



PATENT MANAGER

PATENT ENGINEER, PATENT COUNSEL, PATENT PORTFOLIO MANAGER

Patent portfolios which form an integral part of a company's assets have to be managed adequately. Patent managers draft and file patent applications with the competent authorities¹ and manage their exploitation (e.g. through licensing contracts). They can also participate in the elaboration of research and collaboration contracts for research purposes and manage the filing of trademark applications. Patent managers combine their passion for the scientific and technical aspects of inventions and their knowledge of industrial property law.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Evaluation of the patentability of inventions (analysis of their main components).
- ▶ Identification of potential risks regarding freedom to operate (analysis of exclusive rights such as trademarks and patents owned by competitors).
- ▶ Preparation, drafting and filing of patent applications.
- ▶ Drafting of licensing contracts and elaboration of patent and trademark strategies.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND ACCESS TO THE PROFESSION

Patent managers hold a scientific (e.g.: chemistry, physics, biochemistry, computer science, etc.) or technical (e.g.: electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, etc.) master's degree or equivalent. Participation in training courses on intellectual property is an asset; however, legal competences may also be acquired through professional experience.

No specific training is available in Luxembourg.

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/.

KEY COMPETENCES AND PERSONAL SKILLS

- ▶ Writing skills and ability to make an assessment.
- ▶ Ability to evaluate the potential of inventions in specific contexts (e.g.: for internal and external exploitation).
- ▶ Ability to analyse and synthesise.
- ▶ Sense of organisation and rigour.

¹ Insofar as he possesses the necessary skills and/or training (see the "Patent Attorney" job description).



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY JOBS PATENTS

MAIN POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS

Private sector: Industrial companies with a “research and development” department, research organisations.

Public sector: Public administration, public research centres.

In Luxembourg, patent managers are generally hired by industrial companies.

PERSPECTIVES AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

In the long term, patent managers may opt for a career as a technology transfer officer (see the “Technology transfer officer” job description). Patent managers may also progress to a managerial position or work as a patent attorney (see the “Industrial Property Counsel, Patent attorney” job description). Public bodies can also offer interesting career opportunities.



// *IN INDUSTRY, I HAVE TWO ROLES: TO VERIFY WHETHER THE COMPANY IS FREE TO EXPLOIT AN INVENTION AND TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF INVENTIONS BY EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS WHICH WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO CREATE VALUE.* //

Bernd Kutsch,
European Patent Attorney

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