

Programme Title: PG Certificate in Intellectual Property Law (M3EC or M3EZ)



Programme Specification

Awarding Body/Institution	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching Institution	Queen Mary University of London
Name of Final Award and Programme Title	PG Cert in Intellectual Property Law
Name of Interim Award(s)	PG Cert in Intellectual Property Law
Duration of Study / Period of Registration	4 months
QM Programme Code / UCAS Code(s)	N/A
QAA Benchmark Group	N/A
FHEQ Level of Award	Level 7
Programme Accredited by	CIPA, ITMA and IPReg The Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys (CIPA). The Programme is accredited by CIPA for entry to the patent attorney's profession in the United Kingdom. It has been developed in collaboration with the professional body that regulates entry to this profession. It is also accredited by ITMA for 3 out of 4 of the foundation examinations for part qualified status within the UK and approved by IPReg, the UK IP Regulatory body.
Date Programme Specification Approved	10 September 2015
Responsible School / Institute	Centre for Commercial Law Studies

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

Centre for Commercial Law Studies

Institution(s) other than Queen Mary that will provide some teaching for the programme

Programme Outline

The Certificate in Intellectual Property Law is designed for trainee patent and trade mark attorneys. It is a one-semester course offering concentration on many of the practical aspects of patents, designs and trade marks and greater involvement of patent practitioners to complement the academic treatment of the subject matter.

The programme is externally accredited by the Intellectual Property Regulation Board and if successfully completed awards exemption from the foundation examination papers of both CIPA and ITMA.

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 intellectual property law and practice;
- Equip students with the skills of legal analysis essential for practice as an intellectual property professional;
- 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;
- 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 relating to the protection of patents (domestic, international and comparative);
- Provide students with a sound understanding of competition law (particularly those areas of competition law with relevance to the exercise of intellectual property rights).

What Will You Be Expected to Achieve?

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills and other attributes in the following areas. 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. Students attending the programme gain and outline knowledge of the basic and foundation principles of Intellectual property

Academic Content:	
A1	those aspects of legal systems, rules and concepts that provide a foundation and context for intellectual property law and practice;
A2	the laws and procedures (UK and Community) relating to the protection of industrial design through registered and unregistered design laws and copyright;
A3	the laws and procedures relating to the protection of trade marks (domestic, international and comparative);
A4	of the laws and procedures relating to the protection of patents (domestic, international and comparative);
A5	competition law (particularly those areas of competition law with relevance to the exercise of intellectual property rights).

Disciplinary Skills - able to:	
B1	conduct a legal argument in written form;
B2	compare legal rules from different jurisdictions.
B3	analyse factual situations (real and hypothetical) by applying recognised legal rules.;
B4	demonstrate critical reading skills.

Attributes:	
C1	read legal writing (statutes, cases and commentary) effectively.
C2	analyse factual situations (real and hypothetical) by applying recognised legal rules.;
C3	conduct a legal argument in written form;

How Will You Learn?

This Programme is delivered via lectures and seminars 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 have the opportunity to submit written solutions to legal problem questions and receive feedback on these submissions. The delivery of each module is supported by a Blackboard area containing essential module information, module outlines and questions for self-study.

Each module is be organised and convened by a subject expert from within the Centre for Commercial Law Studies at Queen Mary and also includes a number of classes run by experienced practitioners in the relevant field. Such practitioners include patent attorneys, barristers, and solicitors. The contribution of such practitioners is an important element of this professional programme. 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 and Award

Assessment takes the form of an unseen examination in each of the four modules carrying 15 credits. The duration of the unseen examinations is 3 hours 15 minutes in Trade Mark Law, Patent Law, Competition Law and Designs and Copyright Law. Additionally, in both Patent Law and Trade Mark Law, students take a further unseen examination of 2 hours duration. A candidate's marks for the 3 hour 15 minutes and 2 hour examination papers in each module are added together and then divided by two to provide an overall mark for each module. A candidate's classification for the programme as a whole is therefore determined on the basis of marks in 4 assessed modules (Patent Law, Trade Mark Law, Copyright and Designs Law and Competition Law) and candidates must also achieve a pass mark in Basic Principles of English Law, Evidence and Practice. The examinations are taken at the beginning of Semester 2 of the academic year.

Assessment on a pass/fail basis for the pre-sessional study only module in the Basic Principles of English Law, Practice & Evidence is by multiple choice question examination of 1 hours 45 minutes duration at the end of the two-week pre-sessional course.

Candidates initially failing to reach the required standard in the first Basic Principles of English Law, Practice & Evidence examination are permitted to proceed to the modules in the Programme carrying credit value and then undertake re-sit examinations in Basic Principles of English Law, Practice & Evidence as second and subsequent attempts as they continue with the academic Programme as a whole during the first semester of the academic year.

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 of the subjects. This is an assessment method that has traditionally been employed on the Certificate in Intellectual Property Law Programme and is particularly attractive to the professional bodies accrediting the programme for the purpose of professional qualification. Students on the Programme are provided with suitable preparation for assessment by this method.

