trainee patent attorneys
9

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
7

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
20 days' holiday increasing to 25, pension scheme, study support, bike scheme, social events, childcare vouchers

Application method
CV and covering letter by email

Contact information
E: recruit@patents.co.uk

For the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

PATENT ADVISOR

NAME	Matthew Blindt
LOCATION	Derby
UNIVERSITY	Nottingham
DEGREE	MSci Mathematical Physics

Application

I actually chose to apply to Swindell & Pearson largely because of a trainee profile piece like this one! Swindell & Pearson appeals to me more than other firms because trainees here have almost daily one-to-one consultations with highly skilled, senior Patent Attorneys who invest huge amounts of time in their training. I also like that trainees at Swindell & Pearson are encouraged to run cases from start to finish rather than just completing piecework for senior colleagues; allowing them to develop into well-rounded Patent Advisors more quickly.

Interview

After sending in my CV and a brief telephone interview, I was invited to the head office in Derby for a face to face interview. I was understandably nervous at first, but I was quickly put at ease by the interviewers. They were my prospective supervisors and included the team's most experienced and senior Patent Attorney.

The recruiting team are experts in figuring out whether candidates can think in the right way to do the job. They didn't expect me to know everything straight away: they simply wanted to see that I was an enthusiastic, organised person who could argue a point of view effectively and understand the sort of technology that I would need to deal with. They made a real effort to get to know me and supported me to do my best.

First few days

From very early on I was treated as a full member of the team: not just a trainee. Running my own cases under a highly experienced supervisor meant that I learned a lot about the job very quickly. It felt a little overwhelming at first, but once I understood the basics, everything started falling into place. The whole team was extremely supportive through the initial learning process. Since the firm isn't too large, I got to know everyone quite quickly.

And beyond

I have almost completed my second year at Swindell & Pearson. Even at this early stage I am supported to develop my own clients. I have already attended exam revision courses and am attending a drafting course run by a senior Patent Attorney.

By looking at more experienced trainees, I can see what I have to look forward to: an even greater variety of work, more independence and my own portfolio of clients.

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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 three 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 though 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
7

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
1-2

Benefits
25 days' holiday, healthcare, pension scheme, performance bonus, life assurance, home working, flexitime, study support, social events, bike scheme

Application method
CV and covering letter by email

Contact information
E: info@tlbrand.co.uk

For the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

EMPLOYER DIRECTORY

udl Intellectual Property

Our firm is all about people. Almost half of our employees have been with us for over ten years. We strive to support and encourage development, learning and career progression for motivated and talented attorneys.

We work with a wealth of innovative clients and creative brands across a wide range of sectors. Just a few of the household names we work with include Canterbury, DePuy, Hitachi, JD Sports, Konica Minolta, nChain, NXP Semiconductors and Stanley Black & Decker. We also work with a vast number of SMEs, universities and research bodies.

We work from offices around the UK in Leeds, London, Cardiff, Milton Keynes, Newcastle and Bristol.

We specialise in British, European and international patent, trade mark, design and copyright law, from strategy and protection through to litigation and dispute resolution.

We employ straight-talking, engaging people who build strong relationships and long-term trust with clients. We take time to understand our clients' business, speak their language and provide commercially-focused, pragmatic advice. In candidates, we look for enthusiasm, attention to detail and a willingness to learn and drive the practice forward.

Our attorneys come from a variety of backgrounds in industrial, scientific, research and academic environments. Many of them have been recognised with awards for outstanding performance in their areas of practice and for outstanding performance in British and European qualifying examinations.

No. of employees
90

No. of partners
17

No. of qualified patent attorneys
24

No. of trainee patent attorneys
3

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
11

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
2

Offices recruited into
Leeds, London, Cardiff, Milton Keynes, Newcastle and Bristol

Disciplines recruited from
Any

Opportunities available
✔ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs
3

Benefits
25 day's holiday + bank holidays, healthcare, pension scheme, study support, season ticket loan, bike scheme, social events

Application method
CV and covering letter online or by email

Contact information
W: https://www.udl.co.uk/our-firm/join-us

For the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

NAME	Jenny Smith
LOCATION	Leeds
UNIVERSITY	Leeds
DEGREE	PhD Medical and Biological Engineering

Like many attorneys, I wanted to get out of academia. I wanted a role that was varied and intellectually stimulating, yet structured. Becoming more and more specialised in one niche scientific area wasn't for me.

