THE ONLY GRADUATE CAREER GUIDE TO
Chartered Patent Attorneys
2023/24
34th Edition

Includes
a directory
of over 60
Employers

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Your IP career starts here...

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

This guide takes you through the basics of becoming a patent attorney, from the minimum requirements needed to join the profession to the salaries and benefits one can expect at different career levels.

You can also read first-hand reports from patent professionals who are at different stages of their careers, whether it be an Intern, Trainee or Qualified Patent Professional.

There is also an Employer Directory and Job Finder section at the back of the guide to help you find your future employer - offering you plenty of reasons to join the patent profession before applying for jobs on www.ipcareers.co.uk.

‘Should you decide to become a patent attorney, I guarantee you will never be bored.’

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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.

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

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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.

“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.

Find out more about what skills are needed to become a patent attorney by reading the ‘Essential Skills to become a successful Patent Attorney’ article.

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 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 LLP

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

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 – a degree in a science, engineering, technology or mathematics based subject is strongly preferred. A science/engineering background is required to enable you to understand a client’s invention. You will learn the necessary law on the job. This mix between science/engineering and law is one of the aspects that makes the role of the patent attorney such an interesting career. Training usually takes 4-5 years and you will be required to pass various professional exams to qualify as a Chartered Patent Attorney and a European Patent Attorney.

What 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.

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

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

Anything else?
There is more to the job than just drafting patents and arguing with examiners. Patents are just one aspect of intellectual property; attorneys also need a good awareness of designs, trade marks and copyright. Knowledge of these other forms of intellectual property is necessary for qualification and attorneys are expected to be able to advise on technical and commercial problems across the whole intellectual property field.

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

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

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

The vast majority of UK Chartered Patent Attorneys are also qualified (by a set of rigorous examinations) to represent clients before the European Patent Office (EPO), which has the power to grant patents in all EU countries and some others. In the future it may also be possible to obtain a single ‘unitary’ patent covering the whole of the EU.

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 more information, read the ‘Why become a Patent Attorney?’ article.

Visit our website for more Careers Advice
www.ipcareers.co.uk
There are several reasons why you should consider becoming a Patent Attorney. Wynne-Jones IP has put together a list of their top reasons why this is a career path worth pursuing.

**Increasing job opportunities**
It has been reported that by 2026, 2,975,762 people will work in science, research, engineering and technology roles in the UK. According to Career Smart, STEM jobs will increase by 2.90% from 2022 to 2026. These fields will also grow twice as fast compared to other industries due to the constant evolution of new technologies and the need for progressive medical innovations. With this many new jobs being created and a shortfall of students studying relevant STEM subjects, there will be significant opportunities in STEM industries.

“Incredibly diverse opportunities
STEM careers are not simply confined to a laboratory – contrary to widespread belief. STEM affects everything around us, from enhancing driving safety to enhancing educational standards, to transforming medical care and solving global environmental issues. Therefore, a career in the STEM industry is not just incredibly diverse, but also has the potential to transform lives worldwide. Spanning from the entertainment and aerospace fields to sport and fashion, there’s a variety of ways that graduates can use their STEM skills.

“A career in the STEM industry is not just incredibly diverse, but also has the potential to transform lives worldwide.”

**Career longevity**
Career longevity is vital to anyone entering a new career, particularly after undertaking extensive studying at university. In a bid to retain and develop their staff over longer periods, many businesses within the STEM sector will offer long-term training opportunities, with the chance to work alongside industry experts and gain invaluable industry knowledge.

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Further training will not only enhance their career understanding and make them more efficient employees, but it will pave the way for further professional development and eventual promotion within the company. For example, Wynne-Jones IP launched their innovative Training Academy in 2016, which focuses on intellectual property law, finance, business skills, and client relationship management with a view to creating well educated and well-rounded patent attorneys.

**Changing the world**
STEM careers not only span a diverse range of sectors but also have the potential to change the world. Workers in this sector are at the forefront of medical innovation, they are transforming technology worldwide, and challenging the understanding around global environmental issues. Those working across these sectors not only have the opportunity to embark on innovative careers, but can make a real impact in sectors worldwide. A STEM role promises to be rewarding in every aspect, allowing you to shape the world, and offering an unparalleled sense of job satisfaction.

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.

**Higher earning potential**
Earning potential is at the forefront of any graduate’s mind when they embark on their career. As such, it will be welcomed news that graduate entering STEM professions are predicted to earn around £250,000 more on average during their working life than non-graduates, according to the Confederation of British Industry.

“It will be welcomed news that graduates entering STEM professions are predicted to earn around £250,000 more on average during their working life than non-graduates.”

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. They are passionate about innovation and believe that their job is to enable clients to take their ground-breaking ideas to the market and be confident that they are protected. Wynne-Jones IP believe in forward thinking, quality advice and the same principles are applied within our Training Academy.
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS TO BECOME A PATENT ATTORNEY

By Georgia Rundle, Trainee Patent Attorney, Marks & Clerk LLP

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 the skills needed 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 also need to have an interest in business, as they will be contributing to growing the commercial interests of their business and their clients. Trainee patent attorneys should also have a keen interest in economic developments relating to their sector, to best support and advise clients. Patent firms, will however help trainees develop these skills.

What are the academic requirements? Most importantly, you have to have a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) degree as the job is about being able to understand scientific concepts, in order to be able to discuss the technology being developed by clients. It is also the requirement of IPREG, the regulatory board for the intellectual property sector, for taking the professional exams.

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 to 6 years to complete. Balancing the two components can be challenging. It requires a strong work ethic, excellent time-management skills, resilience and determination. Trainees undergo a substantial learning curve for a number of years, and continuously receive feedback and support 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.

“Most importantly, you have to have a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) degree as the job is about being able to understand scientific concepts.”

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.

There is no doubt that the workload can be a lot at times and that the exams are difficult, however, the good news is that 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 asking potential employers what study support is available (e.g. study leave, revision sessions or socials).

“I would recommend 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 looking at Company Profiles and ‘Job Finder’ section of this guide which provides information on the types of opportunities each company offers as well as the areas they specialise in. You can also use the ‘Employer Directory’ section of IP Careers’ website which provides you with a very helpful summary of companies and what opportunities they are current recruiting for.

Most importantly, you have to have a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) degree as the job is about being able to understand scientific concepts.

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

For more careers advice visit: www.ipcareers.co.uk
ESSENTIAL SKILLS TO BECOME A SUCCESSFUL PATENT ATTORNEY

By Andrea Brewster, Lead Executive Officer, IP Inclusive

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

The technical ability that goes hand in hand with a science or engineering background enables graduates to understand how a client’s invention works – the most basic prerequisite for becoming a patent attorney. For this reason alone it is very difficult to enter the profession without a degree in a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) subject; however there are many other skills developed by science/engineering studies that translate readily into the intellectual property profession.

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

“A patent attorney’s work relies on good communication skills, both written and oral.”

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

Of course, communication is a two-way process, so you must also be good at reading other people and at learning from what you hear. Good people skills enable you to deal with clients and explain complex technical and legal ideas to them.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

As a patent attorney you will need to be organised. You will have to work quickly, but without loss of accuracy. You must learn to prioritise your case load, to delegate where appropriate and to manage your time efficiently so that all of your tasks get due attention and within the right timeframe.

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

If you are thinking of becoming a patent attorney, ask yourself whether you feel comfortable in the areas described above. Although you should expect support from your employer and colleagues, ultimately only you will know whether you have the necessary skillset, or the inclination to acquire it.

Andrea Brewster OBE (she/her) is a retired Chartered UK Patent Attorney and European Patent Attorney, a former President of CIPA and now Lead Executive Officer of IP Inclusive.

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

“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.”

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.

PROFESSION OVERVIEW

“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
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“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.

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.

For more careers advice visit: www.ipcareers.co.uk
THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE (IPO)

By Ben Micklewright, Deputy Director, IPO

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

“This organisation maintains and builds the framework for intellectual property rights, comprising of patents, designs, trade marks and copyright.”

Part of the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), the IPO’s role is to help manage an IP system that encourages innovation and creativity, balances the needs of consumers and users, promotes strong and competitive markets and is the foundation of the knowledge based economy.

“The IPO’s role is to help manage an IP system that encourages innovation and creativity, balances the needs of consumers and users.”

It operates in a national and an international environment and its work is governed by national and international law, including various international treaties relating to IP to which the UK is a party.

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

IP rights are widely acknowledged as an essential ingredient in many successful commercial enterprises. By giving legal owners of new ideas or brand names the right to stop others exploiting their ideas or names, IP rights create for innovators a system through which they can benefit from their creativity.

“This may be the invention of a method of making stained glass, the marketing of a new brand of soap, or the creation of a new musical work. These rights can be sold, hired, or licensed to others, or they may be used to safeguard investment in new ventures.

Although the IPO has a role in the formulation of international as well as domestic policy on intellectual property rights, it is only concerned with granting rights under domestic legislation which are effective in the UK.

“The IPO is only concerned with granting rights under domestic legislation which are effective in the UK.”

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

The clear and accessible intellectual property system that the IPO operates in the UK, helps the economy and society benefit from ideas and knowledge but encouraging innovation. As such, the IPO helps these innovations get the right type of protection.

History

The IPO became an operating name of The Patent Office on 2 April 2007. Whilst the origins of the patent system go back to the fifteenth century, the Patent Office itself was set up in 1852 to act as the UK’s sole office for the granting of patents for inventions. The Designs Registry, which was set up in 1839, became part of the Patent Office in 1875. A year later, registration of trade marks also became a Patent Office function.

The IPO also includes policy divisions concerned with the formulation of national and international policy with regard to patents, designs, trade marks and neighbouring rights, including enabling companies and individuals to make the best use of IP rights.

Although no registration of copyright is necessary in the UK, the Copyright and IP Enforcement Directorate of the IPO deals with the formulation of national and international policy with regard to copyright and administers the Copyright Tribunal.

The Copyright and IP Enforcement Directorate includes an IP Crime Team, which is responsible for developing a national strategy for the enforcement of rights, particularly in areas relating to copyright and trade marks.

Working at the IPO

To carry out its functions the IPO employs a wide variety of people in a wide variety of roles. These include patent examiners, trade mark examiners, designs examiners, patents formalities examiners and policy experts. Trade mark and designs examiners are responsible for ensuring that valid trade marks and designs are registered. Patents formalities examiners ensure patent applications satisfy certain legal requirements. All receive high quality training to carry out their role effectively. Some are graduates but this is not a requirement for these roles.

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

The basic qualification for a patent examiner is a first or second class honours degree in science, engineering, mathematics, or an equivalent qualification (e.g. corporate membership of one of the major professional institutions or relevant industrial experience). Ben Micklewright joined the IPO as an examiner in 1998 with a degree in Mathematics and a doctorate in Mathematical Physics.

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

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

**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 £70,000 but as you can see from the table below, salaries for attorneys who stay within the same firm can lag behind what they may be able to achieve on the open market. However, ‘newly qualified’ is to some extent ambiguous as some firms give a significant increase to their attorneys when they qualify in both Europe and the UK, whereas others do 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 immediate 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 the 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 to those based in London. In some cases, you may find the experience gained is more well-rounded during training as there may be more direct contact with clients from an early stage. Applying for positions in London is highly competitive and it does not always occur to applicants to consider the market rate. 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.

Patent attorney average percentage additional benefits add to base salary:
- Trainee – 9.1%
- Part Qualified – 13.3%
- Finalist – 35.8%
- Newly Qualified – 14.5%
- 2-3 Years Post-Qualified – 24.8%
- Partner/Partner Designate – 26.7%

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 – 82.5%
- Flexible work location – 75.4%
- Private health/dental/eye care – 71.5%
- Training courses paid for – 71.5%
- Exams paid for – 64.0%
- Death in Service Benefit/Life Insurance – 61.8%
- Flexible working hours – 58.8%

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 2022. You can see the full survey and previous years’ results 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.
DIVERSITY & INCLUSIVITY IN IP
By Andrea Brewster, Lead Executive Officer, IP Inclusive

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

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

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

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

Awareness-raising upstream of the professions
In order to improve diversity in any profession, you need to widen the pool from which it recruits. The ‘Careers in Ideas’ outreach project’s aim is to raise awareness of IP-related careers, and in turn to encourage recruits from a greater range of backgrounds, including from currently under-represented groups such as female science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) students, people with minority ethnic backgrounds and those from less privileged socioeconomic backgrounds.

Applicants will quite rightly assess a career opportunity holistically, as a blend of the personal and the professional. They will wonder if it will be personally rewarding, allowing them to contribute ideas, to be creative, to acquire new perspectives. They will want to know the impact it might have on their lives outside the office: work-life balance is becoming an important driver of career choices in a profession that can be demanding and stressful.

An organisation that wants to recruit the best talent must address these concerns. There is stiff competition for IP recruits, especially in certain technical fields. So employers need to consider: What are their organisations’ values and priorities, and their diversity and inclusivity (D&I) policies and practices? Do they allow in a variety of people and ideas? What will newcomers learn, from reviews and personal testimonies, about the well-being of its staff and their job satisfaction?

For lateral hires, competition is if anything fiercer and work-life balance is a stronger differentiator. These applicants know exactly what they are looking for through the glass door. Stories told by the existing workforce will soon get round and it is becoming increasingly important to treat staff well to retain them and to attract others. Lateral hires are also more commercially savvy, and will be on the look-out for signs of an unduly traditionalist approach that might limit an organisation’s shelf-life.

The IP professions recognise that improving D&I makes it easier for an organisation to recruit, develop and retain talented staff. But the commercial benefits of D&I also include downstream benefits in the workforce. Diverse and inclusive teams have been shown to be more robust and adaptable in the face of change, more innovative, more responsive. They bring access to wider networks of new clients and recruits.

They are also happier. And happier people are more efficient, more productive, more comfortable about developing their professional skills. They are less likely to look around for alternatives and they are better ambassadors for the organisation. Staff churn is costly; a happy, stable workforce is a good investment on many levels. Recruiting “more of the same” is simply not a healthy way to grow a team.

When new applicants see a diverse workforce, they see an employer that is open-minded and inclusive. Keep an eye out for that: it will speak volumes about the organisation’s staff, clients, suppliers and investors. And it will almost certainly help the business to attract and compete for the best people.

A best practice Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Charter
The IP Inclusive Charter is a voluntary code of practice for IP professionals to demonstrate their commitment to greater diversity and inclusivity. Its signatories include both in-house departments and private practice firms – so when you’re looking at prospective employers, you might want to ask whether they’ve signed up.

Training
We also aim to provide cost-effective and accessible training in diversity-related issues. IP Inclusive organises seminars, webinars and discussion events and shares information and blog posts on issues of relevance. Our events have covered topics such as unconscious bias, “workplace allies”, mental well-being in the IP professions, flexible working arrangements and accessibility.

Communities
IP Inclusive has six networking and support communities: “IP & ME” for IP professionals from a minority ethnic background; “IP Ability” for disabled (including neurodivergent) IP professionals and carers; “IP Futures” for early-career IP professionals; the “IP Non-traditional Families Network” for IP professionals who are solo parents or in blended, LGBTQ+ or other less traditional families; “IP Out” for LGBTQ+ IP professionals; and “Women in IP”. All six are open to allies as well. These communities help the professions to understand and nurture colleagues from under-represented groups. Each organises its own social, networking, training and awareness-raising events, and provides safe spaces for its members to share their experiences and seek support and guidance from their peers.

Above all, IP Inclusive is a catalyst for change. When you look at the IP professions now, you see much more diversity than you would have five years ago – and in another five years it should look even better. In the meantime, you should expect to find a welcoming and inclusive environment that is willing to accept you for who you are, so long as you are hard-working, committed and good at the job.

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

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

IP Inclusive has been going since 2015, and has wide support across the professions. There are over 150 signatories to our EDI Charter, from around the country. Our six communities are thriving, our Charter signatories flourishing and our events well attended. Please join us at one of those events soon!

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

“There has never been a more exciting time to consider becoming a patent attorney.”

The UK profession is estimated to be worth more than £1 billion to the UK economy and operates on a global scale. Whilst the basic ingredients for those entering the profession remain the same – recruiting the very best scientists, engineers and technologists to train in this area of law – there are many new challenges and opportunities that will shape the profession in the future.

“There are many new challenges and opportunities that will shape the profession in the future.”

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

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

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

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

The future of the profession
IP is big business – a global business. The world recognises the strength and status of the UK profession, with UK Chartered Patent Attorneys being held in the highest regard. For example, of the 40,000 European patent applications filed every year by the UK’s European Patent Attorneys (EPAs), nearly 90% are for overseas clients. While UK Chartered Patent Attorneys form a fifth of all European Patent Attorneys, they file one third of all European patent applications. As explained above, Brexit will have no effect on this work.

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

“As a student you will receive advice and support throughout your training and will be part of a network of like-minded people working towards their professional qualifications. Once qualified, as a Fellow of CIPA you will benefit from continuing professional development as your career progresses, and a professional body which campaigns tirelessly on your behalf, to ensure that you are represented at the highest level and can influence policy-makers in governments in the UK and around the world.”

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

For more careers advice visit: www.ipcareers.co.uk
Is a patent attorney a type of lawyer? Yes. However, you do not need a law degree to become a patent attorney. Patent attorneys are a specialist type of lawyer monitored by their own regulator, IPReg. The role of a patent attorney involves advising clients on those areas of law applicable to intellectual property. Consequently, during training you will be required to develop a thorough understanding and knowledge of relevant acts and laws. Find out more by reading the ‘What is a Patent Attorney’ article.

Is it necessary to study a STEM subject at university? A degree in a science, engineering, technology or a mathematics based subject, or equivalent, from a recognised institution is strongly preferred. Most firms also require at least a 2:1 in a first degree. A science/engineering background is required to enable you to understand a client’s invention, even if it relates to subject matter you have not previously encountered. This mix between science/engineering and law is one of the aspects that make the role of a patent attorney such an interesting career. Read the ‘Entry requirements to become a Patent Attorney’ to find out more.

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

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

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

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

“It is important to have good oral and written communication skills.”

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

The examinations include those set by the Patent Examination Board (PEB), which must be taken in order to become a registered (UK) patent attorney. This is a two-tier system involving Foundation Examinations and Final Examinations. Candidates must pass one of the Foundation Examinations before they are eligible to sit the Final Examinations.

University courses are available to obtain an exemption from some or all of the Foundation Examinations. Examinations are also set by the European Patent Office. These must be taken in order to become a European patent attorney.

In addition, since many patent attorneys also handle trade mark work, they may also benefit from becoming a registered trade mark attorney (a UK qualification) and a European trade mark attorney. You can find out more by reading the ‘Professional Qualifications & Training’ article.

How long will it take me to qualify? The examinations set by the PEB are held annually. Consequently, the minimum length of time to become a Chartered Patent Attorney is two years. However, in reality it often takes longer, particularly if it becomes necessary to retake any of the examinations. Typically, it takes 4-6 years to become a qualified patent attorney. The examinations set by the European Patent Office are also held annually and require candidates to have worked for two years under the supervision of a European patent attorney before sitting the main examinations. For this reason, it is common for people to become qualified patent attorneys before becoming European patent attorneys.

“Typically, it takes 4-6 years to become a qualified patent attorney.”

What kind of salary can I expect? The salaries of patent attorneys compare well with those of other professions such as accountancy and law. Salaries tend to increase gradually through training and increasing significantly following qualification. Read the ‘Salaries and Benefits’ article for more information.

Can I get work experience? Work experience in the profession is rare, and increasing significantly following qualification. Read the ‘Find Jobs’ section of the Chartered Patent Attorneys’ website.

“For most prospective employers, academic excellence is prized above work experience.”

How do I go about finding a trainee role? Depending on the subject you have studied at university, there may be certain companies that you would be particularly suited for and you could start off targeting those. You can use the ‘Job Finder’ section at the back of this guide for a list of the different opportunities offered by patent firms as well as by viewing at the ‘Find Jobs’ section of IP Careers’ website.

Do firms recruit at particular times of year? Vacancies for trainee patent attorneys tend to crop up as and when the need arises.

However, many firms find that they have more potential candidates if they seek to recruit towards the end of the academic year, as final year university students are approaching the end of their courses. A number of firms hold interviews early in the academic year, for vacancies to be filled during the following autumn. It is a good idea to register your interest or sign up to email alerts on the IP Careers website as soon as you have decided to join the profession.  

For more information, visit the IP Careert website at www.ipcareers.co.uk.
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:

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

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

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

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

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

**UK QUALIFICATIONS**

This qualification route is divided into Foundation and Final levels. You are also required to complete a minimum two-year training period before qualification.

- **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.

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

**EUROPEAN QUALIFICATIONS**

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

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

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

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

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

- **Informals**
  The Informals provide a range of support for the trainee. You can read more about this in the ‘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.

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

Such seminars also cover subjects relevant to the business side of the practice of many UK patent attorneys, aiming to provide knowledge and guidance in dealing with some of the issues that are likely to arise in the running of a practice.

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

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**Route to European Qualifications**

- **Work & Experience**
- **European qualifying route**
- **(EQE) Pre-examination**
- **EQE Paper A**
- **EQE Paper B**
- **EQE Paper C**
- **EQE Paper D**
- **Apply to the EPO to be registered as a European patent attorney**

**Approximate time for completion**

- 1-2 years
- 3-4 years

**CIPA & Qualifications**
CIPA'S STUDENT BODY – THE INFORMALS

By Dr Lindsay Pike, Patent Attorney, Mathys & Squire LLP
& Joel David Briscoe, IP consultant

The Informals is the student body of the Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys (CIPA). All trainee Patent Attorneys automatically become members of the Informals on joining CIPA, and are encouraged to take advantage of the various activities and events organised by the Informals Committee, whether they are in-house or in private practice.

“Education starts from day one and continues throughout the working life of a patent attorney.”

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

The Informals provides a support network for trainee patent attorneys at all levels, from their first days in the patent profession up to the day they fully qualify. The Informals Committee provides this support by: organising lectures and tutorials to supplement the educational training provided by employers; organising social events; acting as the collective voice of trainees within the profession; and giving assistance and advice to new and prospective members.

Social events

These are an important part of the Informals’ activities and allow trainees of all levels to meet, get to know each other and share experiences in a collaborative manner. The social events are organised by regional secretaries who operate across the UK. Typical events include welcome events in the autumn for new trainees, drinks in a local pub, curry nights, bowling, pub quizzes, Christmas parties, post-exam parties, punting and BBQs in the summer. Additionally, there is usually a sports representative on the Informals Committee who organises an annual 5-a-side football tournament in London in the summer. Since 2020, there have been more virtual events held, enabling trainees from different regions to meet more easily.

Welfare and Wellbeing

In 2020, the Informals set up a repository for information relating to mental health and wellbeing. We have also been working closely with Jonathan’s Voice, the mental health charity, on creating resources and a new role on committee – the Welfare Office. We want you to know, that we are here to listen. If you feel you need to speak to someone, we have set up a welfare email: informalswelfare@googlemail.com that is only accessible by trained Mental Health First Aiders, who are also trainees – so will likely know exactly what you’re going through. Any emails will be treated as strictly confidential, unless we believe that there is a serious risk of harm to self or others.

The educational offerings provided by the Informals are the subject of ongoing review and update – the Committee often conducts surveys and requests feedback from trainees. As a result, the education system that you encounter as a future trainee patent attorney may differ slightly from that described above.

The student conference 2023 saw the long-awaited return of the moot court, where brave CIPA student members fight it out in a mock court case in front of their peers. Under the watchful eye of a judge (typically a junior barrister), two teams go head-to-head construing the features of a patent, cross-examining (potentially hostile) witnesses in turn and providing arguments for the jury (conference attendees) to decide a winner. This is a favourite event of CIPA students, and the Informals are glad it’s back after a nearly decade-long hiatus.

The student conference 2023 saw the long-awaited return of the moot court, where brave CIPA student members fight it out in a mock court case in front of their peers.

With the assistance of other CIPA members, the Informals Committee also arranges tutorials which are usually focused on the UK.

The student conference 2023 saw the long-awaited return of the moot court, where brave CIPA student members fight it out in a mock court case in front of their peers.

“The student conference 2023 saw the long-awaited return of the moot court, where brave CIPA student members fight it out in a mock court case in front of their peers.”

Education

Education starts from day one and continues throughout the working life of a patent attorney. Most trainees aim to become dual-qualified – in the UK (as a Chartered Patent Attorney) and in Europe (as a European Patent Attorney). Firstly, trainees must understand and learn about patent law in preparation for the UK Qualifying Examination (or one of the equivalent university-based courses) and the European Pre-Examination. Secondly, they must learn how to apply both the law and the practical skills that they have learnt during their employment, such as drafting and prosecuting patent applications and opposing European patents, in readiness for the UK Final Examinations and the European Qualifying Examination (EQE).

The educational offerings provided by the Informals are the subject of ongoing review and update – the Committee often conducts surveys and requests feedback from trainees. As a result, the education system that you encounter as a future trainee patent attorney may differ slightly from that described above.

In 2020, the Informals set up a repository for information relating to mental health and wellbeing. We have also been working closely with Jonathan’s Voice, the mental health charity, on creating resources and a new role on committee – the Welfare Office. We want you to know, that we are here to listen. If you feel you need to speak to someone, we have set up a welfare email: informalswelfare@googlemail.com that is only accessible by trained Mental Health First Aiders, who are also trainees – so will likely know exactly what you’re going through. Any emails will be treated as strictly confidential, unless we believe that there is a serious risk of harm to self or others.

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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW COURSES

By Jasem Tarawneh, Senior Lecturer, Queen Mary University of London

This article aims to give a brief overview of the main Intellectual Property (IP) Law Programmes and modules relevant to trainees or those considering entering the profession as a qualified Patent Attorney.

The programmes discussed below will not only allow you to develop your academic and practical skills in the field of IP but will also give you the opportunity to qualify 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. There are a wide range of IPReg accredited programmes offered by several institutions that are mostly taken by UK based trainees and attorneys. This article will give you some insight into these programmes and their relevance to your career prospects.