Matters of final assessment, student progression and the making of the award for the programme fall within the responsibility of the Subject Examination Board ("SEB"). The SEB is chaired by a senior member of staff at the CCLS In addition to the Chair, the Programme Director, each of the Leaders for the Programme's modules and the programme's two external examiners will be members of the SEB. The decisions of the SEB will be taken in accordance with the relevant academic regulations.

Assessment is by written examination in each component module to which credits are attached, and by multiple choice examination for the study only module in Basic Principles of English Law, Practice & Evidence.

The examinations take place early in the semester following the semester of study, except for the pass/fail examination for the study only module in Basic Principles of English Law, Practice & Evidence.

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Additionally, in both Patent Law and Trade Mark Law, students take a further unseen examination of 2 hours duration. A candidate's marks for the 3 hour 15 minutes and 2 hour examination papers in the Trade Mark Law and the Patent Law modules are added together and then divided by two to provide overall marks for each of these two modules.

A candidate's classification for the programme as a whole is therefore determined on the basis of marks in 4 assessed modules (Trade Mark Law, Patent Law, Competition Law, Copyright and Designs Law) and candidates must also achieve a pass mark in Basic Principles of English Law, Evidence and Practice. The examinations are taken at the beginning of Semester 2 of the academic year.

The examination board for the Programme may condone a student's failure in one component module of the Programme provided:

- The student's average mark over all taught modules exceeds 50%.
- The mark in the failed module(s) is not below 45%
- There is good performance in the modules that have been passed.

The examination board may make an award with merit to a student who has an average mark of at least 60% over the whole programme and who has achieved marks of 60% or over in at least 3 compulsory modules.

The examination board may make the award with distinction to a student who has an average of at least 70% over the whole Programme and has marks of 70% or over in at least 3 compulsory modules.

Examinations for those candidates presenting themselves for re-assessment will be held during the academic year in which the semester of full-time study falls.

How is the Programme Structured?

Please specify the full time and part time programme diets (if appropriate).

Programme structure

The Programme extends over a semester of full-time study ("the semester of study") and candidates for the award must study the following component modules:

- Basic Principles of English Law, Practice & Evidence
- Competition Law
- Trade Mark Law
- Copyright and Designs Law
- Patent Law

Each component module requires a student to undertake approved studies to the value of 15 credits, with the exception of Basic Principles of English Law, Practice & Evidence, which is a two-week pre-sessional study only module.

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Basic Principles of English Law, Practice and Evidence	IPLC024	0	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Competition Law	IPLC020	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Copyright and Designs Law	IPLC022	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Patent Law	IPLC023	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Trade Mark Law	IPLC021	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1

What Are the Entry Requirements?

Upper second class undergraduate degree.

Preferably a minimum of 6 months experience as a trainee patent or trade mark attorney or experience within a similar role

How Do We Listen and Act on Your Feedback?

Termly SSLC meetings are held for students if they feel this is appropriate on postgraduate programmes in CCLS. Representatives elected from this Programme attend those meetings.

Minutes of those meetings and information concerning the outcome of issues raised at the meetings will be circulated to all students on the Programme.

Students are encouraged to provide informal feedback to Module Leaders and the Programme Director. In addition, confidential student questionnaires are distributed to students on the Programme. These allow students to comment on a wide range of issues concerning the delivery of the Programme and its individual modules. They also seek comments on the effectiveness of external speakers delivering classes within the Programme. The Programme Director analyses, and takes account of, student feedback provided through this mechanism.

The Programme Director acts as academic point of contact for students on the Programme.

During students' first two weeks on the Programme, they receive a comprehensive induction to the academic support available within CCLS and the College more generally (in particular, library and welfare services). The teaching throughout the Programme pays particular attention to the fact that many students have limited prior experience of the system of law and legal studies. The effectiveness of the Programme is reviewed and monitored by the Postgraduate Teaching and Learning Committee within CCLS. Additionally, issues relating to the Programme will be considered within the specialist committee relating to Development, Intellectual Property and Information Technology Law.

Academic Support

Students are supported directly by module leaders by way of one to one meetings if required and by tutorials/seminars.

Academics are usually available for a set period every week or by specific appointment.

Programme-specific Rules and Facts

N/A

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Specific Support for Disabled Students

Disabled students are supported in house by the CCLS disability advisor and all students expressing the need for support or additional support are directed to the appropriate services within CCLS and QMUL

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 commercial world. Currently, senior members of the legal and intellectual property professions play important roles on the examination board for the CIPL and the MSc in Management of Intellectual Property. Almost all students on the CIPL Programme are employed as trainee patent attorneys while studying on that Programme. They are supported financially for their period of study. Almost all graduates from the Programme are employed within the profession following their studies. All programmes within CCLS have the benefit of prizes for achievement supported by commercial organisations (eg GlaxoSmithKline for the CIPL and Allen & Overy for the LLM).

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification

Miss Sharon Watson

Person responsible for management of programme

Dr Apostolos Chronopoulos

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

September 2015

Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board

10 September 2015