I studied Microbiology before my PhD in Medical and Biological Engineering. I'd never done any engineering-type study before, but this ended up being my favourite aspect of my research. My work at UDL has enabled me to expand my engineering knowledge and I now work on a wide variety of mechanical engineering inventions including medical, construction and more domestic engineering fields – exactly the variety I was looking for.

Exams
Having spent the last eight years at university, the prospect of another four to five years of study didn't put me off. However, I must say, these are the hardest exams I have ever taken!

At UDL I've been able to plan my own progression through the exams. I chose to take the exam-heavy Foundations route, as I felt it would give a better grounding for the Finals examinations. I've attended external revision courses, but the majority of my revision has been before and after work – you've got to be really organised and self-motivated to fit it all in!

I joined UDL in October 2015. So far, I've passed four out of five Foundation exams and my European Pre-examination. If I pass the next set of exams, I should be UK and European qualified by 2020.

What's it like working at UDL?
UDL is a really great place to work. As a trainee I've been given plenty of responsibility right from the start, which I've really valued and learnt from. I often attend client meetings, including visiting one of our clients in Hamburg, which was a fantastic experience. It's the kind of work that you have to learn by practice - there's no 'one size fits all' approach. Being able to work with several partners and senior attorneys, means I've experienced a variety of different styles and personalities which is a great way of learning and has really helped me to develop my own style.

UDL is a very friendly, social firm – just the right balance for the work we do. We regularly celebrate birthdays and events with office treats and lunches out. We have two conferences each year where the whole firm gets together for team building and socialising. In addition to the legal side of my work, I have a role in our marketing and recruitment teams, which is great because it feels like I'm putting something back into the firm.

EMPLOYER DIRECTORY

Venner Shipley

Venner Shipley LLP is a leading firm of European patent and trade mark attorney and lawyers. With offices in London, Cambridge, Guildford, Manchester and Munich, we work with clients based across the world, offering a flexible approach to advising them on their IP strategy. We have an array of clients including well known multinationals (both domestic and internationally headquartered), small and medium-sized enterprises and universities.

We are a modern firm with a distinctive culture which aims to foster ingenuity, flexibility and teamwork. We look to employ outstanding individuals who have excellent technical and interpersonal skills.

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 new skills to deal with the commercial aspects of being a patent attorney. We always seek to understand and involve ourselves in our clients' businesses with the aim of being able to 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.

We have a team of over 60 partners and associates 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.

We work in teams focusing 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. ●

No. of employees
117

No. of partners
25

No. of qualified patent attorneys
35

No. of trainee patent attorneys
30

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
6

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 and covering letter online or by email

Contact information
W: www.vennershipley.co.uk/careers

For the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

NAME	Jonathan Pennell
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Birmingham
DEGREE	Theoretical Physics

Upon completion of my third year of a four year degree in theoretical physics, I turned my attention to the following year and planning for life after university. I knew I did not want to pursue a graduate position in finance or engineering and, although interested in science and technology generally, could not isolate one particular area of interest that I would be happy to commit another three or four years to in pursuit of a PhD.

I talked with an engineer and businessman that I knew to find out about his experience of working with a patent attorney. He told me that he liked the clear and understandable way the patent attorney would explain processes and strategies relating to his patent portfolio.

My curiosity captured, I gained a few days of work experience with a patent attorney who kindly put aside his time to explain what is expected of prospective entrants to the profession. Technical knowledge (i.e. a scientific degree) in order to understand inventions in different technological areas and an ability to convey complex ideas in a clear and concise manner are crucial for all applicants. A detailed and practical knowledge of the law should be acquired throughout training. Working with a wide range of technology means that no two days are the same!

As a trainee, I enjoy the challenge of organising my own time and ensuring I am proactively engaging in prioritisation of my own workload. The clients range from large international corporations to single lone inventors and the work is extremely varied as a result. I am involved in the patent process from the very beginning by meeting with inventors and drafting applications to protect their inventions. I also provide opinions to clients on patentability, validity and infringement, and present arguments to patent examiners in support of a client's invention.

