



THE ONLY GRADUATE CAREER GUIDE TO

# Chartered Patent Attorneys

28th Edition

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

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**'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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JOB FINDER



# INTRODUCTION TO THE PATENT ATTORNEY PROFESSION

Introducing the *IP Careers Guide to Chartered Patent Attorneys 2017/18* is CIPA Chief Executive Lee Davies. He tells us of a profession where law, technology and commerce converge, and where the rewards are great for the 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, CIPA.



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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 who assists them in obtaining 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.

Find out more about the IPO  
[www.ipcareers.co.uk/career-advice](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk/career-advice)

You do not need a law degree – a degree in a science, engineering, technology or 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 makes the role of the

patent attorney such an interesting career. Training usually takes 4-5 years and you will be required to pass various professional exams to qualify as a Chartered 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. The invention can relate to anything from computers and electronics to pharmaceuticals and gene sequences, provided that it is new and is not obvious.

In the UK, an inventor files a patent application at the Intellectual Property Office (UKIPO). 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 renewal 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 the 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 drafting 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. You can find more information on the other areas of IP from the IP Careers website at [www.ipcareers.co.uk](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk)

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.

Patent 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 on page 16).

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 both 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 particularly 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 often 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. It should also be noted that 'newly qualified' is to some extent ambiguous, as some firms give a significant increase to their attorneys when they qualify in both Europe and the UK, others when they qualify in just one of the two jurisdictions.

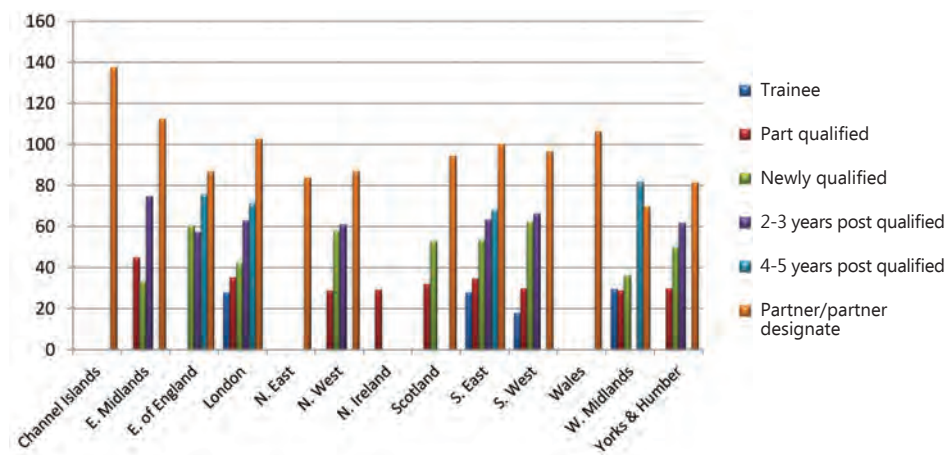
### PATENT SALARIES BY SENIORITY

Level	In current firm*	When moving firms*
Trainee	£28,400	–
Part qualified	£34,400	£36,000-45,000
Newly qualified	£53,300	£60,000-65,000
2-3 years post qualification	£66,700	£70,000-80,000
4-5 years post qualification	£75,300	£80,000-100,000
Salaried partner level**	£97,170	£110,000-140,000

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

\*\* These amounts are reflective of people who are Partners on a fixed remuneration (be it salary or self-employed fixed share), Equity Partners i.e. those who own a share of the firm could earn salaries/profit shares running into hundreds of thousands of pounds.

### AVERAGE SALARY BY UK REGION



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

### Benefits

On average candidates receive 25 days' holiday per year, with some receiving more (sometimes in excess of 30 days) and a few receiving less than the 25 days norm.

Three quarters of employees will have their professional memberships paid for with around half receiving private healthcare of some variety, as well as life insurance or a death in service benefit. A substantial number, nearly 70%,

receive a pension of some sort but with the new legislation this will increase to 100% this year.

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Being a patent attorney can be very financially rewarding and the chances of reaching the higher salaries are very good in comparison to 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).

The above data has come from Fellows and Associates' annual salary survey completed by those working in the profession. You can see the full survey at [www.fellowssurvey.com](http://www.fellowssurvey.com)

**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

*IP Inclusive* leader Andrea Brewster introduces this new initiative, explains its relevance to the profession and sets out some visions for a diverse and inclusive future.



At first glance, the IP professions may not look that diverse. Although there are plenty of female trade mark attorneys, and the patent profession overall has roughly the same proportion of women as are studying for STEM degrees, nevertheless female representation tends to decrease 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 a little further and you find professions that are open-minded to change on this front, that are keen to foster an inclusive working environment that will attract and support a more diverse community of professionals. IP is, after all, a global issue; the professionals who work with it want to reach out across barriers, across continents, and to work as creatively and innovatively as their IP-generating clients.

**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.**

Both CIPA and CITMA are founding members of the 'IP Inclusive' initiative, which aims to promote diversity and inclusivity across 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 come together to make positive changes. More specifically, the work being done under that banner covers four key areas:

## 1. 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 seen our *Careers in Ideas* guide, or perhaps visited our website, [www.careersinideas.org.uk](http://www.careersinideas.org.uk), to learn more about working in IP.

## 2. 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.

## 3. 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. Recent and future planned events cover topics such as unconscious bias; improving ethnic diversity; networking and mentoring for women in IP; 'workplace allies'; recruitment best practices; improving mental well-being in the IP professions; the business case for diversity; and how 'out' you can be at work.

## 4. Support schemes

There are already two thriving *IP Inclusive* support groups: one for Women in IP and one, 'IP Out', for the LGBTQ+ community. More are intended. These groups help the professions to understand and nurture those in minority 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.

*IP Inclusive* has been going since 2014, but it already has wide support across the professions. There are over 100 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.

If you want to find out more about the initiative, visit our website at [www.ipinclusive.org.uk](http://www.ipinclusive.org.uk), follow us on Twitter (@IPInclusive and @ip\_out) or join one of our LinkedIn® discussion groups (IP Inclusive, IP Inclusive Women in IP and IP Out).

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 can expect to find a welcoming and inclusive environment that will be more willing than ever 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 working to encourage a wider range of recruits, reaching out to schools and universities with careers talks and work experience opportunities. We see them hiring

professionals from a wider range of 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 and dedicated EDI officers.

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. ●

**Andrea Brewster** is an *IP Inclusive* leader and Immediate Past-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 forward-thinking innovators 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.

**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.**

The UK profession is estimated to be worth around £1 billion 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 IP (Unjustified Threats) Bill is in its final stages in parliament and should come into force later in 2017. The bill aims to:

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

CIPA has contributed to the debates surrounding the bill since it was first proposed by the Law Commission and has provided written and verbal evidence to parliament to help ensure that the legislation is as effective as possible.

## 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. The United States remains a leader in the creative industries. 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 Office and the European Patent Convention are not EU institutions, so UK attorneys qualified as European patent attorneys (virtually all) will continue to be able to conduct European patent work entirely unaffected by Brexit.

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 in June 2016, the UK government confirmed in November 2016 its intention to ratify the international agreement that would bring the system into effect. The Unitary Patent and UPC moved another step closer in December 2016 when the government signed the Court's Protocol on Privileges and Immunities – a legal requirement that will enable UPC judges to carry out their activities once the court opens. At the time of going to press, the government had not formally ratified the UPC Agreement. If all goes to plan the UPC's central division, with seats in Paris, London and Munich, could open its doors as early as December 2017.

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. For those with in-house teams this means that patent attorneys are at the heart of major business decisions. For private practice attorneys it means offering wider services to industry, including strategic business advice.

## The future of the profession

IP is big business, a global business. The future of the profession is very much linked to the development of IP legislation not only in the UK but, increasingly so, in other areas around the globe. The world recognises the strength and status of the UK profession, with UK Chartered Patent Attorneys being held in the highest regard. On joining the patent attorney profession in the UK you are entering a global profession which is rightly proud of its heritage.

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

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



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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

## Is a patent attorney a type of lawyer?

Yes. However, you do not need a law degree to become a patent attorney. Patent attorneys are a specialist type of lawyer monitored by their own regulator, IPReg. The role of a patent attorney involves advising clients on those areas of law applicable to intellectual property. Consequently, during training you will be required to develop a thorough understanding and knowledge of relevant acts and laws.

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## Is it necessary to study a STEM subject?

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 caseload 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 that it would only be of assistance 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 pre-examination and for three 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.

## Do patent attorneys work at the UK Intellectual Property Office?

No. The UK Intellectual Property Office (IPO) is an Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). Its role is to grant patents and register trade marks and designs. Find out more about the IPO and its role on the IP Careers website.

## 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.

Your job search could be helped by checking the IP job vacancies on the CIPA website.

Another useful first step is to refer to the Employer Directory section at the back of this guide, or go to the IP Careers website where current vacancies are posted. The *CIPA Journal* supplement, which is published each month and sent to all CIPA members, also includes a recruitment section.

## 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](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk)

Patent attorney vacancies and other IP jobs can be found on the CIPA website at [www.cipa.org.uk/ip-job-vacancies/](http://www.cipa.org.uk/ip-job-vacancies/) ●





# 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

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 goal is for interns to be exposed to the full range of what we do at Kilburn & Strode. That means working on live files, attending workshops and getting to know the firm.

**Nick Lee, People Partner,  
Kilburn & Strode LLP**

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'.

## 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 continues to be 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. Many recruiters host open days, details of which can be found at [www.ipcareers.co.uk](http://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**



# CORPORATE VS. PRIVATE PRACTICE

Understanding how practices differ and what might suit you can often help to focus your job search 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 the majority of attorneys working in private practice. I trained and worked in-house for a huge engineering firm and then moved to private practice, which wins me the right to be flattering and critical about both.

While the core skills are the same, they are very different jobs. Resorting to analogy, it's like comparing the skills needed to drive a racing car and a taxi. For both, you need to know about steering and changing gear, and be oblivious to the existence of an indicator. But a racing car driver would be ignorant of the backstreet shortcuts an experienced cabbie would know, and a taxi driver would not know how to take a car around a bend at incredible speeds without spinning off the track (although he/she might try).

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 and customer care. Introduce an attorney who has had a lifetime in private practice into an industrial office and they may be dazzled by the administration, bureaucracy, organisational structures and requirement to integrate and communicate with their immediate team and dozens of people in an 'extended' team throughout the organisation.

## Corporate

Depending on which company you end up working for, 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. This responsibility can be a little overwhelming, but usually there are plenty of people in senior positions in relevant technical areas who are willing to advise if you can find them.

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 it gives you the chance to talk to incredibly clever and creative people who have interesting things to

say and show you. Your job is to keep asking questions until you understand. As with any job, you occasionally have to deal with difficult people and questionable ideas, but as that can be a useful source of dinner party-worthy anecdotes, it is not entirely wasted time.

Starting at the bottom, career progression through an industrial department will be from trainee to qualified attorney and then to Head of Department, provided such an elevated opportunity arises. Industrial attorneys may spend much of their career cyclically 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.

In an industrial department one tends to feel a little bit remote from the leading edge of the firm. Seldom will any one thing you do clearly have an impact on the firm, although depending on the product line, you will get some enjoyment from seeing the products you have analysed on shop shelves, on the street, in peoples' hands etc.

## Private practice

An attorney in private practice is expected to advise and educate their clients and then, regardless of whether it's the right thing to do in the view of the attorney (within limits), they must carry out the instructions of the client.

Attorneys in private practice see a much wider range of technology than their colleagues in industry, and control of workflow 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, a status that will last until you pass the requisite number of exams. The level of trust and autonomy given to you will depend on competence and perhaps the policy of the firm. Some do not let you talk to a client until you are qualified. Some expose you to the outside world,

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provided you are able to present the right image and harvest the right information.

In private practice, one's relevance to the success of the firm is much 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 your failures will likewise have an impact on the firm.

## Questions to consider

Whether you go for a job in industry or private practice, remember that people like you are in short supply. Make sure you ask about provisions for internal and external training, because for the next three years at least, training is going to be a big part of your life. Ask to go for a coffee with current trainees and quiz them. They most likely will not tell you any negatives about the firm you are interested in, but they almost certainly will not tell you that training is brilliant if it is not.

Salary and benefits vary from firm to firm. It is worth knowing about reward packages, of course, but really your concern should be getting that 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 that you find there than whether you are in industry or private 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.



iStock.com/Bjoern Meyer



# ESSENTIAL SKILLS

The work of a patent attorney requires certain key skills. You do not necessarily need all of them from the start, but you do need to have the potential – and the motivation – to acquire and develop them. Prospective employers will look for evidence of these skills 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 with words in a range of contexts, using them to define and describe; to explain and advise; to instruct and to question; and above all, to persuade. You will have to communicate with scientists and engineers; business people; other lawyers; and tribunals such as courts and patent offices.

**Include these skills in your CV**  
[www.ipcareers.co.uk/career-advice](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk/career-advice)

This variety is what makes the job so enjoyable, but it also demands the ability to tailor your communication style to suit a particular type of reader or listener. 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 listening, at reading other people, and at learning from what you hear. You are unlikely to start out with the communication skills required of a qualified patent attorney, but you should at least have a reasonable degree of skill before you apply for your first job, and an enthusiasm for communicating. Expect employers to test for this with 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 own output. From day one

you will have to conduct private research and study, whether for your day to day work or to get you through the qualifying exams.

If you are not keen on long periods alone, analysing and writing documents; if you would rather not spend the rest of your life poring over textbooks, court decisions, 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 chemistry behind a client's new drug preparation process, or the mechanical or electrical aspects of their new drug delivery device. You will almost certainly need to understand basic engineering drawings, circuit diagrams and flow charts and of course graphs, spreadsheets and other common data presentation formats.

**You are, in effect an interpreter between three worlds – technology, business and law – and you need to speak the language of each.**

To be good at the job, you should have an enquiring mind. You will not initially understand every invention you come across, but 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 the business context of a client's technology as in the science behind it.

## 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 and comprehensive in your approach. Often you will need to get to grips with both the details of a situation and its 'big picture' implications. And you will need to process legal and commercial information as well as scientific.

## 5. An eye for detail

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

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

## 6. Lateral thinking

Patent attorneys have to be almost as creative as the inventors they work with. Are there alternative ways of protecting this technology? What will competitors do to avoid our patent? Is there another way of

interpreting this document? How can we get round this legal problem? Should I look at this situation from another angle?

## 7. Time 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 caseload, 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.

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 have any inclination to acquire it. ●

**Andrea Brewster** is a Chartered UK Patent Attorney, a founding partner (now retired) of Greaves Brewster LLP and Immediate Past President of CIPA.

# THE APPLICATION PROCESS

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

## Where to apply

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

Private practice (in which I work) is defined by the fact that we have clients who instruct us to act on their behalf. We are therefore under pressure to balance the needs of different clients. On the other hand, we tend to see a range of work and come across a wider range of technical questions (which can help with passing the exams). It is worth noting that not all private practice firms recruit trainees and even those that do offer comparatively small numbers of positions each year.

Working in industry, there is more emphasis on working with inventors to 'invention spot', and working with business managers to design IP strategies which will work for the company. More information on the differences between working in industry and private practice can be found on page 22.

## The application

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

If written work is asked for, this is something to take seriously. Firms receive a large number of applications from highly qualified applicants and rely on the written work in deciding who to invite for interview.

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

**If asked to pick an object to write about, the ones that tend to work best are simple mechanical objects that have moving parts.**

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

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

## The interview

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

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

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

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

## Making a decision

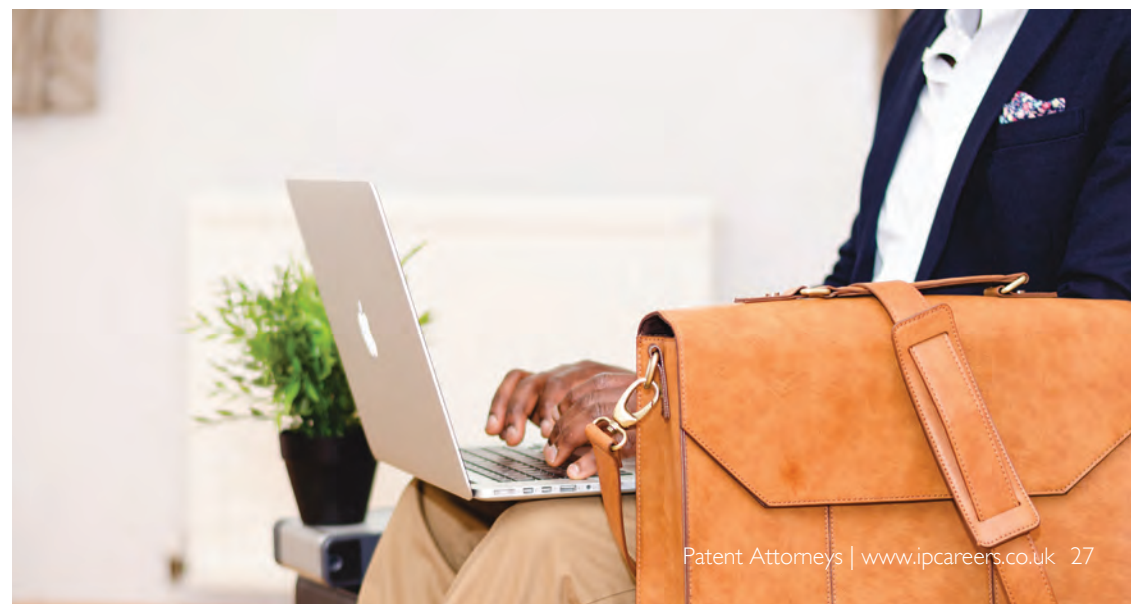
You should also remember that at the end of all this, you may find yourself in the happy position of having more than one job offer. You therefore need to think about what you

want from the firm. How do they support their trainees, both in their day to day work and for the examinations? Do they send trainees on a course that gives exemption from the Foundation Exams and if not, what do they provide instead to get you through these? How many qualified people do they have working in your technical area? Asking some of these questions at interview should help you decide if the firm is somewhere you might want to work.

**Apply for your dream job**  
[www.ipcareers.co.uk/jobs](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk/jobs)

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

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





## INTERNSHIP PROFILES

Intern – D Young & Co LLP	30
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## GRADUATE PROFILES

Technical Assistant – Dehns	32
Patent Attorney (Associate) – Marks & Clerk LLP	34
Technical Assistant – Mathys & Squire LLP	36
Trainee Patent Attorney – Withers & Rogers LLP	38

## SENIOR PROFILES

Founder/Director – Alistair Hindle Associates	40
Senior Associate – Carpmaels & Ransford LLP	42
Partner – Cleveland Scott York	44
Partner – Mewburn Ellis LLP	46

# INTERN D YOUNG & CO LLP

## TOM BELL



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON  
MEng ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING  
D YOUNG & CO LLP  
EASTER INTERNSHIP

“This internship was pivotal in helping me decide how to set out after university.”

### Why did you choose to do an internship?

For quite a bit of my final year at university I was still unsure as to what profession I should move into and where I should begin my career. I wanted to be working in technology, but wasn't completely sold on the idea of becoming an engineer.