“There are a wide range of IPReg accredited programmes offered by several institutions that are mostly taken by UK based trainees and attorneys.”

Qualifying as a Patent Attorney
To qualify as a Patent Attorney, all candidates must successfully complete the IPReg-accredited Foundation Certificate examinations provided by the Patent Examination Board (PEB), as well as the Final Diploma examinations provided by the PEB. However, Queen Mary University of London, Bournemouth University and Brunel all run IPReg accredited courses that lead to a Postgraduate Certificate in Intellectual Property which exempts a trainee from the Foundation Certificate Exams.

“Queen Mary University of London, Bournemouth University and Brunel all run IPReg accredited courses that lead to a Postgraduate Certificate.”

These programmes offer a foundational overview of the UK and European Law and its structures, as well as a detailed explanation of the main types of IP rights, the theory underpinning them and law regulating rights such as Patents; Trade Marks; Copyright as well as Designs. The structure of these courses, their duration and the mode of their delivery differ from one institution to another so specific questions about these issues must be raised with the relevant university.

In addition to the above programmes, Queen Mary University of London also runs a year-long MSc in the Management of Intellectual Property which confers an exemption from the Foundation Diploma certificate. The MSc is designed for those wishing to specialise in Intellectual Property Law, most specifically for those wishing to become a Patent or Trade Mark attorney. Students on this programme receive a profound education covering the core IP disciplines with a focus on UK law (but including a strong European and international perspective). Unlike the courses described above, which are usually taken by trainees once they are employed, this MSc programme is usually taken by students of their own initiative and tends to attract candidates with a wider variety of interests than the Certificate courses.

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There are some other courses that may confer an exemption from one or more of the Foundation Certificate Exams. For example, a law degree may confer an exemption from the foundational law exam. A list of the various exemptions is available from the PEB website. There are currently no courses that confer an exemption from all the UK Final Diploma Exams, or the European Qualifying Exams.

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“There are some other courses that may confer an exemption from one or more of the Foundation Certificate Exams.”

Finally, it is worth noting that to qualify as a Patent Attorney you are required to have undertaken at least two years full-time practice in IP, with substantial experience of patent attorney work in the United Kingdom or elsewhere, supervised by a UK Patent Attorney or a solicitor or barrister who is engaged in or has substantial experience of patent attorney work. Alternatively, you must have completed not less than four years unsupervised full-time practice in IP, including substantial experience of patent. More information on the work experience needed is available from the IPReg website.

“It is worth noting that to qualify as a Patent Attorney you are required to have undertaken at least two years full-time practice in IP.”

Preparation for Examinations
In addition to CIPA’s Informals group which provides lectures and tutorials designed to help prepare for the various UK and European examinations, most firms provide in-house training directed at exam preparation and techniques. There are also several education providers that run specific exam preparation courses. The courses most attended by UK trainees include the courses run by JDD consultants, CEIPI and DeltaPatents. The JDD courses cover both the UK and European exams and typically last a day and a half or two days per exam. The CEIPI seminars, vary in length between a day and a half (papers A and B), two days (paper C) and a week (Paper D). DeltaPatents runs a range of courses at various locations throughout Europe (including in London). Further information about the courses and enrolment is available on CIPA website.

Litigation Courses
Candidates who apply to be entered onto the IPReg Register of Patent Attorneys on or after 1st January 2013 are required to attend and pass an IPReg-approved Basic Litigation Skills Course (BLSC), either before or upon entry to the register, or within 3 years of the end of the year upon which they were registered. CPD Training and Nottingham University offer the BLSC. The format of these courses varies between different providers. Upon successful completion of this course and application to IPReg, Patent Attorneys will be awarded the Intellectual Property Litigation Certificate (ILPC). This allows you to exercise rights to conduct litigation and rights of audience.

“Candidates who apply to be entered onto the IPReg Register of Patent Attorneys on or after 1st January 2013 are required to attend and pass an IPReg-approved Basic Litigation Skills Course (BLSC).”

There are two higher certificates that can be obtained either pre or post registration which will allow you to undertake litigation and/or advocacy in the higher courts. These certificates are not mandatory. Finally, it must be noted that new entrants to the profession will need to undertake an accredited course to obtain rights of audience before the Unified Patent Court (UPC). More information about these certificates can be found on the IPReg and CIPA websites.

“There are two higher certificates that can be obtained either pre or post registration.”

Taking an IP course before joining the profession
Enrolling on one of the programmes discussed in this article prior to joining a firm at your own expense does not necessarily increase your chances of obtaining a trainee position. Whilst having taken one of the above courses may carry some weight, it is rarely likely to be the decisive factor in obtaining employment. Therefore, it is common practice for trainees to join these programmes once they have started work with a firm. More importantly, it is highly recommended for any prospective trainee to ask before joining their chosen firm about the courses on which the firm sends its trainees on, and the type of support offered by the firm in terms of course fees and accommodation costs.

“It is highly recommended for any prospective trainee to ask before joining their chosen firm about the courses on which the firm sends its trainees on, and the type of support offered by the firm.”

Finally, only programmes and courses currently accredited by IPReg will be considered as providing elements of the attorney qualification pathways. Therefore, IP Diplomas, Masters, and other similar degrees which have been obtained from non-accredited institutions are not accepted for IPReg qualification purposes.

Dr Jasem Tarawneh is a Senior Lecturer in Commercial & Intellectual Property Law at CCLS, Queen Mary University of London. Jasem worked for several years as a corporate lawyer in Europe and Middle East before joining academia and completing his PhD on the legal and economic justifications for Trade Marks protection under European Law. He is currently the Programme Director for the Specialist Intellectual Property Programmes at CCLS where he teaches Trade Mark Law. His main areas of research are Law and Economics, branding and Globalization as well as Alternative Dispute Settlement Mechanisms with an emphasis on International Arbitration. Jasem has a number of publications in those areas of the law and his latest project is a book that primarily focuses on brands and their impact on market access, regulation and innovation. Dr Tarawneh worked and continues to work with several distinguished international organisations including the WTO and WIPO.
GETTING INTO IP

Types of Job Opportunities
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There are plenty of opportunities out there for those wanting experience in the intellectual property profession, ranging from a couple of weeks to something more long-term. With the wide variety of student and graduate work opportunities out there, it can be difficult to navigate your options. The summaries below have been put together to help you identify what you should be doing, and when.

**Graduate Jobs**
*Also called: graduate scheme, graduate programme*

Graduate jobs are the number one reason that people go to university – to get a job that requires a degree. This has become the foundation of entry-level recruitment in many professions, with many larger employers creating structured training programmes to both entice and induct new graduates.

A trainee position within the IP profession aims to develop talent and initiating recruits into the company culture, whilst preparing them for the professional exams, through a mixture of in-house tutorials and external courses. Typically, this will take between 4-6 years to become a Chartered Patent Attorney and around 2-3 years to become a Chartered Trade Mark Attorney.

Most graduate scheme intakes take place in the September following graduation, with the application process opening – and often closing – during the preceding autumn term. To make the most of these opportunities, you should do your research and preparation early.

Unlike other professions, the intellectual property profession recruits on a rolling basis, depending on the needs of the company – so it is worth keeping an eye out for vacancies on [www.ipcareers.co.uk](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk), that have an immediate start date.

**Internships**
*Also called: work experience, Easter/Summer internship*

IP firms are increasingly making a point of opening their doors to penultimate year students. Approximately 14% of the employers listed in this guide offer internships. Employers often run internships in a bid to source the best candidates for their graduate programmes, which is why the majority are aimed at students in their penultimate year of university.

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**“Graduate jobs are the number one reason that people go to university – to get a job that requires a degree.”**

**Insight Days**
*Also called: open day, insight week*

Insight days are a relatively new concept in the IP profession and as such are still quite rare. About 10% of the employers listed in this guide offer insight days.

Insight days involve firms inviting career-focused candidates to spend a day (or week) learning about the inner workings of their organisation. The focus here is more on the company than the profession, but attendance at an insight day is still very much a form of work experience and should be listed on a CV accordingly. Events like these are most commonly found over holiday periods – Easter in particular – with students advised to apply at least a month in advance.

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### TYPES OF JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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| **Graduate Jobs**
Or graduate scheme, graduate programme | Finalists and graduates | Typically 4-6 years for a Patent Attorney and 2-3 years for a Trade Mark Attorney | September |
| **Internships**
Or work experience, Easter/Summer internship | Students in penultimate year of study | 1-2 weeks | Easter or Summer |
| **Insight Days**
Or open day, insight week | Undergraduates, particularly first years | 1-5 days | Easter/Spring |

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The **Job Finder** section at the back of this guide provides details on the types of job opportunities offered by each employer. Alternatively, visit our website to find out which firms are currently recruiting.

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**Appendix**

**GETTING INTO IP**

The **Job Finder** section at the back of this guide provides details on the types of job opportunities offered by each employer. Alternatively, visit our website to find out which firms are currently recruiting.
THE BENEFITS OF WORK EXPERIENCE

By Laura Collins, Senior HR Advisor, D Young & Co

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

Benefits of work experience

Work experience will allow you to obtain invaluable knowledge about the IP profession and take part in a range of activities to give you a taste of the work of a patent attorney.

You may be asked to draft a claim or prepare an argument for a mock hearing. You will have the opportunity to spend time with and put questions to current attorneys and trainees and you will gain an honest impression of the firm that you visit and a feel for the atmosphere and ethos. All of these elements will ultimately assist you in making a decision about your future career.

“Work experience will allow you to obtain invaluable knowledge about the IP profession and take part in a range of activities to give you a taste of the work of a patent attorney.”

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

What will I do?

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

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

Requirements

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

Candidates will need an exceptional academic record in a scientific or technical discipline.

Some firms may have different work experience opportunities available for different departments so make sure to consider the criteria when applying.

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

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

To find out more, read our ‘Essential Skills to become a successful Patent Attorney’ article.

The application process

Application processes can differ. For the first stage, you may be asked to complete an online application form or send a CV and covering letter. Vacancies are highly sought after and therefore you should try to include something in your application that will make you stand out. For a second stage, some firms may invite you to an interview, either in person or via telephone. During the whole process, it is important to show why you are interested in the work experience or internship opportunity and why you want to be a patent attorney.

Make sure that you carry out some research into the firm that you have applied to, the work of a patent attorney and the process of training to become qualified. Some firms may also ask behavioural interview questions that require you to provide examples from your previous experience. You could be asked to describe a time when you have worked well in a team or a time when you have met an important deadline for example. In advance of your interview, consider the key skills that you need to be a patent attorney and think of examples of situations where you have demonstrated these skills.

“Make sure that you carry out some research into the firm that you have applied to, the work of a patent attorney and the process of training to become qualified.”

To find work experience, visit the Job Finder section on www.ipcareers.co.uk for a list of the opportunities that each employer offers.

Some firms may advertise at different times of the year so, if an opportunity isn’t available when you first look, don’t give up. Be sure to register your interest or sign up to job alerts on the IP Careers’ website to receive the latest vacancies.

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

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Laura Collins
Senior HR Advisor
D Young & Co

I joined D Young & Co in 2016 and, as a Senior HR Advisor, I am involved in the recruitment for our support, trainee and qualified vacancies. I also co-ordinate the internship and open-afternoon opportunities on offer at the firm. I thoroughly enjoy supporting candidates through the interview process and connecting with those interested in finding out more about the patent profession.

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

“Your chances will be increased if you have the unusual blend of skills necessary and invest time and effort in the application process.”

When and how to apply
Many private practice patent firms (such as where I work) operate annual recruitment cycles with a scheduled bulk intake of trainees. Usually these firms will still accept speculative cycles with a scheduled bulk intake of trainees. Where I work) operate annual recruitment where I work) operate annual recruitment

While you can submit speculative applications throughout the year, it is best to check applications throughout the year as well, but it is important to remain calm and finish the tests. The software will often give you the chance to have a practice go; so take up this opportunity.

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

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

The interview
Interviewing style differs from firm to firm. Some will focus on technical questions. Others will ask more about what you know about the profession and why you want to be a part of it and their firm in particular, so remember to mention why you are interested in that firm above others.

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

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

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

THE APPLICATION PROCESS
By Polly Shaw, Head of HR, Dehns

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

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

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

It can be an impossible task to find someone who ticks all these boxes. Firms know this and are not expecting the finished article to land on their doorstep. It is about promise and potential. Have a think about the areas of your experience that you can point to which back up your application. Have you won prizes? Published research? Previously involved yourself in presenting? A common pitfall in this career is relying on the science side to get you through – many can struggle applying this in a practical sense to logical and persuasive writing and client relationship building, so consider what makes you ideally suited in principle all-round.
EMPLOYEE PROFILES

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I studied Electrical and Electronic Engineering with Management at university and, having enjoyed the different aspects of my studies, I was keen to pursue a career that could offer me a good blend of technical and business focus – and at the same time allow me to develop a specialist expertise.

During my time at university, I was familiar with intellectual property broadly, but I can’t say that I knew much about careers in the legal domain with IP until I had graduated and started exploring possible career paths. My initial impressions were that a career as a patent attorney would allow me to indulge my scientific intrigue, but with a healthy exposure to the commercial and legal aspects of the industry – a variety that piqued my interest.

Now, after a number of years in the profession, I enjoy the level of responsibility and the degree of variety in my work, tackling complex legal problems through intricate technical analysis and strategic legal thinking. Being able to apply the problem-solving and critical thinking skills that I developed at university has been one of the main reasons I enjoy my work as much as I do.

At the same time, the opportunity to engage with clients and learn about their new technologies can be quite interesting and exciting from a STEM perspective. Although the work can be technically challenging, there is a great sense of achievement, and it can be incredibly intellectually stimulating when you manage to solve a complex legal problem. The road to qualification as a UK and European patent attorney can be quite time- and study-intensive, but Carpmaels provides a great deal of structure and support for your learning and development and there is a strong culture of transferrable learning and mentoring. This has made the training experience far less daunting than it could have been.

At the same time, it’s all not work and study – Carpmaels has a number of interesting and engaging clubs and projects to get involved with to make work-life that bit more enjoyable, ranging from team sports to opportunities to volunteer with charities and support social projects. The interesting work, the learning and development opportunities, and the healthy culture and atmosphere certainly makes Carpmaels a great place to work!
I graduated with a master’s degree in physics knowing that academia wasn’t for me. The heavy focus on a single research topic just didn’t suit my desire for highly varied work. Therefore, when I was introduced to the career of a patent attorney through a friend who had just started in the job, I was immediately interested. A role where I could apply the technical knowledge I had gained over my degree to a wide variety of real life problems seemed to be the perfect balance I was looking for. I started at D Young & Co in October 2020 and have been very happy with my decision.

How did you get your job at D Young & Co?
I joined D Young & Co through the internship program. I wanted to make sure the role was suited to me before committing to a full job search. However, the size of the patent attorney profession is quite small, so it was difficult to really learn about the job without trying it out for myself.

I started by attending the three-day Easter internship in 2019. This offered a chance to learn about the career with no assumed knowledge, meet current trainees and attorneys in casual social settings, and take part in the sorts of activities performed by a patent attorney (such as drafting and amendment). Whilst relatively short, there was a lot of information packed into the three days, and by the end of the internship I had a much better insight into the role of a patent attorney. I was invited back to spend a further three weeks at D Young & Co in the summer of 2019. This was an entirely different experience to the Easter internship, as I was given the opportunity to work on real cases. Since starting as a trainee, I have realised that the time spent on the summer internship was very similar to the role of a new trainee. By the end of these three weeks I knew that the role was right for me, and I was fortunate to be offered a position based on my performance on the internship.

I was fortunate to be offered a position based on my performance on the internship.

What was the application process like – any advice?
It was very straightforward to apply to the Easter internship. I submitted a CV and cover letter, and was invited for a 15 minute telephone interview. During the telephone interview I was asked about my knowledge of the job and D Young & Co, and was also asked a few technical questions. After the telephone interview, I was invited to attend the Easter internship.

The telephone interview is mainly to screen out applicants who are not as serious about the internship. As long as you can demonstrate that you have carried out some research about the firm, the roles carried out by a patent attorney, and the qualification process for a patent attorney then this should not be an issue. The technical questions probe your ability to describe technologies in a simple way, identifying key points and explaining them clearly, providing an opportunity to show off your strong technical background.

“As long as you can demonstrate that you have carried out some research about the firm, the roles carried out by a patent attorney.”

What are your main duties?
From day one, I have been very involved in prosecuting patents. This involves writing to patent offices (the EPO and UK IPO) as well as foreign attorneys, making arguments for why a patent should be granted. In some cases, this also involves finding suitable ways to amend a patent application, so that it can be granted, in ways that provide the greatest level of protection to the client.

I also regularly draft new patent applications. This involves meeting with inventors to discuss their ideas, identifying the key inventive concepts, and writing a patent application to protect their ideas as broadly as possible, whilst meeting the legal requirements for a patent.

I will usually work on several new inventions each week, meaning that I come across a huge range of technologies.

In summary, a career as a patent attorney provides an ideal way to use your technical knowledge whilst working on a wide variety of different topics. An internship is a great way to learn about the profession and might also be a way to secure a graduate role.
J A KEMP
TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

One of my favourite aspects of studying materials science at university was the breadth of different topics that were covered by the course. Now, this is something that I get to enjoy in my day-to-day job as a trainee patent attorney. After just over two years of being in this role, I have encountered a variety of fascinating patent applications relating to cutting-edge solar cells, digital displays, car engines, and so much more.

"I have encountered a variety of fascinating patent applications relating to cutting-edge solar cells, digital displays, car engines, and so much more."

I am really happy that my role allows me to use what I have learned in my degree, while nurturing new knowledge and skills.

"I am really happy that my role allows me to use what I have learned in my degree, while nurturing new knowledge and skills."

Going through the training process with the cohort of fellow trainees has made this experience incredibly enjoyable.

Most of my work so far has involved preparing written arguments to persuade a patent examiner that the invention of our client is novel and inventive in view of the prior art.

Typically this work is done independently, with a few rounds of discussion with the partner on the case. I have also done some work on drafting new patent specifications, as well as engaging in some business development activities.

This field of work is highly deadline-orientated, however, the firm has plenty of systems in place to ensure all deadlines are monitored properly which is of great help.

While some aspects of the job can be demanding, I would say that it is definitely possible to maintain a good work-life balance.

While some aspects of the job can be demanding, I would say that it is definitely possible to maintain a good work-life balance.

The people at the firm are very friendly and supportive. I really appreciate there is a culture of people having lunch together, as well as going on the occasional pub trip after work.

This career is intellectually stimulating and rewarding. I would recommend it to anyone who wants to stay connected to scientific and technological developments, while building an appreciation for the commercial element of innovation.

Visit our website for more Trainee Profiles www.ipcareers.co.uk
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. As I’m sure is a familiar feeling to many, I wasn’t sure exactly what I wanted 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/roles?
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.

As a trainee, I am supervised by a partner in the firm. The partners set you work and give you feedback. At Mewburn, we rotate partners every six months which allows us to work with different types of clients, carry out different tasks and learn different ways of working. I’ve found this really useful as it has allowed me to become aware of many different problems that arise and how they can be solved.

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. However, on the most part if the deadline is already known, having to do something last minute can at least be anticipated.

Although the job is generally 9-5, as a trainee you will also need to spend time studying for exams and much of this is done in your own time.

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.

Try to research the firms and if possible talk to people within the firms to find somewhere that suits you.
Another attraction was R&G’s highly inclusive and sociable work environment, encouraged by lots of events to interact and integrate with colleagues across department, level and location.

Finally, R&G’s European presence with a fully-fledged base in Munich.

Life at the firm so far...
The transparency with which R&G promotes itself on the website is definitely something to mention and that feeling has remained from first interview until now. I have found the work interesting and varied yet challenging and although the steep learning curve is evident the job is in equal measures rewarding.

The training days have been hugely beneficial, focussing on important client based communication as well as legal understanding whilst exposing us to a large range of scenarios within the lifecycle of a patent, some of which we may not have come across yet in our everyday work.

Social events has been a common occurrence with a noticeable emphasis to involve trainees from day one. There has also been encouragement to engage in business development opportunities from the outset, for example attending Cambridge Young Professionals and CIPA Informal’s events.

Finally, the trainees are given a lot of responsibility from the beginning also the chance to work with a number of different partners and associates from across the firm on various tasks, developing working relationships not just with our line managers.

How did you get into the profession?
Having really enjoyed the content and breadth of my degrees, I was looking for a profession which kept abreast of cutting edge research/developments in my field but with little emphasis on the hands on research which I had found to be lacking in variation. I also sought a role which prised communication as well as problem solving and analytical skills along with a commercial slant. A bonus in becoming a trainee patent attorney was the opportunity to utilise my native German proficiency, especially with Reddie & Grose (R&G)’s office in Munich. All this and more was offered by the patent attorney profession and so it seemed the obvious choice.

“A bonus in becoming a trainee patent attorney was the opportunity to utilise my native German proficiency, especially with Reddie & Grose (R&G)’s office in Munich.”

What are your main roles and responsibilities?
- Attending clients calls.
- I am part of a team informing R&G’s clients of the Unitary Patent and Unitary Patent Court coming into force this year so that they can make informed decisions involving their patent portfolio.

What attracted you to Reddie & Grose?
The large variation in the size of clients R&G work with as well as the breadth of technology in the Life Science field was a definite draw, coupled with work in all aspects of the patent profession from Freedom to Operates (FTOs) and the drafting of patent applications to prosecution, oppositions and appeal work. I knew this would provide brilliant exposure and experience while training and beyond.

The excellent training and support offered was also an important factor. R&G offer a bespoke ‘bootcamp’ training during the first two weeks of training followed by regular training days for the new graduate intake and then tutorials right up until your qualifying exams.

“The training days have been hugely beneficial, focussing on important client based communication as well as legal understanding.”

Social events has been a common occurrence with a noticeable emphasis to involve trainees from day one. There has also been encouragement to engage in business development opportunities from the outset, for example attending Cambridge Young Professionals and CIPA Informal’s events.

Finally, the trainees are given a lot of responsibility from the beginning also the chance to work with a number of different partners and associates from across the firm on various tasks, developing working relationships not just with our line managers.
It is also key to have good attention to detail and time management skills as strict deadlines have to be met in this profession.

**What would you like to achieve in the future?**
In the short term I would like to qualify as a UK and European patent attorney. In the long term I would like to continue to develop my skills to become a competent patent attorney.

**What innovations are you most interested in?**
The great thing about this role is that you see cutting edge innovations from across the biotech field. However, having studied immunology I am particularly interested in immunotherapies. For example, patient specific immunotherapy, such as for treatment of cancers, is a particularly exciting area of the biotech field. Additionally, the introduction of the Unified Patent Court has coincided with my joining of the profession, so it will be interesting to see how this new framework develops over the next few years.

**What are the pros of being an IP attorney?**
It is a rewarding career. There is a huge variety in what you do on a day-to-day basis. We also work with a wide range of clients; from start-ups to large corporations and everything in between. This keeps you on your toes and excited for each day.

**Did you know about IP before joining the profession?**
I discovered IP during my academic journey. Whilst doing my masters at university I was involved in the development of vaccines. I heard about how the technology I was working with was patented, which had resulted in a spin out company. This gained my interest, so I researched the world of IP and spoke to professionals within the field to gain an insight.

“**The great thing about this role is that you see cutting edge innovations from across the biotech field.**”
"Our profession is somewhat special in that each day provides a new and unique challenge to the one before." Lucy Johnson is a Partner and Head of the Engineering Group at HGF. She also leads the Newcastle team. Here, she tells us about how her career has developed since qualifying in 2006.

**Why I started a career in Intellectual Property:**
Having studied Pharmacology at Dundee University I went on to postgraduate study in the Life Sciences in Aberdeen. During my postgraduate studies, I began to appreciate that learning about the advancements in science and writing about those changes was a more fulfilling aspect of my career than was the laboratory work itself. Having been gently encouraged to review a prospectus for Queen Mary and Westfield College in London by a university friend, I took the plunge and spent a year in London doing a MSc degree in the Management of Intellectual Property. As part of that degree I obtained an exemption from my Foundation Chartered Institute exams. So, my journey into Intellectual Property began rather more through serendipity than by design.

As my career has developed through times in-house with a large multi-national corporate business and also in private practice, I have developed expertise in how patents and other intellectual property rights can be used to underpin the plans of businesses to grow and develop. There is a great satisfaction to be gained from developing and implementing an intellectual property strategy and preparing patent, design and trade mark applications that underpin the growth and value of companies of all shapes and sizes.

"There is a great satisfaction to be gained from developing and implementing an intellectual property strategy."

**Key skills as a patent attorney:**
Our profession is somewhat special in that each day provides a new and unique challenge to the one before. Our role is to talk to a wide range of people, from inventors to business personnel, and to understand not only the innovation at the cutting edge of technology but also how that fits into a business and its commercial aspirations. I have found that as my career has developed as a patent attorney, my toolkit has expanded to include technical and legal expertise together with written and oral advocacy skills. I have also gained skills in understanding a wide range of people with an incredibly broad technical expertise.

I’ve also benefitted from mentors and coaches with both legal and commercial expertise. It is through the nurturing of these coaches and mentors that I have developed a much greater understanding of how my skills as a Patent Attorney can be utilised to the commercial advantage of the inventors I work with.

There is no getting away from the fact that the profession requires us to take a great number of exams. Once I had earned my bachelor’s degree in Pharmacology, I went on to study for an MSc in Intellectual Property Law followed by my advanced papers for both the UK exams and also the European qualifying exams.

Since I entered the profession, the European exams now involve an additional pre-qualifying exam so the finals exams are no less onerous than they were when I sat them some time ago. There is no shortcut for the effort required to pass those exams. A large amount of individual motivation and study to learn the details of substantive and procedural law in the key jurisdictions is an essential step along this career path.

