

Module I: Introduction to IP

Course info

Course code	TBA	Study mode	Self-paced
Category / Level	Entry level	Duration	15 hours
Course type	E-Learning	Required materials	-
Language of instruction	English	Assessment	Test consisting of multiple-choice questions
Fee	No	Certificate	Yes, EPO Certificate

Module overview

Module I provides an introduction to intellectual property rights (IPRs), why they exist and how they protect intangible assets. Case studies present examples of how IPRs are used in practice to protect some of the latest innovations and how IPRs can be integrated into the business strategy of a company.

Format

Learners can complete Module I independently online at their own pace. The module consists of high-quality videos, podcasts and interactive educational elements. These explain the theory behind new concepts and provide exercises and case studies to help learners consolidate their knowledge. There are also interactive activities based on real-life cases, quizzes and a multiple-choice exam at the end of the module. In addition, a wide variety of resources are included for further study. To access the module, simply create an account with the e-learning centre of the EPO's European Patent Academy at e-courses.epo.org.

Target audience

Master's and PhD students.

Requirements

There are no formal requirements for participating in this course. Previous experience of e-learning is helpful, but not required.

Topics covered

- The nature of knowledge and know-how
- Protecting intangible goods
- Different types of IPRs and their uses
- Benefits of IPRs

Module II: Patent essentials

Course info

Course code	TBA	Study mode	Self-paced
Category / Level	Entry level	Duration	20 hours
Course type	E-Learning	Required materials	-
Language of instruction	English	Assessment	Test consisting of multiple-choice questions
Fee	No	Certificate	Yes, EPO Certificate

Module overview

Module II enables learners to gain a foundational knowledge of patents and the role that patents play in supporting innovation. The module also introduces learners to the concept of patentability, the substantive requirements for a patent application and how patent applications are examined in the patent grant process. Finally, learners are made aware of the benefits that the patent system brings to society and the economy.

Format

Learners can complete Module II independently online at their own pace. The module consists of high-quality videos, podcasts and interactive educational elements. These explain the theory behind new concepts and provide exercises and case studies to help learners consolidate their knowledge. There are also interactive activities based on real-life cases, quizzes and a multiple-choice exam at the end of the module. In addition, a wide variety of resources are included for further study. To access the module, simply create an account with the e-learning centre of the EPO's European Patent Academy at e-courses.epo.org.

Target audience

Master's and PhD students.

Requirements

There are no formal requirements for participating in this course. Previous experience of e-learning is helpful, but not required.

Topics covered

- What is a patent?
- Role and relevance of patents
- Patentability requirements
- Exceptions and exclusions from patentability
- The patent system and its role in fostering innovation and economic growth
- Requirements for patent applications
- What to consider before filing
- What happens during the grant procedure

Module III: Introduction to patent information

Course info

Course code	TBA	Study mode	Self-paced
Category / Level	Entry level	Duration	10 hours
Course type	E-Learning	Required materials	-
Language of instruction	English	Assessment	Test consisting of multiple-choice questions
Fee	No	Certificate	Yes, EPO Certificate

Module overview

Module III provides an overview of patent information, beginning with the characteristics and structure of patent documents. Learners are familiarised with the difference between prior art and legal event data as well as the basics of patent searching and patent databases. Finally, learners are made aware of everyday situations in which patent information makes a difference.

Format

Learners can complete Module III independently online at their own pace. The module consists of high-quality videos, podcasts and interactive educational elements. These explain the theory behind new concepts and provide exercises and case studies to help learners consolidate their knowledge. There are also interactive activities based on real-life cases, quizzes and a multiple-choice exam at the end of the module. In addition, a wide variety of resources are included for further study. To access the module, simply create an account with the e-learning centre of the EPO's European Patent Academy at e-courses.epo.org.

Target audience

Master's and PhD students.

Requirements

There are no formal requirements for participating in this course. Previous experience of e-learning is helpful, but not required.

Topics covered

- Why patent information is important
- The structure of patent documents
- The difference between prior art and legal event information
- Everyday situations in which patent information matters
- How to find and use patent information

Module IV: Patent information in practice

Course info

Course code	TBA	Study mode	Self-paced
Category / Level	Entry level	Duration	15 hours
Course type	E-Learning	Required materials	-
Language of instruction	English	Assessment	Test consisting of multiple-choice questions
Fee	No	Certificate	Yes, EPO Certificate

Module overview

Module IV provides insights into how to use patent information in practice. In the light of several case studies, learners become familiar with how to design search strategies using EPO databases such as Espacenet.

Format

Learners can complete Module IV independently online at their own pace. The module consists of high-quality videos, podcasts and interactive educational elements. These explain the theory behind new concepts and provide exercises and case studies to help learners consolidate their knowledge. There are also interactive activities based on real-life cases, quizzes and a multiple-choice exam at the end of the module. In addition, a wide variety of resources are included for further study. To access the module, simply create an account with the e-learning centre of the EPO's European Patent Academy at e-courses.epo.org.

Target audience

Master's and PhD students.

Requirements

There are no formal requirements for participating in this course. Previous experience of e-learning is helpful, but not required.

Topics covered

- The benefits of patent information in the innovation process
- Prior art searches and patent monitoring in practice
- Freedom-to-operate analysis and patent intelligence in a nutshell

Module V: Developing an IP strategy

Course info

Course code	TBA	Study mode	Self-paced
Category / Level	Entry level	Duration	15 hours
Course type	E-Learning	Required materials	-
Language of instruction	English	Assessment	Test consisting of multiple-choice questions
Fee	No	Certificate	Yes, EPO Certificate

Module overview

Learners gain an understanding of the benefits of an informed IP strategy. They also learn how to develop their own IP strategy and how companies exploit, manage and commercialise their IP in order to be more competitive.

Format

Learners can complete Module V independently online at their own pace. The module consists of high-quality videos, podcasts and interactive educational elements. These explain the theory behind new concepts and provide exercises and case studies to help learners consolidate their knowledge. There are also interactive activities based on real-life cases, quizzes and a multiple-choice exam at the end of the module. In addition, a wide variety of resources are included for further study. To access the module, simply create an account with the e-learning centre of the EPO's European Patent Academy at e-courses.epo.org.

Target audience

Master's and PhD students.

Requirements

There are no formal requirements for participating in this course. Previous experience of e-learning is helpful, but not required.

Topics covered

- The importance of IP strategy
- IPRs management
- Patent filing strategy and action
- Commercialising IP