The main reason I chose to do an internship at D Young & Co. was to help me understand how a career in intellectual property law would pan out and whether or not it was for me. At that stage, I knew the basics of what a patent was, but had little idea as to what a career as a patent attorney would look like. The short Easter Internship that they offer seemed like the ideal opportunity to dip my toe in the water before committing myself to a career as a patent attorney.

### How did it tie in with your overall career plans?

For me in particular, this internship was pivotal in helping me decide how to set out after university. There were a range of career directions I was considering and I had no idea how to choose between them. As I look back a couple of years later, I consider the Easter Internship to be the decisive point at which I became confident that I was well-suited to a career in IP, so I am really pleased I had that opportunity.

### What was the application process like?

The application process was very straightforward. After hearing about it through

my university, I submitted a detailed CV as well as a cover letter in which I set out why I was applying. I was then asked to attend a brief phone interview with the recruitment team and received an invitation to come to the internship a few days later.

The short Easter Internship they offer seemed like the ideal opportunity to dip my toe in the water before committing myself to a career as a patent attorney.

The Easter Internship is advertised on the D Young & Co. and IP Careers websites from September, so I would suggest making a note of that in your calendar. It's worth spending a fair amount of time perfecting your CV and making sure your application is submitted in advance. You'll also want to spend at least 15 minutes researching a bit about the firm so you don't embarrass yourself during the phone interview!

Since this internship runs during the Easter university holidays, it's really easy to attend and shouldn't interfere with revision or your summer plans. It may even lead to the paid summer internship that same year.

### What attracted you to your role?

What I find most exciting and interesting about training as a patent attorney is that you consistently work at the focal point of the overlap between technology, critical thinking, language, business and law. As such, it's a hugely varied role in its demands on the individual, and the opportunities to develop as a highly-qualified and well-rounded professional are considerable.

Even before applying to the internship these factors were attractive to me. However, through speaking to several of the existing Trainee Patent Attorneys I gained a clear sense that I would mould to the role well.

### What were your main duties?

The internship – at only three days long – is intentionally very short, so it isn't designed to give the intern a first-person experience of life as a Trainee Patent Attorney. Instead, the schedule was jam packed with a range of interesting talks, interactive seminars and challenges, as well as social events.

For live patent internships  
[www.ipcareers.co.uk/jobs](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk/jobs)

### What skills did you acquire or improve during your internship?

I was amazed at how many skills I was able to develop in such a short space of time. Probably the most valuable was my ability to clearly articulate and reason a point of view in public. Throughout the preparation and participation in one activity in particular, I became a much more confident communicator and developed my ability to argue a complex technical point

persuasively. I was also able to begin to acquire the skills of claim drafting and amendment, as well as how to get a patent application granted.

### What were the most important things you learned from the internship?

The most valuable thing I gained was the confidence to take my journey into the profession forward and I think that was through experiencing the skills and expertise that it would involve. I also learned the basics of what a patent is, the process of acquiring one and how to maximise the amount of protection it confers to the owner. We were also given an overview of the process to full qualification as a Chartered UK Patent Attorney and European patent attorney, which helped to cement in my mind the roadmap ahead.

### Do you have any advice for someone seeking an internship?

If you have a technical or a scientific background and enjoy critical thinking and using language too, a career as a patent attorney is without a doubt a path you should consider and actively look into. Your time at university and the early years of your career are almost always the most formative in terms of your future, so it really is worth taking your gaze away from your studies now and again to think carefully about work and how to make the right choices early on.

That will almost always mean seeking out internship opportunities where you can find them, and since the Easter Internship at D Young & Co. is so accessible, it's definitely one to bear in mind. If nothing else, you'll have the peace of mind that working in patent law is not what you're looking for. Equally, however, don't be surprised if you find yourself becoming confident that it's the perfect career choice for you! ●

# TECHNICAL ASSISTANT DEHNS

## CONOR McLAUGHLIN



UCL  
MSci NATURAL SCIENCES  
LONDON

“It caught my eye as it promised a career with aspects of science, law and business all rolled into one.”

### Why I chose to become a patent attorney and how I got my job

I was reaching the end of the second year of my degree when I came to the daunting realisation that I was not going to be a student forever. This gave me the required motivation to go out and explore my options. Having looked around several career guides and websites I eventually stumbled upon the *IP Careers Guide to Chartered Patent Attorneys*. It caught my eye as it promised a career with aspects of science, law and business all rolled into one. A bit more research led me to discover the two-week summer placement scheme at Dehns. I had previously read about Dehns so I decided to apply to become an intern within the engineering department as it presented a great opportunity to find out a bit more about the career at a top tier firm.

Though completing work experience with a firm is not a prerequisite for gaining a graduate position, I found the scheme offered a fantastic opportunity to find out whether a career as a patent attorney was a good fit for me.

After the two weeks I decided that a career as a patent attorney was definitely for me and, more importantly, I wanted to work at Dehns. The work I saw during the two weeks offered a new challenge with a scientific focus as well as a really friendly, social and supportive environment that I felt would be a great place

to learn the trade. I was then lucky enough to be offered a job as a Technical Assistant within the engineering department.

### Training

Having joined Dehns in September 2016, I was sent on the Certificate in Intellectual Property Law course at Queen Mary in October of that year. This is a five morning a week course that gives a great grounding and basis in intellectual property law and it provides exemption from the UK Foundation Exams. It also offered me the chance to get to meet people from our other offices and other firms around the country.

The work I saw offered a new challenge with a scientific focus as well as a really friendly, sociable and supportive environment that I felt would be a great place to learn the trade.

For the duration of the course I was in the office two afternoons a week. This allowed me to stay in contact with my work life and to continue to 'learn on-the-job'. After

completing the course in January of 2017 I have been in the office full-time and getting to grips with the everyday tasks of the job under the tuition and guidance of the Partners and Associates who I have been working with, as well as my fellow Technical Assistants, all of whom are more than willing to help out.

### What I did today

First thing this morning, I got in and checked my emails and figured out what I had on for the day and what deadlines I had coming up. Then, my colleagues and I had a client meeting, at which I was introduced to one of the firm's clients that I had been working for. After this was over, I was back at my desk reviewing and amending a couple of US patent applications (based on gas turbine engines) for filing at the EPO. I also spoke to one of the Partners about a query I had regarding a design for a toothbrush that we had filed. Later in the day, I sent a letter reporting that a search report had been issued for a patent application to another one of our clients and, finally, I tried to finish off a response to a search report that I had been working on the previous day. With lunch falling somewhere in the middle of the above, I feel my day today gives a good insight into a day of the life of a Technical Assistant.

### Advice for getting into the profession

I was told before I started working, and never appreciated it until after I had started, that the learning curve is steep. It can be a little disconcerting in the first couple of weeks

when you feel as though you know very little, but I have since been told that everyone feels like this at first and learning about new technologies and patent law soon become the most interesting aspects of the job. The support and guidance offered from everyone at Dehns has also gone a long way in helping me to settle in quickly.

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The job can feel a little intimidating at first. I was given a live case load to work on from day one which can seem like a lot of responsibility. However, I have come to the quick realisation that this is the best way to learn and there is always a support network to help you with your work; every case I work on I have a Partner or Associate supervising me. They are always willing to listen, help, guide and advise should I need or want them to.

Dehns has been a really friendly environment from the moment I walked in the door and everyone here takes a genuine interest in your development as a trainee patent attorney. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here and I can honestly say I made the right decision in choosing to join the patent profession and become a Technical Assistant. ●

# PATENT ATTORNEY (ASSOCIATE)

## MARKS & CLERK LLP

### MATT JEFFERIES



DURHAM UNIVERSITY  
MASTERS IN PHYSICS  
LONDON

“You are actively encouraged to find your own ‘niche’ and work is assigned based on individual skill sets.”

A career as a patent attorney allows naturally inquisitive scientists to combine their technical skills with commercial expertise.

When I graduated from Durham with a Masters in Physics, I considered a wide variety of professions. Having a physics degree opened a lot of doors, but I was overwhelmed by the sheer number of options.

I tested the waters in finance but found that, whilst I was good with numbers, I could not get excited about currency conversions or profit and loss accounts. I also worked briefly as a technology consultant, but was concerned that the lack of professional qualifications would lead to a lack of job security. Then I found the patent profession.

Working as a patent attorney puts you at the ‘bleeding edge’ of technology development, but also requires the application of business acumen. Your role is primarily to translate what is inside an inventor’s head into valuable legal protection for their hard work in developing their product.

You need to be able to get to grips quickly with new technology and determine the key aspects to be protected. You also need to be able to isolate the essential elements that make an idea ‘inventive’, whilst crafting protection that covers any obvious alternative

applications to provide the broadest protection possible. For example, if the invention is a new tyre design with improved grip, you don’t want to limit it to car tyres if it would also work for motorcycles. Equally, you might consider whether the same grip design could also work on rubber gloves or on conveyor belts.

As a patent attorney, you will likely specialise according to your scientific background (electronics, biotech, software, chemistry, mechanical engineering). Having said this, no one can be an expert in everything and you will need to be able to pick up new ideas quickly and interact with inventors to request further clarification, where necessary.

There is not only variety in the technology that you deal with, but also with the clients that you advise. You may be operating with independent inventors or early stage companies that are still developing their first product, or you could be working with established multinationals that know precisely what they want to protect. This variety keeps you on your toes, but means that you need to be aware of the client’s commercial needs.

In addition, it is important to be able to manage your time effectively. You will often be working on several cases at one time, and you will be expected to organise your day and ensure that all deadlines are met.

### My role

I qualified as a Chartered UK and European patent attorney in 2015. As an Associate in the Electronics team at Marks & Clerk I operate largely independently on a day to day basis. Having said this, I can easily seek advice and share ideas with my colleagues, where necessary.

I spend the majority of my time drafting new patent applications and prosecuting applications before the UK and European Patent Offices. Drafting involves writing a full patent application based on input from the inventor. This usually requires meetings with the inventor to talk through the key features of the invention. These key features are then formed into a ‘claim’ – a relatively short statement that defines the scope of protection sought for the invention.

Prosecuting applications at the Patent Office primarily involves responding to examination reports. Once filed, the Patent Office will examine the application and issue an examination report detailing any objections that they may have against the invention. It is our job to respond to any objections that are raised in order to bring the application to grant with the best scope of protection possible. A response will usually either argue against the objections or file amendments to the application to alter the scope of protection conferred by the application.

**Your role is primarily to translate what is inside an inventor’s head into valuable legal protection for their hard work in developing their product.**

In addition to this, I have been involved in:

- Patent prosecution abroad (e.g. in the US)
- Hearings at the European Patent Office (EPO) in Munich

- Oppositions against patents at the EPO
- Freedom to operate (advising whether a new product may infringe any existing patents)
- Providing advice related to patent litigation (in conjunction with Marks & Clerk Solicitors)
- Filing design registrations (protecting aesthetic products rather than technical inventions)
- Providing advice on licensing and the purchase of patents
- Managing clients’ patent portfolios.

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Working at Marks & Clerk gives me the opportunity to tailor my career path and choose the areas that I would like to specialise in. As one of the largest firms of patent and trade mark attorneys in the UK, there is a wide and interesting variety of work available, both in terms of technology and clients. You are actively encouraged to find your own ‘niche’ and work is assigned based on individual skill sets.

In addition to fee earning work, I am involved in the Training Academy at Marks & Clerk to help trainees prepare for their professional exams. Juggling on-the-job training with after work revision can be challenging as a trainee; the Training Academy provides a support structure including a comprehensive programme of lectures as well as regular ‘Away Days’ which bring together trainees from our different UK offices for group study sessions and social events. It also provides a forum for trainees to share ideas and help support each other through the qualification process.

Having said this, it is not all work and no play! I am also part of the social committee in London, helping to organise monthly social events. Recent outings include go-karting, the theatre and a trip to a gin distillery. ●



# TECHNICAL ASSISTANT MATHYS & SQUIRE LLP

## MICHAEL CHARLTON



UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE  
MChem CHEMISTRY & 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.

### What are your 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 less than 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.

### What would you like to achieve in the future?

By March 2018 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. ●

Find IP law courses  
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# TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

## WITHERS & ROGERS LLP

### GEORGIA MANN



UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD  
MChem CHEMISTRY &  
PhD POLYMER CHEMISTRY  
SHEFFIELD

“The assessment day was unlike any interview I had experienced before.”

#### Why did you choose a job in the IP sector?

Towards the end of my PhD, I was struggling to decide which career to pursue. I knew that I wanted to remain in science, but I didn't want to continue with academic research, as the idea of focusing on a narrow area within my field did not appeal to me. I was first made aware of the patent profession by my supervisor, who suggested that it might be a good fit for me.

After researching the profession, I was immediately drawn in by the opportunity to be involved with both science and law. The profession promises variety, both in the daily activities and the technologies you handle.

I was particularly interested in developing my commercial knowledge of science and technology. Innovation is thriving worldwide; from the development of clean energy alternatives to even smarter smart phones. The patent profession continuously exposes you to cutting edge technology, and this was probably the major factor in my decision to pursue this career.

#### How did you get a job at Withers & Rogers?

I researched all firms with trainee positions in my field and narrowed it down to those I believed would provide the best training and support to help me progress in this profession. I applied to the graduate positions for my chosen firms, including Withers & Rogers.

The first part of the application process was completion of a range of online psychometric tests. Upon passing this stage, I was invited to attend an assessment day with a selection of other candidates.

**Innovation is thriving worldwide; from the development of clean energy alternatives to even smarter smart phones. The patent profession continually exposes you to cutting edge technology.**

The assessment day was unlike any interview I had experienced before. The day involved written exercises, a face to face interview, a group exercise and a short presentation on a subject of my choice. At the start of the day I was a little nervous, but everyone at Withers & Rogers was incredibly welcoming and put me at ease instantly. I also had the opportunity to chat with current trainees, which was really insightful.

Overall, it was a highly rewarding and enjoyable experience and when I received the offer I accepted without hesitation.

#### What are your main duties?

In general, the majority of my work is prosecution based. This covers a range of tasks, such as updating a client on any new developments with their application, getting to grips with a new invention, reviewing prior art that an Examiner has cited to try and identify any key differences that make the client's invention patentable or formulating arguments to overcome an Examiner's objections. From a commercial standpoint, it is important for the client to try to gain as broad a scope of protection as possible during prosecution. Therefore, one of the main challenges is achieving the best protection possible whilst also ensuring that the Examiner's objections are addressed. I find it particularly rewarding when one of my suggestions is commercially useful to the client.

In addition to prosecution, I have also assisted on an opposition case, provided strategic advice on infringement by a competitor, attended invention disclosure meetings with new clients and been involved in business development.

#### What skills are useful in this profession?

Good written and oral communication skills are crucial. Whether you are drafting a patent, discussing a new invention with a client or structuring coherent and clear-cut arguments during prosecution, having strong written and oral communication skills are paramount to the quality of work you produce.

Also, as a key aspect of the job is assessing whether inventions are both novel and inventive; it is important to have a good understanding of scientific principles and processes within your field of expertise.

The patent profession is heavily deadline driven, which means that it can be highly

stressful at times. Therefore, it is important to manage both time and stress efficiently, and be able to prioritise well.

Finally, as a big part of the job involves defending and negotiating patent applications, it is important to show meticulous attention to detail and have the ability to think laterally.

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

Research the profession thoroughly to ensure it is the right move for you. IP Careers is a great resource to use, as it provides valuable information about the application process, interviews, training and the career in general. Also, some firms offer open days. These are a great chance to gain insight into the day job and meet people in the profession, so I would recommend taking advantage of these opportunities where possible.

**Find an open day near you**  
[www.ipcareers.co.uk/search/events](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk/search/events)

As I have mentioned earlier, good language skills and attention to detail are important skills for this profession. Therefore, take care when preparing applications and writing your CV to avoid typos and grammatical errors.

Finally, competition is fierce, but if it is what you want to do then definitely persevere! There are usually only a small number of trainee positions available. Therefore, I would advise applying to as many firms as possible to better your chances. However, bear in mind that selecting the right firm is crucial. Each firm has a different culture and personality, so make sure it is the right fit for you. ●

# FOUNDER/DIRECTOR

## ALISTAIR HINDLE ASSOCIATES

Alistair Hindle entered the patent profession in 1998 after studying Natural Sciences (Physics) and obtaining a PhD, both at the University of Cambridge. He worked in Glasgow and Cambridge before setting up a new practice in Edinburgh in 2005.

ALISTAIR HINDLE	
	
	2005
Founded practice in Edinburgh	
	2003
	Qualified as a trade mark attorney
	2002
	Qualified as a patent attorney
	2001
	Moved to private practice in Cambridge
	1998
	Completed PhD and started traineeship in a private practice firm in Glasgow

### Introduction

After completing my undergraduate degree, the natural progression for me was to become a research scientist. However, when I attended a talk by a patent attorney, I thought that his job sounded much more interesting than mine! It was at this point that I started to think about a career change, although it was not until the later stages of my PhD, several years later, that I applied for jobs in the profession.

After working as a trainee patent attorney at a firm in Glasgow and then qualifying at a firm in Cambridge, I set up in business in Edinburgh in 2005, aiming to create a firm which excelled in terms of both the legal and commercial quality of the advice it provides. I want every client who comes into our office to leave feeling that we understand them, we understand their business and we are the right people to help them. We have a positive working environment and a commitment to excellence and strive to protect that ethos.

### What is a typical day like?

In my role as a Director, my time is predominantly split between client work and managing the company. Client work is a mixture of concentrated work tasks (drafting patent applications, responding to examination reports from patent offices, providing opinions, conducting due diligence and so forth) and providing guidance to and meeting with clients. My role also involves discussing cases with colleagues as well as providing guidance and training to trainees.

### What do you enjoy most about your job?

Like other patent attorneys, I enjoy working with a wide range of technologies. Probably the thing that I like most about the work of a patent attorney is the constant intellectual challenge. I have always been interested in business and I enjoy the commercial aspects of the work.

Given the nature of my business, I spend a lot of time working with entrepreneurial clients, giving practical advice to help them make business decisions. It is inspiring to be part of a fledgling business' journey and to support them as they grow. I have enjoyed helping start-up clients develop, obtain investment and

become larger companies and, in some cases, be acquired by global corporations.

Unusually, I qualified as both a patent attorney and a trade mark attorney. This has become harder to do in recent years, but I enjoy being able to answer clients' initial questions on a range of intellectual property topics.

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

Training as a patent attorney requires a lot of hard work and you need to have a genuine commitment to it. When I made the decision to become a patent attorney, I spoke to various patent attorneys and attended undergraduate and LLM lecture courses in Intellectual Property. This helped me to confirm my interest in the profession to myself, and to demonstrate to recruiters that I had some knowledge as to what I was getting myself into!

One of the difficulties with starting in the patent profession is 'red ink syndrome'. You will have been successful in your studies and used to being an expert, particularly if you come from academia, and it can be difficult to deal with finding that, to start with at least, pretty much all of the work you do will come back from your supervisor with corrections.

