

1	Awarding institution/body	University of Oxford
2	Teaching institution	University of Oxford
3	Programme accredited	n/a
4	Final award	Postgraduate Diploma
5	Programme	Postgraduate Diploma in Intellectual Property Law and Practice
6	UCAS code	n/a (postgraduate course)
7	Relevant subject benchmark statement	Law
8	Date of Programme Specification preparation	July 2009 (Specifying programme in force at September 2009)

9	Educational aims of the programme
	<p>The Diploma is a one-year part-time postgraduate degree programme for those who intend to specialise in the practice of intellectual property (“IP”) law. It aims to:</p> <p><i>Subject specific</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ provide students with an advanced knowledge and understanding of core aspects of IP law and practice. ▪ encourage and enable students to use IP law in the mediation of competing interests. ▪ provide students with an appreciation of the role of IPRs in different commercial and other professional contexts, and encourage the development of the necessary intellectual and practical skills for analysing and harnessing that role. ▪ enable students to develop both a generalist’s understanding of IP practice, and a specialist’s comprehension of certain technical and procedural skills. <p><i>General</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To enable students to develop the knowledge and skills necessary for legal practice. ▪ To encourage students to think pragmatically about the law. ▪ To enable students to develop confidence and proficiency in advising on legal issues. ▪ To enable students to develop the capacity to devise and sustain legal arguments and solve legal problems in various professional contexts. ▪ To encourage students to take responsibility for their own learning, and for their own personal and professional development generally. ▪ To give students the necessary skills for employment, and for developing other aspects of their professional lives.

10	Programme outcomes
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<i>10A</i>	<i>Knowledge and understanding</i>	<i>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</i>
	<p>A thorough knowledge and deep understanding of intellectual property law as an intellectual discipline, including the law of patents, designs, copyright, and trade marks (a comprehensive list of course components is given under 11. below)</p>	<p>Teaching will be provided through a series of lectures over a 10-day residential programme (described in greater detail under 11. below), delivered by members of the Law Faculty and by senior IP practitioners. The intensive nature of this schedule, and the fact that the lectures will be delivered in close succession, will help students to contextualise the various course elements and make conceptual links between them, whilst the lectures themselves constitute an appropriate means of delivery for this more theoretical element of the course.</p>
	<p>A knowledge and understanding of the various practical applications of intellectual property law that practitioners in the field can expect to encounter.</p>	<p>This element of the course will be taught by means of a series of five workshops, each comprising of seminars in small groups, taught by experienced practitioners in the field of Intellectual Property Law. The workshops will enable students to build on the theoretical grounding they will have gained from the lectures described above, and to apply the concepts acquired in practical contexts. Seminars provide an appropriately interactive forum for this activity, allowing students to discuss with their teachers and with one another their ideas as applied to particular cases and problems. Each workshop will be integrated with practical exercises (see below), which require reading and preparation before the workshop, and which call for application of the understanding developed in the residential programme.</p>

Assessment

Summative assessment is provided by means of two two-hour timed examinations, and the submission of four pieces of coursework assignments of 3,000 words each (except for coursework assignment 2 which does not have a word limit). The timed examinations, held at the end of the programme, will be the principal test of the more theoretical elements of the course. Each piece of coursework assignment will relate to one of the five workshops and will take the form of a practical exercise, such as the drafting of statements of case or instructions to counsel. Work on the coursework assignments will begin with reading before the workshop, and will be completed after the workshop. Formative assessment is provided through the five workshops and the additional revision workshops, one during the year and another preceding the examination, which will enable students to receive feedback on their ideas and thinking in respect of the particular cases discussed in the seminar sessions.