I particularly like that Venner Shipley affords its trainees a vast amount of supervision and direct contact with one or more supervisors (typically Partners/Senior Associates). This helps the trainee to learn quickly and get a taste of different working practices, before going on to shape their own working practices for the future.

Venner Shipley also provides additional training through tutorials relating to the professional exams required and internal seminars relating to practical issues. Trainees are encouraged to undertake external courses, such as the CIPA Informals lecture series in the first year and a course at Queen Mary University which provides exemption from the foundation exams.

Venner Shipley is a great place to work. The firm is full of hardworking and well-rounded people who are eager to have a good time as soon as the work is done. There are a number of social events throughout the year, as well as many opportunities for sporting activities and shared celebrations.●

EMPLOYER DIRECTORY

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
54

No. of partners
9

No. of qualified patent attorneys
14

No. of trainee patent attorneys
6

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
14

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
3

Offices recruited into
Birmingham and Manchester

Disciplines recruited from
Chemistry, life sciences, electronic and mechanical engineering, physics, law

Opportunities available
✔ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs
2

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

Application method
CV and covering letter by email

Contact information
E: graduates@wilsongunn.com

For the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

NAME	Tom Gregory
LOCATION	Manchester
UNIVERSITY	Manchester
DEGREE	MPhys Physics

What brought me to the patent profession?

I was thoroughly passionate about my degree course, but I felt that a career in academia could lack variety. I had considered careers in audio systems, or in laser manufacture, but I decided that I wanted exposure to a broad range of technology. I initially heard of the patent profession from speaking to an attorney at a university careers fair, and considered it further after discussing patented photoresist materials with my Master's project supervisor.

Why and how did I apply to Wilson Gunn?

I hoped to remain in Manchester after completing my degree, and whilst I chose to apply to Wilson Gunn for a number of reasons, one was that they recruited into their Manchester office. I had also read that the firm had a long history in Manchester and Birmingham 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 obtained 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 welcome. I hadn't given it much thought at the time, but I soon realised that joining a "medium sized" firm was a fortunate decision. As with many firms, each trainee works alongside one of the firm's partners. However, all partners, attorneys and staff members in the office are approachable and the office maintains a sense of community. I have found it a pleasure to communicate directly with inventors when representing smaller clients. Despite its size, Wilson Gunn also retains 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 cases. Within my first six months I had been involved in opposition work, infringement opinions and even a couple of patent drafts! Many of the inventions I work with test my ability to quickly get to grips with new (albeit not always revolutionary) technology – for example, in the last week I have been working on automotive components, 3D printing and tents.

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. This is indicative of Wilson Gunn's interest in supporting trainees and 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. ●

EMPLOYER DIRECTORY

Firm history and structure

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

Range of client services

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

Your development

Our structured career development process aims to provide a balanced approach that is designed to produce well-rounded patent and trade mark attorneys. Trainees are usually assigned to one partner specialising in their practice area and will benefit from working with other attorneys across the practice.

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

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

We also involve trainees in client meetings and the marketing process very early on and encourage membership of networking organisations. ●

No. of employees
193

No. of partners
27

No. of qualified patent attorneys
55

No. of trainee patent attorneys
18

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
6

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
2

Offices recruited into
London, Bristol, Leamington Spa, Sheffield and Munich

International opportunities
Yes

Disciplines recruited from
Engineering and sciences

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 the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

JUNIOR ASSOCIATE

NAME	Matthew Pennington
LOCATION	Bristol
UNIVERSITY	Durham
DEGREE	MPhys Physics and Astronomy

Life at Withers & Rogers

Withers & Rogers wasted no time getting me acquainted with my new career – on my very first day I was given the opportunity to attend a meeting with a prospective client, discussing the technicalities and patentability of his latest invention. Following this, I quickly became integrated into the team, working on important cases with real responsibility.

I am predominantly trained by two supervisors, but I regularly receive work from other attorneys. This gives me exposure to a wide variety of clients, technology and even writing styles. I am mainly involved in the prosecution of pending patent applications, but have also drafted patent applications, worked on an opposition case and been involved in marketing.

Until you are qualified, everything you do is checked before it is sent, so you are free to give it your best shot without fear of making a big mistake, and to receive valuable feedback for future tasks.

