



Programme Specification (PG)

Awarding body / institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Name of final award and programme title:	Postgraduate Certificate in Intellectual Property Law (IP Reg)
Name of interim award(s):	n/a
Duration of study / period of registration:	1 semester
Queen Mary programme code(s):	PCPF-QMCCLA1; PSIPLZ/PSIPLA
QAA Benchmark Group:	Law
FHEQ Level of Award:	Level 7
Programme accredited by:	Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys (CIPA), Chartered Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys (CITMA) and the Intellectual Property Regulation Board (IPReg)
Date Programme Specification approved:	
Responsible School / Institute:	Centre for Commercial Law Studies

Schools / Institutes which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:

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Collaborative institution(s) / organisation(s) involved in delivering the programme:

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Programme outline

The Certificate in Intellectual Property Law is specifically designed for trainee patent and trade mark attorneys. It is a one-semester course offering concentration on both the academic and the practical aspects of patents, copyrights, designs, trade marks, and other related areas. The academic treatment of the subject matter is complemented by the practical insights offered through the involvement of established practitioners in the field. The substantial involvement of practitioners in the delivery of the courses aims at ensuring that students will obtain a thorough and valuable insight into the intricacies of practice and acquire skills that a competent professional must possess in this field. At the same time, the programme aims at providing its students with the background academic knowledge necessary for a deeper understanding of the subject matter which will eventually lead to a more informed practice.

The programme offers students the opportunity to obtain solid knowledge on the Fundamentals of English Law and Professional Ethics, before embarking upon the detailed study of, Patent Law, trade mark law, Design & Copyright Law as well as other related IP areas. Students are instructed on neighboring areas of law as well, in particular design and copyright law, which are relevant to the practice of a trade mark attorney. The course is designed (through its content and assessment) to exempt

students from the foundation papers for the professional examinations for patent and trade mark attorneys.

Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

- Provide students with a sound understanding of the essential principles of law providing a foundation and context for a more in-depth study and understanding of intellectual property law and practice;
- Provide students with a detailed understanding of the laws and procedures relating to the protection of patents (domestic, international and comparative);
- Provide students with a detailed understanding of the laws and procedures relating to the protection of trade marks (domestic, international and comparative);
- Provide students with a detailed understanding of the laws and procedures (UK and Community) relating to the protection of industrial design through registered and unregistered design laws and copyright;
- Equip students with the skills of legal analysis and application of the law that is essential for practicing as an intellectual property professional in the aforementioned fields.

What will you be expected to achieve?

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate not only knowledge of black letter IP law but also a deep and systematic understanding of its application. Students will also have the opportunity to appreciate its interrelationship with other areas of law and, to some limited extent, other disciplines. The programme also provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and deep understanding of the relevant IP laws as well as skills and other attributes in the said areas of law.

The programme outcomes are referenced to the relevant QAA benchmark statement(s) (see above) and the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (2008), and relate to the typical student. Additionally, the SEEC Credit Level Descriptors for Further and Higher Education 2003 and Queen Mary Statement of Graduate Attributes have been used as a guiding framework for curriculum design.

Academic Content:

A1	Fundamentals of the English legal system: providing a proper foundation and context for the study of intellectual property law and practice, differences between common and civil law, fundamentals of contract law and the law of tort, sources of law, fundamentals of the judicial system including the Intellectual Property Enterprise Court and other courts, corporate structures.
A2	Patent law: laws and procedures relating to the protection of patents (domestic, international and comparative), rationale and purpose of the patent system, requirements for patentability, nature of an invention, novelty, inventive step, subject matter, priority, inventorship, ownership and employee rights, direct and indirect infringement, remedies, evidence, defences, strategic creation and management of patent portfolios, obtaining a patent in the UK, European Patent procedure, Patent Cooperation Treaty procedure, obtaining a patent in other key jurisdictions, the Unitary Patent and Unified Patent Court, the legal protection of trade secrets and confidential information, intellectual property transfer, commercialisation and licensing* (including negotiation, international perspectives, jurisdiction, arbitration), differences between novelty and freedom-to-operate searching.

