

EARLY CAREERS GUIDE TO

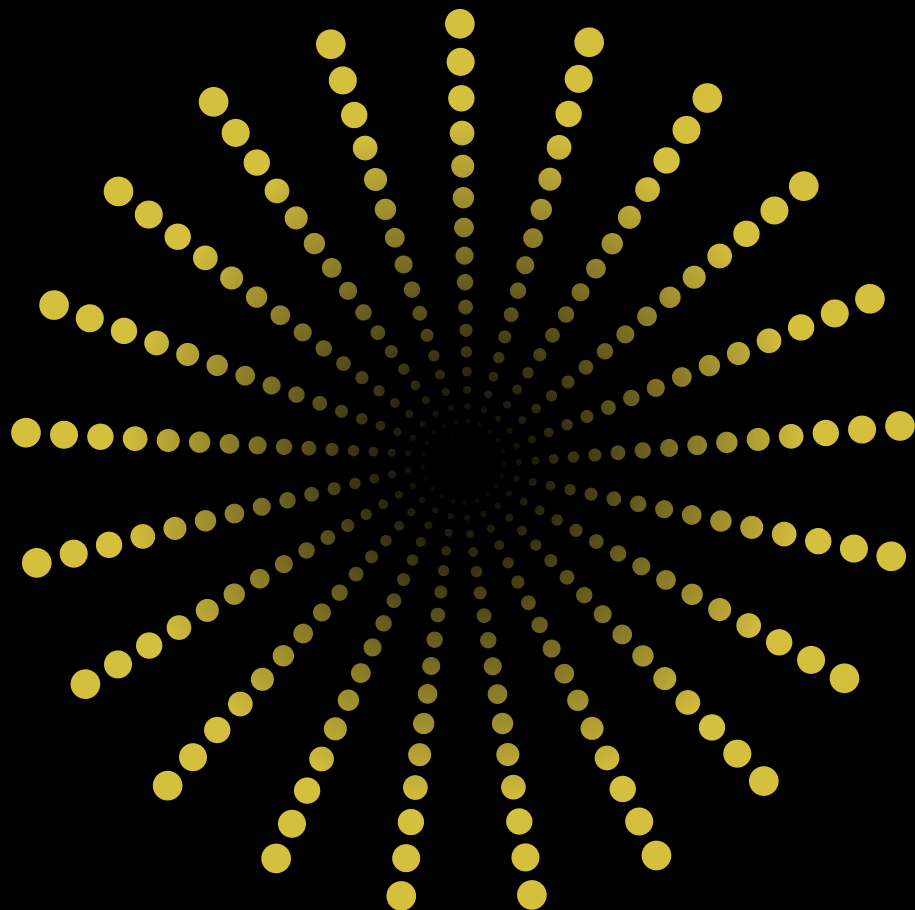
Chartered Patent Attorneys

2026/27

37th Edition

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

This guide takes you through the basics of becoming a patent attorney, from entry requirements and essential skills to the different areas you can specialise in, as well as the salaries and benefits expected at different career levels.

The **Employee Profiles** section of our guide provides first-hand reports from patent professionals who are at different stages of their careers, whether it be an intern, trainee or qualified patent professional.

You can also use the **Employer Directory** section and **Employer Matrix** at the back of the guide to help you find your future employer before applying for jobs on www.ipcareers.co.uk.

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Careers
Advice

WHAT IS A PATENT?

By Mewburn Ellis

A patent is an exclusive right granted by the state allowing its owner to control the 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. The invention must be technical and practical, rather than purely intellectual; methods of playing card games or doing business, however novel and inventive, are not protectable by way of patents.

"A patent is an exclusive right granted by the state allowing its owner to control the commercial exploitation of an invention."

In the UK, someone who invents any of these can ask the UK Intellectual Property Office (IPO) to grant them a patent. However, in return for their exclusive right to use the invention, the state requires that the inventor submits an application describing what the invention is and how to put it into practice. The IPO will then examine the application to assess if a patent should be granted.

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

Following the industrial revolution, which, of course, produced thousands of new inventions, the system became formalised. Government Patent Offices were set up and the requirements for securing a patent were clarified.

First, one had to make a written submission including a description of the invention and how to put it into practice, as well as some

definitions, these being to define the scope of the patent, i.e. to clarify what others should not do. This would then be examined by officials and, if they agreed that you had an invention and that it was appropriately described and defined, they would give you a patent.

The grant of a patent entitles the 'patentee', for a limited period (originally 14 years, but nowadays 20 years, provided you pay the renewal fees to keep the patent in force), to stop other people using the invention, albeit only in the country or countries where the patent has been obtained.

"The grant of a patent entitles the 'patentee', for a limited period, to stop other people using the invention, albeit only in the country or countries where the patent has been obtained."

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

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

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

be able to reflect, in language which is clear, unambiguous, and desirably concise, what has been invented, and to be able to draw up a definition which includes within its scope things or processes which make use of the invention or 'underlying inventive idea', but which excludes things that people have done before. This is not so easy to do, but it is a skill which can be acquired by learning and practice. ●

Mewburn Ellis is one of Europe's leading Intellectual Property firms. Ranked top tier, they are a firm synonymous with quality and technical excellence. Spread across five offices in Europe, and with over 250 people, their IP experts provide strategic advice about patent, trade mark and registered designs, as well as any IP-related disputes and legal and commercial requirements.

Covering the entire life sciences, chemistry, materials, engineering & electronics fields, their international client base includes large and small companies spanning all industries from iconic international brands to dynamic start-ups.

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WHAT IS A PATENT ATTORNEY?

By Mewburn Ellis

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.

You do not need a law degree - but a degree in a science, engineering, technology or mathematics based subject (STEM) is essential. 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 4-6 years and you will be required to pass various professional exams to qualify as a Chartered Patent Attorney and a European Patent Attorney.

"Working as a patent attorney requires a scientific background to understand new technologies and the ability to explain them to others."

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.

"A patent attorney assists their client, or their employer, in obtaining a patent."

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.

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. We now also have the Unified Patent Court (UPC) making it possible to obtain a single 'unitary' patent covering the whole of the EU. 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.

"Outside of Europe, UK patent attorneys secure IP rights by instructing foreign attorneys."

A rewarding career

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. For a more information, read the **'Why become a patent attorney?'** article. ●

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WHY BECOME A PATENT ATTORNEY?

By Wynne-Jones IP

If you are building a career in STEM, you want impact, progression, and security. A career as a patent attorney delivers all three. At Wynne-Jones IP, we work at the intersection of science, law, and commercial strategy. We see first-hand how this profession shapes industries and protects the ideas that drive them forward. Here is why it is a career worth serious consideration.

Expanding opportunity in STEM

The UK's STEM sector is growing, and fast. An estimated 2,975,762 people work in science, research, engineering, and technology roles. According to Career Smart, STEM jobs are forecast to grow by 2.90% between 2022 and 2026. That is around twice the rate of many other industries.

Innovation is accelerating. New technologies are emerging. Medical science continues to evolve. Businesses need specialists who can protect competitive advantage.

"Patent Attorneys combine technical knowledge with legal and commercial strategy. That combination commands value."

At the same time, there is a shortfall of STEM graduates. That gap creates opportunity. For those with technical expertise and commercial awareness, demand is strong - and rising.

Patent attorneys sit at the centre of this growth. They protect the ideas that power it.

Strong long-term earning potential

Career decisions are commercial decisions. Earning potential matters. Data from the Confederation of British Industry shows that STEM professionals are predicted to earn on average £250,000 more over their working life than non-graduates.

Patent attorneys combine technical knowledge with legal and commercial strategy. That combination commands value. As you qualify

and gain experience, your earning potential increases in line with your expertise and the complexity of the work you handle. It is a profession that rewards capability, precision, and commercial judgement.

Diverse, high-impact work

STEM is not confined to a laboratory. Neither is patent law. As a patent attorney, your work can span sectors such as artificial intelligence, space, aerospace, medical devices, software, advanced materials, consumer products, sport, and entertainment. One week you may be protecting a life-saving medical innovation. The next, you may be advising on cutting-edge engineering or clean technology.

Your role is strategic. You help businesses secure competitive advantage, attract investment, and enter new markets with confidence.

The work is varied. The learning is continuous. The impact is real.

Career longevity and structured development

A STEM degree represents significant investment. Your career should justify it. The patent profession is built on long-term development. Training is structured. Qualifications are rigorous. Expertise deepens over time.

Firms committed to excellence invest heavily in their people. In 2016, Wynne-Jones IP launched its Training Academy to develop technically strong, commercially astute patent attorneys. The programme covers intellectual property law, finance, business skills, and client relationship management.

The objective is clear: create well-rounded professionals who understand both innovation and the commercial realities behind it.

This foundation supports sustained progression, from trainee to qualified attorney, and beyond.

A career that shapes the future

Patent attorneys operate behind the scenes. The work is often unseen. The impact is not.

You support medical breakthroughs. You protect technologies that reduce emissions. You enable businesses to scale globally. You help innovators move from concept to commercial success - securely and strategically. It is a role that combines analytical rigour with tangible outcomes. You are not only building a career. You are enabling progress.

"One week you may be protecting a life-saving medical innovation. The next, you may be advising on cutting-edge engineering or clean technology."

Start your intellectual property career

If you want to work at the forefront of STEM and commercial innovation, intellectual property offers a clear pathway.

Wynne-Jones IP provides an in-house Training Academy designed to support graduates in becoming industry-leading Patent Attorneys. The programme equips you with the legal, technical, and commercial expertise required to advise clients with authority and discretion.

Now that you know why individuals become patent attorneys, find out more about the entry requirements needed to join this profession by reading the **'Entry requirements to become a patent attorney'** article. ●

Wynne-Jones IP is a UK and European intellectual property firm with offices in London, Cardiff, Bristol, Gloucester, Cheltenham, Malvern and Telford. For more than 60 years, we've helped businesses protect and strengthen their most valuable assets - innovations, brands, and designs.

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ENTRY REQUIREMENTS TO BECOME A PATENT ATTORNEY

By Georgia Rundle, Trainee Patent Attorney, Marks & Clerk

Those wanting to become a patent attorney should have a desire to be at the forefront of scientific developments. Trainees need a robust understanding of their field and, in addition, the skills to apply this knowledge to new scenarios and new technologies. Patent law sits at the interface of science, law and commercial business and, as such, patent professionals will also need to have an interest in business, as they will be contributing to growing the commercial interests of their business and their clients. Trainees can enjoy a wide variety of work and the opportunity to employ many disciplines of their scientific field.

What are the academic requirements?

Most importantly, you have to have a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) degree, as the job is centred around understanding and quickly grasping new scientific concepts, in order to be able to discuss the technology being developed by clients.

"Most importantly, you have to have a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) degree, as the job is centred around understanding and quickly grasping new scientific concepts."

It is also a requirement of IPREG, (the regulatory board for the intellectual property sector), for taking the professional exams.

Most IP firms require candidates to have achieved a 2:1 or above and will accept candidates who have either a Bachelor's degree, Masters, PhD or PostDoc. Individuals who have spent time in industry after academia are also welcomed to apply for roles.

What skills do I need?

Beyond your scientific knowledge, there are a variety of skills you need to bring to the role. Typically, the day-job of a trainee primarily consists of: assisting with casework, particularly drafting and progressing patent applications. Therefore, a strong reading ability and comprehensive skills, in addition to an extensive vocabulary, are essential. Further, a trainee is expected to draft and revise documents ahead of review; therefore, you should be comfortable working independently, as well as communicating your thoughts on a scientific issue.

For more information on the types of skills needed to be successful as a patent attorney, read the **'Essential skills to become a successful patent attorney'** article.

What other considerations are there?

To become a registered patent attorney, you need to be prepared to sit more exams. Taking a professional qualification is very different from studying at university, as you have to study alongside a full-time job.

The professional exams are sat over a number of years, and take approximately 4-6 years to complete. Balancing the two components can be challenging. It requires a strong work ethic, excellent time-management skills, resilience and determination.

"The professional exams are sat over a number of years, and take approximately 4-6 years to complete."

Trainees undergo a substantial learning curve for a number of years, and continuously receive feedback in order to develop their skills. I would strongly advise that you prioritise exploring firms that actively invest in trainee development and promote a

friendly, supportive training network. There is no doubt that the workload can be intense and the exams challenging, however, you will receive support and guidance from people who have gone through the same process and so understand the challenges you might be facing. I would recommend checking the Chartered Patent Attorney Careers Guide, or asking potential employers what study support is available (e.g. study leave, revision sessions or socials).

"I would recommend checking the Chartered Patent Attorney Careers Guide, or asking potential employers what study support is available."

You can find out more about the qualifications and training to become a patent attorney by reading the **'Professional qualifications & training'** article.

Where can I find more information?

A wide range of resources are available to assist individuals considering entering the profession. I would advise using the Careers Advice section of **IP Careers' website** and this guide to start – there are very helpful summary profiles of the firms and businesses with trainee positions in the **'Employee Profiles'** section. ●



Georgia Rundle
Trainee Patent Attorney
Marks & Clerk

Georgia is a Trainee Patent Attorney working within Marks & Clerk's Life Sciences team based in Cambridge. Georgia graduated in 2021 from Durham University, where she completed an Integrated Masters in Biosciences. Georgia joined the firm in 2022 and works with a diverse client base in the agritech and pharmaceutical industries, providing tailored intellectual property strategies to support commercial growth.

Georgia regularly assists in drafting and prosecuting international and national patent applications, with particular expertise in European patents and other commercially significant jurisdictions, including the US, China, Japan, Australia, and Canada.

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ESSENTIAL SKILLS TO BECOME A PATENT ATTORNEY

By Dan Sizer, Academy Oversight Partner, Marks & Clerk

A career as a patent attorney offers a unique blend of science, technology, law, and business - ideal for people who want to continue to make use of their STEM degrees in a business environment. Whether your background is in computing, engineering, chemistry, life sciences or another scientific field, the profession allows you to apply your academic knowledge in a dynamic, commercially focused environment. To succeed, aspiring patent attorneys need a mix of strong technical knowledge, polished personal skills, and over time, develop a solid understanding of how intellectual property can support business strategy. The overview below highlights the key skill areas worth developing as you explore this career path.

"To succeed, aspiring patent attorneys need a mix of strong technical knowledge and polished personal skills."

Technical skills

First and foremost, patent attorneys need a solid scientific foundation to understand and evaluate new inventions. A degree in science, engineering, or technology remains essential, as this is a prerequisite for the exams that you will sit to become qualified. A passion for the area of science and/or technology that you have studied should be evident when being interviewed, as well as being curious, up to date and inquisitive about emerging technology or scientific developments. The ability to write in a clear and concise manner, as well as articulate complex, scientific principles well, will also often be tested at the interview stage.

You'll rely heavily on modern business technology. Skilfully being able to host and manage meetings online is a must. Attorneys may need to present, host client meetings

and expertly manage effective discussions with multiple attendees; and, of course, be comfortable presenting arguments and information in front of the European Patent Office as part of online hearings. Being able to navigate these systems efficiently helps you collaborate in an increasingly digital environment, and work effectively in teams that are based across multiple cities or even countries. Increasingly, employers may also expect trainees to be comfortable using AI tools while still applying human judgement and expertise.

Personal skills

Success as a patent attorney depends just as much on your personal qualities. Attention to detail is crucial—small inconsistencies in a patent specification can change legal meaning or weaken protection. Clear communication skills are equally important, as you'll spend much of your time explaining technical ideas, writing persuasive arguments, and presenting information to examiners, clients, and colleagues. Likewise, you will be working with employees at all levels of a business - from secretaries, research and development teams, senior attorneys and owners - so confidence in communicating effectively and appropriately to your audience, is key. Professionalism underpins all aspects of the role. This includes reliability, confidentiality, strong organisational habits, and the ability to manage multiple deadlines simultaneously. You'll also need critical thinking, problem solving ability, and the patience to work through complex, sometimes ambiguous, material. A growth mindset is invaluable too: qualification involves years of training and exams, so resilience and a willingness to learn will help you thrive.

Commercial awareness

Patent attorneys don't just protect inventions - they advise clients on commercial strategy. This means understanding why intellectual property matters in a business context. You'll

need to recognise how patents support competitive advantage, investment decisions, and long-term product development. Being commercially aware also means thinking strategically about the scope of protection, identifying risks, and aligning patent advice with a client's industry, market pressures, and business goals.

Following technology trends, reading industry news, and paying attention to how companies use innovation to differentiate themselves can all help you build this skill. Ultimately, commercial awareness allows you to offer advice that is not only legally sound but also commercially valuable.

"The role of a patent attorney offers a distinctive career that bridges scientific expertise with legal reasoning and commercial insight."

In summary, the role of a patent attorney offers a distinctive career that bridges scientific expertise with legal reasoning and commercial insight. The role demands far more than technical knowledge alone; it requires the ability to communicate effectively, exercise sound judgement, and navigate the interplay between innovation and business strategy. For STEM graduates seeking a career that is intellectually challenging and at the forefront of innovation, the patent profession may be an excellent path to explore. ●



Dan Sizer
Academy Oversight Partner
Marks & Clerk

Dan Sizer is a Chartered (UK) and European Patent Attorney and has a master's degree in Mechanical Engineering (MEng) from the University of Cambridge. He works across a range of technologies spanning the energy, automotive, consumer device and medical technology industries.

Dan joined Marks & Clerk LLP as a trainee attorney and later became a Partner of the firm in 2021. Dan has overseen the Marks & Clerk internal training Academy since 2022, ensuring its trainees receive high quality training and support throughout their training years and beyond.

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PRIVATE PRACTICE VS. IN-HOUSE

By Adam Tindall, Partner, Appleyard Lees

The majority of patent attorneys work in patent firms (private practice) while others work directly for industrial firms (corporate or 'in-house'). I trained and worked in-house for a huge engineering firm, then moved into private practice, giving me a relatively balanced view of both camps. However, more often than not, a career in IP starts in private practice and a career in-house most frequently begins post-qualification, or at the very least when you have had a few years' experience.

"Some IP lawyers work in specialist law firms (private practice) while others work directly for industrial firms (corporate or 'in-house')."

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

Private practice

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

"An attorney in private practice is expected to advise and educate clients."

Private practice attorneys see a wider range of technology and brands than those in industry, and control of work flow is less easy to achieve as any client may contact you at any time

with a need for immediate action. They may also become embroiled in infringement and enforcement issues more often than their industry colleagues.

"Private practice attorneys see a wider range of technology and brands than those in industry, and control of work flow is less easy to achieve."

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

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

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

In-house

The industry is more IP savvy now than ever before. Depending on where you end up,

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

"Depending on where you end up, corporate IP departments generally require their attorneys to consider the issues of their company as a whole, and to make judgments based on their understanding of what might be best for the company."

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

Being an in-house patent attorney can be a very social occupation, and an ability to communicate, establish and maintain relationships is key. However, if you prefer, it is possible to find roles where you seldom have to leave your desk and can churn through work while others do the 'people' stuff. Some departments do all of the work themselves, some farm it out to private practice and some do both. For those that outsource, this puts a burden on the shoulders of the attorney to consider the business relevance of what they are doing to justify fees to their private practice colleagues.

"Being an in-house patent attorney can be a very social occupation, and an ability to communicate, establish and maintain relationships is key."

Starting at the bottom, career progression through an industrial department will be from trainee to qualified attorney and then to Head of Department, should such an elevated opportunity arise. Industrial attorneys may spend much of their career performing the same tasks of invention harvesting, drafting, and prosecuting month after month with variation coming from different inventions from (mostly) the same core people in the business.

Infringement and enforcement issues will also be part of the mix, further developing the attorney's advocacy skills. Hence, a trainee and a highly experienced attorney may have a very similar diet of work. As an attorney becomes more senior, they may take on more managerial and training roles and ultimately significant strategic responsibility, or specialise in specific areas, subject to business need.

Job security

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

Whether you go for industry or private practice, remember that IP professionals are in short supply.

"As there are not many IP professionals in the UK, it is relatively rare that you will find yourself without a job."

Things to consider

Be sure to ask about internal and external training opportunities, as training is going to be a big part of your life for at least the next three years. Read the '**Professional qualifications & training**' article for more information on becoming a qualified patent attorney. Ask to go for coffee with current trainees and quiz them. Most likely they will not tell you any negatives about the firm you are interested in, but they almost certainly will be honest about what life is like with their employer.

"Be sure to ask about internal and external training opportunities, as training is going to be a big part of your life for at least the next three years."

Salary and benefits vary widely. It is worth knowing about reward packages, but your real focus should be finding a first job in a supportive firm and getting qualified. After that, many opportunities will be open to you. Read the '**Salaries & benefits**' article to find out what patent attorneys can earn throughout their careers.

Summary

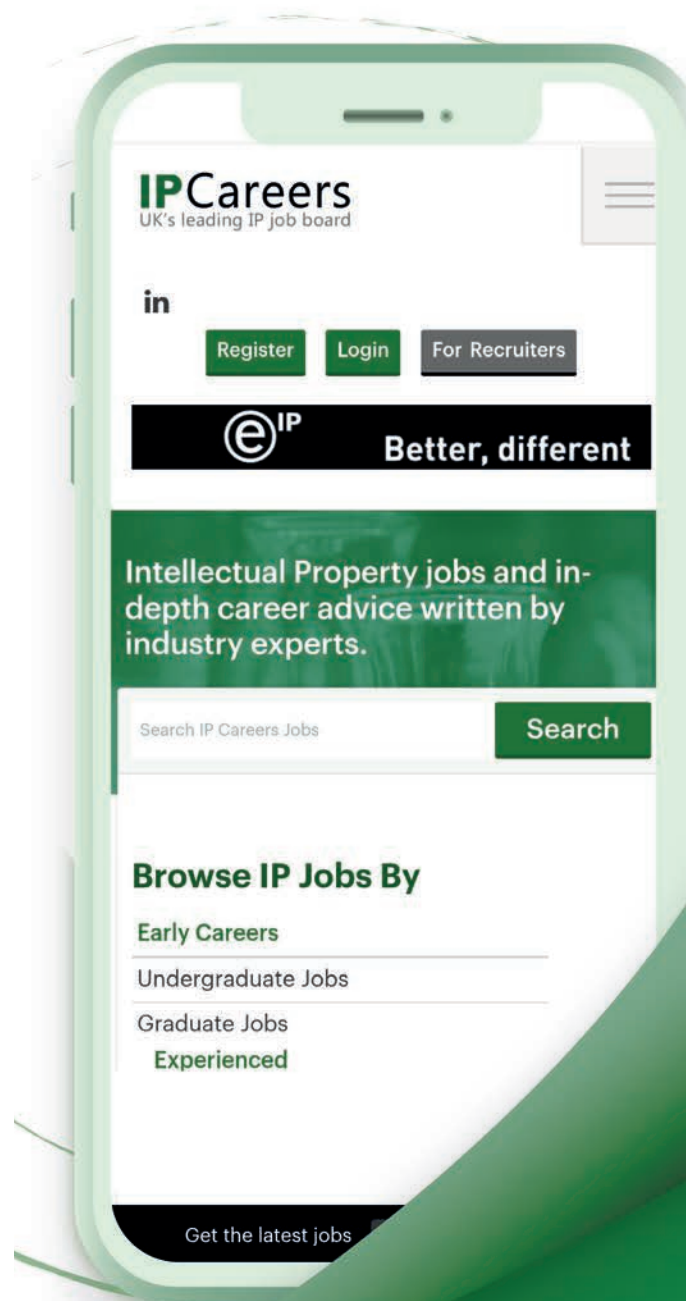
One sector is not any more valid than the other, and whether you enjoy the job is probably more to do with the people you find there, rather than the type of practice. In either sector, this niche area of law has much to offer. If you are curious about the world and enjoy learning new things, I recommend it. ●



Adam Tindall
Partner
Appleyard Lees

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.

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Find your next
job in IP

THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE (IPO)

By Kathryn Orme, Patent Examination Group Head, IPO

About the Intellectual Property Office (IPO)

What if your skills and expertise could help shape the future of innovation - not just for one organisation, but for our entire economy? That's the opportunity waiting at the Intellectual Property Office.

The IPO is the official UK government body responsible for IP rights. Part of the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT), its mission is to help people and businesses grow the UK economy through an IP system that rewards creativity and investment. In practice, that means sitting at the front line of UK innovation: assessing thousands of patent, trade mark and design registration applications every year, and advising Ministers on policies that will determine how the UK competes in a fast-changing world.

Why it matters

Intellectual property (IP) touches almost everything that makes life better: the medicines that protect our health, the technologies that keep us connected, the creative works that inspire us. By giving legal owners of new ideas or brand names the right to stop others exploiting their work, IP rights create a system through which innovators can genuinely benefit from their creativity. Those rights can be sold, licensed or hired to others, or used to safeguard investment in new ventures. The UK's IP system doesn't just protect innovation; it creates conditions in which it thrives.

The scale of what IP contributes is remarkable. Industries with an above-average use of IP rights account for around a third of UK non-financial economic output, roughly one in five UK jobs, and close to £16bn of exported goods. The UK's IP-rich technology sector has been valued at over \$1tn - third in the world, and first in Europe.

The work of the IPO helps create and sustain that position. It does so within both a national and international framework - representing the UK at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the European Patent Organisation (EPO). This helps ensure British businesses can protect their ideas in markets around the world and have the confidence to compete globally.

A history worth knowing

The origins of the UK's IP system stretch back to the fifteenth century, when King Henry IV granted a patent for a method of making stained glass - one of the earliest recorded attempts to protect and reward innovation. The Patent Office was formally established in 1852, with the Designs Registry joining in 1875 and trade mark registration following a year later.

In 2007, the organisation became the Intellectual Property Office, a name that recognised its broader remit across patents, trade marks, copyright, and designs. It has continued to grow and develop as a dynamic body that includes rights-granting services, policy teams, and support functions - responsive to the evolving needs of UK innovators and creators.

Today, the IPO's enforcement division spearheads the UK's national strategy to combat IP crime, helping protect businesses and consumers from the harms of digital piracy and counterfeit goods. Its business outreach teams work with businesses of all sizes across the UK - from start-ups filing their first trade mark application to established companies developing long-term IP strategies - helping them understand, protect and make the most of their IP. A network of international IP attachés, based in key markets around the world, supports UK businesses seeking to trade in some of the most competitive and fast-moving economies on earth, where securing IP protection early can make the critical difference. The IPO's dedicated Economics, Research and Evidence team draws on expertise from across the UK and internationally to publish research supporting effective IP policy through clear and credible evidence.

An organisation on the move

This is not a static organisation. The IPO is in the middle of one of the most significant transformations in its history. Last year alone, it granted or registered more than 8,000 patents, around 160,000 trade marks and 75,000 designs, all while maintaining customer satisfaction scores of close to 90% - a benchmark that sets it apart. But it's not resting on that record. The One IPO transformation programme is rebuilding services from the ground up.

The recently launched One IPO Search tool has delivered a 'generational leap' in how citizens and professionals find and analyse patent data. A new fully digital patents service - allowing customers to apply for, view and manage all their UK patents in one place - is already processing its first applications. An AI-powered patent allocation tool has cut the time taken to route a new application to the right team from 14 days to a matter of seconds. The ambition is a single, integrated service for patents, trade marks and registered designs: faster, smarter and more accessible than anything that has come before.

"The breadth of the IPO's work means it draws on a wide range of knowledge and expertise — from law to data analysis..."

Beyond digital service transformation, people at the IPO are grappling with some of the most consequential policy questions of our time. How should IP law and practice adapt as AI systems become increasingly powerful and capable - able to generate outputs at a pace and scale no human could match? How do IP protections apply to breakthroughs in gene therapy and biotechnology, where the boundaries of existing frameworks are constantly being tested around the globe? How should trade marks and design rights evolve to keep pace with the growth of digital and virtual environments? These are live discussions the IPO is actively shaping: engaging across government, with industry and internationally, monitoring case law, and developing evidence-based policy that keeps the UK ahead of the curve.

Working at the IPO

The IPO employs around 1,700 people - most based in Newport, South Wales, with around 60 in London's Canary Wharf - across rights granting, policy, analytics, digital and technology, HR, finance and communications. For those with a STEM background, it's an environment unlike almost anywhere else in the public sector - but STEM is only part of the story.

Patent examiners assess whether an invention is truly new and inventive, applying real scientific and technical knowledge to applications spanning biotechnology, electronics, chemistry, software, aerospace, materials science and many more. Trade mark examiners bring a different but equally rigorous set of skills to bear - for example, when evaluating whether a brand name, logo or sign can be registered, and whether it conflicts with existing rights in a constantly evolving and crowded marketplace.

The entry requirement for patent examiners is a first or second class honours degree in science, engineering or mathematics (STEM), or an equivalent qualification such as corporate membership of a major professional institution or relevant industrial experience. Trade mark examiners may bring legal, linguistic or business expertise, or equally may come from a STEM background also. Both roles offer genuine career progression - through hearings work, leadership opportunities, and for some, into the policy teams tackling the big questions around emerging technologies and international IP frameworks and advising Ministers. Across all roles, high-quality training is provided from day one.

The breadth of the IPO's work means it draws on a wide range of knowledge and expertise - from law and economics to communications and data analysis - with STEM just one of many routes into a rewarding career. Not every role requires a degree either, reflecting the breadth of skills and experience the organisation values in its people. Across all roles, the IPO is an inclusive employer committed to creating an environment where everyone's contribution is valued and where people can genuinely flourish. With hybrid working, a rewarding Civil Service employment package, and a rare combination of technical depth and real-world impact, the IPO offers a career where your expertise doesn't just support creativity and innovation, but helps shape what these mean both today and for the years ahead.

You can learn more about just some of the career opportunities at the Intellectual Property Office by searching for 'IPO Opportunities' on the Civil Service Careers website. ●

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start your career

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UK's leading IP job board



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DIVERSITY & INCLUSION IN IP

By Abdi-Hasan Ahmad, Part Qualified Patent Attorney - Engineering, Meissner Bolte UK

Firm culture

The patent profession is one of the most rewarding career paths one can pursue. While attorneys in the field often seem connected by an invisible thread of like-mindedness, it is difficult to define a single "culture," as experiences vary significantly depending on the firm.

Having been in the profession for three and a half years, and having spoken with many other trainees at conferences and social events, I've found that firms with happy, successful trainees tend to get a few cultural fundamentals right.

These firms:

- allow trainees to be intellectually expressive in their work. Trainees are treated as developing professionals, not as conveyor belts for routine tasks.
- create environments where first-time mistakes are accepted. Fear of failure rarely produces good work.
- foster mentor–trainee relationships without ego. Trainees receive extensive feedback – often more than expected – but the best relationships are those where ideas can be challenged constructively on both sides.
- cultivate strong trainee–paralegal relationships. The best trainees recognise that experienced paralegals are indispensable and approach them with humility and respect.

I've been fortunate that Meissner Bolte UK (MBUK), along with many firms in the profession, consistently embodies these principles. Whether this represents a broader cultural shift in recent years is difficult to say at my stage of career, but I'm glad to see it. The horror stories passed down from more senior colleagues seem far less common among newer cohorts.

Exam culture

Final exams are challenging. While they may be less difficult than they once were, they still present a significant hurdle, and it is common for people to fail and resit. In the industry, this is not viewed as a taboo, and there is certainly no reason to feel

embarrassed. Most people get there in the end. What makes a real difference is having a strong mentor who is willing to invest time in you. One-to-one exam support is far more effective than any course alone. MBUK is particularly training-focused in this regard, and my mentor dedicated a considerable amount of time to helping me succeed.

"There are numerous inclusivity groups within the IP sector, as well as across the wider legal profession."

Intellectual expansion

Becoming a patent attorney has historically been out of reach for many, for a variety of reasons. The profession's emphasis on "intellectual pedigree" has softened over the past decade, and the talent pool is widening well beyond the traditional pipeline from the famous university duo just outside of London.

Diversity

The industry is increasingly accommodating of individuals from BME backgrounds. My own experience has been overwhelmingly positive, particularly in social and networking settings. There are numerous inclusivity groups within the IP sector, as well as across the wider legal profession, which provide valuable opportunities to connect and share experiences.

Networking in the industry is also more varied than it might first appear. Events cater to a wide range of preferences, making it easier for individuals to engage in ways that suit them. As a practising Muslim who does not drink, I initially found the networking aspect somewhat daunting. The concern of missing out on opportunities due to limited shared interests is a common one. However, in practice, there are always alternative avenues to participate and build meaningful professional relationships. ●

AREAS OF SPECIALISM: AN OVERVIEW

By Eleanor James, European Patent Attorney, HGF

Patent attorneys facilitate in bringing new technologies to market by working with inventors to secure intellectual property rights for technical inventions at the forefront of their fields. Innovation occurs in all market sectors, meaning that patent attorneys operate in a correspondingly broad and exciting array of industries. The core fields of Electronics, Engineering, Life Sciences and Chemistry underpin the patent profession and encompass a breadth of technical specialisms. Typically, a patent attorney specialises in a field of technology reflective of their technical background; their specialism may evolve throughout their career as they develop both scientific and legal expertise within a particular technological area.

Below is a brief overview of the core areas patent attorneys work in, including a spotlight on a specific technical area.

The pillars of the patent profession ELECTRONICS

Innovations in the field of electronics can include semiconductor devices, sensors, telecommunications hardware, integrated circuits, consumer electronics and AI. Patent attorneys working in the field of electronics collaborate with those developing technologies we rely on every day - from smartphones and medical devices, to next generation cellular networks and smart infrastructure.

Electronics lie at the heart of modern innovation. As such, attorneys working in this area frequently work with global technology companies and cutting-edge start-ups, providing them with a window into the technology of tomorrow.

Spotlight on artificial intelligence: Artificial intelligence (AI) is one of the most rapidly growing areas of innovation in electronics which is shaping industries today, from autonomous vehicles to healthcare applications. AI inventions can be challenging to protect, as they often fall outside traditional patentable subject matter. Patent attorneys working with AI inventions must navigate legal and technological

complexities in this fast-evolving field making it a dynamic space to work in.

"Artificial intelligence (AI) is one of the most rapidly growing areas of innovation in electronics."

ENGINEERING

Engineering is one of the most diverse areas in which patent attorneys operate. Inventions in this field range from large-scale industrial machinery and manufacturing processes to innovative consumer products, novel energy systems and advances in transportation.

Patent attorneys with engineering backgrounds may encounter technologies related to civil, structural, aerospace, or industrial engineering, and often specialise in a particular area. Work in this field involves understanding how complex systems work, are constructed and operate to ensure inventions are properly protected.