<i>10B</i>	<i>Intellectual Skills</i>	<i>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</i>
	A highly-developed ability to parse a problem into its component sub-problems.	The intensive dialogic character of argument in the workshops particularly is designed to encourage students to distinguish between different issues and to tackle them one at a time.
	An ability immediately to see the same legal or legally-related problems from a variety of legal and professional (including technological) angles, using different classifications and perspectives gleaned from different professional perspectives.	Many sessions on the Diploma are centrally concerned with the contrasts and relationships between different legal classifications (e.g. copyright and designs) or between different technological fields (e.g. chemical and mechanical). The workshop format encourages students to challenge each other and the workshop leaders repeatedly and thereby gradually to reconceptualise the issues using different legal classifications and technological perspectives. Diploma students are drawn from the whole range of IP practice areas and technological fields and every Diploma session is enriched by insights from a variety of perspectives.
	An ability to exercise judgment, weigh evidence, and develop reasoned argument.	Some of the workshops involve the consideration of legal problems in a form in which they might be presented to a court, with supporting argument and evidence. This encourages students to perceive legal problems in professional practice terms, as cases to be built rather than abstract problems capable of solution by the application of scientific rules.
	An ability to engage with intellectually sophisticated ideas and arguments and to formulate conceptual frameworks for the rigorous analysis of certain complex legal, practical and procedural issues concerning IP.	The format of the seminars as lectures delivered by people representing a variety of academic and professional practice perspectives on similar legal issues offers students a diversity of conceptual frameworks for understanding the law,

	and a variety of different ideas with respect to the substance of the law as well, challenging them to synthesise those frameworks and ideas, and critically to assess their merits individually and inter se.
An ability to build a complete, convincing argument from the ground up, and to build a complete and convincing critique of the argument of another.	The format in the workshops is conducive to sustained argument under pressure, with different students adopting and developing rival positions and gaining support or opposition from their peers.
<p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>The five intellectual skills mentioned above are highly prized and rewarded in the coursework assignments and examinations. More generally, the examinations strongly emphasise the use of critical, analytical and synthetical skills under pressure.</p>	

<i>10C</i>	<i>Practical skills</i>	<i>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</i>
	A capacity to devise and sustain legal arguments and solve legal problems in different professional contexts	The workshops are focused on solving legal problems through legal reasoning and the construction of different lines of legal argument and are led by teams of senior practitioners with experience of the diverse professional contexts in which the problems arise.
	A high-level ability to read and digest complex legal and legally-related materials accurately at speed.	The workload on the Diploma is high, especially in respect of the volume of reading that a successful student can be expected to cover. At the same time, seminars and tutorials emphasise accuracy and perceptiveness in interpretation.
	A highly-developed ability to bring together knowledge of law and procedure in complex technical situations	The Diploma workshops focus on hypothetical problems involving a wide range of IP regimes and technical situations.
	A highly-developed ability to write for specialist legal and professional audiences.	The Diploma's writing component (in the workshop assignments and examinations) requires sophisticated written communication skills.
<p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>These are necessary conditions of achieving the intellectual outcomes mentioned in 10A and 10B above, and are therefore assessed indirectly through the assessment mechanisms already mentioned.</p>		

10D	<i>Transferable Skills</i>	<i>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</i>
	An ability to think independently and derive solutions through approaching a problem or using material in different ways.	Components of classes that focus on methodology, with their emphasis on diverse responses to the same legal problem.
	An ability to present knowledge with a range of professional presentation skills (oral and written) demonstrated.	The workshops, with their high levels of student participation, help to cultivate these skills.
	An ability to write fluent and technically sophisticated prose.	The coursework assignments and the examinations emphasise economical, clear and highly structured writing.
	An ability to work diligently and independently to produce work of a high quality that demonstrates the above skills and qualities, and to reflect critically on the informal feedback received in respect of that work.	The programme being a part-time requires a high-level of independent study. As most students are working professionals, it requires a substantial commitment of time in their daily lives.
<p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>These are necessary conditions of achieving the intellectual outcomes mentioned in 10A and 10B above, and are therefore assessed indirectly through the assessment mechanisms already mentioned.</p>		