The benefit is that in studying for these exams the information that you learn and the practices that you develop in discipline and self-study are those required for a long and successful career in the patent profession. Each day we are tested in our knowledge of procedural and substantive law, therefore, spending time developing those skills in passing the exams is time well invested in your career.

In addition to being a patent attorney, I have many other responsibilities within my practice. I lead teams both in Newcastle and across a number of jurisdictions as Head of Engineering. As well as my Intellectual Property skills I have been fortunate to develop my management and people skills along the way.

As with many careers the first step into the patent profession is often the hardest step. Obtaining a degree in a science or equivalent subject is crucial for the UK and European profession and that degree is the first step along a road that involves many examinations that will require you to stay motivated and put in hours of self-study to achieve your goal.

If you are fortunate enough to be able to do some work experience with someone within the patent profession you will take a good step forward in understanding the job, the skills and the personal skills you are going to need as well as the challenges that you will face along the way. Many firms now will offer work experience or internship posts to allow you to experience the life of a patent attorney whilst you are still at university and I would encourage those keen on the profession to take up one of these posts.

The interview and application process can be somewhat gruelling and you will need to be persistent if you want to find the right role for you. Employers will be looking for analytical and linguistic ability as well as a natural enthusiasm towards innovation and an attention to detail that you will need for many years to come.

Being able to understand technical innovation that is far from your own technical background is particularly useful when you think you are going to encounter any number of technological advances as you enter the profession and they won’t always be in the subject matter that you have already spent years studying. You need to be able to demonstrate that you can communicate well in both written and verbal forms and that you can communicate complex ideas clearly and concisely when called upon.

Having said all of that, for those who want to set foot into the Intellectual Property profession, this is the most rewarding of careers offering daily challenges in a wide range of technological areas. I would thoroughly commend this profession to you all! ☀️

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**LUCY JOHNSON**

**2017**
Joined HGF as Partner and Head of the Engineering Group

**2017**
Spent 10 years as a Director of Patents at Murgitroyd & Company

**2006**
Qualified as a Chartered Patent Attorney & European Patent Attorney

**2000**
Obtained MSc in Management of Intellectual Property from Queen Mary University of London

**1996**
Graduated from the University of Dundee with a BSc in Pharmacology
PAMELA BRYER

I have always been interested in science and inventions and also enjoy a good, well-reasoned argument! Luckily, a career as a patent attorney has allowed me to develop these interests.

After completing my foundation training in a small firm, I made the switch to Marks & Clerk, one of the UK’s largest Intellectual Property firms. This has enabled me to develop specialist skills, for example, as an expert in design protection, as well providing me with the opportunity to live and work in Singapore for several years.

Now that I am back in the UK, I manage a practice and multi-location team, which spans many areas of technology including medical devices, security systems, sensors and software.

Why did you choose a career in the industry?
When I graduated I wanted to be an industrial scientist working at the forefront of technology, making my own inventions. I was aware of the value of patents to businesses through my research work. I joined a research group at a multinational telecommunications company, tasked with designing around a competitor’s patent.

Although I enjoyed my time in industry, I discovered I would rather understand just enough about how a lot of different things work, rather than the intricate details of a single specialised device. I decided that a career as a patent attorney would satisfy my desire for varied technical insight, and provide a great opportunity to develop other skills.

What do you enjoy most about your job?
I have always enjoyed meeting inventors and learning about new technologies. However, what I enjoy most is the teamwork. I am a team leader for several clients and enjoy nurturing more junior members in client and practice management.

I particularly enjoy training others in intellectual property, whether that be colleagues, clients or prospects. I also enjoy having the opportunity to develop the business line in line with our strategic objectives.

I am a passionate advocate of design rights, which are often neglected in favour of patents and trade marks. Consequently, I take an active role in promoting design rights and enjoy exploring the interplay between different types of intellectual property rights.

What would you like to achieve in future?
As a partner, I aim to develop the business on multiple levels, to strengthen our position in the marketplace, whilst continuing to develop my client practice and team.

My next career goal will be to aim for partnership in the international business of Marks & Clerk, and to make a contribution on a global scale. I feel that my experience of working for Marks & Clerk in Singapore and the UK gives me a useful insight into how businesses operate in different countries and I would like to develop our service offerings with this in mind.

Do you have any advice for anyone wanting to get into the industry?
It’s important that you research the profession and are confident that you have the skills and aptitude to be successful. Unlike some professions, being a patent attorney is a long term commitment: if you are suited to the job it’s likely you will enjoy a long, challenging and rewarding career.

However, entry into the patent profession is extremely competitive. In order to secure an interview you will need to demonstrate more than just a solid academic record. Although not essential, in many instances, candidates will have completed post-graduate studies such as PhDs or, like myself, will have spent time working in industry.

“In order to secure an interview you will need to demonstrate more than just a solid academic record.”

What’s critical is that you have a well-rounded CV and can demonstrate you have the right characteristics to be a competent patent attorney. Clear, concise communication skills are essential; meticulous attention to detail and excellent time management skills are also required.

We look for candidates who will work well within our teams so it is important to be personable during the interview process.

“I decided that a career as a patent attorney would satisfy my desire for varied technical insight, and provide a great opportunity to develop other skills.”

What do you enjoy most about your job?
I have always enjoyed meeting inventors and learning about new technologies. However, what I enjoy most is the teamwork. I am a team leader for several clients and enjoy nurturing more junior members in client and practice management.
“Although the role is a very challenging one, for me I find it enjoyable and varied and crucially increasingly so as the years go by” - Tom Harding talks us through his career, from scientist to Partner at Potter Clarkson.

My background
My undergraduate degree was in Genetics (first class) which I followed up with a MSc in Applied Biomolecular Technology (distinction), both at the University of Nottingham. I had always loved studying science, but I was unsure about then entering academia and having to choose just one particular aspect on which to focus going forward.

“I had always loved studying science, but I was unsure about then entering academia and having to choose just one particular aspect on which to focus going forward.”

I think it was a combination of a careers talk from a patent attorney during university, I instead spent my first few years in the world of work as a lab-based research scientist before finally embarking on my career as a patent attorney. In 2009 I joined Potter Clarkson, where I am still based today, working from our Nottingham office as part of our Life Sciences team. Along the way I qualified as a European and UK Patent Attorney in 2012 and 2013, respectively, and became a Partner in 2018.

“Since then I have progressed through Senior Associate to Partner, taking sole responsibility for my own clients, and recruiting my own trainee in 2017 – through whom I can relive the whole process over again!”

Ultimately, I really don’t regret first working as a scientist in the lab. Firstly, it gave me a good practical grounding in much of the subject matter I still come across today which helps a lot in discussions with inventors who are generally lab scientists themselves. However, it also made me realise that research was not the career I wanted to pursue long term and that becoming a patent attorney would be a better fit. For me, it was the ability to utilise my scientific background in a more commercially focussed role, and to work across much more diverse areas of novel science than my research job allowed.

I was also attracted by the relatively structured career progression and certainty. Variety of subject matter was also the reason I chose to enter private practice as it allows me to work for multiple different clients, rather than joining the patent department of one big company and focussing only on the technology they generate in house.

My life as a patent attorney
Since joining the profession, I followed the usual path of shadowing a qualified attorney whilst working as an assistant which built up my experience across all aspects of the job. Alongside this I studied for my UK and European Patent Attorney qualifications, sitting my first professional exams in 2009 and my last one (thankfully my only re-sit!) in 2012, progressing to an Associate where I began to have responsibility for my own cases.

“I followed the usual path of shadowing a qualified attorney whilst working as an assistant which built up my experience across all aspects of the job.”

Since then I have always enjoyed the challenge of the traditional daily aspects of the patent attorney role, from drafting patent applications and designing global strategies to provide the most appropriate protection for my client’s inventions, through convincing patent office examiners around the world that those applications are indeed patentable, to oral advocacy at patent office hearings when opposing the validity of a patent held by a client’s competitor or defending my client’s own patent.

However, I now get to additionally focus on the more commercial aspects of my own firm’s business. For me this has included a particular focus on developing our business in the US and the Nordics, as well as coordinating management of trainees in our department. Each of these has been very rewarding and it means I travel multiple times a year to the US and Scandinavia to meet current and potential clients, adding some variety beyond the usual foreign destinations for UK-based patent attorneys, namely the European Patent Office in Munich or The Hague for oral hearings!

Becoming more senior has therefore added even more diversity to the role.

Another benefit which is often overlooked is the large number of different types of people with whom I have a regular working relationship, despite my role being predominantly desk-based.

The people I communicate with daily are spread across the globe, often with different backgrounds, different roles, and of course different personalities. This includes day to day working with my colleagues at Potter Clarkson, which now includes those based in our new Copenhagen and Stockholm offices, as well as our UK offices in Nottingham and London. Then of course there are my clients who are based throughout the UK, but also further afield such as in Scandinavia and the US, as well as the associates I work with across the world assisting my clients in obtaining patents in different territories, and also the examiners at the European Patent Office and UK IPO.

In summary, although the role is of course a very challenging one, for me I find it enjoyable and rewarding, and crucially increasingly so as the years go by.”
Why did you choose a job in this profession?
I often get asked about how I found myself in the legal profession after graduating with a science degree. The profession is very technical and to become a qualified patent attorney, a science degree is either required, or strongly preferred. Since starting at Reddie & Grose, I have not stopped using my technical knowledge. Instead, I apply my technical knowledge in ways that may seem less traditional.

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

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

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

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

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

What are your main duties?
Each day at work is different for me.

On a certain day, I may be talking to inventors to discuss a new invention before I sit down and draft a patent application directed at the new invention. On another day, I may be devising a patent prosecution strategy to overcome any hurdles that may present in the process of getting a patent application to grant. On a different day, I may be corresponding with patent attorneys in other countries as part of managing a multi-national corporation client’s patent portfolio. My role does not end once a patent has been granted and I can find myself in opposition proceedings either defending my client’s patent or attacking their competitor’s patent.

The variety in the types of work involved in this profession keeps it exciting. In addition, the combination of utilising my technical skills to understand and explain an invention and business skills to obtain appropriate patent protection for my client is a reason why I enjoy my job.

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

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

The profession is very technical and to become a qualified patent attorney, a science degree is either required, or strongly preferred.” - Joanne Pham talks us through what it’s like to be a Qualified European Patent Attorney at Reddie & Grose.
Not your typical patent attorney! Founded Russell IP in 2020 after 15+ years in the patent profession, mainly in private practices. Wannabe rockstar in spare time!

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

As a maths and physics undergraduate, I was initially considering a career in accountancy. My Dad had been looking into patenting at the time and suggested patents as a possible career for me. After reading the IP Careers guide in the university careers library, I felt a real draw to the profession. I really liked the idea of continuing to use my science background, which is definitely still the case. I also liked the prospect of reasonably predictable working hours, which has usually, but not always, happened. The potential remuneration was also a factor, though I’m not particularly motivated by money.

**What is a ‘typical’ day like for you? - be honest, too!**

My typical day has changed a lot since I set up Russell IP. Some days I’ll be heavily engrossed in technical work such as patent drafting, reviewing and responding to official communications from patent offices, etc, and others I’ll be working on things like the Russell IP website, LinkedIn updates, and other initiatives. I also file patent applications for my own inventions. While I don’t work on those every day, I can often be found scribbling down notes on new ideas or looking for possible partners to commercialise those ideas.

“Some days I’ll be heavily engrossed in technical work such as patent drafting, reviewing and responding to official communications from patent offices.”

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

Honestly, I’ve always loved business development (BD). Some people equate BD with awkward networking events. I personally think of BD more as a way to meet new people with mutual interests; not about trying to sell something to a stranger. I find that if you can keep in contact with people you meet professionally and do things to help others, such as introducing them to other contacts who they could benefit from knowing, BD sort of takes care of itself. I also really enjoy having creative control over my business; from what I invest time and money in to branding, new initiatives, etc.

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

I’d like to cement my reputation as the go-to patent attorney for music technology inventions. I’ve launched a dedicated Patents Rock offering and am already lucky to be working with a number of incredible music technology companies. I’d love this to become an even bigger part of my practice.

“I’d like to cement my reputation as the go-to patent attorney for music technology inventions.”

**What are the current challenges the industry faces?**

It’s been suggested that AI or automation tools could be threat to the industry. Personally, I don’t see them as a threat but more as something that, if developed and used correctly, can help improve efficiency. I’m actually currently helping develop a platform that automates an aspect of patents that’s very laborious, and unexciting, to do manually.

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

It can be hard to get into the profession initially as competition and quality of candidates is very high. Once you’re in the profession, there are lots of different career paths you can follow. It seems to be easier to find new roles and opportunities when you’re in the profession compared to when you’re trying to enter in the first place. I should say that I’ve been surprised how little some people wanting to enter the profession know about IP and, in particular, patents. While they would, of course, not be expected to be an expert, it can be helpful to be able to demonstrate more than a very basic understanding if you’re looking to join the profession.

“It can be hard to get into the profession initially as competition and quality of candidates is very high. Once you’re in the profession, there are lots of different career paths you can follow.”

I think it’s also well worth looking at a range of potential employers to find those that feel like a good fit for you; that’s not just a case of industry / private practice, but the ethos, focus, and vibe of different employers as this varies very widely across the profession. I also found the Employee Profiles section of IP Careers a great way to get a feel for the various different employers.

You can also check employer websites, social media accounts and published articles.
JDD Consultants is an established name in IP training, having organised short courses on intellectual property since 1983.

Each year we hold revision courses to prepare candidates for:
- The Foundation Certificate and Final Diploma PEB examinations for trainee patent attorneys; and
- The European Qualifying Examinations (EQE) for Professional Representatives before the European Patent Office.

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

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!

Web: www.jddcourses.co.uk   Tel: 01234 294049
Email: jdd.consultants@ntlworld.com / admin@jddcourses.co.uk
Bournemouth University (BU) has a strong international reputation in the intellectual property arena, specifically its Centre for Intellectual Property Policy & Management (CIPPM), which has a respected standing, both nationally and internationally, in research and legal education in different areas of IP law. Apart from CIPPM which offers intellectual property law at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, law at BU also has extensive expertise in commercial law, international tax law and international public law.

W: www.bournemouth.ac.uk E: futurestudents@bournemouth.ac.uk

Brunel Law School is a diverse and vibrant community where you will be supported in your studies and encouraged to develop your skills for your future career in intellectual property. Our IP courses are taught by a team of prolific academics and industry experts with a strong reputation for specialising in the area of intellectual property.

W: www.brunel.ac.uk E: enquiries@brunel.ac.uk

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: www.cardiff.ac.uk E: law-pol@cardiff.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: www.jddcourses.co.uk E: jdd.consultants@ntlworld.com / admin@jddcourses.co.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: law-enquiry@kcl.ac.uk

King's College London

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 ITMA, CIPA, IPREG and the European Patent Office.

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

Queen Mary has a long history of excellence in research and scholarship in intellectual property, spanning 35 years through the creation of the dedicated research institute – Queen Mary Intellectual Property Research Institute (QMIPRI). The MSc programme is aimed at those wishing to gain an understanding of the growing importance of intellectual property in the modern economy.

W: qmul.ac.uk/msc-IP/qmul.ac.uk/pgcert-ip E: plg-law-enquiries@qmul.ac.uk

LLM in Intellectual Property and Innovation
As a postgraduate student at the Hillary Rodham Clinton School of Law, you will be part of a globally recognised law school, with a thriving environment committed to excellence in teaching and research, offering exceptional employability support and student experience.

W: www.swansea.ac.uk E: law@swansea.ac.uk

The LLM (Intellectual Property and Information Technology Law) 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, copyright and trademark law) alongside emerging areas such as 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: www.tcd.ie E: lawpostgraduate@tcd.ie

Study Intellectual Property and E-Law at University College Cork
The School of Law at University College Cork Ireland is a vibrant and friendly place to study, with leading international experts across a range of exciting legal areas. Ranked Top School of Law in Ireland and 59th in the World (2023 QS Rankings), the School is internationally recognised for its expertise and research impact.

W: www.ucc.ie E: lawpostgrad@ucc.ie

Chartered Patent Attorneys | www.ipcareers.co.uk

Chartered Patent Attorneys | www.ipcareers.co.uk
**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:* www.ucd.ie/law/study  *E:* lawpostgraduate@ucd.ie/lawdiplomas@ucd.ie

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**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:* www.kent.ac.uk/law  *E:* studyssj@kent.ac.uk

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

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**The University of Sussex is a leading research-intensive university near Brighton. Sussex Law School provides cross-cutting teaching and research in LLM course in Information Technology and Intellectual Property Law (IT&IP).** The future of the law is digital. This innovative LLM offers you critical and intellectual specialisation in this rapidly developing area.

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

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**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:* www.herts.ac.uk/ipil  *E:* lawadmissions@herts.ac.uk

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

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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.

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

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

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*W:* www.herts.ac.uk/ipil  *E:* lawadmissions@herts.ac.uk

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For more details on individual courses visit: www.ipcareers.co.uk/search/courses
Centre for Commercial Law Studies

Part of Queen Mary University of London, the Centre for Commercial Law Studies based in London’s legal district in Lincoln’s Inn Fields offers a diverse range of postgraduate study options to enhance your career.

- LLM Programmes (Full time and Part Time)
- Study in Paris and Singapore programmes
- Distance Learning programmes
- PGCert, PGDip, MSc and MRes programmes
- Executive Education Courses

Visit [www.qmul.ac.uk/ccls](http://www.qmul.ac.uk/ccls) to find out more.

We pride ourselves on the high quality of our client work and service. To meet this, we look for people who are creative, practical, flexible problem-solvers. We believe our diverse workforce enriches our working environment and contributes to our ability to serve a wide variety of clients with different needs. We welcome those who share this ethos.

Dehns offers:
- An inclusive working environment
- Independent and intellectually challenging client work
- Business development
- Flexible working
- Competitive salary and excellent benefits package

Visit our careers site to find out where being part of a leading patent and trade mark firm could take you: [www.dehns.com/site/careers](http://www.dehns.com/site/careers), or contact Careers@dehns.com

We also welcome speculative applications throughout the year, and are particularly interested in receiving applications from engineering students.
EMPLOYER DIRECTORY
Directory of over 60 employers that recruit Trainee Patent Attorneys

AA Thornton
Abel + Imray
Adamson Jones
Albright IP
Appleyard Lees
Armstrong Teasdale
Barker Brettell
Barnes IP
Beck Greener
Boult Wade Tennant
Brand Murray Fuller
Carpmaels & Ransford
Cleveland Scott York
CMS
D Young & Co
Dehns
Dummett Copp
EIP
Elkington + Fife
European Patent Office
Forresters
GJE
Graham Watt & Co
GSK
HGF
HLK
Hindles
Hoffmann Eitle
IP Asset
ip21
ipconsult
IPO
J A Kemp
Keltie
Kilburn & Strode
Lawrie IP
Marks & Clerk
Mathys & Squire
Maucher Jenkins
Mewburn Ellis
Mohan Aldridge Sykes
Murgitroyd
Openshaw & Co
Page White Farrer
Pearl Cohen
Potter Clarkson
Reddie & Grose
Sagittarius IP
Sandersons
Schlich
Script IP
Secerna
Slingsby Partners
Stratagem IPM
Swindell & Pearson
Symbiosis IP
Tomkins
Venner Shipley
Wilson Gunn
Withers & Rogers
WP Thompson
Wynne-Jones IP

PaTeNTs

PaTeNTs [/ˈpat(ə)nt,ˈpeɪt(ə)nt/]
Readily reacts {Pa⁹¹} Rare {Te⁵²}
Essential {N⁷} The most recently
discovered element of our
team {Ts¹¹⁷}.

Join our next patent attorney intake

For more information contact us:
T +44 20 7242 8692
W carpmaels.com/careers
E recruitment@carpmaels.com
AA Thornton is an award winning IP firm with our base in London. Our diverse team includes patent, trade mark and design attorneys, as well as IP solicitors, working with clients across a huge range of technologies and commercial fields. We provide the full range of IP services to clients around the world, from prosecution to litigation, in patent, trade mark, design and copyright law.

Having an excellent understanding of our clients’ requirements and the challenges they face is key to us delivering commercial, insightful legal advice. We field highly qualified industry teams made up of attorneys and solicitors who work closely together to share knowledge and experience. We firmly believe it’s our people and teamwork that make the difference and that this sets us apart from other firms.

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

**Professional development**
Trainees are assigned a partner or senior associate, who supervises all aspects of training and takes a personal approach to support and mentoring. Trainees receive a broad range of work, which encompasses a variety of technical areas. The firm actively encourages both in-house training and external courses. Trade mark trainees are supported to pass their qualifying examinations to become a Chartered Trade Mark Attorney, and patent trainees to qualify as both a Chartered Patent Attorney and European Patent Attorney. Qualified attorneys attend regular CPD seminars and ongoing learning is encouraged in the context of the firm’s career development framework. As one of the first signatories of the IP Inclusive Charter, we work hard to ensure our internal communication and our wellbeing and inclusion strategies are a business priority, and underpin our belief that everyone should be able to bring their whole self to work.

**Why Patent law?**
I chose to study chemistry at the University of Glasgow, with the aim of later pursuing a career in research and development. During the course of my degree I had the opportunity to spend a year in industry working for a pharmaceutical company. This experience soon made me realise that I wanted a career outside of a traditional laboratory setting. While exploring career options, I came across the field of Intellectual Property (IP) and after talking to several professionals, I was immediately interested. I later decided to do a PhD in chemical biology which allowed me to explore my interests at the interface between the chemical and biological disciplines. However, my choice of research meant that I was working in a highly specialised field.

I found myself becoming more interested in the broader aspects of general Chemistry such as the synthesis of complex organic molecules and the study of the fundamentals occurring during chemical reactions. Towards the end of my doctorate, I was certain that a laboratory career was not for me and the idea of combining my chemical knowledge with legal practice was what interested me the most. More importantly, a career in IP would allow me to use the breadth of knowledge I gained during my degree without necessarily being restricted to one niche area.

**Why AA Thornton LLP?**
I have worked for AA Thornton for almost a year now. My experience has been highly rewarding and fulfilling. From day one I was given real cases to work on and I was fully supported by my team. Trainees at AA Thornton have the opportunity to work with various senior attorneys as well as Partners and are actively involved in intellectually challenging work including prosecution, drafting, conducting IP audits, Freedom-To-Operate (FTO) searches, and opposition matters. AA Thornton’s broad range of clients provides Chemical trainees with the opportunity to work in different technical areas such as pharmaceuticals, petrochemicals, food technology, and materials science. AA Thornton fosters a collaborative and inclusive culture, where teamwork and knowledge sharing are highly valued. They also have a strong reputation for providing exceptional client service and placing great importance on tailoring strategies to specific requirements for clients and delivering effective solutions. These values reflect perfectly on the firm’s mission statement: “It’s our people that make the difference”. AA Thornton strives to prioritise the needs of their people; both their employees and their clients.

**Any advice?**
If you hold a STEM degree and you are keen on applying your technical knowledge in a legal field, then training to qualify as a patent attorney may be the right career path for you. Prior to sending out applications, I did a summer internship in one of the IP firms, which I found very helpful for getting an overview on the job and discovering more about ‘life as a trainee patent attorney’. I would highly recommend applying to internships or work experience programmes if possible. Before sending out applications, I would suggest researching the firm that you are applying to, making sure your values align and finding out how you will be supported during training. Finally, you may find it helpful to review the core principles and fundamentals of your technical degree and develop a high-level knowledge of basic patent law in preparation for interviews.
**Abel+Imray**

**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.

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**COMPANY INFORMATION**

**EMPLOYEE NUMBERS**

- No. of Employees: 108
- No. of Partners: 17
- No. of Qualified Patent Attorneys: 32
- No. of Trainee Patent Attorneys: 10

**AREAS OF SPECIALISM**

- Artificial Intelligence
- Biotechnology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Electronics
- Electrical Engineering
- Engineering - Other
- Life Sciences
- Mechanical Engineering
- Technology
- Physics

**OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED**

- Graduate Jobs: 1-3 p.a.
- Placements
- Internships
- Insight Days

**OFFICE LOCATIONS**

- London, South West, Wales, Rest of Europe and Hybrid Working

**CONTACT DETAILS**

E: hr@abelimray.com
W: www.abelimray.com

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**TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY**

**NAME**

Alessandro Giovannone

**LOCATION**

Bath

**UNIVERSITY**

Bath

**DEGREE**

Biochemistry

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**Why did you pursue a career in this profession?**

I wanted to work with science, but escape the drudgery of lab work. Working as a patent attorney offers a nice overlap between science, law and business. The work is challenging, but not overly burdensome and the remuneration and benefits are well above average. Although getting into the profession is very competitive, once you are in, there are strong opportunities for career progression and movement within the industry.

**What did you do before becoming a patent attorney?**

I have a 1st class undergraduate degree in Biochemistry and an MSc in Health Data Science. I undertook a placement year as a research analyst at the Walt Disney Company, and spent two summers as a lab assistant at an international research institute in Israel. I also worked in the systems engineering department of a medical devices company for a year.

**What did you do before becoming a patent attorney?**

I have a 1st class undergraduate degree in Biochemistry and an MSc in Health Data Science. I undertook a placement year as a research analyst at the Walt Disney Company, and spent two summers as a lab assistant at an international research institute in Israel. I also worked in the systems engineering department of a medical devices company for a year.

**What are your future plans?**

I will complete the postgraduate certificate in IP Law at Queen Mary University this year and I hope to pass my final exams in the next few years. I might like to spend some time working in-house too at some point. Once I qualify, I might investigate becoming an IP litigator and advocate and get more involved in the contentious sides of patent prosecution.