But it's not all work here – Withers & Rogers actively encourages a good work/life balance, with regular social events being organised and a strong trainee community.

My experiences during the application process

After returning the application form early in the academic year, I was invited to complete online psychometric tests followed by an assessment day with five other candidates. One thing that really stood out throughout the day was how friendly and welcoming the attorneys were. Compared to other interviews I had attended, I felt as though we were able to have genuine conversations and even share a joke or two.

The application process is definitely one of the most rigorous I've seen. The assessment day is more than just a standard interview, and includes written and group exercises as well as a face to face interview. However, this just made receiving an offer even more rewarding.

Why I'm glad I chose Withers & Rogers

Withers & Rogers is a large, established firm with a modern outlook and plenty of resources and expertise to draw from. The business encourages individual personalities to flourish, resulting in a firm full of friendly, approachable people.

Upon starting, I was given a two-week induction, which involved spending time in each of our UK offices and receiving informal training sessions from a range of attorneys. It was also a great opportunity to meet other trainees. Everyone was extremely welcoming and this experience really made me realise how much Withers & Rogers values its new trainees.

In terms of training, the firm offers a series of in-house tutorials throughout the year, and distinguishes itself by giving trainees a choice regarding their route to part-qualification.

Needless to say, I'm delighted with the choices I've made, and I strongly urge you to consider this profession when thinking about career options. ●

WP THOMPSON
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

About us

WP Thompson is a long-established full-service IP firm committed to assisting its clients build and protect revenue streams from their intellectual creativity relating to patents, trade marks, designs and copyright. The firm has modern UK offices in London and Liverpool and a long-established continental European office in Munich. Amongst its partners are specialists in all matters of patent and trade mark protection and exploitation who, in association with its qualified and part-qualified professional staff, offer a wide range of tailored services to suit the widely varying needs of its national and international client base.

Your development

Our varied national and international client base creates a challenging environment within which to train and work and offers wide-ranging experience for our trainees through foundation-level examinations and onto full qualification. Trainees are exposed to a wide variety of different tasks from initial client meetings and invention harvesting, the drafting and prosecution of patent applications, to advice and assistance in relation to contentious matters such as infringement actions. Our philosophy is one of focusing on our client's needs and expectations to serve as a blueprint for the training and development of our professional staff. Our graduate recruits can find themselves forming part of our team at high-level client meetings from an early stage in their career. Amongst our partners are current and past finals-papers examiners, revision course tutors and contributors to various specialist texts. There is a strong collegiate atmosphere among our trainees and active involvement by all qualified staff in assisting with the review of past examination papers. Support is also offered by way of attendance at residential courses in preparation for sitting the UK finals level papers and the European qualifying examinations. While not obligatory, we currently offer the QMW Certificate course as a route to foundation level part-qualification.

What we are looking for

Candidates should have at least an upper second class honours degree in a technical discipline. They should clearly exhibit an inquisitive mind, clarity of thought and expression and, equally importantly, a personality that will fit into, and complement, our friendly but productive office environments. ●

No. of employees
49

No. of partners
8

No. of qualified patent attorneys
8

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
5

Offices recruited into
London and Liverpool

Disciplines recruited from
Electronics, physics, engineering, chemistry

Opportunities available
✔ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs
1-2

Benefits
24 days' holiday (25 after 1 year, increasing to maximum 30); pension scheme (including advice from pension consultant), healthcare for self and family, study support, season ticket loan, discretionary bonus, professional subscriptions, life assurance, flexible working, cycle scheme, employee assistance programme, eye-care vouchers, social events

Application method
CV and covering letter by email or post

Contact information
David Gill, WP Thompson,
138 Fetter Lane,
London EC4V 1BT
E: dagprivate@wpt.co.uk

For the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

NAME	Martin Arnold
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Imperial College London
DEGREE	PhD Physics

What brought you to the patent profession?