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If you relish positive feedback, you'll go far, but if you take criticism personally, or favour speed over quality, you won't pick up the skills you need. You can learn some of the work of a patent attorney from books and courses, but many of the key skills can only really be learned by spending time working for experienced attorneys who are interested in and competent at training.

It is inspiring to be part of a fledgling business' journey and to support them as they grow.

I would advise anyone entering the profession to develop a broad base of experience and knowledge. If you have a choice of traineeship, there is a lot to be said for favouring a position which gives you a range of experience. You can specialise later. ●

## SENIOR ASSOCIATE

### CARPMAELS & RANSFORD LLP

Jennie joined Carpmals & Ransford LLP as a Technical Assistant in 1999 after completion of her PhD. Eighteen years later she is a Senior Associate at the firm, here she shares her typical day and offers advice to anyone looking to join the profession.

#### JENNIE COX



2010

Promoted to Senior Associate

2003

Promoted to Associate

2003

Qualified as both a Chartered Patent Attorney and a European patent attorney

1999

Joined Carpmals & Ransford LLP as a Technical Assistant

1999

Graduated from Imperial College London with a PhD in Surface Chemistry and a BSc in Chemistry

#### Why did you choose a career in the industry?

I've always enjoyed science but after I finished my chemistry degree and PhD and began to consider what career I might pursue, I wasn't sure that I wanted to work in a lab. I considered a career in research or in scientific publishing but neither of these seemed quite right for me. I stumbled across the patent attorney profession by accident. However, when I looked into what it entailed, I soon realised that it enabled me to combine my enjoyment of writing and talking to people about science with an opportunity to use my science qualifications outside of a research setting, as well as the challenge of learning about intellectual property law.

#### How did you progress to the position you are in now?

I joined Carpmals & Ransford in 1999 after completing my chemistry degree and my PhD at Imperial College, London. I spent a year at the firm as a Technical Assistant before I received further formal training in intellectual property law through Queen Mary University and also through various tutorials run by the firm. I qualified as a Chartered Patent Attorney and European patent attorney in 2003. Since passing my exams I have continued to develop my career through working on a wide variety of cases with a broad range of subject matter for clients ranging from individual inventors to multinational companies. There are always new things to learn, whether it be developments in technology or keeping up to date with changes in patent law and practice.

#### What is a typical day for you?

As a Senior Associate at the firm my day to day work is incredibly varied and I handle a broad range of chemical and light mechanical subject matter. I manage various client portfolios and I work closely with those clients to ensure the right strategies are in place to protect their inventions. On any given day, for example, I may be speaking or writing to inventors or attorneys working in-house for our clients, writing legal and technical arguments to counter objections raised by patent examiners and drafting a new patent specification. The focus of my work is to develop strategies which contribute to the commercial success of the businesses I work with.

As a senior member of the team I have additional responsibilities. One of these is to supervise and train some of my junior colleagues, which means I spend a substantial part of my day reading their work and talking to them about the technical and legal aspects of their cases and discussing the best approach to take when communicating these aspects to our client or to the patent offices. In addition, I am responsible for ensuring that we support and develop the client relationships of our sector groups. This means I have the opportunity to travel to meet clients and potential clients. I find that meeting clients face to face gives me a greater understanding of their businesses and the goals they have, which means I am better placed to work with them to optimise their patent strategy.

There are always new things to learn, whether it be developments in technology or keeping up to date with changes in patent law and practice.

#### What do you enjoy most about your job?

One of my favourite parts of my job is meeting inventors when they are at the initial stages of developing their ideas and inventions. This is the stage when there is the opportunity for me to work out what it is that they have invented and to use that information to get the best patent protection for them. I find it really interesting to see the practical application of the inventions I am involved in protecting.

Find open days and internships  
[www.ipcareers.co.uk](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk)

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

I think the most important thing is to talk to people in the industry; this is a niche profession and a demanding one so it is important to understand what you might be getting into. Some firms offer open days or internships and these can provide a great opportunity to get an understanding of the profession and listen to the experiences of those involved. ●



# PARTNER

## CLEVELAND SCOTT YORK

Andrew wanted something to stretch his communication and people skills after an enjoyable spell as an engineer in the space and automotive industries. 'Patent attorney' ticked all the boxes. After 20 years as a partner, he describes his journey and current experiences.

### ANDREW MACKENZIE



2017

Partner Cleveland Scott York

2006

Founder of Scott & York IP Law

1997

Promoted to Partner and five years later to Office Managing Partner

1990

Entered the patent profession. Qualified as UK and European patent attorney five years later

1989

Engineer at Jaguar Cars

1989

BEng in Electronic Engineering from University of Southampton following sponsorship from RDAD

### A pattern what?

A 'patent attorney' I used to patiently explain but now quickly resort to my elevator pitch of 'a lawyer that helps stop copying'. And this is perhaps the only major hazard of the job that I have experienced over my nearly 30 years in the profession – hardly anybody knows what you do!

I studied engineering at the University of Southampton and was sponsored by Racal Decca Advanced Developments (a part of Racal Defence that carried out civilian space research projects for the European Space Agency). My sponsorship included a year working in engineering before starting my university studies and good quality paid work, mostly writing firmware, during the holidays. Most of that cash was sunk into the usual student social activities and a money-pit example of ancient British Automotive engineering which would now firmly be considered in the 'Classic' category.

With that developing background of oily hands, after university I jumped ship from Racal and followed my passion for cars, by landing a graduate training position, as an engineer, at Jaguar Cars. I had a great time, an exciting team, a 'proper' job in a big company, prodding and measuring competitor vehicles from BMW and Mercedes, wangling loans of a V12 convertible for the weekend...yes that cruise control really did need checking outside an automated test cycle...

I quickly learnt though that manufacturing, and therefore engineering, in late 80s Britain was not a very promising long-term career. Jaguar had little money and ancient products, Austin Rover was little more than a joke, and Thatcher era decisions were decimating UK manufacturing. So I eventually had to grow up and look for a safer future – yes a girlfriend (now my wife) was involved!

### So why the switch to IP?

Big manufacturing is fun (a minority enthusiasm perhaps?!). I still get a buzz from entering a mass production hall with heavy engineering. One of the fantastic privileges of this job is that you get frequent access to bright people and early-stage research and can indulge your passion for technology; being

paid to get into the finest detail of cutting edge things. You can get all that from a good engineering job, but, if like me that isn't quite enough, and you need to exercise your communication and people skills as well, a career as a patent attorney in private practice should probably be on your list.

IP careers had an even lower profile in the 90s than now, but when deciding what to do after Jaguar, I was lucky enough to know the daughter of a patent attorney and had been interested in what she occasionally mentioned about his work. I spent a long time talking to her father one evening and liked everything I heard – his parting words being 'as long as you like exams you'll get on fine' – how true! I arranged a couple of interviews, got offered both jobs, and moved back to London. For me, that was absolutely the best career choice I have ever made.

**I still haven't got this job completely worked out – take with a pinch of salt anyone that says they have, as almost daily it throws up new questions that need working out from first principles, often with an enjoyable quick discussion with colleagues. There really is rarely a dull moment.**

### What's the day like?

You'll read elsewhere about interviewing inventors, meeting and talking to senior business managers and foreign attorneys, arguing orally at Patent Offices and delivering seminars and webinars. I do all these frequently, and still thoroughly enjoy it practically all the time. For me, the variety is key here – I am easily bored if left without a challenge. I still haven't got this job completely worked out – take with a pinch of salt anyone that says they have, as

almost daily it throws up new questions that need working out from first principles, and often with an enjoyable quick discussion with colleagues. There really is rarely a dull moment.

I've been a partner since 1997 and worked in three different firms ranging from the largest in the UK to a 20 person, four-partner firm, half owned by me. These days, I'm operating somewhere between those extremes at Cleveland Scott York as one of 12 partners in a top tier, four office, international firm which is headquartered in London. For the last 15 years I've been Managing Partner in my local office.

That experience has allowed me over the years to get involved in strategy for the firm, business management and all the things that go along with that – managing cash, tax, exchange rates, investment and profits, decisions on recruitment, marketing and acquisitions, raising finance, banking and premises. That experience directly helps with my day job – many of our clients have all of this on their plate too; or have a board breathing down their neck with IP being a cost centre, a potential revenue stream and an important asset. An understanding of business management and strategy is deeply reassuring for our clients. If you can couple that with top quality IP legal advice and talk authoritatively about the commercial side of IP as well the complex legal side, your clients will love you!

Being a Partner at Cleveland Scott York I am very lucky to be surrounded by people working at the top of their game and who share a similar outlook on how we should be delivering services to clients. When you get partnership right and have the support (and occasional gently constructive criticism!) of your partners, you will know you have found the right place to be.

We have meetings in London approximately every six weeks and an annual recess away from the offices, to consider things at a higher level. We are supported by an administration team including an experienced Practice Director who skillfully adds professional management capability to the firm and makes sure we harness our individual strengths to best effect. ●

# PARTNER

## MEWBURN ELLIS LLP

Graeme has been at Mewburn Ellis LLP since joining in 2003. He specialises in the ever changing electrical/electronics engineering and IT fields. He talks about what first attracted him to the profession and what a typical day involves for him now as a partner and patent attorney.

### DR GRAEME MOORE



2010

Made a partner in Mewburn Ellis LLP

2008

Qualified as a European patent attorney

2006

Qualified as a Chartered Patent Attorney

2003

Joined Mewburn Ellis LLP as a Trainee Patent Attorney

2001

Graduated with PhD in applied physics

### Why patents?

If, like me, you are interested in technology and language, you are a bit of a pedant and you are always up for a challenge then this is definitely a career you should think about!

Like so many other people I didn't really feel any particular calling as my time at university drew closer. Initially, I studied for an applied physics degree (MPhys) and then worked towards a PhD, which was really a crossover between physics, electronics and semiconductor device technology. So, a job in research either at university or in industry seemed inevitable.

However, whilst undertaking postdoctoral work in the UK and France I occasionally found it necessary to review some patents (alive and dead) and they piqued my interest in the profession. After digging around a little, the role appeared to me on the face of it to require a blend of science/engineering knowledge, the ability to argue (to be honed into advocacy) and legal knowledge (to be acquired after entering the profession). It also seemed there would be additional challenges later in the career as it became clear that working in private practice offered the opportunity to become a partner in a business. This seemed to mean helping develop and guide the strategy and direction of the business itself. The more I looked into the profession and the opportunities it presented, the more I liked the sound of it. My instincts weren't wrong.

### Training?

After entering the profession, working towards being a fully qualified European patent attorney and a Chartered Patent Attorney is not easy. It takes at least 3-4 years, and sometimes longer. A basic requirement for qualifying as a European patent attorney is a science/engineering degree and three years 'on-the-job' experience.

The challenge of qualifying was one of the reasons I chose Mewburn Ellis as my preferred firm from the outset. The reputation the firm has for training their wannabe attorneys to a high standard, relatively quickly, is well deserved. This is in part due to the many in-house tutorials and workshops operating under a formal in-house training structure that all the trainees

attend. Of course, there are external courses and seminars that they are encouraged to attend too, for example arranged by CIPA and by CEPI. However, the thing that I think accelerates development the most is actually sitting and working alongside a partner doing 'real' work for clients from day one. It amazed me how much I learned 'by osmosis' just by sharing an office with a senior partner in the firm. It meant I could listen in to conversations with clients, and have ad hoc discussions about cases and tricky points of law or argumentation. This was amplified by training with several different partners over the course of the first three years or so, including working in different cities. All of this resulted in an 'accelerated' experience that I think really helps when it comes to taking the UK and EQE exams.

### Day to day?

I am now a fully qualified patent attorney and a partner in a large IP firm. I necessarily have to blend these two roles throughout the day/week. The proportion of the day given over to each role will vary from day to day of course.

On the patenting side, as you will read and hear numerous times, there really is no such thing as a typical day. However, I think it's fair to say that most days I am working at my desk, talking with clients and patent offices by letter, email and telephone etc. Beyond that, no two days have really been the same.

The technology, the legal issues and the commercial considerations can vary hugely from case to case, so the substance of the work from day to day varies commensurately. That makes it a highly stimulating and challenging job, but then that's the attraction! It's also very satisfying to be able to help a client use their IP to successfully commercialise a product or protect that product.

As a partner in the firm, I also have management responsibilities which can, on occasion, dominate my day. It requires a different, but perhaps overlapping, skill set to my role as a patent attorney. It is equally enjoyable, but for very different reasons.

Beyond that I travel a lot to Asia (Japan, Korea, Taiwan and China principally) and around the UK to meet with existing clients and prospective clients, and to attend conferences and professional seminars. It's harder work than it sounds! But it can also be great fun, and it's an opportunity to meet people and make friends that would never otherwise happen.

### Do I recommend the career?

Whole heartedly! It's intellectually a very stimulating and rewarding job. The partnership aspect (if that's of interest) brings its own different flavour of challenges and rewards too.

### How do you get there?

First and foremost, take the time to research the patent profession as a whole and decide if you think it is for you. As noted above, it is primarily a desk job. Contact with clients/inventors is mainly in writing and by telephone. Is that attractive to you?

Some firms offer open days. Mewburn Ellis does. Try and attend one (or more!) to get a better feel for the job. It's also an excellent way to get a feel for the culture of the firm providing the particular open day you attend. This will also give you an idea of whether they are a good match for you!

If, after all that, you're keen to enter the profession then I would apply to as many firms as you find attractive. However, be sure to research each firm, so that you can tailor your approach and comments suitably. Not all firms will have employment opportunities in all technical fields each year. Indeed, the number of employment opportunities across the profession in any given year is usually not very large. So, make sure you apply early and with a well-tailored application so that you stand out.

The interviews will inevitably be testing and challenging, but engage with the exercises and tests. They are there to help you show what you can do, not to try and trip you up.

Finally – good luck! ●

# CIPA & QUALIFICATIONS

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# ABOUT CIPA

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



## Members

CIPA's members include patent attorneys who work in small, medium and large private practices and patent attorneys who work in industrial departments. It has approximately 3,500 members, some 2,000 of those being Fellows of the Institute with the status of Chartered Patent Attorney. 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 democratically elected Council is responsible for the direction of the Institute; this it achieves through the setting of a three year strategic plan 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.

## 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.

Find training courses online  
[www.ipcareers.co.uk/search/courses](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk/search/courses)

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 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.

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. The social events are run in London and an increasing number of regions across the UK, including Aberdeen, Bristol, Birmingham, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, Manchester, Nottingham, Oxford, Sheffield and Southampton.

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](http://yellowsheet.wordpress.com)). The blog is frequently updated with information on upcoming lectures and social events, exam enrolment 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 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! ●

**Harry Muttock** is Honorary Secretary of the Informals' Committee for 2016-2017. He is a technical assistant at Beresford Crump LLP in London.

# 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 is held 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 as both a European patent attorney and UK patent attorney.

## Prerequisite qualifications

The UK regulations require you to be the holder of a degree in order to be considered as a registered patent attorney. In order to take the European qualifying examination (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 on pages 56-57 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) Foundation Examinations or by undertaking one of several IPReg-approved courses. These IPReg-approved courses are listed in the IPReg *Rules for the Examination and Admission of Individuals to the Registers of Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys*, which can be found at: [www.ipreg.org.uk](http://www.ipreg.org.uk)

## Final level

There are four Final Examinations: FD1, FD2, FD3 and FD4. The footnote on page 56 explains the relationship of the EQE examinations to the Final Examinations. The four Final Examinations 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](http://www.epo.org/learning-events)

## Pre-examination

This examination can be taken two years after the beginning of your period of training under the supervision of a European patent attorney.

## Other papers

The four 'main' examination papers (A, B, C and D) can be taken after successfully completing the pre-examination and after three years' experience under the supervision of a European patent attorney. These papers 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 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 on page 52.

### 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 are 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 being JDD Consultants (see page 60).

## 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.

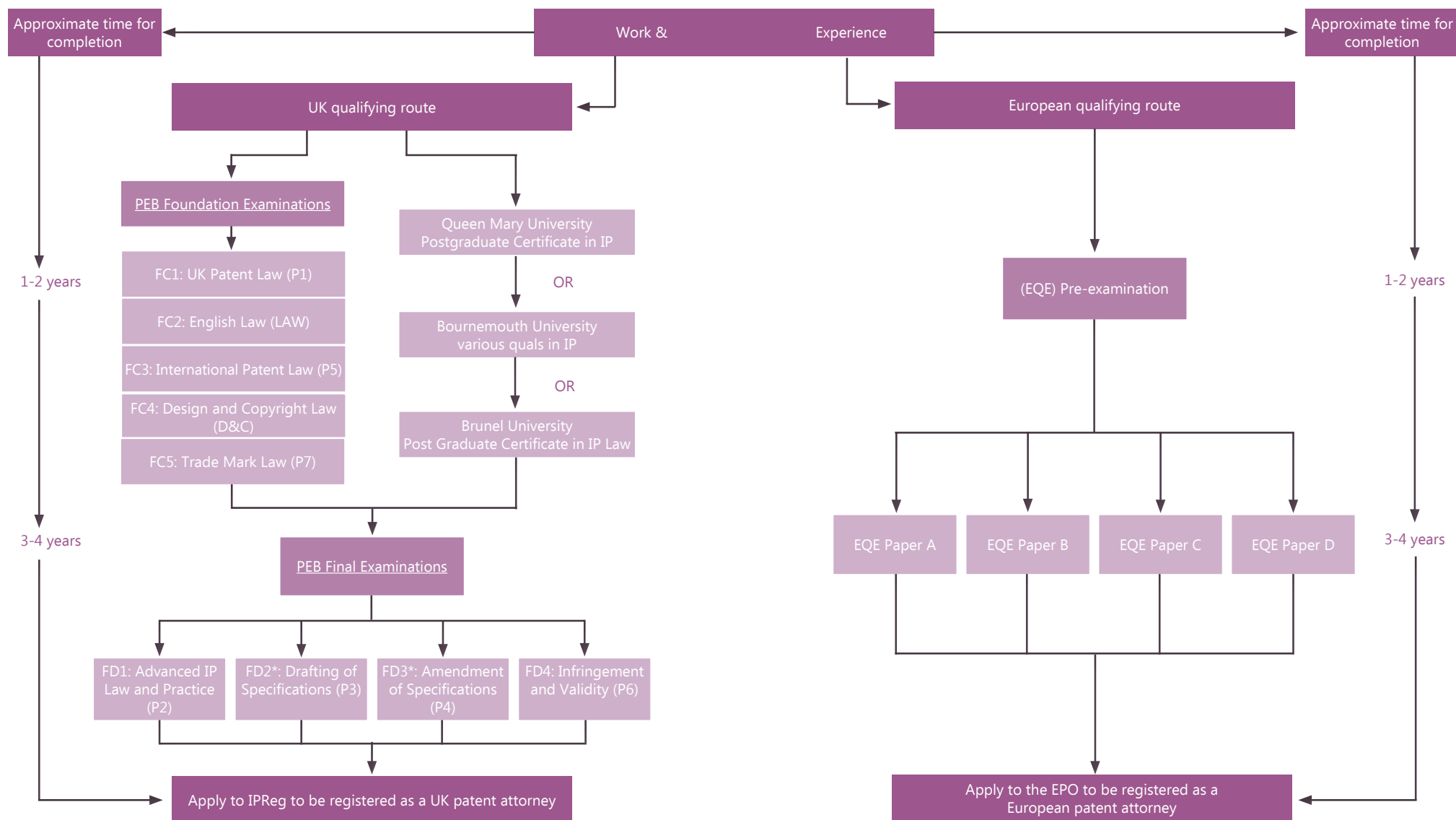
IPReg and CIPA have a vital part to play in this continuing education process. The Institute arranges a large number of seminars and webinars across the year and throughout the country. These seminars address many topics, from recent law and practice changes in the UK to a detailed examination of specialist 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 updates, both on its website and in the *CIPA Journal*, published monthly. This information enables members to keep up to date with developments in the UK and across the world. ●



# ROUTES TO QUALIFYING



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



# FURTHER STUDY

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## Intellectual property at Bournemouth University

Bournemouth University (BU) has a strong international reputation in the intellectual property (IP) 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, and is treated as equivalent to the Joint Examination Board/Chartered Institute of Patent

Attorneys (CIPA) papers (FC1, FC3, T1, T2, T5, FC4, FC2); as well as the Chartered Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys (CITMA) papers (Foundations of Law, Design and Copyright Law, Trade Marks A, Trade Marks B). For many students, it is the first step to professional qualification.