**Any advice?**

It is extremely competitive to get a position as a trainee patent attorney. You should not be expected to know any patent law when applying. The job is generally 9-5, but some firms have higher expectations, and working as a senior attorney anywhere will demand more of your time. You will get some support from your employer with regards to the exams, but you will be expected to prepare for these largely in your own time. The exams are tough and it is common to fail at least one.

For the latest jobs visit www.ipcareers.co.uk
Adamson Jones is a growing firm of patent and trade mark attorneys. We are part of Gateley, a legal and professional services group employing over 1,400 people at offices around the UK. We work alongside Symbiosis IP, who are also part of Gateley and a specialist life sciences practice.

Adamson Jones and Symbiosis IP are unique in the UK patent and trade mark attorney profession, being patent and trade mark attorney firms operating within a diverse legal and professional services group. Our attorneys have the opportunity to work closely with other professionals in the group, such as solicitors and other business advisers, in a wide range of areas including corporate transactions, IP litigation and international investment.

Our patent attorney practice is managed through a number of practice groups, which encompass most technical areas, and cross-disciplinary collaboration is common. An enthusiasm for technology is a must, as is an understanding of the commercial and legal issues faced by our clients.

Our clients range from small start-ups and established private companies to large corporations. The majority of our work is for UK-based clients, which provides trainees with experience in all areas of attorney practice, including drafting and filing of new applications and freedom-to-operate work. We also receive instructions from overseas firms of attorneys across the world.

We are committed to excellence in our work and we have a strong team ethos, with everyone at Adamson Jones, Symbiosis IP and elsewhere in Gateley being led by our purpose to deliver results that delight our clients, inspire our people and support our communities. The working environment is fast paced and rewarding.

We 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. When we find the right people, we aim to retain them. Long term prospects for those who join our firm are therefore excellent.

Our preference is to train academic achievement, who have the potential to inspire our people and support our communities. The working environment is fast paced and rewarding.

I graduated from university in 2015 with a Masters degree in Physics with Medical Physics from the University of Sheffield. I immediately joined the patent profession as a trainee at another firm, and moved to Adamson Jones in 2017, before qualifying as a chartered UK patent attorney in 2019.

Why did you choose a job in this sector/profession?
The majority of STEM students seemed to leave university and go into research or lab-based jobs. I wanted something different, something more sociable. I wanted a job that enabled me to interact with the outside world, and being a patent attorney offered that in the form of working with multiple businesses and clients.

What are your main duties/roles?
My main workload revolves around drafting, filing, and prosecuting patent applications in the UK and Europe, but also overseas, in countries such as the US, Canada, China, India, Japan and Australia.

Additional duties include identifying potential freedom-to-operate risks for clients, and helping them to mitigate or navigate those risks, where possible, for example by drafting and filing oppositions or observations against competitors’ patents or patent applications.

Is it a 9-5 job?
Yes and no. A typical day is 9-5, but the job is deadline-driven, so there can be the odd longer shift where necessary. There’s also the need to revise for qualifying exams over the first few years in the job, which naturally takes up a lot of time outside of the standard 9-5 job.

What skills are useful in this sector/profession? Perhaps the most important skill is to be articulate, both verbally and in writing. Patent specifications need to be clear and well-defined, and bridging the gap between the complexity of patents and the business requirements of clients requires uncomplicated and concise communication.

We work daily with multiple clients, across multiple countries and time zones, and will have many deadlines outstanding at any one time. Time management and good organisation are therefore also key to stay on top of it all.

Do you have any advice for anyone wanting to enter the profession?
Ask questions, don’t be afraid of getting knocked back, and wait for the right firm for you! There are so many firms in the UK, one rejection doesn’t necessarily mean you’re not cut out for the job, and one job offer doesn’t necessarily mean the firm is a good fit for you.

COMPANY INFORMATION

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS
No. of Employees: 27
No. of Partners: 4
No. of Qualified Patent Attorneys: 8
No. of Trainee Patent Attorneys: 1

AREAS OF SPECIALISM
- Artificial Intelligence
- Biotechnology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Electronics
- Electrical Engineering
- Engineering - Other
- Life Sciences
- Mechanical Engineering
- Technology
- Physics

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED
- Graduate Jobs: 2
- Placements
- Internships
- Insight Days

OFFICE LOCATIONS
London, South East (excl London), West Midlands and East Midlands

CONTACT DETAILS
E: careers@adamson-jones.co.uk
W: www.adamson-jones.co.uk

For the latest jobs visit www.ipcareers.co.uk
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, working 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, working 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?
Albright IP is an interesting place to work, 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 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, 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 seeking 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.
About us
Appleyard Lees is a leading Intellectual Property Law firm, with over 50 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, owners-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.

Opportunities available
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 want people who enjoy challenging work and who share our commitment to providing exemplary client service.

We have a regular intake of trainees throughout the year and we pride ourselves on being small and friendly enough for you to get to know everyone – but big enough to offer you great career prospects.

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.

Training
We offer excellent training and genuine career opportunities, including partnership prospects. A key aspect of this role is the willingness and ability to take on responsibility at an early stage. You will have the opportunity to train with some of the UK's leading attorneys and you will be given opportunities to represent the firm at industry events.

How did you get your job at Appleyard Lees?
I was ready for a career change outside of the “normal” annual recruitment window that most IP firms stick to, and so I approached many firms as a speculative hire. Having done a PhD in Chemistry followed by pivoting into a postdoc in the electronics/engineering fields, I wasn’t a typical (if there is such a thing) applicant straight out of a degree programme. Appleyard Lees was excited by my interdisciplinary experience and invited me to interview across two of their teams. During my interview days it particularly struck me how positive, welcoming, and happy the community was at Appleyard Lees – I could tell people really enjoyed working here. It was helpful to meet several other attorneys at the firm who had also moved into IP after a postdoc, and it was fantastic opportunity to hear their stories and receive their advice. I was absolutely thrilled to get an offer to join the firm.

What skills are useful in this profession?
The commonly discussed skills are communication (written and oral), an eye for detail, time management, and a passion for science and technology. I think some lesser discussed but crucial skills for a trainee is having a positive attitude toward challenging work, showing resilience in the face of rejection (of your arguments from patent offices), and recognising learning opportunities in any mistakes. You’ll be working on real cases from day one, and it’s a steep learning curve – you’ll probably feel like you’ve been thrown in the deep end. But your Partner, Senior Associate, and support team will give you excellent feedback, training, and help.

Do you have any advice for anyone wanting to enter the profession?
Appleyard Lees has a trainee blog which offers great insights into what the trainees get up to in our firm. We also run a “Greenshoots” podcast that covers all sorts of topics to do with IP, including getting into the profession. I highly recommend looking at those two resources.

IP Futures is a community within the wider IP Inclusive community which offers networking and support for early career professionals within IP and hold loads of events, many of which are also open to people outside IP looking to join the profession. I would recommend checking out if there are any upcoming IP Futures events that appeal to you and go along!

For the latest jobs visit www.ipcareers.co.uk
For more than a century, Armstrong Teasdale has forged long-term relationships with clients large and small around the globe. Since our founding in 1901, we have grown to be one of the 200 largest law firms in the U.S. We have more than 800 lawyers and staff professionals across 18 offices internationally, including in London, Dublin and throughout the U.S. We are an equal opportunities employer and welcome applications from all suitably qualified persons.

Range of client services at Armstrong Teasdale
Armstrong Teasdale represents clients in a wide range of matters across its international footprint. Firm lawyers have experience in more than 70 service areas, and across more than a dozen industries. Our U.K. office is particularly well positioned in the following areas: alternative dispute resolution, capital markets, corporate, employment, immigration, intellectual property, litigation, real estate, restructuring and insolvency and bankruptcy.

Our intellectual property (IP) practice offers advice to clients in all areas of technology related to patents, trade marks, designs, IP due diligence, domain name registrations, defence and enforcement of IP rights and IP portfolio management and filing strategies.

Recruitment requirements
Due to the range of technologies we handle, whilst we are happy to receive applications from candidates from all technical disciplines, flexibility and breadth of technical understanding are more important than in-depth understanding of any one field. Ideal candidates will also excel at communication, time management, attention to detail and creativity.

Professional development and training
Individuals who excel in intellectual property have strong problem-solving skills, a willingness to learn the details of different technologies, and excellent written and oral communication skills. Top talent who join our patent and trade mark teams play an integral part in our IP practice group, where they work collaboratively with colleagues and clients across industries to assist in the preparation and prosecution of patent applications.

Employee Numbers
- No. of Employees: 70
- No. of Partners: 23
- No. of Qualified Patent Attorneys: 3

Areas of Specialism
- Artificial Intelligence
- Biotechnology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Electronics
- Electrical Engineering
- Engineering - Other
- Life Sciences
- Mechanical Engineering
- Technology
- Physics

Opportunities Offered
- Graduate Jobs: See website
- Placements
- Internships
- Insight days

Office Locations
London, Republic of Ireland and United States

Contact Details
W: www.atllp.com

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

Why did you choose a job in this profession?
I decided to pursue a job within patent law primarily as it provides the rare opportunity to learn about the latest scientific developments across a broad range of topics. The nature of academia is such that I would have to become a specialist within a narrow subject area, and as I did not want to limit myself in such a manner, patent law was the perfect fit.

What was the application process like?
The application process at BB was, in my opinion, far superior to the application processes I experienced at other firms and was indicative of the friendly atmosphere we have here. The application process, like almost every other firm, began by submitting my CV and covering letter, but the second stage was significantly different. Whilst most firms tend to hold video interviews, I was invited to the office for a face-to-face interview. About a week later, I was invited back for a second interview, where I had to give a presentation and had to complete a short written task. A few days later I received a phone call where I was offered the job. The whole process was very smooth and enjoyable.

What are your main duties/roles?
I have a variety of different day to day jobs, but some of the most common include preparing responses to office actions, reading through prior art, reducing claim sets down to 15 (for EPO practice to avoid the claims fees), and drafting patent specifications (with assistance from more experienced attorneys). I have also been lucky at this early stage in my career to have been involved with an IP audit and due diligence projects.

What skills are useful in this sector/profession?
Some of the most important skills in my opinion are the ability to keep to deadlines, demonstrate a high attention to detail, and to be able to think critically. Deadlines are everywhere in patent law, and if you don’t stick to them ultimately it may result in the lapse of your patent or patent application (as well as potentially the loss of your client). As for a high attention to detail, read the case on catastrophic comma loss (T 1473/19) and this will become evident! Finally, the ability to think critically is vital, as being able to construct effective arguments is a staple part of the day-to-day life of a good patent attorney.

Do you have any advice for anyone wanting to enter the profession?
1. Do not be disheartened if your applications keep getting rejected! Ask for feedback, act on it, and keep going! You only need one offer.
2. Take every opportunity available to get to know people within the profession. In general, the professionals within the industry know the difficulties of the application process and will be very happy to jump on a call if you ask nicely.
3. Practice briefly describing everyday objects, and how they work. Interviewers love asking these kinds of questions, and practice will help you be prepared.
We’re a fast-growing dynamic IP firm, focusing mainly on patenting in software and electronics, with expertise in AI, robotics, fintech, medtech, cybersecurity and space technologies. Our clients are a mix of industry leaders in their respective fields and energetic startups – including three unicorn start-ups (a company which reaches 1 billion USD in valuation) whom we’ve represented since incorporation – each with clever technology and exciting ideas that need protecting.

We offer a refreshing, supportive and forward-thinking working environment that’s fully paperless, built from best practice. As a graduate, you’ll be able to work on a varied and interesting caseload, liaising with both new and established clients to develop comprehensive worldwide patent portfolios. In-house training is second to none too, with support from experienced attorneys who have active roles in the profession’s qualifying exams and training programmes.

Your future at Barnes IP
We’re an ambitious, forward-thinking firm and a core part of our success is our unswerving commitment to recruiting the very best people. We typically recruit graduate trainees with Physics, Computer Science or Engineering degrees, who have the ability to both understand quickly and explain clearly new technology. We pride ourselves on looking after our trainees, involving them in working for our exciting and varied client-base and helping them progress within our company and with their training and professional qualifications.

Working in our small but fast-growing company will provide you with the opportunity to share your creative ideas and experience in our relaxed, friendly and sociable work environment with full support from senior patent attorneys. Our clients’ industries are varied too, giving you exposure to a variety of interesting new technologies. Our clients’ requirements range from very early-stage guidance to IP strategy work for large corporate clients, so you will gain a whole host of experience across the many types of work for a patent attorney in a short time – and longer term – as part of a very rewarding career path.
BeckGreener

Want to make a difference?
If so, you won’t find a better place than Beck Greener. From early in your career as a patent attorney you could be working with some of the world’s most innovative companies, or with individual entrepreneurs, protecting and developing ground-breaking inventions in fields as diverse as household consumer goods, business processes, software, games and pharmaceuticals. Or you might be supporting clients through complex High Court litigation. We also have a strong trade mark practice. With modern offices in London, and a European office near the EUOPO in Alicante, we are big enough to win exciting, significant work, but small enough to keep that ‘boutique’ feel clients value. At Beck Greener everyone counts; everyone’s voice is heard.

A (Beck) Greener world
At Beck Greener we don’t just make a difference to our clients’ businesses. We also make positive contributions to our profession, local community and the environment. For example, our ‘Greener Beck Greener’ scheme has seen us reduce electricity consumption by 45%, winning Camden Council’s ‘Cutting Carbon’ mark. It’s also why we developed our award-winning STEM: Branching Out project, which seeks to inspire young people, particularly from disadvantaged backgrounds, to consider careers in STEM sectors.

What we can do for you
We value our trainees very highly. All trainees are directly supervised by partners in a supportive and friendly environment. As a patent trainee you will be given full training and support in obtaining relevant professional qualifications to become a Chartered and European Patent Attorney, including mentoring and supervision, in-house tutorials and external lectures.

And what we need in return
We recruit only the best graduates. This means that, for patent attorneys, we expect at least a 2:1 degree (or postgraduate qualification) in an appropriate technical discipline (chemistry, biochemistry, biotechnology, physics, engineering, electronics, etc). Trade mark trainees will have a good first degree and a legal qualification. Most of all, though, we are looking for enthusiasm, and the desire to make a difference. If this sounds like you then we’d love to talk.

Why did you choose a job in this profession?
As I approached the completion of my PhD, I realised that I did not want to pursue a career as a researcher in academia or industry. However, I knew that I still wanted a career which made use of my academic background. Having spoken to friends entering the profession, patent law really appealed to me as I would have the opportunity to work with cutting-edge technologies whilst also focusing on the commercial context.

How did you get your job at Beck Greener?
I was applying for a couple of advertised training roles at other firms and during this time I came across Beck Greener’s website. I liked the look of the firm but saw that there were no training roles being advertised at the time, so I decided to send a speculative application. Sometime later I received an email asking me if I’d like to attend an interview. I jumped at the opportunity and was asked to complete a pre-interview assessment, which involved describing how an everyday object demonstrated your writing ability, a skill you should also try comparing similar objects and identifying key differences, explaining their purpose. Make sure you practise this beforehand. You will likely be asked to describe an everyday object in a clear and concise way, so make sure you practise this beforehand. You should also try comparing similar objects and identifying key differences, explaining their advantages and disadvantages.

What would you like to achieve in the future?
My immediate aim is to qualify as a UK and European Patent Attorney. I recently sat the European Qualifying Exams (still awaiting the results!) and I will sit my remaining UK qualifying exams this October.

I received a PG Certificate in IP from Bournemouth University in early 2020 giving exemption from the UK foundation exams and I have passed the European pre-examination. Thankfully, I am given a large amount of support to prepare for exams in the form of day-to-day training, in-house tutorials and offers to attend external courses.

Do you have any advice for anyone wanting to enter the profession?
A good cover letter is essential, as it demonstrates your writing ability, a skill that is integral to the job. In interviews, you will likely be asked to describe an everyday object in a clear and concise way, so make sure you practise this beforehand. You should also try comparing similar objects and identifying key differences, explaining their advantages and disadvantages.

Want to consider careers in STEM sectors.
...
Why join us
Are you an inquisitive and driven individual looking for a varied and intellectually stimulating role? We are an award-winning, collegiate and inclusive European IP firm offering excellent training, a supportive environment and a clear path of career progression.

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 7 offices across the UK and Europe: London, Berlin, 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 IP).

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 IP Law Certificate course.

Opportunities available
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.

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.

COMPANY INFORMATION

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS
No. of Employees: 196 (excl. EPs)
No. of Partners: 41
No. of Qualified Patent Attorneys: 24
No. of Trainee Patent Attorneys: 7

AREAS OF SPECIALISM
- Artificial Intelligence
- Biotechnology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Electronics
- Electrical Engineering
- Engineering - Other
- Life Sciences
- Mechanical Engineering
- Technology
- Physics

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED
- Graduate Jobs: 5
- Placements
- Internships
- Insight Days

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

CONTACT DETAILS
E: recruitment@boult.com
W: www.boult.com/ip-careers

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

Why did you choose a job in this profession?
I always knew that I wanted to work in an industry linked to science and technology. During my Chemistry Degree and Masters project, I found that I enjoyed learning about the applications of science, and communicating science to other people.

I was drawn to patent law as this industry would allow me to use my chemistry knowledge, continue to learn about emerging technologies and scientific advancements, whilst being desk-based. In addition, the benefits appealed to me. Trainee positions are generally paid jobs that allow you to learn while you earn. Boult Wade Tennant supports their trainees through their exams, predominantly through funding exams and study materials, sending their candidates on the relevant training courses, and providing internal tutorials. They also have several Attorneys who are, or have been, examiners for the patent exams, and can provide excellent advice on how to tackle the exams.

What are your main duties/roles?
A considerable part of my day-to-day work is handling the prosecution of many European, UK and foreign patent applications for a selection of different clients. I work with both large international clients, and smaller startups, who have very different needs.

I spend a lot of time reviewing objections in examination reports, any relevant prior art documents, and preparing responses to the examination reports, or instructions to foreign Patent Attorneys for responding to a foreign Examination Report. Depending on the complexity of the case, each response can take from a few hours to a few days to prepare. I am constantly moving on to new tasks that are focused on different inventions, so I have to be very adaptable and able to quickly understand the main aspects of the technology. Some of my time spent on a case includes discussing the case with a Partner or other Attorney. Throughout your training, there is always somebody at Boult Wade Tennant who is happy to discuss ideas and strategies, and provide helpful advice.

I spend some of my time discussing new inventions with clients and inventors, drafting new patent applications, assisting with European oppositions and appeals, and handling the recording of assignments/ transfers. I am also involved with the Charity Committee, where I help to organise and run fundraising events for our chosen charity (this year the charity is Shelter).

Do you have any advice for anyone wanting to enter the profession?
I would advise anyone looking to get into patent law to do some research on the industry, apply for open days and vacation schemes, and to speak to anybody in the profession if the opportunity is available. Doing these things will put you in a good position to then apply.

Keep your eye on trainee vacancies opening up, and start your applications early. Although a particular firm may appeal to you more than others, keep your options open and apply to any training positions in your technical area that are advertised. You can also send speculative applications to firms that aren’t actively advertising.

Getting a training position is quite competitive, but once you’ve secured a position, then it can be much easier to move to a different firm, should you wish to do so.
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.

We are an environmentally conscious paperless office, which aims to cut out needless printing and filing. Using a vpn-based records system, we reduce our waste and are able to work remotely. 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.

Training will involve working with our senior attorneys and attending qualification courses, plus internal and external seminars and tutorials. We believe the best way to learn is through understanding the client and their business, and to that end trainees will attend client meetings and hearings from the start. There are excellent long-term prospects for assisting in the future development and expansion of this new firm.

Our clients range from multinationals with head offices in the UK and US to smaller UK based companies and overseas law firms. We are frequently asked by our clients to advise in connection with wider commercial issues such as agreements, acquisitions, toll manufacturing and trade secrets. Although a young firm, the majority of our attorney-client relationships are long established at a personal level.

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

**COMPANY INFORMATION**

**EMPLOYEE NUMBERS**

- No. of Employees: 14
- No. of Partners: 3
- No. of Qualified Patent Attorneys: 6
- No. of Trainee Patent Attorneys: 3

**AREAS OF SPECIALISM**

- Artificial Intelligence
- Biotechnology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Electronics
- Electrical Engineering
- Engineering - Other
- Life Sciences
- Mechanical Engineering
- Technology
- Physics

**OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED**

- Graduate Jobs: 2
- Placements
- Internships
- Insight Days

**OFFICE LOCATIONS**

London

**CONTACT DETAILS**

E: info@bmf-ip.com
W: bmf-ip.com

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**CASE STUDY**

I first studied Biology at the University of York, taking modules in cell biology and genetics. I then pursued a Master’s in Molecular Medicine at Imperial College London, where I completed research in epigenetics. After I graduated in 2020, I worked in research before starting as a Technical Assistant at Brand Murray Fuller in November 2021.

**Why did you choose a job in this profession?**

I have always been interested in the practical and transferable applications of science. For me, patent law offered a unique opportunity to pursue this interest as you are continually exposed to innovative, cutting-edge technology. I was also excited about the unique combination of science, law and business that a career as a patent attorney provides, and the opportunity to develop my knowledge of all three aspects of the job. The profession also provides variety – no two days are the same, so you will never get bored!

**What are your main duties/roles?**

As a trainee, I work under the supervision of partners and senior associates largely on patent prosecution, but I have also worked on freedom to operate opinions and oppositions. Typical tasks include writing to patent examiners to respond to objections they may raise, writing to clients to provide advice, and instructing foreign attorneys on how to proceed on behalf of your clients.

There is a steep learning curve, but work is done with both guidance and feedback and so you are always well supported. Additionally, working with a variety of senior colleagues exposes you to different stylistic approaches, which is particularly beneficial as a trainee.

**Is it a 9-5 job?**

Generally, yes. Whilst it is highly deadline driven, these deadlines generally tend to be given far in advance and can therefore be met with good time management. Additionally, at Brand Murray Fuller, we have the option to work from home up to twice a week, which is encouraged to maintain a good work/life balance.

However, to qualify, there are a number of exams you will be required to sit. At Brand Murray Fuller, trainees first sit the Certificate in Intellectual Property held by Queen Mary University of London. During this course, one day per week is spent in the office and the remaining days are spent studying. Later exams (both UK and European) are then typically prepared for outside of work hours, although the firm provides seminars and other revision support.

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

I recommend researching firms that you would be interested in working for and tailoring your application accordingly. Whilst it can be tempting to apply to as many firms as possible, it is important to end up at a firm that is the right fit for you. This applies to the subject-matter you will be working with, but also to the firm’s approach to training. For example, at Brand Murray Fuller, trainees attend client meetings and hearings, and are given responsibility from the get-go, which provides an interesting and enjoyable challenge.

I also recommend speaking to people in the profession to understand more about a career in IP. Some firms also offer open days and internships, which can be useful but are by no means necessary.
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 were awarded Patent Prosecution Firm of the Year at the 2023 Managing IP EMEA Awards and were also awarded Patent Contentious Firm of the Year and Impact Case of the Year at the 2022 Awards. We are consistently ranked as a top-tier firm by industry directories.

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.

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

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

At Carpmaels & Ransford, you are trusted to take on real cases from (literally) day one. Although this may seem daunting, it allows you to get to grips with tackling complex issues, in both science and intellectual property, from the start. You receive a lot of support from your supervisors (which are mainly senior associates and partners) and other trainees, making the transition to a professional job as smooth as possible. This includes a buddy system where you can freely ask more experienced trainees silly questions, creating a support network for new starters. The firm also arranges tutorials throughout your training to ensure you have the relevant background knowledge before taking exams, at both part-qualified and fully-qualified levels.

One of the main benefits of working here is that all staff are based in one London office which creates an invaluable collaborative atmosphere. Although the firm is fairly large, being on one site means we all know each other and it promotes a friendly working environment. My main surprise about Carpmaels & Ransford was the social life – some of my colleagues are now good friends and this is all down to the variety of social clubs and events offered by the firm. There are annual New Year and summer parties, a variety of sports teams, a book club, and even a bee club for our bee hives on the balcony!
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. We provide comprehensive intellectual property services to a wide range of clients, including small and medium enterprises and multi-national corporations. We are a progressive firm with a knowledge-sharing culture and a reputation for excellence in training and professional development. We offer trainees a high level of support and encouragement throughout the qualification process, and we have a good record in helping candidates pass exams.

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

Candidates
An excellent academic record, including a good honours degree in science or engineering is a prerequisite for patent attorneys. We are looking for team players with a flexible, proactive and confident approach. Excellent written and verbal communications skills are essential, as are high levels of accuracy and an eye for detail. We expect to recruit one or two new patent trainees every year; we tend to select trainee trade mark attorneys from amongst our law graduate paralegals, but may use IP Careers to select trainee trade mark attorneys from amongst one or two new patent trainees every year; we tend

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www.ipcareers.co.uk

I studied Engineering Science at university which allowed me to avoid specialising into a particular narrow field. I have always enjoyed variety instead of focusing on one discipline, be that hobbies or work.

I was aware of patents as a potential career that might suit my desire for variety thanks to exposure at careers events as well as knowing various people already in the field. During my penultimate year at university, I dipped my toes in, as it were, with a number of micro-internships at a variety of different firms which only confirmed that this was a career I would enjoy.

What has been your experience starting at Cleveland Scott York?
I joined Cleveland Scott York in September 2020 under what can only be described as abnormal circumstances. I started by completing a full time Postgraduate Certificate in Intellectual Property at Queen Mary University before starting in the office in February the following year. Despite the obvious challenges of starting a new job in a pandemic, everyone at Cleveland Scott York was very welcoming. As soon as I started “in the office” I was completing real work for real clients. I worked on a wide range of cases in many different technical fields right from the offset.

What do you actually do as a patent attorney?
My work is mainly based on prosecuting patent applications up to and including grant. This involves talking to clients about their inventions, drafting applications and responding to examination reports among other things. Whilst I have not been involved in any opposition proceedings yet, it is an area I am looking forward to taking on in the future.

