

MASTER'S DEGREE IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROGRAMME (MIP) 2025



Offered jointly by:

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO),
The African Regional Intellectual Property
Organization (ARIPO),
and Africa University, with Financial Assistance from
the Government of Japan





HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE MIP PROGRAMME

In July 2006, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) held a Colloquium at the ARIPO Headquarters on Intellectual Property (IP) education, training and research. During the Colloquium, the participants called for an emergency action plan to address the critical shortage of IP professionals and experts in Africa. They requested the WIPO Academy and ARIPO in cooperation with Universities in Africa to establish an academic programme at the level of a Master in Intellectual Property (MIP) Degree, in one of the Universities in the member states of ARIPO. It was felt that this approach would provide a pragmatic response to the need for enhancement of the human resources development in IP in Africa.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS OF THE MIP PROGRAMME

The MIP programme is jointly organized by WIPO, ARIPO, and Africa University's School of Law, with financial assistance from the Government of Japan.

About WIPO

WIPO is the global forum for intellectual property policy, services, information and cooperation. WIPO is a self-funding agency of the United Nations, with 193 Member States. Its mission is to lead the development of a balanced and effective international intellectual property system that enables innovation and creativity for the benefit of all. WIPO's mandate, governing bodies and procedures are set out in the WIPO Convention, which established it in 1967.

The WIPO Academy is a division of WIPO established in 1998. The WIPO Academy is the centre of excellence for intellectual property (IP) education, training and skills-building for WIPO Member States, in particular developing countries, least developed countries (LDCs) and countries in transition. The Academy works to help build human capacity in IP, which is essential for innovation and creativity. The aim of the Academic Institutions and Executive program is to support access to IP higher education, especially to participants from developing countries, LDCs and countries in transition. One of the main means of achieving this is through the Joint Master's Programs on IP, offered in partnership with selected academic institutions.

About ARIPO

The African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) is an intergovernmental organization established by the Lusaka Agreement in 1976. The main objective for establishing ARIPO is to pool resources of the member states together for the promotion, development, and use of IP for economic development. Currently, ARIPO has 22 member states with its headquarters in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Article III of the Lusaka Agreement mandates ARIPO to establish schemes for the training of staff in the administration of IP laws, organize training seminars and other meetings on IP matters and promote the exchange of ideas and experiences, as well as conduct research studies in the field of IP. Through the ARIPO Academy, ARIPO provides capacity-building activities for the development of Africa as a whole.

About Africa University

Africa University is a Pan-African University that recruits staff and students from over 30 countries. The University is also a United Methodist-Related Institution anchored in Christian values and ethics. The University prides itself in regional and international partnerships that help promote its reach and sustainability.

Africa University has four colleges and one school namely: (i) College of Business, Peace, Leadership and Governance, (ii) College of Health, Agriculture and Natural Sciences, (iii) College of Social Sciences, Theology, Humanities and Education and (iv) College of Engineering and Applied Sciences and the School of Law.

The University's mission is to provide high-quality transformational education within a Pan-African context, where students value diversity, acquire knowledge and skills, grow in spiritual maturity, and develop sound moral values, integrity, professionalism and leadership qualities. The University offers over 50 undergraduate and post-graduate degree programmes, inclusive of PhD qualifications.





THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

The main objectives of the programme are to:

- Create IP expertise in Africa.
- Support IP teaching in institutions of higher learning.
- Promote IP systems in Africa.

The MIP curriculum aims to provide an in depth examination of all fields of Intellectual Property and is taught by leading academics, legal practitioners, and IP experts drawn from various universities and other IP institutions in Africa, Japan and beyond. The MIP programme is designed to equip young professionals with necessary skills to enable them to play a leading role in promoting the teaching, use and protection of IP in Africa.

DURATION OF THE PROGRAMME

During this phase, students take residential courses at Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe, attending face to face lectures with professors/lecturers and IP experts. Class teaching is complemented by case studies, tutorials, research work, field trips, dissertation proposal writing and defence. A total of 6 examinable modules are taken during this phase of study. In the last two weeks of the Residential Learning Phase, students go through practical training and participate in an Intellectual Property Conference at ARIPO in Harare, Zimbabwe.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The requirements for admission are as follows:

1. A minimum of a bachelor's degree or its equivalent, with a second lower class, in any field from a recognised academic institution.
2. A minimum of two years working experience after graduation with a first degree.
3. Proof of English proficiency.
4. A pass in WIPO DL 101 (General course in Intellectual Property).

SCHOLARSHIPS

With a view to contributing to the development of human resources in the field of IP in developing countries, WIPO, ARIPO and the Government of Japan provide scholarships to highly motivated persons from Africa to participate in the programme. Each scholarship covers travel, board and lodging during the residential learning phase, tuition, registration fees and medical insurance.