Our students already hold degrees, typically in the sciences, or in another relevant academic discipline. 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 and has been developed in collaboration with the Joint Education Board of CIPA. It provides a thorough understanding of UK and European law, together with international conventions and practice affecting IP protection.

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: Design & Copyright, FC1, FC3, T1, T2, T5 and Basic English Law. ●

## CONTACT

Find out more about our Law courses:

Future Students Enquiry Team  
**T:** +44 (0)1202 961916  
**E:** [futurestudents@bournemouth.ac.uk](mailto:futurestudents@bournemouth.ac.uk)  
**W:** [www.bournemouth.ac.uk/law](http://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.

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.

## 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.

## NOTTINGHAM LAW SCHOOL

NOTTINGHAM TRENT UNIVERSITY

Nottingham Law School is one of the largest university law schools in the UK. We enjoy a national and international reputation for delivering high-quality education and training across a broad range of academic and professional law 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 awards 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 education.

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](mailto:nls.enquiries@ntu.ac.uk)  
**W:** [www.ntu.ac.uk/ipcareers](http://www.ntu.ac.uk/ipcareers)

**Web:** [www.jddcourses.co.uk](http://www.jddcourses.co.uk) **Tel:** 01234 294049

**Email:** [jdd.consultants@ntlworld.com](mailto:jdd.consultants@ntlworld.com) / [admin@jddcourses.co.uk](mailto:admin@jddcourses.co.uk)





Centre for Commercial Law Studies



Queen Mary has a long history of excellence in research and scholarship in intellectual property, spanning 35 years through the creation of the dedicated research institute – Queen Mary Intellectual Property Research Institute (QMIPRI), part of the Centre for Commercial Law Studies (CCLS), based in Lincoln's Inn Fields.

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

**MSc in Management of Intellectual Property**  
One year full-time, two years part-time.

#### PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

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: Basic Principles of English Law, Evidence and Practice; The Law of Copyright and Design I; 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 I; Competition Law and Licensing I and II; Law of Copyright and Design I and II; Information Technology Law; Intellectual Property Transactions; Licensing Practice; 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 Copyright and Designs 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; natural or medical sciences or engineering for Professional Stream. Graduate degrees in mathematics, computer sciences or economics will be considered, but candidates must show that a considerable amount of their previous study covered the areas of science and technology.

#### European Intellectual Property Institutes Network (EIPIN)

Students will have the opportunity to apply for a place on the European Intellectual Property Institutes Network. The network comprises, besides the CCLS at Queen Mary, IP institutes offering postgraduate education in IP in Alicante, 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 and CITMA foundation level examinations. The objective of this programme is to provide the student with a broad, overall perspective of intellectual property law, so that later, in practice, he or she has a more balanced appreciation of the wider range of matters which modern intellectual property practice involves.

#### PROGRAMME OUTLINE

There is intensive coverage of the law and practice of Patent Law, Law of Trade Marks and Unfair Competition, Copyright & Designs Law and Competition Law. There is also an introduction to aspects of Basic Principles of English Law, Practice

and Evidence, that are of special relevance to intellectual property practitioners.

The emphasis is primarily, but not exclusively, upon UK Law; thus, considerable attention is paid to the European Patent Convention and to EC law and to other regional arrangements and international conventions which affect the activities of the UK practitioner.

#### ASSESSMENT

Three-hour, 15-minute papers for each subject, plus additional two-hour, 30-minute Patent Law and Law of Trade Marks and Unfair Competition papers for exemption from the CIPA foundation level examinations. Closed book examinations operate for all modules.

#### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

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

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

#### CONTACT

##### Apply online

**W:** [qmul.ac.uk/msc-ip](http://qmul.ac.uk/msc-ip)

**W:** [qmul.ac.uk/pgcert-ip](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.law.qmul.ac.uk/postgraduate/funding)





**Find your dream IP  
role online today.**



A.A. Thornton & Co.	<b>67</b>	HGF	<b>102</b>
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Appleyard Lees	<b>72</b>	Kilburn & Strode LLP	<b>110</b>
Barker Brettell	<b>74</b>	Marks & Clerk LLP	<b>112</b>
Beck Greener	<b>76</b>	Mathys & Squire LLP	<b>114</b>
Beresford Crump LLP	<b>78</b>	Maucher Jenkins	<b>116</b>
Boult Wade Tennant	<b>80</b>	Mewburn Ellis LLP	<b>118</b>
Carpmaels & Ransford LLP	<b>82</b>	Page White and Farrer	<b>120</b>
Chapman & Co	<b>84</b>	Potter Clarkson LLP	<b>122</b>
Cleveland Scott York	<b>86</b>	Reddie & Grose	<b>124</b>
D Young & Co LLP	<b>88</b>	Schlich	<b>126</b>
Dehns	<b>90</b>	Secerna LLP	<b>128</b>
EIP	<b>92</b>	Slingsby Partners LLP	<b>130</b>
Elkington & Fife LLP	<b>94</b>	Swindell & Pearson	<b>132</b>
Forresters	<b>96</b>	Venner Shipley LLP	<b>134</b>
Gill Jennings & Every LLP	<b>98</b>	Wilson Gunn	<b>136</b>
Haseltine Lake	<b>100</b>	Withers & Rogers LLP	<b>138</b>

**JOB FINDER**

## 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

74

### No. of partners

9

### No. of qualified patent attorneys

10

### No. of trainee patent attorneys

7

### No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

6

### 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, social events and exam bonus

### Graduate application deadline

Ongoing

### No. of undergraduate opportunities

Varies

### Undergraduate application deadline

See website

### 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 and events visit:  
[www.ipcareers.co.uk](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk)

# 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

67

#### No. of partners

13

#### No. of qualified patent attorneys

23

#### No. of trainee patent attorneys

6

#### 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, pension scheme, study support, season ticket loan, bike scheme, social events, life assurance, private medical insurance and income protection scheme

#### Graduate application deadline

Ongoing

#### Application method

Application form by email

#### Contact information

E: ann-marie.dingivan@abelimray.com

For the latest jobs and events visit:  
[www.ipcareers.co.uk](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk)

## TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Sarah Phillips
LOCATION	Bath
UNIVERSITY	Cambridge
DEGREE	BA Natural Sciences
ROLE	Trainee Patent Attorney



Initially after graduating I worked for an engineering consultancy, and was seconded to the reactor physics/engineering team at Oldbury Power Station. I realised that engineering wasn't for me, and looked for other options. I moved to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (initially as a temporary stop-gap, although I stayed five years) and learned, at least from a public policy perspective, how IP can incentivise R&D and facilitate knowledge transfer in the community.

I joined A&I's Physics, Engineering and ICT team in Bath, in 2015. The things that I value most about the job are being continuously challenged to learn and understand new technologies across a wide range of subject matter, having the opportunity to carefully craft written documents, thus combining my interests in language and science, and engaging with all kinds of people, from independent inventors to CEOs of large companies.

The training process combines a mixture of on-the-job learning and study for exams. In October this year, I will sit the UK qualifying exams, with the European exams to follow in 2018 and 2019. Qualifying fully as a UK and European patent attorney typically takes

around five years, but the exams are spaced within this period. The firm supports trainees by providing in-house tutorials and study-leave for formal training courses.

My work is supervised by several of the Partners, which helps me to appreciate different styles and specialisms. There is a focus on client care and a personal approach, and I have enjoyed sitting in on meetings from the start. There is a slow and gradual transfer of responsibility from supervisor to trainee for case management throughout the training process, with plenty of support and encouragement from the team. Trainees are encouraged to assume responsibility for case management as a whole, helping to build the 'bigger picture' through the full life-cycle of the patenting process.

The firm is small/medium sized, with travel between the offices in Bath, Cardiff and London encouraged. The firm comes together for annual social events, for example this year we enjoyed a Thames cruise with dinner and drinks, whilst last year we spent an evening at the Tower of London. Less formally, attorneys gather for lunch together on a Friday, enjoy surf and walking weekends, and sporting events such as the Velothon Wales. ●





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

22

#### 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

2

#### Benefits

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

#### Graduate application deadline

See website

#### Application method

CV and covering letter by email

#### Contact information

E: careers@adamson-jones.co.uk

For the latest jobs and events visit:  
[www.ipcareers.co.uk](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk)



#### The firm

Alistair Hindle Associates 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

12

#### No. of partners

2

#### No. of qualified patent attorneys

4

#### No. of trainee patent attorneys

2

#### 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 and study support

#### Graduate application deadline

Ongoing

#### Application method

CV and covering letter by email

#### Contact information

E: careers@ahpatent.com

W: www.ahpatent.com

For the latest jobs and events visit:  
[www.ipcareers.co.uk](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk)



We are a leading IP firm with over 40 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**  
110

**No. of partners**  
17

**No. of qualified patent attorneys**  
28

**No. of trainee patent attorneys**  
8

**No. of qualified trade mark attorneys**  
8

**No. of trainee trade mark attorneys**  
2

**Offices recruited into**  
Manchester, Leeds, Halifax, Cambridge and the BioHub at Alderley Park

**International opportunities**  
Yes

**Disciplines recruited from**  
Electronics & software, chemistry & pharmaceuticals, engineering & physics, life sciences & biotechnology and trade marks

**Opportunities available**  
✓ GRADUATE JOBS  
✓ PLACEMENTS  
✓ INSIGHTS

**No. of graduate jobs**  
3

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

**Graduate application deadline**  
Ongoing

**No. of undergraduate opportunities**  
Open

**Undergraduate application deadline**  
Ongoing

**Application method**  
CV & covering letter online, by email or post

**Contact information**  
E: HR.Department@appleyardlees.com

For the latest jobs and events visit:  
[www.ipcareers.co.uk](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk)

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Matthew Bennett
LOCATION	Halifax
UNIVERSITY	Imperial College London
DEGREE	PhD Plasma Physics
ROLE	Trainee Patent Attorney



**What made you decide to become a patent attorney?**

After finishing my PhD I decided I wanted career stability that could not be achieved as an academic.

Like many scientists, I had learned how to code and therefore my first foray into the job market was as a software developer. I mention this because it's important to know that you can become a patent attorney at any stage in your career, so don't think you don't have a chance because initially you chose a different career path or did another post-doc or two. I would even say it is beneficial to have industry experience before becoming an attorney as you will have a better appreciation for how businesses operate.

Ultimately however I wanted to work with new and exciting technology and put more of my scientific skills to use. I also wanted to work on a range of technology and not be limited on where I could work. Therefore patent law seemed like the ideal career.

**What's it like to work at Appleyard Lees?**

Appleyard Lees is an excellent firm to work at and one which trainees rarely leave before they've completed their training, which I think speaks volumes about the friendly nature

of the firm. As a patent attorney you will be working on tasks on your own but you will always work in close proximity to other trainees and experienced attorneys; so help is never far away and you will never feel abandoned. It's a great mix of working independently to build your knowledge and experience, whilst also having access to specialist guidance and support from experts.

With regards to examinations, you will mostly be left to your own devices so you need to have the motivation for self-study. Also, Appleyard Lees is a little different to most firms in that you will be expected to sit the UK Foundation Exams rather than attend a foundation qualifying course.

**Any advice for new applicants?**

To my fellow PhD's: it may seem difficult to give up the field you've spent 3-4 years in but really you don't have to. If there is a particular technology you want to work with you can find out which firms represent certain clients you're interested in, or indeed work 'in-house'. Even if you come from a very niche field, like myself, there is nothing stopping you maintaining your interest and staying a specialist in your field; who knows, the people you met and worked with during your PhD could end up being your future clients. ●

# 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. ●

<b>No. of employees</b>	118
<b>No. of partners</b>	25
<b>No. of qualified patent attorneys</b>	27
<b>No. of trainee patent attorneys</b>	9
<b>No. of qualified trade mark attorneys</b>	11
<b>No. of trainee trade mark attorneys</b>	4
<b>Offices recruited into</b>	Birmingham and Southampton
<b>Disciplines recruited from</b>	Electronics, physics, engineering, chemistry, life sciences, pharma and biosciences
<b>Opportunities available</b>	✓ GRADUATE JOBS
<b>No. of graduate jobs</b>	1
<b>Benefits</b>	22 days' holiday, healthcare, pension scheme, study support, season ticket loan, performance bonus, social events, interest free loan and life assurance
<b>Graduate application deadline</b>	Autumn
<b>Application method</b>	Online or CV and covering letter by email
<b>Contact information</b>	Head of HR 100 Hagley Road Edgbaston Birmingham B16 8QQ <b>W:</b> <a href="http://www.barkerbrettell.co.uk">www.barkerbrettell.co.uk</a>

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[www.ipcareers.co.uk](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk)

## TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Will Dean
LOCATION	Birmingham
UNIVERSITY	Nottingham
DEGREE	PhD in Organic Chemistry
ROLE	Trainee Patent Attorney



**My background**

I wanted to get into patent law following my sandwich year at a pharmaceutical company. The juxtaposition between scientific knowledge and commercial decisions really inspired me. I decided to do a PhD to gain a deeper understanding of chemistry but attended open days and information sessions on intellectual property during my PhD. Whilst I wrote up my thesis I began to apply for trainee patent attorney positions.

**Why did I choose Barker Brettell?**

Barker Brettell appealed to me because of their long-standing client relationships and wide variety of clients – from multinational companies to private individuals and from pharmaceutical companies to car manufacturers. This seemed just right for me as I enjoy facing new challenges.

**Working at Barker Brettell**

As a trainee, a usual day is spent working with my supervising partner, with whom I share an office. She provides me with a steady stream of work and is my first port of call when I have any questions (and I have many!). I also work with other attorneys in the team who have different technical backgrounds and ways of working, and who are always happy to help.

This has allowed me to experience a wide variety of UK and European related patent

work, ranging from examination report responses to researching unusual client queries (which are really useful for the exams).

My training at Barker Brettell has included learning how the business works and the importance of client care (which is much more than just being nice). Time management skills, a fine attention to detail and the ability to learn from your mistakes (everyone makes them) are also really important in this job.

**The social side**

Barker Brettell is a really friendly firm. Everyone makes an effort to make new employees feel welcome, which really helped when I moved to Birmingham for this job. Trainees get an hour's lunch break, allowing enough time to go for a walk or run, join in with the Pilates classes or go to the pub on Friday (and many trainees do). Barker Brettell also puts on events throughout the year, such as a summer barbeque, 'pub' quizzes and a Christmas party.

**Summary**

Overall, training as a patent attorney is hard and challenging work, as should be expected, but it is extremely interesting and rewarding. I would recommend the profession to you – and recommend Barker Brettell as a place to start. ●

# BeckGreener

Celebrating 150 years

**The firm**

Beck Greener is a highly regarded firm of European and UK patent and trade mark attorneys. We are located in modern offices in Central London at the heart of London's legal and IP centre. Providing our clients with the best professional service is fundamental to our approach and, therefore, we seek to recruit only the very best graduates who will work to our exacting standards.

**Range of client services**

From the individual inventor and SME 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 run litigation, with great success, 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. We hope and expect that trainees will stay on once qualified to work as part of the Beck Greener team. Several of our most recent partners in the firm started their patent careers at Beck Greener as trainee patent attorneys. ●

**No. of employees**  
43

**No. of partners**  
11

**No. of qualified patent attorneys**  
13

**No. of trainee patent attorneys**  
3

**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

**Graduate application deadline**  
Ongoing

**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](mailto:recruitment@beckgreener.com)

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[www.ipcareers.co.uk](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk)

## TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Charlotte Rush
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Birmingham
DEGREE	BSc Physics and Astrophysics
ROLE	Trainee Patent Attorney



I have been a trainee patent attorney in the physics, electronics and engineering team at Beck Greener for nearly two years now and I am really enjoying the challenges of working and training. My favourite things about being a trainee patent attorney are the exposure to a wide range of innovative technologies and working towards professional qualifications. Training to become a patent attorney is a great opportunity for a scientist to continue in their field, whilst also branching out to the new and completely different area of law.

**Getting the job**

My advice to someone considering this career is to send CVs to the firms that sound like they have the culture and values you are looking for, even if they are not currently advertising a vacancy. For me, Beck Greener seemed to encapsulate everything I was aiming for, and it has turned out to be a great fit. At the interview, in addition to the usual aspects, I had to discuss simple mechanical objects from a patent perspective. This is a key part of all trainee patent attorney interviews, so my advice would be to have a look at some real patents and practise describing technical features of everyday objects.

**Working and training**

On a typical day, I am usually constructing arguments to address objections raised by a patent examiner about the patentability of an invention. I also provide reports and opinions to clients on topics such as infringement. One of the most interesting aspects of the job is drafting the patent applications themselves. This requires meeting with an inventor to discuss their invention and learning about all of the technical and inventive aspects that will be important for the patent application.

My job involves a lot of independent working, but I frequently have input from one of the partners who supervises all of the work that I do. Going through my responses and reports with a partner is where the main part of the day to day learning process comes in.

Beck Greener is a great firm to work at because of its friendly and open atmosphere and the large amount of support that trainees receive from all of the partners and associates. We have monthly social activities involving the whole firm and the firm's size means that it's easy to get to know everyone. ●



## BeresfordCrump

Beresford Crump LLP is a medium-sized, independent firm of United Kingdom and European patent attorneys and intellectual property litigators and advocates based in London.

For our clients, we are an invaluable business resource of IP advice and support services. For our employees, we aim to provide equal opportunities and to support and nurture their careers in a respectful working environment.

The firm acts for some of the largest companies in the world, as well as universities, research organisations, technical consultancies, small to medium-sized companies and individuals.

Our client base includes organisations at the forefront of their fields of technology.