It was during my placement year on my MPhys course at the University of Surrey that I became aware of the Intellectual Property profession. At that time I was working in the research department of a large semiconductor telecommunications company and my interest began when the research to which I had contributed was considered as the subject matter for a possible patent application, for a scientific journal or just to be retained as a trade secret. This process involved meetings with a patent attorney, the business development team, and the head of IP at the company, and I quickly came to appreciate how IP affected strategic decisions within the company. However, although I went on to study for a PhD, I came to realise that the lack of work-life balance that academia was likely to afford was not quite for me. I also felt that short-term projects had become more relevant for me as my interests lay across many subject areas, while the academic world tended to focus on a very narrow field. Having identified the patent profession, I attended as many career events where patent attorneys were present and asked as much about the profession as I could. It looked like a combination of what I wanted to do all in one job! In the final six months of my PhD, I successfully secured a trainee patent attorney position at WP Thompson.

What skills are useful in the profession?

The skills I could rely on immediately were: my technical background; the ability to read and digest specialized and highly technical documents; explaining complex ideas clearly and succinctly; and working independently. Under the guidance of the partners and qualified colleagues, who are hugely supportive, I now also have a continually developing skillset for life in the profession.

What training is involved?

The training is predominantly "on the job" and on a personally tailored basis. I love the hands-on approach to the work. From the very first day I was sitting-in on meetings with inventors, contributing to the drafting of patent applications and helping draft responses to EPO examination reports and recently attended my first set of oral proceedings at the EPO. I have also taken part in a half-week course on soft skills including networking, time management and presentation skills. We receive in-house tutorials for the qualifying examinations; and watch numerous relevant CIPA webinars with the rest of the trainees and qualified patent attorneys. Other in-house training covers important aspects such as financial awareness and data privacy. I have also recently completed the course at Queen Mary, University of London which now gives me exemption from the foundation exams for patent and trade mark qualifying examinations.

What are your main duties?

Day to day, I will be drafting responses to search and examination reports, drafting patent applications, reporting and liaising with clients, and assisting with client management activities such as portfolio management and cost-estimate advice. Each day is very different and can involve a wide variety of different technologies which for me currently include telecommunications, robotic mechanisms, seawall defence systems, laser eye surgery devices, and automotive and semiconductor technologies. ●

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WYNNE-JONES IP
own thinking

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 are 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
51

No. of partners
5

No. of qualified patent attorneys
9

No. of trainee patent attorneys
10

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys
2

No. of trainee trade mark attorneys
2

Offices recruited into
Cheltenham (with occasional working in London, Cardiff and Telford offices)

Disciplines recruited from
All degrees dependent on the needs of the business

Opportunities available
✔ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of graduate jobs
2

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 the latest jobs visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

JOB FINDER

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		
														Benefits								
							Graduate jobs	Internships	Placements	Insights		No. of jobs	No. of days holiday	Pension scheme	Healthcare scheme	Study support	Performance bonus	Season ticket loan	Social events	No. of opportunities	How to apply	Further info (page)
AA THORNTON	75	8	9	9	London	✘	●	–	●	–		3	26	●	●	●	●	-	-	Varies	CV & covering letter by email	75
Abel+Imray	82	14	25	11	London, Bath and Cardiff	✘	●	–	–	–		1-3	22	●	●	●	–	●	●	–	Application form by email	76
AdamsonJones	21	2	8	1	Nottingham and Leicester	✘	●	–	–	–		1	25	●	●	●	●	–	●	–	CV & covering letter by email	79
Appleyard Lees	112	19	27	14	Nationwide	✔	●	–	●	–		5	25	●	–	●	–	–	●	Open	Online	80
Barker Brettell Intellectual Property	121	25	26	14	Birmingham and Southampton	✘	●	–	–	–		1	25	●	●	–	–	–	–	–	Online	82
BeckGreener	42	12	15	1	London	✘	●	–	–	–		1-2	25	●	–	●	●	●	●	–	CV & covering letter by email or post	84
boult BOULT WADE TENNANT	180	35	19	15	London, South East and Europe	✘	●	–	●	–		4	23	●	●	–	–	–	–	Varies	CV & covering letter by email or post	86
CARPMAELS & RANSFORD	252	23	68	37	Central London	✘	●	–	●	●		Up to 10	23	●	●	●	–	●	●	16	CV & covering letter online	88