I mainly work for two different partners, giving me a great opportunity to learn different approaches and styles. This also allows me to work with a broader client base.

Outside of client based work, I am also preparing for UK and European final exams after passing the European preliminary exam in March 2023.

Any advice?
If you are the sort of person that enjoys seeing and working with a range of cutting-edge technologies and can get your head around how they work quickly then a career in patents may well be for you. I can definitely recommend getting work experience, both to try to work at the job and bolster your application.
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. 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. We are ranked by The Times as a Top 50 Employer for Gender Equality and we are also ranked by the Social Mobility Foundation as a Top 75 Employer for Social Mobility. CMS is also proud to have been included in Legal Cheek’s 2023 list of Best Law Firms for Working From Home and for Work/life balance.

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/or European Patent exams. You’ll work alongside experienced colleagues and leaders in their field, who will guide you through the fundamental elements of international patent law and how to apply these to your client’s needs.

For the latest jobs visit www.ipcareers.co.uk
About D Young & Co LLP
Our reputation for excellence is recognised worldwide. Ranked consistently as a top tier European Intellectual Property firm by all major UK legal directories we have over 250 staff working across our London, Munich and Southampton offices. From universities to global mega-brands, our client base is diverse and spans all industry sectors and technologies. Our team of patent and trade mark attorneys, solicitors and Rechtsanwälte provide our clients with an integrated service covering all IP rights.

Your benefits & recognition
You’ll find a friendly and supportive culture, where hard work and dedication are recognised and rewarded. As well as a competitive salary, we have a unique benefits package that you can tailor towards your lifestyle. In our flexible and professional environment, people are put first and you’ll be empowered to see your contribution making a difference.

Your career and development
The success of our clients, our firm and everyone who works at D Young & Co is achieved through shared goals. Committed to supporting and promoting equality we believe a diverse working environment is key to creativity and productivity.

You’ll work with a team of talented colleagues, receiving guidance and mentoring from your supervisors. We provide a clear, flexible path towards qualification and work with you to ensure the route and pace you take is appropriate for you. As well as support through your professional qualifications, the firm provides training and development in other commercial skills to enable everyone to deliver the best global client service.

Your lifestyle
We hold dear our culture of work-life fit. Whether you want to work or live in the city, in a coastal location or by the country, you can fully harness your potential and enjoy life inside and outside of work by joining us. Members of our firm relish combining collaboration in the office with the benefits of remote working to achieve best balance.

Your benefits & recognition
You’ll find a friendly and supportive culture, where hard work and dedication are recognised and rewarded. As well as a competitive salary, we have a unique benefits package that you can tailor towards your lifestyle. In our flexible and professional environment, people are put first and you’ll be empowered to see your contribution making a difference.

Why did you choose a job in this profession?
Like many in the profession, during my PhD, I realised that a career in research wasn’t what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. However, it was important to me to find a job where I was still utilising the scientific knowledge I had gained as well as combining the problem solving and analysis aspects of research that I had particularly enjoyed. The more I found out about patent law, the more I was convinced that the profession was exactly what I was looking for.

What attracted you to your role?
I was attracted to D Young & Co because I wanted to join a firm where there was a cohort intake of trainees. This has been beneficial in terms of settling in and having a group of people to go through the qualification process together with. I also found the offer of one-to-one mentoring appealing as I would be moving away from an environment that I knew and so a high level of support was important to me. In fact, I now work with multiple qualified attorneys on a one-to-one basis which has really helped me to experience different approaches and develop my own style of working.

How did you get your job at D Young & Co?
I applied to D Young & Co after seeing an opening advertised on their website and submitted my CV and cover letter. After an initial telephone interview with HR, I was asked to complete an online spelling and grammar test. Lastly, I was invited to an assessment day. The day had a number of components including time to chat with other trainees. Everyone involved in the process was extremely friendly and despite being an interview, I enjoyed the exercises and felt like I could really imagine myself working at D Young & Co. Therefore, when I received an offer it was an easy decision!

Do you have any advice for anyone wanting to enter the profession?
My advice would be to speak to current patent attorneys to get an idea of what day-to-day life in the job entails, I found this really useful when I was considering the profession especially as experience in this field can be hard to come by. Furthermore, the training experience can vary widely between firms. Therefore, speaking to current trainees can be invaluable in finding out the culture and training programme at each specific firm. The exams are notoriously difficult and preparing for these will make up a large part of your first years in the profession so it’s worth considering what environment would suit you best.

COMPANY INFORMATION

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS
No. of Employees: 261
No. of Partners: 42
No. of Qualified Patent Attorneys: 62
No. of Trainee Patent Attorneys: 28

AREAS OF SPECIALISM
- Artificial Intelligence
- Biotechnology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Electronics
- Electrical Engineering
- Engineering - Other
- Life Sciences
- Mechanical Engineering
- Technology
- Physics

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED
- Graduate Jobs: 6
- Placements
- Internships: 12-14
- Insight Days

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

CONTACT DETAILS
E: recruitment@dyoung.com
W: www.dyoung.com

For the latest jobs visit www.ipcareers.co.uk
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**
We offer a stimulating working environment and, as a progressive firm, we want to invest in the brightest and most talented individuals from all walks of life. We place an emphasis on knowledge and training and are committed to development at all levels. Many of our attorneys have been awarded prizes for exceptional performance in qualifying examinations. Trainees are supported throughout their period of qualification via regular in-house tutorials and by working closely with partners. They become involved in many different aspects of patent, trade mark registered design and copyright work so that they gain a broad range of experience.

We pride ourselves on fostering a friendly atmosphere within the firm, as we strongly believe that this, combined with a shared ambition for professional excellence, is vital to the success of the firm.

**Opportunities offered**
- Graduates: Approx. 14 each year
- Internships: 14 (Summer Placements)
- Insight Days

**Areas of Specialism**
- Artificial Intelligence
- Biotechnology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Electronics
- Electrical Engineering
- Engineering - Other
- Life Sciences
- Mechanical Engineering
- Technology
- Physics

**Graduate Jobs**
Approx. 14 each year

**Contact Details**
E: careers@dehns.com
W: www.dehns.com/site/careers

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

During my PhD, like many others who ultimately venture into the world of patent law, I started to realise that a career working in academia and/or the lab wasn’t for me. It was around the same time that I attended a careers talk given by a qualified patent attorney at my university and I was immediately intrigued by what I heard. As a patent attorney I would continue to have exposure to the latest cutting-edge technologies and the opportunity to use my scientific knowledge, but outside of a research environment – it sounded perfect!

After attending open days at various firms I was offered a place on the Dehns Summer Placement Scheme which runs for two weeks every summer. The Scheme provided me with wide-ranging exposure to the kind of work I would ultimately undertake as a trainee, from day one I worked on live cases and covered inventions relating to a variety of different subject matter, something I found especially interesting having been restricted to one narrow area of chemistry during my PhD. By the end of the two weeks I knew without question that I wanted to pursue a career as a patent attorney.

Following the summer scheme, I was delighted to be offered a position as a Technical Assistant in Dehns’ Oxford office. Since joining the firm, I have moved to the Brighton office and I have received excellent on-the-job training and support from supervisors (partners and senior associates) who have ensured that I receive a varied diet of work to aid my development. Support is also provided through your buddy, who is a more experienced trainee, and who you share an office with. In addition, the firm is very supportive when it comes to the exams, offering in-house tutorials and seminars to give its trainees the best chance of success.

The firm has a friendly and relaxed working environment, and maintaining a good work-life balance is something that is actively encouraged. Various social events, including the annual summer and Christmas parties where the whole firm gets together, are also organised throughout the year. I would highly recommend Dehns to anyone who is looking to start a career as a patent attorney.
About us
Dummett Copp is an expanding firm of patent and trade mark attorneys at Martlesham Heath, Ipswich. Established for over 35 years, our direct clients range from start-ups to multinationals, in the UK and abroad. We have an excellent network of foreign associates and a wide range of incoming agency work.

Our culture
To provide a high level of service and value for money, we spend time with clients, listening to them and understanding their needs. We invest in regular IP audits, visits to their business or workplace, and customised client relationship management software.

Our attorneys are approachable, supportive and responsive. We have an excellent team of friendly support staff assisting the professional staff in all day-to-day activities.

Opportunities
Recruiting highly capable people is important for any business. More important is how people are empowered to accomplish productive work that contributes to business goals. Trainees learn from external courses and private study, but mainly from working on client matters with an attorney. The firm has a good record of training and mentoring junior colleagues. Most of our partners trained and qualified with the firm.

Everyone needs a sensible work/life balance. The nature of a trainee’s work can be demanding at times when professional examinations loom. We want trainees to progress through the exams at a pace that suits them. We offer a range of benefits and flexible working and a mix of remote and in-office working.

What we are looking for
We welcome speculative applications for trainee or qualified positions for those with a good first or postgraduate degree in science or engineering. The ability to understand and deal with a broad range of technical subject matter is a key skill for a patent attorney, as is an excellent command of English. Proficiency in German and/or French is an advantage. Patent work requires good organisational skills and the ability to work under pressure and to meet deadlines.
EIP is an innovative, award-winning patent firm with offices in Germany, Sweden, the UK and USA and combines a multidisciplinary team of attorneys, litigators, and commercial lawyers providing advice to clients across the globe.

In addition to specialising in high-value and complex patent matters, we also offer commercial advice on the exploitation and use of the full range of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs). This includes patents, trademarks, design rights, copyright and others, and assists with ancillary issues arising in relation to data protection and rights of privacy.

For the past five years EIP has been ranked as one of Europe’s Leading Patent Law Firms by the Financial Times in all six technology areas listed. Over the past six years EIP has won both UK and European Patent Disputes Firm of the Year multiple times at the prestigious Managing IP Awards EMEA. Peers and clients have described EIP as having “a great, well-integrated team that operates together to provide...great answers almost instantly”, and as a firm that “has consistently shown an exceptional level of competence and professionalism, with everyone proving to be approachable, responsive and detail-oriented”.

Every year we look to recruit around 5 Trainee Patent Attorneys to join one of our UK offices and a Litigation Trainee Solicitor to join our London office. We offer trainees the opportunity to interact and liaise directly with clients. The training programme is focused on direct supervision by partners who are leaders in their field, and all trainees benefit from high levels of tuition during qualification. We have developed an ethos of building from within and several of the partners joined the firm as a trainee and have taken advantage of the meritocratic progression philosophy that exists at the firm.

EIP typically recruits candidates with an excellent undergraduate degree and (optionally) a Masters or PhD. The best candidates enjoy the challenge of complex technical and legal work whilst those who have good written and verbal communication skills also tend to excel.

**COMPANY INFORMATION**

**EMPLOYEE NUMBERS**
- No. of Employees: 180
- No. of Partners: 35
- No. of Qualified Patent Attorneys: 80
- No. of Trainee Patent Attorneys: 15

**AREAS OF SPECIALISM**
- Artificial Intelligence
- Biotechnology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Electronics
- Electrical Engineering
- Engineering - Other
- Life Sciences
- Mechanical Engineering
- Technology
- Physics

**OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED**
- Graduate Jobs: 5-10 per year
- Placements
- Internships: 5 per year
- Insight Days

**OFFICE LOCATIONS**
- London, South West, Yorkshire & Humberside, Wales, Rest of Europe and United States

**CONTACT DETAILS**
- E: talent@eip.com
- W: www.eip.com

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

**TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY**

**NAME**
- Charles Hempsted

**LOCATION**
- London

**UNIVERSITY**
- UCL

**DEGREE**
- MSc Physics (First Class Honours)

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

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

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

**What do you see yourself progressing from your current position in the next 2-3 years?**
Within the next three years I hope to be a fully qualified patent attorney. There are UK exams, to qualify as a UK patent attorney, and European exams, to qualify as a European patent attorney. It is important that trainees get practical, real world experience dealing with patents to properly prepare them for the examinations. This makes EIP a great place to train.

**What is your usual schedule like?**
My day starts with checking my emails and planning out the tasks for that day. Learning to manage and prioritise your workload is essential. You can be working on several cases for different clients and being able to manage your cases so that you can meet the various deadlines is crucial.

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

**What are your main duties/roles in your current position?**
When you first start, your workload is initially determined by your line manager. However, as you progress you work with more qualified attorneys. Every attorney has their own style and processes so this is a great way to get a lot of experience. I’m responsible for drafting patent applications, prosecuting patent applications and speaking with clients to educating them on IP issues.

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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. We welcome applications from new graduates and especially from applicants having research or development experience.

Training
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.

With 6,300 staff, the European Patent Office (EPO) is the second largest intergovernmental organisation in Europe. Headquartered in Munich with offices in Berlin, Brussels, The Hague and Vienna, the EPO was founded with the aim of strengthening co-operation on patents in Europe. Through the EPO’s centralised patent granting procedure, inventors are able to obtain high-quality patent protection in up to 44 countries, covering a market of some 700 million people. The EPO is also the world’s leading authority in patent information and patent searching.

As the patent office for Europe, we are proud to deliver high-quality patents and efficient services that foster innovation, competitiveness and economic growth.

We believe that diversity is fundamental to our success. Our inclusive work environment respects, values and celebrates our individual differences. We want you to be yourself at work. Our patent examiners are drawn from over 30 different European countries. They work at the cutting edge of technology, analysing the latest inventions in all kinds of technical fields in order to protect and promote innovation in Europe.

Their daily work combines scientific expertise with analytical research and an eye for the legal aspects of intellectual property.

Do you have a Master’s degree in engineering or science? Are you eager to play a role in future developments in innovation? Then you too could be part of our team of patent examiners in Munich or The Hague. We offer a competitive net basic salary (EUR 6,450–9,360 per month, depending on experience) as well as various benefits and allowances.
we will provide you with the support to develop training courses. We like to play to our strengths and quality training and we fully fund attendance on trainees at Forresters. We place a high value on Over 75% of our partners began their careers as an environment that will help you fulfil your potential. In return you will have excellent career prospects and you'll need to be a well-rounded person who works and brands and providing a great service to our clients. You must be as passionate as we are about technology which will help you to write in direct, jargon-free language. This is a great help when liaising with clients and colleagues, and a transferable skill which will improve communication of all kinds.

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

In return you will have excellent career prospects and an environment that will help you fulfil your potential. We have modern offices in four locations (our London office is in the Gherkin) and can offer hybrid working for those who require some flexibility.

Over 75% 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 to develop.

Why did become a Patent Attorney?
I studied Aeronautical Engineering at university and spent several enjoyable years working in the industry. After some time, I felt the desire for exposure to a wider variety of technology, beyond what my engineering role provided. My university and industry experience provided me with an appreciation for intellectual property and therefore a career as a Patent Attorney piqued my interest.

A career as a Patent Attorney presents the unique challenge of developing intellectual property law knowledge while applying the core technical expertise I gained at university to new and exciting inventions. The opportunity to work with an array of pioneering technology, invented by clients ranging from budding individual entrepreneurs to international corporations, creates a role which I find hugely rewarding.

What does a normal working week look like?
In a typical week, the bulk of the work on my desk may involve drafting patent applications, responding to examination reports from patent offices and performing other tasks to support clients’ intellectual property portfolios. Drafting a patent application involves first understanding a client’s disclosure, sometimes through detailed discussions with the inventor. I find that extracting the “essence” of the invention from the client’s disclosure can require some creative thinking, because the specific features which make an idea inventive may not be immediately obvious. When writing the application, I take time to accurately describe the invention and explain its patentability. Therefore, drafting is often an iterative process.

When handling an examination report, I start by familiarising myself with the invention and doing some further research if required. I then review the objections raised and any relevant documents cited. Following this assessment, I prepare arguments to support the patentability of the client’s invention, which often involves explaining why the invention is inventive over any cited existing technology. In some scenarios, I may also make amendments to the patent application.

Aside from these responsibilities, I also handle various day-to-day tasks related to managing clients’ intellectual property portfolios. This may involve communicating with patent offices and overseas attorneys to address queries or coordinate international patent applications.

Do you have any advice for anyone wanting to enter the profession?
Embrace the opportunity to continuously learn and adapt. As a Patent Attorney you will often encounter technologies you aren’t fully acquainted with, but this presents a chance for growth and development. You will have developed a strong set of core technical skills and learning how to apply these skills to decipher new concepts will put you in a position to make the most of your degree and experience.

It’s also important to get a good feel for the job. Do some research, reach out to someone in the profession, and maybe even skim through a few patent specifications.

What is it like to work at Forresters?
Since day one my colleagues at Forresters have been welcoming, helpful and supportive. My manager shares valuable guidance and does a great job of tasking me with a diverse range of work, both from a technical and legal perspective. As a result, I find my work rewarding and feel that I am growing in my role.
Why work for us?
Because you will have an interesting and exciting career, right from the start. Our culture is friendly, inclusive, supportive and collaborative: within this environment you will receive excellent training and support and take on real responsibility. Our structured training programme will provide you with a year of on-the-job training before enrolling you for the Postgraduate Certificate in Intellectual Property Law. Ultimately you will aim to qualify as both a European Patent Attorney and a Chartered (UK) Patent Attorney. We assist you in these studies through in-house training, mentoring and coaching from senior attorneys, while exposing you to a diverse range of cases and clients to help you become a well-rounded patent attorney. We challenge our attorneys from an early stage and encourage them to carve out a career that will play to their individual strengths. Alongside a range of great 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 which is reviewed annually, as well as upon exam success.

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

Why did you choose a job in this profession?
Towards the end of my degree, I knew that I wanted a job outside of academia, so I started exploring the various career paths available to me after I graduated. I knew that I wanted to use the technical knowledge from my degree while continuing to learn about science. When I discovered the patent attorney profession, it immediately seemed like it would be a good fit for me as it would give me the opportunity to learn about a wide range of topics unlike the limited focus often found in academia.

The more I learnt about the profession, the more it seemed to align with what I was looking for.

What are your main duties/roles?
As a trainee, my role involves a lot of learning on the job. Initially, I thought that transitioning from a scientific field of study to the legal profession was a daunting prospect. However, my supervisor and colleagues have provided plenty of support and guidance throughout my training. Their assistance extends beyond the formal training of tutorials and structured programs to more informal chats about their own experiences of being in the same position.

Since starting work in September 2021, I have been involved in live cases from the very beginning. At GJE, you are given the freedom to tackle problems independently before receiving valuable guidance and feedback for continued improvement. This approach has significantly improved my analytical thinking, problem-solving skills and ability to identify areas of focus when faced with a case.

Additionally, I have been given the opportunity to work with many different supervisors on a wide range of technologies from medical devices to telecommunications. This experience has proven invaluable as it has not only exposed me to various approaches to tasks but has also broadened my understanding of different technologies. Another aspect of the role I enjoy is getting to work with clients of various sizes from start ups to corporations, which all have different needs and guidance from us as their attorneys.

In addition to working on prosecution work and patent drafting, GJE has helped me to enhance my overall skillset as an attorney by allowing me to get involved in business operations, partake in client meetings, and attend events and conferences. The dynamic nature of these responsibilities means that no two days are the same, with each day presenting new challenges and opportunities.

What skills are useful in this profession?
The job is very deadline orientated, and you are likely to be juggling a number of cases for different clients at the same time. Therefore, prioritising work and managing your workload is a very important skill to develop. Time management is also an important skill, especially when studying for professional qualifications while working.

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

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

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

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

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

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

GSK is a global biopharma company with a special purpose – to unite science, technology and talent to get ahead of disease together – so we can positively impact the health of billions of people and deliver stronger, more sustainable shareholder returns – as an organisation where people can thrive. Getting ahead means preventing disease as well as treating it, and we aim to positively impact the health of 2.5 billion people by the end of 2030.

Patent trainees at GSK work alongside senior attorneys and can expect to spend their time drafting and prosecuting patent applications, as well as working on contentious issues, such as oppositions and appeals before the EPO. Trainees are also involved in reviewing and advising R&D on IP clauses in contracts and agreements and educating the business on IP law, practises and strategies. A comprehensive training programme is provided, including in-house and external tutorials, seminars and courses. Trainees are supported throughout their journey to passing both the EQE to become a European Patent Attorney and the appropriate national qualifying examination.

We look for trainees with at least a 2:1 or 1st class degree and prefer new recruits to have had some research or industrial experience. Applicants must be able to demonstrate a desire and commitment to training and qualifying as a patent attorney and be passionate about science and medical innovation.

We recruit team players with strong interpersonal, training and qualifying as a patent attorney and be able to demonstrate a desire and commitment to

Our success absolutely depends on our people. While getting ahead of disease together is about our ambition for patients and shareholders, it’s also about making GSK a place where people can thrive. We want GSK to be a place where people feel inspired, encouraged and challenged to be the best they can be. A place where they can be themselves – feeling welcome, valued, and included. Where they can keep growing and look after their wellbeing.

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

Grantham, Nottingham, South East (excl London)

OFFICE LOCATIONS
South East (excl London)

CONTACT DETAILS
E: careers@grahamwatt.co.uk
W: www.grahamwatt.co.uk

COMPANY INFORMATION
EMPLOYEE NUMBERS
No. of Employees: 10
No. of Partners: 1
No. of Qualified Patent Attorneys: 3

AREAS OF SPECIALISM
- Artificial Intelligence
- Biotechnology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Electronics
- Electrical Engineering
- Engineering - Other
- Life Sciences
- Mechanical Engineering
- Technology
- Physics

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED
- Graduate Jobs
- Placements
- Internships
- Insight Days

COMPANY INFORMATION
EMPLOYEE NUMBERS
No. of Employees: Approx. 90,000
No. of Qualified Patent Attorneys: Approx. 70
No. of Trainee Patent Attorneys: 6

AREAS OF SPECIALISM
- Artificial Intelligence
- Biotechnology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Electronics
- Electrical Engineering
- Engineering - Other
- Life Sciences
- Mechanical Engineering
- Technology
- Physics

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED
- Graduate Jobs: 1-2
- Placements
- Internships
- Insight Days

CONTACT DETAILS
W: www.gsk.com

For the latest jobs visit www.ipcareers.co.uk
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 23 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 in The Financial Times special report ‘Europe’s Leading Patent Law Firms 2023’. The firm is also ranked by Chambers & Partners, Legal 500, Intellectual Asset Management, Managing Intellectual Property and World Trade Mark Review. In addition, 23 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.

Why did you choose a job in this profession?
After completing my Masters degree I knew that research wasn’t for me as I found the day-to-day lab work frustratingly slow and being confined to one niche specialism restrictive. I worked as a consultant and technical salesperson for almost two years but this didn’t feel quite right either. I knew I wanted something more interdisciplinary where I’d be able to apply the technical knowledge I’d learned in my Chemistry degree in a broader commercial capacity. IP had been on my radar for some time after studying modules on the patenting of pharmaceuticals and attending university careers fairs. I decided to find out more. I reached out to friends of friends in the industry. A few positive phone calls piqued my interest and led me to the IP Careers website. The chance to work at the cutting-edge of innovation and play an integral role in bringing new technologies from the R&D stage to market is what really sold the profession to me!

How did you get your job at HGF?
I applied for the role of ‘Trainee Patent Attorney – Chemistry’ via the IP Careers website. The application involved submitting a CV and cover letter, explaining my motivations for entering the profession, and a recent patent news story I’d found interesting and why. I received an email inviting me to an initial video interview with an in-house recruitment specialist. After this, I was invited to an in-person panel interview. The interview tested my lateral thinking skills and ability to communicate clearly and concisely. There were written and oral exercises alongside the general conversation.

What skills are useful in this profession?
The profession is extremely interdisciplinary and requires a broad range of skills. Being a patent attorney demands acute attention to detail and an analytical and methodical approach to work. It’s important to be able to grasp new concepts (both technological and legal). Effective communication, particularly written communication is key. Entering a legal profession from a scientific background involves a steep learning curve and requires drive, determination, and resilience.

Do you have any advice for anyone wanting to enter the profession?
The first piece of advice I have for anyone wanting to enter the profession is to do your research. The IP Careers Guide on the IP Careers website is a great starting point. I found talking to people in the profession, particularly helpful. Work experience in the industry is rare but a few firms do offer this so it is worth looking out for. When applying to firms and at the interview stage this research will serve you well when it comes to demonstrating your enthusiasm and understanding of the industry and company. Your application is a chance to demonstrate your written communication skills and attention to detail so use clear, concise language and make sure your application is free from errors.
Our priorities
Our clients are our top priority. They include many well-known household and industrial names who expect the highest standards of expertise and professionalism and we work hard to deliver that. It helps that we love the intellectual challenge of being patent attorneys and that we never lose the buzz that comes from being at the cutting edge of scientific and technological developments. Our colleagues are our next priority. We offer interesting and rewarding careers in a friendly, supportive and well-resourced working environment. Our emphasis is on team work, good communication and on developing individuals to their full potential. We respect and encourage diversity and equal opportunities and believe in a healthy work/life balance.

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

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

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

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

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

Recruitment

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

COMPANY INFORMATION

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS
No. of Employees: 24
No. of Partners: 3
No. of Qualified Patent Attorneys: 6
No. of Trainee Patent Attorneys: 4

AREAS OF SPECIALISM
- Artificial Intelligence
- Biotechnology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Electronics
- Electrical Engineering
- Engineering - Other
- Life Sciences
- Mechanical Engineering
- Technology
- Physics

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED
- Graduate Jobs: 1-2
- Placements
- Internships
- Insight Days

OFFICE LOCATIONS
North West and Scotland

CONTACT DETAILS
E: careers@hindles.co.uk
W: www.hindles.co.uk

TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

NAME Phoebe Hunter
LOCATION Liverpool
UNIVERSITY Liverpool
DEGREE Physics

I studied for my Physics BSc degree at the University of Liverpool and in my final year, I decided that I was ready to start building my career. I was attracted to the job of a patent attorney because it presents the opportunity to make use of my physics degree in combination with preparing written documents. After interviewing with various firms, I was offered a position as a trainee patent attorney.