The technical subject matter of cases handled by Beresford Crump ranges from the simplest of mechanical ideas through to the most complex technology, including sophisticated electronics and software based systems, chemistry and biotechnology

Long-term prospects are excellent for those who can demonstrate the high-level skills needed in the modern, competitive world and who have the energy and enthusiasm to assist with the future development and expansion of this new firm. ●

### No. of employees

23

### No. of partners

2

### No. of qualified patent attorneys

7

### No. of trainee patent attorneys

2

### No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

1

### Offices recruited into

London

### Disciplines recruited from

Electronics, physics, chemistry and biochemistry

### Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

### No. of graduate jobs

1-2

### Benefits

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

### Graduate application deadline

Ongoing

### Application method

CV and covering letter by email or post

### Contact information

John Bartlett  
Beresford Crump LLP  
16 High Holborn  
London WC1V 6BX  
E: recruitment@beresfordcrump.co.uk

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Boulton Wade Tennant is internationally recognised as a leading UK 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:

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

Work

Our patent and design groups are highly experienced, working with a range of clients from large corporates, to smaller and medium-sized businesses, 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, 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 2-4 years. ●

No. of employees	196
No. of partners	32
No. of qualified patent attorneys	21
No. of trainee patent attorneys	12
No. of qualified trade mark attorneys	10
No. of trainee trade mark attorneys	7
Offices recruited into	Cambridge, London, Oxford and Reading
Disciplines recruited from	All practical sciences and technologies, law and modern languages
Opportunities available	✓ GRADUATE JOBS ✓ PLACEMENTS
No. of graduate jobs	4
Benefits	23 days' holiday, healthcare, pension scheme, study support, season ticket loan, bike scheme, social events and life assurance
Graduate application deadline	Ongoing
No. of undergraduate opportunities	Varies across practice groups
Undergraduate application deadline	See website
Application method	CV and covering letter by email or post
Contact information	Recruitment, Boulton Wade Tennant Verulam Gardens, 70 Gray's Inn Road London WC1X 8BT E: recruitment@boulton.com

For the latest jobs and events visit:  
[www.ipcareers.co.uk](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk)

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Katherine Brown
LOCATION	Reading
UNIVERSITY	Leeds
DEGREE	PhD Physics
ROLE	Patent Assistant



Towards the end of a spell as a postdoctoral researcher, I decided that a career in academia was not for me and began looking for other options. I chose to go into patent law because it provided me with an opportunity to use the technical skills I had gained during my time in science in a more structured environment. I emailed my CV to several firms and got invited to a few interviews. Of the jobs I was offered, I chose Boulton Wade Tennant because of the relaxed and friendly atmosphere, as well as for the excellent training and the opportunity to work outside of London.

When I started, my main role was assisting my supervising partner in getting patents through to grant at the European Patent Office and the UK Intellectual Property Office. As I have gained more experience, my role has expanded and I am now involved in drafting and arguing for the grant of patents at hearings at the patent offices. I have also taken on more responsibility for seeing complex cases through to grant.

The firm encourages you to gain independence as a patent assistant. Therefore, you have a lot of flexibility in how you manage your workload. A typical day for me will start with me checking

my emails and completing short administrative tasks, such as sending reminders. I will then spend the rest of the day concentrating on particular cases, before getting my work approved by my supervising partner, and sent out before I head home.

The biggest challenge in this job, particularly if you are not coming straight from an undergraduate degree, is getting used to sitting exams again. However, Boulton Wade Tennant provides both external training courses and excellent in-house tutorials which help with this. They also offer a lot of flexibility in how you chose to schedule your exams, allowing you to take a faster, but more intense, or a slower, but more relaxed route, depending upon your personal tastes. This definitely helps with what is a challenging time for all trainees.

For anyone looking to get into the profession, I would strongly encourage reading some of the intellectual property blogs. I also recommend getting involved in schemes such as the voluntary vacation scheme offered by Boulton Wade Tennant since these give you the opportunity to talk to trainees and see what the job involves for yourself. ●

# CARPMAELS & RANSFORD

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

As a trusted adviser 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 ten 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 University of 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**  
226

**No. of partners**  
21

**No. of qualified patent attorneys**  
59

**No. of trainee patent attorneys**  
30

**No. of qualified trade mark attorneys**  
5

**Offices recruited into**  
Central London

**Disciplines recruited from**  
Biochemistry, molecular biology, chemistry, computer science, electronics, engineering and physics

**Opportunities available**  
✓ GRADUATE JOBS  
✓ INTERNSHIPS  
✓ INSIGHTS

**No. of graduate jobs**  
Up to 10

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

**Graduate application deadline**  
See website

**No. of undergraduate opportunities**  
10

**Undergraduate application deadline**  
See website

**Application method**  
CV and covering letter online

**Contact information**  
Graduate Recruitment, Carpmaels & Ransford LLP, One Southampton Row, London WC1B 5HA  
T: 0207 242 8692  
E: careers@carpmaels.com  
W: www.carpmaels.com/careers/apply

For the latest jobs and events visit:  
[www.ipcareers.co.uk](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk)

## TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Natasha Christian
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Leeds
DEGREE	Physics with Astrophysics
ROLE	Technical Assistant



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. ●





Background

Chapman & Co is an entrepreneurial and growing company based in Southampton, Winchester and Cardiff. We have five qualified patent attorneys and three trainees, supported by qualified patent administrators and a formalities team.

Our practice and our clients

Chapman & Co 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 trade marks, 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 trade mark 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

14

No. of partners

1

No. of qualified patent attorneys

5

No. of trainee patent attorneys

3

No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

2

Offices recruited into

Southampton, Winchester and Cardiff

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, study support, bike scheme, performance bonus and social events

Graduate application deadline

Ongoing

Application method

CV and covering letter by email

Contact information

Chapman & Co  
18 Staple Gardens  
Winchester  
Hampshire SO23 8SR  
E: careers@chapmanip.com  
W: www.chapmanip.com

For the latest jobs and events visit:  
[www.ipcareers.co.uk](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk)

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Thomas Gibb
LOCATION	Winchester
UNIVERSITY	Imperial College London
DEGREE	MSci Natural Sciences and PhD (Chemistry)
ROLE	Patent Associate



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 careers guide!

I was lucky enough to join 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 & Co 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 Europe Patent Office, a fantastic insight into the way patent examiners work.

Chapman & Co 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 & Co 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 & Co 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. ●



### The firm

Cleveland Scott York is a firm of patent and trade mark attorneys, with offices in London, St Albans, Reading 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 a trainee patent attorney in an engineering discipline for our St Albans office in late 2017. ●

#### No. of employees

60

#### No. of partners

12

#### No. of qualified patent attorneys

12

#### No. of trainee patent attorneys

4

#### No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

10

#### Offices recruited into

London, St Albans, Reading and Brussels

#### Disciplines recruited from

Science and engineering

#### Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

#### No. of graduate jobs

1

#### Benefits

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

#### Graduate application deadline

Ongoing

#### Application method

CV and covering letter by email

#### Contact information

E: recruitment@csy-ip.com

For the latest jobs and events visit:  
[www.ipcareers.co.uk](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk)

## TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Kate Voller
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Durham & Manchester
DEGREE	MPhys Physics & MPhil Theoretical Cosmology
ROLE	Trainee (Part-Qualified) Patent Attorney



My job as a trainee patent attorney at Cleveland Scott York is demanding, interesting and fun. I get to experience the latest technology in a variety of physics-related fields and watch businesses grow as they take their new products to market.

The training is hands on and personal, as I work directly with several partners and senior associates of the firm. I get to experience anything and everything patent-related, including exposure to a variety of UK, European, and worldwide (including US and Japanese) patent work. This leads to great training with a very varied workload, each day being different.

I may be meeting with new clients to discuss potential inventions, writing letters arguing for a client's invention, managing clients' patent portfolios, or preparing for oral proceedings. The varied, hands on style of training also provides a great grounding for the exams which I will have to sit over the next few years.

I hadn't originally set my sights on become a patent attorney, but during the third year of my PhD I started to realise that a life in academia wasn't for me. Whilst I enjoyed the technical side of things, I started to feel like to I was becoming ever more detached from the

real world. The idea of becoming so specialised in one niche area of astrophysics felt a bit restrictive. I wanted a career that would allow me to use my physics background whilst doing real world, commercially relevant things.

After attending a careers fair, I met a number of other ex-PhD students who had been in positions similar to mine and gone on to pursue careers as patent attorneys, so I thought I would do some more research.

I did some work experience, firstly with a small firm and then with a much larger firm. This helped me decide what I was looking for in terms of training and office lifestyle, and ultimately lead me to Cleveland Scott York.

Cleveland Scott York encourages a good work/life balance. We are not encouraged to take work home and rarely work long hours (there are always exceptions!). Outside of work, everyone is sociable with regular meetups and events throughout the year.

My advice for anyone considering a career as a patent attorney is to research different firms and find out what suits you. Qualification requires hard work and commitment, so it is important that their style of training suits your style of learning. ●

# 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 and 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

209

### No. of partners

34

### No. of qualified patent attorneys

56

### No. of trainee patent attorneys

26

### No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

6

### No. of trainee trade mark attorneys

2

### Offices recruited into

London, Southampton and Munich

### Disciplines recruited from

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

### Opportunities available

- ✓ GRADUATE JOBS
- ✓ INTERNSHIPS

### No. of graduate jobs

6

### Benefits

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

### Graduate application deadline

Ongoing

### No. of undergraduate opportunities

8-12 vacation internships

### Undergraduate application deadline

Ongoing

### 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

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[www.ipcareers.co.uk](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk)

# TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	David Al-Khalili
LOCATION	Southampton
UNIVERSITY	Southampton
DEGREE	MEng Electronic Engineering
ROLE	Technical Assistant



Upon first hearing of a career as a patent attorney, I thought it sounded fascinating; being able to marry disciplines of science and technology with law, communication and business, as well as other areas. I was able to get an interview at a few firms, including DYC, through a specialist IP recruitment agency. Having been living in Southampton at university for four years, the location was obviously a big selling point for DYC, though it wasn't until my assessment morning where I met several partners and experienced their enthusiasm and warmth that I knew it was my favoured destination. I was fortunate enough that I was offered a job shortly afterwards, and haven't looked back since!

My favourite part of working at DYC is undoubtedly the people I work with, although the variance of the job, the relatively low stress levels, the variation of interesting technologies and the broad range of clients (I could go on...) all score pretty highly for me. A typical working day will often be filled with the prosecution of one or more patent applications in the United Kingdom or Europe, and often I'll have meetings or liaison with clients regarding general advice, updates on their cases, and requests for drafting new patent applications.

Aside from the day job, I've been getting involved with the CIPA Informals, sitting on the committee as a representative for the South Coast and then Treasurer and getting to know a number of my contemporaries around the country, which I love.

In terms of skills, particularly useful are those relating to written and verbal communication, which are vital for a good attorney, but general team working skills and analytical problem-solving abilities always prove important. In the next 2-3 years, I will (hopefully!) be a qualified attorney, and progressing upward in my career. I fully intend to remain at DYC, due to feeling very settled both in my work life and home life.

My biggest challenges have been exam related – when trainees say these are hard, they are right! However, support at DYC for training is brilliant, both in terms of in-house tutorials and advice, and generosity in paying and allowing time for trainees to attend external courses.

Overall, DYC is a great place to work – especially if you value the people you work with as much as the work itself. I would certainly advise any prospective attorneys to consider DYC! ●



# 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 focused 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. ●

<b>No. of employees</b>	160
<b>No. of partners</b>	30
<b>No. of qualified patent attorneys</b>	51
<b>No. of trainee patent attorneys</b>	36
<b>No. of qualified trade mark attorneys</b>	16
<b>No. of trainee trade mark attorneys</b>	6
<b>Offices recruited into</b>	London, Brighton, Oxford, Munich, Manchester, Cambridge and Sandwich
<b>International opportunities</b>	Yes
<b>Disciplines recruited from</b>	Patents: usually STEM subjects Trade Marks: any degree discipline
<b>Opportunities available</b>	✓ GRADUATE JOBS ✓ INTERNSHIPS
<b>No. of graduate jobs</b>	Approx. 8 each year
<b>Benefits</b>	24 days' holiday, healthcare, pension scheme, study support, flexitime, season ticket loan, bike scheme, gym membership, performance bonus, social events, life assurance and critical illness cover
<b>Graduate application deadline</b>	See website
<b>No. of undergraduate opportunities</b>	8-10 (Summer Placement Scheme)
<b>Undergraduate application deadline</b>	See website
<b>Application method</b>	CV and covering letter online
<b>Contact information</b>	Helen Joseph, HR Officer E: <a href="mailto:careers@dehns.com">careers@dehns.com</a> ; W: <a href="http://www.dehns.com">www.dehns.com</a>

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[www.ipcareers.co.uk](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk)

## TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Jonathan Bailey
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Bristol
DEGREE	PhD in Inorganic Chemistry
ROLE	Technical Assistant



Like many who end up in the profession, when writing up my thesis I realised that I enjoy talking and writing about chemistry more than actually doing the chemistry myself. I also wanted to broaden my horizons from the very focused nature of a PhD. Keen to live in a city and pursue a science-based career; training as a patent attorney was therefore, in my opinion, the most attractive path. This career choice was fortified for me after attending interviews and speaking to those already within the profession.

### Why choose Dehns?

When Dehns offered me a position, I accepted it straight away as I knew it was important to work within a large firm which would offer good training support. The firm is an established Top Tier firm with an excellent reputation, and from my interviews it became clear that they offer a very hands-on environment, in which I was going to be given the opportunity to work with a variety of clients and technologies.

### What skills are useful in this profession?

As a very large proportion of our work consists of drafting detailed letters to patent offices, to foreign agents worldwide, and to clients, I would say that a crucially important skill is the ability to write well and cohesively. It is also important to be meticulous: you must be ready

to delve into the depths of a document to find that one 'killer' sentence.

### What's it like working for Dehns?

By working for different people (a mixture of partners and associates), you get used to working in different ways and you are exposed to different technologies from day one. I believe that by working for a variety of people, I have been able to formulate my own working style; and with multiple deadlines, I must also ensure that I manage my time effectively. My workload is very varied: I am currently working on cases concerning polyolefins, radiopharmaceuticals, vitamins, diagnostic assay methods, and graphene to name a few. The training process at Dehns is very much 'learn by doing', and I have really enjoyed being exposed to different aspects of drafting, prosecution (i.e. aiming to get a patent granted), and opposition (when third parties attack a granted patent).

The atmosphere at Dehns is relaxed, and I have a very sensible work/life balance which enables me to fit in various hobbies around work. The firm organises two annual events at Christmas and in the summer. You also have the opportunity to test your skills at darts, snooker, softball, and football in various low-standard competitions both internally and against other patent firms. ●



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 California, USA and in Düsseldorf, Germany. It enjoys an excellent reputation for providing IP services primarily in niche specialisms and is trailblazing in the UK by incorporating patent attorneys and IP litigation solicitors in a combined partnership. EIP has a leading electronics and software practice and a significant presence in the life sciences, medical devices, pharmaceuticals and chemical sectors.

With offices in London, Bath, Cardiff, and Leeds, EIP has an impressive local client base in the UK which includes major software developers, banks, supermarkets, biotech companies, medical device manufacturers and electronics design consultancies. The firm also works for several large multinationals headquartered in the United States and Japan. The practice is organised 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 will typically recruit candidates having an excellent first degree and optionally a PhD. The best candidates enjoy the challenge of working at a high intellectual level and dealing with complex issues. Because of the client-facing nature of the work, good social and communication skills are a definite plus. The firm has a friendly, progressive and mutually supportive working environment along with a smart casual dress policy and stylish modern offices. ●

#### No. of employees

150

#### No. of partners

23

#### No. of qualified patent attorneys

27

#### No. of trainee patent attorneys

13

#### No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

3

#### No. of trainee trade mark attorneys

2

#### Offices recruited into

Bath, Cardiff, Leeds and London

#### International opportunities

Yes

#### Disciplines recruited from

Biosciences, chemistry, computing, electronics, engineering, maths and physics

#### Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

#### No. of graduate jobs

2-3

#### Benefits

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

#### Graduate application deadline

Ongoing

#### Application method

CV and covering letter by email or post

#### Contact information

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

For the latest jobs and events visit:  
[www.ipcareers.co.uk](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk)

## TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Carl Bryers
LOCATION	Leeds
UNIVERSITY	Lancaster
DEGREE	PhD in Space Physics
ROLE	Trainee Patent Attorney



### 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 phonecall 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 postdoc 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 world. 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 your exams; they recognise that everyone works differently and there is no pressure to sit exams straight away. ●



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

64

#### No. of partners

11

#### No. of qualified patent attorneys

16

#### 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 trade mark positions

#### Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

#### No. of graduate jobs

2

#### Benefits

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

#### Graduate application deadline

Ongoing

#### Application method

CV and covering letter online or by email

#### 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](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk)

## TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Neil Fenwick
LOCATION	Sevenoaks
UNIVERSITY	Bristol
DEGREE	MSci Physics and Philosophy
ROLE	Trainee Patent Attorney



At university, I studied a joint-honours course in Physics and Philosophy, since I was keen to include aspects of both science and arts in my degree. As I came to investigate possible careers, this same mix still appealed and, after researching the intellectual property profession, it became clear that the role of Patent Attorney could afford an excellent balance between both the application of scientific knowledge and training as well as the exercise of more linguistic skills of argument and analysis.

On interviewing at Elkington and Fife, I was struck by the firm's welcoming, relaxed atmosphere and felt straight away that it would be a place where I would be happy working and training. I was lucky enough to be offered a trainee position, and joined the electromechanical group in August 2014.

The training at Elkington and Fife is very much hands-on, and from my first day I was working on real cases for clients. The work that the group handles is extremely varied, spanning across a broad range of different technical areas – meaning that no two days here are ever quite the same(!).

A typical day will often involve working on multiple cases, each relating to a different technology, and so the ability to switch quickly between different tasks and priorities is also very important. It is also the case that almost everything in the job is managed by deadlines, many of which are immovable, and so maintaining efficient time management and self-organisation is also an essential skill.

As time has gone on, the range of work I am exposed to has increased and I have found myself charged with a greater variety of tasks and responsibilities. Autonomy in managing my own caseload and deadlines has also grown, affording a greater independence which has increasingly made the role a much more fulfilling and stimulating one. Indeed, a characteristic of Elkington and Fife is that trainees are quickly made to feel an essential and highly trusted part of the team, whose work can make a genuine contribution to the success and profit of the firm.

At the same time as working, there is also a process of qualification, and this does involve many hours invested in study at home. The process for me remains only part-way complete, with my UK Final Exams scheduled for this October. However, it is not a process without its rewards, both in the short-term, as you witness your knowledge and competence in your day to day work grow, and in the long-term, as each new exam passed takes you a noticeable step forwards in your career.