"Work in this field involves understanding how complex systems work, are constructed and operate to ensure inventions are properly protected."

Spotlight on mechanical engineering:

Mechanical engineering is a broad discipline spanning multiple industries, including automotive, aerospace, energy sectors and biomedical science. Mechanical engineering focuses on the design, analysis, manufacture and maintenance of mechanical systems. Inventions in this field often integrate physics, mathematics, materials science, and computer-based design tools resulting in novel devices and systems such as engines, wind turbines, joint replacements and tools.

Patent attorneys working in mechanical engineering collaborate with both small and large companies, individual inventors and research organisations.

LIFE SCIENCES

For those passionate about science that directly impacts human health and the environment, working as a patent attorney in the field of life sciences can be especially rewarding. Inventions in the fields of genetic engineering, vaccines, diagnostics, cell or gene therapy and agriculture all fall within the field of life sciences.

"For those passionate about science that directly impacts human health and the environment, working as a patent attorney in the field of life sciences can be especially rewarding."

Life science patent attorneys work closely with researchers at the cutting edge of medicine and biology. Attorneys may help protect technologies that could lead to new treatments, improved diagnostics, or breakthroughs in agriculture and sustainability.

Spotlight on biotech: Biotech is a rapidly growing area of life sciences. Inventions in this field have exciting applications in human health. A patent attorney working in biotech may work on inventions relating to antimicrobials, regenerative medicine or gene editing technologies – the possibilities are endless.

Patent attorneys working in this field typically collaborate with researchers at start-ups, universities, or biotech companies to draft and prosecute patent applications and manage global patent portfolios. The patenting of methods of treatments and diagnostics differs across the globe, adding complexity to patent prosecution in this field and across life sciences.

CHEMISTRY

Inventions relating to pharmaceuticals, materials science, polymers, coatings, catalysts, or industrial chemical processes are examples of inventions within the field of chemistry. Chemical patents can cover anything from new compounds to advanced materials used in aerospace or renewable energy.

A patent attorney working in this field typically collaborates closely with researchers and industry experts, making it a rewarding area for those with a chemistry background.

Spotlight on pharmaceuticals: Patents for pharmaceutical products are central to the development of new medicines and treatments which can have profound impacts on society. Innovation in this field can relate to all aspects of drug discovery and development, for instance, inventions may involve new (or re-purposed) drug compounds, pharmaceutical formulations, manufacturing processes, therapeutic uses and combination therapies.

Patent attorneys working in the field of pharmaceuticals work closely with pharmaceutical companies and research institutions, they are often involved in not only drafting and prosecuting patent applications from an early stage of development, including co-ordinating patent strategy, but also opposition and litigation.

Your specialism is up to you

A career as a patent attorney offers intellectual challenge, variety, and the opportunity to learn about and protect groundbreaking technologies. From leading AI systems to breakthrough medicines, patent attorneys play a vital role across a wide spectrum of industries and technical areas which are becoming increasingly interdisciplinary. Each of the areas outlined above offers its own challenges and opportunities and overlap with other areas. Whether your background lies in chemistry, engineering, computer science, life sciences, or physics, a place within patent law where your expertise lay can be found. ●

SALARIES & BENEFITS

By Fellows & Associates

In the patent profession, you could earn £60,000 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 significant as you progress through the examinations. In UK private practice, salaries are by and large linked to qualification status up until the point you have qualified. However, in some instances, there can be inconsistencies in starting salaries for different technical specialisms, depending on supply and demand.

Average earnings

Patent attorneys do not move positions very frequently and salaries tend to increase in bursts. The market rate for a newly qualified attorney is around £80,000 and up but as you can see from the table below, salaries for attorneys who stay within the same firm can lag behind what they may be able to achieve on the open market. However, ‘newly qualified’

is to some extent ambiguous as some firms give a significant increase to their attorneys when they qualify in both Europe and the UK, whereas others when they qualify in just one of the two jurisdictions.

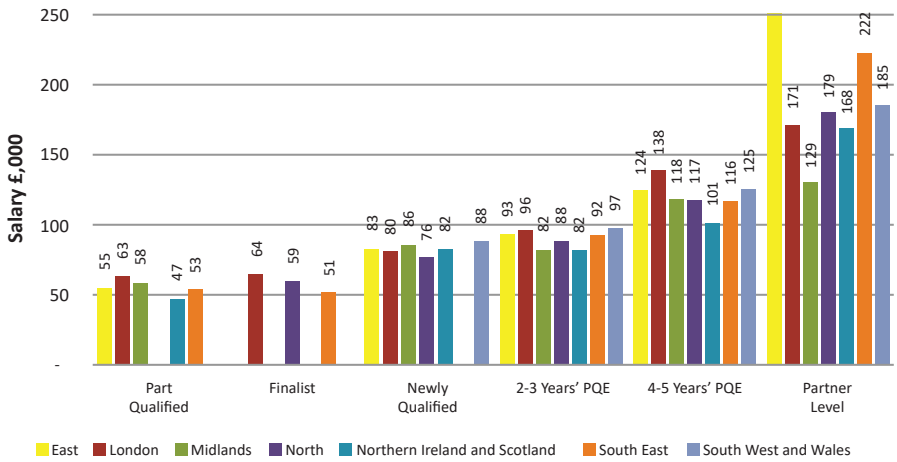
Private practice vs. in-house

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.

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 more opportunities are opened up to you from an early stage, such as client contact, business development initiatives and input on internal business decisions. Applying for positions in

Average total remuneration by UK region



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

In addition to the base salary, patent attorneys often earn bonuses and receive other financial benefits to complete their remuneration package.

Everyone now receives a pension by law, but there are many other benefits available.

The following are the most commonly received:

- Professional memberships paid for
- Flexible work location
- Private health/dental/eye care
- Training courses paid for
- Exams paid for
- Death in Service Benefit/Life Insurance
- Flexible working hours

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

The above data has come from Fellows and Associates’ annual salary survey completed by those working in the profession and published in the summer of 2025. You can see the full survey on the Fellows and Associates website. ●

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

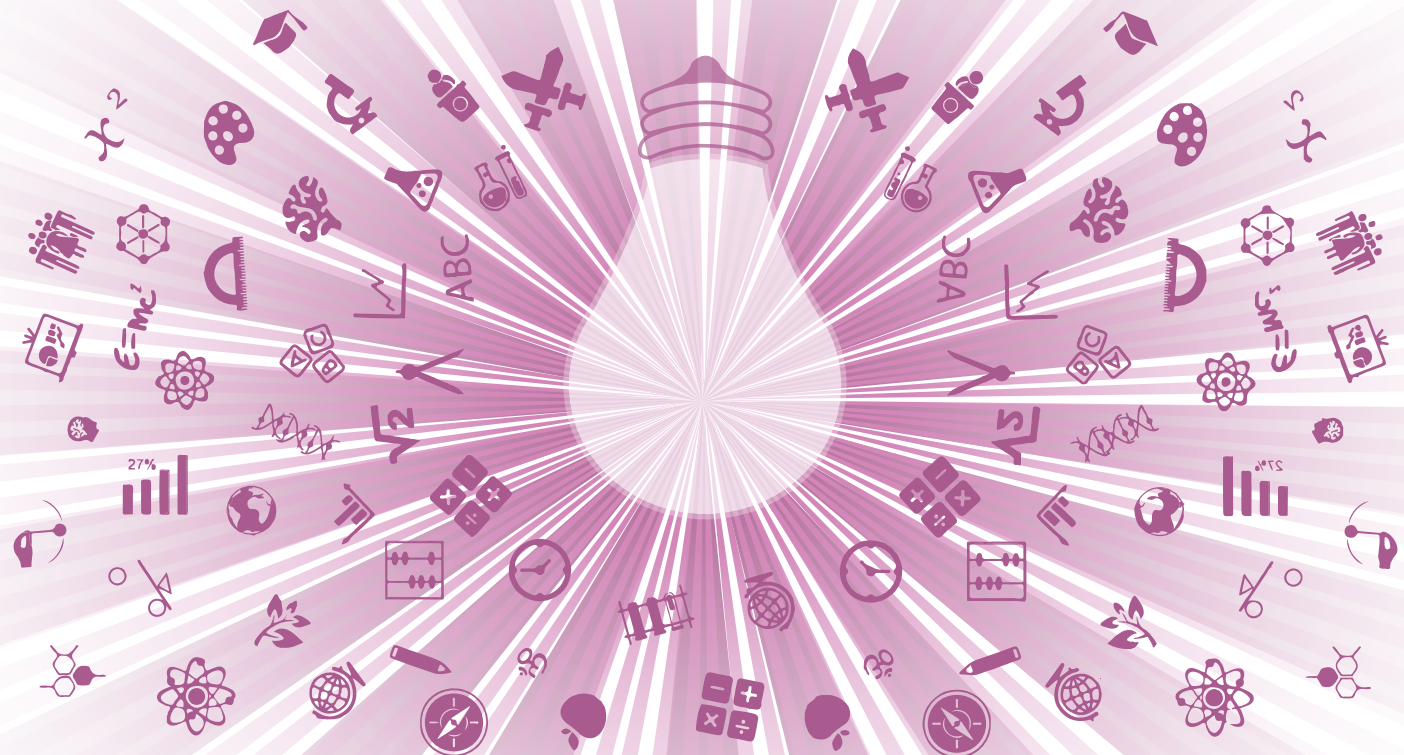
PATENT SALARIES BY SENIORITY		
Level	In current firm*	When moving firms*
Trainee	£43,200	£37,000-42,000
Part qualified	£56,000	£48,000-55,000
Finalist	£60,500	£60,000-70,000
Newly qualified	£77,500	£76,000-85,000
2-3 years post qualification	£85,300	£88,000-98,000
4-5 years post qualification	£114,100	£100,000-130,000
Salaried partner level**	£158,500	£145,00+

*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.

** Partners, i.e., those who own a share of the firm could earn salaries/profit shares running into hundreds of thousands of pounds.

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THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF PATENT ATTORNEYS (CIPA)



By CIPA

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

Members

CIPA's members include patent attorneys who work in small, medium and large private practices and patent attorneys who work in industrial departments. The Institute has 4,300 members, some 2,495 of those being Fellows with the status of Chartered Patent Attorneys. Other members include trainee patent attorneys and other professionals with an interest in intellectual property law.

"The Institute has 4,300 members, some 2,495 of those being Fellows with the status of Chartered Patent Attorneys."

Purpose

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

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

- **Status** - Advancing and promoting the professional status of Chartered Patent Attorneys as a global brand. Chartered Patent Attorney is a protected title which can only be used by Fellows of CIPA.
- **Influence** - Working to influence

intellectual property policy in the UK and abroad in the interests of its members and for the wider public good.

- **Learning** - Supporting the learning of its members, during initial professional formation when trainees, as well as through high quality, relevant, continuing professional development.
- **Community** - Providing the infrastructure and resources required for a vibrant community of practice to flourish.

Organisation

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

Much of CIPA's business is carried out through its network of expert committees and special interest groups. The committees range in activities from specialist technical groups looking at patent law, trade mark law, copyright and design law, litigation and the life sciences, through to more general work such as how CIPA promotes the profession through its media and public affairs work, issuing business practice guidance to members, liaison with CIPA's international partners and its relationship with the world of academia.

CIPA benefits from a highly engaged membership, where many members volunteer to give their time freely in committee work. A team of expert staff support the Council and CIPA's committees.

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. Find out more about the 'Informals' by reading the '**CIPA's Student Body – The Informals**' article.

"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. See the '**Course Provider Directory**' at the back of the guide for a list of universities as well as the **IP Careers website** for a list of IP Law courses.

Qualified patent attorneys benefit from a programme of seminars and webinars designed to ensure that the UK profession is at the forefront of national and international intellectual property law.

CIPA produces a range of students' training manuals in patents, trade marks and designs. CIPA is a recognised centre of excellence for the publication and distribution of practitioners' textbooks for the UK, European and international legal systems and the CIPA Guide to the Patents Acts is highly regarded as it provides an essential resource for IP professionals working in this area. Members benefit from a monthly journal containing articles, law updates and news. ●



The Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys (CIPA)

Innovation is the lifeblood of society. Ingenious inventions, fresh product designs, iconic brands and artistic creativity are not only the building blocks of successful business – they deliver a better world for us all.

These valuable forms of intellectual property (IP) must be protected in order to flourish and our members are the IP protection experts. We are the Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys, the United Kingdom's largest IP organisation. We represent the interests of the UK's 2,645 practicing patent attorneys and others working in IP to stakeholders and policymakers at national and international level to ensure that the UK remains a world-leading centre for innovation.

For more careers advice visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS & TRAINING

By Catherine Bate, Learning & Development Manager, Mewburn Ellis

To become a patent attorney, you will be required to achieve the relevant professional qualifications and training and complete a number of exams as part of a wider work-based training programme. The rewards for becoming professionally qualified are manifold.

“To become a patent attorney, you will be required to achieve the relevant professional qualifications and training.”

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 your training and qualifications are successfully completed, you may apply to become a registered patent attorney. The UK register is held by the UK Intellectual Property Regulation Board (IPReg); the European register by the European Patent Office (EPO).

Most UK firms require their trainees to qualify to be registered in both the UK and Europe since representing clients before the EPO requires the European Patent Attorney qualification. It is usual for a person entering the profession to take four or five years to dual-qualify. There are multiple routes to gaining the professional qualifications. You can see a diagram that provides an overview of what these are in this article.

Prerequisite qualifications

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

Professional qualifications

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

UK qualifications

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

Foundation level

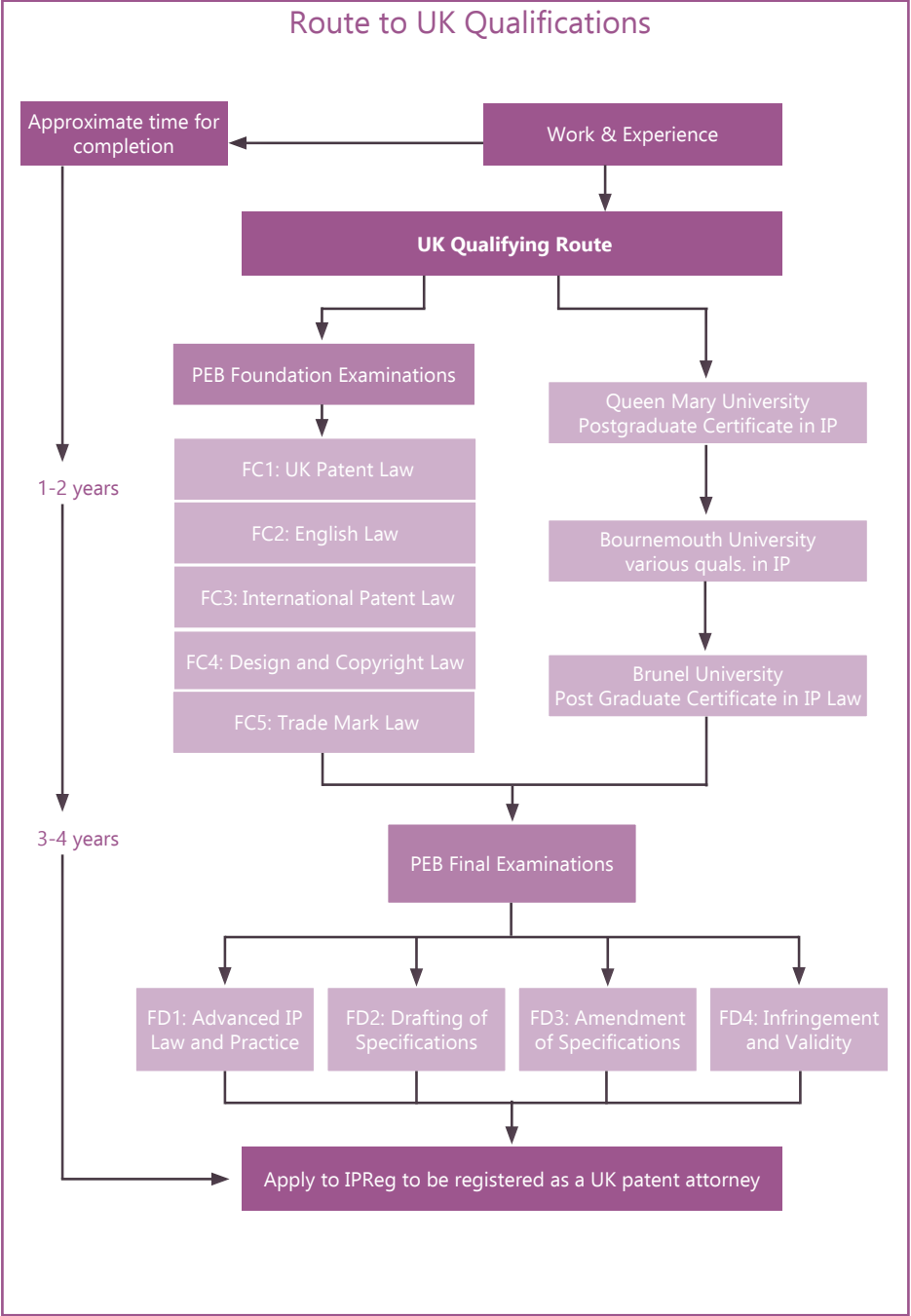
IPReg accredits several examination agencies to provide Foundation qualifications. There is an examination only route provided by the Patent Examination Board (PEB) as well as in person or distance learning University courses. These courses are listed in the IPReg regulation Rules for the Examination and Admission of Individuals to the Registers of Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys 2011, which can be found at: www.ipreg.org.uk. Your employer will most likely have a preferred route that they will support you in undertaking.

Foundation level

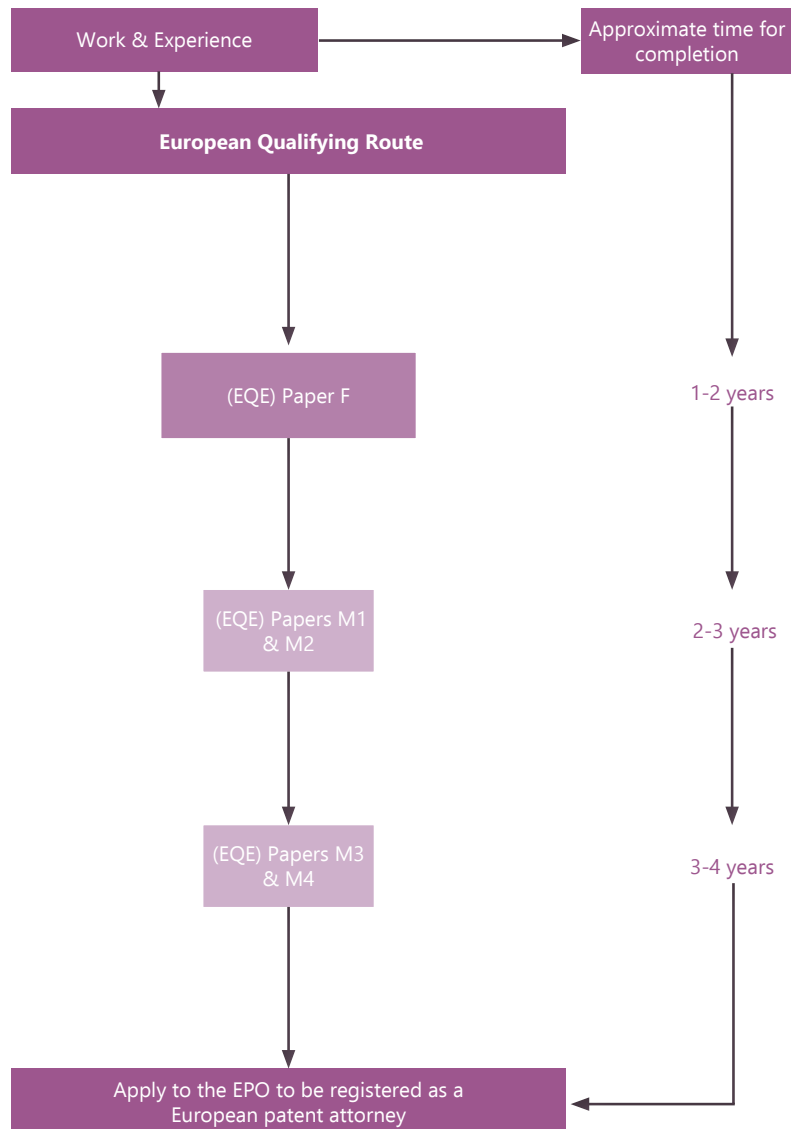
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Final level

There are four Final examinations: FD1, FD2, FD3 and FD4. These papers 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.



Route to European Qualifications



European qualifications

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

Paper F

This foundation examination can be taken a minimum of one year after the beginning of your period of training.

Other modular papers

The EQE examinations have been recently redesigned to ensure the qualification reflects today's European patent profession. The EPO has adopted a modular approach to examinations, with most candidates opting to take papers M1 and M2 a year after passing Paper F, and papers M3 and M4 two years after passing Paper F. These examinations test the drafting and amendment of European patent applications, the preparation of a formal opposition to a European patent, and the relevant laws and procedures.

Support for studying

In-house training

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

Informals

The Informals provide a range of support for the trainee. You can read more about this in the ['CIPA's student body – The Informals'](#) article.

Study guides and publications

CIPA publishes a number of books to help students with training and examinations. These include general training manuals as well as specific guides for most of the Final examinations. Full details can be found on the CIPA website.

EQE

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

Private training providers

There are a number of private training providers that provide examination revision courses for both the UK and European examinations. The largest being JDD Consultants.

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. Each attorney's continuing professional competence requirements will look different, based on reflective practice to identify individual learning needs.

IPReg and CIPA have a vital part to play in this continuing professional competence. 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 jurisdictions.

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 issues that are likely to arise in practice management.

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

CIPA'S STUDENT BODY – THE INFORMALS

By Matty Philpotts, Associate, UK Patent Attorney, Barker Brettell

Who are the CIPA Informals?

The Informals is the association of student members of the Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys (CIPA). All trainees entering the profession are automatically student members of CIPA, and therefore the Informals, and continue to be until they are qualified (at which point they become fellows of CIPA). However, opportunities provided by the Informals Committee also extend to those who are recently qualified.

What is your role as the Honorary Secretary?

The Informals Committee aims to act as the collective voice of trainees within the profession. As Informals Honorary Secretary, my duty is to oversee the committee and attend CIPA council meetings to present the views and concerns of the student members of the profession to CIPA.

Though a lot of student feedback relates to the route to qualification, particularly exams, it also extends to student welfare & wellbeing, DEI and developments in case law, to name a few.

To this end, additional responsibilities include:

- Management of the Informals Committee, including organising monthly meetings, relaying comments from CIPA council and facilitating discussion of topics of interest.
- Promoting a diverse range of training topics for the advanced lecture series, including business development, managing relations, and networking.
- Reporting on the activities the Informals Committee undertakes and on financial matters to CIPA Council and/or the Internal Governance Committee of CIPA.
- Aiding Committee members in fulfilling their roles and providing a sounding board for new ideas.
- Facilitating handover between old and new Informals' Committees.

What type of activities do the Informals run?

The Informals Committee provides support by: organising lectures and tutorials to supplement training provided by employers; giving assistance and advice to new and prospective

members; and organising events ... but what type of events?

Well, here's a small sample of things we get involved in!

Student induction day and Future Attorneys Conference

Hosted by CIPA with the support of the Informals, these events are both a fantastic opportunity to bring trainees together from across the UK. The Student Induction Day - aimed at new trainees - provides a comprehensive overview of what it means to be a patent attorney for those just starting out in the profession. Meanwhile, the Future Attorneys Conference - for trainees with 2+ years of experience - features a programme of interesting and more involved sessions related to IP, including the long-standing 'Moot Court'.

UK Intellectual Property Office visits

We have collaborated with examiners at the UK Intellectual Property Office (IPO) to run a yearly event where trainees will visit the IPO in person. The visits include sessions on how the UKIPO assesses inventive step, a claims drafting workshop, and an informal discussion with a UK examiner.

Observing how examiners approach different cases and hearing firsthand anecdotes from their experiences offers invaluable lessons that extend beyond the confines of any single patent application. These insights contribute to the holistic development of trainee patent attorneys, equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to excel in their careers.

Sports

In the realm of law, where the billable hour is monarch, the significance of fostering camaraderie among trainees cannot be overstated.

To this end, we organise a yearly 5-a-side football tournament open to all members of CIPA (both students and fellows). This is always an adrenaline-filled evening, where the competitive nature of the profession is revealed.

Alongside this, we have facilitated inter-firm softball matches at Hyde Park. These matches are a more casual affair, where team captains organise amongst themselves to play ball and have a beer!

Welfare events

The Informals committee runs a wide range of events that are focused on trainees' wellbeing. Last year, our Welfare Secretaries organised padel ball tournaments in London and Manchester to give students an opportunity to unwind. We also organise regular wellbeing coffee clubs. Additionally, our welfare email is only a click away, with trained Mental Health First Aiders available to provide support when they can.

Regional socials

Our team of Regional Secretaries are always looking to organise fun and varied events, right across the length and breadth of the country. In the past, our socials have included crazy golf, board game nights, cricket batting cages, bowling and darts (as well as the occasion pub trip...). Wherever you are located, and whatever piques your interest, fun is never too far away!

'The IP Survival Guide'

We have launched a podcast series tailored to the interests and concerns of trainees. From discussions on recent developments in patent law to interviews with seasoned practitioners and wellness experts, the podcast provides a platform for learning, sharing insights, and fostering professional growth.

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. The best way to keep up to date with Informals activity, and what roles are available in the profession, is to subscribe to our blog the Yellow Sheet yellowsheet.wordpress.com, and join our LinkedIn group [CIPA Informals](#). ●



Matty Philpotts
Associate, UK Patent Attorney
Barker Brettell

Matty is the CIPA Informals Honorary Secretary for 2026, having taken over the position in January.

Before this, he was the West Midlands Regional Secretary in 2025 and is keen to continue working to promote the IP industry outside of its traditional London centre. Matty joined the patent profession in April 2021, working in Birmingham for a private practice firm. He qualified as a UK Chartered Patent Attorney in 2025 and is currently studying for (hopefully) his last EQE papers.

His background is in physics and, prior to moving into IP, he worked in industry as a radar and electronic warfare scientist. Outside of work, Matty can normally be found on the terraces of Hereford FC (where he has been a long-suffering season ticket holder for 20+ years) or bothering his cat, Cappuccino (who is similarly long-suffering).

For more careers advice visit:
www.ipcareers.co.uk

PROFESSIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW COURSES

By Jasem Tarawneh, Reader in Commercial and Intellectual Property Law, Queen Mary University of London (QMUL)

This article provides an overview of the principal Intellectual Property (IP) law programmes and modules relevant to trainees, as well as to individuals considering a career as a qualified patent attorney.

The programmes discussed enable candidates to develop both academic knowledge and practical skills in the field of intellectual property. They may also form part of the pathway to qualification as a registered patent attorney with the Intellectual Property Regulation Board (IPReg), the independent regulatory body for the patent attorney and trade mark attorney professions in the United Kingdom.

Qualification as a patent attorney

In order to qualify as a patent attorney in the UK, candidates must successfully complete the IPReg-accredited Foundation Certificate examinations administered by the Patent Examination Board (PEB), together with the Final Diploma examinations, also administered by the PEB. However, certain accredited academic programmes provide exemptions from some of these examinations.

“QMUL offers an IPReg-accredited programme leading to a Postgraduate Certificate in Intellectual Property.”

Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) offers an IPReg-accredited programme leading to a Postgraduate Certificate in Intellectual Property. Successful completion of this programme provides trainees with an exemption from the Foundation Certificate examinations.

The QMUL programme typically provides a comprehensive introduction to the legal framework governing intellectual property in the UK and Europe.

They also examine the principal forms of intellectual property protection, including patents, trade marks, copyright and designs, together with the theoretical foundations of these rights and the legal regimes that regulate them. In addition, the programme includes an intensive introductory course in law and professional ethics designed for candidates without a prior legal background. The structure, duration and method of delivery of these courses vary between institutions. Prospective candidates should therefore consult the relevant universities directly for detailed information regarding course content and study arrangements.

QMUL also offers a one-year MSc in the Management of Intellectual Property, which similarly provides exemptions from the Foundation Certificate examinations. This programme is designed for individuals wishing to specialise in intellectual property law, particularly those intending to pursue careers as patent or trade mark attorneys. The programme provides comprehensive instruction across the core IP disciplines, with a primary focus on UK law while maintaining a strong European and international perspective.

Unlike the certificate courses described above, which are commonly undertaken by trainees after commencing employment with a firm, the MSc programme is typically pursued independently and attracts candidates with a broader range of professional interests.

Certain other academic qualifications may also provide exemptions from specific Foundation Certificate examinations. For example, a qualifying law degree may provide an exemption from the foundational law examination.

A complete list of available exemptions is published by the PEB. At present, no academic programme provides exemptions from all of the UK Final Diploma examinations or from

the European Qualifying Examination. In addition to passing the relevant examinations, candidates must also satisfy practical training requirements. In particular, candidates must complete at least two years of full-time practice in intellectual property, including substantial experience of patent attorney work undertaken in the UK or elsewhere under the supervision of a UK patent attorney or a solicitor or barrister with significant experience of patent attorney work. Alternatively, candidates may qualify by completing at least four years of unsupervised full-time practice in intellectual property, including substantial patent-related work.

Preparation for examinations

On 1 January 2025, the revised Regulation on the European Qualifying Examination for professional representatives before the European Patent Office (REE) entered into force. This reform introduced a new structure for the European Qualifying Examination (EQE).

Under the new framework, the EQE will consist of a foundation examination (“Paper F”), followed by four modular papers: M1, M2, M3 and M4. The new format is being implemented progressively. Paper F was introduced in 2025, Papers M1 and M2 will be introduced in 2026, and Papers M3 and M4 will be introduced in 2027.

Candidates who would previously have been eligible to sit the EQE Pre-Examination in 2025 but instead sat Paper F will no longer be able to take the former examination papers A, B, C and D in 2026. Those candidates must instead sit Papers M1 and M2 in 2026 and subsequently sit Papers M3 and M4 in 2027. Accordingly, 2026 will be the final year in which the previous examination papers A, B, C and D are offered. From 2027 onwards, the new EQE structure (F, M1, M2, M3 and M4) will be fully implemented.

In addition to the lectures and tutorials provided by the CIPA Informals group, which are designed to support candidates preparing for the UK and European examinations, many firms provide in-house training focused on examination preparation and technique. A

number of specialist training providers also offer dedicated preparation courses. Courses commonly attended by UK trainees include those offered by JDD Consultants, CEPI and DeltaPatents. JDD courses typically cover both the UK and European examinations, and usually last between one and a half and two days per examination. CEPI seminars vary in duration from one and a half days to a full week. DeltaPatents offers a range of courses across Europe, including courses held in London.

QMUL is also expected to offer an EQE preparation course covering Papers F, M1, M2, M3 and M4. The course is scheduled to take place in January and February 2027. Please check their website for further details.

Litigation training

Candidates seeking entry to the IPReg Register of Patent Attorneys on or after 1 January 2013 are required to complete an IPReg-approved Basic Litigation Skills Course (BLSC). This course must be successfully completed either before registration, at the point of registration, or within three years following the end of the calendar year in which registration occurs.

The BLSC is currently offered by CPD Training and the University of Nottingham, although the precise format varies between providers. Upon successful completion of the course and application to IPReg, patent attorneys are awarded the Intellectual Property Litigation Certificate (ILPC), which confers rights to conduct litigation and rights of audience in certain proceedings.

Two additional higher-level certificates are also available and may be obtained either before or after registration. These certificates permit Patent Attorneys to undertake litigation and advocacy in the higher courts, although they are not mandatory for practice.

It should also be noted that practitioners wishing to appear before the Unified Patent Court (UPC) must complete an accredited course conferring rights of audience before that court.

Qualification as a trade mark attorney

Qualifying as a Chartered Trade Mark Attorney in the United Kingdom requires the completion of two IPReg-accredited postgraduate programmes, at least two years of supervised full-time relevant work experience, and the satisfaction of character and suitability requirements.

Trainees must first complete the Foundation Certificate programme, which is offered by a limited number of universities, including QMUL.

Once the Foundation Certificate programme has been successfully completed, candidates must enrol in and complete the Professional Certificate in Trade Mark Practice, which is offered by Nottingham Law School.

Taking a specialist IP law course prior to entering the profession

Undertaking one of the programmes discussed above prior to securing a trainee position, and at personal expense, does not necessarily improve a candidate's prospects of obtaining employment. Although completion of such a programme may be regarded favourably by some employers, it is rarely decisive in the recruitment process.

In practice, most trainees undertake these courses only after commencing employment with a firm. Prospective trainees are therefore advised to enquire, prior to accepting a position, about the specific courses on which the firm enrolls its trainees and the level of financial support provided in respect of tuition fees, travel and accommodation.