A typical week in the life of a trainee patent attorney involves spending a large amount of time reading documents containing technical information and preparing written arguments based on technical and legal understanding.

When drafting a patent application, my time is spent reviewing information about an invention and deciding on the appropriate language to use to describe the invention. This involves making a judgement as to which wording best describes the invention and covers the interests of your client. It’s a skill that I have developed since I started in the profession and still have further to go!

During prosecution of a patent application, I usually work on preparing letters to the patent office. As part of this, I spend time reviewing documents that have been cited as being relevant to the patent application I am working on. Generally, the aim is to identify the differences between the cited documents and the patent application and to present arguments as to why the differences are technically advantageous. This requires the ability to understand how different technologies work to be able to compare them to each other. At Hindles, I can work on a variety of different technologies, which means that I am developing my technical understanding in a number of different technical fields and also dealing with a variety of objections.

Another aspect of life as a trainee patent attorney is sitting exams. Although the exam period is only once or twice a year, revision can take up lots of your free time outside of work for the months before the exams. The qualified attorneys at Hindles are happy to spend time explaining aspects of the law to help with passing exams, but also provide valuable advice on practicalities of doing the job, such as working with clients.

I would suggest that if you enjoy the challenge of finding solutions to complex problems and providing well-reasoned support for your decisions, then this could be the career for you!
The firm
Founded in 1892, Hoffmann Eitle is one of the oldest and largest intellectual property law firms in Europe. The firm has full-service offices in London, Munich, Düsseldorf, Milan, Madrid, Hamburg, Barcelona and Amsterdam. Our high standing amongst the leading IP firms in Europe is built upon providing clients with top quality IP legal services.

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

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

Job prospects
In the last decade, the firm has expanded rapidly. We now have 119 qualified attorneys with a further 28 technical assistants at various stages of training. We have much to offer the right candidate: we provide first-class training, carried out under the close supervision of highly skilled attorneys; our trainees have a choice of studying for the Certificate in IP Law at Queen Mary University of London, or taking the Institute foundation examinations; and our London trainees spend six months in our Munich office, allowing them to attend hearings at the EPO.

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

COMPANY INFORMATION

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS
No. of Employees: 445
No. of Partners: 47 (4 in London)
No. of Qualified Patent Attorneys: 119
No. of Trainee Patent Attorneys: 28

AREAS OF SPECIALISM
- Artificial Intelligence
- Biotechnology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Electronics
- Electrical Engineering
- Engineering - Other
- Life Sciences
- Mechanical Engineering
- Technology
- Physics

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED
- Graduate Jobs: 2 (in London)
- Placements
- Internships
- Insight Days

OFFICE LOCATIONS
London and Rest of Europe

CONTACT DETAILS
E: pm@hoffmanneitle.com
W: www.hoffmanneitle.com/en/career

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

I joined the E-tech team (focused on electronics, software and telecoms) at Hoffmann Eitle in January 2021 after, in agreement with the firm, taking a six-month break post-graduation to explore Europe and complete the short commissioning course at Sandhurst. My background is in Electrical and Information Engineering, with a focus on optical communication systems and machine learning.

I have worked on a wide range of technologies so far such as, for example, optical coherence tomography, energy storage systems, cybersecurity and MRI, and this list is ever expanding. To me, this diversity of work is one of the most exciting parts of life as a patent attorney, as a trainee attorney is constantly exposed to, and quickly expected to gain an understanding of, cutting edge technology in a variety of fields.

Life at the Firm
Hoffmann Eitle is one pan-European firm, with a head office in Munich, where the majority of people at the firm are based, and smaller expanding offices in London, Düsseldorf, and Hamburg. The firm also has a presence in Milan, Madrid, Barcelona and Amsterdam. All trainees based in London are encouraged to undertake a secondment to the Munich office for a period of up to six months.

I eagerly took Hoffmann Eitle up on this offer and have just returned from spending six months at the Munich office. This was a fantastic opportunity to be mentored by partners in the E-tech team based there.

This provided further variety to the range of technologies on which I have worked and provided me with exposure to further types of work one is expected to do as a qualified patent attorney. Upon returning to the London office, I have been able to continue to work with these Munich partners, with whom I am looking forward to being able to catch up in person during our summer and end-of-year parties hosted in Munich each year.

Hoffmann Eitle’s London office currently operates on a hybrid remote working basis. This balances the numerous benefits of home working with regular in-person contact with your colleagues – something which no amount of Zoom calls can replace!

My Advice
Try to work with and learn from as many attorneys and partners as you can as a trainee. Everybody has their own style and their own preferences for, experiences and strengths in, certain aspects of the profession. Gaining this exposure will allow you access to a broad variety of different types of work, different industries and types of client, thereby allowing you to develop a well-rounded understanding of a variety of ways in which a particular problem may be navigated.
Who we are
IP Asset is committed to the highest levels of technical and legal excellence. Our growing teams take the time to get to know our clients and work with them hand-in-hand to extract maximum value from their ideas. At every stage of the IP process, our focus is on making the complex simple.

We appreciate the importance of taking a holistic approach to intellectual property strategy and, alongside our main areas of patents, designs and trademarks, we provide personalised coaching and advice on protecting valuable know-how and trade secrets. All team members are actively encouraged to engage with multiple aspects of practice, strategy and business development and manage client portfolios from an early stage.

Combining many years’ experience in managing IP worldwide with varied technical and commercial backgrounds, our Life Sciences, Chemistry, Engineering and Trademark teams adapt their expertise to each case to deliver pragmatic advice.

What about you?
We provide on-the-job mentoring and one-to-one support to help you through your professional qualifications. We keep a strong emphasis on team cohesion and enjoy regular social events, both organised and spontaneous!

We always welcome speculative applications for trainee positions or qualified positions at our Oxford, London or Dublin offices. So if you:

• have top communication skills, and
• work well in an engaged and sociable environment
• have top communication skills, and
• are keen to stretch yourself as part of a cracking team
then get in touch with your CV and cover letter.

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

COMPANY INFORMATION

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS
No. of Employees: <25
No. of Partners: 3
No. of Qualified Patent Attorneys: 5
No. of Trainee Patent Attorneys: 4

AREAS OF SPECIALISM
- Artificial Intelligence
- Biotechnology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Electronics
- Electrical Engineering
- Engineering - Other
- Life Sciences
- Mechanical Engineering
- Technology
- Physics

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED
- Graduate Jobs: 1-3
- Placements: Varies
- Internships: Varies
- Insight Days

OFFICE LOCATIONS
London, South East (excl London) and Rep of Ireland

CONTACT DETAILS
E: recruitment@ipasset.com
W: www.ipasset.com

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

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

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

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

What We Can Offer
Beyond the attractive benefit package we offer all employees (including up to 30 days’ holiday), our trainees will have the opportunity to develop 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.

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

What We Do
We are a small and nimble firm of patent and trade mark attorneys providing conventional IP related services as well as bespoke IP management and advice on a consultancy basis. We help clients protect, manage and importantly commercialise their IP. We regularly help our clients to secure business support, investment and grant funding to help propel their innovation towards the market in the UK and overseas.

Where We Are
Our main office is based in the seaside town of Swanage, but our client base is throughout the UK. Our main office provides a central hub that supports our employees and consultants enabling them to provide a full service with the option of working remotely or at our office.

Our Clients
Our clients are mainly SME and start-up businesses, but we also represent a number of larger companies and we have a growing range of overseas originating work, mostly in software and engineering related subject matter.

Our Network
We work closely with a network of professional specialists and businesses to identify new clients and assist existing clients and have been acknowledged as one of the top 20 firms filing new UK patent applications.

We are focused on driving innovation and continuously work to further develop connections locally and at a national level to enable more clients to successfully commercialise their IP.

Who We Are

What We Do

Where We Are

Our Clients

Our Network

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

COMPANY INFORMATION

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

No. of Employees: 4
No. of Qualified Patent Attorneys: 2

AREAS OF SPECIALISM

- Artificial Intelligence
- Biotechnology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Electronics
- Electrical Engineering
- Engineering - Other
- Life Sciences
- Mechanical Engineering
- Technology
- Physics

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

- Graduate Jobs: Varies
- Placements
- Internships
- Insight Days

OFFICE LOCATIONS

South West

CONTACT DETAILS

E: officemanager@ipconsult.co.uk
W: www.ipconsult.co.uk

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 define and reward creativity.

Patent Examiner role
Patent Examiners help companies to innovate and grow by granting high quality, valid patents. They scrutinise both the technical and legal aspects of a patent application, comparing the new invention against those found in patent databases, before considering whether or not to grant a patent.

Patent examining offers an unusual opportunity to combine your scientific and technical knowledge with legal skills. We are seeking people with highly developed analytical and critical skills, as well as the communication skills necessary to express complex technical and legal arguments along with strong oral communication skills to communicate effectively with colleagues and customers. The office deals with a wide range of subject matter from pharmaceuticals and biotech through to telecommunications and artificial intelligence.

Recruitment requirements
Patent examiners require or are expected to achieve at least a 2:2 degree or equivalent in a relevant science, engineering, computer science or mathematics subject, or relevant industrial experience at that level. GCSE grade C or above in Mathematics and English is also required. Additional requirements may be necessary in specific technology areas.

Professional developments
No exams are required, instead examiners undergo a two month in-house training period on joining the office. Trainees are then assigned to a Senior Examiner who supervises further development and on-going training. A technical training programme also provides continual opportunities for development within different areas of technology.

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About Us
J A Kemp is one of the largest UK and European patent and trade mark attorney firms with offices in London, Oxford, Cambridge, Paris and Munich.

J A Kemp’s patent attorneys handle patent applications in the UK, Europe and worldwide. The firm has particular expertise in patent oppositions and appeals, especially before the European Patent Office.

J A Kemp has a varied client base ranging from startups, spinouts and SMEs through to some of the largest corporate clients and most prestigious academic institutions in the world.

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:
We offer a programme of training to take you right through to qualification as a patent attorney (European and UK Chartered). We support you with one to one mentoring, external courses, internal tutorials and on-the-job training. We are very proud of our training programme and the examination success rate achieved by our candidates. We will continue to support your professional development throughout your career with the firm. We offer a good work/life balance combined with excellent salary prospects, flexible working and generous benefits. We have a friendly and supportive culture.

I really enjoyed my degree, but I realised quite early on that I did not want to pursue a career working in a lab. I wanted a job where I could use my scientific knowledge and the skills I had acquired from my degree, but in a commercial context. I saw an advert online for an open day at an IP firm, and it sounded like exactly the sort of thing I was looking for. To find out more about the patent profession, I attended a couple of open days and an internship, which confirmed to me that this was the career path I wanted to follow.

Before joining J A Kemp, I completed an MSc in Management of Intellectual Property at Queen Mary University, which gave me a good foundation of IP knowledge before beginning my training (and it also meant that I didn’t have to sit the first round of exams once my training began!).

I’ve now been at the firm for just over a year, and I am very glad that I decided to pursue this career, particularly at J A Kemp. The work is varied and intellectually stimulating – there’s always something new to learn, and no two days are the same! As a trainee, you will be working on real cases from the get-go (under the supervision of your mentoring partner).

As a trainee patent attorney, there’s a lot to learn and exams to prepare for, but the firm provides lots of support to help you through the process. Every trainee is assigned a partner as their mentor, who oversees their progress and offers guidance on any questions or issues that may arise. Your mentor will provide most of your work at first, but you will also begin to work with multiple partners as your training progresses. This means that you get to experience a range of working styles, helping to shape you into a well-rounded attorney.

Alongside the on-the-job training, the firm runs in-house tutorials to prepare you for the exams. These are run by trainees/associates who have recently taken the exams, so they have up-to-date knowledge on what to expect and how to prepare. There’s also a monthly “junior journal club”, where trainees discuss case law.

As a large firm, J A Kemp is a very sociable place to work. You will join the firm as part of a cohort of trainees, and everyone is really friendly and approachable. There’s plenty going on outside of work, from firm-wide events and parties, to sports and pub trips. A really great thing about the profession is that there isn’t a culture of working long hours, so I’ve found that I’ve been able to maintain a really good work-life balance since joining the firm. In addition, the firm’s Mental Health Committee and Diversity and Inclusion Committee are continually working to ensure that J A Kemp is an enjoyable, supportive and inclusive place to work for everyone.
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
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.

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 ten 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 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.

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.

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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 is a partnership in the true sense of the word. We work collegiately as a firm, pooling our knowledge and experience, and collaboratively with our clients to achieve their goals. Established in 1906, we are one of Europe’s leading patent and trade mark firms.

We're known for professional, commercially-minded advice delivered in plain English by expert attorneys. We believe in tailoring our approach to fit each client and we thrive on the challenge of helping them to navigate the complex world of patents, trade marks, designs and copyright.

With many leading science and technology specialists amongst our attorneys, the firm is ideally placed to advise on the legal, technical and commercial interests that come together in this complex area of the law.

Our approach to training

We’re known for the quality of our structured training programme, and it’s the support we offer that really sets our approach apart, starting with a partner or associate who will mentor you throughout. Another key difference is the level of responsibility – expect to be in client meetings early on in your training. You’ll be supervised, but we know that the best (and most enjoyable) way to learn is to let you roll up your sleeves and get stuck in alongside other members of the team.

The exams can be tough, but the good news is that work in good order are extremely important therefore attention to detail and keeping my during my day, quickly switching between them, Sometimes I work on 4 or 5 different cases profession?

What skills are useful in this sector/career in R&D.

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 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 generation sector, but also find application in
defining extremely advanced technologies which are relevant not only for the energy generation sector, but also find application in
electricity, 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 sector/profession?

Sometimes I work on 4 or 5 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.

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**COMPANY INFORMATION**

**EMPLOYEE NUMBERS**
- No. of Employees: 233
- No. of Partners: 36
- No. of Qualified Patent Attorneys: 70
- No. of Trainee Patent Attorneys: 37

**AREAS OF SPECIALISM**
- Artificial Intelligence
- Biotechnology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Electronics
- Electrical Engineering
- Engineering - Other
- Life Sciences
- Mechanical Engineering
- Technology
- Physics

**OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED**
- Graduate Jobs: See website
- Placements
- Internships
- Insight Days

**OFFICE LOCATIONS**
- London and Rest of Europe

**CONTACT DETAILS**
- E: hiring@kilburnstrode.com
- W: www.kilburnstrode.com

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

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**TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY**

**NAME**
Alessandro Sona

**LOCATION**
London

**UNIVERSITY**
Eindhoven University of Technology

**DEGREE**
MSc Science and Technology of Nuclear Fusion
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 IP is a rapidly expanding firm of European patent and trade mark attorneys based in Glasgow and with satellite offices in Oxford and Cambridge. 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.

We 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 IP has also signed up to the IP Inclusive Charter, which demonstrates our commitment to supporting and promoting equality, diversity and inclusion in the IP profession.

Why work for us?

We are 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.
Marks& Clerk LLP

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. Working closely with our associated solicitor firm, we provide a comprehensive range of intellectual property services to a variety of clients, from multinational corporations to the latest start-up ventures, in all sectors worldwide.

What we offer
Our extensive network and the strength of our client portfolio gives our attorneys a great platform to develop their careers, and to work on the technology that best suits their experience and interests.

Each year we recruit a group of trainees across our UK offices, who are given the support needed to achieve qualification as Chartered (UK) and European Patent Attorneys. Our comprehensive in-house Training Academy, combines lectures and tutorials with mentoring and supervision from Partners and other qualified attorneys. The Academy has a strong track record and our trainees regularly receive national prizes for their examination success. In addition, our business skills training supports wider career development. We offer excellent remuneration, benefits and career development so you can enjoy a rewarding career in intellectual property.

What we are looking for
We recruit graduates with degrees in electronics, engineering (all disciplines), computer science and AI, 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!

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

Why did you choose a job in this profession?
It’s always hard to know exactly what a job will be like before you start it. But, after spending time talking to people in the profession (and reading this guide!), I had a feeling that a career as a Patent Attorney would be something I’d enjoy.

Having worked in a different field for a year after graduating, I was missing chemistry (if not necessarily the chemistry lab!). I was keen to get back to something which made use of my science background. I also knew that being a Patent Attorney involved a lot of writing in one way or another, e.g. making written arguments or drafting applications, which is something I have always enjoyed.

During my interviews at Marks & Clerk, I had several opportunities to talk to different people in the firm and everyone was very friendly. It was this that persuaded me to move into the profession, and I’m pleased that I did!

What are your main duties/role
At M&C, trainees have an opportunity to get stuck-in to plenty of interesting and substantive work, pretty soon after joining. No one expects you to get everything right first time and I’ve had a lot of support and guidance from my supervisor. It’s satisfying to feel that you are getting better at things as time goes on!

When I first started, I worked mainly on the prosecution stage of the patent process, trying to overcome objections from patent offices. I had now started to get involved in drafting patent applications – translating experimental data from the client into patentable claims that reflect a broader inventive concept. Both aspects have a good balance of analytical problem-solving and more creative writing.

Aside from the core attorney work, there are other things to get involved with too. Recently, as part of our office’s business development work, I have been involved in contributing to online articles about inventions and innovations from the local Cambridge area.

What skills are useful in this profession?
A curiosity to understand how things work and to problem solve is useful, as you need to understand the client’s invention, to help best protect it. You won’t necessarily have come across the technology being discussed, so you often need to do some research and get to grips with it quite quickly.

A more specific skill that’s useful, is the ability to put yourself into someone else’s shoes. For example, when responding to Examination Reports, it’s good to take time to understand where the Examiner’s objections are coming from. By understanding their point of view, it’s easier to work out how you might overcome their objections and get the patent granted.

What would you like to achieve in the future?
I’m now into my second year in the job, so I am looking ahead to taking the remaining UK qualifying exams and then onto the EQE’s. I was pleased to pass the UK Foundation Exams this year and to receive the Chris Gibson and Keith Farwell CIPA prizes for my results in FC2 and FC5, and the Moss prize for my combined FC1 & FC3 exam scores.

At M&C, we’re lucky to have the support of our in-house Training Academy, which provides resources and advice to help trainees through the qualifying exams, as well as support with settling into the profession. One of the best things is being part of a nation-wide cohort, meaning everyone can support each other.

COMPANY INFORMATION

| EMPLOYEE NUMBERS | No. of Employees: 337
|                  | No. of Partners: 51
|                  | No. of Qualified Patent Attorneys: 47
|                  | No. of Trainee Patent Attorneys: 37

<table>
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<th>AREAS OF SPECIALISM</th>
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| Artificial Intelligence
| Biotechnology
| Chemistry
| Computer Science
| Electronics
| Electrical Engineering
| Engineering - Other
| Life Sciences
| Mechanical Engineering
| Technology
| Physics

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| Placements
| Internships
| Insight Days

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<th>OFFICE LOCATIONS</th>
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| London, South East (excl London), West Midlands, East Anglia, North West and Scotland

<table>
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<tr>
<th>CONTACT DETAILS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| E: graduates@marks-clerk.com
| W: https://www.marks-clerk.com

E: graduates@marks-clerk.com
W: https://www.marks-clerk.com

TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>Mark Schuster</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LOCATION</td>
<td>Cambridge</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNIVERSITY</td>
<td>Cambridge</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEGREE</td>
<td>BA(Hons) &amp; MSci, Chemistry, Natural Sciences Tripos</td>
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For the latest jobs visit
www.ipcareers.co.uk
Mathys & Squire is a firm of patent and trade mark attorneys advising on all aspects of intellectual property. We seek to combine technical expertise, specialist legal skills and commercial awareness to help maximise our clients’ rewards from innovation and minimise their risks in bringing that innovation to market. We have been established for over 100 years but have a dynamic approach and progressive culture.

**Our requirements**

We seek to recruit the very brightest and best graduates with a background in engineering and science. A curiosity about how things work, and an analytical mind and first rate communication skills are essential. Our business is focused on providing added value to our clients, so we also look for an appreciation of the commercial implications of intellectual property.

**Your development**

We have an impressive portfolio of clients, from household names to emerging technologies. Our annual graduate intake is increasing to ensure that we have a sufficient number of trainees at each level of qualification, allowing all trainees to benefit from the experience of those ahead of them, as well as from the support of others within their peer group. We have an informal and friendly atmosphere; we know that hard work must be balanced with fun so we have a very active social committee who organise events from softball to quizzes to black tie parties.

We have a good record of helping trainees to prepare for professional examinations. We run internal tutorials and provide access to external courses. All of our trainees work under the direct supervision of a Partner or Associate, having exposure to clients from the very earliest stage of their career, and taking more personal responsibility for clients and their cases as they develop.

We recruit with the long-term in mind and our aim is to train our trainees to be future partners of the firm, and as such we have a visible career progression framework. In summary, we offer a stimulating environment and a rewarding career.

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The first year in the role is almost completely on-the-job training, including diving into real cases and drafting responses from the very first few weeks. I had the opportunity to work with a range of clients, carry out patent prosecution work as well as work on more complex opposition cases and attend oral proceedings. After completing my first year, I then attended the PGCert Intellectual Property Law course at Queen Mary University of London, studying four days a week and working in the London Office once per week. I have since started preparation for the UK final exams.

Mathys & Squire has great training opportunities for trainee patent attorneys, with ‘enrichment sessions’ for new starters to learn the basic tenets of patent law, and multiple tutorials each week for those preparing to sit qualifying exams. Having a large cohort of trainees at the firm really makes a difference as there is an extensive support network both at your own level and a year or two ahead of you. There is also a cohesive atmosphere in the firm with social events running throughout the year, the summer and Christmas parties being particular highlights!

I decided I wanted to pursue a career as a patent attorney whilst still at university, having completed an internship in the patents department of a large pharmaceutical company during my undergraduate degree. During this opportunity I had the chance to work on real cases, draft responses to the European Patent Office, and review patents and prior art documents in advance of oral proceedings. I quickly realised that the role of a patent attorney was well-suited to my skillset as I have always enjoyed reading, assimilating information, and developing written arguments. As a patent attorney, I am able to combine these skills with my passion for science, keeping up to date with new developments in the field and constantly learning about new areas of technology.

Following my Master’s degree in Neuroscience at King’s College London, and briefly working as a Research Assistant in a molecular biology lab, I started my job at Mathys & Squire in 2021. Becoming a trainee patent attorney really is a steep learning curve as you gain so much knowledge in a short space of time, but it is also very rewarding, and I love the variety of work I see day-to-day and the broad subject areas that my role covers.

**COMPANY INFORMATION**

- **EMPLOYEE NUMBERS**
  - No. of Employees: 206
  - No. of Partners: 30
  - No. of Qualified Patent Attorneys: 45
  - No. of Trainee Patent Attorneys: 16

- **AREAS OF SPECIALISM**
  - Artificial Intelligence
  - Biotechnology
  - Chemistry
  - Computer Science
  - Electronics
  - Electrical Engineering
  - Engineering - Other
  - Life Sciences
  - Mechanical Engineering
  - Technology
  - Physics

- **OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED**
  - Graduate Jobs: 3-5
  - Placements
  - Internships: Varies
  - Insight Days

- **OFFICE LOCATIONS**
  - London, South East (excl London), West Midlands, East Anglia and North West

- **CONTACT DETAILS**
  - E: hr@mathys-squire.com
  - W: www.mathys-squire.com

For the latest jobs visit [www.ipcareers.co.uk](http://www.ipcareers.co.uk)
Maucher Jenkins is a recognised leading firm of Chartered (UK) and European Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys, Attorneys-at-Law and IP Litigators. We act for many advanced companies globally; companies which set the pace in science, technology and innovative product design. Our diverse client base includes individual inventors and entrepreneurs, early stage/start-ups, SMEs and multinational corporations. Some of our larger clients are headquartered in USA, China and Japan. 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 established offices in London, Farnham, Munich and Freiburg. We also have satellite offices in Cambridge, Edinburgh, Kulmbach and Basel, together with representative offices in Beijing and Shenzhen. We have 16 partners and 150 staff across the firm, driving our enthusiastic and motivated workforce.

**Why choose us?**
Trainee Patent Attorneys at Maucher Jenkins can expect to be 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 encourage you to showcase your knowledge and talent—offering you the opportunity to put your ideas and expertise into practice.

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. This insightful training aims to support your development and progression into an industry of leading professionals.

At Maucher Jenkins, we foster a culture of mutual respect for the individual and the expression of talent; one that inspires and empowers employees to fulfill their own potential and the potential of the firm. We are a friendly team and we take pride in our professional, encouraging and supportive culture. We are proud to attract the most talented, passionate and brightest people to this specialist and unique area of law.

**COMPANY INFORMATION**

**EMPLOYEE NUMBERS**
- No. of Employees: 147
- No. of Partners: 16
- No. of Qualified Patent Attorneys: 24
- No. of Trainee Patent Attorneys: 14

**AREAS OF SPECIALISM**
- Artificial Intelligence
- Biotechnology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Electronics
- Electrical Engineering
- Engineering - Other
- Life Sciences
- Mechanical Engineering
- Technology
- Physics

**OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED**
- Graduate Jobs: 1-2
- Placements: 1-2
- Internships
- Insight Days

**OFFICE LOCATIONS**
- London, South East (excl London), Rest of Europe and Rest of the World

**CONTACT DETAILS**
- E: careers@maucherjenkins.com
- W: www.maucherjenkins.com/careers
- For the latest jobs visit www.ipcareers.co.uk

Having worked as a Chinese patent attorney for three years, I joined Maucher Jenkins in November 2021. Prior to entering the patent profession, I spent a year as an assistant electrical engineer following my graduation from university.

**What are your main duties/roles?**
Since my first day as a trainee, I have been fully engaged in handling real-life cases and acquiring practical training, all while receiving consistent support from my supervisors. As part of my responsibilities, I typically review cases and draft letters to the EPO or UKIPO for prosecution. These documents are then carefully reviewed and revised by a partner or a supervising associate, followed by a one-on-one discussion to finalise them. This aspect of the work is predominantly individual, providing ample opportunities to establish a comfortable working pace and showcase my grasp of the subject matter.