From my time so far in the role, I have found the job to be stimulating, challenging and always interesting. For anyone who is keen to utilise their scientific knowledge in a non-laboratory setting, and is excited at the prospect of retraining in a new profession at the same time, I would thoroughly recommend joining the patent profession, and doing so with Elkington and Fife. ●





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**  
105
- No. of partners**  
13
- No. of qualified patent attorneys**  
23
- No. of trainee patent attorneys**  
13
- No. of qualified trade mark attorneys**  
12
- No. of trainee trade mark attorneys**  
4
- Offices recruited into**  
London, Birmingham, Liverpool, Southampton and Munich
- International opportunities**  
Yes
- Disciplines recruited from**  
All science and engineering disciplines
- Opportunities available**  
✔ GRADUATE JOBS
- No. of graduate jobs**  
4
- Benefits**  
22 days' holiday increasing to 25, plus 6 days' flexi leave, healthcare, pension scheme, study support, season ticket loan, bike scheme, gym membership, performance bonus, social events and employee assistance programme
- Graduate application deadline**  
Ongoing
- 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  
T: 020 7283 8989  
E: [abeattie@forresters.co.uk](mailto:abeattie@forresters.co.uk)

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[www.ipcareers.co.uk](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk)

## TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Arthur Laycock
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Bristol
DEGREE	Physics
ROLE	Trainee Patent Attorney



**Why I chose to become a patent attorney**  
I have always been interested in the way things work and learning about new things, which is why I studied physics. When I found out that there is a career which involves understanding how an invention works, requires that understanding to describe the invention in detail and to go on to argue why a patent should be granted for that invention, I realised that I was onto something quite unique and interesting.

Whether or not you are looking at a completely new invention or an inventive improvement on something already known, the challenge provided by using your technical background to understand an invention, combined with learning the law and developing drafting and prosecution skills means that you are always engaged day to day.

**Why I chose private practice over an in-house role**  
When considering private practice or in-house,

the potential variety of work was the thing that jumped out at me. In private practice, there is such a wide range of work that can come across your desk, with work coming from individual inventors to large corporations.

**Why I am pleased I chose Forresters**  
I chose Forresters because of the range of interesting, experienced people to work with, the good location of the offices and the quality of the training on offer. I have found that there is also a nice social side to the office and a good work/life balance.

Since starting at Forresters, I have developed my skills through training on live client files, which has built my confidence. This has been supplemented by both internal and external training for the exams.

I have been exposed to a wide variety of work and have been involved in client contact from the start, which helps put my training into perspective. ●



### 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

109

#### No. of partners

11

#### No. of qualified patent attorneys

22

#### No. of trainee patent attorneys

20

#### 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, performance bonus, social events and life assurance

#### Graduate application deadline

See website

#### 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](http://www.gje.com/careers)

For the latest jobs and events visit:  
[www.ipcareers.co.uk](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk)

## TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Ben Wild
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Imperial College London
DEGREE	MSci Chemistry
ROLE	Technical Assistant



### What brought you to the patent profession?

I started my degree thinking I'd want to pursue a career in pharmaceutical research after graduation, resulting in me electing medicinal and biological chemistry ancillary courses alongside my usual chemistry courses. As I was exposed to new aspects of chemistry, my interests kept shifting and resulted in me undertaking my MSci research project in synthetic nanochemistry, which had nothing to do with pharmaceutical research, at a partner university in Singapore.

Whilst I enjoyed my experience in research, I realised that it wasn't for me as I am much more engaged by opportunities to experience a number of different technical areas; this is what led me to pursuing a career in patents.

The patent attorney profession allows me to work for a number of different clients, large and small, which are innovating in a number of different spaces; I can be working on new gold extraction techniques for a small university spin-off one day, and ground-breaking cancer treatments the next.

### How close are you to qualifying?

I am coming to the end of my third year at GJE having passed the Queen Mary PGCert in Intellectual Property Law in early 2016, which provides exemptions from the UK Foundation Examinations, and the EQE Pre-Examination in early 2017; I will be sitting my EQE and remaining UK Finals next year.

GJE are incredibly supportive in the preparation for all professional exams by offering internal tutorials, sending us on external training courses and providing study days outside of holiday allowance.

### What have you experienced so far at GJE?

In terms of professional experience, I am very fortunate that GJE makes a concerted effort to expose its trainees to all aspects of patent law at an early stage. In addition to the requisite experience in drafting and prosecuting patent applications, I have also had the opportunity to get involved with the more contentious side of the patent profession; I have already had the opportunity to attend oral proceedings at the EPO (Munich) multiple times and present arguments under the supervision of a partner.

Something else that GJE does very well is to encourage their trainees to get involved with direct client work from the outset; this means that I regularly attend client meetings and I am the first port of call with queries or instructions for some clients. I believe this sort of experience is invaluable in forming a rounded attorney, and isn't something that every firm offers early in a trainee's career.

### Why did you choose GJE?

In all honesty, legal rankings are what pointed me towards GJE when I applied as a graduate. However, it was the people I met during the interview process, the feel of the office and its location (right next to Shoreditch) that clinched the deal for me and led to me accepting the offer. ●



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  
148
- No. of partners  
28
- No. of qualified patent attorneys  
41
- No. of trainee patent attorneys  
15
- Offices recruited into  
Bristol, London, Munich and the Hague
- International opportunities  
Yes
- Disciplines recruited from  
Physics, chemistry, electronics, engineering and life sciences
- Opportunities available
  - ✓ GRADUATE JOBS
  - ✓ INTERNSHIPS
- No. of graduate jobs  
3-5
- Benefits  
25 days' holiday, pension scheme, study support, season ticket loan, bike scheme, performance bonus, social events and relocation allowance
- Graduate application deadline  
See website
- No. of undergraduate opportunities  
See website
- Undergraduate application deadline  
See website
- Application method  
Online
- Contact information  
W: [www.haseltinelake.com/careers/graduate-trainees-and-interns](http://www.haseltinelake.com/careers/graduate-trainees-and-interns)

For the latest jobs and events visit:  
[www.ipcareers.co.uk](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk)

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Nina Szamocki
LOCATION	Bristol
UNIVERSITY	Cambridge
DEGREE	Civil/Geotechnical Engineering
ROLE	Trainee Patent Attorney



I started working as a Trainee Patent Attorney at Haseltine Lake in 2015 after having previously worked in Engineering consultancies and a management consultancy. I decided to move into the field of intellectual property to obtain a better work/life balance whilst doing an intellectually challenging and varied job. Two years into this career I am very glad I made the switch.

During my first few months at Haseltine Lake I spent around half of my time with three other newly recruited trainees attending training sessions of the Haseltine Lake in-house training program 'HL Academy'. This is a structured program which is run by Haseltine Lake attorneys throughout your career as a trainee with the aim of helping you obtain UK and European chartership. As well as providing useful training, I have thoroughly enjoyed the training scheme as it is a regular opportunity to meet with my fellow trainees with whom I've built strong friendships.

The majority of my time is spent working for the attorneys within my seven person team, and primarily for my direct manager who supervises my work and development. This approach enables me to experience different ways of working, and being part of a team

makes the office environment a very sociable and enjoyable place to be.

On a day to day basis I spend my time understanding inventions, writing up patent applications, writing letters to convince Patent Examiners to grant patents, and talking to clients about their intellectual property. I have visited clients in the UK and the Netherlands with my manager, and I recently spent two months working in the US within the Intellectual Property department of one of our clients. As well as a great opportunity to live in another country, this enabled me to build great links within the company and to learn about the industry from the client's perspective.

As well as providing support to trainees, Haseltine Lake has a great work/life balance and working environment. We are regularly treated to cakes in our kitchen, monthly beer and wine on a Friday, pub trips, and have fun activities organised with our colleagues, resulting in a feeling of comradery within the firm.

Overall, training as a patent attorney is by no means easy, but it is a very rewarding career with Haseltine Lake and offers fantastic prospects, as well as great people to work with in a relaxed and supportive environment. ●





HGF Limited is a leading specialist IP firm with 51 partners and 242 employees. Currently one of Europe's largest firms of IP specialists and the second largest in the UK, we have clients across the UK, Europe, USA and Asia.

Technical expertise

We specialise in the broadly defined technical areas of electronics, engineering, computing, chemistry, pharmaceuticals, life sciences, nano-technology, trade marks and IP law.

Professional development

HGF's approach to development is highly supportive. Every trainee is allocated a supervising partner to guide them through the development of their professional skills and formal training activities. Patent attorney trainees are supported through the Foundation qualification process via a fully funded university course. Advanced professional qualification is then gained via external seminars and courses, combined with internal tutorials. Mentorship is provided by experienced partners and senior attorneys, to support the journey to full Chartered UK and European qualification.

Current success

Some of HGF's most recent awards include Dealmakers Country Awards – International Licensing Law Firm of the Year-UK, the Lawyer's Worldwide Awards – IP Firm of the Year and Financial Times – 1000 Europe's Fastest Growing Companies 2017. Two of HGF's attorneys have also recently received individual awards including Women in Law and Global Awards Corporate Livewire. Business success has enabled our growth; our offices throughout the UK continue to expand and we recently opened offices in Amsterdam and Basel.

What we offer and what we expect

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 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. ●

- No. of employees 242
- No. of partners 51
- No. of qualified patent attorneys 77
- No. of trainee patent attorneys 34
- No. of qualified trade mark attorneys 22
- 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 4-8 p.a.
- Benefits 25 days' holiday, healthcare, pension scheme, study support, season ticket loan, performance bonus, social events, life assurance, holiday purchase scheme and child care vouchers
- Graduate application deadline Ongoing
- Application method CV and covering letter by email
- Contact information E: [hr@hgf.com](mailto:hr@hgf.com)

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TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Farzana Miah
LOCATION	York
UNIVERSITY	Cambridge
DEGREE	Natural Sciences
ROLE	Trainee Patent Attorney



I have always been intrigued about how the world works and this underlying curiosity is what motivated me to study Natural Sciences at university. I became particularly interested in how scientific research evolved into innovations that impacted wider society during my PhD studies. To develop my understanding further, I entered a business competition which is where I first encountered a patent attorney and learned of the integral role that intellectual property plays in the commercialisation of scientific research. I realised that a number of the skills I had gained throughout my studies, such as peer-to-peer review, experimental design and interpretation, equipped me well to embark on a career as a patent attorney.

From the outset, my role as a trainee at HGF has been a very varied and exciting one, in large part due to the firm's diverse client base. The inventions that I encounter span many different technology areas from medical devices and antibody therapeutics, to genome editing technologies. Being involved in obtaining patent protection for inventions at the forefront of so many different technological fields is what I enjoy most about my role at HGF. The variety of work and clients has exposed me to a high level of technical

as well as legal diversity during my first few years of training which has proven beneficial in developing my skills for the job day to day, as well as preparation for the qualification exams. I routinely discuss my work and how to improve directly with my supervising partner. As my experience has grown over the years, I increasingly work with attorneys at different offices, which has enabled me to learn more by gaining an overview of alternative approaches taken by different attorneys. The collegial atmosphere at HGF fosters the sharing of knowledge and experiences at all levels and asking questions is openly encouraged. Consequently, my training at HGF has been comprehensive and excellent.

In addition to on-the-job training, HGF also runs a series of in-house tutorials to support trainees throughout the qualification process. Moreover, every trainee has an individual training budget to fund external training courses and other learning resources, which allows HGF trainees to tailor their exam preparations to suit their individual needs.

In short, HGF is a dynamic and entrepreneurial firm that provides a fantastic environment to learn, qualify and advance in this very interesting profession. ●



### The firm

Celebrating 125 years of excellence in IP law in 2017, 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 and Hamburg. 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 90 qualified attorneys with a further 37 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**  
90 (8 in London)

**No. of trainee patent attorneys**  
37 (7 in London)

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

**Offices recruited into**  
London, Munich, Düsseldorf, Hamburg, Madrid and Milan

**International opportunities**  
Yes

**Disciplines recruited from**  
All science and engineering degrees

**Opportunities available**  
✓ GRADUATE JOBS

**No. of graduate jobs**  
2 (in London)

**Benefits**  
20 days' holiday, pension scheme, study support, season ticket loan, bike scheme, performance bonus, social events and Give As You Earn charity donation

**Graduate application deadline**  
Ongoing

**Application method**  
CV and covering letter by email or post

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

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[www.ipcareers.co.uk](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk)

## TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	James Pranker Smith
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Cambridge
DEGREE	Natural Sciences (Physics)
ROLE	Trainee Patent Attorney



### Training and qualification

After graduating from Cambridge with a Master's in Physics in 2014, I joined Hoffmann Eitle as a technical assistant. Training is carried out in the main by study of files followed by a detailed discussion of them with qualified attorneys in the firm, presided over by my supervising partner.

As formal training for the UK and European patent attorney qualifying examinations, the firm sent me on the Queen Mary Certificate in Intellectual Property Law course (which substitutes for the UK Foundation Examinations set by CIPA). Earlier this year I passed the foundation European examination, and am currently preparing for the final British and European examinations. These Final Examinations are challenging, with preparation for them requiring many months of study.

### My firm

Hoffmann Eitle is a relatively large IP firm with offices in all major European IP centres. I am based in the London office which is a close knit community of about 30 people. Within this size of office, it was easy to quickly get to know and work with everyone, and I now have a lot of sources for training.

I had a secondment for six months in our Munich office, which put me in contact with

an expanded range of clients and allowed me to observe first hand the extensive inter partes work of its qualified attorneys at the EPO. As EPO practice is based upon a civil law system, as opposed to common law prevalent in the UK, there is an evident advantage in having spent some training time in continental Europe.

### What do I actually do?

I work on patents and patent applications in fields including software, electronics, telecommunications and optics, from initial drafting to prosecution and finally post-grant proceedings. I frequently encounter cases in technical fields that I knew little about beforehand, which suits my general interest in technology. The work is invariably intellectually challenging and associated with short deadlines. Drafting new applications can be intensive but I find it particularly satisfying because it involves working directly with inventors who are able to explain the technology and its significance in their employer's business.

Patent prosecution on the other hand is more of an intellectual puzzle. No two technologies are described in exactly the same terms, so there is something very satisfying about crystallising exactly what makes your (client's) invention different from previous technology. ●



J A Kemp is one of the largest UK and European patent and trade mark attorney firms, with offices in London, Oxford, Cambridge 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 works for a huge variety of clients, from startups, spinouts and SMEs through to some of the largest corporate clients and most prestigious academic institutions in the world.

**What we are looking for**

Bright graduates suited to an intellectually challenging and rewarding career option 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, chemistry or biosciences. We are open to applications from candidates holding or studying for a bachelor’s, master’s or PhD degree.

**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 record of first-time examination successes 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 supportive culture, with plenty of social events! ●

- No. of employees**  
189
- No. of partners**  
43
- No. of qualified patent attorneys**  
49
- No. of trainee patent attorneys**  
20
- No. of qualified trade mark attorneys**  
5
- 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, social events, group income protection scheme, group life assurance scheme, travel and accident insurance and childcare voucher scheme
- Graduate application deadline**  
Ongoing
- Application method**  
CV and covering letter by email
- Contact information**  
E: [careers@jakemp.com](mailto:careers@jakemp.com)

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[www.ipcareers.co.uk](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk)

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Chris O’Beirne
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Cambridge
DEGREE	MEng in Aeronautical Engineering
ROLE	Trainee Patent Attorney



Many patent attorneys enter the profession after spending a period doing research in the laboratory and deciding there is such a thing as too much science. I did the opposite! After graduating, I worked in finance for several years, but missed using the technical knowledge that I learnt during my degree. I decided that training to be a patent attorney would allow me to have the best of both worlds – using my scientific knowledge in a commercial setting. I applied to a few firms, and was lucky enough to be offered a place as a trainee in the Engineering and IT team at J A Kemp.

Since then, I have taken (and, fortunately, passed) the foundation level exams towards qualifying as a European and British patent attorney. I will be taking the Final Exams to complete my qualification next year.

At J A Kemp trainee patent attorneys are given a wide variety of work (on real cases) from day one. There are in-house tutorials throughout your training. The programme kicks off with a thorough grounding in the basics in your first couple of months at the firm, moving on to more advanced topics as your knowledge grows. In the run up to exams the focus is on exam preparation.

You will be given a mentor at the outset of your training. Your mentor will have overall responsibility for your training, but you will work with several of the firm’s partners on a mix of cases. This is a great opportunity to experience different styles and approaches to patent work as you develop in confidence and learn the job. It also means that your caseload is varied – I work for all types of clients, ranging from tiny start-ups to huge multinationals, active in the UK, Europe and all over the world, and handle patent applications for everything from jet engines, to bone implants, to coffee machines!

In a typical day, I will work on several different cases. I might be writing a new patent application for a client, preparing arguments to submit to the patent office, or, on a good day, writing to a client to tell them their patent has been granted! There are other types of work too, such as writing infringement opinions or carrying out due diligence work for companies that are looking at acquiring patents.

Although I came into this career by a roundabout route, I have no hesitation in recommending it to anyone who is looking for an intellectually challenging job in which they can use their scientific background to help businesses. Get your application in now! ●





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	14
No. of qualified patent attorneys	21
No. of trainee patent attorneys	17
No. of qualified trade mark attorneys	9
No. of trainee trade mark attorneys	1
Offices recruited into	London and Galway
International opportunities	Yes
Disciplines recruited from	Patents: science or engineering Trade Marks: law or business-oriented
Opportunities available	✓ GRADUATE JOBS
No. of graduate jobs	3-4
Benefits	25 days’ holiday, healthcare, pension scheme, study support, season ticket loan, bike scheme, performance bonus, social events, life assurance and buying and selling holidays
Graduate application deadline	Ongoing
Application method	CV and covering letter by email
Contact information	No.1 London Bridge London SE1 9BA E: graduate.recruitment@keltie.com

For the latest jobs and events visit:  
[www.ipcareers.co.uk](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk)

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Camille Terfve
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Cambridge
DEGREE	PhD Biological Sciences
ROLE	Patent Assistant



Why this job?

As I was finishing my PhD and thinking about what I liked in a job, I realised that was:

- Writing
- Being intellectually stimulated
- Being close to where science and technology gets out of the bubble and into the world
- Deadlines (the one day to a few months kind)
- Doing my job well, and that work really making a difference (to a client, a colleague, etc.)
- Finishing my day feeling like I’ve made progress on things that needed to get done!

It quickly became apparent that a career as a patent attorney would fit me like a glove, so I started looking for the firm that would. I had a feeling from the Keltie website that there was something different about the firm. Keltie cares about people, both clients and employees. In interview (a mix of tests and chats), I felt that they genuinely wanted to know about me as a person, what interests and motivates me. I enjoy coming to work every day, not only because of the work but also because of the people I work with.

This is also how we interact with clients at Keltie: we try to understand their business, their commercial goals, what their inventions mean

to them and to their positioning in the field, and how to do the best job we can in view of these. I have found that utterly satisfying.

What’s my day like?

My typical day starts with a to-do list. The list contains tasks that I want to do that day, and the deadlines of the day. From there, I am in charge of setting my priorities, making sure that all deadlines are met, so I just get going on the work that’s most urgent. Most pieces of work will take a few hours to a few days and will involve reading documents relevant to a case and preparing the appropriate letter/draft/opinion. Partners and colleagues are always around to answer any questions I might have, so I never get stuck for long. Meetings with clients are regular but do not constitute the largest part of the job, although they do quite often populate the to-do list for the next days/weeks/months, so they are a very significant and exciting part of the job.

Where do I see myself in the next few years?