Finally, it should be emphasised that only programmes currently accredited by IPReg are recognised as contributing towards the qualification pathway for patent attorneys. Diplomas, master's degrees and other qualifications obtained from non-accredited institutions are not accepted for IPReg qualification purposes. ●

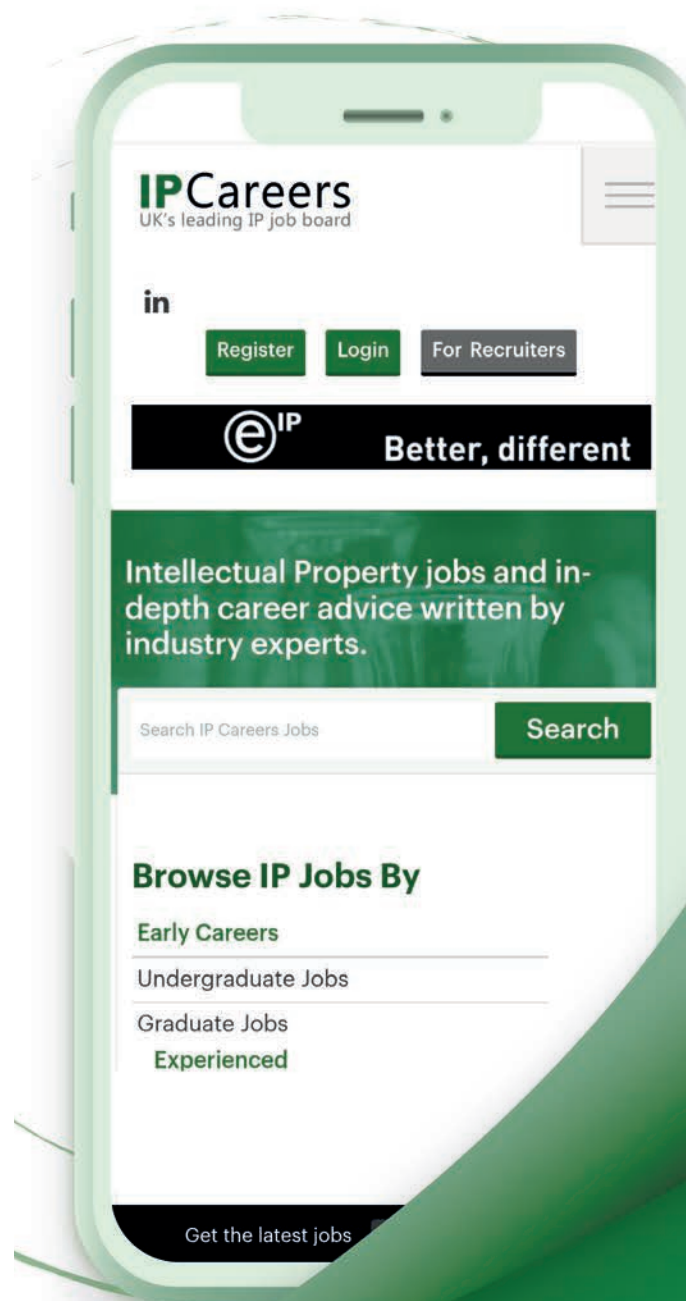


Jasem Tarawneh
Reader in commercial and Intellectual Property Law
Queen Mary University of London

Dr Jasem Tarawneh is a Reader in Commercial and Intellectual Property Law at the Centre for Commercial Law Studies (CCLS), Queen Mary University of London, where he also serves as Programme Director for the Specialist Intellectual Property Law Programmes. Prior to joining Queen Mary, he lectured at the University of Manchester.

Before entering academia, Dr Tarawneh practised for several years as a corporate lawyer and arbitrator in Europe and the Middle East. He subsequently completed his PhD examining the legal and economic justifications for trade mark protection under European law.

Dr Tarawneh's research spans intellectual property law, international dispute resolution, and international trade and investment. He also has worked, and continues to collaborate, with several leading international organisations, including the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).



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Queen Mary University of London

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Swansea University

The City Law School

The University of Edinburgh

The University of Manchester

Trinity College Dublin

University College Cork

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Bournemouth University (BU) holds a strong reputation for research and education in intellectual property (IP) law, built over more than 25 years through its dedicated IP Centre, the Centre for Intellectual Property Policy & Management (CIPPM). This is where leading academics and industry experts come together, where legal theory meets real world practice, and where students learn alongside those shaping policy. BU Law also offers extensive expertise in commercial law, international tax law and international public law.

W: bournemouth.ac.uk/pg-law **E:** futurestudents@bournemouth.ac.uk



A trusted provider in IP training

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

W: ntu.ac.uk/professionallegaltraining **E:** PLSAdminTeam@ntu.ac.uk



Queen Mary has a long-standing reputation for excellence in intellectual property research and scholarship, anchored by the Queen Mary Intellectual Property Research Institute (QMIPRI). The Intellectual Property Law LLM, Management of Intellectual Property MSc, and related postgraduate certificates reflect the central role of intellectual property in today's economy. Together, these programmes equip graduates with the expertise in IP law, policy, management, and practice needed for careers across the legal, commercial, technology, and creative sectors.

W: qmul.ac.uk/law/postgraduate/programmes



The School of Law and Politics is a leading law school for socio-legal studies and law in context. Our LLM programme in Intellectual Property Law aims to meet the needs of students, lawyers and policy makers who wish to develop the ability to critically assess intellectual property law in domestic, EU and international contexts. As a postgraduate student you can also benefit from our range of award-winning pro bono schemes.

W: cardiff.ac.uk/law-politics **E:** lawpladmissions@cardiff.ac.uk



The LLM in Intellectual Property Law at Queen's University Belfast offers specialist, research-led teaching in an international and interdisciplinary environment. Students engage with IP, technology, creative industries, sustainability and global policy, supported by links with the Global Intellectual Property and Technology Centre (G-IPTech), strong connections with practice, career development opportunities, and modules on AI, platform regulation and emerging technologies.

W: qub.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate-taught/intellectual-property-law-llm/ **E:** law-enquiries@qub.ac.uk



JDD Consultants is an established name in IP training: we have organised intellectual property training courses since 1983. Each year we hold residential and online 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

W: jddcourses.co.uk **E:** jdd.consultants@ntlworld.com / admin@jddcourses.co.uk



LLM in LegalTech and Commercial Law

Swansea University remains a strong destination for aspiring IP specialists. Our degree features a dedicated 'International Intellectual Property Law' module, giving students a solid grounding in global IP systems and the role of IP in innovation. This pathway equips graduates with the commercial, digital, and IP focused skills needed for careers across today's innovation driven legal landscape.

W: swansea.ac.uk/law/istl **E:** study@swansea.ac.uk



The Dickson Poon School of Law offers two options for specialisation in the fast-growing field of IP law, providing strong international and comparative focus and taught by leading academics and practitioners. The Intellectual Property & Information Law LLM is studied on campus, full-time or part-time. The UK, EU & US Copyright Law Postgraduate Diploma is delivered online alongside residential weekends.

W: kcl.ac.uk/law **E:** newstudents@kcl.ac.uk



City Law School is a recognised hub for cutting-edge IP teaching and research, closely connected to practice, policy and innovation in London and beyond. Its specialised modules in International Intellectual Property Law and Policy, Copyrights and Patents, Intellectual Property and Creative Industries, Technological Innovation and Intellectual Property, and Trademarks, Designs and Allied Rights equip graduates with the analytical, practical and strategic skills needed across legal, technology and creative sectors.

W: citystgeorges.ac.uk/about/schools/law



LLM Intellectual Property Law, University of Edinburgh Law School

This programme is designed to equip students with an advanced knowledge and understanding of intellectual property law and policy within a UK, European and international setting. The programme covers substantive law on all major intellectual property rights including patents, copyright, trademarks, designs, common law protection of intellectual property rights.

W: law.ed.ac.uk/study/masters-degrees/llm-intellectual-property-law **E:** pg.law.enquiries@ed.ac.uk



Designed to develop your expertise, our LLM Intellectual Property Law explores advanced concepts in IP law and policy across the UK, EU and global landscapes. Taught by leading academics, you will become part of a community of talented graduates. The programme is delivered full-time, on campus.

W: manchester.ac.uk/study/masters/courses/list/01061/llm-intellectual-property-law



The LLM at the School of Law, Trinity College delivers modules that study the interrelationships between law, science, intellectual property and technology. Modules focus on all facets of IP Law (patent law, copyright law, competition law and innovation) alongside emerging areas such as artificial intelligence, data protection, regulation of cyber speech and cyber security. Our students have the opportunity to apply for paid traineeships at European Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) and European Patent Office (EPO) annually.

W: tcd.ie/law/programmes/postgraduate **E:** Law.postgraduate@tcd.ie



Study Law, Technology and Innovation at University College Cork

The School of Law at UCC is a vibrant and friendly place to study, with leading international experts across a range of legal areas. On our LLM Law, Technology and Innovation, students will discuss novel and dynamic issues concerning regulation of emerging technologies such as AI, the legal and regulatory aspects of the digital economy, and human rights in the digital environment.

W: ucc.ie/en/law **E:** lawpostgrad@ucc.ie



Intellectual Property at UCD Sutherland School of Law

UCD Sutherland School of Law (Dublin) is the leading centre for legal education and research in Ireland, combining engaging undergraduate and graduate level courses, internationally-recognised research, and world-class educational facilities. The School is consistently ranked in one of the Top 100 Universities in the World for Law.

W: ucd.ie/law/study/ **E:** lawpostgraduate@ucd.ie/lawdiplomas@ucd.ie



UCL is a world-leading university providing an inclusive learning environment. On the Master of Laws (LLM) IP Specialism, you'll join a community of bright, ambitious graduates and enjoy support from reputed IP academics. UCL is home to the Institute of Brand & Innovation Law which offers unique CPD courses for IP practitioners and a stimulating programme of public seminars throughout the year.

W: ucl.ac.uk/laws **E:** ibil@ucl.ac.uk



Law has been taught at the University of Aberdeen since its founding in 1495. Today, we are proud to be recognised as a Top 15 UK Law School by the Times & Sunday Times Good University Guide 2026. Our LLM in Intellectual Property and Information Law offers two dynamic study routes: a traditional dissertation or our Professional Skills route, which forgoes the dissertation in favour of practical skills highly valued by employers.

W: abdn.ac.uk/law **E:** study@abdn.ac.uk



The University of Glasgow attracts students from around the world, from multiple legal jurisdictions. The LLM in Intellectual Property & the Digital Economy provides you with a unique opportunity to specialise in this field, with courses covering the main areas (copyright, trade marks, patents) as well as emerging issues at intersection of technology, innovation, and the creative industries.

W: gla.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught/intellectualproperty **E:** luis.porangaba@glasgow.ac.uk



Designed by experts in their fields, our LLM pathway in Intellectual Property and Information Law is delivered in our £10m Law Building inclusive of a full-scale replica Crown Court. Hertfordshire Law School has strong industry connections with top firms and a range of co-curricular activities, including our award-winning Law Clinic. These provide students with excellent networking opportunities and career support.

W: go.herts.ac.uk/llm-ip **E:** lawadmissions@herts.ac.uk



LLM pathway in Intellectual Property Law at Kent Law School

Students come from all over the world to study our innovative Kent LLM, a taught Master's in Law degree with an international and contemporary focus. Our LLM pathway in Intellectual Property Law equips you with the necessary in-depth knowledge to practise intellectual property law or work in creative industries.

W: kent.ac.uk/law **E:** studyllsj@kent.ac.uk



Based in Liverpool, a UNESCO City of Music and thriving hub of creativity and innovation, the University of Liverpool's specialised LLM delivers advanced insight into the legal frameworks driving global entrepreneurship. Taking a transdisciplinary approach across law, technology, business and the creative industries, you'll tackle IP challenges spanning digital transformation, sustainability and ethical innovation. Gain real-world experience through internships and clinics, advising creatives and start-ups.

W: liverpool.ac.uk/courses/international-intellectual-property-law-llm



The University of Oxford, in collaboration with the IPLA, offers the Oxford Postgraduate Diploma in IP Law & Practice and the MSc in IP Law. The Diploma is a one-year, part-time vocational programme taught by senior practitioners and leading academics. Students who complete the Diploma can choose to enrol in the MSc programme, which is also offered on a part-time basis. Applicants should have a strong first degree and experience working as a barrister, solicitor or patent or trade mark attorney.

W: law.ox.ac.uk/admissions/postgraduate-taught **E:** info@oiprc.ox.ac.uk



The University of Sussex is a leading research-intensive university near Brighton. Sussex Law School provides cross-cutting teaching and research in LLM in Information Technology and Intellectual Property Law (IT&IP), covering subjects on AI, online platform regulation, and data governance. The future of the law is digital. This innovative LLM offers you critical and intellectual specialisation in this rapidly developing area.

W: sussex.ac.uk/law/people **E:** pg.applicants@sussex.ac.uk



Ranked 2nd in the UK in the National Student Survey (NSS) 2022 and 2023, UWL law school delivers IP modules at undergraduate and postgraduate levels that study the interrelationships between law, science, intellectual property and technology. Modules focus on all facets of IP Law alongside intersecting and emerging areas such as data protection, regulation of AI, e-commerce and cyber security.

W: uwl.ac.uk **E:** courses@uwl.ac.uk

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JDD CONSULTANTS

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

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- 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**.

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

The benefits of JDD courses

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

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

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

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

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ABEL + IMRAY PART QUALIFIED PATENT ATTORNEY

Name
University
Degree

Diana Antic
Bristol, Malta
MSc Engineering Mathematics, BEng
Electrical and Electronic Engineering

Background

I completed my undergraduate degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering at the University of Malta in 2019, before moving to the UK to pursue a Master's in Engineering Mathematics at the University of Bristol.

Following my master's, I joined a start-up as a computer vision software engineer, where I worked on real-time video processing using C++, Python, and CUDA-based GPU optimisation. I later moved into a Research Associate role in the University of Bristol's Particle Physics Department, working within the data acquisition team for the Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment (DUNE). This international project involves detector sites at Fermilab and the Sanford Underground Research Facility, as well as a prototype at CERN, and allowed me to combine hands-on electronics lab work with software development.

In May 2025, I joined Abel + Imray as a Trainee Patent Attorney in the Physics, Engineering and IT team, and have since obtained a PGCert in Intellectual Property Law from Queen Mary University of London.

What attracted you to your role?

I've always been drawn to a variety of subjects ranging from mathematics and engineering to languages and literature. Through my studies and professional experience, I realised that I particularly enjoy work that combines reading, writing, understanding how complex state-of-the-art technologies function and exploring how they can be improved. While working as a

software engineer, I discovered the importance of clearly documenting any implementation decisions, how they link to the underlying mathematical principles and communicating those in a way that is useful for others working with the code.

When I first came across the patent attorney profession, it stood out as a role that brings together my technical and academic background, as well as my interests.

What I find most rewarding now is being closely involved with innovation, learning about cutting-edge developments across a range of technologies and helping inventors protect and realise the value of their ideas.

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

Developing strong written communication skills is just as important as your technical background, so any experience that involves explaining complex ideas clearly can be very valuable. It's also important to be well organised, as the role involves managing multiple pieces of work with strict deadlines.

I found that reading trainee profiles and watching webinars was particularly helpful in building a clearer picture of what the role involves on a day-to-day basis.

Although the qualification process is demanding, it's an experience that's shared across the profession, and there's a strong sense of support as a result! ●



APPLEYARD LEES TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

Name
University
Degree

James Clegg
York
Master of Chemistry (MChem)

How did you get here?

I joined Appleyard Lees' Manchester office in 2022 after completing my chemistry master's degree in 2020, followed by two and a half years working in a lab-based oncological drug discovery role. As a chemistry graduate, lab-based roles are ubiquitous and, while I enjoyed the hands-on nature of being research scientist, searching for a new challenge led me to consider the option of working as a patent attorney.

Prior to joining the profession, my first exposure to Intellectual Property (IP) had been a single lecture during my degree. However, during my time in industry I came to appreciate that IP served as the foundation for most projects I worked on, and is a primary asset for many companies, large and small. Upon researching the patent profession further, it became clear that it represented an exciting conflux of technical scientific knowledge, legal expertise, and commercial awareness that really appealed to me. I started looking for roles more seriously and soon had the good fortune to find and join Appleyard Lees.

What is a day like and what sort of work do you do?

Days are variable and work tends to be guided by deadlines. However, it can also be unpredictable, with an email or conversation potentially changing the direction of your entire day. The "bread and butter" of the job is built around guiding clients' patent applications to grant. This involves preparing and filing carefully considered arguments and/or amendments to patent applications, to navigate the various hoops and hurdles of securing patent protection in different countries, while maintaining a fair scope of protection for your client.

You will also find yourself working directly with inventors to draft and file new patent applications, as well as attacking and defending granted patents in direct contention with other patent attorneys. The breadth and depth of technological areas covered is very compelling, and relatively unique to the patent profession.

That sounds great! Are there downsides or things to be aware of?

The job involves lots of reading/writing (and rereading/rewriting!) complicated technical language. It takes a long time to learn how to "read like a patent attorney", and an ability to grasp and translate complex concepts into straightforward ones is essential. Newcomers to the profession usually start with zero legal experience or knowledge, which contributes to a lengthy training process of around 4-6 years, dotted with numerous exams, which you will prepare for whilst working full-time. It is a competitive profession to enter, and a challenging one to train for, so perseverance and determination are key. Nevertheless, the rewards are great and you are likely to encounter and work with countless interesting people (especially at Appleyard Lees!) across a dynamic and engaging career. Good luck! ●



BECK GREENER TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

Name
University
Degree

Isabel Esom
Manchester
BSc Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry

What attracted you to your role?

I thoroughly enjoyed my chemistry degree and knew I wanted to pursue a career in which I could continue to apply and expand my technical knowledge. I have also always been curious about how things work and take a strong interest in new scientific and technological advancements. The profession offered the opportunity to pursue these interests daily while working at the interface of science, law, and business. Additionally, the role involves learning law as an entirely new discipline and developing skills that scientists do not often use, such as structured arguments and clear, persuasive writing, which I found particularly appealing.

What was the application process like?

The application process involved submitting a CV and cover letter, followed by two interviews with partners at the firm.

It is a competitive profession to enter, so it is important to think carefully about how you can distinguish yourself. Demonstrating genuine interest in the firm is key, for example, knowing the types of technologies it works on, which can often be explored through publicly available patent databases such as those provided by the European Patent Office website. Relevant work experience, academic projects, or extracurricular activities can also help strengthen an application.

I would also encourage applicants to include interests outside of academia or work. Many firms are looking for well-rounded individuals, and hobbies such as sport, volunteering, or creative pursuits can say a great deal about your character and skill set.

Interviews often assess your ability to understand a new invention quickly and communicate your understanding clearly. Practising this skill, for example, by describing how everyday objects work, can be very helpful.

What are your main duties?

I joined Beck Greener just under a year ago and have primarily been involved in patent prosecution work. This has included responding to examination reports by assessing objections to patentability, analysing prior art, and discussing potential approaches with my supervising partner. I also assist in drafting letters to clients explaining the issues their applications face and proposing approaches to overcome them, as well as preparing responses to the European Patent Office.

What skills are useful in the profession?

Strong organisation and time-management skills are essential. The role involves being responsible for managing a caseload of applications, tracking deadlines, and prioritising tasks effectively in what is a highly deadline-driven profession.

Communication skills, both written and verbal, are equally important. Much of the role involves conveying complex technical information to examiners and clients in a clear, concise manner. A patent attorney acts as a bridge between the technical details of an invention and the client's commercial objectives, so the ability to explain matters precisely and in a clear way is crucial.

Do you have any advice?

I would recommend gathering as much information on firms as possible in order to identify those that align with your values and interests. This could involve attending open days, applying for internships, and reaching out to trainees using firm websites or LinkedIn. Speaking directly with trainees provides valuable insight into firm culture and day-to-day work, enabling you to make a well-informed choice when applying to firms.

I am always happy to speak with anyone interested in the profession and to share my experience at Beck Greener. ●



BOULT PATENT ASSISTANT

Name
University
Degree

Rosie Murray
Cambridge
MSci Natural Sciences (Biochemistry)

Why did you choose a job in this profession?

While I was at university I would regularly interact with academics, which contributed towards a feeling that pursuing a PhD was the next logical step after my degree. But during my third year I realised that what I enjoyed most about my degree was not planning and conducting experiments but the opportunity to critically analyse scientific concepts within essays and discussions. Therefore, I started to explore my options for a role that incorporated these aspects of my studies.

During the search for my next steps, I attended a university careers fair. This was the first opportunity I had to interact with Patent Attorneys and to get an initial insight into the profession. I found the idea of mixing a broad range of scientific subjects with law and problem solving particularly appealing. Subsequently, I attended open days and undertook work experience to get a real feel for what the role would entail on a day-to-day basis, and I quickly became confident that this was the role for me.

How did you get your job and any advice for joining the profession?

I attended the Voluntary Vacation Scheme run by Boulton shortly after finishing the third year of my degree. The scheme involved a series of lectures about the profession and various workshops intended to get us thinking about the main principles of patent law. We were also given the opportunity to prepare a letter regarding the patentability of an invention. Following the scheme, I was invited to two interviews and very happily accepted an offer for a role as a Patent Trainee to start after the fourth year of my degree.

For anyone looking to enter the profession, I would recommend taking up as many opportunities as possible to speak to those already in the role. It takes quite a while to qualify as a Patent Attorney and there are large time commitments when preparing for exams, so before you start training it is ideal if you are pretty sure that the role is right for you. The nature of interviews will vary depending on the firm, but as part of my interview preparation I found it helpful to try to explain scientific concepts clearly and precisely to someone not familiar with these concepts.

What are your main duties and what skills are useful in the profession?

I am currently in my second year of training. I assist with many different tasks associated with different stages along the timeline of a patent, from drafting and filing an application to grant and opposition procedures. The cases I have worked on so far have been related to a wide range of subjects, such as antibodies, DNA sequencing and devices for biotechnological applications. A large amount of my time is spent constructing arguments in response to comments that have been made by patent examiners and I am also becoming more involved in meetings with inventors.

From the beginning of my job, I was given my own caseload to manage, which was incredibly useful for getting me up to speed with the organisation and time management requirements that are essential for the role. It is necessary to be articulate and conscientious, and to be able to understand new scientific concepts quickly. It is also important to note that the job is generally 9-5, but sometimes you may be required to work longer hours, for example to meet urgent deadlines. ●



D YOUNG & CO TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

Name
University
Degree

Elisabeth Bubna-Litic
Imperial
PhD in Life Sciences (Synthetic Biology)
Master's Systems and Synthetic Biology

Why did you choose a job in this profession?

I decided to pursue a career in patent law after finishing my PhD in Life Sciences because I wanted to continue working at the forefront of the innovation in the biotechnology sector and in a job where I can help bring inventions driving the field forward from the lab bench to the market. As a patent attorney, I get to interact closely with inventors carrying out exciting translational research as well as large clients at the helm of the sector. If you, too, enjoy keeping a finger on the pulse of the industry, learning something new every day, and employing your scientific expertise outside the lab, consider this career.

What are your main duties?

I have been introduced to a diverse array of work from day one. Much of my work involves patent prosecution, which includes preparing responses to office actions issued by various patent offices, drafting arguments responding to the examiner's objections, and amending the claims accordingly. It can be very rewarding to spot what is clever about each invention and synthesise my legal and technical knowledge in persuading the examiner. As I progress through my training, I have also become more involved in contentious work, reviewing relevant prior art documents – research articles and patent literature alike – and preparing arguments in opposition or appeal proceedings.

At D Young, I have been trusted with important client-facing work from an early stage. At the same time, all of my work is checked by experienced attorneys who have been generous with the amount of structured feedback they provide. It is important not to be deterred by an overwhelming amount of red pen early on – everyone was a new trainee once!

What skills are useful in this profession?

My day-to-day work involves a heavy focus on detail and the ability to synthesise large amounts of information across several technical documents. While often challenging, this aspect of the job can be highly rewarding if, like me, you are a deeply analytical person who enjoys looking for clues and solving puzzles.

Because this profession requires the ability to quickly familiarise yourself with a diverse range of inventions, you will also benefit from a strong foundational background across your field of expertise. You should also be aware that this career comes with a steep learning curve – not only will you be faced with many different inventions, but there is also a lot of legal knowledge to acquire. You will be expected to dedicate time and effort to studying for your qualifying exams during and outside of your normal working hours. Be resilient, learn to manage your time effectively, but know that this is a career where your effort will be rewarded. ●



EIP PATENT SCIENTIST

Name
University
Degree

Simona Misakova
Oxford
MEng Materials Science

Why did you choose a job in this profession?

When looking at my options, this profession very clearly stood out as a nice career combining my existing technical expertise with some new legal challenges. The technical subject matter is, by definition, brand new and this was also enticing.

What attracted you to your role?

The role at EIP was particularly attractive due to the fantastic reputation of the firm, especially the reputation for great training. Once I got to interview here, I knew the fit was great as I got on well with the people I met and felt the culture was relaxed and friendly – I felt at home instantly!

What are your main duties?

Each day, I work on various cases. These can be at various stages of the lifecycle of a patent application such as preparing the application, drafting, or corresponding with patent offices and foreign attorneys to get patent applications to grant (a process called 'prosecution').

Both drafting and prosecution involve communicating with clients and inventors over emails and on calls. I also engage in discussions with the senior attorneys responsible for the cases I am working on. Lots of my time is spent on independent work preparing and refining documents and arguments.

With the rest of my day, I complete administrative work. This may be keeping accurate and timely records or arranging billing on the cases I have worked on.

Last but not least, training is still a big part of my time. Two years into the profession I still have a lot to learn.

Is it a 9-5 job?

It is mostly, yes. There is some expectation of working outside of the 9-5 in preparation for exams as, though some exam leave is given, the exams are very rigorous and require months of preparation. It is very rare that I need to work longer than the usual hours on a case, in my personal experience.

What skills are useful in this profession?

We all come into the profession as experts in a technical discipline with very little legal knowledge. I think the most important skill is to be willing and able to learn and be comfortable being a complete beginner once again. It can be discouraging but fear not – all patent attorneys know this feeling well and have gone through the same thing!

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

Take every opportunity you can to speak with people in the profession, at various levels, types of company ('private practice' and 'in-house'). Gain an understanding of how different firms operate, what kinds of clients they have, what work do they do most of, what is the culture like etc. and select where you wish to work based on that. These are great things to ask, or observe, in your interviews, too. Figure out where you can truly envisage yourself training and working for the next few years and beyond! ●



FORRESTERS TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

Name
University
Degree

Emily Milan
Oxford
MEng in Materials Science and DPhil in
Materials Science

Why did you choose a job in this profession?

During my research doctorate, I realised that although I loved science, I did not want to spend my career working in a laboratory focussing on fairly narrow problems with limited real-world impact. I first considered the patent attorney profession after attending an IP careers talk hosted by my university. I was excited by the work described and felt that the required skills aligned well with my strengths. Following the talk, I learnt more about the profession through online resources, podcasts and conversations with patent attorneys, which confirmed my interest in the career.

I have always loved learning how things work and was excited by the wide range of technologies patent attorneys encounter in their work. I was also attracted to the combination of technical understanding and communication skills required in the profession. I find the precision and attention to detail required in drafting and analysing patent documents very satisfying, and enjoy the process of formulating and articulating arguments, which are all important aspects of a patent attorney's job.

How did you get your job at Forresters?

I first saw the role advertised on the IP careers website and applied with a CV and covering letter. I was then invited to an online interview with two partners, where we discussed my background, my understanding of the patent attorney profession and my motivations for applying. I was also given the opportunity to ask questions I had about the firm and the role.

Following the online interview, I attended an in-person interview at the London office with another two partners. I was provided with a set of patent documents and an examiner's opinion to consider before the interview. During the interview, we discussed whether I agreed with the examiner's opinion and how I would respond to it. I really enjoyed analysing the situation and constructing

arguments for this task, and it gave me valuable insight into the type of work I would be doing as a trainee. I additionally completed a short grammar exercise during my visit. After receiving and accepting my job offer, I was invited to lunch with some of the trainees and associates working in the office I would be joining. This was a great opportunity to learn more about the firm and meet my future colleagues before starting.

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

Before applying, I would recommend taking every available opportunity to learn about the profession. Not only do employers want to see evidence that you have taken the initiative to explore and understand the profession, but the route to qualification is long and so it is important to understand what you are signing up to and whether it suits your interests and strengths. In addition to carrying out independent research, it is helpful to speak with trainees and qualified attorneys about their experiences and what their day-to-day job involves. The patent attorney profession is relatively small meaning you may need to reach out to people on LinkedIn or at networking events to do this. In my experience, most people are happy to answer a few questions and share advice!

Before applying I also attended an open day at a patent attorney firm. There were various talks covering different aspects of the job, and a couple of workshop sessions including a claim-drafting exercise. Experiencing elements of the work first-hand confirmed that I would enjoy the day-to-day job and helped me prepare for the application process.

Finally, I recommend practising explaining technical concepts clearly. Being able to break down and explain how everyday objects work is something that is often assessed during application processes. ●



GJE TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

Name
University
Degree

Krishna Lall
Imperial College London
BSc in Chemistry

Why did you choose a job in this profession?

While studying Chemistry at university, I had the opportunity to take a law course as an additional module for my degree. This course explored the relationship between science and the law, which I found fascinating and I particularly enjoyed the section about intellectual property law. After exploring some careers in science and law, I decided that I wanted to be a patent attorney, as it would allow me to use my degree while working in law. The theory side of my degree was my favourite part and being a Patent Attorney allows me to use that part of my degree every day to understand new technology.

What are your main duties?

One of the great things about working at GJE is the variety of work that I am given. This means that I don't spend too long doing just one thing and have gained experience in lots of different areas, in varying jurisdictions. My typical responsibilities include drafting new patent applications, prosecuting applications worldwide and meeting with clients. I have also had the opportunity to get involved with some opposition work, which has been a great experience for me at this early stage of my career. At GJE there is also an opportunity to get involved with things outside of patents, such as the Diversity and Inclusion group, which I am a part of.

What skills are useful in this profession?

An ability to pick up new concepts quickly is always helpful, as patent attorneys work in lots of different technical fields. For example,

while synthetic and organic chemistry was my preferred topic at university, I now work in a range of areas from batteries to pharmaceuticals, to detergents and beyond. Being able to adapt and learn quickly is a useful skill to have, especially as the technology might be something that you have never seen before! Additionally, much of the work of a patent attorney requires you to be precise and meticulous, and so the profession suits someone who is detail-oriented.

What does the training/qualification route look like?

At GJE, trainee patent attorneys start their training from day one with a comprehensive induction programme. Since starting, I have received lots of internal training in the form of regular "claim drafting" tutorials, know-how sessions as well as day-to-day training on real cases. About a year and a half into the profession, trainees will study towards their Postgraduate Certificate in Intellectual Property. After this, they will start studying towards the European and UK qualifying exams. Typically, the UK exams will be sat three or four years after training begins. One change for trainees who start from now on is that the European Qualifying Exams will look different. Candidates now have the opportunity to spread the exam load out more, by taking the foundation "F" paper one year into training, the "M1" and "M2" papers two years in, and the "M3" and "M4" papers three years in. GJE helps trainees throughout their exams with their own programme of exam tutorials and support. ●



HASELTINE LAKE KEMPNER TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

Name
University
Degree

James Ivor Bowen
Bristol
PhD in Chemistry

What inspired you to pursue a career as a patent attorney, and what were the key motivations behind that decision?

After spending the best part of a decade obtaining a PhD in Chemistry and working as a postdoctoral researcher, medicinal chemist, and process chemist, my family were understandably surprised to learn that I was starting a career in patent law. Admittedly, becoming a patent attorney was not something I had ever considered as I have always identified as a scientist. But as much as I loved being in the lab, I realised I wanted a career where I would be exposed to a variety of work and could apply my technical knowledge and problem-solving skills with a more commercial outlook. Patent law, sitting at the intersection of science, law, and business, stood out to me. The career satisfies my desire to learn and exposes me to new technology every day.

What does a typical day at HLK look like for you?

One of the best things about the job is that days are rarely repetitive. As a member of the Chemistry and Life Sciences team at HLK, my workload covers a range of subject matter – one day I might be looking at agritech or food science, and the next at pharmaceuticals, or medical devices. A key part of my job is to draft patent applications – this typically involves meeting with clients to understand the invention, then drafting an application which provides the broadest scope of protection possible. Another key task is to respond to objections raised by patent examiners to get a patent granted. This can be a challenging but extremely rewarding process, as I need to rapidly get to grips with emerging technologies and develop arguments and strategies that align with the client's commercial goals.

What training and experience is required to become a patent attorney?

A patent attorney not only needs a detailed understanding of patent law, but also the ability to grasp complex scientific concepts quickly. It is for this reason that European patent attorneys require a STEM degree. On top of this, trainees are typically required to pass 14 exams to become a dual-qualified UK and European attorney – a process that takes 4–5 years. That being said, this is a well-trodden path, with many firms like HLK offering fantastic training programmes to support you along the way. Having legal knowledge before entering the profession is also by no means a requirement – I myself had not completed any specialist IP courses. What is important, however, is to have a genuine interest in the profession and a willingness (or perhaps more aptly, a desire) to learn.

What are the key takeaways from your career path so far?

My biggest takeaway is to lean into opportunities that push you outside of your comfort zone. For me, pivoting from an academic and lab-based path into law was incredibly daunting, but taking that leap is the best way to figure out what you genuinely enjoy (and what you don't!). A concern I had before entering the profession was that I did not see myself as a creative writer. It turns out that this is not a requirement. Instead, the job is all about communicating complex concepts clearly, effectively, and with attention to detail – scientists actually tend to excel at this! I also initially worried that joining the profession would mean leaving my life as a scientist behind. After starting my training at HLK, I quickly realised that this was not the case. I do sometimes miss lab work, but I never regret my decision. ●



HG TECHNICAL ADVISOR

Name
University
Degree

Phoebe O'Logbon
UCL
BSc (Hons) Physics

Why did you choose a job in this profession?

Studying Physics, I realised I loved the ideas but wasn't drawn to life in a lab. I wanted a career that kept me close to the science but in a setting that emphasised communication and analysis over laboratory work. Patent work struck exactly that balance because I get to dig into how things work, then put my energy into thinking carefully and writing well about them.

What attracted you to your role?

Since secondary school, I've enjoyed subjects that involve applying complex information, particularly physics and history. Patent law practice is unique in that it combines both scientific and literary skills, as the role demands an in-depth understanding of technical subject matter and the ability to articulate that clearly in writing. For me, it sits right where my interests meet.

How did it tie in with your overall career plans?

I wanted a career that offered clear progression and intellectual growth. The patent attorney qualification process, involving a structured series of exams over several years, was especially appealing to me, as it allowed me to continue learning and development beyond university. The progression path is well-defined, and passing each exam is a tangible marker of growth in the profession.

How did you get your job at HG?

I applied through the IP Careers website, and the process ran across two interviews. The first centred on a technical written test based on an invention; the second included questions about the profession and patent law.

What was the application process like – any advice?

I really enjoyed it – it felt stimulating rather than a slog. I particularly enjoyed the written test component, so I would advise prospective

applicants to develop a portfolio of technical writing to showcase both clarity and accuracy in communicating scientific ideas.

What are your main duties?

Day to day, I draft patent applications, respond to examination reports, and prepare infringement analysis.

What skills are useful in this profession?

Attention to detail is everything, particularly when drafting patent claims because even a small punctuation error can impact the scope of protection. Analytical thinking matters just as much, whether you're answering an examiner's objections or distinguishing an invention from prior art. There's a creative side too, in spotting and articulating all the different embodiments an invention might take. And finally, good time management is non-negotiable: the work is deadline-driven and you're usually juggling several things at once.

What would you like to achieve in the future?