The partners, associates, and support staff are all incredibly friendly and approachable, fostering a positive and supportive environment. Moreover, my workload has been quite manageable, gradually increasing as I gain confidence and experience in the field.

**What would you like to achieve in the future?**
I have completed the IP PGCert at Queen Mary University of London during my MSc in Management of Intellectual Property, this allows me to participate in the final exams for qualification as a UK patent attorney during my first year as a trainee, successfully passing one of my recent exams. This year, my goal is to make further progress in the UK exams in October. Additionally, I plan to take the pre-EQE exam next year, progressing my journey towards qualifying as a European patent attorney.

Maucher Jenkins provides extensive support for exam preparations. While a significant portion of training occurs through on-the-job discussions and preparing responses to Examiners, we also have regular training sessions and discussions on various IP topics within the firm. This proves highly advantageous for exam preparations. Moreover, I gain valuable insights from other trainees and associates when they share their experiences and discuss cases they deal with in their daily work during training discussions.

**Do you have any advice for anyone wanting to enter the profession?**
I would suggest conducting thorough research on the profession to gain a clear understanding of the nature of the work involved. This will allow you assess if it aligns with your career goals. If possible, I highly recommend pursuing a work experience opportunity which offers a valuable firsthand insight and overview of what to expect in the field.
Why Mewburn Ellis?
Mewburn Ellis is the forward-looking IP firm. We work with organisations building the brands and technologies that will define tomorrow. We help them use their intellectual property to navigate that journey - to imagine, plan, nurture, protect and deliver their innovations to market. Ranked top tier, the firm is synonymous with quality and technical excellence.

What can you expect?
Graduate recruitment is at the heart of our firm and is something we invest a lot of time and energy into. We are renowned in the profession for our training programme and offer a professional education in conjunction with hands-on practical experience. This includes the opportunity to work with diverse and exciting clients in a supportive and relaxed environment.

We work hard to maintain a collaborative atmosphere and friendly feel that is often only found in smaller firms. We are team players and respect each other’s opinions and are professional but relaxed. We expect you to work hard and perform, but not without encouragement and investment from us.

We promote a flexible, cross-office approach to working, so we’re one firm where everyone knows everyone else. This is further cemented by our commitment to the training and development of our people. Many of the partners trained here which has helped to create a supportive, informal environment and a true sense that everyone works together contributing to the success of the firm.

What are we looking 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 and no prior knowledge of patent law is needed but a STEM degree is essential.

If you’re ambitious, forward-looking and enjoy a challenge, come join us. In exchange we promise you a stimulating and rewarding career, cutting edge work and a chance to be part of our growth story.

I thoroughly enjoyed my degrees and knew I wanted to stay in the field of science. Poor job security put me off pursuing a career in academia. I came across patent law during my PhD and realised that it requires technical scientific knowledge and analytical skills, both of which were aspects of research that I enjoyed.

I undertook a short internship at another IP firm and attended an open day at Mewburn Ellis while considering where to apply, both experiences were incredibly informative. I applied early on to many firms with offices in London. Mewburn Ellis were fastest to get back to me and offered me a role months before other firms picked up my application.

Life at the firm
From my first day in the office, I have been working on real cases. The workload largely requires digesting information, and communicating it to others. I find communicating technical information to specific audiences a very engaging part of the job.

Mewburn Ellis has an unusual practice of rotating trainees between different partners for approximately 6-month intervals. This means we get to experience different caseloads and working practices of partners at the firm. Some moves require relocation to different offices, all of which are in vibrant cities.

Many partners here were trained in-house and remember being in our position. As a result, trainees are respected within the firm. From early on I have been in direct contact with clients and my work is usually billed in my name. This establishes relationships with our clients that are important in later years. I have been exposed to an extensive range of topics (within chemistry). My cases have involved pharmaceuticals, building materials, food additives, analytical equipment and dyes amongst many more.

A typical day
My daily tasks fluctuate, however, a typical day involves:
- Reviewing instructions from foreign attorneys
- Responding to clients queries about their patent portfolios
- Disseminating examination/search reports to clients
- Drafting arguments in response to patent examiners
- Drafting patent applications

Challenges
The coming years present many challenges, not least, in preparing for the UK and European qualifying exams. Mewburn Ellis provide regular tutorials for trainees. These have already helped me progress a lot. Trainees here also attend the Queen Mary Certificate in Intellectual Property Law which exempts us from the foundation exams to reach UK qualification.

If you are enthused by new technology and its inner workings, as well as analysing complex technical information and communicating it effectively, then patent law may well be a good fit for you. I find the job stimulating and fulfilling, whichever level you are at within the firm, there is always more to learn!
Mohun Aldridge Sykes
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ATTORNEYS

About us
Mohun Aldridge Sykes is a young and growing firm of IP professionals based in the Northern Powerhouse city of Leeds. The firm prides itself on its consistently high level of service and quality of work across a range of sectors, with the vast majority of its clients being based in the United Kingdom. Whilst covering all aspects of patent and trade mark practice, our emphasis is on understanding the wider business needs of our clients and providing sound commercial advice.

Leeds is the vibrant unofficial capital of Yorkshire and combines world class arts, sport and entertainment with close proximity to some of the most beautiful countryside in the UK.

Key Requirements
• Excellent communication skills
• Science or engineering degree (2:2 min)
• Analytical approach to solving problems
• Ability to work within a team
• Good with detail.

Opportunities
We are always interested to hear from able, talented graduates from science and engineering disciplines to train as patent attorneys in our Leeds office.

Successful applicants will begin solving real client problems from the very start, under the close supervision of qualified attorneys. Trainees will be supported and encouraged on their journey to qualification and beyond. Client-facing skills and a positive attitude to development feature high on our list of requirements.

COMPANY INFORMATION

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS
No. of Employees: 5
No. of Partners: 2

AREAS OF SPECIALISM
- Artificial Intelligence
- Biotechnology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Electronics
- Electrical Engineering
- Engineering - Other
- Life Sciences
- Mechanical Engineering
- Technology
- Physics

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED
- Graduate Jobs: Varies
- Placements
- Internships
- Insight Days

OFFICE LOCATIONS
Yorkshire & Humberside

CONTACT DETAILS
E: careers@mohun-ip.co.uk
W: www.mohun-ip.co.uk

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Trust values are fundamental in all we do at Murgitroyd. Our core culture and respect for all with whom we work. We produce an annual ESG report, available on our website.

One-Team
Above all we are an ethical firm, with a One-Team culture and respect for all with whom we work. We pride ourselves on providing a tailored and excellent global service to our clients, delivered to the ISO9001 quality standard. 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.

Above all we are an ethical firm, with a One-Team culture and respect for all with whom we work. Culture is fundamental in all we do at Murgitroyd. Our core values are Trust, Unity and Confidence. We produce an annual ESG report, available on our website.

COMPANY INFORMATION

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS
No. of Employees: 500+
No. of Partners: 79 (Directors)
No. of Qualified Patent Attorneys: 86
No. of Trainee Patent Attorneys: 26

AREAS OF SPECIALISM
- Artificial Intelligence
- Biotechnology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Electronics
- Electrical Engineering
- Engineering - Other
- Life Sciences
- Mechanical Engineering
- Technology
- Physics

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED
- Graduate Jobs: Varies
- Placements
- Internships
- Insight Days

OFFICE LOCATIONS
London, Yorkshire & Humberside, North East, North West, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

CONTACT DETAILS
E: recruit@murgitroyd.com
W: www.murgitroyd.com/careers

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

Why did you choose a job in this profession?
I studied engineering at university and got involved in my university’s electric Formula Student team in the final years of my degree. When I graduated, I went to work for an exciting electric vehicle start up as a project manager and was tasked with building an Intellectual Property portfolio from scratch.

I dived right in and learned as much about patent and design protection as I could, engaged a local firm of patent attorneys and began filing GB patent applications directed to our inventions. Through this I was exposed to the patent profession and became really interested in it. I enjoyed the work and could see myself as a patent attorney. I was excited by the opportunity to work on patents for a greater variety of technologies and businesses, to put my language skills to the test, and to feel the satisfaction of successful grant more often. The next steps for my career were clear.

What are your main duties/roles?
The majority of my time is split between drafting new patent applications and prosecuting existing applications. This means reading reports from the UK IPO or the EPO about the allowability (or lack of) of a patent application and drafting a response to overcome the objections raised.

In addition, I get involved in responding to a lot of new enquiries. I review new inventions to provide an opinion on patentability or registrability of designs, as well as meet with potential clients virtually to answer their questions about the patent process.

I spend some time every week in structured training as I will soon be taking exams to progress towards qualification.

I work for a few different attorneys and for a plethora of clients so the work is always varied and interesting. I learn something new every day.

What was the application process like – any advice?
I applied online in March. After a brief telephone interview I was invited to an in-person interview with three senior attorneys. The interview was fun and interesting, my interviewers were friendly. I had lots of questions about the firm and the profession and it was great to get these answered.

During the interview I was asked about my technical background, my interest and experience in IP and my understanding of the profession so far. There was also a technical task which involved providing a technical description of an everyday object and identifying differences between it and a similar item.

My advice would be to try to learn as much as possible about the profession, the path to qualification and the firm before you apply. This will help you craft a CV that really stands out to the reader as relevant to the role. See examples of CVs and interview questions from other interviewers.

Read up on some of the latest IP news, for example take a look at Murgitroyd Insights.

When you first start as a trainee it is likely that you will work very closely with one attorney for a while, so interviewers are looking for someone who is technically able, but moreover someone they can work and get on with every day. So, as cheesy as it is, my advice is to try to relax and be yourself in your interview. Don’t let nerves get the better of you!

NAME
Elizabeth Edwards

LOCATION
Southampton

UNIVERSITY
Bath

DEGREE
MEng (Hons) Integrated Mechanical and Electrical Engineering with placement year

Why did you choose a job in this profession?
I studied engineering at university and got involved in my university’s electric Formula Student team in the final years of my degree. When I graduated, I went to work for an exciting electric vehicle start up as a project manager and was tasked with building an Intellectual Property portfolio from scratch.

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In addition, I get involved in responding to a lot of new enquiries. I review new inventions to provide an opinion on patentability or registrability of designs, as well as meet with potential clients virtually to answer their questions about the patent process.

I spend some time every week in structured training as I will soon be taking exams to progress towards qualification.
Based in Farnham, Surrey, Openshaw & Co. is a client-focussed firm of UK and European Patent attorneys, applying technical and legal expertise to advise clients on IP matters across a range of practice areas.

**Our Team**

Our growing team of 22 includes 8 qualified patent attorneys specialising in patent preparation and prosecution, with a track record of securing valuable patents at the EPO and UKIPO. In particular, attorneys at Openshaw work to understand our clients’ commercial needs and develop tailored IP strategies to help clients better protect, manage and commercialise their IP, from patents to design and trade mark registrations. Attorneys are supported by our team of patent paralegals who are experienced and knowledgeable in patent administration and formalities.

**Our Clients**

We work with a broad range of clients, from leading multinational companies to local SMEs and private inventors. Their work spans many industries, including telecommunications, software, algorithms, blockchain applications, NFTs, engineering, aerospace, energy and renewables, electrosciences, optics, and materials science.

**Our Opportunities**

We are always on the lookout for people with the skills required to tackle challenging patent work and engage with clients to deliver clear and effective advice. We offer a number of opportunities for graduates looking to embark on a career in patent law or learn more about the world of IP, or for qualified patent attorneys to join a growing, client-facing firm with a flexible work environment.

**Your Skills**

A successful Trainee Patent Attorney or Summer Intern candidate will rely on a variety of skills to excel at the intersection of technology, law and business.

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**COMPANY INFORMATION**

**EMPLOYEE NUMBERS**

No. of Employees: 22
No. of Qualified Patent Attorneys: 8
No. of Trainee Patent Attorneys: 2

**AREAS OF SPECIALISM**

- Artificial Intelligence
- Biotechnology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Electronics
- Electrical Engineering
- Engineering - Other
- Life Sciences
- Mechanical Engineering
- Technology
- Physics

**OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED**

- Graduate Jobs: 2
- Placements
- Internships
- Insight Days

**OFFICE LOCATIONS**

South East (excl London)

**CONTACT DETAILS**

E: mail@openshaw-and-co.com
W: www.openshaw-and-co.com

For the latest jobs visit www.ipcareers.co.uk
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 startups 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, 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. 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

Our trainees 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.

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 artifical intelligence, machine learning, health-tech, cleantech and renewables. We welcome applications from those with a PhD.

COMPANY INFORMATION

EMPLYEE NUMBERS

- No. of Employees: 78
- No. of Partners: 21
- No. of Qualified Patent Attorneys: 25
- No. of Trainee Patent Attorneys: 7

AREAS OF SPECIALISM

- Artificial Intelligence
- Biotechnology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Electronics
- Electrical Engineering
- Engineering - Other
- Life Sciences
- Mechanical Engineering
- Technology
- Physics

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

- Graduate Jobs: 2
- Placements
- Internships
- Insight Days

OFFICE LOCATIONS

- London, Yorkshire & Humberside and Rest of Europe

CONTACT DETAILS

E: tim.searing@pagewhite.com
W: www.pagewhite.com

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

What to expect as a Trainee Patent Attorney at Page White Farrer

After graduating from the University of Nottingham in 2020 with a Master’s in Physics, I researched a variety of jobs that might have suited the skills I had acquired from my degree. Training as a Patent Attorney stood out to me, as it enabled me to utilise my scientific and technical background in a commercial environment and to explore an unfamiliar legal discipline.

I joined Page White Farrer in January 2021 and work pre-dominantly in electronics and telecommunications. However, the firm also advises companies and inventors in many different sectors, including AI and data science and mechanical engineering.

Studying and exams

Soon after joining the firm, I started the PGCert in Intellectual Property at Bournemouth University. The course is 6 months long and consists of weekly lectures, coursework, and a written exam. With little to no knowledge of the patent system at the start, the course was excellent in helping me get to grips with a wide variety of IP including design rights, copyright, trademarks, and patents.

Page White Farrer made it very manageable to study and work alongside each other. I was given 2 days a week to concentrate on learning the Bournemouth course content, which gave me a good insight into specific laws and practices in the different IP systems. During the rest of the week, I was able to apply my knowledge to real life cases.

My next step is to sit the European Patent Attorney pre-examination at the start of 2023 and to take some of the UK Final Diploma exams in October.

Should you choose a career in intellectual property?

A career in IP can be challenging; there is a lot to learn and understanding new technologies can be tricky. However, the work is extremely interesting and varied; you are constantly looking at new inventions in many different fields. A career in IP is perfect for anyone who already has a strong technical background and wants to combine this with embracing a new legal domain.
Our Patents Group provides the strategic vision, creative support, and professional guidance needed to successfully protect and promote our clients’ inventions and ideas.

With over 55 experienced patent attorneys and agents based in London, New York and Tel-Aviv authorized to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), European Patent Office (EPO), UK Intellectual Property Office (UK IPO), 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 Patents Group offers complete services that include:
- Drafting, filing, and prosecution of patent applications
- Filing International patent applications under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), including filing of Regional and National Phase applications
- Analysis of prior art, patents, and patent applications, for both offensive and defensive purposes
- Counseling and opinion practice, including preparing legal opinions regarding patentability, infringement, freedom to operate, enforceability of patents and competitive analysis
- Oppositions, Reexaminations, 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

COMPANY INFORMATION

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS
- No. of Employees: 12
- No. of Partners: 5
- No. of Qualified Patent Attorneys: 6
- No. of Trainee Patent Attorneys: 2

AREAS OF SPECIALISM
- Artificial Intelligence
- Biotechnology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Electronics
- Electrical Engineering
- Engineering - Other
- Life Sciences
- Mechanical Engineering
- Technology
- Physics

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED
- Graduate Jobs: 1
- Placements
- Internships
- Insight Days

OFFICE LOCATIONS
- London, United States and Rest of the World

CONTACT DETAILS
- E: aweiler@pearlcohen.com
- W: www.PearlCohen.com

For the latest jobs visit www.ipcareers.co.uk
Potter Clarkson is one of the leading pan-European firms, with seven offices across the UK, Denmark, Sweden and Germany. Following a period of rapid international expansion over the last few years, we now provide an even better place to train as a patent or trade mark attorney, or IP solicitor.

The firm is consistently ranked in the top tier of major legal guides, such as Legal 500 and MIP.

We offer clients a full IP service to support them in achieving their commercial objectives. We pride ourselves in the exceptional level of client care offered by our approachable and engaged team. The breadth of our client base means we can offer opportunities to get involved in a diverse range of work.

We pride ourselves in recruiting outstanding graduates from around the world. Following on from a thorough and tailored induction, our trainees are supported through a comprehensive and highly regarded training programme. Our pan-European presence provides inspiring opportunities for secondments and knowledge sharing across our integrated offices. The exceptional opportunities offered to our trainees mean that we achieve a remarkable success in professional examinations.

We put Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at the centre of who we are and how we work, and are committed to ensuring that Potter Clarkson remains a welcoming workplace in which everyone can feel they belong. Read more about the steps we are taking at www.potterclarkson.com/who-we-are/equality-diversity-inclusion

We are committed to promoting a healthy work-life balance, and supporting the wellbeing of all our people. We offer a wide selection of health and wellbeing options including healthcare plans, flexible working options, free mindfulness sessions, a virtual Wellbeing and Social Hub, and mental health first aiders.

If you want to join our team and start an exciting IP career with Potter Clarkson, we’d love to hear from you.

COMPANY INFORMATION

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS
- No. of Employees: 232
- No. of Partners: 43
- No. of Qualified Patent Attorneys: 55
- No. of Trainee Patent Attorneys: 15

AREAS OF SPECIALISM
- Artificial Intelligence
- Biotechnology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Electronic
- Electrical Engineering
- Engineering - Other
- Life Sciences
- Mechanical Engineering
- Technology
- Physics

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED
- Graduate Jobs: 3-5
- Placements
- Internships
- Insight Days

OFFICE LOCATIONS
- London, East Midlands and Rest of Europe

CONTACT DETAILS
- W: www.potterclarkson.com/
  want-to-join-us/opportunities
- For the latest jobs visit www.ipcareers.co.uk

Following my graduation in 2021, I was just like any other graduate - without an idea of which career path to pursue. If there was anything I knew about myself, it was the fact that I needed a working environment in which every day would be a bit different, a bit challenging and rewarding. Since joining Potter Clarkson in 2022, I can be confident when I say that I have achieved exactly that.

What are your duties/roles?
When some people hear the word ‘trainee’, they naturally assume that we take the brunt of the work which is not true at all. As a trainee at Potter Clarkson, my training and personal development are always prioritised when tasks are allocated to me. Both my line manager and colleagues at the firm have always communicated well with me to ensure that I receive the best form of training. This includes systems and check-ins to ensure that I am constantly exposed to a variety of responses to the EPO; responses to a number of foreign patent offices; clients including small kick-starts and large pharma companies; patent application drafts; social networking opportunities and so much more.

Luckily, I have had the opportunity to work directly with a significant number of clients since my first day in the profession. My work largely involves drafting countless responses to the EPO during almost every stage of patent prosecution and patent applications for a wide-range of IP including new pharmaceutical compositions, new biodegradable chemical entities, new medical uses, polymorphs and even new non-therapeutic uses of drugs.

Of course, on the other side of life, there is a huge social aspect to the job! Although I started my job rather abruptly, I had such a warm welcoming to the firm. Within the first few months, I had participated in over a dozen socials, I became softball captain, attended the firm-wide summer reunion event in Nottingham, where I met over 100 new colleagues and so much more. Having only moved to London two months prior to starting the job and having a very limited social circle, this was perfect for me to settle in and meet so many new faces.

Is it a 9-5?
Although the job is not always 9-5, this is not a bad thing! The job is always changing in terms of workload - you may have urgent deadlines that require a bit of overtime or a quiet few days when you can work a bit more flexibly. Efficient time management is a key skill in this job when handling multiple deadlines at the same time.

What skills are useful in this profession?
Other than the technical knowledge of course, some skills that have been particularly useful to me are efficient time management skills, ability to work under pressure, attention to detail and problem-solving. For me, these are the core skills that I use every day at work and I am still developing and improving them to this day.

Any advice?
Working as a patent attorney comes with a huge amount of responsibility, but an equal amount of reward. If you are considering a career in IP, there are plenty of resources available to explore, including the IP Careers website. IP firm websites and other IP professionals on LinkedIn! Take opportunities to develop your knowledge and experience in your expertise by attending IP workshops/webinars, reaching out to patent attorneys and keeping up-to-date with novel technologies in your field.

Good luck on your journey!
COMPANY INFORMATION

**EMPLOYEE NUMBERS**
- No. of Employees: 181
- No. of Partners: 25
- No. of Qualified Patent Attorneys: 50
- No. of Trainee Patent Attorneys: 25

**AREAS OF SPECIALISM**
- Artificial Intelligence
- Biotechnology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Electronics
- Electrical Engineering
- Engineering - Other
- Life Sciences
- Mechanical Engineering
- Technology
- Physics

**OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED**
- Graduate Jobs: 2-8
- Placements
- Internships
- Insight Days

**OFFICE LOCATIONS**
- London, East Anglia and Rest of Europe

**CONTACT DETAILS**
- E: recruitment@reddie.co.uk
- W: www.reddie.co.uk/careers

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

### About Reddie & Grose
Reddie & Grose is an internationally renowned firm of patent, trade mark and design attorneys. With over 50 attorneys based in London, Cambridge and Munich, and The Hague, we offer services across all key technologies, with particular strengths in electronics and software, chemistry, engineering and biotechnology.

### Range of client services
We handle the full range of IP rights for a global client base ranging from SMEs through to large corporations. In the UK and Europe we work closely with solicitors, barristers and other members of the legal profession to support clients in litigation before the courts.

### Professional development
The firm has an outstanding reputation for training. Every trainee takes part in our bespoke training programme which complements the day to day training provided by the firm. Members of the firm are active in committees and councils of professional bodies in the UK and internationally, including the Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys and the Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys. Trainees are encouraged to take advantage of courses and lectures provided by the Chartered Institutes, Queen Mary, University of London and other organisations which supplement the thorough practical training provided internally.

### Minimum academics requirements
Good honours degree in a scientific or technical subject, as well as excellent English.

### TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>Sophie Peng</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LOCATION</td>
<td>Cambridge</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNIVERSITY</td>
<td>Imperial College London, ETH Zürich</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEGREE</td>
<td>Mechanical Engineering with a Year Abroad</td>
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**How did you get into the profession?**
As I was approaching the end of my studies I began to look at graduate jobs and stumbled across some trainee patent attorney positions which sounded intriguing. Having heard stories of IP infringement involving spin-out companies at university, I took a deeper look into the patent profession and found that it was a fascinating combination of analytical and written work based on both technical and legal knowledge. It seemed an interesting prospect so I applied and here I am!

**What attracted you to Reddie & Grose?**
The size and location of the firm mean I get to work with a variety of clients from local start-ups to multinational companies. Since we liaise with many international firms and attorneys, I get to learn how patent practice can vary around the world. As a training firm, there are many other trainees learning alongside you but the firm is small enough that you can get to know all of your colleagues fairly quickly.

**What are your main roles and responsibilities?**
It’s a real mixture of work! Sometimes I’m drafting or amending parts of a patent specification but often I’ll be preparing letters to clients, foreign attorneys or patent offices. Making sure that I’m communicating the necessary information in a clear and concise manner is a key part of my job. Paying close attention to my work is also critical, as anything that can be misinterpreted could become much more work in the future.

**Life at the firm so far...**
I've really enjoyed my time at the firm so far and there is a good work-life balance. I've had a variety of work with different attorneys within the firm and I've had the opportunity to meet clients and see their inventions, as well as observe oral proceedings for a patent opposition. There's a strong sense of community and regular training sessions mean I get to work with other trainees from the London and Cambridge office. Above all, the people are really friendly and happy to help whenever I have any questions.
SAGITTARIUS IP

Sagittarius IP is a highly respected firm of patent attorneys with offices in Marlow and Cambridge specialising in advising in the chemical, pharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors.

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. 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.

Sagittarius IP has featured as a leading firm in the Financial Times review of Europe’s patent law firms for the last five years and this year the firm was awarded the top “Gold” ratings for chemistry and biotechnology 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 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.

Sagittarius IP is heavily involved in training within the profession. We provide in-house exam tutorials in parallel with placement on external course to put our trainees in the best possible position to qualify and be successful in their careers going forward.

We offer a competitive salary, attractive bonus scheme and hybrid home/office working arrangements.

COMPANY INFORMATION

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS
No. of Employees: 21
No. of Partners: 4
No. of Qualified Patent Attorneys: 8
No. of Trainee Patent Attorneys: 4

AREAS OF SPECIALISM
- Artificial Intelligence
- Biotechnology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Electronics
- Electrical Engineering
- Engineering - Other
- Life Sciences
- Mechanical Engineering
- Technology
- Physics

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED
- Graduate Jobs: 0-2
- Placements
- Internships
- Insight Days

OFFICE LOCATIONS
South East (excl London) and East Anglia

CONTACT DETAILS
E: mail@sagittariusip.com
W: www.sagittariusip.com

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

What does an average day as a technical assistant look like?
At our firm, a big effort is made to expose trainees to a variety of work from patent drafting to contentious matters to ensure that they are ready for the transition to being a qualified attorney. My day can typically include meeting with clients to discuss new and ongoing patent filings, reviewing and reporting examination reports from various patent offices, drafting responses to said examination reports, and conducting freedom-to-operate or patentability reviews. I have also been involved in multiple opposition hearings, including attending oral proceedings by videoconference.