Training as a patent attorney involves a fair bit of studying, which is done on top of work. The partners in the firm provide excellent training on-the-job and mentorship, and other trainees provide peer support! The firm allows us to set our own training goals, so there is no typical time to qualification. ●

# 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. ●

<b>No. of employees</b>	175
<b>No. of partners</b>	22
<b>No. of qualified patent attorneys</b>	40
<b>No. of trainee patent attorneys</b>	38
<b>No. of qualified trade mark attorneys</b>	6
<b>No. of trainee trade mark attorneys</b>	3
<b>Offices recruited into</b>	London
<b>International opportunities</b>	Yes
<b>Disciplines recruited from</b>	All degrees considered
<b>Opportunities available</b>	✓ GRADUATE JOBS
<b>No. of graduate jobs</b>	10
<b>Benefits</b>	21 days’ holiday plus 6 days’ flexi-leave, healthcare, pension scheme, study support, season ticket loan, bike scheme, gym membership, performance bonus, social events, life assurance, EAP, eye care vouchers and flexible benefits including: travel insurance, dental insurance, health cash plan, critical illness and childcare vouchers
<b>Graduate application deadline</b>	See website
<b>Application method</b>	CV and covering letter by email
<b>Contact information</b>	<b>E:</b> <a href="mailto: hiring@kilburnstrode.com">hiring@kilburnstrode.com</a> <b>W:</b> <a href="http://www.kilburnstrode.com">www.kilburnstrode.com</a>

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[www.ipcareers.co.uk](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk)

## TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Laurence Lai
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Imperial College London
DEGREE	MEng Aeronautical Engineering
ROLE	Attorney



### Why I chose to become a patent attorney

I studied engineering at university because I’ve always been curious about how things work. After I graduated, this naturally followed on to working in an engineering consultancy, although I did briefly consider becoming an intellectual property solicitor. After two years as an engineering consultant, I was still thinking ‘what if’ and found that becoming a patent attorney would be a route into intellectual property law with the benefit of on-the-job training rather than having to attend law school.

I began my training at another London firm of patent attorneys, moving to Kilburn & Strode after three years. The decision to move wasn’t easy, but what helped was that I had met other trainees from Kilburn & Strode through social events, inter-firm softball matches and organising the annual Intellectual Property Ball.

### Why I chose Kilburn & Strode

Getting a job as a trainee patent attorney is as much about your skills as about you fitting into the firm you’re joining – each firm has a different culture. Everyone I met from Kilburn & Strode, including at interview, was friendly and personable, and this gave me the confidence that it would be a great firm to move to.

There’s a large cohort of trainees at Kilburn & Strode, with a lot of support and camaraderie.

The partners are all very approachable, despite the firm having quite a traditional structure. I work for different partners, giving me exposure to a range of clients and styles of working.

Patent attorneys are always learning, not just through exposure to shifting technology trends, but also because of evolving patent law and different relationships with clients. Some of the work I find most interesting is when patent-savvy clients ask insightful questions and you need to work out what would be best for them, and translate legalese into commercially useful advice.

At Kilburn & Strode, trainees are trusted to take ownership of their work, and to manage their own workload. Trainees also get direct exposure to clients early on. There are opportunities to get involved in marketing to bring in new clients, as well as writing news articles for the firm’s website or various industry magazines.

### My advice for anyone thinking about joining the profession

It might take at least four years of training to become a UK and European patent attorney; it’s worth being aware that this can feel like quite a commitment and as such you should choose a firm where you know you will be supported and surrounded by individuals going through the same process. ●

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 and consulting firms, 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 give 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 based across our UK offices, who will be given all the support needed to achieve qualification as Chartered (UK) and European patent attorneys. We run our own comprehensive in-house ‘Training Academy’, combining lectures and tutorials with mentoring and supervision from Partners and other qualified attorneys. Our ‘Training Academy’ has a strong track record and our trainees regularly receive national prizes for their examination success. 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	335
No. of partners	53
No. of qualified patent attorneys	80
No. of trainee patent attorneys	52
No. of qualified trade mark attorneys	23
No. of trainee trade mark attorneys	4
Offices recruited into	London, Oxford, Cambridge, Birmingham, Manchester, Edinburgh Glasgow and Aberdeen
Disciplines recruited from	Science, 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 and social events
Graduate application deadline	See website
Application method	Online
Contact information	E: recruitment@marks-clerk.com

For the latest jobs and events visit:  
[www.ipcareers.co.uk](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk)

TRAINEE PROFILE

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



What first attracted you to Marks & Clerk?

I applied to Marks & 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 (e.g. 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. ●





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. ●

<b>No. of employees</b>	168
<b>No. of partners</b>	24
<b>No. of qualified patent attorneys</b>	52
<b>No. of trainee patent attorneys</b>	16
<b>No. of qualified trade mark attorneys</b>	5
<b>No. of trainee trade mark attorneys</b>	2
<b>Offices recruited into</b>	Cambridge, London and Manchester
<b>Disciplines recruited from</b>	Biochemistry, chemistry, physics and engineering & IT related disciplines
<b>Opportunities available</b>	✓ GRADUATE JOBS ✓ INTERNSHIPS
<b>No. of graduate jobs</b>	4-6
<b>Benefits</b>	22 days' holiday, pension scheme, study support, season ticket loan, bike scheme, gym membership, performance bonus, life assurance, income protection, enhanced maternity and paternity pay, childcare vouchers and social and sports events
<b>Graduate application deadline</b>	Ongoing
<b>No. of undergraduate opportunities</b>	Varies
<b>Undergraduate application deadline</b>	Ongoing
<b>Application method</b>	CV and covering letter by email
<b>Contact information</b>	E: grads@mathys-squire.com

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[www.ipcareers.co.uk](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk)

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Sam Giles
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Imperial College London
DEGREE	Physics
ROLE	Technical Assistant



**Applying**

I began to consider a career as a patent attorney during my Physics degree at Imperial College London. The summer before completing my degree I was lucky enough to land a role with a leading firm of IP solicitors. I enjoyed my time there, and it made me certain that a career in IP was right for me. However, I wanted a job with more exposure to technical content and so I started making applications for TA roles at patent attorney firms.

I had an interview with Mathys & Squire and got an offer the same day! I was fortunate enough to have offers from several firms, but Mathys appealed to me because of their excellent training record, and because of the breadth of work that I knew they would expose me to. Mathys also sends trainees on the Queen Mary course which was a great motivation for me to join.

**The job**

It's been two years since I joined Mathys and I've been really pleased with my decision. In my first year I attended the CIPA Informals lectures, and I have since taken, and passed, the QM certificate in IP. This was a great experience and introduced me to trainees at a lot of firms.

My day to day work is hugely varied. I have spent a lot of time working on oppositions (where one of the parties is attempting to revoke a recently granted European patent), as well as being involved in some UK litigation and settlement discussions. A lot of my work involves drafting patent applications from scratch; talking

to the inventor, distilling ideas down and writing an application for them. This can be hugely rewarding. It was very nice earlier this year when the first draft I wrote was granted in the UK.

Our work is international; I have worked on cases with parallel litigation taking place in multiple countries around the world. As such, our clients and the other professionals we work with could be based in the US, Europe or Asia. Learning the differences between the law in each jurisdiction is an interesting part of our work, and vital to producing the best results for our clients.

**Is being a patent attorney for you?**

This is a challenging career, it can be stressful, and it can lead to some late nights. I'm currently preparing for my UK Final Exams which is very involved, and is done on top of a full-time job. It takes time to get used to the step from study to work, but once here you will find it extremely rewarding. The job allows me to get involved in cutting edge technology on a daily basis without the need to spend time locked up in a laboratory, whilst also engaging with interesting legal challenges in this area.

The work is interesting, fast paced and very varied. Mathys has been a great place to begin my career as a patent attorney; everyone is very supportive and our team is sociable, creating a great atmosphere to work in. I would suggest this career to anyone who has a passion for science and technology, and is a good communicator (who hopefully enjoys crafting a good argument!). ●



### 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

25

#### No. of trainee patent attorneys

13

#### No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

7

#### 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, pension scheme, study support, season ticket loan, bike scheme, performance bonus, social events and life assurance

#### Graduate application deadline

See website

#### No. of undergraduate opportunities

1-2

#### Undergraduate application deadline

See website

#### 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

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[www.ipcareers.co.uk](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk)

## TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	John Parkin
LOCATION	Farnham
UNIVERSITY	Warwick & St. Andrews
DEGREE	MPhys & PhD Chemistry
ROLE	Technical Assistant



### Why I chose to become a patent attorney

I first gained experience of the profession when I met with a patent attorney to discuss patenting an aspect of my PhD research. It was clear that the role of a patent attorney is a varied one, with exposure to many different areas of technology. While in a postdoctoral research role I came to the conclusion that I would like to move away from academia; I felt it was time to do something different, but still at the forefront of technology. Furthermore, the prospect of spending a number of years in short-term postdoctoral contracts felt unappealing.

I was able to speak to a number of contacts in the profession and became convinced that it was a good fit for my interests and personality. I attended interviews at a few firms and was pleased to accept an offer of employment from Maucher Jenkins.

### The firm

I joined the firm in January 2017 and currently work in the Farnham office. Everyone at the firm was very welcoming and friendly. Intellectual property companies tend not to be large which means you quickly get to know who's who and their roles within the firm.

### What's my day like?

Daily life as a patent attorney often comprises: reading an application, then reading its associated examination report from the patent office and prior art documents cited within the report. One role of the Technical Assistant is to understand these documents, discuss them with a supervisor, draft suitable amendments to the application and write to the Examiner to convince them that there is patentable subject matter in the application. The technology within each application is different (hopefully!), as are the nature of the Examiner's reports.

### Training

Much of the training comes 'on-the-job' in discussions with colleagues and in preparing responses to Examiners. Additionally, within the firm we have regular training sessions on a range of IP topics. This autumn I will attend the Certificate in Intellectual Property Law course at QMUL. Successful completion of the Certificate will gain me exemption from the Foundation Exams necessary for qualification as a UK patent attorney. Subsequently, over the following four years or so, I will sit further UK qualifying exams alongside European patent attorney qualifying exams. ●



Firm history and structure

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

Range of client services

We advise clients about patents, trade marks, 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 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	43
No. of qualified patent attorneys	49
No. of trainee patent attorneys	20
No. of qualified trade mark attorneys	10
Offices recruited into	London, Bristol, Cambridge and Manchester
Disciplines recruited from	Any scientific discipline
Opportunities available	✓ GRADUATE JOBS
No. of graduate jobs	4-8
Benefits	23 days' holiday, pension scheme, study support, flexitime, season ticket loan, bike scheme and social events
Graduate application deadline	Ongoing
Application method	Covering letter, CV, application form and employer-specified written work; by email or post
Contact information	W: <a href="http://www.mewburn.com">www.mewburn.com</a>

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[www.ipcareers.co.uk](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk)

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Anna Mudge
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Durham
DEGREE	PhD in Plant Molecular Biology
ROLE	Trainee Patent Attorney



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! ●



Page White & Farrer is a well-established firm of UK and European patent and trade mark attorneys. Our expertise helps protect our clients' intellectual property and enhance its value. The firm, founded over 150 years ago, has a dynamic partnership and energetic environment.

### Work

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

### Working environment

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

### Training

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

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

### Graduate applications

We recruit graduates having a degree in the field of computer science, electronic engineering, physics, biochemistry, chemistry, and related disciplines. We welcome applications from those possessing or working towards a PhD. ●

#### 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, study support, season ticket loan, bike scheme and social events

#### Graduate application deadline

Ongoing

#### Application method

CV and covering letter by email

#### Contact information

Tim Searing

T: 0207 831 7929

F: 0207 831 8040

E: tim.searing@pagewhite.com

For the latest jobs and events visit:  
[www.ipcareers.co.uk](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk)

## TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Paul Critchley
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Surrey
DEGREE	PhD Physics
ROLE	Technical Assistant



After graduating with a PhD in Physics, like many others, I was uncertain of what my next step would be. I found physics extremely interesting, however I decided early on that academe wasn't for me. I wanted to be in a profession where I could utilise my technical knowledge and understanding, whilst furthering other skills such as analytical writing and verbal reasoning. The patent profession seemed like the most logical step. It is a career that is as challenging as it is rewarding, and which is always intellectually stimulating.

Being a patent attorney requires an individual to be good at more than just science; a solid understanding of law, alongside excellent communication skills and business acumen are also required. This diversity within the profession has kept me interested since joining, as well as the opportunity to pursue a career in science, or at least closely related to it, in the heart of central London. I have also found studying law a refreshing change from the mathematical drudgery of physics, a surprising outcome as I had always seen myself as a hard scientist.

### The firm

I have found Page White and Farrer to offer a friendly atmosphere, which is as encouraging as it is nurturing. The partners definitely seem to appreciate that there is such a thing as a

'work/life balance', and unlike many other professions, working late into the night is a rarity. It is laudable that members at every level of the firm are also able to set aside considerable amounts of time for one to one training. Much of my time is spent with my supervising partner, a director at the firm, a relationship which I have found to be informal, yet productive. I have also been given opportunities to make a direct impact on the firm's marketing and recruitment process, something which would be unlikely if working for a large faceless organisation.

### Training

Having joined Page White and Farrer in late 2014, I was sent on the Certificate in Intellectual Property Law course at Queen Mary University of London the following year, with three other trainees from the firm. Now I am looking to complete the next stage in my training by completing the Higher. Page White and Farrer has been very supportive, and I do not feel pressured into taking the Higher exams before I am ready, which I know other firms may desire. The firm also offers in-house tutorials to help its trainees work towards full qualification.

My experiences at Page White and Farrer have been extremely positive, and I advise anyone applying to the profession to put Page White and Farrer at the top of their list! ●





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 employees155
- No. of partners29
- No. of qualified patent attorneys41
- No. of trainee patent attorneys15
- No. of qualified trade mark attorneys4
- No. of trainee trade mark attorneys1
- Offices recruited intoNottingham
- Disciplines recruited fromBiotechnology, chemistry, electronics, engineering, law and physics
- Opportunities available✔ GRADUATE JOBS
- No. of graduate jobs4
- Benefits24 days' holiday, healthcare, pension scheme, study support, bike scheme, social events, life assurance and employee travel assistance
- Graduate application deadlineOngoing
- Application methodCV, covering letter and online application form
- Contact informationPotter Clarkson LLPThe Belgrave CentreTalbot StreetNottingham NG1 5GGW: www.potterclarkson.com/careers

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[www.ipcareers.co.uk](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk)

# TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Fiona Hey
LOCATION	Nottingham
UNIVERSITY	Nottingham
DEGREE	PhD in Biochemistry and Genetics
ROLE	Assistant



As a post-doc with eight years' experience, the thought of starting in a new profession from square one was daunting, but after doing more westerns than John Wayne (western blots to those not familiar with biological research), I decided to leave the lab bench. My degree was in Biochemistry, and I went on to achieve a PhD, both at the University of Nottingham. I then undertook five years' postdoctoral research on a Cancer Research UK-funded project at the University of Leicester. Whilst working on such a project can be satisfying, advancing through academia and achieving a permanent position is notoriously challenging.

I knew I wanted to stay in touch with biological research and enjoyed scientific writing, so a career in intellectual property seemed like it would tick all of the boxes. I was able to get some work experience with an in-house team for a large pharmaceutical company. This provided a valuable insight into the day to day life of a patent attorney, and I was confident I would enjoy working in the profession.

Since my first day at Potter Clarkson, I have been exposed to a wide variety of scientific topics, much more so than as an academic scientist. Another bonus is that every day I get to look at research that actually worked!

My first 12 months has been spent working on real cases under the supervision of a partner. In one week, topics can vary from probiotics to

small-molecule drugs to protein engineering. There is no time to master the scientific field of every case, but that is why analytical skills are key. If I have questions, or need guidance there is always someone to ask, whether it be my supervising partner, or a knowledgeable associate or fellow trainee.

A typical day entails... well there isn't really a typical day. The variety of technologies and types of work we are involved in, including prosecution in countries all over the world and enforcing/challenging IP rights, means no two days are ever the same. The great thing about a career as a patent attorney is that every day is like a school day, there is always something more to learn either scientifically or legally.

There are a number of exams that need to be passed in order to become qualified. Potter Clarkson is hugely supportive of trainees and I am currently attending a number of in-house tutorials run by a partner or senior associate – all of whom have been through the process! I will also attend a number of residential courses which will help me to prepare for my exams in October.

Potter Clarkson is also a very sociable firm, and there are lots of opportunities to get involved in social events, whether it be the office away-day or regular post-work drinks. The large number of trainees under one roof is definitely a positive from both a support and a social perspective. ●



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	130
No. of partners	21
No. of qualified patent attorneys	34
No. of trainee patent attorneys	22
No. of qualified trade mark attorneys	9
No. of trainee trade mark attorneys	4
Offices recruited into	London and Cambridge
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, study support, season ticket loan and social events
Graduate application deadline	Ongoing
Application method	Online application form
Contact information	Reddie & Grose LLP The White Chapel Building 10 Whitechapel High Street London E1 8QS

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[www.ipcareers.co.uk](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk)

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Harriet Boswell
LOCATION	Cambridge
UNIVERSITY	Imperial & Cambridge
DEGREE	BEng, MPhil & PhD Engineering
ROLE	Trainee Patent Attorney



What's your typical day like?

The day to day tasks of a trainee patent attorney are corresponding with clients, Patent Offices and overseas patent attorneys as well as drafting and analysing patent specifications.

Much of the work I carry out involves corresponding with clients. How we communicate with a client depends on who the client is. Clients vary from overseas attorneys, multinational companies to lone inventors. My job involves providing each client with appropriate information and advice at every stage of the patent process.

Responding to examination reports is one of the most important aspects of the job. An examiner in a patent office examines the patentability of an invention and usually provides a list of reasons why they cannot grant a patent based on the application in its current state. We can argue the examiner's objections if we consider that the examiner is wrong or we can suggest the client amends the application to overcome the examiner's objections.

How much support do you get?

When I first joined Reddie & Grose all the new trainees took part in a two week training programme to introduce us to IP law and important aspects of the job. Trainees in my intake partake in regular training sessions, usually in the London office, so we can develop our skills at a similar rate. As a trainee in the Cambridge office, these training

sessions are even more useful for me to integrate with people in the London office.

The learning curve is steep; there is a whole new area of law to understand and learn, and there are other areas that require a lot of practice, like drafting patent claims. In the office, the partners will often give me work they think will be a good learning opportunity for me. I usually draft a letter and the partner gives me corrections to make before being sent.

There is constant support from partners, qualified attorneys and trainees, which ensures I produce good quality work, but also helps greatly with learning.

What other skills do you learn?

Being a trainee forces you to improve your time management and organisational skills owing to the large number of varied and sometimes urgent tasks. Having come straight from finishing a PhD where there were few time pressures, I have had to learn to work with multiple deadlines.

I have been learning how to correspond with the UK and European Patent Offices with different clients. Communication skills are crucial for the job. While every trainee must have strong technical skills in a certain area of science or engineering, the role involves the constant absorption of knowledge from the cutting edge of research and development in order to keep up to date with current developments and understand new inventions. ●



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 OHIM.