10E	<i>General teaching/learning methods and strategies</i>	
	<p>The programme is divided into two parts, the Residential School and a series of workshops. The schedule for the Residential School is generally divided into the main areas of Intellectual Property: Patents, Trade Marks, Copyright, and Designs, and their allied regimes (with separate groupings of classes also addressing the international aspects of the field) In each area, a co-ordinator is responsible for co-ordinating the various tutors in that area to improve the coherence of the teaching. Tutors will also produce a reading list, which will serve as a guide to what is expected of the student.</p> <p>Lectures form the main method of delivery in the Residential School. Each day is divided into four sessions of about one and a half hours each. Each session ends with either a refreshment break or a lunch break. These lectures are intended to instruct students on the theoretical and substantive aspects of Intellectual Property Law.</p> <p>There are five workshops which focus on the application of substantive IP law learned in the Residential School in particular practical settings. The method of instruction is mainly through seminars where students are asked to make presentations in small groups. Each small group is led by a workshop tutor who is usually a practitioner. There are typically about 10-15 students in each small group. Tutors allow seminars to develop in a more orchestrated or spontaneous way depending on the group and the nature of the material or ideas under discussion. Some workshops may start with a lecture and then students are broken into groups to work on a particular case/scenario/role play. Each workshop is typically a full day, usually on a Saturday, from 10am to 5pm with refreshments and lunch breaks in between.</p>	

The two revision workshops aim to consolidate and refine knowledge acquired during the residential school and applied in the workshops. They are also designed to develop further the skills acquired by students by working through hypothetical problems (drawn from prior exams). The first revision workshop will focus on patent law; the second will focus on copyright and trademark law. Both will also help students to bring together the different knowledge and skills acquired during the other parts of the course.

11	<p>Programme structures and features</p> <p>The programme is offered on a part-time basis and has two components:</p> <p>a) <i>Residential programme</i></p> <p>This comprises a ten-day programme (over a two week period) providing intensive teaching over 10 days in all areas of IP law and covering the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Licensing of IP: commercial and competition aspects ▪ Conducting patent infringement actions ▪ Trade secrets ▪ Designs ▪ Copyright ▪ Trade marks ▪ Copyright protection for computer software and databases ▪ Jurisdiction ▪ Conducting IP litigation (other than patent litigation) ▪ Passing-off ▪ IP and the Internet ▪ International and European aspects of IP ▪ Taxation and IP ▪ Using IP as security ▪ IP aspects of corporate transactions <p>Each day will be divided into 4 one and a half hour of lectures covering one or more of the topics above.</p> <p>b) <i>Workshops</i></p> <p>There are five workshops which will focus on practical and procedural issues relating to the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Patents 1 ▪ Patents 2 ▪ Trade marks and passing-off ▪ Copyright and designs ▪ Corporate aspects of IP <p>Each workshop is devoted to one of these listed topics.</p>
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Assessment:

The course is assessed by the following means:

a) Coursework submission

Each candidate must submit four written coursework assignments of 3,000 words each (except for coursework assignment two which does not have a word limit) on topics covered in the workshop sessions. Two of the coursework assignments must be submitted in Michaelmas Term and two in Hilary Term.

b) Timed examination

Candidates are required to undertake two two-hour timed examinations in July, which will consist of two written papers on elements of the courses covered in the residential programme. Candidates will be required to answer two questions in each paper.

No exemption is available for any part of the programme.

12	Support for students and their learning
	<p>Libraries: The students have use of multiple library facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Bodleian Law Library, a research library of international importance, provides all students with access to a book and journal collection covering all of their conceivable academic needs, almost all on open shelves. It also has many CD-ROM and web-based resources available on-site. In term time, the Library is open into late evening during the week and during the day at weekends. It also remains open weekdays until 7pm during the vacations. The professional library staff provides induction tours for newly arrived students, as well as ongoing help and advice. There is a dedicated area for books relating to Intellectual Property Law.• The students also have access to the extensive collections of the main Bodleian Library and of various Faculty libraries in philosophy, social studies, and history.• It is anticipated that most students on this programme are practicing lawyers and will have access to libraries and law-related resources in their workplace. <p>Information and communication technologies: There is extensive use of ICT, and provision of ICT resources, for the support of student learning across the Faculty and the University.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Faculty maintains an IT room in the Bodleian Law Library for student use, in addition to the library's public access workstations for catalogue searches, CD-ROM use, and online research.• The Faculty has two full-time IT officers working on interactive learning and other web developments, as well as catering for the ICT aspects of the Legal Research Skills course, and offering other occasional training to students.• Both email and the web are widely used in the Faculty for communication with students. The student handbook is available online and course materials are available on the Faculty intranet. There are general email circulation lists for students on all programmes, as well as a bulletin board. The University Computing Service provides a wide range of services available to all members of the University, including public access workstations at its own