Do you have any advice for anyone wanting to enter the profession?
A big part of life as a trainee is preparing for exams. These exams are notoriously difficult and require a lot of studying in your own time at evenings and weekends. It is important to be aware of this when applying. Finding a firm that provides trainees with the right amount of support has also been crucial for me. Sagittarius IP is very hands on with exam preparation, offering weekly tutorials and sending trainees on external courses to give us the best possible chance to pass the exams.

Secondly, attention to detail is hugely important in this job. When applying for trainee positions make sure you check your CV and cover letter carefully for errors to demonstrate that you can produce high quality written work.

NAME
Zoe Parry

LOCATION
Cambridge

UNIVERSITY
Birmingham

DEGREE
PhD in Industrial Biotechnology

After completing my PhD, I worked as an Associate at a large consulting firm in their Life Sciences practice. I joined Sagittarius IP as a trainee in 2021 and have since completed the Certificate in Intellectual Property Law from Queen Mary University. I am now working towards dual qualification as a UK and European Patent Attorney.

What attracted you to a career as a Patent Attorney?
Whilst I enjoyed my PhD and the area of research that my project was focused on, I quickly realised that I did not want a career in a lab-based role. During the training year of my PhD, I completed an internship at my university’s technology transfer office, where I supported researchers by performing preliminary patent searches.

This experience introduced me to the role of patent attorneys, and I felt that the career offered the perfect opportunity to continue using my scientific background in a varied role across a broad range of cutting-edge technologies. One of the things that particularly drew me to Sagittarius IP was that it is a firm specialising in biotechnology, chemistry and pharmaceutical patents, which has allowed me to focus on the areas of technology that I am particularly passionate about and work alongside experts in protecting these types of inventions.
Sandersons is an IAM 1000 recommended firm of European and UK patent and trade mark attorneys, with an experienced support team including paralegals, secretaries and accounts staff. Technically, we are a mix of chemists, biochemists and geneticists.

We are particularly experienced in handling biotech, chemical, pharmaceutical and mechanical technologies; however, we see a wide variety of inventions, which gives us the chance to explore new fields to those within which our attorneys have studied in their academic careers.

Our clients range from close-to-home UK individuals and SMEs to multinational pharmaceutical / biotech companies and international law firms. Our range of local, national and international clients can result in exciting travel opportunities for those who are interested.

Our workload is not limited to patents; we regularly advise on the registrability of trade marks and designs and help clients identify the existence of unregistered rights.

Contentious matters represent a speciality of ours; we have particular expertise before the Opposition Divisions and Appeal Boards of the European Patent Office. Namely, we have enjoyed considerable success in a series of high-profile oppositions relating to CRISPR patents.

We provide full training, ranging from in-house tutorials to external training via recognised professional bodies. Training extends across the whole firm and applies to all, and every voice is regarded as important; the attorneys participate in monthly meetings to discuss case law, and support meetings are held to discuss new rules and best practice.

Our weekly team meetings and day-to-day teamwork make us a cohesive unit, and sharing of knowledge and experience means we support our clients as a team.

We are an equal opportunities employer and a signatory of IP Inclusive’s EDI Charter. We welcome recruits from all backgrounds without regard to race, colour, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability or age.
Script IP is a busy and friendly firm. We were founded in 2012 because the directors wanted to do things differently.

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. We have a long-term view of recruitment and we aim to train patent attorneys who will be the future leaders of our firm.

We 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, you will have a good first 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.

COMPANY INFORMATION

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS
No. of Employees: 20
No. of Partners: 7
No. of Qualified Patent Attorneys: 1
No. of Trainee Patent Attorneys: 3

AREAS OF SPECIALISM
- Artificial Intelligence
- Biotechnology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Electronics
- Electrical Engineering
- Engineering - Other
- Life Sciences
- Mechanical Engineering
- Technology
- Physics

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED
- Graduate Jobs: 1-2
- Placements
- Internships
- Insight Days

OFFICE LOCATIONS
South East (excl London) and South West

CONTACT DETAILS
E: info@script-ip.com
W: www.script-ip.com

For the latest jobs visit www.ipcareers.co.uk
About us
Secerna LLP is a progressive and expanding firm of Chartered and European patent attorneys based in York, Newcastle and Dublin. We represent clients worldwide assisting some of the world’s most innovative businesses to protect and enforce their intellectual assets. We build long-term business relationships with our clients, based on exceptional trust, teamwork and value for money.

Opportunities
Due to the firm’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 and 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, oil and gas delivery technologies and assisted and consumer service solutions. In addition, the Life Sciences and Pharmaceutical groups have considerable experience working in the fields of NCEs, bio-therapeutics, nucleic acid-based diagnostics and regenerative medicine. As a trainee patent attorney at Secerna you will be given full training and support to operate to corporate clients, dealing with day to day matters with in-house teams and 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 are looking for
We are looking for graduates with strong technological knowledge in their field 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.

COMPANY INFORMATION

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<tr>
<td>W: <a href="http://www.secerna.co.uk">www.secerna.co.uk</a></td>
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For the latest jobs visit www.ipcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PATENT ATTORNEY

| NAME | Jay Ruaux |
| LOCATION | York |
| UNIVERSITY | Cambridge |
| DEGREE | Master of Engineering (Mechanical Engineering) |

Why did you choose a job in this sector?
I first learnt about Patents during an introductory module on Intellectual Property Rights in my Engineering degree. The job of a Patent Attorney appealed to me because it allowed me to combine my passion for engineering with my interest in law and business. I enjoy learning about new technologies and inventions, and I find it rewarding to help innovators protect and commercialise their intellectual property.

How did you get your job at Secerna?
I saw Secerna’s job listing on the IPCareers website. Secerna differentiated itself from the other firms because of the diversity and strength of its client base given its relatively small size. This enables a trainee to learn extensively on the job and have responsibilities from the start. Secerna also appealed to me because of the opportunity to work and learn directly from very experienced Partners. I applied with my CV and cover letter and Secerna promptly got in touch.

What was the application process like?
The process was straightforward and professional. I was invited to a first interview regarding my motivation for applying and background, followed by some more in-depth interviews to evaluate my skills and suitability for the job. I received clear instructions and feedback throughout.

My advice for anyone applying for a trainee patent attorney role at Secerna is to do your research on the firm and the sector, prepare some examples of your achievements and skills, and show your enthusiasm and curiosity for the role. Also, practice your patent drafting skills and be ready to explain your reasoning and approach.

What would you like to achieve in the future?
In the future, I would like to achieve full qualification as a Chartered and European Patent Attorney and to develop my expertise in specific technical fields or industries that interest me. I would like to take on more responsibility for managing client relationships and projects. I would also like to contribute to the growth and success of Secerna by attracting new clients, developing new services, or expanding into new markets.

What are your main duties/roles?
My main duties as a trainee patent attorney at Secerna are to assist senior attorneys with various aspects of patent prosecution, such as drafting, filing, amending, and responding to office actions. I collaborate with clients from different industries and countries, ranging from multinational corporations to university spinouts. I particularly enjoy meeting with inventors to understand their inventions and draft patent specifications.

What skills are useful in this sector/profession?
Some of the skills that are useful in this sector/profession are:

- **Technical skills**: A strong engineering or science background is crucial for quickly grasping new technologies and inventions. It enables drafting comprehensive patent specifications that cover all aspects of the invention concisely.

- **Communication skills**: Strong communication skills facilitate effective interaction with clients, colleagues, patent offices, and professionals, enabling the clear and persuasive presentation of complex information.

- **Time keeping**: Balancing the deadlines of patent portfolios and the demands of clients requires discipline as well as being able to work quickly and efficiently.

- **Commercial skills**: Understanding clients’ objectives and market context helps provide strategic advice on patent portfolio management, exploitation, and negotiation with patent offices and third parties.

- **Understanding** in specific technical fields or industries that interest me.

- **Collaboration** to develop my expertise in specific technical fields or industries that interest me.

- **Projects and clients** to attract new clients, develop new services, or expand into new markets.
**SLINGSBY PARTNERS**

**The firm**
Slingsby Partners is committed to providing the highest standards of patent 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 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 technology 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**
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.

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**COMPANY INFORMATION**

**EMPLOYEE NUMBERS**
- No. of Employees: 50
- No. of Partners: 7
- No. of Qualified Patent Attorneys: 19
- No. of Trainee Patent Attorneys: 10

**AREAS OF SPECIALISM**
- Artificial Intelligence
- Biotechnology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Electronics
- Electrical Engineering
- Engineering - Other
- Life Sciences
- Mechanical Engineering
- Technology
- Physics

**OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED**
- Graduate Jobs: 1-2
- Placements
- Internships
- Insight Days

**OFFICE LOCATIONS**
- London

**CONTACT DETAILS**
- E: recruitment@slingsbypartners.com
- W: www.slingsbypartners.com

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

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**PART-QUALIFIED PATENT ATTORNEY**

**NAME**
Verity Andrew

**LOCATION**
London

**UNIVERSITY**
Bristol

**DEGREE**
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.
Stratagem IPM was formed in 1999, to respond to a need within the biotech industry for proactive management of clients’ intellectual property. Since then the company has expanded to cover all technologies and we have three offices, in Cambridge, Oxford and Bristol.

Our aim is to deliver a strategically different IP management service for our clients, based on understanding their specific requirements and providing clear and decisive advice. We work closely with clients, as if we are part of their business, and consider their IP from a commercial perspective, using our hands-on management approach to enhance the value of their IP assets.

Training
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.

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 we recognise that everyone plays a vital part in delivering a strategically different approach for our clients. 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.

COMPANY INFORMATION

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS
No. of Employees: 58
No. of Qualified Patent Attorneys: 17
No. of Trainee Patent Attorneys: 7

AREAS OF SPECIALISM
- Artificial Intelligence
- Biotechnology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Electronics
- Electrical Engineering
- Engineering - Other
- Life Sciences
- Mechanical Engineering
- Technology
- Physics

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED
- Graduate Jobs: Varies
- Placements
- Internships: Varies
- Insight Days

OFFICE LOCATIONS
South East (excl London), South West and East Anglia

CONTACT DETAILS
E: mail@stratagemipm.co.uk
W: www.stratagemipm.co.uk

For the latest jobs visit www.ipcareers.co.uk
Swindell & Pearson provides a high-quality, client-focused service to companies, academic institutions, government agencies and individuals. Formed 140 years ago, we are one of the UK’s leading specialists in patents and trade marks. Some of the world’s foremost multi-national companies trust our attorneys with their patent and trade mark portfolios.

Client relationships are very, very important to us and we really care about delivering outcomes our clients want. We are patient, approachable, friendly, responsive and dependable.

We know that our reputation is only as good as the individuals we employ. We therefore recruit people with potential and help them fulfill that potential. We pay our trainees well and invest very heavily in their training.

You will work under the direct supervision of experienced attorneys and receive one-on-one constructive feedback on your work. Training includes internal courses, regular seminars and external courses. You will work on cutting edge technology and, unusually, be given early responsibility and your own caseload. A large proportion of your work will be for direct clients where you work directly for the owner of the patent. You will benefit from contact with clients and will be encouraged to become more independent as you develop. You will initially share office space with other trainees, in a friendly and supportive environment and will quickly become a respected and valued member of the team.

Trainees are based in our head office in Derby’s professional quarter. Derby has the UK’s highest export value per capita and is one of England’s fastest-growing cities. It is also an affordable place to live, not far from the Peak District, and just a two-hour train ride from London.

We work on a meritocracy basis where hard work and success are rewarded. The majority of our IP directors trained with the firm, providing proof that we firmly believe that our trainees are our future.

We welcome speculative applications at any time.

Why did you choose a job in this profession?

Before going to university, I was always interested in studying law or chemistry. When researching what a career in either might look like, I discovered patent law. I went on to study chemistry at university and found that I loved the theory but didn’t enjoy being in the lab as much. When I was applying for jobs in my final year, I revisited patent law as I thought it was a great way to continually learn about innovations in science without having to do the research myself. It also enabled me to learn about law after all, even though I didn’t choose to study it at university.

Why Swindell & Pearson?

Swindell & Pearson is unlike many other firms. It’s a close-knit community which encourages collaboration between colleagues, each with a different background. There isn’t a divide between trainees and the qualified attorneys. Each trainee gets to have one-on-one supervision sessions each day with a director who is their mentor at the firm. On top of this, we have a great training program which involves weekly training sessions which focus on the practical skills needed for prosecuting and drafting patent applications. We also have monthly talks which delve into particular areas of the law. Swindell & Pearson is also unusual in that you get an opportunity to work in loads of different technical fields. Whilst my background is in chemistry I work on mechanical and technological inventions too which is great!

What was the application process like – any advice?

The application process for Swindell & Pearson was straightforward. After submitting a CV and cover letter, I had a brief telephone interview. I was then invited to have an interview in person in our Derby office.

The interview consisted of a series of tasks, for example, for one task, I had to decide in what order a set of activities should be completed in a day. Being able to manage deadlines well is an important skill for a patent attorney. Another one of the tasks was comprehension based; I was asked to read a research paper and answer a set of questions based on what I had read. This is akin to analysing prior art documents when prosecuting patent applications. Although the interview was challenging, my interviewers were friendly which put me at ease.

If I were to give advice to someone preparing for an interview for a role in patent law, I would advise them to make sure you demonstrate a genuine interest in the field. These roles are competitive so definitely know the basics such as what a patent is and what its purpose is. The profession isn’t an easy one, so showing you’re dedicated and have done your research is great.

If you can manage to get work experience this would definitely be an advantage but it is often hard to come by. Alternatively, having a chat with someone who is working in the profession who can give you a feel about what the day-to-day activities are and what to expect from the qualification process can be helpful.

I would also ensure that you don’t let tricky interview questions throw you off, working through them methodically and keeping your cool demonstrates that you’ll be prepared for becoming a trainee.
About Us
Symbiosis IP is a firm of chartered and European patent attorneys that specializes in the protection, enforcement and opposition of intellectual property rights in the fields of Life Sciences and Chemistry. Our clients include several university tech transfer and early research institutions, together with large pharmaceutical companies and SMEs.

We were established in 2008 and currently have offices in Sheffield, Cardiff and York. Our professional team all possess doctorate degrees in a life science or chemical subject, and we all have post-doctoral research experience, which we believe adds value to our clients’ intellectual property.

Symbiosis IP have recently become part of Gateley, a legal and professional services group that employs over 1,400 people at offices around the UK. As a standalone patent attorney practice working within this wider group context, our attorneys are able to work closely with other professionals in the group, such as solicitors and other business advisors, enabling us to offer our clients access to enhanced services in a wide range of areas including corporate transactions, commercial agreements and disputes.

Opportunity
We are committed to excellence in our work, and we seek trainees with higher degrees and ideally postdoctoral research experience. This is to provide an alternative career path to postdoctoral scientists and to provide our clients with a level of technical understanding that adds value to their intellectual property. However, high calibre graduates should not be discouraged from applying.

As a symbiosis IP trainee, you will become part of a closely knit team of patent attorneys and you will be provided with complete support in relation to qualifying as a UK and European patent attorney whilst becoming involved in state-of-the-art life science and chemical technology.

For almost a century, Tomkins has provided professional and commercially astute advice to both domestic and international clients. With a team of highly qualified technical and legal experts, Tomkins 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’ 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 Award-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 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.
Venner Shipley

About us
Venner Shipley is a leading European IP firm with a team of patent, design and trade mark attorneys and IP lawyers providing a complete IP service. We are based in London, Cambridge, Guildford, Tunbridge Wells, Manchester and Munich. Our clients range from leading corporations to SMEs, universities and individual inventors. We are friendly and easy to work with; our clients value our straight-forward approach, practical advice, and the clarity we bring to situations.

What we do
Our multi-disciplinary team deals with a diverse range of intellectual property issues. Our specialist teams in electronics, software, AI, chemistry, biotechnology, materials and engineering work across multiple jurisdictions. Specialists in different technical areas work together to give our clients the creative and innovative solutions they need.

Life as a trainee
As a new trainee you will be exposed to a broad range of work from the start. This is likely to include meeting inventors for innovation harvesting, drafting and filing patent applications and responding to examination reports issued from patent offices. You will have a nominated supervisor as well as a buddy and be 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
You will need a STEM degree at 2.1 or above. We also accept applications from students with masters or doctorates or with experience working in industry. You need to enjoy applying your scientific knowledge to practical situations, be good at problem solving, with excellent written skills and an interest in law.

Why did you choose a job in this profession?
Towards the end of my physics degree, I realised that the aspect I enjoyed the most was applying the knowledge I’d developed in the earlier years in different ways to study a wide range of physical phenomena. I decided that a career in academia, which would involve narrowing my field of study and specialising in a particular topic, wasn’t right for me. However, I still wanted to pursue a career in which I could apply the skills I’d acquired during my degree.

A career in intellectual property was therefore a perfect fit for me. It provided the opportunity to apply the tools and techniques I learnt during my studies on a daily basis to understand new inventions at the forefront of a variety of technical fields.

What was the application process like – any advice?
As a starting point, I would recommend looking at the employer directory on IP careers to learn about the different intellectual property firms and identify those which seem like a good fit. This is where I found Venner Shipley LLP and, after seeing a vacancy for a trainee patent attorney on their website, I applied by sending in my CV and a cover letter. However, even if there is no vacancy being advertised, it is worth sending in your CV and cover letter speculatively to any firms you’re interested in so that you’ll be considered when there is one!

Following my application, I was invited to an online interview, which was split into two parts. The first part was a short exercise involving a simple patent application and the second part was a more general interview assessing my interest in and aptitude for the role. To prepare for this, I’d recommend looking at some published patent applications to familiarise yourself with their structure and to get an idea of the language used to protect inventions.

I was then invited to a second interview which was held in person. I was interviewed by two members of the team which I would be joining, and this was another general interview about my experience and skills relevant to the role.

For the final stage of my application, I was asked to complete two online psychometric tests. My advice would be to remember that these tests are for the firm to get a better understanding of you and your working style, so try not to panic or overthink them!

What are your main duties/roles?
In my role so far, my main duties relate to patent prosecution work and patent drafting. Patent prosecution work involves reading through a patent application and a report from an intellectual property office and then, under the guidance of a supervisor, proposing to the client amendments and arguments we could make in response to get the patent granted. Patent drafting involves meeting with inventors to understand their invention, drafting a claim set to gain the broadest possible protection for their invention, and writing a description to explain in detail how their invention works.

Another key aspect of my current role is to learn about intellectual property law, in particular patent law. Upon beginning the role, I attended “boot camp” lectures run by senior staff members at Venner Shipley LLP to introduce new joiners to the field and throughout the next few years, I will be attending external courses and sitting external exams to become a formally qualified patent attorney.
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. For all trainees, good communication skills are essential, especially an excellent command of English.

Professional development
The firm has a commitment to training through a close working relationship between trainee and a designated partner, as well as structured in-house training supplemented by external courses and tutorials. Trainees are involved with casework from the beginning, and our high proportion of direct client work means that trainees can expect client contact from an early stage. Trainees can also expect a varied and interesting caseload. We encourage trainees to take on responsibility as soon as they are able. Once qualified, attorneys enjoy a high degree of autonomy.

Why did you choose a job in this profession?
Having always thought about a career in law, a last-minute change of heart led me to undertake an engineering degree. Upon nearing the end of my degree, I realised that I didn’t want a ‘typical engineering job’ and began looking at alternate career paths. I was still attracted to the legal profession but couldn’t envision myself completely leaving science behind.

Having been lucky enough to undertake a “law for engineers” module at university, I had already had a brief introduction to the patent profession. Upon further investigation, it appeared to be a fusion of law and science which would satisfy my craving for a legal career whilst allowing me to work with a variety of inventive technology.

What skills are useful in this profession?
It is difficult to say what a ‘typical day’ looks like as there are so many elements to the job. On a daily basis, you could be working on any part of the patent process; from the early stages of discussing ideas with inventors and drafting applications, all the way through to grant and beyond.

Each technical assistant works alongside at least one of the firms’ partners, who provides support and guidance with work. Most people transitioning from a science degree, PhD, or other industries will find that many aspects of the job are new. It is extremely valuable to begin your career in a firm like Wilson Gunn, where colleagues are happy to share their knowledge and help you get to grips with the intricacies of the job.

You will be exposed to a wide variety of cases, and there will be opportunities to get involved with a broad range of clients and tasks. This all adds up to a job which is incredibly varied, and in which you will never stop learning.

What skills are useful in this profession?
Wilson Gunn has a diverse range of clients, so it is important to be adaptable. There are individual inventors who may be starting out on their commercial journey, as well as much larger companies having a substantial patent portfolio, fundamental to their business strategy. It is critical that you are able to adapt and understand each client’s needs in order to provide the most effective advice.

A large part of the job involves analysing existing patents. Being able to efficiently process large quantities of information is a key skill. However, nobody expects a new trainee to be the ‘whole package’ from the outset. It is much more important that you come with a desire to develop the skills you already have, and you will find that you will quickly hone many skills as you progress through your training.

For the latest jobs visit www.ipcareers.co.uk
Withers & Rogers is one of Europe’s largest dedicated intellectual property law firms, with offices in London, Bristol, Warwick, Sheffield, Munich and Paris. Established more than 130 years ago, we remain as passionate as ever about making intellectual property work to our clients’ best advantage. Today, our clients include many renowned, innovative organisations from across Europe, North America and Asia.

We operate in four principal practice groups: Electronics, Computing & Physics; Advanced Engineering; Life Sciences & Chemistry, and Trade Marks. We also have a number of specialist practice groups including Higher Education, Clean Technology, Medical Devices and Aerospace & Defence.

Your development
When you start your training at Withers & Rogers, from the get-go you’ll be given the support and guidance you need to succeed and pass your exams to qualify as a chartered UK and European patent attorney or a chartered trade mark attorney.

Throughout your training, you’ll attend courses, lectures and tutorials to give you the very best chance of success and we also offer an extensive in-house tutorial programme.

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, marketing and membership of networking organisations is encouraged.

Who can apply?
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.

About me
I studied Physics at the University of Southampton and was then a Postgraduate Researcher at the Optoelectronics Research Centre, where I researched AI applications to tissue engineering.

I initially encountered the world of intellectual property during my first year at university when a local patent attorney gave a career talk with free pizza. What initially caught my attention was that a career in IP meant working with new inventions every day in a variety of fields, each pushing the boundaries of innovation. Honestly, I went for the pizza more than the talk, but that evening introduced me to my dream career, and I never looked back!

Choosing Withers & Rogers
What really stood out during my interview at Withers & Rogers was that the interviewers were interested in who I was as a person, and how well I could pick up new concepts, not only my technical knowledge. Everyone I met was open and helpful in answering my questions about the firm. I still remember the phone call from HR offering me the position, and several of my interviewers reached out on LinkedIn to congratulate me. I felt valued and excited to get started!

My advice for those applying to Withers & Rogers is to be yourself and try not to be too nervous. The more relaxed you are, the more fun you will have meeting everyone.

My first year at Withers & Rogers
From day one, I have been able to apply my expertise from my research experience. I receive training from attorneys across the firm, although I am predominantly trained by three partners who lead the Warwick Electronics Computing & Physics team. This provides a variety of work, clients, and writing-styles, and means I gain experience in a wide range of fields, from prosecuting software-implemented innovations to geoengineering litigation. Withers & Rogers believe that the best way to learn is by doing, so trainees are quickly introduced to case work with continual oversight and feedback allowing us to learn and improve on the job. While there is a lot to learn, my current skillset is respected, and it’s fun to get stuck in!

Soon I will be approaching my first set of exams. We were given the choice of exams or a university course so we can decide what works best for us. Either approach, I know the firm and my team will support me throughout.

For the latest jobs visit www.ipcareers.co.uk
Your development at WP Thompson

Our varied national and international client base creates a challenging environment within which to train and work and offers wide-ranging experience for our trainees through foundation-level examinations and onto full qualification. Trainees are exposed to all stages of the IP life cycle, advising on patent, trade mark and registered designs, as well as any IP-related disputes and legal and commercial requirements. In addition to the day-to-day prosecution of patent, trade mark and design applications, the team has considerable expertise in patent litigation as well as litigious matters, both in prosecuting and defending against centralised oppositions before the EPO and infringement and validity actions before the UK courts.

WP Thompson’s philosophy is one of focusing on our client’s needs and expectations to serve as a blueprint for the training and development of our professional staff. Our graduate recruits can find themselves forming part of our team at high-level client meetings from an early stage in their career.

What we are looking for

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

What we are looking for

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

COMPANY INFORMATION

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS
No. of Employees: 44
No. of Partners: 4
No. of Qualified Patent Attorneys: 8
No. of Trainee Patent Attorneys: 8

AREAS OF SPECIALISM
- Artificial Intelligence
- Biotechnology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Electronics
- Electrical Engineering
- Engineering - Other
- Life Sciences
- Mechanical Engineering
- Technology
- Physics

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED
- Graduate Jobs: 1-2
- Placements
- Internships
- Insight Days

OFFICE LOCATIONS
London and North West

CONTACT DETAILS
W: www.wpt.co.uk

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

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.

With offices in Cheltenham, 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.

In addition to our UK offices, we are proud to part-own AIPEX BV, a pan-European IP law firm. This enables us to be able to provide opportunities for our trainees to work on AIPEX’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.

COMPANY INFORMATION

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS
No. of Employees: 27
No. of Partners: 6
No. of Qualified Patent Attorneys: 6

AREAS OF SPECIALISM
- Artificial Intelligence
- Biotechnology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Electronics
- Electrical Engineering
- Engineering - Other
- Life Sciences
- Mechanical Engineering
- Technology
- Physics

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED
- Graduate Jobs: Varies
- Placements
- Internships
- Insight Days

OFFICE LOCATIONS
London, South West and Wales

CONTACT DETAILS
W: www.wynne-jones.com/training-academy

For the latest jobs visit www.ipcareers.co.uk
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With offices in London, Munich and Southampton, working at D Young & Co offers attorneys the opportunity to work with world-renowned clients, alongside highly acclaimed and motivated peers, and to forge exciting and successful careers.

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