My goal is to become fully qualified as a UK and European patent attorney. Beyond the qualifications, I'm interested in expanding into the litigation side of intellectual property, particularly working on infringement and validity disputes.

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

Start by developing your writing skills, particularly in a scientific context. Contributing to student journals or scientific magazines is excellent preparation and provides valuable experience in communicating complex ideas clearly. ●



HGF TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

Name
University
Degree

Ningning Gao
Cambridge
PhD in Electrical Engineering

What are the main duties?

As a trainee patent attorney, the role broadly falls into two key areas: developing practical, on-the-job skills and studying towards professional qualifications. For many trainees, including myself, the role begins without a formal legal background. One of the most important duties early on is to learn, quickly and effectively, how to carry out the core aspects of the job. This includes drafting patent applications, responding to examination reports from patent offices, and assisting with client advice.

These responsibilities start from day one. Given the steep learning curve, trainees receive extensive mentoring and supervision. Guidance typically comes from partners, senior associates, and more experienced trainees, all of whom are willing to offer support. This collaborative environment ensures that while we are given early responsibility, we are never expected to work in isolation and can continually refine our skills through feedback and discussion.

At the same time, trainees must commit significant time to studying for a series of demanding professional exams. Balancing work responsibilities with exam preparation is a central part of the training process and requires discipline and strong organisational skills. Overall, the role is intellectually challenging, with a strong emphasis on continuous learning, both in legal principles and in new technical fields.

What skills are useful in this profession?

First, strong time management and prioritisation skills are essential. The profession is highly deadline-driven, with strict filing deadlines and client expectations. Being able to juggle multiple tasks and allocate time effectively is critical to maintaining both quality and efficiency. Second, the ability to quickly understand and communicate complex technical ideas is fundamental. Unlike academic research, where

one might specialise deeply in a specific field or topic, patent work often involves exposure to a wide variety of technologies, many of which may be completely unfamiliar. Trainees are expected to rapidly identify the core inventive concept behind an invention and to present it clearly, both in writing and verbally.

In addition, attention to detail, analytical thinking, and strong written communication skills are crucial. Patent drafting and prosecution require precision in language, as small differences in wording can have significant legal implications.

Any advice?

The first piece of advice is to be prepared for the intensity of the training process, but not to be discouraged by it. Many individuals entering the profession come from strong STEM backgrounds with academic excellence. However, legal training can be quite different from university study, particularly when combined with full-time work.

Additionally, it is extremely valuable to gain as much exposure to the profession as possible before applying. Opportunities such as open days, internships, work schemes, and informal coffee chats can provide important insights into the day-to-day role and working patterns. They also help you better understand whether the profession aligns with your own interests and strengths. I personally find attending an open day event at an intellectual property firm was particularly helpful for me. It allowed me to speak with trainees and qualified attorneys, understood their day-to-day working routines and responsibilities, and gave me a clearer understanding of what the career involves beyond the job description.

Ultimately, demonstrating genuine interest, curiosity about both law and technology, and an understanding of the profession will set you apart as a candidate. ●



HINDLES TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

Name
University
Degree

Maeve McCrossan
Warwick
MPhys

What skills are useful in this profession?

A patent attorney needs to be able to quickly pick up new concepts and ideas across a wide range of fields and understand them to a high level. Attention to detail is key, as well as being able to clearly articulate arguments and ideas, both to clients and in official communications. Having a creative mind and the ability to think outside the box are also valuable skills for both drafting patent applications and responding to examination reports.

What are your main duties?

Every day is different, and you will likely be handling a large number of cases in a variety of technological fields, each of which may be at a different stage in the application process. On any one day I may find myself: meeting with a client to discuss a new invention, drafting a new patent application, responding to client queries via email, forming arguments in response to an examination report, meeting with a client to discuss future strategies, putting together an opposition, or attending a networking event.

Is it a 9-5 job?

In terms of the job itself, the answer will likely depend on the firm, but at Hindles, we have quite a flexible work culture with a flexitime model for

work hours. This means that if, for example, you find yourself wanting to stay late to finish up work on a case, you can take back those hours at a later date, which allows you to maintain a healthy work/life balance. Outside of the job itself, as a trainee, you will likely be dedicating many evenings to studying in the run-up to exams. With two exam periods, one for the UK exams and one for the European exams, each roughly half a year apart, it is important to find a balance that allows you to work and study while still retaining a healthy personal life.

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

Don't be discouraged if you don't get a job offer straight away. This is a highly competitive sector, and there are limited job opportunities available for new trainees. Keep trying! Once your foot is in the door, you will have access to so many more opportunities. When applying, make sure there are no errors in your cover letter or CV – attention to detail and excellent written communication skills are imperative for this job, after all. Good luck! ●



HOFFMANN EITLE TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

Name
University
Degree

Mark Gallagher
Edinburgh
Chemistry (MChem)

Why did you choose a job in this profession?

Admittedly, I was not familiar with the world of intellectual property until my third year of university, when I spotted a sign which read "Scientists can be lawyers too!" at the university careers fair. After speaking with the responsible company's representatives and doing some further research into the job profile, I realised it may be a good fit.

What was the application process like?

The application process at Hoffmann Eitle involved an initial submission of a CV and cover letter, followed by a video interview with two partners of the firm and a subsequent in-person interview and accompanying written assessment in the London office. The interviews tested general chemical knowledge and went more in-depth about research projects undertaken at university.

As trainee patent attorney positions are highly sought after and advertisements garner applications from many top-level candidates, it is very common to apply/interview with several firms before being offered a position. The key message is that you shouldn't become disheartened throughout the process – learn from your application/interview experiences and things can eventually go your way!

What are your main duties?

One of my favourite aspects of the job is that every day is different. My tasks range from formulating arguments for, and writing responses to, Search Reports from the European Patent Office, drafting patent applications, and working on opposition statements against granted patents. The technologies I have worked on span a wide range of chemical sectors not limited to batteries, polymers, petrochemicals and pharmaceuticals; this breadth of subject matter makes every day interesting!

At Hoffmann Eitle, trainees have the advantage of engaging with clients from an early stage, and I have been involved in numerous calls with clients and external counsel in my short time at the firm.

What skills are useful in this profession?

My case work relies heavily on document analysis, and the main output of my work lies in writing up client letters and submissions to the European Patent Office. As such, some key attributes for the job include having a keen eye for detail and good written communication skills. As the work is very deadline-driven, you often find yourself working on multiple files at once, so being able to manage your time effectively and organise your workload is certainly another key to success.

What would you like to achieve in the future?

At this early stage in my training, my focus is on qualifying as a UK and European patent attorney. This will involve several years of intense study in order to pass both the foundation and qualifying exams for both regions, but I am certainly looking forward to the challenge.

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

If you are interested in applying to trainee positions, I would recommend reading trainee profiles on the IP Careers website and reaching out to trainees at your firm(s) of interest in order to get a sense of whether the job is for you.

When you start your trainee position, I would stress that you shouldn't beat yourself up if you don't grasp the work immediately. As trained scientists, we are all new to this type of job and it certainly takes a while to get to grips with specific aspects of the law. Your supervisors/trainers understand this and don't expect you to hit the ground running – they are always on hand to help! ●



J A KEMP TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

Name
University
Degree

Kathryn Baker
Oxford
Chemistry (MChem)

In my role as a Trainee Patent Attorney, I split my day across a variety of tasks which include preparing response letters, which involve highly technical scientific and legal arguments, to various patent offices across the world, reporting the progress of patent applications to clients and drafting brand-new patent specifications (this typically takes several days). Most of my work is done independently and then reviewed by the case partner – we usually chat through any changes they have made or suggestions they have for improvement. I also have various internal tasks such as helping with business development, organising socials and softball matches (yes, softball!) against other patent law firms and presenting in team meetings. I particularly enjoy getting to attend meetings with our clients to understand their motivation behind each patent application and how we can get it pushed through to grant for them.

I enjoy being a Trainee Patent Attorney because I get to use the skills and knowledge that I learnt in my degree and apply them to help protect actual scientific inventions, (and often get to see these inventions before anyone else given that they aren't in the public domain yet!). The key skills needed are excellent time management and attention to detail.

At J A Kemp, there is a large cohort of trainees with different scientific backgrounds, and we all sit together in one section of the office. This is extremely helpful when it comes to

day-to-day legal and cross-discipline scientific questions, as well as being able to support each other through the many exams that we have to sit. Additionally, the firm provides great support for our exams by organising internal tutorials and case law presentations, sending us on external training courses and assigning everyone a partner as their individual mentor. Each trainee also works with a legal assistant to streamline administrative tasks.

It has been extremely interesting learning to apply new legal concepts to my existing scientific expertise. In fact, just under two years in, one of the most surprising aspects of the job is the breadth of scientific topics that I have worked on. I have covered inventions relating to small-molecule drugs, solid-state batteries, agrochemicals, biotechnology, concrete and much more!

My typical hours are 9-5 so there is plenty of time for exercise, socialising with friends and going to the pub with colleagues. The hours can vary (especially close to deadlines) but on the whole they are good. The firm is full of lots of friendly people who are keen to help you learn and improve and always happy to answer any questions.

Overall, I would highly recommend this career to any science graduate interested in applying their degree in a less conventional way but still wanting a rewarding and challenging career (and no lab work!). ●



KELTIE PATENT ASSISTANT

Name
University
Degree

Christopher O'Reilly
TU Dublin
Mechanical Engineering

Mine was a somewhat alternative entry into the patent profession as I was working as a Chartered Mechanical Engineer in the automotive and motorcycle industries for 10 years before starting as a Patent Technical Assistant with Keltie. I first heard of the patent profession during my time as an engineer, where I routinely worked to design around competitor patents relating to the components or systems for which I was responsible.

Towards the end of my stint in engineering, I worked for an engineering consultancy. I particularly enjoyed the varied work that consultancy brought and being at the technological forefront. After some research into the patent profession, I realised that it offered similar opportunities to be involved in a wide variety of interesting things.

I chose to apply to Keltie as it is regarded as one of Europe's leading IP firms and they have offices in Ireland. Being Irish myself and having had to leave my home country in pursuit of my engineering career, I decided to change career and return to Ireland.

I am delighted to say that my decision has paid off. I now work for Keltie as a Patent Technical Assistant and live in the wonderful city of Galway, situated on the west coast of Ireland. The West of Ireland is an attractive location for an IP firm such as Keltie as it is a thriving innovation hub, particularly in relation to medical devices, pharmaceuticals, engineering and software.

I get to work alongside my colleagues in our London, Cambridge and Cotswold offices on a regular basis, which allows me to learn from their experience and the wide range of technologies and clients in the Keltie portfolio.

The aspects of the job I love are the problem-solving nature of drafting and prosecuting patent applications, the sheer variety of work, being at the cutting edge of fascinating technologies and working with inventors to help turn their ideas into reality. I am being exposed to technical fields and commercial situations that I would never have experienced in my work as an engineer.

Keltie is incredibly welcoming, and trainees receive wonderful support as they develop their careers in IP. I have had the opportunity to work with multiple supervisors and across a range of engineering disciplines.

I am currently training to become a qualified UK, Irish and European Patent Attorney. In this respect, there are various paths that lead to qualification. Keltie has a very open and inclusive approach to supporting its trainees in their qualification journey. Our firm recognises that the best way not merely to qualify but also to become an excellent patent attorney is to experience a wide variety of interesting work in a supportive and enjoyable environment. ●



KILBURN & STRODE TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

Name
University
Degree

Alessandro Sona
Eindhoven University of Technology
MSc Science & Technology of Nuclear Fusion

Why did you choose a job in this profession?

I have a Master's of Science and Technology of Nuclear Fusion, but I am also interested in law, argumentation, logic, and writing. Working with intellectual property and training to become a patent attorney allows me to combine my technical knowledge and my other interests in a challenging but rewarding career.

What attracted you to your role?

I am interested in all subjects related to energy production and distribution, such as electromechanics, power systems, and high-voltage technology, and studying nuclear fusion engineering has allowed me to expand my technical knowledge in a field that is developing extremely advanced technologies which are relevant not only for the energy generation sector, but also find application in medicine, power transmission, and defence. My job involves working on a multitude of inventions in my areas of expertise, with new ideas and technologies reaching my desk every day, and I find this more stimulating than a career in R&D.

What skills are useful in this profession?

Sometimes I work on four or five different cases during my day, quickly switching between them, therefore attention to detail and keeping my work in good order are extremely important to cope with this fast-paced aspect of the job. Further skills I think

are important in my role are the ability of argumentatively selling and defending an idea and the ability to work under pressure in a team. Speaking a few languages is a good plus if you want to join a firm with many European clients; I speak English, Italian and Dutch, but any language will help.

Is it a 9-5 job?

Yes and no. It is often a 9-5 job, but some days you will have to put in some extra effort to meet a deadline, while other days will end early. Also, Kilburn & Strode gives us great flexibility to organise our work, compatibly with our responsibilities towards our clients and colleagues. Sometimes attorneys start and end their day a bit earlier, sometimes a bit later. We are also given the option to work from home some days during the week and I find that this improves my performance in my job.

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

Work experience is not necessary to enter the profession, but it can offer a valuable insight. Some firms offer internship programmes, so keep an eye out for any adverts and try to apply. Alternatively, most firms host open days where you can get information on the work patent attorneys do, especially trainees, and I suggest you attend one or two, especially if you are interested in a particular firm and would like to know more about them. ●



MARKS & CLERK TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

Name
University
Degree

Louisa Spillman
Birmingham
MSci Physics

A (busy) day in the life of a trainee patent attorney

Every day as a trainee patent attorney looks unique. If you're interested in the profession, the schedule below may help you get a sense of the variety of tasks that you would be able to work on as a trainee - although not usually all in one day!

Morning

On my first day as a trainee, my supervisor told me that the most crucial part of being a patent attorney is checking deadlines. Failing to respond to the Patent Office may lead to the death of a patent application, unhappy clients, and legal consequences. For that reason, the first thing I do every morning is check on any upcoming deadlines, incoming emails, and reminders. Afterwards, I tend to spend my mornings drafting responses to Official Actions. These are communications sent by the European Patent Office that explain why an Examiner believes an application may not be fit for grant. Responding to these is my favourite part of the job as you get to dive into the details of your client's invention, followed by a technical game of 'spot the difference' with any documents that the examiner has cited. It's a great opportunity to practice developing legal arguments and explore different technical fields.

Lunchtime

Lunchtime is often a chance to unwind and connect with my officemates. In the summer, many of my colleagues play football and padel near the office. Groups of us have also played social deduction board games, such as Werewolf - although it can be a bit intimidating to accuse a Partner of lying! I also run my office's monthly Craft Club, a lovely opportunity to relax and chat.

Afternoon

After lunch, it's back to work! Once a trainee gains some experience, they may get to draft a patent application from scratch. This usually begins with

an interview with the inventor who describes what they've developed and what protection they're seeking, followed by a lot of research into the field, critical thinking about how a competitor may try to work around your patent, and a lot of editing. It's challenging, but watching your application progress from filing to grant can be very rewarding.

Client visits are also common. Being a patent attorney means acting as a bridge between the commercial needs of your client, the technical heart of the invention, and the restrictions of the Patent Office. It can be very helpful to meet with clients in person to talk through their goals and answer any IP-related questions.

Evening

Unfortunately, another reality of being a trainee is that many evenings are spent revising for qualifying exams - some of the hardest in Europe. Most trainees will take around 3-5 years to qualify, and the process can be intense, but I'm lucky to be part of a supportive cohort of trainees taking the same exams.

On a lighter note, one perk of being a trainee is the many opportunities to connect with the wider IP community. The Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys (CIPA) Informals Committee organise frequent social events for trainees across the UK. I've attended dinners, dart clubs, and social cricket games - all paid for by CIPA!

Trainees are also encouraged to start attending networking events early in their careers. It can be daunting to walk up to strangers, but it's also a vital skill for a patent attorney, and in my experience, people have always been friendly and eager to connect - that's what these events are for! For all you know, you may even land a new client.

After all of this, I finally call it a day... and then wake up tomorrow, ready to do it all again! ●



MATHYS & SQUIRE TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

Name
University
Degree

Tammy Sembi
Oxford
BA Computer Science

Why did you choose a job in this profession?

I studied Computer Science at the University of Oxford and was keen to continue working in the field, although not in a traditional software engineering role. I enjoyed that the modules throughout my degree taught me a broad range of subject matter and skills, and so I was particularly drawn to work that involved a wide variety of technologies and interactions with clients.

After 18 months working as a consultant, I realised I wanted to pursue a career that aligned more closely with my academic background. Becoming a trainee patent attorney has provided me with the opportunity to apply my technical knowledge, whilst still involving the client-facing work I had enjoyed.

How have you found the job so far?

I joined Mathys & Squire just over a year ago now, and have been immersed in on-the-job training. There is a steep learning curve, but the firm offers 'enrichment sessions' to learn the basics of patent law, and practice claim drafting. In addition to this, I am fully supported in my development by the Partners I work for, including one-on-one sessions which have assisted with the progression of my work. Along with my cohort at Mathys & Squire, I have recently attended Queen Mary University of London for the PGCert Intellectual Property Law course. The course helped to formalise the patent knowledge that I have gained over the past year, as well as provide a useful overview

of the patent process in other countries. It was also very interesting and useful to learn about other Intellectual Property rights such as copyrights, designs and trademarks.

So far, I have been involved in drafting responses and contributing to the technical descriptions of newly drafted patent applications. I have also had the opportunity to work with both large companies and small start-ups, which has helped me to appreciate their different needs and how to adapt to different clients. The subject matter of work has been varied - sometimes directly related to my specialism, and other times more broadly mechanical in nature. This has been both challenging and engaging, and it really does feel like I am learning new things every day!

What have you enjoyed most about working at Mathys & Squire?

One of the highlights has been joining a large cohort of trainees, who are friendly and supportive and make Mathys & Squire a great place to work. Across all levels of experience at the firm, people are willing to help you learn and answer questions, which has made a real difference in my early experience. This has been particularly useful whilst revising for the Module F EQE exam, as the large cohort allows us to work together to understand the content. There is also an active social calendar including casual pub trips, bake sales, and more formal summer and Christmas parties! ●



MAUCHER JENKINS TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

Name
University
Degree

Elizabeth Hamer
Newcastle
Computer Science

What was the application process like?

The application process at Maucher Jenkins was fairly straightforward. After submitting my application, I was invited to an in-person interview. The first part of the interview involved a written test based on my academic background in computer science. The purpose of the test is not to catch candidates out, but rather to determine what technologies they have encountered during their studies and, how well they can understand and explain those technologies. This skill is key for patent attorneys, where clearly communicating complex ideas is essential.

Following the written exercise, I had an interview with one of the firm's partners, who is now my supervisor. The discussion covered my technical background, my interest in intellectual property, and my motivation for pursuing a career as a patent attorney. There were also questions aimed at assessing my communication and time management skills. Overall, the interview felt relaxed and conversational, which I found both enjoyable and reassuring in what is usually a stressful situation.

My advice to candidates would be to refresh your knowledge of the core subjects from your degree. It is important to be prepared to discuss your academic projects and any relevant experience in detail, as demonstrating how you have applied your skills in practice can strengthen your application.

What skills are useful in the profession?

Patent attorneys need a combination of strong technical understanding, analytical thinking and excellent communication skills. Much of the role involves understanding complex inventions and then explaining them clearly and precisely in patent applications, correspondence, and discussions with clients.

Attention to detail is critical, as small differences in wording can have a significant impact on the scope of patent protection. Strong problem-solving skills are equally important, particularly when responding to objections from patent offices or developing strategies to protect an invention.

Time management and organisational skills are particularly valuable. Patent attorneys often work on multiple cases at once, each with their own deadlines, so being able to prioritise work effectively and keep on top of deadlines is important.

Finally, a willingness to keep learning is essential. The profession involves ongoing training and examinations, especially during the trainee stage, and even once qualified, there is a constant need to stay up to date with developments in both technology and the law.

What would you like to achieve in the future?

In the short to medium-term, my primary goal is to pass all the exams to qualify as both a UK and European patent attorney. Although the process is demanding, it offers a valuable opportunity to develop my legal expertise, and I look forward to continuing that progression.

In the longer term, I would like to build a broad range of experience across different technologies and develop into a trusted adviser to clients.

Given my background in computer science, I am particularly interested in working with emerging technologies and seeing how the patent system evolves in response to new developments in the field. ●



MEWBURN ELLIS TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

Name
University
Degree

Bhakti Mistry
Imperial
PHD in Virology

Why did you choose a job in this profession?

I very much enjoyed my PhD, but as it came to an end I wasn't sure that a future in academia was for me. I wasn't sure exactly what I wanted to do, but what I did know is that I didn't want to leave science completely. A career as a patent attorney seemed like a good fit for me. It allowed me to use and build upon my scientific knowledge but with a different focus to academic research.

What are your main duties?

As a trainee at Mewburn, I have been involved in case work from the start. My main duties are to help clients during different stages of the patent prosecution process. Often when a client applies for a patent, the patent examiner raises several objections to the patentability of it. Most of my work involves trying to persuade patent examiners that the client's invention is patentable by preparing arguments to the objections that they have raised. The arguments are based on technical aspects as well as law. I work on multiple cases at any one time and each case is about something completely different. This is one of the things that makes this job so interesting.

I have also had the chance to help prepare for oral proceedings. Since many oral proceedings now take place via video conferencing, there are lots of opportunities to watch how these are carried out. As a trainee, I am supervised by a partner in the firm. The partners set you work and give you feedback.

During the training programme we move offices at least once which I've found invaluable to my learning. Under the new placement scheme, we are supported to do this with time off and offered £10,000 to help with the cost of re-location, which really helps!

Is it a 9-5 job?

On the most part the job is 9-5. However, there are times where you need to work longer

hours in order to meet deadlines. Occasionally instructions from a client can come in last minute and this will need to be dealt with.

What skills are useful in this profession?

Good communication is key to many aspects of the job such as writing persuasive arguments, talking to clients to understand their inventions and explaining legal concepts to them in a digestible manner. An analytical and creative mind will also be helpful when responding to objections from examiners and during oral proceedings. As you've probably heard, having good attention to detail is also very important.

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

Try and get as much information as possible before applying e.g. by attending open days, talking to people in the profession and looking online. When applying, ensure you proof-read your CV and cover letter... attention to detail is key as a patent attorney. Getting into the profession is competitive so apply for advertised roles but also send out speculative applications.

When preparing for interviews make sure you can clearly explain any research you have previously conducted. Also practice describing everyday objects in one sentence, trying to identify the key features which differentiate it from other similar objects. It can be daunting applying for a position as a trainee patent attorney without knowing much about law, but don't let it put you off.

Finally, there are exams to pass and these go on for a few years. They do take a lot of time to study for and are not easy, so you will need to be committed. Ask the firms you apply to about their training programme and how they support you through the exams. Hopefully this will help you towards deciding on a firm that is right for you. Good luck! ●



PAGE WHITE FARRER TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

Name
University
Degree

Rachel Barrett
Manchester
MPhys, Master of Physics

The white coat

As you climb the rungs of the academic ladder towards vistas unknown, you can't help but imagine the clouds one day parting to reveal test tubes, a chalk board and yourself among them, draped in a white coat and stroking the beard that you've somehow managed to sprout despite the odds. You look thoughtful and confident. You belong.

But, alas, 'tis not always so. Sometimes the clouds thin but never part. Is it fun to shoot lasers at quantum wells and set fire to innocent sheets of paper? Yes, of course it is. Nobody's denying that. What's less fun, is the other side, the one no-one warned you about – or maybe it was in the fine print, but you never flipped over the page because the risk assessment suggested it might be dangerous to climb a ladder one-handed. On the other side is a niggling feeling of unease. It's strongest when your laser breaks, or your spectrum is noisy, or a spider sits right by the button you need to press and you're too embarrassed to scream for help, so you have an existential crisis instead. But even once the spider scuttles off, the niggling feeling never does.

There are only so many times you can accidentally stab yourself with a needle before you begin to suspect that maybe, just maybe, you were meant for something else. Sometimes the white coat doesn't fit (often literally – science fashion cares not for the plight of the vertically challenged).

The pivot

So, academia's not for you. You're a menace in the lab and, rather than exciting you, the prospect of upping sticks every couple of

years to chase the funding fills you with dread. Industry then? No – you don't want to do science for The Man, you were in it for the truth (it's out there). What does that leave? Must you get a boring office job?

No. Get an interesting office job. But can there be such a thing? It depends. Did you moan about scrolling through articles with no end and lament having to write up your research instead of just announcing "Ah, I see" and moving on, all while secretly liking those tasks the most? Or maybe you liked them proudly, with your smooth, un-bearded chin thrust out. Good for you. Either way, you might consider a career in intellectual property.

Specifically, there could well be a vacant seat of a trainee patent attorney with your name on it. Not literally. If you discover they've written it there before you've even applied, you should probably leave. Better run, actually – that's creepy.

The firm

Even more specifically, you might consider PWF. Yes, I'm obviously biased, there's no getting around that. I only interviewed at one firm and accepted the offer as soon as it was made, so quickly, in fact, that I may have scared them a little.

But the moment I walked through the door, the little niggling feeling disappeared and, in two-and-a-half years, it's yet to return. The work is fulfilling, the feedback is flowing and the ladder has grippy, cushioned rungs that feel much nicer on your fingers. I belong here and you might, too. Also, the pay's not bad. ●



POTTER CLARKSON TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

Name
University
Degree

Cameron Gregor
St Andrews
MPhys Astrophysics

I'm Cameron, a Trainee Patent Attorney at Potter Clarkson. I started around 7 months ago, before which I completed an integrated masters in astrophysics at the University of St Andrews. In 2023, I worked for RWE Renewables, in their offshore wind division, modelling wind turbine component breakages and proactive part replacements.

Why I chose the profession

I love physics and the way it can impact on and improve every aspect of our lives. I was looking for a career where I could use my physics knowledge in an interesting and stimulating way. I was attracted to the patent attorney profession specifically because of the variety of work involved, as well as having the opportunity to develop a whole new area of knowledge in patent and intellectual property law.

Work involved in the role

I work within the Technology, Engineering and Design team, which encompasses a wide range of fields, ranging from mechanical inventions to inventions relating to nuclear fusion, medical devices and computer-implemented methods, which can involve AI. The skills and knowledge gained from my degree have been key in understanding how inventions work and identifying the key differences between an invention and the prior art, which are documents which relate to the current state of knowledge in the field. My role includes work at every stage of the process of obtaining a patent, as well as other work relating to general Intellectual Property (IP) strategy, Freedom to Operate (FTO) checks, patent oppositions, and meetings with clients and inventors to understand how their inventions work and what the best form of protection is

for them. Patent prosecution progresses on relatively long timescales, so at any one time you are involved in multiple applications at different stages.

The most important section of an application is the claims, which define the scope of protection of the patent. The rest of the application provides context and support to the features described by the claims. A patent office may raise objections against some or all of the claims, based on a search for prior art. Work then involves drafting responses to address the objections. These responses may include amendments to the claims and arguments against the Examiner's position.

Everyone at Potter Clarkson is really supportive and has made me feel part of the team from the start.

Current training

I will study to be both a UK and a European Patent Attorney. Training for the exams has so far involved in-house tutorials and is soon to include external courses, in preparation for some of the UK foundation exams which I will be sitting in October.

Future plans

I intend to qualify in both the UK and Europe and to continue my career in the firm.

Advice

Don't feel too discouraged when applying for jobs. The patent attorney field is small and it may take time to find the right fit. Just because you don't get a job straight away it doesn't mean that the job isn't right for you! ●



REDDIE & GROSE TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

Name
University
Degree

Stephanie Stankard
Oxford
MChem Chemistry

How did you enter the profession?

Unusually, I became aware of the profession when applying for my degree. I was both interested in chemistry and continuing with science, but was also considering pursuing law. I did some research, and it seemed that becoming a patent attorney after doing a science degree was the perfect overlap of my interests.

During my degree, I did an internship at a patent firm to understand what the job actually entailed, and I ended up loving it! It was a great mixture of using what I was learning in my degree, but in a completely different context. I also really enjoyed the problem-solving aspect of trying to find solutions that work for the client and for the patent office of the jurisdiction being dealt with.

When I got into my final year, I was pretty certain that I wanted to apply for jobs in the industry, and that's how I ended up here!

Your main roles and responsibilities

My daily work is very varied. I mostly handle prosecution, that is, responding to search and examination reports for various pharmaceutical cases, which is a really good way to get to grips with the various objections examiners present in different patent offices across the world.

I have also been involved in opposition cases and have attended oral proceedings which have been really valuable to experience so early in my career.

Another important part of my role is training. We have weekly training sessions which gives us a structured opportunity to learn about an aspect of becoming a patent attorney. Alongside this, I also spend a lot of time

reading around cases to fully understand the laws underpinning them, which can mean researching case law, reading sections of the Patents Act, or reading articles and blogs.

What drew you to R&G

I was drawn to R&G firstly due to the emphasis on training. We start with a two-week long 'boot camp' which was an intense yet incredibly valuable training programme which introduced us to the fundamentals of patents, trademarks, and designs. This made the transition into the profession extremely smooth as it meant I knew some of the basics when I started working on my own cases.

During my interviews, it became clear that R&G was a genuinely welcoming and friendly firm which also really made them stand out. There are lots of social events and opportunities to get involved in presentations and networking events – all of which make R&G a great place to work.

Life at the firm so far

I have really enjoyed my time here so far. It has been great to bond with the other trainees in my cohort and learn about so many different aspects of the profession in such a short space of time. The learning curve has definitely been steep, as patents are something I – and most people – won't ever have learned about before starting the job, but the training and the willingness of everyone in the firm to help when I am unsure, have made my experience very rewarding.

I am really looking forward to continuing my training with the firm and deepening my knowledge of all things patents. ●



SAGITTARIUS IP TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

Name
University
Degree

Emily White
Durham
BSc in Biological Sciences

Explain why you decided to pursue a career in this profession.

Mine is a standard story; I had not particularly enjoyed the laboratory environment I experienced at university and felt my skills lay outside of the lab, but still within the life sciences. I had experienced patents during an internship in a biotech company and, after some research, found that the career of a patent attorney appealed to me.

What I enjoy is that you are constantly intellectually stimulated, while providing a service necessary for innovation.

Give a bit of background of your qualifications and any training you have completed.

After graduating from Durham University with a BSc in Biological Sciences, I joined Sagittarius IP in November 2023 as a trainee attorney in the Cambridge office. I am currently part-qualified, having completed the Intellectual Property Law PGCert at Queen Mary University of London, and being in the first cohort to sit (and pass) the foundation module of the reformed EQEs. While the exams are integral to qualification, your day-to-day tasks are more reflective of the practice of an attorney and exposes you to tasks that exams cannot test, such as good client and deadline management.

Explain what your current role involves.

The work is varied in both the technology area and the task. One morning you may be working on a response to a patent office communication regarding cell reprogramming, and that afternoon helping conduct an antibody freedom to operate search.

Sagittarius excels at involving trainees in all work, including oppositions and appeals, one of which I attended in Munich during my first year of training. The highest volume of work is prosecution-based, i.e. getting a patent application to grant, which involves liaising with the client and the patent office. You have to be aware of the prior art, prosecution history and the client's interests to develop a strategy. Each communication is a good chance to revisit relevant articles, rules and/or case law, to refresh your knowledge and to help support your arguments. Attorneys at Sagittarius are very good at providing detailed feedback on any completed work, which provides learning opportunities.

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

Patent law bridges science, law and business, so make sure you give attention to all three in your application. Make sure that your application documents are proofread multiple times by yourself and somebody else – when you spend a long time on something it's easier to miss errors, but the hiring team will not!

Because competition is high, persistence is key. You should not take rejections personally but ask for feedback on how to improve and incorporate this into your next application.

Becoming a patent attorney is a demanding process that requires hard work and dedication over multiple years, so make sure you are in a firm that has good exam support. Sagittarius is hands on with exam preparation, offering tutorials and external courses to set you up in the best way for exam success. ●



SECERNA TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

Name
University
Degree

Jacob Robertson
Oxford
MMath&Phys
DPhil (Theoretical Physics)

Why did you choose a job in this sector?

Towards the end of my doctorate, I was looking for a career that would allow me to combine my scientific background with the technical writing skills I had developed. I connected with some trainee patent attorneys at a careers fair who spoke incredibly highly of the profession. This prompted me to apply for a taster day at a patent law firm, which ultimately confirmed that this career was the perfect fit for me.

How did you get your job at Secerna?

I saw that Secerna was recruiting a trainee in the Physical Sciences team on the IP Careers website. I applied with my CV and cover letter, and I was invited to a Teams interview, and then subsequently an in-person interview.

What was the application process like?

I spent a lot of time researching the profession to make sure I understood what I was applying for. Attending a taster day gave me an honest sense of the daily routine, which I supplemented by tracking intellectual property news and reading through existing patents.

From there, I focused on translating my doctoral experience into the transferable skills that matter to a firm, ensuring each application was bespoke. During the interview, when I was asked why I wanted to transition into this field and how my technical background fit, the deep dive I did early on was invaluable. It allowed me to explain exactly how my research had shaped my perspective, showing the interviewers that my decision to become a patent attorney was well-considered and genuine.

What are your main duties?

The job is varied, which is what I like about it. I have been involved in preparing patent applications, from initial client meetings to discuss inventions, through to drafting and filing new patent applications.

A large part of the job is 'prosecution', meaning the process of trying to convince a patent office to grant a patent. This involves getting to grips with the prior art that might be cited against an application we are responsible for, and considering what responses we can make (for example, to amend the application to overcome any objections, or to argue against the objections) and the pros and cons of each.

What skills are useful?

Top of the list is strong written communication. You need to be able to distil complex information for clients who are new to the patent system, as well as frame precise, persuasive arguments when dealing with patent offices. Attention to detail and excellent time management are also crucial for managing the day-to-day workflow effectively.

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

The most important thing is ensuring you truly understand what the career involves day-to-day. While there is a wealth of information online, I highly recommend reaching out to current trainees to hear about their experiences first hand, or applying for insight schemes like the Secerna taster day. ●



SLINGSBY PARTNERS TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

Name
University
Degree

Jack Binning
Oxford
MEng Engineering Science

When I came across the role of a patent attorney, I was particularly drawn to the unique convergence of law and technology, as well as the commercial importance that intellectual property can hold. The opportunity to apply technical knowledge in a legal context appealed to me, and I saw the role as both intellectually stimulating and strategic.

