



INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY COUNSEL

PATENT ATTORNEY

A patent attorney's mission consists of providing advice to companies and individuals on patent matters. The representation of patent applicants and patent holders before national intellectual property offices and the European Patent Office (EPO) is also part of their activities. Combining scientific and technical expertise with thorough knowledge of patent legislation is essential for the accomplishment of their tasks.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Evaluation of an invention's patentability and drafting of patent applications.
- ▶ Follow-up on patent registration procedures.
- ▶ Analysis of technical and/or scientific aspects related to inventions and their transcription into writing.
- ▶ Elaboration of patent strategies and drafting of licensing and collaboration contracts.
- ▶ Representation of the company and the owner of inventions before national intellectual property offices and the EPO.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND ACCESS TO THE PROFESSION

In Luxembourg, the title "Industrial Property Counsel" (IPC) is conferred on persons holding a Master's degree (or equivalent) in law, sciences or engineering followed by 3 years of working experience at an IPC firm.

In general, patent attorneys hold a university degree in sciences or engineering and have acquired knowledge in patent law during their professional career or through the completion of specialised training.

Notwithstanding their scientific or technical profile, patent attorneys are IPCs, like trademark attorneys. Therefore they are also qualified to work in trademark matters.

For more information regarding training courses and certification programmes, feel free to consult our website at the following address:

www.ipil.lu/metiers-PI/useful-links/.

This job requires fluency in English.

KEY COMPETENCES AND PERSONAL SKILLS

- ▶ Capacity for rigorous analysis and synthesis.
- ▶ Communication skills and sound judgement.
- ▶ Sense of organisation and flexibility.
- ▶ Ability to transcribe concepts into writing.



MAIN POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS

Private sector: industrial companies with a “research and development” or “valorisation of industrial property” department, IP firms, research laboratories and research institutes.

Public sector: universities, public research centres.

In Luxembourg, job opportunities are mainly offered by consulting companies specialised in industrial property, the university and industrial companies.

PERSPECTIVES AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Patent attorneys generally start their career as patent-specialised engineers in the public or private sector, where they acquire qualifications during their initial years of activity.

In France, those who would like to pass a qualification examination can do this at the INPI¹.

At the European level, the title “European Patent Attorney” is given to persons who hold a scientific or technical university diploma, together with 3 years of proven professional experience, and who have passed the European patent attorney qualification exam. They are included in the list of European patent attorneys and are allowed to represent their clients before the EPO. Additionally, IPCs working also with trademarks may request to be included on the list of EUIPO representatives². This list distinguishes between representatives in “design matters” and representatives in “design and trademark matters”.

When working in-house, patent attorneys are in charge of the IP strategy of the company, whereas in an IP firm, the focus will be on representing and advising clients.

IPCs can also use their skills to become a technology transfer officer (see the “Technology transfer officer” job description).

IPCs can open their own IP firm once they qualify and receive the authorisation of establishment.



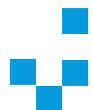
“ AN ABILITY TO CONCEPTUALISE INVENTIONS, TRANSLATE KEY CONCEPTS INTO WRITING, AND AN INTEREST IN LAW CHARACTERISE THIS PROFESSION! ”

Didier Lecomte,
European Patent and Trademark Attorney

This campaign is organised by



In cooperation with



¹ The conditions for registration are established by the Decree of 23 September 2004 which modifies the following provisions of the French Intellectual Property Code: R. 421-1., R. 421-2 and R. 421-5 to R. 421-8.

² Conditions for integration are established in article 93 of Council Regulation (EC) No 207/2009 amended by the Regulation (EU) 2015/2424 of 16 December 2015 on the European Union trade mark.