

WIPO – Harvard Law School Course on Patent Law and Global Public Health

Course description

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and Harvard Law School (HLS) are offering “PatentX”, a specialized online course on patent law and global public health. The course examines the complex relationships between intellectual property (IP) and public health, and ways in which patent law and other legal frameworks might be interpreted to address more effectively ongoing and future global pandemics. The course content is especially relevant to developing countries, least-developed countries, and countries in transition.



Curriculum

The course is divided into two parts. Part I covers patent law in general, and includes the following seven modules:

- Overview of the patent system and the WIPO Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT);
- Eligibility;
- Utility and disclosure;
- Newness (the novelty and inventive-step requirements);
- Claims;
- Infringement; and
- Remedies.

Part II explores how patent law and other legal systems might be reformed in order to mitigate the current public health crisis and in the future to reduce the burdens of disease throughout the world. It includes the following five modules:

- The global health crisis;
- Improving pharmaceutical markets;
- Improving intellectual property;
- Alternative incentive systems; and
- Looking forward.

Participants will access the course materials through the Harvard Law School online platform. Additional details concerning the contents of the course are available at this [link](#).

Faculty

Faculty members trained by HLS, including instructors from the WIPO Joint Masters' Programs and WIPO experts, teach the course. Biennially, a cohort of additional prospective faculty members, selected by the WIPO Academy, will be trained and assessed by HLS.

Formats

Each year, two versions of the course will be offered:

- 1 A 12-week course, starting in the last week of January, designed primarily for students in the WIPO Joint Masters' Programs, post-graduate students, professionals in fields related to health care, and members of the general public. This version will be comparable, in pace and workload, to a traditional upper-level university course.
- 2 A similar 12-week course starting in the first week of September.

Admission requirements

WIPO-Harvard PatentX is offered free-of-charge, but enrolment is limited. To be considered for admission, candidates must submit an online application containing:

- Their educational qualifications (university degree(s) in any field);
- Descriptions of their relevant professional experiences (if any);
- Recent curriculum vitae; and
- A brief statement of the reasons they wish to take the course.

Applications should be submitted through the WIPO Academy website available at this [link](#). WIPO, in consultation with HLS, will evaluate the applications and will notify selected candidates.

Examinations and certificates

Participants who satisfy the attendance requirement of the course and pass the final examination will be awarded certificates of completion jointly signed by HLS and WIPO.

For more information, please contact the course administration at: **HarvardPatX@wipo.int**