Following the completion of my final year at university, I began applying to several IP firms while also undertaking a summer internship. The internship gave me an eye-opening introduction to the profession and a better understanding of what a role as a trainee patent attorney would involve. Interacting with a patent attorney during this time proved especially valuable, both in confirming my interest in the field and in preparing for the application and interview process.

The recruitment process at Slingsby Partners was concise and personal. After submitting a CV and covering letter, I was invited to attend a single interview which took place over the course of a morning. The interview included a series of discussions which culminated in a claim drafting exercise. Although the interview was thorough, my interviewers had a friendly and relaxed approach. I also had the opportunity to speak with a current trainee, which gave me a great insight into day-to-day life at the firm and what to expect in the profession.

From my first day as a trainee, I was made to feel welcome and supported. I worked closely with a variety of partners and senior attorneys from the outset. This creates a collaborative and open environment that has exposed me to different approaches to tasks, allowing me to develop my own style, informed by a range of perspectives and experiences.

So far, my work has been mostly focused on the prosecution of patent applications. Primarily this involves preparing responses to exam reports, which is mostly independent work. Typically, I would read an exam report and the relevant prior art independently, before discussing it with a supervisor to ensure that we are aligned on how is best to respond. In addition to prosecution work, I have enjoyed conducting prior art searches and freedom-to-operate searches as they are an efficient way to gain a familiarity with the client's invention as well as the surrounding patent landscape.

I have been encouraged to have an active role in communication with our direct clients, ranging from start-ups to global companies. This has provided me with exposure to different commercial strategies and IP needs, which is reflected in communications with each client.

Being a medium-sized firm, Slingsby Partners is an ideal place to work towards qualification as a trainee. There are trainees and part-qualified attorneys at various stages of their journeys towards qualification that are willing to offer their guidance and support. Simultaneously, the partners and qualified attorneys provide internal tutorials and revision sessions to assist you in preparing for the exams.

Overall, my experience so far has confirmed that becoming a patent attorney was the right decision for me. The work is rewarding and I am continually learning and developing my skills as I work towards qualification as a patent attorney. ●



SWINDELL & PEARSON TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

Name
University
Degree

Oliver McHugh
Bristol
PhD in Condensed Matter Physics

Why did you choose a job in this profession?

I have always been interested in understanding how things work and enjoy learning about cutting-edge technologies. A role where I'm exposed to new innovations every day is therefore a natural fit.

At the same time, the legal side of intellectual property appealed to me. Coming from a scientific background, the opportunity to move into a new field and develop a different skill set was both exciting and challenging.

What are your main duties/roles?

As a trainee patent attorney, a large part of my responsibilities is responding to official communications from patent offices under the supervision of senior attorneys.

During patent prosecution, examiners issue reports assessing whether an invention meets key requirements such as novelty (whether it is new), inventiveness (whether it is non-obvious), and clarity (whether it is clearly defined).

My role involves analysing these reports, comparing the invention with existing technology, and preparing arguments explaining why protection should be granted. This often requires identifying subtle technical distinctions and presenting them clearly and persuasively.

The role combines technical analysis with strong written communication skills.

As I progress, I am increasingly involved in working more closely with clients to develop protection strategies and contributing to the firm's business development through networking.

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

The recruitment process for trainee patent attorneys can be demanding, often involving multiple stages designed to assess your technical knowledge, analytical ability, communication skills, and overall suitability for the role.

It's important to research firms carefully before applying and tailor your application accordingly. Don't be discouraged if it takes time. This is a competitive profession, and persistence is key!

You should also be aware that qualification involves several years of exams alongside full-time work, requiring a significant commitment outside the office. Make sure you are comfortable with this before pursuing the career.

Finally, I would strongly recommend speaking to people already in the profession, particularly trainees. They can provide valuable insights into day-to-day work and help you decide whether a career as a patent attorney is right for you. ●



VENNER SHIPLEY PART QUALIFIED PATENT ATTORNEY

Name
University
Degree

Jake Tommey
UCL
PhD in Quantum Physics

Why did you choose a job in this profession?

During my physics studies, I particularly enjoyed scientific programming. This initially led me to a career in software engineering where I worked in fintech, quantum computing, and climate science. I liked that software engineering allowed me the flexibility to work across a range of scientific fields. During this time, I met a friend who had started as a trainee patent attorney. Through discussing our careers, I realised that these aspects I enjoyed about software roles were central to their role too.

After researching more, I realised the combination of scientific and legal work really interested me. I began applying for jobs, and I was fortunate to be offered a position at Venner Shipley (VS)!

Life as a trainee patent attorney

I have now completed my first year in the profession, including attending the Queen Mary course and completing my first set of exams towards qualification. I found the structure of the year particularly rewarding. The first few months were focused on learning on the job, including drafting patent specifications and responses to office actions from an early stage, alongside in-house training delivered by qualified attorneys at the firm. This has been incredibly helpful and will thankfully continue all the way through the journey to qualification. An aspect I value about the role is its breadth. While I regularly work on cases in quantum technologies, I am also involved in work across a range of other fields. Even in areas such as sports technology, which provides ongoing variety.

The culture at Venner Shipley is great and has been an important part of my experience so far. As there is a steep learning curve, this has been invaluable with making the transition into the world of IP. Coming from a background working in science and tech, I was initially hesitant about working in a legal environment. However, my apprehension was misplaced, and VS is very friendly, supportive, and in many ways, feels like a scientific department. This is reflected in the new open plan London office, which encourages collaboration and communication right across the firm. The large number of trainees in the London office is also a great source of both technical and moral support, particularly when preparing for exams. Another benefit of the large cohort is there is an active social life at the firm, and we regularly go climbing or to the pub after work (where we talk about anything but exams!).

Do you have any advice for someone entering the profession?

For anyone considering a career as a patent attorney, it's a fun job if you enjoy problem solving and quickly getting to grips with a wide range of subjects. Strong writing skills are essential, as the role requires drafting documents with precision and when necessary, presenting arguments persuasively. One piece of advice is to practise explaining how things around you work in clear and simple terms. This is surprisingly difficult at first but becomes much easier with practice! ●



WILSON GUNN TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

Name
University
Degree

Jasmeet Kaur
Oxford
MChem

Why did you choose a job in this profession?

I completed an integrated Master's in Chemistry at the University of Oxford, with my final year research project in Medicinal Chemistry. Although I enjoyed my time in research, I knew I wanted to pursue a career outside of the lab, preferably one where I could still apply the knowledge and skills I had gained during my degree.

I first came across the patent profession while browsing potential career paths for Chemistry graduates. I was immediately drawn to the idea of a job where I could make use of my STEM background, while learning and applying the law to find real-life commercial solutions.

To find out more about the profession, I gained some work experience at a patent law firm, which gave me a valuable snapshot of what the day-to-day looks like for a patent attorney. I came away with a positive impression of the field, and this motivated me to apply for a full-time role.

What skills are useful in this sector?

- Good communication, both written and oral are key. Part of becoming a good patent attorney is to learn how to describe complex inventions using simplified statements. You also need to be able to communicate effectively with clients to build strong professional relationships over time.
- Attention to detail is equally important, especially when reading and drafting patents. There is often little room for error, and even the smallest errors can have large commercial implications for the client.
- Time management is another vital skill; there are a lot of deadlines, many

non-extendible, so it's important to stay ahead by setting personal deadlines, factoring in the time needed for your supervisor to review your work, and for the client to respond. Hence, learning how to organise your time from an early point in your training stands you in good stead as you pick up more responsibility (and deadlines!), over time.

However, you're not expected to be perfect from the outset; what's important is your ability to learn, adapt and grow – there is a lot to learn over the period of your training and beyond, both at work and in your own time, so it's important to be prepared for that.

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

I would recommend speaking to as many professionals as possible, including trainees, qualified attorneys and partners, e.g. by attending firm open days, emailing, etc. This will give you more insight on what to expect at different stages of the career. It's also important to research the firms you are applying to, and tailor your application to reflect their specific requirements.

Equally important is to be prepared to take on potentially four or more years of training and sitting exams – this involves giving up evenings and weekends to study, especially in the lead-up to exams.

Lastly, don't be afraid to send out speculative applications in addition to applying for advertised jobs – taking the initiative can help open unexpected doors. ●



WITHERS & ROGERS JUNIOR ASSOCIATE

Name
University
Degree

Lucy Tedstone
Lancaster
MPhys, Master of Physics

About me

I studied Physics at Lancaster University where I completed an integrated master's degree. My masters project focused on novel infrared detectors for health and fitness monitoring.

While I loved my degree, I knew a career in research wasn't for me. In my search for alternative career options, I came upon the patent profession. I had always had an interest in the law, and it felt like an ideal combination for me which provided secure career prospects while allowing me to work within the field I loved, working with new inventions each day.

Choosing Withers & Rogers

From the moment the interview process began, it was clear that Withers & Rogers values not only technical expertise but also individual character and potential. When interacting with colleagues there is a strong sense of community and support. The variety of clients and inventions encountered daily from telecommunications to medical devices to machine learning algorithms, along with exposure to international work – whether through our German and French offices or by collaborating with attorneys from the United States or Japan – ensures that the work is always engaging and consistently encourages personal growth.

My advice for those applying to Withers & Rogers is to try and be yourself as much as possible. Your technical knowledge and experience will speak for itself but who you are as a person, your motivations and interests, are just as important.

My career to date

I have been in the profession for over two and a half years, and I am proud to say I am part qualified having completed the PGCert in Intellectual Property and the EQE Paper F. I am now working my way through my final exams and sat the European M1 and M2 exams this year.

From my first day at Withers & Rogers, I have been encouraged to contribute my technical knowledge and opinions while consistently having opportunities to learn and improve.

I am involved in the MedTech, Materials, and Case Law sector groups, as well as the Prospect Development group. These groups provide me with opportunities to interact with a diverse range of technologies, clients, and new legal developments. Additionally, I have already begun learning about business development and client relationship management, which will become important aspects of my role in the future. ●



APPLEYARD LEES PATENT ATTORNEY

Name
University
Degree

Jordan Tinkler
Leeds
BSc, MPhys Physics, PhD in Biophysics

How did you get your job at Appleyard Lees?

I was nearing the end of my PhD and didn't have a clear idea of what I wanted to do. I had a few friends who had started working as trainee patent attorneys a couple of years before, so I thought it was worth investigating. IP wasn't an area I had any previous experience in, so I arranged a chat with my friends working in the profession. Shortly after discussing the profession, one of my friends informed me about a vacancy at Appleyard Lees relevant to someone with my background. I applied by submitting my CV and a cover letter and was invited to a first interview. I was interviewed by two partners in the physics and electronics sector of the business. The interview was relatively informal and primarily consisted of questions relating to my experience. Some time was also spent identifying what I knew about the profession, career progression, and the general responsibilities of a patent attorney. Alongside the interview, I was tasked with drafting a description for an object to assess my use of language and general ability to describe things. Following a successful interview, I was invited back for two days of work experience at the firm. During this time in the office, I met current trainees, part qualified and qualified attorneys, and support staff. This gave me a good idea of how well I would fit in if I were to be offered the job. I immediately noticed how friendly and welcoming everyone was. Shortly after the work experience stage, I was offered the job and happily accepted.

What is it like working at Appleyard Lees?

Appleyard Lees has been a great firm to work for and one of the things that stand out is how supportive everyone has been. As a trainee, it's natural to have lots of questions and feel quite uncertain initially, especially if this is your first job in the profession. I've asked my colleagues so many questions and there has never been an issue with getting the help I've needed.

I'm also very fortunate to be working in a team that handles a diverse range of work including consumer electronics, medical devices, and heavy machinery. The varied exposure to these different areas of technology has provided a consistent level of intellectual stimulation and has allowed me to continue to use my scientific background. Alongside learning about patent law, I've been able to pick up a lot of general technical knowledge from working in a range of different areas of technology that I would've never learned about otherwise. Deadlines are a large part of the job so the type of work I do varies depending on the needs of our team and my supervising partner. Appleyard Lees has also enabled me to explore my areas of personal interest and work on business development in those areas. Everything we do is client-based, and one of the best parts of the job is meeting inventors to discuss their inventions.

What skills are useful in this profession?

There are several key skills that I believe to be essential for success as a patent attorney. Some of these characteristics, such as being self-disciplined and self-motivated, have undoubtedly become more important now that most of us can work from home. A large part of the job revolves around meeting deadlines, either from clients or patent offices, time management is imperative. It's also important to possess the ability to absorb and understand complex technical information and then communicate ideas effectively and efficiently. Having close attention to detail is a real advantage. Most of our work is done alone. However, the ability to collaborate effectively is also good to have as it may be necessary in some interdisciplinary cases. I was fortunate to have worked in an interdisciplinary area of research before joining the profession. This provided me with a good foundation for most of these skills. ●



BRAND MURRAY FULLER SENIOR ASSOCIATE

Name
University
Degree

Holly Rice
Manchester
Chemistry with Patent Law (MChem)

Why did you choose a job in this profession?

Unlike many patent attorneys I know, I had decided to pursue a career as a patent attorney whilst still at school. Initially being interested in pursuing a career in law, I went on a law taster-course at Cambridge University. It became apparent fairly quickly that I didn't find all areas of law that interesting. However, the area which stood out to me was 'Intellectual Property', which I had previously never heard of.

When choosing a degree course, I was very much science-minded and particularly enjoyed chemistry, so wanted to keep going with this. My course was fantastic as the optional modules covered all areas of IP and the course included a final year project which involved guidance from a practising in-house patent attorney. The more exposure I had to the profession during my degree, the more certain I became that it was the profession for me. In particular, I liked the idea that I would be able to use my chemistry knowledge on a day-to-day basis, but that the job would also require skills such as strong communication, persuasive writing, a keen eye to detail and commercial acumen.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I really enjoy the direct contact with clients that I have had throughout my training and in my current role. My firm aims to function effectively as an in-house IP team for its major clients, which means you always get to closely engage with R&D directors, general counsel and inventors. Not only am I required to advise on standard patent issues, but also, I have to provide commercial advice, for example on how a client's IP portfolio can be monetised.

The job is varied, both in terms of the type of work and the subject matter involved. I work with clients of varying sizes and in a diverse range of technical fields, who can

have very different IP issues. I do everything from attending the initial inventor meetings and drafting patent applications, working with foreign attorneys to prosecute patent applications around the world, through to preparing freedom to operate opinions and helping draft commercial licensing agreements. Working in IP is mentally stimulating; no two days are the same and there is always something new to learn!

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

It can be a little daunting once you have decided to enter the profession but are unsure where and how to begin applying. As a first step, try to find out as much as you can about the profession, for example by attending open days, securing work experience placements or just getting in touch with trainees or qualified attorneys to have a chat about the job and what it involves.

Next, have a look through as many company profiles as you can and make a shortlist of those that appeal to you. Make a note of what it is about the company that particularly appeals to you and tailor your covering letter to include this. It is always appreciated when potential candidates have clearly done their research on the firm rather than just submitting generic covering letters. When preparing your covering letter and CV, make sure there are no typos – a keen eye to detail is a crucial requirement for the job and this is the first test of that skill!

When you are called to interview, be prepared for the standard interview questions, but also be aware that some firms may want to test your grammar and literacy skills.

Don't be discouraged if it takes a while to get your 'foot in the door', it will be well worth it once you have your training position! ●



CARPMAELS & RANSFORD ASSOCIATE

Name
University
Degree

Lileth Rees
Imperial College London
Biochemistry

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

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

At Carpmiels & Ransford, you are trusted to take on real cases from (literally) day one. Although this may seem daunting, it allows you to get to grips with tackling complex issues, in both science and intellectual property, from the

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

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



DEHNS PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT ATTORNEY

Name
University
Degree

Gill McGuire
Cambridge
MA, Natural Science

Having spent a number of years as a partner, including a stint as training partner, elsewhere, I joined Dehns to take on the role of Professional Support Attorney in January 2023.

It was a brand new role created as part of Dehns' commitment to ensuring that the training experience here is as good as it can possibly be. Immediately from stepping through the door, it was clear to me that people are at the heart of Dehns and this is no more clear than in its approach to training and ensuring that trainees feel supported.

There's no denying that the qualification process is tough but we try to make it that bit easier by providing as much support as we can. Over the last year, we've upgraded our induction processes and brought in a new structured training programme to ensure that our new trainees are provided with as much support as possible over their first year of training.

Of course, the support doesn't stop at the end of the first year and we have various initiatives both already running and in the pipeline to support trainees through to qualification and beyond. It's important to Dehns that we retain our reputation as the leading training firm and that requires continuous review and, importantly, listening to our trainees, so that our training support can evolve to support each new cohort of trainees as required.

It's great to be in a position where I get to know all of our trainees and provide support to them throughout their careers. We care about all of our trainees and because we recognise that sometimes it's not the case that one size fits all, we are also proud to be able to work with our trainees as individuals to ensure that they can achieve their full potentials. ●



REDDIE & GROSE PARTNER

Name
University
Degree

Gillian Taylor
Cambridge
Master's in Natural Sciences

Why did you choose the patent profession?

Throughout my A-levels and the majority of my degree, I was firmly set on pursuing a career as a scientist. However, during my final-year project at university, I realised that working in a lab all day every day was not for me. I began to look for a career that offered greater variety and new intellectual challenges. I came across the patent profession by chance, through an old family friend who worked at the Patent Office. As I started researching the role of a patent attorney, I found it to be very appealing – it seemed to offer the opportunity to use my science background, whilst also exploring a whole new area of intellectual property law. As a patent attorney, it is essential to develop good communication skills, both written and verbal and this was also something that attracted me. I have always loved writing and actively sought opportunities throughout my degree to work on my writing skills, in both scientific writing as well as journalism. At that time, there was not a vast amount of information about the career of a patent attorney and in fact, the careers adviser I spoke to tried to discourage me from applying (too difficult!). However, rather than putting me off the career, this only increased my determination, and I started to make applications for graduate positions. I was looking for a firm with a strong reputation and training culture, which would also provide me with a friendly work environment and a good work-life balance. I was lucky enough to land straightaway at Reddie & Grose (R&G), where I have been ever since.

Your main roles and responsibilities

As a partner at R&G, I have quite varied responsibilities. I still do a good amount of day-to-day patent work, such as drafting, prosecution and infringement opinions, and I enjoy this work. I also now spend a proportion of my time helping to run our business. Some of this comes in the form of 'client care', which involves making sure that we are doing the best possible job for our clients. I particularly enjoy my role as a people

manager – training and mentoring more junior members of the team, recruiting new trainees and liaising with support staff. I have a strong interest in sustainable innovation and spend some time on internal and external committees that are trying to support this.

The challenges of the role

It probably goes without saying that a lot of the work that we do is intellectually demanding. Most of the time, I feel lucky to have such interesting and challenging work, and I'm happy to put my brain to good use, but every now and then, I do find myself wishing for a few more mundane tasks that don't require quite so much mental effort! The role does involve juggling a lot of different tasks, deadlines and responsibilities at once, which can be tricky at times, especially when you are trying to balance work with family life. I have worked part-time for many years since starting a family and I feel very fortunate that at R&G I have had the flexibility and support to build a career that works for me. It is essential to be well-organised and good at prioritising, and I think it is also important to be able to stay calm when things get busy and you feel under pressure.

Do you have any advice?

This is an exciting and challenging career path, but it does require hard work and dedication, and it's important to understand what the training process and day-to-day work involves, so that you can decide whether it is the right fit for you. If you can, try to find an opportunity to speak to someone already in the profession, or to take part in an open day or internship program at a patent firm to gain a better insight. After all that, if you are still motivated and genuinely interested in training as a patent attorney, then go for it! Take your time to research firms carefully and look for those that you think will support you through your training and offer the kind of work environment that you are looking for. ●



SLINGSBY PARTNERS PATENT ATTORNEY

Name
University
Degree

Verity Andrew
Bristol
BSc Physics

I was attracted to a career as a patent attorney when I noticed the list of desired attributes on a patent attorney advert, particularly the need for people with good communication skills. I investigated further and it transpired that a career as a patent attorney was a rewarding and interesting one, which combined technical knowledge with the law and was only open to people with STEM degrees, so it sounded ideal to me.

I applied to several patent attorney firms in my final year at university and went to a few rounds of interviews. They all revolved around describing how a particular object worked, ranging from basic scissors to types of window hinges. This interview style takes a certain amount of getting used to, so I would recommend practising explaining things to others to help prepare.

My interview at Slingsby Partners lasted an afternoon and involved several stages, each of which built on the previous. My interviewers were mainly trying to see how I dealt with problems as they appeared and how I adapted to their suggestions – essentially, testing what it would be like to work with me. I also got to speak to other trainees in the firm to ask any questions I might have about day-to-day office life, and I left the interview feeling that I had met many friendly people.

I started at Slingsby Partners during the Covid-19 pandemic, so it wasn't the usual introduction to working life. Despite this, I was very quickly involved with a variety of work, from responding to exam reports to sitting in on some litigation proceedings. It was strange not being able to talk to people in person, but the video calls were still effective at making me feel welcome. I then started at Queen Mary which was also held fully online so I had a very sedentary few months! During the Queen Mary course, I worked two days 'in the office' and had three days for studying. This stage can be quite difficult because your time is split between the two responsibilities. Once the course was finished, I was able to fully concentrate on work and started to get very busy.

I think one of the benefits of joining a smaller, more specialised, firm is that you get the opportunity to work with the partners right from the start. This creates a very friendly and open environment, where trainees can learn from and collaborate with colleagues who are at different stages of their careers. Working with different people within the company means that you pick up other ways of approaching tasks and different writing styles, each with their own advantage. ●

EMPLOYER DIRECTORY

A-Z directory of employers that recruit Trainee Patent Attorneys

Abel + Imray	Haseltine Lake Kempner	Page White Farrer
Albright IP	HG	Pearl Cohen
Appleyard Lees	HGF	Potter Clarkson
Barker Brettell	Hindles	Reddie & Grose
Barnes IP	Hoffmann Eitle	Sagittarius IP
Beck Greener	Intellectual Property Office	Sandersons
Boult	ip21	Schlich
Brand Murray Fuller	ipconsult	Scintilla
Carpmaels & Ransford	J A Kemp	Script IP
Cleveland Scott York	Keltie	Secerna
CMS	Kilburn & Strode	SH&P
D Young & Co	Lawrie	Slingsby Partners
Dehns	Marks & Clerk	Stratagem
Dummett Copp	Mathys & Squire	Swindell & Pearson
EIP	Maucher Jenkins	Tomkins IP
Elkington + Fife	Meissner Bolte	Venner Shipley
EPO	Mewburn Ellis	Wilson Gunn
Forresters	Mohun Aldridge Sykes	Withers & Rogers
Gateley IP	Murgitroyd	Wynne-Jones IP
GJE	Openshaw & Co.	

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E recruitment@carpmaels.com

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	120
Partners	15
Qualified Patent Attorneys	32
Trainees	16

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	3
Undergraduate Jobs	-

The firm and client services

We are a long-established, medium-sized firm, widely respected for the quality of our training, with thriving offices in London, Cardiff, Bath and Delft. 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 chairperson 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.●

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	35
Partners	8
Qualified Patent Attorneys	8
Trainees	7

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	Varies
Undergraduate Jobs	-

About us

Albright IP are a professional firm of British and European Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys. Our UK attorney and European attorney teams have many years of experience in invention and brand protection, and work for clients in the UK and around the world.

We advise on all aspects of IP protection and enforcement, including patents, designs, copyright, and trade marks. This could range from simple advice about keeping appropriate records for the purposes of copyright and design right to full representation in drafting, filing and prosecuting patent, design, and trade mark applications.

Albright IP practices in a wide variety of technical disciplines including mechanical, biomedical, electrical, and electronic engineering, and works to protect inventions ranging from low-cost consumer gadgets to large industrial machinery. We also have strong Design and Trade Mark practices.

Why work for us at Albright IP?

Albright IP is an interesting place to work, and the environment is that of a busy, successful small business. We have an incredible team of people from a diverse range of backgrounds. We are a growing, and above all we are looking for people with enthusiasm for life, for learning and for working together. The quality of our advice matters to us, and we have a culture

of openness and discussion, which provides a powerful learning environment.

We have a good work/life balance and have clients in all walks of life, which provide us with interesting work, problems to solve and discussions to have. Every day is enjoyable, even if sometimes the work is challenging. We encourage our teams to develop their technical and legal interests and seek clients that interest them. We run regular in-house training sessions, in-house CPD sessions with internal and external speakers, and have regular team discussions on interesting matters.

Our offices are in the beautiful spa town of Cheltenham in the popular Montpellier area. We also have offices in Cornwall and Bournemouth.

Available opportunities

We welcome speculative applications for both our patent and trade mark teams. On the patents side, we look for team players with an excellent degree in mechanical engineering, bio-mechanical, electromechanical, electrical engineering or similar technical discipline and a keen interest in technical matters.

Our trade mark team value people with good communication skills and high emotional intelligence as well as an excellent law degree. You should have an inquisitive interest in brand matters. ●

LOCATIONS: London, South West, Wales and Rest of Europe

LOCATION: South West

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	188
Partners	24
Qualified Patent Attorneys	43
Trainees	17

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	Varies
Undergraduate Jobs	-

Appleyard Lees is a leading Intellectual Property Law firm, with approximately eighty Patent and Trademark Attorneys and Litigators.

Our commercially intelligent approach to client service incorporates flexibility and adaptability. We strive to be agile, responding to specific client requirements in a way that suits them.

We help a broad range of IP owners and creators, including in-house teams, R&D specialists, owner-managers and branding professionals, to protect and monetise their intellectual property.

In addition to our catalogue of multinational and multimillion-pound clients, Appleyard Lees is equally proud of the role we have played in the growth of start-up businesses.

Appleyard Lees has a network of UK offices in Cambridge, Leeds, Halifax, Manchester, providing clients with expert strategic IP advice globally.

Specialist areas include:

- Electronics & Software
- Engineering & Physics
- Chemistry & Pharmaceuticals
- Life Sciences & Biotechnology

We are keen to hear from talented individuals who have a passion for work, a love for learning and a desire to be part of a friendly, supportive team.

We value individualism and the ability to develop new skills and expertise. Most of all, we want to work with people who genuinely enjoy diverse, challenging work, and want to help us give quality support to our clients globally.

Our Values:

- Make it happen
- Show you care
- Attitude matters

We have a reputation for our friendly working environment, for investing in our people, and for retaining employees. We pride ourselves on looking after our staff, supporting them throughout their career and providing them with expert training and progression opportunities.

We are an equal opportunities employer and are a member of IP Inclusive, a network of intellectual property professionals working to make the IP community more equal, diverse, and inclusive. ●

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	145
Partners	25
Qualified Patent Attorneys	28
Trainees	6

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	Varies
Undergraduate Jobs	-

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. ●

LOCATIONS: East Anglia, Yorkshire & Humberside, North East and North West

LOCATIONS: South East (excl London), West Midlands and Rest of Europe

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	9
Partners	1
Qualified Patent Attorneys	4
Trainees	-

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	1
Undergraduate Jobs	-

About Barnes IP

We are a specialist IP firm that delivers an "in-house" style legal service, giving our clients the experience of having a dedicated internal IP team that understands their strategy and consistently delivers the right legal and commercial solutions. We work across a broad range of technology sectors, with a particular focus on patenting in software and electronics, and deep expertise in artificial intelligence, robotics, fintech, medtech, cybersecurity and space technologies. Our client base spans industry leaders and ambitious start-ups and scale-ups, including three 'unicorn' companies we have represented since incorporation – all with clever technology, brands and designs that need protecting and commercialising.

Working at Barnes IP

We pride ourselves on a collaborative, innovative and fully paperless working environment built on best practice from day one. We invest in our people at every level, encouraging professional development and supporting genuine career growth. Across the firm, we strive for excellence in our work, speed in our delivery, and a shared sense of purpose with every client we represent.

Your future at Barnes IP

As a graduate, you will work on a varied and genuinely interesting caseload, liaising with both new and established clients to build comprehensive patent, design and trade mark portfolios worldwide. Our in-house training, combined with access to leading external courses, is second to none – and you will be supported throughout by experienced attorneys, several of whom have been directly involved in the profession's qualifying exams. We have developed a structured graduate training programme that introduces a new topic or skill roughly every month for the first 18 months, followed by linked, real client work designed to consolidate that knowledge and build practical experience.

Who we are looking for

We typically recruit graduate trainees with degrees in physics, computer science or engineering, who combine excellent written and verbal communication skills with the ability to quickly grasp – and then clearly explain – new technology, designs and brands. We look for people with a genuine interest in technology, a pro-active mindset, and the ambition to help us raise the bar for what a modern legal firm can achieve. ●

LOCATION: South East (excl London)

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	53
Partners	13
Qualified Patent Attorneys	17
Trainees	6

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	2
Undergraduate Jobs	-

Want to make a difference?

Of course you do. And you won't find a better place to do so than Beck Greener. It's not just that the quality of our work is so high, though that's part of it. From early on in your career with us you could be working with some of the world's most innovative companies, protecting and developing patentable inventions in fields as diverse as household consumer goods, business processes, software, games and complex drug formulations. Or you could be working with individual entrepreneurs, helping to evaluate and safeguard what might be ground-breaking inventions, or even supporting clients through complex High Court litigation. We also have a strong trade mark practice.

It's also about our culture. With offices in the heart of London's legal district, and a European office in Malta, we are big enough to win our share of the most exciting, significant work, but small enough to keep that 'boutique' feel clients value so much. At Beck Greener everyone counts; everyone's voice is heard.

A (Beck) Greener world

Culture is nothing, though, unless it's founded on principles. So, at Beck Greener we don't just aim to make a difference to our clients' businesses with a high quality, distinctive service offering robust, commercial advice. We also try to make a positive contribution to our profession, our local community and the environment. That's why we launched our 'Greener Beck Greener' scheme in 2014, since when we've reduced our electricity consumption by nearly half, winning the Camden Climate Change Alliance's 'Cutting Carbon' mark of achievement every year.

It's also why we developed our award-winning STEM: Branching Out project, which seeks to inspire and encourage young people, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, to consider careers in STEM sectors. We work to support students and promote STEM careers in general, and in the IP profession in particular with our upReach Xperience project.

What we can do for you

We value our trainees very highly. Training is taken very seriously, and all trainees are directly supervised by partners in a supportive and friendly environment. A number of our most recent patent partners started their careers at Beck Greener.

As a trainee patent attorney at Beck Greener, you will be given full training and support to qualify as both a Chartered and European Patent Attorney. This includes mentoring and supervision from partners, in-house tutorials, external lectures and attending one of the courses to obtain the relevant postgraduate certificate.

And what we need in return

We seek to recruit only the very best graduates who will work to our exacting standards. Obviously, this means that, for patent attorneys, we expect either a first or a 2:1 degree (or postgraduate qualification) in an appropriate technical discipline, such as chemistry, biochemistry or biotechnology, physics, electrical or mechanical engineering, electronics, or related disciplines. Most of all, though, we are looking for enthusiasm – the desire to learn about clients' businesses and inventions, to provide high quality commercial advice, and to make a difference. If this sounds like you then we'd love to talk. ●

LOCATION: London

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	225
Partners	40
Qualified Patent Attorneys	27
Trainees	15

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	Varies
Undergraduate Jobs	-

Why join us

Are you an inquisitive and driven individual looking for a varied and intellectually stimulating role? Boult are an award-winning, collegiate and inclusive European IP firm offering excellent training, a supportive environment and a clear path of career progression. Our training is exceptional. It is hands on, and you will be researching for pitches, liaising with clients, writing articles and preparing legal documents from the start. Throughout the programme you will enjoy mentoring, in-house courses and complementary business skills to help you excel. Most importantly, the pace of the training is dictated by you. We don't support a timetable approach to qualification but prefer to ramp up or slow down the process to match the individual's preferences and strengths.

Who we are

Our diverse team of talented and passionate individuals includes patent, design and trademark attorneys supporting clients in a wide range of technologies and commercial fields.

As a firm with a global outlook we have 6 offices across the UK and Europe: London, Madrid, Frankfurt, Munich, Cambridge and Reading. Our clients and global peers alike consistently give us excellent feedback making us a leading European IP firm rated in the top tier of legal directories (Legal 500, Chambers and Partners and Managing Intellectual Property.)

Our promise to you

We know it is the talent and passion of our people that make us the successful business we are today, so we are committed to attracting and retaining the very best. As well as a friendly and supportive environment, we offer excellent training and attractive career opportunities including genuine partnership prospects.

Our in-house training is supplemented with external lectures and courses, including the Queen Mary Intellectual Property Law Certificate course.

Opportunities available at Boult

We strongly encourage applications from all walks of life as being an equal opportunities employer is more than just a label for us. We are an active member of IP Inclusive and have partnered with the Sutton Trust to make the IP profession accessible to everyone regardless of their background or characteristics.

Opportunities exist within our Life Sciences, Chemical and Materials, Engineering and Designs, High Tech and Electrical and Trade Mark and Domain names practice groups. Whilst we particularly encourage applications in the autumn for candidates wishing to join us the following year, we welcome speculative applications at any time throughout the year. •

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	18
Partners	4
Qualified Patent Attorneys	9
Trainees	3

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	2
Undergraduate Jobs	-

Brand Murray Fuller is a small full-service IP law firm assisting counsel and in-house R&D directly with strong commercial understanding and a common-sense, practical approach. We are a progressive and developing firm, based in central London.

The structure of Brand Murray Fuller was devised differently from the traditional IP firm from the outset. Our staff operate in a highly interconnected fashion, supporting each other beyond their core functions. Attorneys will also be trained to understand fully the support functions necessary to allow the firm to run effectively, consequently gaining business management understanding alongside professional training and development.

Our employees tend to work from home up to twice a week (and as often as necessary when the circumstances dictate), something that is encouraged to maintain a good work/life balance. Some employees work flexibly and/or part-time to enable them to balance other commitments.

Training will involve working with our senior attorneys and attending qualification courses, plus internal and external seminars and tutorials. We believe the best way to learn is through understanding the client and their business, and to that end trainees will attend

client meetings and hearings from the start. There are excellent long-term prospects for assisting in the future development and expansion of this new firm.

Our clients range from multinationals with head offices in the UK, US and Europe to smaller UK based companies and overseas law firms. For many clients, we integrate with their technical, marketing, R&D, legal and managerial teams to facilitate the role of a member of their in-house legal function, rather than as an external adviser. We are frequently asked by our clients to advise in connection with wider commercial issues such as agreements, acquisitions, toll manufacturing and trade secrets. We also regularly work with clients to prepare them for financings and other corporate events.

