



# How to become a European Patent Attorney

Are you curious about the newest technological advancements? Do you like to read, write and analyse? Do you like meeting innovative and bright people? Do you want to combine your scientific skills with IP law? And above all are you ready for an intellectual challenge? Then become a European Patent Attorney!

If you want a sneak peek at what the future has in store, you should become a European Patent Attorney. The job has the added benefits that you get to assist inventors and leading scientific experts in protecting and commercialising their inventions. And the title, European Patent Attorney, earns you the right to work anywhere in Europe.

## **The basic requirements are:**

1. Minimum a bachelor's degree in a scientific or technical field,
2. You must find a patent agency or in-house patent counsel where you can be mentored by a European Patent Attorney for a minimum of 3 three years full time,
3. You must have the grit and patience to pass the complete European Qualifying Examination (EQE) modules during the first 3-4 years of your training. The EQE is known as one of the toughest professional exams in Europe.

Training to become a European patent attorney takes several years and requires a lot of preparation next to a full time job before you can comfortably sit Foundation Paper and the subsequent years, the M1 to M4 papers to complete the EQE. The EQE is an exam that will test your skills in claim drafting, prosecution, oppositions, and basic legal knowledge about the European Patent Convention.

Typically you follow courses relevant for the EQE (e.g. held by CEIPI or Delta) and often you also study for a national qualification at the same time. In Denmark, DIFI offers courses and exams that will earn you the title of Certified Danish Patent Agent (CDPA).

The best part is, once you finally pass the last exam – you are nowhere near done! The patent world is complex and even if you have been practicing as an European Patent Attorney for several years, you have not seen all the complexities and scenarios yet.

What does a European Patent Attorney do? The most important job is to keep the Intellectual Property (IP) of your clients safe, so your client can sleep well at night. You have to be on the forefront of ever-changing legal developments, business plans, research results, and national and international law.

You have to think far ahead: a patent can last for 20 years – and more. And you have to be pragmatic, while always trying to secure the best outcome for your client. Specifically, you will be doing novelty searches, drafting and prosecuting patent applications, discussing strategies with clients, filing oppositions, doing Freedom to Operate (FTO) analyses, second opinions, due diligences, and enforcing the rights of your clients.

The job requires excellent analytical skills, curiosity, a quick understanding of technologies, excellent ability to write in a clear and concise language, and an attention to detail – while retaining the full picture. Does this sound appealing to you?

If you want to learn more, you can visit any of the following sites for more information:

**EPO:**

<https://www.epo.org/learning.html>

**CEIPI:**

<http://www.ceipi.edu/>

**DELTA**

<http://www.deltapatents.com/>

## Need to know more?

If you wish to know more about how to become a patent consultant you are welcome to contact us on [job@hoiberg.com](mailto:job@hoiberg.com).

We look forward to hearing from you.