JOB FINDER

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		
													Benefits									
							Graduate jobs	Internships	Placements	Insights	No. of jobs	No. of days holiday	Pension scheme	Healthcare scheme	Study support	Performance bonus	Season ticket loan	Social events	No. of opportunities	How to apply	Further info (page)
CHAPMAN·IP	22	5	6	2	Southampton Cardiff and Munich	✘	●	–	–	–	1-2	25	●	–	–	–	–	–	–	CV & covering letter by email	90
cleveland scott york energise ideas	60	11	12	4	London, South East, Brussels	✘	●	–	–	–	1	25	●	–	●	–	●	–	–	CV & covering letter by email	92
D YOUNG & CO INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY	170	34	40	23	London, Southampton and Munich	✘	●	●	–	–	6	25	●	●	●	●	●	●	8-12	CV & covering letter online or by email	94
Dehns Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys	180	31	55	47	Nationwide, Munich	✔	●	●	–	–	8-10	25	●	●	–	–	–	–	8-10	CV & covering letter online	96
eIP	150	24	30	8	Nationwide	✘	●	–	–	–	4-5	20	●	●	●	●	●	●		CV & covering letter by email	98
E+F ELKINGTON + FIFE	61	12	18	15	London and Sevenoaks	✘	●	–	–	–	2	25	●	●	●	●	●	●	–	Online	100
Europäisches Patentamt European Patent Office Office européen des brevets	6,850	–	4,528	–	Munich, The Hague	✔	●	–	–	–	Varies	Varies	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Online application	103
FORRESTERS Clear direction	108	17	26	12	Nationwide, Munich	✔	●	–	–	–	2-4	28	●	●	●	●	●	●	–	CV & covering letter by email or post	104

JOB FINDER

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		
														Benefits								
							Graduate jobs	Internships	Placements	Insights		No. of jobs	No. of days holiday	Pension scheme	Healthcare scheme	Study support	Performance bonus	Season ticket loan	Social events	No. of opportunities	How to apply	Further info (page)
GJE Intellectual Property	115	13	30	18	London	✘	●	–	–	–		2-5	25	●	●	●	●	●	●	–	CV & covering letter online	106
Haseltine Lake LLP European Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys	163	28	50	16	Bristol, London, Glasgow, and Munich	✔	●	–	–	–		4-6	25	●	–	–	–	●	●	–	Online	108
HGF	324	53	89	40	Nationwide and Europe	✔	●	–	–	–		15-20 p.a.	25	●	–	–	●	●	●	–	CV and covering letter by email	110
Hindles Patent & Trade Mark Attorneys	15	2	3	3	Edinburgh	✘	●	–	–	–		1-2	25	●	–	–	–	–	–	–	CV & covering letter by email	112
Hoffmann Eitle	400	39	95	40	London and Europe	✔	●	–	–	–		2	25	●	●	–	●	●	–	–	CV & covering letter online, by email or post	114
Intellectual Property Office	1,200	–	–	–	Newport	✘	●	–	–	–		Up to 20	25	●	–	–	–	–	–	–	Online	117
J A Kemp Patent Attorneys • Trade Mark Attorneys	200	42	51	24	London, Oxford and Cambridge	✘	●	–	–	–		6	20	●	–	●	●	–	●	–	CV & covering letter by email	118
Keltie	101	15	30	18	London, Cambridge and Galway	✔	●	–	–	–		3-4	25	●	●	–	●	●	●	–	Online	120

JOB FINDER

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		
														Benefits								
							Graduate jobs	Internships	Placements	Insights		No. of jobs	No. of days holiday	Pension scheme	Healthcare scheme	Study support	Performance bonus	Season ticket loan	Social events	No. of opportunities	How to apply	Further info (page)
Kilburn & Strode	176	21	45	37	London	✔	●	–	–	–		10	22	●	●	●	●	●	●	–	CV & covering letter by email	122
Marks&Clerk LLP	346	52	89	44	Nationwide	✘	●	–	–	–		Up to 15	26	●	–	●	–	●	●	–	Online	124
MATHYS & SQUIRE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY	151	25	57	19	Cambridge, London and Manchester	✘	●	●	–	–		4-6	22	●	●	●	–	●	●	Varies	CV & covering letter by email	126
MAUCHER JENKINS	130	15	26	11	London and Farnham	✔	●	–	●	–		2-3	25	●	●	●	●	●	●	1-2	CV & covering letter by email	128
Mewburn Ellis	180	41	54	22	London, Bristol, Cambridge and Manchester	✘	●	–	–	–		5-10	23	●	–	●	–	●	●	–	Online application form or CV & covering letter online, by email	130
P&W	75	12	21	11	London	✘	●	–	–	–		4	25	●	–	–	–	–	–	–	CV & covering letter by email	132
PATENT BOUTIQUE	6	3	5	–	London	✘	●	–	–	–		2	25	●	●	●	●	●	–	–	CV & covering letter by email	135
POTTER CLARKSON	160	34	44	10	Nottingham	✘	●	–	–	–		4-6	24	●	●	–	–	–	–	–	Online	136

