The European Patent Office and the Pan-European Seal Programme

Join us for an extraordinary professional traineeship opportunity
The EPO at a glance

Our mission
We provide patent protection for inventions in up to 40 European countries on the basis of one single application

Our locations:
Munich (headquarters), The Hague, Berlin, Vienna and Brussels

2\textsuperscript{nd} largest intergovernmental institution in Europe

Self-financing:
Budget of EUR 2.4\textsuperscript{bn} without any public funding

6,400 employees, of which around 4,100 highly qualified patent examiners working in all fields of technology
Our history

1973 • Diplomatic Conference in Munich

5 October 1973 • Signature of the European Patent Convention (EPC) by 16 countries

1977 • Entry into force of the EPC in seven countries
      • Founding of the European Patent Organisation
      • Founding of the European Patent Office

2013 • Celebration of 40 years of the EPC
A sustainable office committed to excellence

EPO Strategic Plan 2023

As the Patent Office for Europe, we are proud to deliver high-quality patents and efficient services that foster innovation, competitiveness and economic growth.

We will empower and motivate our staff to set worldwide standards in intellectual property. Our Office will be effective and transparent, respond to the needs of our users and be agile in managing the changing demands and conditions of a dynamic global patent system. Our work will contribute to a safer, smarter and more sustainable world.
A multicultural working environment

- 35 different nationalities

- Three languages for working in and for communicating with applicants:
  - English (EN)
  - French (FR)
  - German (DE)
Today ... an area with some 700m inhabitants

38 European member states
Belgium • Germany • France • Luxembourg • Netherlands
Switzerland • United Kingdom • Sweden • Italy • Austria
Liechtenstein • Greece • Spain • Denmark • Monaco
Portugal • Ireland • Finland • Cyprus • Turkey
Bulgaria • Czech Rep. • Estonia • Slovakia
Slovenia • Hungary • Romania • Poland • Iceland
Lithuania • Latvia • Malta • Croatia • Norway
North Macedonia • San Marino • Albania • Serbia

Two European extension states
Bosnia and Herzegovina • Montenegro

Four validation states
Republic of Moldova • Morocco • Tunisia
Cambodia
The role of the EPO in the European grant procedure

We provide patent protection:

- in up to 38 EPO member states, two extension and four validation states based on a single application
- in one of the three official languages (English, French, German)

We make all patent documents available to the public.
The Pan-European Seal programme is a framework for strategic co-operation between Europe’s leading IP offices – EPO and EUIPO in partnership with over 95 European member universities.

It offers university graduates the opportunity to kick-start their professional careers through a unique one-year traineeship at the EPO and to boost their professional and personal growth.
Programme highlights at the EPO

- A 12-months paid professional traineeship
- An extensive trainee development programme guided by a tutor
- A collaborative multicultural environment
- An integrated member of a strong community of experts.
Benefits for students

- An extraordinary opportunity to kickstart a career in an IP-related field
- The experience of living and working abroad full-time
- The chance to refine and practice business and language skills
- Professional development alongside supportive tutors and colleagues
- Building a professional network
- New friendships
Personal development plan

- Acquire new IP and field-specific knowledge
- Attain and practice business and professional soft skills in an international environment
- Improve language proficiency
- Build a professional network
- Benefit from an experienced EPO tutor
Eligibility criteria for trainees

Eligible candidates must, by the start of their traineeship, possess:

- Nationality of an EPO member or extension state
- A completed undergraduate degree or equivalent as a minimum
- Knowledge of one of EPO's working languages (English, French or German) at a minimum level of B1

The selection process consists of an interview by the tutors and a merit-based assessment.
Interested? Then apply if

- You are a graduate of one of the PES universities and are shortlisted by your university;
- You are a national of one of the EPO member states or one of the EPO extension states;
- You are looking for an international experience.

Stay tuned in February '22 about the 2022/23 edition of the EPO’s Pan-European Seal professional traineeship programme.
Our trainees
Need more information?
Visit The Pan-European Seal Professional Traineeship Programme

Contact us paneuropeanseal@epo.org

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