

Barker
Brettell

Intellectual
Property

CIPA Introductory lecture

Your career in patents

4 March 2025

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Your early career

A very steep learning curve

- Types of IP, different laws, commercial and business issues
- The world of “office” work
- There isn’t always a right answer

Your early career

What is expected/not-expected of you

- Build trust
 - You do not need to have the answer immediately
 - Show your working/thought process
 - Ask questions – there is no such thing as a silly question
 - Treat your supervisor as you would a client
 - Know your limits

Your early career

The type of work you will be doing

- Reviewing official actions
- Seeking client instructions/input
- Drafting responses
- Drafting instructions for foreign attorneys
- Advice on patentability
- Drafting patent applications
- Freedom-to-operate analysis
- Validity analysis
- Formality work
- Hearings/litigation (supporting a qualified attorney)
- Marketing

Your early career

What type of jobs will you be doing

- Work that provides a learning opportunity
- Work that needs doing
- If you think you are not getting enough experience in different areas – be proactive in asking for opportunities

Your later career

What type of work will you be doing

- A chance to focus more on the areas you enjoy and are stronger in
- Private practice vs in-house
- Management, training/supervision, CIPA/international bodies

Qualifying

The qualifications you need

- UK Chartered Patent Attorney
- European Patent Attorney

Optional

- UK litigation – higher rights of representation
- UPC representative

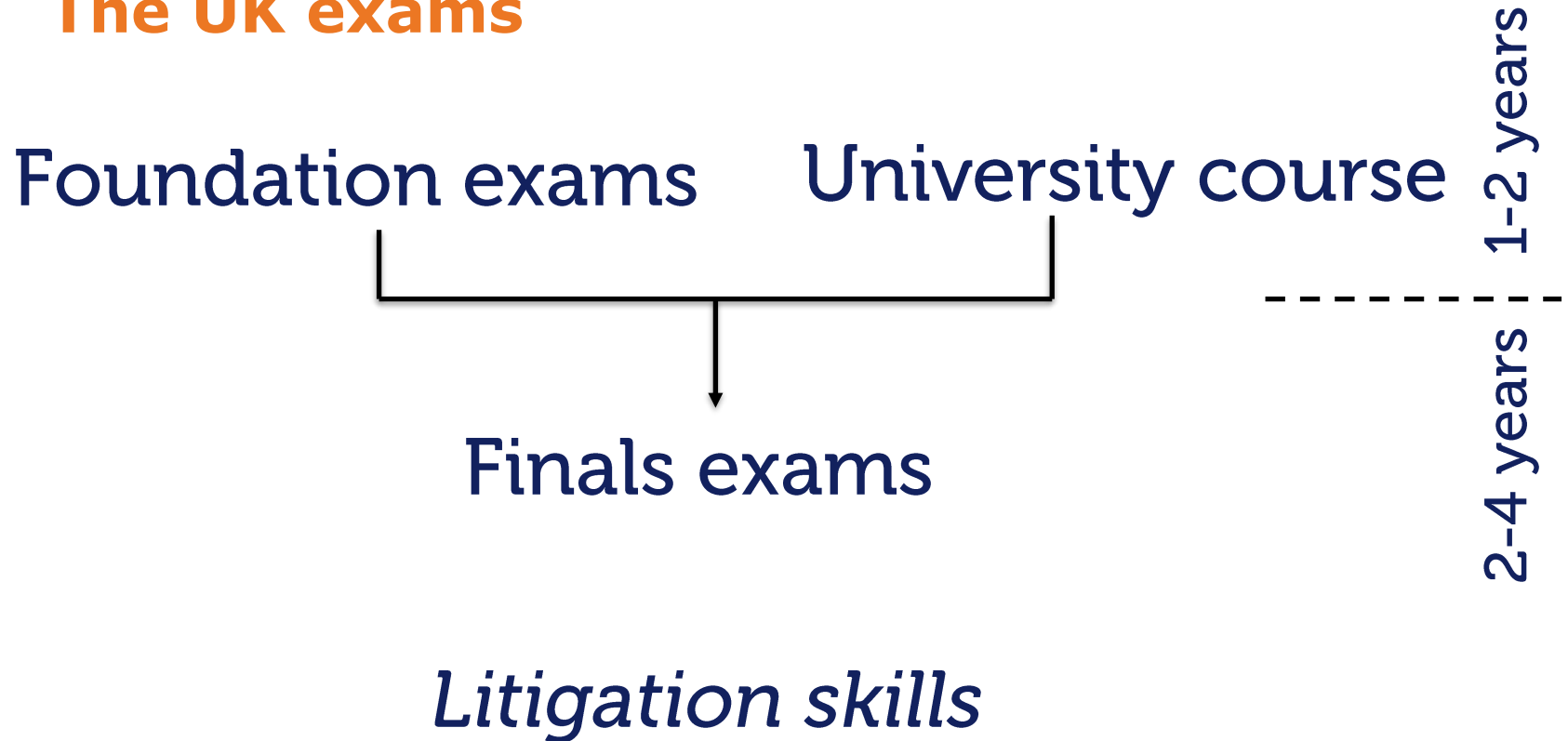
Qualifying

The exams

- Lots of them
- Lots of ways to revise
 - Experience
 - Law
 - Case law
 - Guide books
 - Study guides
 - Lectures
 - Seminars (internal or external)
 - Courses

Qualifying

The UK exams



Qualifying

The UK exams – foundation exams

- Testing knowledge of law
- UK patent law
- Foreign patent law
- Design and copyright law
- British legal system
- Trade marks
- Foundation papers on each of the above
- All closed book
- Courses at QM, Bournemouth, Brunel

Qualifying

The UK exams – finals exams

- Testing your ability to do the job
- Drafting patents
- Responding to examination reports
- Infringement and validity
- More complex legal questions