As an innovative business, we are constantly exploring opportunities to improve efficiencies in the way we work. We are investigating generative AI offerings to help us review and prepare documents more efficiently while maintaining client confidentiality.

While we work on a wide variety of technology, the firm is primarily oriented around the chemical, biotechnology, medtech, green technology, materials, mechanical, pharmaceutical and techbio sectors. •

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	281
Partners	32
Qualified Patent Attorneys	96
Trainees	30

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	10
Undergraduate Jobs	-

Carpmaels & Ransford is a leading European intellectual property firm, acting for many of the world's most innovative and successful companies, particularly in the healthcare space. Our specialist teams are led by practitioners who have been at the forefront of the industry for years, acting in landmark cases before the EPO and the national courts of Europe.

We are an award-winning firm with top-tier rankings in all the industry directories. We were awarded EPO Prosecution Firm of the Year at the IAM and WTR Global IP Awards 2024, received two Europe Impact Case of the Year awards at the 2025 MIP EMEA Awards and most recently took home Patent Litigation Firm of the Year: Biologics & Biosimilars; and SPC Litigation Firm of the Year at the LMG Life Sciences Awards 2025 EMEA.

We hire talented and passionate people who think creatively and enjoy a challenge. Working collaboratively, we share our knowledge and experience across teams, actively learning from each other in a friendly and sociable environment.

We are passionate about creating a diverse and inclusive workplace. Diversity of thought is vital to our business; it's how we approach challenges differently and offer our clients creative and original solutions. Through our

work with organisations such as IP Inclusive, Stonewall and Business in the Community via the Race at Work Charter, we are putting the right steps in place to make sure that all our people feel supported and empowered to be themselves. Further information on our commitment to diversity and inclusion is available on our website.

A healthy work/life balance is very important to us and we run regular wellbeing events in addition to the large number of clubs and social activities that are available to everyone at the firm. We are also enthusiastic supporters of our local community through partnerships with the Social Mobility Foundation and Holborn Community Association.

Each year, we recruit a number of exceptional STEM graduates, supporting them through to qualification as a UK and European patent attorney. As a new trainee, you'll join a practice group relevant to your subject of study. Opportunities exist within our Chemistry, Biotechnology and Engineering & Tech practice groups.

If you are seeking a challenging and intellectually stimulating career using your technical background and experience, we would love to hear from you. •

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	60
Partners	13
Qualified Patent Attorneys	15
Trainees	3

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	Varies
Undergraduate Jobs	Varies

The firm

Cleveland Scott York is a firm of patent and trade mark attorneys, with teams in London, Hertfordshire and the Thames Valley. CSY Europe adds an office in Munich specialising in filings at the EUIPO; CSY Germany, also based in Munich, carries out German national filing work.

We provide comprehensive intellectual property services to a wide range of clients, including small and medium enterprises and multi-national corporations. We are a progressive firm with a knowledge-sharing culture and a reputation for excellence in training and professional development. Go to our website to see more information about the sectors we serve, the services that we offer, and the good things that clients have said about us in one or other of the directories in which we are ranked.

We offer trainees a high level of support and encouragement throughout the qualification process, and we have a good record in helping candidates pass exams.

The role

You can expect a challenging and varied role, where your duties and responsibilities will expand in line with your knowledge and as

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

Candidates at Cleveland Scott York

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 one or two new patent trainees every year; often these will be recruited from those who have participated in our summer internship programme, which will be advertised through IP Careers and elsewhere. We may also use IP Careers to advertise trainee trade mark attorney positions. •

LOCATION: London

LOCATIONS: London and South East (excl London)

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	8,000
Partners	5
Qualified Patent Attorneys	19
Trainees	17

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	Varies
Undergraduate Jobs	-

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	266
Partners	42
Qualified Patent Attorneys	39
Trainees	17

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	6
Undergraduate Jobs	Varies

About CMS

CMS is a future-facing, global law firm with a long established patent attorney practice that's band 1 ranked in Legal 500. We put the interests of our clients at the heart of everything we do across 70+ offices in 40+ countries in the UK, Europe, the Middle East, Asia and South America, with more than 1,200 partners and 5,000 lawyers. CMS offers a deep local market understanding with a global perspective. We have qualified patent attorneys working alongside IP, litigation, corporate and commercial lawyers. Our IP clients include blue-chip businesses, universities, research institutes, growth technology companies, law firms, governments and defence institutions.

At CMS, we place Diversity & Inclusion at the centre of our culture and at the heart of our organisation. In 2023 CMS achieved accreditation to the ISO 30415 Standard for D&I which provides a foundation for creating a workplace where all employees are respected and appreciated. CMS received accreditation following a comprehensive review of our processes, governance, and culture. In its report, The Legal Week stated that CMS "walks the walk on diversity & inclusion".

"A true IP powerhouse, CMS is a 'reliable firm with a team of strong practitioners who are responsive and helpful'. Appearing on each of the prosecution, litigation and transactions tables, the outfit distinguishes itself as a true one-stop shop that can service every patent need." – IAM

Opportunities available

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

Training

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

About D Young & Co LLP

Our reputation for excellence is recognised worldwide. We are a leading European IP firm, with a long-standing top-tier ranking in the major UK legal directories and recent awards including UK Patent Prosecution Firm of the Year (Domestic) and Europe Impact Case of the Year at the 2026 Managing IP EMEA Awards. Over 270 staff (including partners, fee earners, paralegals, and business support teams) work across our offices in London, Munich and Southampton. From universities to global mega-brands, our domestic and international client base is diverse and spans all industry sectors and technologies.

Our team of patent and trade mark attorneys, solicitors and Rechtsanwälte work closely together, providing our clients with an integrated service that covers all stages of IP protection across Europe. Our team are at the forefront of changes and enjoy a stellar reputation for work before the intellectual property offices in the UK, Germany and across Europe. We are known for our expertise at the EPO and we are embracing the opportunities that the unitary patent and the Unified Patent Court bring.

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 are committed to supporting and promoting equality within our firm and believe that a diverse working environment is key to creativity and productivity.

Each year we look for candidates wanting to become qualified patent attorneys. You will work

with a team of talented colleagues, receiving guidance and mentoring from your supervisor. We provide a clear path towards qualification and work with you to ensure the pace you take is appropriate for you. As well as support through your professional qualifications, including access to tutorials and revision courses, our firm's Career Development Pathways provide a clear and structured framework to support professional growth at every stage of your career. They are designed specifically for the IP profession and outline the skills, knowledge and behaviours needed to progress within your role and beyond. Our training has been recognised by The Legal 500: "D Young & Co's reputation for training is second to none".

Your lifestyle

We value a culture that supports professional success, personal wellbeing and a healthy work/life balance. Whether you want to work or live in the city, by the sea or in the countryside, you can fully harness your potential and enjoy life inside and outside of work by joining D Young & Co. We focus on our people and run a programme of equality, diversity and inclusion, as well as wellbeing initiatives, throughout the year.

Your benefits & recognition

You'll find a friendly and supportive culture at D Young & Co, where hard work and dedication are recognised and rewarded. As well as a competitive salary, we have a flexible benefits package that you can tailor towards your lifestyle.

In our collaborative and professional environment, people are put first and you will be empowered to see your contribution making a difference. ●

LOCATIONS: London, South East (excl London), South West, Yorkshire & Humberside, North East, North West, Scotland, Rest of Europe and Rest of the World

LOCATIONS: London, South East (excl London) and Rest of Europe

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	255
Partners	45
Qualified Patent Attorneys	91
Trainees	34

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	Varies
Undergraduate Jobs	Varies



EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	20
Partners	4
Qualified Patent Attorneys	5
Trainees	2

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	2
Undergraduate Jobs	-

Dehns is one of the largest private practice patent and trade mark firms in Europe, with an international reputation for quality of work and service, and a rich history spanning 100 years. Our straightforward, commercially focussed approach to IP, combined with the technical excellence of our professionals, helps us to turn inspired thinking into patents, trade marks and registered designs that are valuable commercial assets for our clients.

Client focused service

We work hard to ensure that every client receives the best possible service, tailored to their individual requirements. Our range of graduate and postgraduate scientists means that we are confident of rapidly understanding a broad spectrum of technology. We are consistently ranked in the top tier by leading IP and legal directories.

Highly talented professionals

We recruit the brightest people with the perfect combination of ability, ambition and personality. This means that we have teams of highly talented individuals, who are driven by a desire to work in the field of innovation and committed to providing an excellent client service.

We also offer a formal, structured work experience scheme. Our two-week summer placement provides prospective patent and trade mark attorneys with an opportunity to gain practical experience of a career within IP.

Professional development at Dehns

We offer a stimulating working environment and, as a progressive firm, we want to invest in the brightest and most talented individuals from all walks of life. We place an emphasis on knowledge and training and are committed to development at all levels. Many of our attorneys have been awarded prizes for exceptional performance 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. ●

About us

Dummett Copp is a respected firm of patent and trade mark attorneys located near Ipswich in Suffolk. Established for over 35 years, we have a long-established and growing client base, both in the UK and abroad.

We pride ourselves on providing clear focussed advice across patents, trade marks and designs for our clients, who range from start-ups to major multinational firms. Our clients are active in a wide range of technology areas, including engineering, software, electronics and chemistry.

We believe that it is essential that we fully understand our clients and their business sectors to provide the highest level of service and the best value for money. We invest in building strong client relationships, working closely with managers, engineers and other commercial team members to build an understanding of their commercial aims. Taking a closer interest in our clients' businesses not only tells us what they need, it tells us how best to provide it. Our attorneys are always approachable and responsive, and place emphasis on providing tailored IP support.

Our culture

We promote a friendly and supportive environment, with numerous whole firm activities throughout the year. We understand the importance of a good work/life balance, and our out-of-town location close to beautiful

countryside and coast allows us to achieve this, while still being within easy travel distance to London and Cambridge. We support hybrid and remote working, but also encourage regular time in the office to build on the strengths of working in a close team.

We offer several benefits to promote wellbeing, including yoga classes, cycle to work scheme, and gym membership schemes. The firm holds regular events to support the local community and local charities, including an annual table tennis charity event.

Opportunities

Our patent and trade mark trainees have direct client contact from an early stage. With a large proportion of direct client work, the firm provides opportunities to meet clients, draft applications and gain an understanding of IP portfolios and strategy from day one.

Trainees are fully supported through courses and examinations to achieve UK and European qualification. Trainees are also encouraged to participate in marketing and business development, helping to build the firm's important client relationships.

We welcome applications from individuals of all backgrounds and are proud signatories of the IP Inclusive Charter, reflecting our commitment to fostering equality, diversity and inclusion within the intellectual property profession. ●

LOCATIONS: London, South East (excl London), South West, West Midlands, North West and Rest of Europe

LOCATION: East Anglia



EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	180
Partners	35
Qualified Patent Attorneys	80
Trainees	15

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	6
Undergraduate Jobs	5



EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	81
Partners	18
Qualified Patent Attorneys	16
Trainees	13

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	3
Undergraduate Jobs	-

EIP is an award-winning firm specialising in high-value and complex patent matters, with over 25 years as a leading IP firm (founded in 2000 and celebrating our quarter-century in 2025). Our multidisciplinary team combines patent attorneys, litigators and commercial IP lawyers across the UK, Germany, Sweden and the US. In the UK we operate from London, Leeds, Bath and Cardiff, alongside our offices in Düsseldorf (Germany), Stockholm (Sweden) and Denver (US). EIP has an ever-growing international client base, from major multinationals through exciting mid-stage IP-rich companies, to highly innovative start-ups across the world.

The approach to progress is highly meritocratic, with patent attorneys at all levels receiving support through a sophisticated training scheme. New trainees get exposure to clients from the day of joining. Those who join us share in the team's stand-out visibility in the world of patents and get to celebrate our award wins.

EIP is recognised as one of Europe's Leading Patent Law Firms by the Financial Times – one of only four firms to achieve gold rankings across all six categories – and is ranked by

Legal 500, Chambers & Partners, IAM Patent 1000, IP STARS and JUVE. EIP has been named European Patent Disputes Firm of the Year at the Managing IP EMEA Awards and UK Patent Contentious Firm of the Year. We have retained our Tier 1 ranking for Patent Disputes in the UK at IP STARS. Feedback received from clients and peers: "Excellent technical and legal expertise", "EIP is unstuffy and its staff are very personable", and "EIP combines an exceptional professional ethic with impressive technical diligence".

To strengthen this culture of development, EIP recruits a cohort of trainees together each September. This cohort model complements our structured training scheme and the early client exposure trainees enjoy, helping each new joiner build technical expertise, confidence and a strong internal network from the very start of their career with us.

Diversity is an intrinsic part of EIP's business culture. We are proud to support the IP Inclusive initiative, and we are a signatory to the IP Inclusive Charter. EIP actively engages in diversity efforts and is committed to developing an attitude of openness for the benefit of all those working in the IP profession. ●

About us

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 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. We target our recruitment to particular

roles, meaning that successful trainees can expect a long-term future within the firm.

Opportunities available

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. Elkington and Fife LLP welcome applications from new graduates and especially from applicants having research or development experience.

Training at Elkington and Fife LLP

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. ●

LOCATIONS: London, South West, Yorkshire & Humberside, Wales, Rest of Europe and United States

LOCATIONS: London and South East (excl London)



EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	6,300
Partners	-
Qualified Patent Attorneys	-
Trainees	-

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	100
Undergraduate Jobs	-



EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	118
Partners	22
Qualified Patent Attorneys	36
Trainees	6

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	Varies
Undergraduate Jobs	-

Every invention is unique. So is everyone in our team.

Our 6,300 employees from 36 countries prove that the best results are achieved together.

As the patent office for Europe, we are proud to deliver high-quality, efficient services that foster innovation, competitiveness and economic growth and promote a safer, smarter and more sustainable world. A world in which we are committed to helping achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the highest environmental, social and governance standards. Moreover, as an equal opportunities employer, the EPO is shaped

by the diversity of our people's personalities, knowledge and cultures.

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

Do you have a master's degree in engineering or science?

Picture yourself handling inventions daily, ahead of the curve. ●

You've read the careers guide section; you now know what patent and trade mark attorneys do and that lots of firms seem to provide a great place to work. All firms offer similar benefits and training, right?

Think again. In the right environment, being a patent or trade mark attorney is an exciting and rewarding career. Forresters provides that opportunity to all our trainees and attorneys. We strive to keep our values of 'one team', 'excellence' and 'great communication' at the forefront of everything we do; from our interactions with our clients to making Forresters a great place to work for everyone.

One of the things we value most is our supportive and friendly culture. By joining us, you will be encouraged to develop as an individual and valued for the skills you can bring. We provide a wealth of support in terms of your career development, and for your wellbeing too. You'll have plenty of opportunity to get involved and have a say in different initiatives, including our Equality and Diversity Group.

You will receive dedicated training from our partners and attorneys, and experience working with a wide range of our clients too. We believe gaining a breadth of experience and exposure to commercial strategy is essential to building a successful career as a fully qualified UK and European patent attorney.

Throughout the year you will be able to participate in training sessions covering a range

of topics, from details of patent law to effective client management and communication. When it comes to examinations, we provide study and examination leave, and individual support to ensure you are given every opportunity to succeed. We also host weekly practice sessions with colleagues sitting similar examinations, providing advice on exam technique in the lead up to the examinations.

Who are we looking for?

You will possess an excellent academic record, a keen eye for detail and be as passionate about innovation and brands as we are. You'll need to be a well-rounded person with great communication and problem-solving skills, who works well independently as well as in a team.

In return you will have excellent career prospects and an environment that will help you fulfil your potential. Most of our partners began their 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 you need to develop.

We encourage applications from individuals from all walks of life. Forresters are chartered signatories of IP Inclusive, an initiative that brings people together from across the IP sector to promote and improve equality, diversity, inclusion and wellbeing within the IP community. ●

LOCATION: Rest of Europe

LOCATIONS: London, West Midlands, North West and Rest of Europe

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	40
Partners	9
Qualified Patent Attorneys	10
Trainees	3

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	Varies
Undergraduate Jobs	-

Gateley IP is a dedicated patent and trade mark attorney group within Gateley, a leading professional services business employing around 1,500 people at offices around the UK.

Formed of three established IP practices, Adamson Jones, Groom Wilkes & Wright and Symbiosis IP, Gateley IP combines those specialist teams into a group with multidisciplinary capability, so clients benefit from both specialist expertise and strategic scale.

Adamson Jones was founded in 2000 as a commercially-focused patent and trade mark attorney practice to assist UK businesses ranging in size from technology-focused start-ups to established SMEs and multinational corporations.

Groom Wilkes & Wright (GWW) was founded in 2004 as a specialist intellectual property practice dedicated to trade mark and design law, created to provide focused, high-quality advice to brand-owning businesses.

Symbiosis IP was founded in 2008 to provide highly-specialised patent attorney support to the life sciences and chemical sectors, with a focus on providing services to universities, spinouts and early-stage businesses navigating complex innovation journeys.

Gateley IP represents companies across a range of sectors, from high-growth start-ups and universities, through established manufacturers and retailers, to some of the biggest companies in the world. We also have technology and sector specialist teams, which provide services bespoke to the needs of companies in those sectors.

As part of Gateley, we offer clients access to a wide and extensive range of additional legal and professional services to support businesses at key stages of their business life cycle, with the scale to handle increasingly complex and sophisticated work as businesses grow and evolve. Our attorneys are therefore able to work closely with other professionals within the business, such as solicitors and other advisers, in a wide range of areas including corporate transactions, IP litigation, commercial agreements and disputes.

We are committed to excellence in our work. We therefore look for high calibre individuals with a record of academic achievement, who have the potential to develop the commercial knowledge and legal skills that set our attorneys apart. Our preference is to train new entrants to the profession and to instil our values in them, with tailored training programmes and individual career support being provided. Long-term prospects for those who join our firm are therefore excellent. ●

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	125
Partners	19
Qualified Patent Attorneys	40
Trainees	20

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	4-5
Undergraduate Jobs	-

GJE is one of Europe's leading intellectual property firms and a place where you can build a rewarding career, feel supported and thrive. We are committed to doing business the right way - with integrity, expertise and intelligence - and are proud to have been ranked No. 1, for the eighth consecutive year, by the Financial Times in its 2026 survey of Europe's leading patent law firms. The firm also received the highest 'Gold' ranking in each of the six areas of industrial expertise surveyed.

Why work for us?

At GJE, you'll join a close-knit and supportive team that values collaboration, learning and individual contribution. With around 125 people, you'll quickly get to know your colleagues, work on interesting projects and see the positive impact of what you do.

From the start, you will be encouraged to build an interesting and rewarding career in a friendly, inclusive and collaborative environment. You will receive excellent training and support, while taking on meaningful responsibility from an early stage. Our structured training programme begins with a year of on-the-job training before you enrol for the Postgraduate Certificate in Intellectual Property Law, with the ultimate aim of

qualifying as both a European Patent Attorney and a Chartered (UK) Patent Attorney. We support you throughout your studies with in-house training, mentoring and coaching from senior attorneys, while giving you exposure to a diverse range of cases and clients to help you become a confident, well-rounded patent attorney. We encourage our attorneys to develop their strengths, build confidence and shape careers that work for them. Alongside a range of benefits and perks, we have an active diversity and inclusion group, an established wellbeing programme and mental health first aiders. We also offer a competitive salary, reviewed annually and following exam success.

What you'll bring

You'll bring strong academic results, including a first-class or 2:1 degree in a relevant subject, together with a genuine interest in science and innovation. Your academic achievements are important, and so too are the different perspectives, experiences and ways of thinking you bring. We value curiosity, creative thinking, thoughtful questions, and the ability to develop and clearly explain solutions. Above all, you'll be keen to learn, grow and make a positive contribution to the continued development and success of our business. ●

LOCATIONS: London, South East (excl London), West Midlands, East Midlands, Yorkshire & Humberside and North West

LOCATION: London



EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	210
Partners	30
Qualified Patent Attorneys	29
Trainees	12

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	Varies
Undergraduate Jobs	Varies



EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	105
Partners	11
Qualified Patent Attorneys	50
Trainees	18

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	Varies
Undergraduate Jobs	Varies

Our priorities

At Haseltine Lake Kempner we are driven by the same principles as you are and are always looking to find 'a better way'. We have an unwavering commitment to always putting people first, which has helped us build trusted, long-term relationships with our clients. We work with many esteemed household and industrial names, delivering top-tier expertise and professionalism. Our passion for intellectual challenges coupled with our excitement about being at the forefront of scientific and technological innovation, drives us to excel.

Our success is built on our honest business practices and people-focused approach. Which is not limited to our clients. We also work extremely hard to ensure that our colleagues feel great, are properly motivated and fully rewarded. We place a lot of emphasis on flexibility and workplace wellbeing. HLK is committed to building an inclusive and supportive working environment based on mutual respect and trust at all levels.

Our culture

Our culture is different from many other professional services firms and is more akin to what you might find in many of the world's most exciting and innovative companies. We are proud of the strong reputation that we have built up over 175 years. Our work has a significant international element, extending our reach across Europe and beyond, offering exciting opportunities for travel and collaboration with global professionals.

At HLK, the culture is built on support, development, and growth, fostering an environment where colleagues feel valued, included and supported. We offer comprehensive training and development programs designed to help employees enhance their skills and advance their careers. Emphasising modern social dynamics and the flexibility of hybrid working models, HLK ensures a healthy work/life balance, providing colleagues with the flexibility they need. The friendly and inclusive atmosphere promotes collaboration and fosters a sense of community, making HLK a place where everyone feels valued. This commitment to a positive culture is central to HLK, creating a workplace where success and personal fulfilment go hand in hand.

Where might you fit in at Haseltine Lake Kempner?

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. HLK Academy, our in-house training provides peer-group learning alongside practical on-the-job training. You will begin your training journey in a cohort of peers, working closely with senior attorneys to develop essential attorney skills. We continue to support your professional development beyond this initial program and provide comprehensive support post-qualification and throughout your career. At HLK we believe in the power of learning and growth, so we hope you will take everything you gain here to not only become a great attorney but also to inspire and mentor the next generation of trainees. ●

HG: International IP Excellence

HG is one of the world's leading intellectual property boutiques, and our London office sits at the meeting point of European innovation and global IP strategy. With offices across Silicon Valley, New York, and London, we offer technical advisors and junior attorneys a real opportunity to build a rewarding career in IP law with plenty of support along the way.

Why HG London?

Our London office is the European hub of HG's global practice, where we handle some of the most interesting and high-stakes IP matters around. From drafting and prosecution to assertion and licensing, we work across cutting-edge fields including artificial intelligence, biotechnology, semiconductors, telecommunications, construction equipment and power tools, emerging digital platforms, medical devices, and automotive technology. It means our team gets to engage with the legal and technical questions shaping tomorrow's economy.

Exceptional training and mentorship

At HG, we believe exceptional IP professionals are developed, not discovered. Our London office runs comprehensive training designed specifically for graduates entering the field, and we invest in our people from day one. Technical advisors work directly alongside leading patent attorneys on complex prosecution and assertion matters, gaining hands-on experience with patent portfolio

development and strategy. Junior attorneys receive close mentorship from partners and senior associates while taking on substantive work right away.

Innovation in how we work

We embrace innovation in how we work, not just in the matters we handle. Our teams use sophisticated, modern tools to work more efficiently and effectively so you'll spend less time on the routine and more on the challenging, substantive work that develops real expertise.

Global reach, personal impact

What sets us apart is the way we combine a boutique culture with genuine global capability. Our London team works closely with colleagues across our transatlantic offices, which means you'll be exposed to international best practices and a diverse range of client perspectives. You'll handle matters spanning multiple jurisdictions and build real expertise in both UK and international IP.

Ready to begin your IP journey?

Our award-winning London office is known for its commitment to excellence and its leadership in the field. Our attorneys, patent agents, and technical advisors are respected thought leaders who help shape IP law and policy. Join us and you'll be part of a team that pairs serious legal expertise with deep technical understanding to solve our clients' most complex challenges. ●

LOCATIONS: London, South West, Yorkshire & Humberside, Scotland and Rest of Europe

LOCATION: London and United States



EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	485
Partners	84
Qualified Patent Attorneys	190
Trainees	38

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	5-10
Undergraduate Jobs	Varies

HINDLES

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	22
Partners	3
Qualified Patent Attorneys	8
Trainees	1

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	1
Undergraduate Jobs	Varies

HGF is one of Europe's leading intellectual property specialist firms, bringing together patent attorneys, trade mark attorneys, design attorneys, IP solicitors, and attorneys-at-law to provide a full-service IP solution. The firm has 22 offices in seven European countries, including Austria, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

HGF creates and manages IP portfolios for the world's leading companies and research institutes. We advise clients on the creation of strategic IP assets around the world and provide world-class expertise in oppositions, appeals, commercialisation, dispute resolution, and litigation to defend and enforce IP rights.

Professional development

The training process is a challenge (one we hope you'll relish). We offer exceptional support in helping you get there, for example, through our dedicated learning and development platform, which gives you control over your learning, and our exam tutorial support network.

Current success

HGF is ranked gold in The Financial Times special report 'Europe's Leading Patent Law Firms 2025'. The firm is also ranked by Chambers & Partners, Legal 500, Intellectual Asset Management, Managing Intellectual Property, and World Trade Mark Review. In addition, 29 HGF attorneys are listed as MIP stars, and 23 listed on the IAM Patent 1000 'World's leading patent professionals'.

Commitment to diversity, equity & inclusion (DEI)

At the heart of our values is our dynamic, diverse team – not only do our people enrich our business, but they make it stronger. Through our ongoing people strategy and DEI plan, our leadership and management teams are committed to supporting our people, helping them flourish and reach their full potential. We do this by challenging the status quo to ensure HGF is a place where everyone can be their true self. The DEI strategy comprises continual, objective assessment of where improvements are required, the setting of targets, partnerships with external expert networks, and internal education and development programmes.

Job Opportunities

We recruit throughout the year across our Patent, Trade Mark and support teams.

We provide every individual, regardless of position or personal background, the scope to develop. Our people, which includes our IP administrators, secretaries, formalities teams, support teams, attorneys and lawyers, are at the very heart of HGF.

We put the development and wellbeing of our team members at the centre of everything we do, from learning events and seminars, a merit-based reward structure, an excellent and extensive benefits package and active promotion of work and home life balance, to a comprehensive equality, diversity and inclusion action plan. Please check our website for the latest vacancies. ●

The firm

Hindles are a growing firm of patent and trade mark attorneys, based in the centre of Edinburgh. We also have offices in Liverpool and Bristol. We provide a full range of patent, trade mark and registered design services to clients ranging from UK-based start-ups and scale-ups, to SMEs and international corporations in Europe, the USA and Japan.

We work across all major technical disciplines, with particular strength in physics, electronic and mechanical engineering, and chemistry.

We pride ourselves on providing our clients with high-quality, commercially-focused advice with an international perspective. Most of our new business 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 provided in-house and on the job, but our trainees are also encouraged to attend appropriate external courses. Our trainees have had excellent pass rates in the UK and European qualifying examinations.

Working at Hindles

We offer a pleasant, friendly and inclusive working environment and an interesting case load dealing predominantly with direct clients.

We work directly with innovative businesses and so there are regular opportunities to be involved in drafting new patent applications, as well as providing practical commercial advice.

We offer flexible working arrangements, and many of our team members benefit from hybrid or remote working. However, we encourage trainees to work predominantly in the office to begin with, to enable us to provide in person training and facilitate their professional development. As a result of our ongoing growth, long-term career prospects are exceptional.

Recruitment by Hindles

We look 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. Research experience or a PhD is an advantage, but is not essential. We advertise vacancies from time to time but also welcome speculative applications.

Hindles are members of IP Inclusive, the equality, diversity and inclusion organisation for the profession, and we are committed to its principles. ●

LOCATIONS: London, South West, West Midlands, East Midlands, Yorkshire & Humberside, North East, North West, Scotland, Rep of Ireland and Rest of Europe

LOCATIONS: South West, North West, and Scotland

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	460
Partners	50
Qualified Patent Attorneys	122
Trainees	29

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	2
Undergraduate Jobs	-

The firm

Founded in 1892, HOFFMANN EITLE is one of Europe's best established intellectual property law firms. With full-service offices in London, Munich, Düsseldorf, Milan, Madrid, Hamburg, Barcelona, and Amsterdam, we are consistently ranked among the continent's leading IP firms, known for delivering top-tier legal services.

HOFFMANN EITLE's clients include major multinational corporations, primarily based in the U.S., Japan, Europe, and South Korea. English is the main working language in both our London and Munich offices.

Armed with our expertise, we offer clients comprehensive counsel across all areas of technology. We also have a strong reputation for advocacy in inter partes proceedings before the European Patent Office.

Career opportunities

Over the past decade, HOFFMANN EITLE has experienced rapid and continuous growth. We now have 122 qualified attorneys supported by 29 technical assistants in training.

We provide exceptional career development with top-quality training led by experienced attorneys. Trainees may choose to pursue the Certificate in IP Law at Queen Mary University of London or prepare for the Institute's foundation exams. Additionally, London-based trainees spend six months in our Munich office, gaining firsthand experience at EPO hearings.

Our remuneration packages are highly competitive, and the firm's steady expansion reflects our commitment to retaining the exceptional graduates we recruit and train. •

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	1,700
Partners	-
Qualified Patent Attorneys	-
Trainees	-

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	30
Undergraduate Jobs	-

About us

The IPO is the United Kingdom's principal government authority on intellectual property (IP) with responsibility for patents, trademarks, designs and copyright. We are an Executive Agency of the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT). As part of DSIT we are responsible for the role of IP rights in supporting and promoting innovation, helping to protect, define and reward creativity. Creativity and innovation fuel investment and growth in the UK economy. The role of intellectual property remains crucial to increasing this investment and economic growth. Join our very special organisation and immerse yourself in a career with IP.

Explore the frontier of innovation as a Patent Examiner

As a Patent Examiner, you'll be at the forefront of technological advancement, playing a pivotal role in shaping the future of innovation in the world around us. Patent Examiners help companies to innovate and grow by granting high quality, valid patents. They scrutinise both the technical and legal aspects of a patent application, comparing the new invention against those found in patent databases, before considering whether or not to grant a patent. Patent examining offers an unusual opportunity to combine your scientific and technical knowledge with legal skills. We are seeking people with highly developed analytical and critical skills, as well as the communication skills necessary to express complex technical and legal arguments along with strong oral communication skills to communicate effectively with colleagues and customers. The Office deals with a wide range of subject matter from pharmaceuticals and biotech through to telecommunications and artificial intelligence.

Professional developments

- No exams are required, instead examiners will undergo comprehensive training and mentoring, equipping them with the legal skills necessary to excel in the role.
- A technical training programme also provides continual opportunities for development within different areas of technology.
- A non-competitive career path to senior patent examiner.

Associate Patent Examiner entry requirements

- Applicants must hold a 2:2 degree in a relevant science, engineering, computer science or mathematics subject or be on track to receive one by the end of the academic year.
- Alternatively, applicants must demonstrate technical proficiency with 5+ years of equivalent industrial experience in engineering roles.

Benefits of working at the IPO

- Flexible working scheme and excellent hybrid working opportunities
- Family friendly policies that support modern working families and individuals with caring responsibilities

Beyond patent examining, we offer a wide range of opportunities at different levels, including Trade Marks & Designs Examiner roles and rewarding careers in the Challenge IP & Legal area.

Check out our many career paths and set up job alerts on Civil Service Jobs. •

LOCATION: London and Rest of Europe

LOCATION: Wales

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	25
Partners	4
Qualified Patent Attorneys	6
Trainees	2

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	1
Undergraduate Jobs	1

About ip21

ip21 is an industry leader in client centred, commercially focused Intellectual Property Services. We offer the usual comprehensive range of IP legal services, but we also specialise in ongoing commercial consultancy including licensing negotiation, valuation of IP assets, market/competitor analysis and product commercialisation advice.

Our team includes professional client account managers and expert commercial consultants as well as our top-class legal team of patent, trade mark and design attorneys and assistants. In the UK, we have offices in Norwich, London and Cambridge, although our clients come from all over the UK, and the world.

We embrace modern, flexible working practices and our Company Values are: Service Excellence, Flexibility, Respect, Accountability, and Community Engagement.

What we are looking for

We are looking for ambitious, proactive graduate trainees keen to develop both IP legal analytical skills and the communication, sales and consultancy skills to add value to our clients' businesses and our own. Great interpersonal skills and exemplary written and verbal communication are a must, as is a hard-working and adaptable approach to the trainee role and its development over time.

Trainees can expect a wide variety of client work from an early stage originating from a diverse and often demanding client base, and expect to head out to business networking events, conferences and client meetings on a regular basis. We consider candidate applications from any STEM subject graduate (typically to master's level) and we are particularly looking for demonstrable experience/interest in general business and technology as opposed to purely academic excellence.

We're particularly focused on recruiting candidates who will embrace and develop our supportive and professional modern working environment built on adaptability, communication and trust.

What we can offer

Beyond the attractive benefit package we offer all employees (including up to 30 days' holiday), our trainees will have the opportunity to develop a broad commercial and legal skillset. Our offices throughout East Anglia allow our staff to work in a beautiful region with a stunning countryside and coastline, low crime rate, affordable housing and strong social community. Norwich was recently acknowledged as the 'UK's happiest city to live and work in' by the Guardian Newspaper. ●

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	5
Partners	-
Qualified Patent Attorneys	2
Trainees	-

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	-
Undergraduate Jobs	-

Who we are

ipconsult was established in 2006 and was one of the first companies to offer an alternative approach to many IP practices. We have a core of employed staff, including qualified attorneys and patent and trade mark administrators, and a network of qualified consultants with expertise in various specialist fields, opening the door to flexible working.

What we do

We are a small and nimble firm of patent and trade mark attorneys providing conventional IP related services as well as bespoke IP management and advice on a consultancy basis. We help clients protect, manage and commercialise their IP.

With support from the outset we help our clients extend their IP rights outside the UK and help them build to manage their overseas IP portfolios in line with their business strategy. We assist our clients to secure business support, investment and grant funding to help propel their innovation towards the market in the UK and overseas and have been involved in the successful licensing and sale of IP assets.

We also work closely with design companies to help provide support to them and their clients from the early concept development, during prototyping and beyond to ensure intellectual property rights are considered at all stages.