A3	Trade mark law: laws and procedures relating to the protection of trade marks (domestic, international and comparative), registration, absolute grounds for refusal of registration, infringement and relative grounds for refusal of registration, role of searching and other evidence, defences, invalidity, revocation, use, strategic creation and management of trade mark portfolios, registering and maintaining a trade mark in the UK, EUIPO or via the Madrid Protocol, international and trans-national options for trade mark protection, registration and maintenance in other key jurisdictions and on the internet, the law of passing off and the legal protection for unregistered trade marks in the UK and in other key jurisdictions, intellectual property transfer, commercialisation and licensing, (negotiation, international perspectives – jurisdiction clauses, and other requirements).
A4	The laws and procedures (UK and European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO)) relating to the protection of registered and unregistered design rights;
A5	The laws and procedures (UK and European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO)) relating to Copyright law;
A6	Professional ethics applicable to IP practitioners: the IPReg Code of Conduct; standards of care and duties to clients, conflicts of interest, client confidentiality, financial activity, professional integrity.

Disciplinary Skills - able to:	
B1	Learn the professional ethics applicable to IP practitioners: the IPReg Code of Conduct; standards of care and duties to clients, conflicts of interest, client confidentiality, financial activity, professional integrity.
B2	Recognise potential alternative conclusions for particular legal situations, and provide supporting reasons for them;
B3	Appreciate the need for further inquiry to obtain facts that are unknown but relevant to one's case;
B4	Select key relevant issues for legal research and/or discussion and to formulate them with clarity; employing advanced skills to conduct research;
B5	Use standard paper and electronic resources to obtain up-to-date legal information, including researching and analysing intellectual property law from primary resources on specific matters and applying the findings of such work to the solution of legal problems;
B6	Make a personal and reasoned judgment based on an informed understanding of standard arguments in the area of law in question;
B7	Use legal terminology with care and accuracy; use ideas at a high level of abstraction;
B8	Communicate legal information, whether orally or in writing, appropriately to the needs of a variety of audiences;
B9	Retrieve legal principles from case law as well as draw analogies to preexisting cases
B10	Apply the knowledge and understanding they have gained through the course to complex situations; this may involve situations where one has to operate in unpredictable and/or specialised contexts;
B11	Demonstrate an understanding of current theoretical and methodological approaches and how these affect the way the knowledge base is interpreted.

Attributes:	
C1	Ability to advise clients;
C2	Ability to make arguments for both sides in light of given facts;

C3	Ability to engage into practical and theoretical discussions about IP law problems;
C4	Displaying mastery of the complex and specialized area of black letter trade mark law and practice;
C5	Accepting accountability for decision making as well as learn the ability to take initiative in decision-making
C6	Establish effective working relationships with others;
C7	Communicate legal & practical information, whether orally or in writing, appropriately to the needs of a variety of audiences.

How will you learn?

This Programme is delivered via lectures and tutorials throughout the first semester of the academic year. Most teaching takes place in a whole-group setting. Teaching and learning methods vary from module to module. In some sessions, teaching is conducted in interactive lecture format. In others, teaching is conducted through group discussion of pre-assigned questions and problems. Each module is supported by a detailed and clearly structured set of materials and reading list. These materials include guided learning exercises which the students are required to complete in advance of the teaching sessions.

Students will also be expected to invest a significant amount of time in independent learning, including reading materials in advance of lectures/tutorial, preparing class presentations, completing assignments and preparing for examinations.

The delivery of each module is supported by the QMPlus virtual learning environment area. The webpage of each module contains essential information such as module outlines and questions for self-study. All modules provide students with the opportunity to undertake regular formative assessment and obtain feedback as standard. Depending on the module, this may take the form of online quizzes or formative essay questions.

Each module is convened by a faculty member of the Centre for Commercial Law Studies, Queen Mary University of London, who is an expert in the respective field. A significant number of classes are run by established practitioners such as attorneys, barristers, solicitors or high-profile officials from UK and European public authorities. The contribution of such practitioners is an important element of this professional programme, as they bring industry expertise and practical experience into the classroom.

