

The Patent Regulation Board

And

The Trade Mark Regulation Board

Education and Training Plan for 2012- 2013

The overarching regulatory objective determining all IPReg education and training objectives is that of:

“encouraging an independent, strong, diverse and effective legal profession”

Section 1 Legal Services Act 2007

Elaborating upon this objective, the Chairman of the Legal Services Board stated:-

“... we also have a specific duty: to assist in the maintenance and development of standards in relation to the education and training of authorised persons ... If the law is to ever more effectively serve the public, then the profession – or rather the entire legal workforce – needs to have the right skills and knowledge. That includes the capability to constantly update both skills and knowledge. In other words, meeting the objective isn’t just about making sure that people jump the right hurdles in their early twenties. It is about achieving a constant interplay between practice and education, with the two spheres in constant dialogue, each driving improvement and innovation in the other to the broader public good”

David Edmondson, Lord Upjohn Lecture, 19 November 2010

Although strictly IPReg comprises the Patent Regulation Board and the Trade Mark Regulation Board we have produced single education plan because our policy is to meet the regulatory objectives in a consistent way across the whole of the profession.

Unlike our annual business plan, we have not allocated priorities to the activities; they all have equal priority.

	Activity	Description
1	Audit provision of existing examination arrangements for registration of patent & trade mark attorneys	<p>Audit by an external specialist independent body approved by IPReg (e.g. Ofqual) of the provision by the JEB of the qualifying examinations for patent attorneys</p> <p>Audit by an external specialist independent body approved by IPReg of the provision by Queen Mary College and Nottingham Law School of the qualifying examinations for trade mark attorneys</p> <p>Establish a procedure for regular audits as above</p>
2	Audit course providers	<p>Develop and publish a procedure for course applications to be assessed prior to set-up</p> <p>Develop and publish a procedure for existing courses to be regularly audited</p>
3	Facilitate enhanced access into the professions	<p>Participate in appropriate career fairs and similar promotional events (will require commissioning of suitable materials, staff training, etc) to broaden awareness of a career as an IP attorney</p> <p>Encourage participation by CIPA and ITMA in such events</p> <p>Identify possible areas for and the potential benefits of harmonising aspects of the education of patent and trade mark students to facilitate consistency (and economies of scale).</p> <p>Establish data on diversity profiles of students entering into the professions.</p>
4	Facilitate minimum standards for in-service IP training	<p>Consult on the establishment and implementation of minimum standards for in-service training including guidelines, checklists and model contracts (applicable to all parties:- trainee, training body & trainer / manager)</p> <p>Develop a process for regular IPReg sampling of in-service training</p> <p>Commission or procure a basic course in organisational coaching and mentoring for in-house trainers</p> <p>Consult on the removal of qualification via 4 years unsupervised practice</p>

5	Training in Code of Conduct issues	Facilitate training courses on the IPReg Code tailored for entrants and also for established practitioners including those intending to transition from corporate to private practice.
6	Professional Development	Issue a CPD questionnaire to identify areas for development Amend Guidelines and Rules as and if appropriate