Where we are

Our main office is based in the seaside town of Swanage, but our client base is throughout the UK. Our main office provides a central hub that supports our employees and consultants enabling them to provide a full service with the option of working remotely or at our office.

Our clients

Our clients are mainly SME and start-up businesses, but we also represent a number of larger companies and we have a growing range of overseas originating work, mostly in software and engineering related subject matter.

Our network

We work closely with a network of professional specialists and businesses to help new clients identify and protect their intellectual property, and we assist existing clients to build and commercialise their portfolios.

We are focused on driving innovation and continuously work to further develop connections locally and at a national level to enable more clients to successfully commercialise their IP. ●

LOCATIONS: London, South East (excl London) and East Anglia

LOCATION: South West

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	258
Partners	49
Qualified Patent Attorneys	34
Trainees	26

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	Varies
Undergraduate Jobs	-

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	120
Partners	24
Qualified Patent Attorneys	29
Trainees	12

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	Varies
Undergraduate Jobs	-

About us

J A Kemp is a firm of UK and European patent, design and trade mark attorneys, with expertise across every technical specialism and industry sector. In the UK we have a large and diverse client base and, with our offices in London, Oxford and Cambridge, we enjoy a dominant position in the economically vibrant 'Golden Triangle'. Internationally, we have offices in Munich and Paris, and our reputation at the European Patent Office makes us the first choice for companies and their advisers in the USA, Asia and across the globe. J A Kemp is also a popular choice for trainee attorneys seeking a rewarding and enjoyable career in a globally recognised IP firm.

Opportunities available

We are looking for bright graduates suited to an intellectually challenging and rewarding career that brings together a unique blend of science, law and business skills.

Trainee Patent Attorney candidates should have an excellent track record of achievement at school and university, with a minimum of a 2:1 honours degree in a scientific or technical subject, preferably physics, engineering, computer science, chemistry or biosciences. We are open to applications from candidates holding or studying for a first or higher degree or doctorate.

Essential skills: Excellent spoken and written English, an enquiring and analytical mind, an eye for detail, motivation, drive, a team player, listening skills, leadership and people skills.

Training at J A Kemp

This profession represents an intellectually challenging and rewarding career option that offers scope to develop and apply your scientific knowledge. It brings together a unique blend of science, law and business skills. The comprehensive training that J A Kemp provides to all trainee attorneys enables them to transition effectively from an academic or research background to a professional and business environment. It equips them with all of the skills they will require to succeed.

At J A Kemp you will have an experienced attorney mentor from day one to expose you to a variety of work, set targets for your performance and development and support you throughout your training. In-house tutorials provide an excellent way for you to learn the basics and mix with trainees and attorneys from other disciplines. We also send you on external courses, such as those run by Queen Mary (Certificate in Intellectual Property Law) and the Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys. We maximise your chances of passing your exams.

At J A Kemp our reputation for training and our record of first time exam successes is second to none. ●

Keltie is an innovative and client-focused IP firm with an award-winning working environment and an enviable mix of clients, who admire our commercial approach. 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. We operate as one team throughout the firm.

Experience at Keltie

Keltie's training focuses on gaining knowledge and experience through exposure to real attorney work. Our trainees are included in 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 specialist practices, and across the 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 and leave 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 performances from our trainees. ●

LOCATIONS: London and South East (excl London)

LOCATIONS: London, South West, East Anglia and Rep of Ireland

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	246
Partners	38
Qualified Patent Attorneys	70
Trainees	32

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	Varies
Undergraduate Jobs	Varies

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	21
Partners	3
Qualified Patent Attorneys	7
Trainees	1

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	Varies
Undergraduate Jobs	-

Why Kilburn & Strode?

Kilburn & Strode is a leading firm of European patent and trade mark attorneys with offices in London, the Netherlands and the US. We help the most creative companies, protect the most innovative ideas and designs, in the most competitive markets, working for the world's finest organisations – companies like Aston Martin Lagonda, Samsonite, Boeing and Reaction Engines. We have a culture built on diversity and are looking for people who share and demonstrate our ambition and commitment to our clients.

This is an exciting time to join Kilburn & Strode! We work with our clients on their biggest challenges and we need the brightest and most ambitious talent to help us do that. As one of our new trainees, join us as we set ourselves ahead in our field. Seize the opportunity to be part of an exciting firm where you will receive gold-star support as you kickstart and develop your career.

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 patent attorney vacancies

We are recruiting for a places on our Patent Attorney training programme to start in October 2027 – where we will support, mentor and develop you into a world class patent attorney working on some of the most exciting new products and ideas from across the globe.

At Kilburn & Strode we offer a quality structured training programme and a dedicated people manager to help guide you through your traineeship. No two days are ever the same, throughout the course of your training you will master the fundamentals of UK and European patent law, learn how to draft patent applications, take part in opinion and opposition work and interact with clients.

Our people at Kilburn & Strode LLP

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 – patent administrators, paralegals, attorneys and our business support teams. ●

About us

Our mission is simple – to be the easiest intellectual property team to work with and to make IP a pain-free experience.

Lawrie is a rapidly expanding firm of European patent and trade mark attorneys based in Glasgow and with satellite offices in Oxford, Cambridge, Derby and Aberdeen. We offer a comprehensive range of intellectual property services to a range of clients in a variety of sectors. We are a client and employee focussed firm who invest time in getting to know our clients. Our attorneys work with each other as a team, our focus being on giving clients the best possible service.

Lawrie is committed to ensuring that it has all necessary systems, procedures and policies in place to allow it to deliver the best possible service to our clients. We therefore invest significant resource and effort in the quality of our internal processes and procedures and data protection. To exemplify this, we have achieved and successfully maintained ISO 9001:2015 Certification for Quality Management Standards and ISO 27001:2013 Certification for Information Security Management.

We were awarded Firm of the Year Prosecution (UK – Scotland) at the Managing IP Awards in 2023 – a joint award for our patent and trade mark teams. Lawrie has also signed up to the IP Inclusive Charter, which demonstrates our commitment to supporting and promoting equality, diversity and inclusion in the IP profession.

Why work for us?

We're growing but remain true to our core principles: bespoke advice, personal service and genuine care and respect for both our people and our clients. We are a values-driven firm, these values being key to the way that we work with clients, and the way that we interact with each other. We value our employees, because they are key to the success of both our clients' businesses and our business. We offer a friendly and supportive working environment and the opportunity to develop your career in line with the growth of the business.

We are committed to providing tailored, high-quality training and encourage our attorneys to express their ideas so that we can continually improve our services. As part of our continued growth, trainees and attorneys are provided with a number of business development opportunities to engage with new and existing clients.

What are we looking for?

The ideal candidate will be motivated, conscientious and diligent, and will take ownership and responsibility for their work. We are looking for candidates who are interested in developing their own client portfolio, while assisting with the growth and expansion of the firm. ●

LOCATIONS: London, Rest of Europe and United States

LOCATION: Scotland

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	333
Partners	58
Qualified Patent Attorneys	63
Trainees	28

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	Varies
Undergraduate Jobs	-

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	231
Partners	40
Qualified Patent Attorneys	41
Trainees	27

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	3-4
Undergraduate Jobs	-

About us

Marks & Clerk is one of the world's leading intellectual property firms. As early as 1911 the British press referred to Marks & Clerk as being "recognised as the greatest firm of its kind in the world". Our world-class reputation continues today, with frequent nominations for awards and top rankings in major legal directories and surveys. We provide a comprehensive range of intellectual property services to a variety of clients, from multinational corporations to the latest start-up ventures, in all sectors worldwide.

What we offer

Our extensive network and the strength of our client portfolio gives our attorneys a great platform to develop their careers, and to work on the technology that best suits their experience and interests.

We recruit trainees across our UK offices, who are given the support needed to achieve qualification as Chartered (UK) and European Patent Attorneys. Our comprehensive in-house Training Academy, combines lectures

and tutorials with mentoring and supervision from partners and other qualified attorneys. The Academy has a strong track record and our trainees regularly receive national prizes for their examination success. In addition, our business skills training supports wider career development. We offer excellent remuneration, benefits and career development so you can enjoy a rewarding career in intellectual property.

What we are looking for

We recruit graduates with degrees in electronics, engineering, computer science and AI, mathematics, chemistry, life sciences, physics and robotics. We also welcome applications from those who are completing a doctorate, undertaking postgraduate research or working in industry. At Marks & Clerk, we value diversity and welcome applications from people of all backgrounds.

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! ●

Mathys & Squire is a leading firm of patent and trade mark attorneys, advising clients on every aspect of intellectual property (IP). We combine deep technical knowledge, specialist legal expertise, and commercial awareness to strengthen and secure what most modern businesses today treat as one of their most valuable strategic assets. Founded in 1910, we have over 115 years of experience in the protection and commercialisation of IP rights, which we combine with our forward-thinking approach and progressive culture.

Who we are looking for

We are looking to recruit the brightest and best graduates with backgrounds in engineering or science. A natural curiosity about how things work, an analytical mindset, and excellent communication skills are essential. Our work is about delivering real value to clients, so we also look for individuals who understand the commercial significance of intellectual property.

Your career with us

Our clients range from global household names to exciting start-ups developing cutting-edge technologies. Our annual early careers intake ensures that trainees can learn

from those further along in their careers whilst also benefiting from the support of a strong peer group.

We are proud of our friendly and informal working environment. We believe that success comes from balancing hard work with enjoyment, and our active social committee organises a wide range of events – from yoga and quizzes to more glamorous occasions.

Training and support

We have an excellent track record of supporting trainees through their professional exams. In addition to external courses, we offer in-house tutorials and ongoing mentoring. 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.

Long-term progression

We recruit with the future in mind. Our goal is to nurture the next generation of partners at Mathys & Squire, and we provide a clear and visible career development framework. In short, we offer a stimulating, supportive environment and the opportunity for a rewarding, long-term career. ●

LOCATIONS: London, South East (excl London), West Midlands, East Anglia, North West and Scotland

LOCATIONS: London, South East (excl London), West Midlands, East Anglia and North West

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS		OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED	
Total Employees	147	Graduate Jobs	2
Partners	17	Undergraduate Jobs	2
Qualified Patent Attorneys	15		
Trainees	10		

Maucher Jenkins is a leading international firm of Chartered (UK) and European Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys, Attorneys-at-Law and IP Litigators. We act for companies setting the pace in science, technology and innovative product design. Our client base includes inventors and entrepreneurs, start-ups, SMEs and multinational corporations. We offer the highest quality of service based on a thorough understanding of the technical and commercial context and forward-thinking project management of cases. We have offices in London, Farnham, Munich and Freiburg. We also have satellite offices in Cambridge, Berlin, Kulmbach and Basel, together with representative offices in Beijing and Shenzhen. We have 17 partners and 147 staff (attorneys and business support), driving our enthusiastic workforce.

Why choose us?

Trainee patent attorneys at Maucher Jenkins are given early responsibility and gain experience in a range of fascinating issues. You will have a level of autonomy to complete work, alongside continued guidance from our experienced professionals and Partners. The role will be genuinely varied and may include both non-contentious and contentious matters. We provide training from day one via in-house tutorials and one-to-one supervision from senior partners and colleagues to enable you to qualify as a UK Chartered Patent Attorney and European Patent Attorney. Maucher Jenkins fosters a culture of mutual respect for the individual and the expression of talent; one that inspires employees to fulfil their own potential. We are a friendly team, and we take pride in our professional and supportive culture. Secondment opportunities to our German and Chinese offices are available.

Graduate opportunities

A successful candidate will hold a genuine interest in IP and will be committed to enhancing not only the firm's success, but their own development. Due to the high academic requirements for this opportunity, candidates should have a relevant STEM degree with a minimum second-class honour. They must be able to write in concise English. A PhD and industry experience is desirable. We are also keen to hear from candidates with Chinese or German language – enabling effective communications across our international client base. Candidates should have the drive to deliver excellent client service, whilst studying for and passing professional examinations. Our trainees will be interacting with clients, so confidence, together with strong communication and teamworking skills is beneficial. Our standards are high, but we offer the right candidates stimulating work and excellent professional development.

Placement opportunities

We accept internship applications throughout the year. We are always keen to find talented individuals who can offer their knowledge and insight to the firm. Meanwhile, Maucher Jenkins is committed to upskill and support interns throughout their career development.

Benefits

We offer an attractive benefits package: Competitive salary and generous bonus scheme, achievable business targets and supportive environment, hybrid working offering a genuine work/life balance, 25 days' annual leave, private medical insurance, life assurance, pension scheme, social events and free language lessons.

If you wish to apply for a vacancy or opportunity within our firm, please submit your CV and covering letter via our website or by email. ●

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS		OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED	
Total Employees	14	Graduate Jobs	Varies
Partners	4	Undergraduate Jobs	-
Qualified Patent Attorneys	6		
Trainees	2		

Meissner Bolte is a Pan-European Intellectual Property law firm headquartered in Germany. We are an award-winning firm, being highly ranked by IAM1000, IP Stars, The Financial Times, and The Legal 500. We provide a complete range of IP services from drafting and filing applications, prosecuting these applications to grant, and enforcement of these rights post-grant.

Meissner Bolte UK is based in Hebden Bridge in West Yorkshire, between the cities of Manchester and Leeds. Hebden Bridge is set in the rolling hills of Yorkshire near various manufacturing hubs. This is an idyllic setting and puts us in the middle of a vibrant area for technological development.

The majority of our clients are medium-sized UK businesses. This means that we have close and direct contact with the majority of our clients. We also are involved in an unusually large amount of contentious work, as well as working with our German offices to service our international clients. This contributes to an extremely varied workflow.

Training

Our attorneys are very familiar with the UK and European qualification process, and so offer invaluable insight towards becoming a UK and European qualified patent attorney. This is a challenging process and typically takes 4-7 years depending on the speed at which a trainee wants to approach the exams.

Our approach to training will differ for every individual. Our standard route involves a part-time university course around a year after joining us. Once a candidate approaches the

UK final examinations we then institute a one-on-one tutorial process.

Who are we looking for?

On the patent side we are looking for someone with a background in the physical sciences or engineering who wants to continue to utilise their technological background in a field outside academia. On the trade mark side law graduates are preferred. We are keen to hear from applicants who are bright, enthusiastic and good communicators. The successful applicant will find themselves challenged every day working at the boundary between technology and the law. We have a very mixed workload – and we pass this on to our trainees. A trainee at our firm will be exposed to a great variety of work very early in their career. We believe this is the best way to build an appreciation of the role of a patent attorney. At larger UK firms we know trainees often work almost solely on examination report responses – and this is very much the opposite of our more holistic approach.

We are also keen for our trainees to meet their German counterparts, in particular those based in Munich. We aim for our trainees to visit at least the Munich office during their training.

As we are based on the Yorkshire/Lancashire border we have clients in Greater Manchester, Leeds, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Derbyshire, Northumberland, North Wales, Merseyside and Cumbria. If an applicant has a personal connection to any of these areas that would be a benefit but is by no means a requirement.

We welcome speculative applications. ●

LOCATIONS: London, South East (excl London), Rest of Europe and Rest of the World

LOCATIONS: Yorkshire & Humberside and North West

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS		OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED	
Total Employees	373	Graduate Jobs	Varies
Partners	63	Undergraduate Jobs	-
Qualified Patent Attorneys	121		
Trainees	34		

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS		OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED	
Total Employees	6	Graduate Jobs	Varies
Partners	2	Undergraduate Jobs	Varies
Qualified Patent Attorneys	-		
Trainees	-		

What we do

We are Mewburn Ellis, a top-tier European intellectual property specialist working with organisations building the brands and technologies that will define tomorrow, using IP to nurture and protect innovations, ideas and inventions.

Why choose Mewburn Ellis?

We are one of the largest specialist IP firms in the UK, with a strong track record and reputation for providing high quality training for our graduate recruits, we strive for quality in everything we do. Just as we nurture ideas and inventions, we also cultivate careers. We want our people to have careers with us that are long-lasting, that will stretch them and are as rewarding as they are challenging. With support from colleagues within a culture that is open and inclusive, our goal is to help you reach your potential. We'll help you to pass your exams and develop your all-round skills as a patent attorney through our internal and external tutorials with regular input from experienced partners. This is backed up by ongoing feedback on your progress to further assist your development. And because we're a meritocracy, your career progression is truly in your own hands.

Our culture

We are a firm that is committed to diversity of thought, ideas and viewpoints and where all our people, regardless of their background, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, disability or sexual orientation feel they belong. This inclusive approach forms part of our business plan and is being driven by our management board. For us, inclusion and diversity is more than just a tick-box exercise – it is an issue that's long been on our agenda and

is becoming increasingly embedded in our culture. We strive to be leaders in this area, and whilst we have made strong progress to date, there is always more that can be done. We already have strong gender diversity across the firm as a whole and are continuously focussed on being a more inclusive firm.

Sustainability and community

We fully offset our unavoidable carbon emissions with carbon reduction projects. We believe we must play our part in reducing the use of energy, lowering carbon emissions and reducing waste and actively avoid causing environmental damage. Sustainability is a complex area and an ongoing focus for our firm. Our priority is to make sure that the way we operate has as little environmental impact as possible. Community is important to us also. For us this means nurturing our people, helping everyone develop and contributing to the wider communities in which we operate, as well as supporting worthy causes with time and money. Everyone that works at Mewburn Ellis has one community day per year to enable them to support causes they care about. In addition, we operate a Give As You Earn (GAYE) scheme, so our people can donate to charities of their choice in a simple and tax effective way.

What we look for

If you possess a curious, enquiring mind, a strong academic background and excellent communication skills, especially in writing that's a great start. General commercial awareness is also valuable. No prior knowledge of patent law is needed but a STEM degree is essential. Having an open-minded personable approach to learning will also serve you well! ●

About us

Mohun Aldridge Sykes is an established firm of IP professionals based in the Northern Powerhouse city of Leeds. The firm prides itself on providing a consistently high level of service and quality of work across a range of sectors, with the vast majority of its clients being based in the United Kingdom. Whilst covering all aspects of patent and trade mark practice, our emphasis is on understanding the wider business needs of our clients and providing sound commercial advice.

Clients come in all shapes and sizes and ours are no different, from start-ups and spin-outs to long established manufacturers and multi-nationals. We work with an extensive network of professional firms across the globe to deliver a truly international service.

Leeds is the vibrant unofficial capital of Yorkshire and combines world class arts, sport and entertainment with close proximity to some of the most beautiful countryside in the UK.

Key requirements

- Excellent communication skills
- Science or engineering degree (2:2 min)
- Analytical approach to solving problems
- Ability to work within a team
- Good with detail.

Opportunities at Mohun Aldridge Sykes

From time to time we have openings for talented science or engineering graduates who want to train as attorneys in our Leeds office.

Successful applicants will begin solving real client problems from the very start, under the close supervision of qualified attorneys. Trainees will be supported and encouraged on their journey to qualification and beyond. Client-facing skills and a positive attitude to development feature high on our list of requirements.

As the majority of our clients are UK-based, we are able to offer our trainees plenty of client contact and original drafting work from the outset. In addition, we encourage our colleagues to take a full role in the life of the office and to establish professional networks locally and further afield.

In the very early stages, new trainees are expected to spend almost all of their time in the office. Thereafter, some flexibility can be introduced so that a hybrid working model may be offered, where it is deemed to be appropriate. In addition to a competitive salary, we offer a generous level of annual leave, encouraging a positive work/life balance. ●

LOCATIONS: London, South West, East Anglia and North West

LOCATIONS: Yorkshire & Humberside

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	352
Partners	69
Qualified Patent Attorneys	58
Trainees	10

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	Varies
Undergraduate Jobs	Varies

About us

Murgitroyd is a global firm of European patent and trade mark attorneys. We have 22 offices globally, enabling us to offer our clients unrivalled expertise.

Our colleagues service a variety of clients, from the world's largest corporations to SMEs, to cutting-edge entrepreneurs, universities and research institutions across all industry sectors.

At Murgitroyd we pride ourselves on providing a tailored and excellent global service to our clients. We go the extra mile for our clients, and are dedicated to providing world-class customer service at every interaction.

We are a fast moving and growing business, offering an equal, diverse, collaborative and inclusive culture. Colleagues have clear role expectations as well as learning and development opportunities for career progression.

We firmly believe in nurturing talent and fostering professional growth. Our structured career progression paths offer opportunities for continuous learning and development, providing our team with the tools to grow as people and become leaders in intellectual property and innovation. Our culture thrives on collaboration, respect and professionalism, forming a nurturing environment that encourages both personal and professional growth.

What truly distinguishes us is our unwavering commitment to ESG initiatives. Our internal Impact and Trailblazers teams spearhead these efforts, pioneering change within our organisation and into the wider IP industry.

From championing ED&I initiatives and sustainable practices to engaging with charities and communities, we are dedicated to making a positive difference.

We offer an attractive benefits package and exciting opportunities to work with fabulous clients in the realm of intellectual property and innovation. Our commitment to your personal development and growth means that you'll be constantly challenged and supported to reach new heights in your career.

We believe in rewarding our employees for their dedication and hard work. Our comprehensive benefits package is designed to support you in all aspects of your life – personal, professional and social.

- Competitive salary and annual leave package
- Employee pension contribution
- Private healthcare
- Career development opportunities
- EV and Cycle benefits
- Involvement in ESG activities

...and more.

At Murgitroyd, we don't just envision the future of the IP industry – we actively shape it. Here, your ideas are valued, your growth is nurtured, and your impact is celebrated. We produce an annual ESG report and have improved our EcoVadis scoring year on year. Our latest ESG Report is available on our website.

We produce an annual ESG report and have recently acquired Ecovadis certification. Our latest ESG Report is available on our website. ●

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	35
Partners	-
Qualified Patent Attorneys	11
Trainees	3

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	2
Undergraduate Jobs	-

Openshaw & Co. is a client-focused firm of UK and European patent attorneys, combining technical and legal expertise to advise clients on a broad range of intellectual property matters.

Our team

Founded in 2004, Openshaw & Co. has grown into a highly experienced and collaborative firm delivering exceptional intellectual property services. Our team comprises 35 staff members, including 11 qualified patent attorneys specialising in patent drafting and prosecution, with a strong track record before the EPO and UKIPO.

We work closely with clients to understand their commercial objectives and develop tailored strategies to protect, manage, and maximise the value of their innovations. Alongside our patent expertise, we also provide in-house support for design and trade mark matters, backed by an experienced paralegal team specialising in IP administration and formalities.

Our clients

We work with a diverse range of clients, including multinational organisations, SMEs, start-ups, universities, and private inventors. Our expertise spans a broad range of technologies and industries, including telecommunications, software, algorithms, blockchain applications and digital assets, engineering, aerospace and defence, energy and renewables, optics, electro sciences, and materials science.

Working at Openshaw & Co.

Openshaw & Co. is believed to be the first employee-owned trust law firm in the UK. As an employee-owned business, every member

of the firm has a direct stake in our success. Our structure encourages collaboration, shared responsibility, and continuous improvement, creating an environment where everyone is empowered to contribute ideas and help shape the future of the firm.

Our people come from a wide range of backgrounds, contributing to the supportive, inclusive, and friendly environment we are proud to maintain. We actively encourage applications from all backgrounds and are committed to diversity, inclusion, and sustainable working practices. We are particularly proud of the flexible working environment we provide, enabling our people to deliver high-quality intellectual property advice while maintaining a healthy work/life balance.

Opportunities at Openshaw & Co.

We are always interested in hearing from talented individuals who are motivated by technically challenging patent work and enjoy building strong client relationships through clear, practical, and commercially focused advice. We offer opportunities for graduates seeking to begin a career in patent law, students looking to gain insight into the intellectual property profession, and qualified patent attorneys interested in joining a growing, client-focused firm with a flexible and collaborative working environment.

Your skills

Successful trainee patent attorney and summer intern candidates will combine technical curiosity, analytical thinking, and strong communication skills. You will have a genuine interest in emerging technologies, an inquisitive mindset, and a strong attention to detail. ●

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	67
Partners	15
Qualified Patent Attorneys	25
Trainees	8

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	2
Undergraduate Jobs	-

PEARL COHEN

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	12
Partners	4
Qualified Patent Attorneys	6
Trainees	1

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	2
Undergraduate Jobs	-

At the cutting edge of innovation

Page White Farrer is at the cutting edge of innovation. Trusted by some of the world's leading brands and exciting start-ups to protect the intellectual property (IP) in their latest inventions and designs, we also advise on the role of IP in their commercialisation and growth strategies and help companies to enhance their value through innovation capture.

The work is both varied and interesting – recent examples of our work include AI (Artificial Intelligence), IoT (Internet of Things), fashion and wearable tech, materials science, clean energy and renewables, life sciences, healthcare, and med-tech.

From offices in London, Leeds, Exeter and Munich, we handle intellectual property worldwide and we enjoy a strong working relationship with highly respected firms overseas.

Working environment

We have a friendly and supportive and inclusive atmosphere, with flexible working arrangements of two days in the office each week. Our working environment is particularly suited to self-motivated individuals that are looking for a proactive role in both the development of the firm and of new and existing clients.

Training at Page White Farrer

Our trainees at Page White Farrer qualify as

both UK and European patent attorneys. Each trainee is allocated a qualified attorney who is responsible for their on the job training and in addition to this they will be expected to complete the Postgraduate Certificate in Intellectual Property Law, gaining exemption from the UK foundation exams. We have a good record in training and passing exams and provide in-house tutorials, plus CIPA membership. Our study support programme includes generous leave, book allowance and the opportunity to attend revision training courses.

Employee benefits

Our comprehensive employee benefits package includes:

- Generous holiday allowance increasing to 30 days per annum with service
- Flexible working arrangements
- Pension
- Permanent health insurance
- Volunteering leave
- Regular social events

Graduate applications

We recruit throughout the year, in the field of computer science, electronic engineering, physics, biochemistry and chemistry, and related disciplines. We are looking for candidates in fields of artificial intelligence, machine learning, health-tech, clean-tech and renewables. We welcome applications from those with a PhD. ●

Pearl Cohen is an international law firm with offices in London, New York, Boston, San Francisco, and Tel Aviv. Our London IP group focuses exclusively on patent & trade mark prosecution. The team includes Chartered Patent Attorneys, European Patent Attorneys, and Solicitors specialising in patent and trade mark law. The London patents group members span between them the entire gamut of technical fields: Physics, Electrical & Electronics Engineering, Software, Pharmaceuticals, and Chemistry. We specialise in cross-border patent prosecution and work closely with our overseas offices to provide our clients with truly international legal advice on patent matters.

With over 55 experienced patent attorneys and agents authorised to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), European Patent Office (EPO), UK Intellectual Property Office (UK IPO), the Unified Patent Court (UPC), and the Israeli Patent Office (IPO), and relationships with leading intellectual property firms around the globe, Pearl Cohen helps clients obtain worldwide patent protection. Our clients regularly depend on our reputation for providing innovative and strategic international patent strategies to protect their inventions and commercial products and services, and they benefit greatly from the synergy between our related practice areas, including intellectual property and business law, to acquire, sell, or license patents.

Our patent expertise is enhanced by a significant support staff of scientific advisors. Many of our patent attorneys, patent agents and all of our scientific advisors have advanced degrees from the world's top academic institutions, as well as practical, hands-on laboratory knowledge or industrial experience.

Our global patents group offers complete services that include:

- Drafting, filing, and prosecution of patent applications
- Filing International patent applications under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)
- Analysis of prior art, patents, and patent applications, for both offensive and defensive purposes
- Counselling and opinion practice, including preparing legal opinions regarding patentability, infringement, freedom to operate, enforceability of patents and competitive analysis
- Oppositions, re-examinations, inter partes review, and post grant oppositions
- Patent portfolio management, development, analysis, augmentation, commercialization, and litigation
- Patent licensing and transactional practice for collaborations, private placements, public offerings, mergers and acquisitions
- Co-counselling patent litigation at the Unified Patent Court

Related strategic services that we provide include:

- Counselling and advising
- Advising clients on funding and structuring their new business ventures based on their IP
- Aiding manufacturers in the design of non-infringing, competitive products
- Advising clients regarding licenses, patent sales, assignments, and other ownership-related issues
- Patent-related litigation, including patent enforcement to assert our clients' patent rights against infringers, and patent defence to defend our clients from allegations of infringement and unwarranted harassment ●

LOCATIONS: London, South West, Yorkshire & Humberside and Rest of Europe

LOCATIONS: London, United States and Rest of the World



EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	221
Partners	35
Qualified Patent Attorneys	52
Trainees	13

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	Varies
Undergraduate Jobs	-

Potter Clarkson is one of Europe's leading intellectual property law firms, with a strong presence across the UK, Sweden, and Denmark. With a reputation for excellence, we offer an exceptional environment in which to launch and develop a career as a patent attorney, trade mark attorney, IP solicitor, paralegal, or business services professional. Across every role, you'll work alongside talented colleagues who are passionate about helping clients protect, commercialise, and maximise the value of their intellectual property.

We offer rewarding career opportunities across our Business Services teams, including HR, Marketing, Finance, IT, and Operations. Whatever your area of expertise, you'll be part of a collaborative and supportive firm that values professional development, innovation, and continuous learning.

Our reputation is built on the quality of our people and the results they deliver. We are consistently recognised by leading legal directories and industry rankings, including Legal 500, Chambers & Partners, and Managing IP, with top-tier rankings across multiple intellectual property disciplines and individual recognition for many of our lawyers, patent attorneys, and trade mark specialists.

In 2026, Potter Clarkson received 12 nominations at the Managing IP EMEA Awards across the UK and Sweden, recognising our expertise in patent prosecution, trade mark prosecution, disputes, and litigation. We were also proud to be named IPEC Firm of the Year, reflecting the strength of our integrated approach and our ability to provide clients with seamless support throughout the IP lifecycle. Several of our people were also

shortlisted for Practitioner of the Year and Rising Star of the Year awards, highlighting the depth of talent and expertise across our teams.

At Potter Clarkson, we deliver a comprehensive suite of IP services designed to help our clients achieve their commercial goals. Our people are known for their expertise, approachability, and commitment to client care. The diversity of our client base, from innovative start-ups to global businesses, means our trainees gain exposure to a wide range of sectors, technologies, and legal challenges.

We are passionate about attracting and nurturing exceptional talent. Our trainees benefit from a tailored induction programme and a highly regarded training pathway. With offices across three countries, we offer opportunities for secondments and cross-border collaboration, helping our people broaden their experience and develop international perspectives. Our commitment to excellence is reflected in our consistently outstanding examination results.

Equality, diversity and inclusion are at the heart of our culture. We are committed to creating a workplace where everyone feels valued, respected, and empowered to thrive.

We also prioritise the wellbeing of our people. From flexible working arrangements and healthcare plans to mental health first aiders and a range of wellbeing initiatives, we provide a supportive environment that promotes a healthy work/life balance.

If you're ready to embark on a fulfilling and inspiring career in intellectual property, we would be delighted to hear from you. ●

LOCATIONS: London, East Midlands and Rest of Europe



EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	183
Partners	28
Qualified Patent Attorneys	32
Trainees	20

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	8
Undergraduate Jobs	-

About Reddie & Grose

Reddie & Grose LLP is an internationally renowned firm of European and United Kingdom patent, trade mark and design attorneys. Our experienced team of over 100 IP professionals based in London, Cambridge, Munich and The Hague includes specialists in a wide range of technical disciplines.

We offer services for a wide range of industries, with particular strengths in electronics and software, mechanical engineering, chemistry, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology. Our trade mark team provides specialist advice on branding and trade mark work; we also have a specialist team handling plant variety protection.

Range of client services

We handle the full range of IP rights for a global client base ranging from SMEs starting to consider IP through to large corporations with rights in over 100 countries. 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. Our services range from investigating competing rights, handling oppositions, drafting and filing applications, and maintaining portfolios. We resolve disputes about IP, working closely with other leading legal firms if it becomes necessary to resort to the courts.

Benefits

- 27 days annual leave plus bank public holidays
- Remote home working (60% office/40% working from home for trainees)
- Discretionary Christmas bonus
- Private pension scheme (with optional salary sacrifice)
- Semi-annual meetings with a Pensions Advisor
- Group life assurance (up to 3x salary)
- Interest free season ticket loan
- Private medical scheme
- Family friendly policies
- Cycle to work scheme (salary sacrifice scheme)
- Active social events calendar
- Eye care vouchers
- Employee assistance programme
- Employee referral scheme
- Paid charity leave day
- Access to cycle store and shower facilities
- Comprehensive graduate training programme
- Paid study leave leading up to professional exams
- Positive culture for work/life balance
- Daily delivery of fresh fruit

Minimum academic requirements

At least a 2:1 degree in a scientific or technical subject as, well as excellent English. We also welcome applications from those completing a doctorate, undertaking postgraduate research, or working in industry. ●

LOCATIONS: London, East Anglia and Rest of Europe

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	21
Partners	5
Qualified Patent Attorneys	9
Trainees	4

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	1
Undergraduate Jobs	-

Sagittarius IP is a highly respected firm of patent attorneys specialising in advising the chemical, pharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors. Our mission is to offer gold standard intellectual property service for our clients from our offices in Marlow, Cambridge and London.

About Sagittarius IP

We are a team of highly qualified individuals with a passion for helping our clients achieve maximum value from their intellectual property. Our goal is to maintain exceptionally high standards and to continually exceed our clients' expectations. We aim to provide commercially focused, proactive advice drawing on extensive pharmaceutical industry experience. Our client portfolio covers the spectrum of small businesses to industry leading FTSE 100 companies, including start-ups, academic research organisations, university spin-outs and venture capital funds. We offer a full range of patent services, including patent drafting and prosecution, IP portfolio management advice and due diligence reviews.

Sagittarius IP has featured as a leading firm in the Financial Times review of Europe's patent law firms since its inception in 2019 and is rated 'Gold' for the Chemistry & Pharmacy and Biotechnology, Food & Healthcare fields. We have built this first-class reputation on the results we achieve for our clients and, as a result, much of our new business comes through recommendations.

Why work for Sagittarius IP?

From day one with the firm our trainees are exposed to a variety of work under the supervision of our attorneys, joining meetings with inventors and assisting our attorneys when they participate in hearings. Trainees are involved in drafting new patent applications, corresponding with clients and patent offices, preparing for and attending EPO oppositions and appeals, IP due diligence projects and providing freedom to operate advice. Our trainees are given real responsibility early on in their careers, and they make a significant contribution to client work within their first year. Following qualification, attorneys are given significant autonomy and involvement in client relationship management.