CCLS is uniquely well-placed to deliver a programme integrating professional expertise in this way as a result of the extensive contacts that it has built up with senior intellectual property practitioners over the years (both through the Certificate in Intellectual Property Law and other programmes and through its research activities).

How will you be assessed?

Assessment takes the form of an unseen examination in each of the 4 credit bearing modules. The duration of the unseen main examinations is 4 hours, except for the IPL134 Fundamentals of Law and Professional Ethics, for which candidates undertake a 2 hour MCQ exam paper and submit 3 essays. A candidate's classification for the programme as a whole is therefore determined on the basis of marks and successful completion in all assessed modules.

An assessment method based on unseen examination has been chosen in order to ensure a rigorous assessment of the students' knowledge and skills in each area of law covered by the programme. Students are will be prepared for being examined under this method of assessment.

In response to university policies to move some exams on-line, CCLS decided to move all its course assessments on-line and introduce a 4 hours timed format for all its exams. Following this format students will get 4 hours to complete their exam, which is more than the usually allocated time for "in-person" exams. The 4 hours format also acknowledges the time zone issues students may face, issues with their Internet connections, as well as the requirements of any students with examination access arrangements, such as extra time.

It should be noted that students receive a student handbook which contains the syllabus, assessment type, profile, particulars such as word caps as well as the date of the exams. This information is also available on the QM+ induction page and was explained in details in a dedicated assessment/examination session during the induction week activities. This information is also

emphasised during the revision session of each module.

How is the programme structured?

Please specify the structure of the programme diets for all variants of the programme (e.g. full-time, part-time - if applicable). The description should be sufficiently detailed to fully define the structure of the diet.

The programme is comprised of 4 compulsory modules taken over a semester of full-time study ("the semester of study") and candidates for the award must study the following 4 compulsory modules:

- Fundamentals of Law and Professional Ethics (IPLC134)
- Trade Mark Law (IPLC140)
- Patent Law (IPLC141)
- Designs and Copyright Law (IPLC132)

An Advanced Standing route is available for eligible students in which they receive 15-credits Accreditation of Prior Learning and are exempt from taking credit bearing module IPLC134. Instead will be registered for 0-credit module IPLC138 and as part of accreditation requirements, will complete the Professional Ethics Exam that forms part of the assessment in IPLC134.

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Trade Mark Law	IPLC140	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Patent Law	IPLC141	20	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Designs and Copyright Law	IPLC132	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Fundamentals of Law and Professional Ethics	IPLC134	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Fundamentals of Law and Professional Ethics (Exemption Route)	IPLC138	0	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1

What are the entry requirements?

Minimum 2:2 undergraduate degree from any subject area.

How will the quality of the programme be managed and enhanced? How do we listen to and act on your feedback?

At the beginning of their studies, students will be asked to select a programme representative. This is a vital process, as the programme representative will act as a key point of contact between students and the CCLS programme team. Students are also encouraged to contact the Programme Director directly at any time to communicate any issue of concern about their studies.

Input from external examiners, students and regular internal discussion are the main channels through which the programme's quality will be managed and enhanced.

CCLS welcomes feedback from students. This is usually collected through the IP specific Student Voice Committee (SVC), module experience surveys, the Postgraduate Taught Evaluation Survey (PTES), and formal and informal discussions with the teaching team throughout the academic year. Students are also encouraged to contact the Programme Director directly at any time to raise feedback or queries. On top of that, a senior academic will be conducting focus groups with the students.

The Student Voice Committee (SVC) provides a formal means of communication and discussion between CCLS and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from across CCLS, together with appropriate representation from CCLS staff. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. Student Voice Committees (SVC) meet once per semester, and meeting dates will be confirmed at the start of each semester. Students will be given an opportunity to submit feedback, or items for discussion ahead of each meeting.