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		
														Benefits								
							Graduate jobs	Internships	Placements	Insights		No. of jobs	No. of days holiday	Pension scheme	Healthcare scheme	Study support	Performance bonus	Season ticket loan	Social events	No. of opportunities	How to apply	Further info (page)
REDDIE & GROSE	140	22	41	20	London, Cambridge and Munich	✔	●	–	–	–		2-7	25	●	●	–	–	●	–	–	Online	138
SagittariusIP	17	3	4	2	Marlow and Cambridge	✘	●	–	–	–		0-2	25	●	●	●	–	●	●	–	Application form by email	140
Schlich UK & European Patent Attorneys Registered Trade Mark Attorneys	17	–	6	3	West Sussex	✘	●	–	–	–		Varies	25	●	–	●	–	–	●	–	Online	141
SECERNA	13	2	6	4	York and Newcastle-upon-Tyne	✘	●	–	–	–		1-2	25	●	●	–	–	–	–	–	CV & covering letter by email	142
SLINGSBY PARTNERS	27	4	10	7	London	✘	●	–	–	–		1-2	25	●	–	●	–	●	●	–	CV & covering letter online, by email	144
SWEETINBURGH & WINDSOR Intellectual Property	7	3	4	1	West Sussex	✘	●	–	–	–		1	25	●	–	●	–	–	●	–	CV & covering letter by email	145
SWINDELLS PEARSON LTD	52	7	9	9	Derby	✘	●	–	–	–		1-2	20	●	–	●	–	–	●	–	CV & covering letter by email or post	146
TL BRAND & Co	7	1	3	1	Central London	✘	●	–	–	–		1-2	25	●	●	●	●	–	●	–	CV & covering letter by email	149

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		
														Benefits								
							Graduate jobs	Internships	Placements	Insights		No. of jobs	No. of days holiday	Pension scheme	Healthcare scheme	Study support	Performance bonus	Season ticket loan	Social events	No. of opportunities	How to apply	Further info (page)
udl Intellectual Property	90	17	24	3	Nationwide	✘	●	–	–	–		3	25	●	●	●	–	●	●	–	CV & covering letter online or by email	150
Venner Shipley	117	25	35	30	Nationwide and Munich	✘	●	–	●	–		1-2	20-25	●	●	–	–	–	–	Up to 4	CV & covering letter online or by email	152
WilsonGunn PATENT & TRADE MARK ATTORNEYS	54	9	14	6	Birmingham and Manchester	✘	●	–	–	–		2	25	●	●	●	●	–	●	–	CV & covering letter by email	154
withers & rogers European & Chartered Patent Attorneys Trade Mark Attorneys	193	27	55	18	Nationwide and Munich	✔	●	–	–	–		1-5	23	●	●	●	●	●	–	–	Online	156
WP THOMPSON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY	49	8	8	–	London and Liverpool	✘	●	–	–	–		1-2	24	●	●	●	–	●	●	–	CV and covering letter by email or post	158
WYNNE-JONES IP own thinking	51	5	9	10	Cheltenham	✘	●	–	–	–		2	24	●	●	●	–	–	●	–	Online application form	161

NOTES

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MATHYS & SQUIRE
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

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We are proud to be a leading Tier 1 firm. We only recruit the best, which means that you are surrounded by committed, hardworking, ambitious and highly capable colleagues. We act for global corporations such as Proctor & Gamble, BP and Cisco, but there is also plenty of scope to work on behalf of smaller organisations, universities and start-ups.

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