Sagittarius IP is heavily involved in training within the profession. We provide in-house exam tutorials in parallel with placement on external courses to put our trainees in the best possible position to qualify and be successful in their careers going forward. Everyone at the firm participates in tutorials and training which provides a supportive network to help our trainees succeed.

We offer a competitive salary, attractive bonus scheme and hybrid home/office working arrangements across our multiple locations. •

SANDERSONS

Patent & Trade Mark Attorneys

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	11
Partners	3
Qualified Patent Attorneys	3
Trainees	2

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	Varies
Undergraduate Jobs	-

A Traditional Firm with a Progressive Edge

Founded in London in 1956 and now firmly established at the University of Essex Knowledge Gateway, Sandersons is a intellectual property firm that strikes a rare balance: the prestige and expertise of a long-standing practice with the agility of a forward-thinking partnership. We provide world-class IP services to a global client base while maintaining the supportive, close-knit culture of a boutique firm.

Who We Are

Sandersons builds genuine partnerships with our clients. We don't just process applications; we integrate ourselves into our clients' teams to provide proactive, tailored strategies. While our primary hub is in Colchester, we maintain a strategic London presence, ensuring we stay connected to both regional innovation and the heart of the UK's legal sector.

Our practice spans a diverse array of industries. As a trainee here, you won't be siloed into a single niche. Instead, you will be encouraged to adapt your technical skills across various technologies and all aspects of IP law.

Why Sandersons?

We pride ourselves on being a 'small but mighty' firm. Our size is our greatest asset for a graduate: it ensures you are never just a face in a crowd.

- Immediate impact: Trainees are involved in the full lifecycle of IP work from day one. You will transition quickly from initial client consultations to assisting partners with complex litigation.

- Culture and Balance: Our Partners strongly believe in a healthy work-life balance. Our office atmosphere is informal and friendly, contributing to the high staff retention rates we enjoy.
- Mentorship: You will work in a small, dedicated team under the direct supervision of highly experienced Partners.
- Great location: As one of the UK's fastest-growing historic towns, Colchester combines Roman heritage, lively culture and access to beautiful countryside and coastline.

Opportunities and Training

We welcome applications from graduates with a minimum 2.1 degree in a technical discipline to join us as trainee patent attorneys. We have a particular interest in candidates with expertise in:

- Engineering
- Biotechnology
- Electronics

You will work closely with partners and associates, gaining independence as your confidence grows. We take your professional qualification seriously; we cover training costs (by prior agreement) and provide study leave to ensure you are fully prepared for your professional examinations.

If you are looking for a career where you can handle high-level global IP work without sacrificing your personality or well-being, Sandersons offers the perfect environment to thrive. •

LOCATIONS: London, South East (excl London) and East Anglia

LOCATION: South East (excl London) and East Anglia



EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	29
Partners	3
Qualified Patent Attorneys	11
Trainees	4

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	Varies
Undergraduate Jobs	-

Schlich is an IAM 1000-recommended firm of European and UK patent and trade mark attorneys, supported by a highly experienced and efficient team that includes paralegals, secretaries, and accounts staff. Our collaborative and inclusive work environment underpins the quality and professionalism of our services.

We are particularly well-versed in handling IP matters relating to biotechnology, chemistry, pharmaceuticals, and mechanical technologies. However, our diverse caseload frequently takes us beyond these specialisms, offering our attorneys the opportunity to engage with a broad spectrum of technical fields. This exposure to new technologies complements our attorneys' academic foundations and keeps our work intellectually stimulating.

Our attorneys are experienced in securing and enforcing IP rights both in the UK and internationally. Whether it's managing patent portfolios, navigating opposition proceedings, or securing trade mark protection, we offer a global perspective on IP strategy and execution.

Our client base is similarly diverse, ranging from individual inventors and UK-based SMEs to multinational pharmaceutical and biotech companies, as well as international law firms. The breadth of our clientele ensures a varied and engaging workload, and for those interested, it can also present exciting international travel opportunities.

While patents are a core part of our practice, our services also extend to trade marks and designs to help our clients identify the existence of unregistered rights and assess the scope and strength of existing rights.

We are well known for our contentious work, with significant expertise before the Opposition Divisions and Appeal Boards of the European Patent Office. In recent years, we have been involved in a number of high-profile oppositions, including successful outcomes in major cases relating to CRISPR gene-editing technologies.

We provide comprehensive training, ranging from in-house tutorials to external courses run by recognised professional bodies. Training is inclusive and continuous - regardless of role. The attorneys participate in monthly meetings to discuss case law, and monthly support meetings are held to discuss new rules and best practice. Regular team meetings foster collaboration and ensure we remain aligned with best practices and new developments.

Schlich is an equal opportunities employer and proud signatory of IP Inclusive's EDI Charter. We welcome candidates from all backgrounds and celebrate diversity in all its forms. ●



EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	18
Partners	1
Qualified Patent Attorneys	6
Trainees	4

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	Varies
Undergraduate Jobs	-

Scintilla was founded in 2013 by Peter McBride and has since grown to a team of 18 with offices in Glasgow, Manchester and Aberdeen.

We work directly with clients to file patents, trade marks and registered designs whilst also providing wider strategic consultancy on how to manage innovation, prepare for investment and build value. Striving to help innovative businesses thrive, empowering them on their IP journey by organising, optimising and monetising their intellectual property.

Our clients include a mix of large corporates, start-ups, spin-outs in a wide range of sectors, and we are deeply invested in business and career development and supporting the local technology ecosystem, through local business incubators and trade organisations.

Embracing the opportunity to work efficiently with our clients, we are laser-focused on adding value for our clients and have a pragmatic approach that emphasises achieving the best commercial outcomes in a timely and cost-efficient manner.

Avoiding surprise bills is also a key focus for us. We prefer working to fixed prices as much as possible; we honour our quotes and work hard to communicate with our clients to make sure that costs are predictable and controlled.

Through our multi-disciplined, diverse team of attorneys, trainees and support staff, we are able to support our clients with clear, consistent communication, throughout their journey with our services. Our attorneys endeavour to keep our clients in the loop, clarifying legal jargon and ensuring prompt official communications. Providing the highest professional standards in a friendly flexible format that's focused on adding value and building sustainable relationships with our clients.

Our growth is a direct reflection of our professional and responsive client service. This is made possible by our team of motivated and hard-working people, at every level of the organisation.

Working as part of our team requires the highest levels of competence and professionalism, a proactive work ethic and a 'can do' attitude. Openness and transparency are key to our management style, with sharing of operational information across the organisation so that everyone understands the way the business operates. Our colleagues enjoy a variety of financial and non-financial rewards for their efforts, and we have well defined and transparent paths for career progression and just as importantly a great workplace culture to flourish in. ●

LOCATION: South East (excl London)

LOCATIONS: North West and Scotland



EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	24
Partners	7
Qualified Patent Attorneys	10
Trainees	4

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	2
Undergraduate Jobs	Varies



EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	20
Partners	2
Qualified Patent Attorneys	9
Trainees	6

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	2
Undergraduate Jobs	1

Script IP is a busy and friendly firm. We were founded in 2012 because the directors wanted to do things differently.

In the complex and ever-evolving area of IP law, we're here to tell our clients in clear terms where they stand and what their options are. So not just whether an idea is protectable and how they can go about it, but whether it makes commercial sense to do so. Our services extend from an exploratory chat through to detailed support on areas such as registering intellectual property, managing IP portfolios and enforcing rights in court.

We want to protect the inventions our clients have spent time and money developing. We can also assist clients in selling or licensing their ideas to generate income.

We draft, file and prosecute patent applications worldwide. We can suggest the most effective filing strategy for any situation, whether it's UK-only, European or international

Our patent team is recognised as an authority on a wide range of technical areas including biotechnology, chemistry, electronics, IT & software, life sciences, mechanical devices and physics.

If you work for us, you will be a valued member of our close-knit team. Your work will involve getting hands-on alongside talented and experienced colleagues, helping clients to protect industry-shaping ideas, and being part of a culture where training and work/life balance are taken seriously. Script IP have a long-term view of recruitment and we aim to train patent attorneys who will be the future leaders of our firm.

Script IP handle important and fascinating cases in all areas of technology. Clients appreciate our commercial approach and as a result we are growing.

We have offices in Bath and near Southampton (Eastleigh).

If you want to join us at Script IP, you will have a good undergraduate degree in a relevant science or engineering subject. Research, a further degree, or industrial experience may be an advantage but the right person is more important to us than further qualifications or experience. Essential requirements are a curiosity about how things work, the ability to understand complex subjects and the ability to communicate clearly. Applications are competitive. ●

About us

Commercially focussed Chartered Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys and European Patent Attorneys, providing intellectual property (IP) services to innovative companies worldwide. Our experienced IP professionals deliver exceptional service and tangible results.

Secerna LLP is a progressive and expanding firm of Chartered and European patent attorneys based in York and Newcastle. We represent clients worldwide assisting some of the world's most innovative businesses to protect, defend and enforce their intellectual assets. We build long-term business relationships with our clients, based on exceptional trust, teamwork and our expertise.

Opportunities

Due to the firm's size and expansion, there are great opportunities in personal and professional development. Individuals can expect to be exposed to a range of business situations, clients and technology, from providing strategic advice on validity and freedom to operate to corporate clients, dealing with day to day matters with in-house teams, to discussing new technology with inventors.

We are a growing firm, which is committed to our recruitment plans and developing bespoke training programmes for each recruit.

What we offer

We have a great depth of technical expertise across a broad range of technologies and in particular in the fields of telecommunications, computer-implemented inventions, renewable energy solutions, and assisted and consumer service solutions. In addition, the Life Sciences and Pharmaceutical groups have considerable experience working in the fields of NCEs, biotherapeutics, nucleic acid-based diagnostics and regenerative medicine.

As a trainee patent attorney at Secerna you will be given full training and support as you work towards qualifying as a Chartered and European patent attorney. You will work closely with senior attorneys with a track record of successful training.

At Secerna you will have an exceptional opportunity to further your career within a supportive and friendly environment.

What we are looking for

We are looking for graduates with a strong academic track record and good interpersonal skills, who are motivated and keen to learn new skills. We are looking for candidates that are keen to qualify as a patent attorney and progress within a growing and successful business. ●

LOCATIONS: South East (excl London) and South West

LOCATIONS: Yorkshire & Humberside and North East

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	40
Partners	7
Qualified Patent Attorneys	2
Trainees	-

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	Varies
Undergraduate Jobs	-

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	50
Partners	7
Qualified Patent Attorneys	20
Trainees	6

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	1-3
Undergraduate Jobs	-

Stevens Hewlett and Perkins (SH&P) is a long-established firm of intellectual property (IP) lawyers, originating over 100 years ago. We offer a complete range of services related to trade marks, patents and design rights in the UK and the rest of the world. We take great pride in delivering a professional service that is both personable and of high quality. Our approach is commercial and proactive, ensuring we offer exceptional value at a fair price for our clients.

Our services

- **Patents:** Our services include novelty and fto searches, preparation and filing of patent applications, prosecution of applications all around the world and all related advice such as infringement, enforcement, patent strategy and portfolio management
- **Trade marks:** Our services range from clearance (freedom to use) searches, to filing and prosecution of trade mark applications, filing programmes, recordal projects, trade mark portfolio management and strategy, and handling of contentious trade mark disputes
- **Designs:** Our services include searching, filing design applications in the uk and around the world and all related advice

The team

Our firm has a dynamic team of 12 trade mark attorneys (including one part qualified and one dual qualified) and two patent attorneys. They are supported by an expert team of paralegals, renewal specialists and records administrators. It is a testament to the firm that a substantial proportion of our staff have been here in excess of 15 years, (some as long as 34 years!). This is combined with team members recruited more recently (from attorneys to administrative support

staff), who have brought a fresh perspective to how we operate and serve our clients.

Our approach

At SH&P, we understand that it takes a lot of hard work and passion to succeed in a challenging world. After all, we are a business too.

We are a friendly professional team of highly experienced IP professionals; we are approachable and can advise in layman's terms, or with deep technical expertise depending on our client's needs. Most of all, we want our clients to succeed and their business to thrive, with SH&P being an integral part of their exciting journey.

Our values

Strategic: We don't waste your time or your money; we use our expertise to make smart decisions for your business.

Bold: We are honest and we take position. We challenge assumptions and we are ambitious, for you.

Supportive: We work best when we work together, with you and in-house. We have your back, and each other's.

Dependable: We get the job done for you.

We are always interested to hear from enthusiastic and motivated individuals at any stage of their IP career journey!

For more information or to drop a CV, please visit our website or connect with us on LinkedIn. ●

The firm

Slingsby Partners is committed to providing the highest standards of patent and trade mark advice. The firm's clients are predominantly UK and European technology companies in the fields of engineering, electronics, the physical sciences and chemistry. Client service is the first priority for the business, and we are proud that the great majority of our instructions come through recommendations from existing clients. We are recommended by Chambers and Partners, The Legal 500, IAM Patent 1000 and the Financial Times and members of the firm are listed as IP Stars.

Slingsby Partners has a strong and growing client base of companies from across Europe. Our clients range from start-ups to large multinationals. The core of the firm's practice is patent drafting and prosecution. We also have a depth of experience across every area of patent procurement and exploitation, from licensing to patent due diligence and acquisition. We have a growing practice in UK and multijurisdictional litigation.

Slingsby Partners needs to recruit and train the best people to continue building the business. We offer challenging and motivating work and are committed to developing skills at all levels.

Graduate recruitment

Client service is at the heart of our firm. To achieve the highest standards of professional advice and integrity, we have to first recruit and train the best people. This is how we grow our business in the long term – and all our people play their part. We pride ourselves on our firm's welcoming culture and supportive working environment.

We are looking for highly-motivated individuals with exceptional communication skills to join our close-knit team. You will need a strong academic background and a collaborative and enthusiastic approach to work. All our partners and associates are involved in training and from day one you will be working on a wide range of IP matters directly with our clients. We take an active interest in our trainees' progress towards qualification as European and UK Chartered Patent Attorneys. The breadth of the firm's work means your day-to-day training will be directly relevant to the professional exams you will need to undertake. We also provide an in-house lecture series tailored at different levels of attorney training and exam-specific tutorials. Our trainees are encouraged to attend external lectures and courses. ●

LOCATIONS: South West

LOCATION: London



EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	40
Partners	-
Qualified Patent Attorneys	14
Trainees	1

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	Varies
Undergraduate Jobs	-

Stratagem's mission is to be the strategic IP partner for innovative businesses, enabling them to realise the full potential of their ideas. Everything we do starts with our clients and we build trust through transparency and clarity, ensuring that every decision is in our clients' best interests.

We're fuelled by curiosity and believe in making a positive difference in everything we do. Whether it's for our clients, colleagues or the wider community, we show up with energy, dedication and a commitment to excellence. We see the bigger picture and always look to do the right thing and consider the wider impact of our work.

The world of IP can often feel complicated but we streamline this for our clients, acting as a strategic partner and bringing a collaborative spirit into all our relationships.

Stratagem was formed in 1999, initially to support biotech companies, but we have since expanded to cover all technologies and have two offices, just outside Cambridge and in Bristol.

Training with Stratagem

As a trainee or part-qualified attorney you are given responsibility at an early stage and have plenty of opportunity to meet with

clients directly. Working closely with our qualified attorneys you will develop core skills along with an understanding of how to work commercially with clients. Our career pathway provides a structured framework for your ongoing learning and development and you will have an assigned supervisor throughout your training.

As well as learning on the job, our trainees have the opportunity to attend a foundation course at Brunel University, followed by courses for both European and UK qualifications. Paid time off is given for courses and study days and there is the opportunity to attend in-person training in Europe.

Working at Stratagem

People are fundamental to Stratagem and everyone plays a vital part in our success. We value and embrace the unique things that make us all individuals and believe this truly enhances our work and the firm.

We have a supportive, open culture and strive to do all we can to ensure that everyone enjoys their work in a collaborative and inclusive environment. The well-being of our teams is paramount to us and we offer comprehensive benefits and support for all our employees. ●



EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	36
Partners	7
Qualified Patent Attorneys	9
Trainees	5

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	Varies
Undergraduate Jobs	-

Swindell & Pearson provides a high-quality, client-focused service to companies, academic institutions, government agencies and individuals. Formed 140 years ago, we are one of the UK's leading specialists in patents and trade marks.

Our client base is very diverse and includes multinational companies, universities, SMEs and start-ups. Some of the clients are UK-based, while others are based in Europe, the USA and Asia. Client relationships are very, very important to us and we really care about delivering outcomes our clients want. We are patient, approachable, friendly, responsive and dependable.

We at Swindell & Pearson 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 on-site 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. We want to take on great people who can become future directors and co-owners of the business. The majority of our directors and shareholders trained with the firm, providing proof that we firmly believe that our trainees are our future.

We would welcome speculative applications at any time. ●

LOCATIONS: South East (excl London) and South West

LOCATIONS: West Midlands, East Midlands, Yorkshire & Humberside, North East and North West

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	42
Partners	8
Qualified Patent Attorneys	9
Trainees	4

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	Varies
Undergraduate Jobs	-

For almost a century, Tomkins IP has provided professional and commercially astute advice to both domestic and international clients. With a team of highly qualified technical and legal experts, Tomkins IP is recognised internationally for its European patent prosecution specialism, its longstanding and prominent European trade mark practice, and its flexible and technologically advanced client services.

Tomkins IP's patent attorney team of electrical and electronic engineers, physicists, biochemists, molecular biologists, biotechnologists and chemists apply a fusion of technical expertise and strategic creativity to capturing and protecting innovations across all fields of technology.

The ward-winning team enjoy a long record of success before the European Patent Office in examination, opposition and appeal and are regularly called upon for strategic guidance in portfolio management, due diligence and infringement opinions. Tomkins IP highly-respected trade mark attorneys consistently deliver cost effective, timely and commercially-appropriate trade mark strategies for filing, prosecution, maintenance and enforcement of trade mark rights directly in Ireland, the United Kingdom, the European Union, and throughout the world.

- We defend the world's best known brands
- We protect the innovations of the world's biggest technology companies
- We are the trusted European Intellectual Property partner for NASDAQ and FTSE100 listed companies
- We support greatness. What can we do for you?

Established in 1930 by Arthur Bellamy Tomkins, Tomkins has been part of Ireland's evolving innovation and business scene almost since the birth of the nation.

Tomkins' fusion of dependable legal savvy, technical expertise and strategic creativity makes capturing and protecting innovative products and processes, tangibles like trade marks and designs, even entire business models, straightforward.

However, for our clients, IP protection is only the start of their journey. Our clients recognise the value IP plays in their business success and benefit from a wealth of counsel on the road leading to it. Armed with strong, defensible IP rights and knowledge of their competitors' activities, Tomkins' clients get to the top – and remain there.

We partner with our clients in a friendly, efficient way, to support them in achieving their goals of greatness. Through Tomkins' unique Web Portal BELLAMY, clients enjoy 24/7 access to their entire IP portfolio and avail of bespoke reporting tools, which, they tell us, provide them with much needed clarity; facilitate their business decisions; and allow them financial certainty in uncertain times.

As our client, you will have immediate access to our reliable, top-tier IP advisory service, benefiting from our rich experience and trusted knowledge base. Our clients recognise greatness and achieve it with Tomkins by their side. Tomkins: Supporting Greatness. ●

LOCATIONS: Rep of Ireland

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	219
Partners	46
Qualified Patent Attorneys	62
Trainees	17

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	Varies
Undergraduate Jobs	-

About us

Venner Shipley is a top-tier European IP firm with a team of patent, design and trade mark attorneys, solicitors and barristers providing a complete IP service. We are based across the UK in London, Bristol, Cambridge, Guildford, Tunbridge Wells, Manchester and Oxford, as well as in Madrid and Munich. Our clients range from leading corporations to SMEs, universities and individual inventors. Clients value our straight-forward approach, practical advice, and the clarity we bring to situations. We are friendly, collaborative and easy to work with. We pride ourselves on maintaining a culture where trainees are supported by colleagues at every stage of qualification.

We are a member of IP Inclusive promoting equality, diversity and inclusion throughout the IP profession and have partnerships with INTO University and the Sutton Trust to support broadening access to the profession.

What we do

Our multi-disciplinary team advises on a wide range of intellectual property matters across multiple jurisdictions. We have specialist teams in electronics, software, AI, chemistry, biotechnology, materials and engineering, with attorneys working across technical disciplines to deliver creative, commercially focused solutions.

Our attorneys work with some of the most exciting emerging technologies, including AI, quantum technologies, advanced materials, medical devices, telecommunications and life sciences innovations.

Life as a trainee

As a new trainee you will be exposed to a broad range of work from the start, working closely with experienced attorneys on commercially significant innovations and international patent portfolios. This is likely to include meeting inventors for innovation harvesting, drafting and filing patent applications and responding to examination reports issued from patent offices.

All our trainees have a nominated supervisor as well as a buddy and are part of a large cohort of trainees across all disciplines within our different office locations who come together for training and social events. There is lots of support to help you as you go through the qualification process and beyond. We have internal training programmes at different stages of your career as well as external courses and exam preparation tutorials.

What we look for in candidates

We are looking for intellectually curious candidates who are excited by technology, enjoy analytical problem solving and constantly learning new things. Patent law offers a unique opportunity to combine science, innovation, law and commercial strategy. You will need a STEM degree at 2:1 or above. We also welcome applications from students with master's, doctorates and/or industry experience. You need to enjoy applying your scientific knowledge to practical situations, have strong problem-solving skills, excellent written communication skills and an interest in law. ●

LOCATIONS: London, South East (excl London), East Anglia and Rest of Europe

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	64
Partners	7
Qualified Patent Attorneys	17
Trainees	6

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	2
Undergraduate Jobs	-

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees	190
Partners	35
Qualified Patent Attorneys	60
Trainees	20

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs	Varies
Undergraduate Jobs	Varies

Background

Opening our doors in 1864, we are one of the longest established firms of Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys in the country. The firm was founded in Manchester, where our head office is located, and we also have offices in Birmingham, Chesterfield, Liverpool, London and Glasgow.

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 background in law, science, engineering

or humanities. When recruiting, we look for applicants with a strong academic background and excellent communication skills (especially an excellent command of English) who are prepared to undertake the years of on-the-job training and professional examinations necessary to qualify.

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.

We will invest in your training and professional development and help you to pursue a long and rewarding career with us.

We operate flexible working arrangements including remote working, (although trainees are expected to attend to the offices for a majority of their time to facilitate training). •

About us

Withers & Rogers is one of Europe's largest dedicated intellectual property law firms, with offices in London, Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, Munich and Paris. Established more than 140 years ago, we remain as passionate as ever about making intellectual property work to our clients' best advantage. Today, our clients include many renowned, innovative organisations from across Europe, North America and Asia.

We believe that our patent and trade mark attorneys, support, and operations staff have a breadth of expertise and a depth of specialist sector knowledge that is second to none. Our purpose is building trusting relationships. This permeates through everything we do, from working with each other to providing strategic advice to our clients.

We operate in four principal practice groups: Electronics, Computing & Physics; Advanced Engineering; Life Sciences & Chemistry, and Trade Marks. We also have a number of specialist practice groups including Higher Education, Clean Technology, Medical Devices and Aerospace & Defence.

At Withers & Rogers, we believe in nurturing a diverse working environment where everybody feels included and valued. We are committed to attracting, developing and retaining people from all walks of life and backgrounds. We foster an inclusive culture where all individuals feel respected, are treated fairly, can enjoy a good work/life balance, and have the opportunity to excel in their chosen career.

Your development

When you start your training at Withers & Rogers,

from the get-go you'll be given the support and guidance you need to succeed and pass your exams to qualify as a chartered UK and European patent attorney or a chartered trade mark attorney.

Throughout your training, you'll attend courses, lectures and tutorials to give you the very best chance of success. Our own extensive in-house tutorial programme provides regular and structured feedback to trainees as they work towards qualifying.

The main focus of your training, however, will be exposure to a wide variety of work on actual live cases. This is where you will quickly develop your 'real world' skills and understanding of the role, as well as the culture and working practices that have led to our firm's reputation and success. This includes involvement in client meetings, the marketing process, and we encourage membership of networking organisations.

Who we're looking for

We hire graduates with a strong academic record in a relevant subject, but above all, we're looking for people who can demonstrate a passion for technology. Trainee patent attorneys will need an engineering or science related degree. All trainees need to be able to demonstrate excellent verbal and written communication skills as well as strong commercial awareness. We also welcome applications from experienced individuals who wish to make a career change into the intellectual property profession.

Start your IP career with us

Visit our website to view our current trainee vacancies and sign up for job alerts so you are the first to know about new opportunities. We look forward to hearing from you. •

LOCATIONS: West Midlands, North West, London and Scotland

LOCATIONS: London, South West, West Midlands, Yorkshire & Humberside and Rest of Europe

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

Total Employees
Partners
Qualified Patent Attorneys
Trainees

35
5
6
-

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

Graduate Jobs
Undergraduate Jobs

Varies
-

Wynne-Jones IP is a vibrant, dynamic, modern and fast-paced firm with an enthusiastic, talented and highly motivated team of positive and like-minded individuals.

We are a full-service firm meaning we cover patents, trade marks, designs, IP strategy, IP licensing, enforcement, IP audits and IP renewals. We work across a broad range of industries and sectors but specialise particularly in materials & nano technology, physics & electrical engineering, automotive & aviation, engineering & sciences, IT & cyber, SME & entrepreneurs, toys & games and licensing.

With offices in Gloucester, Cheltenham, Bristol, Malvern, London, Cardiff and Telford we work with many exciting clients across the world that vary in size from FTSE 100 companies to the entrepreneurs and start-ups that stand at the forefront of innovation.

We are passionate about innovation and believe that our job is to enable our clients to take their ground-breaking ideas to the market and be confident that they are protected. We believe in forward thinking, quality advice and the same principles are applied within our Training Academy.

In addition to our UK offices, we are proud to part-own AIPLEX BV; a pan-European

IP law firm. This enables us to be able to provide opportunities for our trainees to work on AIPLEX's accounts and gain experience working on large IP portfolios. There are also opportunities for trainees to take part in exchange programmes and meet and share best practice with over 250 other trainees and qualified attorneys across Europe.

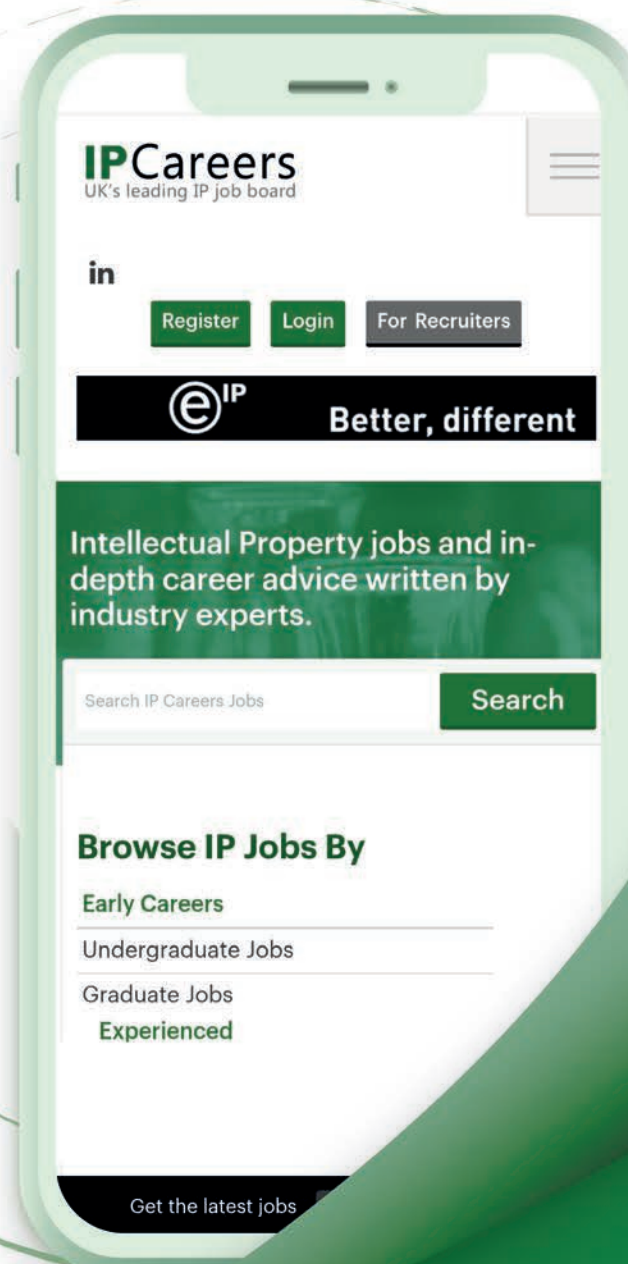
Training and beyond Wynne-Jones IP

The Wynne-Jones Training Academy is our pioneering training body that offers structured programmes providing training for patent attorneys, trade mark attorneys and business professionals (examples include marketing, HR and other qualifications).

Our approach ensures trainees are well supported and best prepared for examinations and real-life practice. Trainee attorneys are exposed to the commercial and business environment much earlier than is traditional meaning that IP practice management skills are developed and established faster than they are traditionally.

What we're looking for

Candidates can be from a range of disciplines and on track to receive a 2:1 or above. You will be adept at problem solving, have an eye for detail, have excellent communication skills and a proven ability to meet deadlines. ●



LOCATIONS: London, South East, South West, West Midlands, East Midlands, East Anglia, Yorkshire & Humberside, North East, North West, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Rep of Ireland and Rest of Europe

EMPLOYER MATRIX

By type of firm



Visit www.ipcareers.co.uk to

Find Jobs

COMPANY	EMPLOYEE NUMBERS				PATENT OPPORTUNITIES	
	Employees	Partners	Qualified Patent Attorneys	Trainees	Graduate Jobs	Undergraduate Jobs
IP FIRMS (PRIVATE PRACTICE)						
200+ EMPLOYEES						
	485	84	190	38	5-10	Varies
	460	50	122	29	2	–
	373	63	121	34	Varies	–
	352	69	58	10	Varies	Varies
	333	58	63	28	Varies	–
	281	32	96	30	10	–
	266	42	39	17	6	Varies

COMPANY	EMPLOYEE NUMBERS				PATENT OPPORTUNITIES	
	Employees	Partners	Qualified Patent Attorneys	Trainees	Graduate Jobs	Undergraduate Jobs
	258	49	34	26	Varies	–
	255	45	91	34	Varies	Varies
	246	38	70	32	Varies	Varies
	231	40	41	27	3-4	–
	225	40	27	15	Varies	–
	221	35	52	13	Varies	–
	219	46	62	17	Varies	–

Visit www.ipcareers.co.uk to see the full details of these employers

COMPANY	EMPLOYEE NUMBERS				PATENT OPPORTUNITIES	
	Employees	Partners	Qualified Patent Attorneys	Trainees	Graduate Jobs	Undergraduate Jobs
	210	30	29	12	Varies	Varies
50-199 EMPLOYEES						
 Patents • Trade Marks • Designs	190	35	60	20	Varies	Varies
	188	24	43	17	Varies	–
 London Cambridge Munich The Hague	183	28	32	20	8	–
	180	35	80	15	6	5
	147	17	15	10	2	2
 Intellectual Property	145	25	28	6	Varies	–

COMPANY	EMPLOYEE NUMBERS				PATENT OPPORTUNITIES	
	Employees	Partners	Qualified Patent Attorneys	Trainees	Graduate Jobs	Undergraduate Jobs
	125	19	40	20	4-5	–
	120	15	32	16	3	–
	120	24	29	12	Varies	–
 Clear direction	118	22	36	6	Varies	–
	105	11	50	18	Varies	Varies
 ELKINGTON + FIFE	81	18	16	13	3	–
	67	15	25	8	2	–
 PATENT & TRADE MARK ATTORNEYS	64	7	17	6	2	–

Visit www.ipcareers.co.uk to see the full details of these employers

COMPANY	EMPLOYEE NUMBERS				PATENT OPPORTUNITIES	
	Employees	Partners	Qualified Patent Attorneys	Trainees	Graduate Jobs	Undergraduate Jobs
	60	13	15	3	Varies	Varies
	53	13	17	6	2	–
	50	7	20	6	1-3	–
NO OF EMPLOYEES: < 50						
	42	8	9	4	Varies	–
	40	9	10	3	Varies	–
	40	7	2	–	Varies	–
	40	–	14	1	Varies	–

COMPANY	EMPLOYEE NUMBERS				PATENT OPPORTUNITIES	
	Employees	Partners	Qualified Patent Attorneys	Trainees	Graduate Jobs	Undergraduate Jobs
	36	7	9	5	Varies	–
	35	8	8	7	Varies	–
	35	–	11	3	2	–
	35	5	6	–	Varies	–
	29	3	11	4	Varies	–
	25	4	6	2	1	1
	24	7	10	4	2	Varies
	22	3	8	1	1	Varies

Visit www.ipcareers.co.uk to see the full details of these employers

COMPANY	EMPLOYEE NUMBERS				PATENT OPPORTUNITIES	
	Employees	Partners	Qualified Patent Attorneys	Trainees	Graduate Jobs	Undergraduate Jobs
 LAWRIE	21	3	7	1	Varies	–
 SAGITTARIUS IP	21	5	9	4	1	–
 Dummett Copp	20	4	5	2	2	–
 SECERNA	20	2	9	6	2	1
 BRAND MURRAY FULLER	18	4	9	3	2	–
 SCINTILLA	18	1	6	4	Varies	–
MEISSNER BOLTE	14	4	6	2	Varies	–
 SANDERSONS Patent & Trade Mark Attorneys	11	3	3	2	Varies	–

COMPANY	EMPLOYEE NUMBERS				PATENT OPPORTUNITIES	
	Employees	Partners	Qualified Patent Attorneys	Trainees	Graduate Jobs	Undergraduate Jobs
 BARNES INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY	9	1	4	–	1	–
 MohunAldridgeSykes INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ATTORNEYS	6	2	–	–	Varies	Varies
 IP CONSULT	5	–	2	–	–	–
LAW FIRMS / IN-HOUSE:						
 CMS law·tax·future	8,000	5	19	17	Varies	–
 Europäisches Patentamt European Patent Office Office européen des brevets	6,300	–	–	–	100	–
 Intellectual Property Office	1,700	–	–	–	30	–
 PEARL COHEN	12	4	6	1	2	–

Visit www.ipcareers.co.uk to see the full details of these employers

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