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, bike scheme and social events

#### Graduate application deadline

See website

#### Application method

CV and covering letter online

#### Contact information

9 St Catherine's Road  
Littlehampton  
West Sussex  
BN17 5HS

**W:** [www.schlich.co.uk](http://www.schlich.co.uk)

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Secerna LLP is a progressive and expanding firm of Chartered and European patent attorneys based in York and Newcastle. Although based in the UK, we assist 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.

The attorneys are grouped by technical background and experience. 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-therapeutic, nucleic acid-based diagnostics and regenerative medicine.

We regularly provide strategic advice to corporate clients relating to the strength of opposition and national invalidity proceedings and the associated likely impact on a client’s business. We work closely with a number of corporate in-house patent teams to provide an involved, tailored service with the client’s business at its heart. In addition, the attorneys are regularly called upon to consider IP-related contractual issues, including advising on complex licensing matters.

Not all firms of patent and trade mark attorneys are the same: one size doesn’t fit all. Secerna is unique and 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.

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. ●

- No. of employees  
14
- No. of partners  
2
- No. of qualified patent attorneys  
5
- No. of trainee patent attorneys  
4
- Offices recruited into  
York and Newcastle upon Tyne
- Disciplines recruited from  
Electronic or electrical engineering
- Opportunities available  
✓ GRADUATE JOBS
- No. of graduate jobs  
1-2
- Benefits  
25 days’ holiday, healthcare, pension scheme, study support, performance bonus and social events
- Graduate application deadline  
Ongoing
- Application method  
CV and covering letter by email or post
- Contact information  
W: [www.secerna.co.uk](http://www.secerna.co.uk)

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## TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Alexander Simpson
LOCATION	York
UNIVERSITY	Sheffield
DEGREE	BEng Aerospace Engineering
ROLE	Trainee Patent Attorney



### Why did you decide to pursue a career as a patent attorney?

As a final year student at university, I was unsure about what to do after I graduated. I had always enjoyed learning about science and technology, but didn’t want to specialise in a particular field by pursuing a PhD or taking on a job as a graduate engineer. After doing some research, it seemed like a career as a patent attorney would give me the opportunity to work with a satisfying mixture of technology, law and business.

### What’s it like working at Secerna?

I’ve greatly enjoyed working as a trainee at Secerna. From the start, I’ve been given significant responsibility over my workload and output, but it has always been backed up by lots of support and training. Working in a smaller firm has several benefits and means that I get to experience a broader range of work than I otherwise might. For example, in my first few months I gained significant experience in drafting and prosecution, as well as assisting senior colleagues with more contentious matters. The firm has an

interesting and diverse range of clients. As well as working for several multinational corporations, we work with many SMEs, individual inventors and universities, meaning there are great opportunities to get to know clients and their businesses better.

### What skills are required?

In order to be successful as a patent attorney you need to be self-motivated and creative. You should be interested in learning about new areas of technology, as well as the legal and commercial aspects of intellectual property. Good communication skills are vital, as on a daily basis you will be required to discuss complex legal and technical ideas with patent offices, clients and colleagues. The training requires a significant amount of study, some of which will be in your own time. However, I have found this to be very manageable, as the things I study are continuously reinforced in my day to day work. I would recommend a career as a patent attorney to anyone who is technically minded and has a desire to learn new things every day. ●



# 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

21

## No. of partners

4

## No. of qualified patent attorneys

9

## No. of trainee patent attorneys

5

## 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 and social events

## Graduate application deadline

Ongoing

## Application method

CV and covering letter by email

## Contact information

Slingsby Partners LLP

1 Kingsway

London WC2B 6AN

E: [info@slingsbypartners.com](mailto:info@slingsbypartners.com)W: [www.slingsbypartners.com](http://www.slingsbypartners.com)

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Swindell & Pearson provides a high-quality, client-focused service to companies, academic institutions, government agencies and individuals. Formed over 135 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  
50
- No. of partners  
7
- No. of qualified patent attorneys  
10
- No. of trainee patent attorneys  
7
- No. of qualified trade mark attorneys  
5
- No. of trainee trade mark attorneys  
2
- Offices recruited into  
Derby
- Disciplines recruited from  
Physics, engineering, natural sciences, computer sciences and 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 and childcare vouchers
- Graduate application deadline  
Ongoing
- Application method  
CV and covering letter by email
- Contact information  
E: recruit@patents.co.uk

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# TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Matthew Blindt
LOCATION	Derby
UNIVERSITY	Nottingham
DEGREE	MSci Mathematical Physics
ROLE	Patent Advisor



**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 learnt 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 first year at Swindell & Pearson. Even at this early stage I am supported to develop my own clients, and I will shortly begin 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. I will be able to attend exam revision courses. I will also have an even greater variety of work, more independence and my own portfolio of clients. ●



Venner Shipley LLP is a leading firm of European patent and trade mark attorneys 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**  
101
- No. of partners**  
22
- No. of qualified patent attorneys**  
31
- No. of trainee patent attorneys**  
19
- No. of qualified trade mark attorneys**  
5
- Offices recruited into**  
London, Cambridge, Guildford, Manchester and Munich
- Disciplines recruited from**  
Chemical & life sciences, electronics & engineering and law
- Opportunities available**
  - ✓ GRADUATE JOBS
  - ✓ PLACEMENTS
- No. of graduate jobs**  
1-2
- Benefits**  
20/25 days' holiday, healthcare, pension scheme, study support, season ticket loan, social events, life assurance, childcare vouchers and eye test vouchers
- Graduate application deadline**  
Ongoing
- No. of undergraduate opportunities**  
Up to 4
- Undergraduate application deadline**  
Ongoing
- Application method**  
CV and covering letter online or by email
- Contact information**  
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# TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Jonathan Pennell
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Birmingham
DEGREE	Theoretical Physics
ROLE	Trainee Patent Attorney



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. ●



### 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 and London.

### 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

52

#### No. of partners

9

#### No. of qualified patent attorneys

12

#### No. of trainee patent attorneys

4

#### No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

13

#### No. of trainee trade mark attorneys

4

#### Offices recruited into

Birmingham and Manchester

#### Disciplines recruited from

Chemistry, life sciences, electrical, electronic and mechanical engineering, physics and law

#### Opportunities available

✓ GRADUATE JOBS

#### No. of graduate jobs

2

#### Benefits

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

#### Graduate application deadline

Ongoing

#### Application method

CV and covering letter by email

#### Contact information

E: graduates@wilsongunn.com

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## TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Adam Coulson
LOCATION	Manchester
UNIVERSITY	Manchester
DEGREE	MChem Chemistry
ROLE	Trainee Patent Attorney



A career as a patent attorney is not what most chemistry students dream of whilst they are trawling through spectroscopic data to include in their dissertation. Like many patent attorneys, my first encounter with the patent profession was purely out of chance. I attended a careers talk at my university and in between the presentations given by teachers, accountants and post-doctoral researchers was a presentation by a patent attorney who spoke about the challenging and rigorous work that is involved in his job and this immediately appealed to me.

Wilson Gunn was the only patent law firm that I applied to. After researching several firms, Wilson Gunn stood out for me as one that not only values your intellectual ability to carry out a demanding role but also puts great emphasis on interpersonal skills and your ability to build relationships within the firm and with clients.

I joined the Manchester office of Wilson Gunn in 2014 as a trainee patent attorney in the Chemistry and Life Sciences Team working towards qualification as a UK and European patent attorney. This requires sitting several sets of exams, focusing predominantly on patents but including all aspects of intellectual property law. The exams are tough and should not be taken lightly as they require hours of study outside of your normal office hours. Wilson Gunn help a lot in this respect, providing internal seminars and external training courses aimed at giving you the best possible chance of passing the exams. The attorneys at Wilson Gunn are approachable and always willing to answer any questions.

Many attorneys I work with, including the partners, started their patent law careers at Wilson Gunn. I believe this to be a great testament to the firm and the manner in which it treats its employees.

My role involves assisting clients in obtaining vital intellectual property rights for their inventions. This includes drafting and filing patent applications, prosecuting applications through to grant, defending patents owned by our clients and opposing third party patents. The role of a patent attorney is a unique interdisciplinary mixture of a scientist and lawyer, requiring the ability to understand complex technical features of inventions and applying these to legal principles.

Patent attorneys are constantly at the forefront of new technologies and innovation, helping inventors who are passionate about their work. The nature of the work involves a commercial angle and it is important to understand your client and the direction they wish to take their business so you can advise them on the best possible strategy. This is an aspect of the job I particularly enjoy.

I am constantly tested and pushed out of my comfort zone. Whilst this may be daunting at first, it has become my favourite aspect of the job. I hope to progress my career with Wilson Gunn, initially by passing my UK and European patent exams and then by developing my expertise and experience.

Patent law is an ideal career for any scientist wanting to make use of their scientific background outside the laboratory environment. It is a very competitive profession and one I would always recommend. ●





### Firm history and structure

Founded in 1884, the firm has grown steadily in recent years. 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.

### Professional 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 appropriate external courses. There are further opportunities for training after qualification, for example, to achieve the LLM at Nottingham Law School to become a patent attorney litigator. In-house German and Japanese 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

173

#### No. of partners

28

#### No. of qualified patent attorneys

49

#### No. of trainee patent attorneys

20

#### No. of qualified trade mark attorneys

5

#### No. of trainee trade mark attorneys

1

#### 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, pension scheme, study support, season ticket loan, bike scheme, performance bonus, social events, flexible working week, childcare vouchers, healthcare cashback plan and more

#### Graduate application deadline

Ongoing

#### Application method

Application form, CV and covering letter by email

#### Contact information

E: [recruitment@withersrogers.com](mailto:recruitment@withersrogers.com)

W: [www.workwithinnovation.com](http://www.workwithinnovation.com)

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[www.ipcareers.co.uk](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk)

## TRAINEE PROFILE

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



### 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. ●

# JOB FINDER









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Company	No. of employees	No. of partners	No. of qualified patent attorneys	No. of trainee patent attorneys	Offices recruited into	International opportunities	TYPES OF OPPORTUNITIES					GRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES								UNDERGRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES		How to apply	Further info (page)	
							Graduate jobs	Internships	Placements	Insights		No. of jobs	No. of days holiday	Benefits						Application deadline	No. of opportunities			Application deadline
														Pension scheme	Healthcare scheme	Study support	Performance bonus	Season ticket loan	Social events					
	74	9	10	7	London	✗	●	–	●	–		3	26	●	●	●	●	●	●	Ongoing	Varies	See website	CV & covering letter by email	67
	67	13	23	6	London, Bath and Cardiff	✗	●	–	–	–		1-3	22	●	●	●	–	●	●	Ongoing	–	–	Application form by email	68
	22	2	8	1	Nottingham and Leicester	✗	●	–	–	–		2	25	●	●	●	●	–	●	See website	–	–	CV & covering letter by email	70
	12	2	4	2	Edinburgh	✗	●	–	–	–		1-2	25	●	–	●	–	–	–	Ongoing	–	–	CV & covering letter by email	71
	110	17	28	8	Nationwide	✓	●	–	●	●		3	25	●	–	●	●	–	●	Ongoing	Open	Ongoing	CV & covering letter online, by email or post	72
	118	25	27	9	Birmingham and Southampton	✗	●	–	–	–		1	22	●	●	●	●	●	●	Autumn	–	–	Online or CV & covering letter by email	74
	43	11	13	3	London	✗	●	–	–	–		1-2	25	●	–	●	●	●	●	Ongoing	–	–	CV & covering letter by email or post	76
	23	2	7	2	London	✗	●	–	–	–		1-2	25	●	–	●	●	–	●	Ongoing	–	–	CV & covering letter by email or post	78

Company	No. of employees	No. of partners	No. of qualified patent attorneys	No. of trainee patent attorneys	Offices recruited into	International opportunities	TYPES OF OPPORTUNITIES					GRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES								UNDERGRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES		How to apply	Further info (page)	
							Graduate jobs	Internships	Placements	Insights		No. of jobs	No. of days holiday	Benefits						Application deadline	No. of opportunities			Application deadline
														Pension scheme	Healthcare scheme	Study support	Performance bonus	Season ticket loan	Social events					
 <b>boulton wade tennant</b>	196	32	21	12	Cambridge, London, Oxford and Reading	✗	●	–	●	–		4	23	●	●	●	–	●	●	Ongoing	Varies	See website	CV & covering letter by email or post	80
 <b>CARPMAELS &amp; RANSFORD</b>	226	21	59	30	London	✗	●	●	–	●		Up to 10	23	●	●	●	–	●	●	See website	10	See website	CV & covering letter online	82
 <b>chapman+co</b>	14	1	5	3	Nationwide	✗	●	–	–	–		1-2	25	●	–	●	●	–	●	Ongoing	–	–	CV & covering letter by email	84
 <b>cleveland scott york</b>	60	12	12	4	London, St Albans, Reading and Brussels	✗	●	–	–	–		1	25	●	–	●	●	●	●	Ongoing	–	–	CV & covering letter by email	86
 <b>D YOUNG &amp; CO INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY</b>	209	34	56	26	London, Southampton and Munich	✗	●	●	–	–		6	25	●	–	●	●	●	●	Ongoing	8-12	Ongoing	CV & covering letter online or by email	88
 <b>Dehns</b> Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys	160	30	51	36	Nationwide	✓	●	●	–	–		c. 8	24	●	●	●	●	●	●	See website	8-10	See website	CV & covering letter online	90
 <b>eIP</b>	150	23	27	13	Bath, Cardiff, Leeds and London	✓	●	–	–	–		2-3	20	●	●	●	●	●	●	Ongoing	–	–	CV & covering letter by email or post	92
 <b>E+F</b> ELKINGTON + FIFE	64	11	16	15	London and Sevenoaks	✗	●	–	–	–		2	25	●	●	●	●	●	●	Ongoing	–	–	CV & covering letter online or by email	94



Company	No. of employees	No. of partners	No. of qualified patent attorneys	No. of trainee patent attorneys	Offices recruited into	International opportunities	TYPES OF OPPORTUNITIES					GRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES								UNDERGRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES		How to apply	Further info (page)	
							Graduate jobs	Internships	Placements	Insights		No. of jobs	No. of days holiday	Benefits						Application deadline	No. of opportunities			Application deadline
														Pension scheme	Healthcare scheme	Study support	Performance bonus	Season ticket loan	Social events					
	105	13	23	13	Nationwide and Europe	✓	●	–	–	–		4	22	●	●	●	●	●	●	Ongoing	–	–	CV & covering letter by email or post	96
	109	11	22	20	London	✗	●	–	–	–		2-5	25	●	●	●	●	●	●	See website	–	–	CV & covering letter online	98
	148	28	41	15	Bristol, London, Munich and the Hague	✓	●	●	–	–		3-5	25	●	–	●	●	●	●	See website	See website	See website	Online	100
	242	51	77	34	Nationwide and Europe	✓	●	–	–	–		4-8	25	●	●	●	●	●	●	Ongoing	–	–	CV & covering letter by email	102
	400	39	90	37	London and Europe	✓	●	–	–	–		2	20	●	–	●	●	●	●	Ongoing	–	–	CV & covering letter by email or post	104
	189	43	49	20	London, Oxford and Cambridge	✗	●	–	–	–		6	20	●	–	●	●	–	●	Ongoing	–	–	CV & covering letter by email	106
	101	14	21	17	London and Galway	✓	●	–	–	–		3-4	25	●	●	●	●	●	●	Ongoing	–	–	CV & covering letter by email	108
	175	22	40	38	London	✓	●	–	–	–		10	21	●	●	●	●	●	●	See website	–	–	CV & covering letter by email	110

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				
							Graduate jobs	Internships	Placements	Insights		No. of jobs	No. of days holiday	Benefits						Application deadline	No. of opportunities			Application deadline
Marks&Clerk LLP	335	53	80	52	Nationwide	✗	●	–	–	–		Up to 15	26	●	–	●	–	●	●	See website	–	–	Online	112
MATHYS & SQUIRE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY	168	24	52	16	Cambridge, London and Manchester	✗	●	●	–	–		4-6	22	●	–	●	●	●	●	Ongoing	Varies	Ongoing	CV & covering letter by email	114
MAUCHER JENKINS	130	15	25	13	London and Farnham	✓	●	–	●	–		2-3	25	●	●	●	●	●	●	See website	1-2	See website	CV & covering letter by email	116
MEWBURN ELLIS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY	180	43	49	20	Nationwide	✗	●	–	–	–		4-8	23	●	–	●	–	●	●	Ongoing	–	–	CV, covering letter & application form by email or post	118
P&F W	75	12	21	11	London	✗	●	–	–	–		4	25	●	–	●	–	●	●	Ongoing	–	–	CV & covering letter by email	120
POTTER CLARKSON	155	29	41	15	Nottingham	✗	●	–	–	–		4	24	●	●	●	–	–	●	Ongoing	–	–	CV, covering letter & online application form	122
REDDIE & GROSE	130	21	34	22	London and Cambridge	✗	●	–	–	–		2-7	25	●	●	●	–	●	●	Ongoing	–	–	Online application form	124

Company	No. of employees	No. of partners	No. of qualified patent attorneys	No. of trainee patent attorneys	Offices recruited into	International opportunities	TYPES OF OPPORTUNITIES					GRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES								UNDERGRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES		How to apply	Further info (page)	
							Graduate jobs	Internships	Placements	Insights		No. of jobs	No. of days holiday	Benefits						Application deadline	No. of opportunities			Application deadline
														Pension Scheme	Healthcare Scheme	Study support	Performance bonus	Season ticket loan	Social events					
 UK & European Patent Attorneys Registered Trade Mark Attorneys	17	–	6	3	Littlehampton	✗	●	–	–	–		Varies	25	●	–	●	–	–	●	See website	–	–	CV & covering letter online	126
	14	2	5	4	York and Newcastle upon Tyne	✗	●	–	–	–		1-2	25	●	●	●	●	–	●	Ongoing	–	–	CV & covering letter by email or post	128
	21	4	9	5	London	✗	●	–	–	–		1-2	25	●	–	●	–	●	●	Ongoing	–	–	CV & covering letter by email	130
	50	7	10	7	Derby	✗	●	–	–	–		1-2	20	●	–	●	–	–	●	Ongoing	–	–	CV & covering letter by email	132
	101	22	31	19	Nationwide and Europe	✗	●	–	●	–		1-2	20/25	●	●	●	–	●	●	Ongoing	Up to 4	Ongoing	CV & covering letter online or by email	134
	52	9	12	4	Birmingham and Manchester	✗	●	–	–	–		2	25	●	●	●	●	–	●	Ongoing	–	–	CV & covering letter by email	136
	173	28	49	20	Nationwide and Europe	✓	●	–	–	–		1-5	23	●	●	●	●	●	●	Ongoing	–	–	CV, covering letter & application form by email	138

## NOTES



## NOTES

## NOTES

## This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 20 horizontal blue or grey lines spaced evenly apart, typical of notebook paper. The lines extend across the entire width of the page, leaving small margins at the top and bottom. There are no vertical lines, text, or other markings on the page.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.

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