- Papers on each of the above
- All closed book
- Changes are coming

Qualifying

The European exams – new structure

- Module F – minimum one year experience
- Modules 1 & 2 – minimum two years' experience
- Modules 3 & 4 – minimum three years' experience
- Need to register for experience to be recorded

Qualifying

The European exams – what is tested

- Module F – basic patent law and claim analysis
- Module 1 – analysis and assessment of information and attending to client instructions
- Module 2 – Application of procedural law
- Module 3 – claim drafting, official action response, opposition
- Module 4 – legal opinions and client advice

Qualifying

How to revise

- Fit in around work
- Sit papers that match your experience level
- You know best how you will learn
- Practice papers (exam technique)
- Failing is not the end of the world

Qualifying

After exams

- Relax!
- The learning never stops
- Lots of new things to learn
- Pass it on

Life as a trainee

Social and support

- Peers (in your firm or in your region)
- Mentors/supervisors
- CIPA/Informals
- IP inclusive
- Jonathan's voice
- Friends and family

Life as a trainee

Informals

- By trainees, for trainees
- Yellow Sheet - <https://yellowsheet.wordpress.com/>
- Training webinars, lectures and tutorials
- Mentoring and buddy schemes
- Wacky Patents
- Social Events
- Sports Tournaments
- News Updates
- Regional Events



THE YELLOW SHEET

The Official Blog of the Informals Committee

Life as a trainee

IP inclusive - <https://ipinclusive.org.uk/>

- Ensuring that for all those who have the necessary aptitude, regardless of their age, gender, race, sexual orientation, religion, physical and cognitive ability, wealth and background, the UK's IP professions are:

- welcoming
- accessible
- respectful
- Supportive



IPINCLUSIVE

- Mental health hub: <https://ipinclusive.org.uk/mental-health-and-wellbeing/>

Life as a trainee

Johnathan's voice - <https://jonathansvoice.org.uk/>

- Work alongside professional institutions, individual firms and CIPA, CITMA and IP inclusive to help develop mentally healthy workplaces where all may thrive
- Worked with IP inclusive on their mental health hub
- Provide training for IP firms



Jonathan's Voice

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Questions

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