Modular IP Education Framework (MIPEF)

Skills, Competencies and Learning Outcomes Statement (Entry & Advanced Level)

Course:
Create – Protect – Innovate: Bringing ideas to market
Entry & Advanced Level

Course Overview

This course provides students with a thorough understanding of what intellectual property is and specifically how to use the patent system to support innovation. This understanding is developed over two courses: the entry level (part 1) course covering five online modules; and the advanced level course (part 2) covering further five online modules building upon the entry level modules.

The entry level modules cover fundamental concepts as identified by the module titles:
- Introduction to IP
- Patent essentials
- Introduction to patent information
- Patent information in practice
- Developing an IP strategy

The advanced level modules as the name suggests builds upon the curriculum covered in the entry level modules:
- Grant of patents
- Enforcement of patents
- Scouting and assessment of technology
- IP commercialisation
- Use of intellectual property rights

Learning Outcomes for Parts 1 and 2

- Identify, understand, and use relevant intellectual property rights for different forms of creations in various commercial contexts.

- Clearly and accurately explain the operation of the rules and principles which comprise the EPO patent system, pre and post granting of a patent.

- Critically analyse the effectiveness and impact of intellectual property rights and the patent system specifically in achieving the aim of supporting innovation.

- Apply patent rules and principles to practical situations and develop IP strategy considering the various commercial contexts in which inventors operate.

Competencies

Knowledge and Understanding

- Gains a broad understanding of the knowledge base (as identified in each module) and its terminology and discourse.

- Appreciates that areas of this knowledge base are open to ongoing debate and reformulation.

- Specifically:
  - gain a comprehensive understanding of intellectual property rights (IPRs): their significance and their role in protecting intangible assets.

- understand the foundational concepts of patents, their role in fostering innovation and the societal and economic benefits they offer.
- understand the significance of patent databases and their role in research and development.

Performance and Practice

- **Adaptation to context**: Undertakes a given and clearly defined role as an online student.

- **Performance**: Undertakes given performance tasks that may be complex both in the self-paced modules and the live tutored sessions as well as the course assignments.

- **Ethical awareness and application**: Gains an awareness of the ethical issues in the main areas of study across the entry and advanced level modules.

- Specifically:

  - efficiently navigate and extract relevant information from patent databases.
  - conduct comprehensive patent searches, ensuring thoroughness and accuracy.
  - design and execute IP strategies that align with business objectives.
  - integrate IP considerations into broader business strategies, ensuring protection and commercialisation of intangible assets.

Skills

Cognitive Skills

- **Conceptualisation and critical thinking**: Relates principles and concepts to underlying frameworks and approaches.

- Specifically:

  - in relation to strategic IP management, recognise the advantages of a well-informed IP strategy and its role in enhancing competitiveness.
  - analyse real-world cases to discern the application of IPRs and patents in various scenarios.
  - Evaluate the potential of innovations for patentability and understand the strategic implications of IP decisions.

- **Problem solving, research and enquiry**: Carries out defined investigative strategies and communicates results effectively in a given format both in the self-paced modules, live tutored sessions and the end of course assignment.

- Specifically, in relation to the mastery of patent Information:

  - recognise the structure and characteristics of patent documents and differentiate between prior art and legal event data.
  - conduct basic patent searches, utilise patent databases and discern the practical implications of patent information in everyday situations.

- **Synthesis and creativity:** Collects information to inform a choice of solutions to standard problems in familiar contexts.

- **Specifically:**

  - o design and implement search strategies using databases like Espacenet, drawing insights from various case studies.
  - o develop and implement an IP strategy tailored to specific needs, understanding how companies exploit, manage and commercialise their IP assets.

- **Analysis and evaluation:** Analyses a range of information using pre-defined principles, frameworks or criteria.

- Specifically:

  - o analyse real-world scenarios to understand the practical application of IPRs and their integration into business strategies.
  - o evaluate the patentability of innovations, comprehend the requirements for patent applications, and understand the patent grant process.
  - o develop and implement an IP strategy tailored to specific needs, understanding how companies exploit, manage and commercialise their IP assets.

Personal and Enabling Skills

- **Personal evaluation and development:**

  In the context of the self-paced modules, live tutored sessions and the end of course assignment:

  - ▪ Assesses own capabilities against given criteria.
  - ▪ Engages in guided development activity.

- **Interpersonal and communication skills:**

  - o Uses interpersonal and communication skills to clarify tasks and communicate outcomes in narrowly defined contexts.
  - o Develops the ability to professionally communicate with other experts and stakeholders in the field using the right IP language.

- **Team work**: Adapts own behaviour to meet obligations to others in group activities undertaken as part of the live tutored sessions.