



## PATENT EXAMINER

In offices which perform a substantive examination, a patent examiner verifies if the invention described in a patent application respects the patentability requirements (novelty, inventive step, and susceptibility of industrial application) and decides whether to grant a patent or not. Advanced scientific and technological competences and knowledge enable them to work at the forefront of technology and to study the state of the art thereof. Notwithstanding the scientific and analytic aspects of the profession, examiners have to comply with the legal aspects of intellectual property as well.

### MAIN ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Examination of patent applications and drafting of search reports:
  - ▶ Documentary research on the state of the art (identification of prior technical disclosures in scientific and technical publications);
  - ▶ Evaluation of the patentability of inventions through a critical analysis of the state of the art (comparison between the application and the state of the art).
- ▶ Exchange of correspondence with patent applicants or their representatives regarding objections to the patent and any amendments thereto.

### EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND ACCESS TO THE PROFESSION

Holding a master degree (or equivalent) in sciences (physics, chemistry, computer, medicine, biology, etc.) or engineering is mandatory to be able to access the profession. In general, patent offices require a specialisation in line with the specific technical or scientific domain in which the applicant wants to work.

Prior knowledge of intellectual property is not mandatory when entering the profession; however, an interest in the field or attending specialised training courses is required. Concerning linguistic skills, fluency in English is essential.

In Luxembourg there is no specialised training for becoming a patent examiner.

Training courses and certification programmes which could be a valuable asset are offered abroad by some universities or private organisations.

For more information, feel free to consult our website at the following address:

[www.ipil.lu/metiers-PI/useful-links/](http://www.ipil.lu/metiers-PI/useful-links/).

### KEY COMPETENCES AND PERSONAL SKILLS

- ▶ Accuracy and attention to detail.
- ▶ Capacity for rigorous analysis and synthesis.
- ▶ Spirit of enquiry and organisational skills.



## MAIN POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS

Private sector: Not applicable

Public sector: Patent offices - e.g.: European Patent Office (EPO), DPMA in Germany, INPI in France, ÖPA in Austria, OEPM in Spain, etc.).

**As there are no patent examinations taking place in Luxembourg, there are no available positions at Luxembourg's IP office.**

**Experienced examiners are qualified to work in the area of intellectual property in a company or at a research centre.**

## PERSPECTIVES AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Experienced examiners may consider working in a patent office, providing training, and representing the office at conferences and exhibitions. In addition, they may envisage working as a patent attorney or industrial property attorney (see the "Industrial property counsel" job description) in a firm specialised in industrial property or as a technology transfer officer (see the "Technology transfer officer" job description) in a research institution or in a research department within a company.

An examiner who starts a career at the European Patent Office participates in a 2-year training programme (in order to become familiar with tools, procedures, law, and languages) and may be in charge of prior art searches, examination, opposition and appeal procedures, and so on.

This campaign is organised by



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DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG  
Ministère de l'Économie

Office de la propriété intellectuelle



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