STRUCTURE OF THE MIP PROGRAMME

Part I: Distance Learning Phase

Students take three WIPO Distance Learning (DL) Courses offered online from May to July. At the end of the DL courses, students write their examinations at Africa University.

Part II: Residential Learning Phase

During this phase, students take residential courses at Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe, attending face to face lectures with professors/lecturers and IP experts. Class teaching is complemented by case studies, tutorials, research work, field trips, dissertation proposal writing and defence. A total of 6 examinable modules are taken during this phase of study. In the last two weeks of the Residential Learning Phase, students go through practical training and participate in an Intellectual Property Conference at ARIPO in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Part III: Dissertation

From December to April, students write dissertation projects on selected and approved topics. Every student works intensively under the guidance of two supervisors who are assigned during the Residential Learning Phase.

DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES: May 1, 2025 to July 30, 2025

COURSE CODE	COURSE TITLE
DL-320	Patent Drafting
DL-301	Patents
DL-302	Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications

RESIDENTIAL PHASE COURSE: August 1, 2025 to December 6, 2025

MODULE	DESCRIPTION
Module 1	Patents, Utility Models and New Technologies
Module 2	Industrial Designs
Module 3	Branding (Trademarks)
Module 4	Branding (Geographical Indications and Unfair Competition)
Module 5	Copyright and Related Rights
Module 6	IP and Public Health, Food Security and Biotechnology
Module 7	Traditional Knowledge, Folklore and Genetic Resources
Module 8	IP, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises and IP management
Module 9	IP asset management, Strategic Planning, Technology transfer, Licensing and Artificial Intelligence
Module 10	Innovation and Entrepreneurship
Module 11	Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights
Module 12	Practical Training at ARIPO

Dissertation December 6, 2024 to April 30, 2025





OUR ALUMNI

Ms Ivy Chege



Ivy Chege holds a Master's in Intellectual Property from Africa University, jointly offered with WIPO and the ARIPO. She also holds a Bachelor of Laws from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), and a Postgraduate Diploma in Law from the Kenya School of Law. Ivy is an advocate of the High Court of Kenya, a member of the Law Society of Kenya, and the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. Currently, she works as a Legal Officer at JKUAT and serves as an IP educator at the University's Innovation Hub. She is also the co-founder of Inuka IP Foundation, an organization dedicated to promoting IP awareness across Africa.

Ivy was part of cohort 16 of the MIP programme at Africa University in the 2023/2024 academic year. She excelled in her studies, finishing as the 3rd best student in the cohort. During this time, she also served as the Vice President of the cohort. Her biggest takeaway from the MIP programme was the importance of teamwork and the spirit of Ubuntu.

Ivy believes that innovation is key to Africa's future and strives to unlock the continent's potential through deeper understanding, capacity building and effective application of IP laws. Outside of her professional pursuits, Ivy is an avid wrestling fan and volunteers as a moot court judge.

Mr Amadu Bah



Mr Amadu Bah is a national of Sierra Leone. Mr Bah is the Copyright and Related Rights Officer at ARIPO. He has a Master's degree in Intellectual Property from Africa University in Zimbabwe, jointly offered with WIPO and ARIPO. Mr Bah also holds a Diploma in Cultural Studies and a Bachelor's degree from the University of Sierra Leone. He is currently pursuing an LLM with the University of East London. He is deeply passionate about the Creative Cultural Industries, and is a dedicated advocate for intellectual property rights.

Key amongst his responsibilities at ARIPO is providing technical and policy advice, information and analysis to key stakeholders on the promotion of ARIPO's Copyright and Related Rights Mandate (2002). The MIP degree was key in Mr Bah assuming his current role as Copyright and Related Rights Officer at ARIPO. Prior to joining ARIPO, Mr Bah worked as a manager of an energy and logistics company in Sierra Leone.



MIP STEERING COMMITTEE

Africa University:

Rev Prof. Peter Mageto - Vice Chancellor

Prof. Eng Talon Garikayi - Deputy Vice Chancellor

Dr Tendai C. Nhenga - Dean of School of Law

Mr Christopher Munguma - MIP Coordinator & Head of Department Private Law

WIPO:

Mr. Hasan Kleib, Deputy Director-General, Regional and National Development Sector, WIPO

Ms Martha Chikowore, Acting Head, Academic Institutions and Executive Programme, WIPO Academy

Mr. Victor Owade, Counsellor, Academic Institutions and Executive Programme, WIPO Academy

ARIPO:

Mr. Bemanya Twebaze, Director-General,

Dr. Outule Rapuleng, Head, ARIPO Academy

Business Community

Mrs. Brenda Kahari,

Mr Kvirirai Chigerwe, Tanganda Tea Company

SUPPORTING PARTNER:



JAPAN

The government of Japan supports the MIP program through funding of scholarships, providing of IP experts to teach in the program, as well as donation of IP textbooks.



Further information regarding the MIP program can be obtained from the organizing institutions using their respective details below:

The Director-General

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