	<p>site, computing courses, site-licensed software, special deals for the purchase of hardware and peripherals, and of course email and web-space accounts for all.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is expected that most students in this programme will have access to personal computer and laptops at home and at their work place. Online resources are available to students outside the university network. <p>Academic advice and support: There is a dedicated Course Director and Diploma Administrator for the programme. Both are available to speak to students in person, telephone or email. There is a comprehensive graduate student handbook (distributed on paper at the start of the academic year and continuously available online) laying out full details of the programme. The Faculty also offers an introduction session during the Residential School in respect of matters applicable to the Diploma students. All course materials are available online through the Faculty intranet.</p> <p>Pastoral and welfare support: The Course Director and Diploma Administrator are available to speak to students. The University Counselling Service provides advice and support both immediate and long-term to students in need, and makes referrals to more specialist services beyond the University.</p>
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13	Criteria for Admission
	<p>The Diploma is aimed at people embarking on a career in IP law and practice. Applicants apply to the Faculty of Law using a single application form. Applications are considered in a single gathered field during the academic year in July. Successful applicants for admission to the Diploma possess the following qualities and the admissions process is designed to identify which applicants possess them in the greatest measure:</p> <p><i>Intellectual</i></p> <p>A good undergraduate degree (at least a 2i) or equivalent is required.</p> <p><i>Professional experience</i></p> <p>It is anticipated that candidates will be trainee or newly qualified solicitors or barristers with a UK Law Firm or Chambers embarking on a career in IP, although other equivalent professional qualifications will be considered.</p> <p>Candidates are expected to submit a statement of purpose of up to 500 words detailing their reasons for applying for the course, their career intentions, and the contribution that they anticipate the Diploma making to their career development. The essay will demonstrate their ability to think and express themselves clearly in writing. Applicants will not be penalized for writing less than 500 words.</p> <p><i>English Language proficiency</i></p> <p>The programme is taught in English. Applicants for whom English is a not a first language must meet standard English language testing requirements.</p> <p>Admissions interviews are not held for this programme. Admission decisions are made on the strength of the application submitted by the applicant, including a transcript/degree certificate of higher education achievement to date, a personal statement (<500 words) and two confidential academic/professional references.</p>
14	Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning

Responsibility for the course is vested in the Social Sciences Division. The Divisional Board has responsibility for the maintenance of educational quality and standards in its broad subject area. At a more immediate level, the Diploma is administered by the Diploma Management Committee ("DMC") comprising two members of the Law Faculty's IP Subject Group, the Director of Graduate Studies for Taught Courses, and two representatives of the IPLA. The Committee reports to the Law Board in the first instance (which in turn will report to the Divisional Board or Committees of the Board).

The DMC:

- Considers teaching requirements of the Diploma programme and ensures that teaching is organised and carried out effectively;
- Is responsible for admissions to the Diploma, taking account of any University regulations and admissions guidelines and quotas proposed by the Law Board;
- Initiates desired changes to existing programmes and keeps under review overall quality of the courses, taking into account evaluation by course participants;
- Considers, and where necessary seeks further clarification, on the reports of examiners for the Diploma and takes appropriate action, including advising Law Board;
- Formulates and keeps under review assessment regimes;
- Formulates and reviews course handbooks annually;
- Formulates and reviews programme specifications annually;
- Prepares a schedule of, and timetable for, lecturing and other teaching each term;
- Is responsible for the allocation and award of scholarships and studentships;
- Forwards minutes of all meetings and such other reports as may be necessary, to the Law Board.

Student Feedback:

The Faculty requests feedback from Diploma students through both paper and online feedback forms after each part of the Diploma programme. These forms invite detailed comment on the learning experience of students and the teaching they received. Such feedback is considered by the Diploma Management Committee and the Committee decides on the appropriate response, if any, in light of that feedback. The Course Director also engages in informal liaison with students via email or face-to-face meetings during the duration of the programme.

Review beyond the faculty:

- The reports of external examiners are a major source of insight into the programme's strengths and weaknesses.
- The Divisional Board and the University's Educational Policy and Standards Committee issue guidance and provide general supervision.
- The Faculty is subject to six-yearly reviews by the University as well as the currently prevailing review systems of the Quality Assurance Agency.
- The programme has been accredited for 33 CPD hours from the Solicitors' Regulation Authority (SRA). The SRA'S exacting standards for accreditation will help to ensure oversight of the programme from another perspective.
- The city law firms that sponsor some of their junior lawyers to participate in the programme have very high expectations of the programme, which will exert appropriate pressure to maintain high standards.

15	Regulation of Assessment
	<p>The summative assessment of all public examinations, including those for the Diploma, is regulated by the University's Examination Regulations, and compliance with these is supervised by the University Proctors (a judicial authority appointed independently of the administration). In addition the University and the Social Science Division have general policy guidelines relating to the examination process. Examination conventions specific to this programme, governing matters not dealt with in the Regulations, are approved by the Faculty's Examinations Committee, reporting to the Faculty Board. The Examinations Committee also appoints Boards of Examiners and supervises the conduct of examinations.</p> <p>Boards of Examiners are responsible for the setting of papers and for the marking of scripts. University Regulations permit them to be assisted in setting and marking by Assessors, and many members of the Diploma teaching staff serve as Assessors in the Diploma. Assessors submit marks to the Board of Examiners but do not participate in classification, which is undertaken by the Board of Examiners acting alone. The practice of the Faculty is to double mark scripts close to classification borderlines, or where a failing mark is given, or where a mark on a certain paper is out of line with the others awarded to the same candidate. A key role in the process is played by the external examiner who serves on the Board of Examiners and report annually to the Vice-Chancellor. His/her report is considered by the Faculty, the Division, and the University. It serves two functions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To confirm that standards are appropriate to the degree awarded, in part by comparison with the standards of comparable institutions, and to ensure that the assessment procedures and the regulations and conventions governing them are fair; 2. To ensure that the conduct of the examination and the determination of awards has been fairly conducted, and in particular that individual student performance has been judged in accordance with the applicable regulations and conventions. The external examiner signs the Class List to indicate that the latter standards were met. <p>The Faculty's Examinations Committee, Graduate Studies Committee and the Diploma Management Committee, and where appropriate the Faculty Board, gives extremely careful attention to any adverse comment by external examiners.</p> <p>The following marking scales and conventions of assessment apply to this programme, and are published to all candidates.</p>

Class	Mark (%)	Qualities
Distinction	<p>≥70</p> <p>(For the award of a Distinction in the Diploma a candidate must attain at least three marks of 70 or above (at least one of the marks must be an examination paper); there must be no mark less than 55.)</p>	<p>Distinction answers are those that represent an excellent level of attainment for a student at postgraduate level. They exhibit the following qualities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acute attention to the question asked; • a deep and detailed knowledge and understanding of the topic addressed and its place in the surrounding context; • excellent synthesis and analysis of materials, with no or almost no substantial errors or omissions, and coverage of at least some less obvious angles; • excellent clarity and appropriateness of structure, argument, integration of information and ideas, and expression; • identification of more than one possible line of argument; • advanced appreciation of practical arguments concerning the topic, substantial critical facility, and personal contribution to debate on the topic.
Pass	<p>50-69</p> <p>(For the award of the Diploma there must be no mark lower than 50.)</p>	<p>Pass answers represent a level of attainment which, for a student at postgraduate level, is within the range acceptable to very good. They exhibit the following qualities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attention to the question asked; • a clear and fairly detailed knowledge and understanding of the topic addressed and its place in the surrounding context; • good synthesis and analysis of materials, with few substantial errors or omissions; • a clear and appropriate structure, argument, integration of information and ideas, and expression; • identification of more than one possible line of argument; • familiarity with practical arguments concerning the topic, and (especially in the case of high pass answers) a significant degree of critical facility.
Fail	<50	Qualities required for a pass answer are absent.

16	Indicators of quality and standards
	<p>The Diploma in Intellectual Property Law and Practice is a new course and consequently has not yet been assessed. However, it is supported by the Intellectual Property Lawyers' Association, the leading professional association for practitioners of IP practice, in which 58 law firms are represented. Its members play an active role in the delivery of the course and serve on the Diploma Management Committee. (to be updated in August based on the end of year review, student feedback and exam)</p>