CCLS runs an end-of-term experience survey for each module. This allows both module convenors and the CCLS to collect important information and feedback from students, and to make any relevant adjustments promptly if necessary. CCLS also runs an additional feedback questionnaire which relates specifically to the performance of guest lecturers.

A Programme Management Group (PMG) oversees the delivery of this programme. It meets at the end of each academic year to consider: the curriculum, module evaluations, external examiner reports, student achievement data, and general student feedback. Feedback from the PMG is reported to the PG Law School Education Committee (SEC).

The PG Law SEC deals with all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes within CCLS, including monitoring the application of relevant QM policies and reviewing all proposals for module and programme approval and amendment before submission to Taught Programmes Board. Student views are incorporated in this Committee's work in a number of ways, such as through reports from the SVC, and the consideration of module evaluation questionnaires.

CCLS operates a bi-annual Programme Review of their taught provision. The Programme Review is central to QMUL's assurance of the academic standards of its provision, with the aim of enhancing the student learning experience at its core. The Programme Review is a continuous process of reflection and action planning which is owned by those responsible for programme delivery.

External examiners have the opportunity to comment both on individual module content and assessment and on the broader provision. They are asked to monitor fairness and consistency in assessment procedures and to scrutinise the effectiveness and appropriateness of the assessment. External examiner reports are submitted annually, after the relevant Subject Examination Board. CCLS submit a formal response to each report, indicating how and feedback is going to be implemented, and / or reasons why changes are not going to be made. External examiner reports and responses are also shared with students via the Student Voice Committees.

What academic support is available?

Students will receive a comprehensive induction activities where they are assisted with the preliminary stages understanding of their taught courses.

The programme director offers help and assistance to students if required. Students are encouraged to communicate directly with the module leaders, programme director and programme coordinator with any queries. Students can also seek advice and support from the CCLS Taught Programme Office. Lecturers on taught modules shall be available to discuss any concerns students might have with regard to the particular module or its content. Students will have elected course representative to voice any concerns/issues during the their and their studies.

Students are able to access the support services offered centrally by QMUL. For more information please follow the link below:
<https://www.qmul.ac.uk/newstudents/starting-your-life-as-a-student/central-qmul-support-services//>

Students can approach our assessments team for any questions pertaining to the administrative aspects of the examinations including exam timetables, delivery of exam results etc.

Programme-specific rules and facts

The programme meets the requirements set out in the IPReg Accreditation Handbook. Graduates of the programme fulfil IPReg's requirement of completing a postgraduate course accredited by IPReg towards qualifying as a Chartered Patent Attorney.

Students can only condone 15 credits with a mark of 45-49 subject to meeting all other requirements for condonement.

How inclusive is the programme for all students, including those with disabilities?

Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and mental health issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.

Students can access advice, guidance and support in the following areas:

- Finding out if you have a specific learning difficulty like dyslexia
- Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
- Arranging DSA assessments of need
- Exam Access Arrangements in examinations
- Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital recorders)
- Specialist one-to-one "study skills" tuition
- Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille)
- Providing educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants)

Links with employers, placement opportunities and transferable skills

One of the most notable features of the CCLS is its extremely close relationship with the legal profession and the commercial world. It has an advisory council that includes several senior members of the judiciary and legal profession and persons occupying senior roles in the IP and wider commercial world. Distinguished members of the legal profession play important roles on the examination board and as part of the external teaching staff.

The majority of students are employed as trainee trade mark attorneys or administrators while studying on that Programme. They are usually supported financially for their period of study. Almost all graduates from the Programme are employed within the profession following their studies. Our alumni form a powerful network within the patent world.

Most programmes within CCLS have the benefit of prizes for achievement supported by commercial organisations.

As regards the transferable skills, please check the information provided above under the section titled "What will you be expected to achieve?"

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification:

Leonie Dos Santos

Programme Title: Certificate in Intellectual Property Law (IP Reg)

Person responsible for management of programme:

Jasem Tarawneh

Date Programme Specification produced / amended by
School / Institute Learning and Teaching Committee:

December 2024

Date Programme Specification approved by Taught
Programmes Board: