



Maastricht University

Faculty of Law



EPLC

European Patent Litigation Certificate

Application is open until 29 September 2026



Supported by the European Union

 patentlitigationcertificate.eu



Aim of the EPLC

This course leads to the required qualification for European patent attorneys (who are entitled to act as professional representatives before the EPO in accordance with Article 134 EPC) to represent parties before the Unified Patent Court according to Article 48 AUPC.

The EPLC is designed specifically for legal practitioners and interested parties wishing to litigate before the UPC, particularly European Patent Attorneys.

Almost half of the course will be organised online. Participants can work using their own devices at home or in their offices. This is complemented by three short stays in Trier, during which participants will undergo intensive face-to-face training comprising interactive and practical exercises.

After successful online and oral examinations, the participating European patent attorneys will be granted the EPLC entitling them to represent parties before the UPC.

About the partnership

The Academy of European Law (ERA) and Maastricht University (UM) joined forces in 2022 to create a dynamic and comprehensive training programme for European patent attorneys wishing to plead before the Unified Patent Court (UPC).

This collaboration was launched alongside the entry into force of the Protocol on Provisional Application of the UPC Agreement on 19 January 2022 – an event that marked the official establishment of the UPC as an international organisation.

With ERA's expertise in EU law training and UM's reputation as a leading international university, this high-calibre course equips European patent attorneys and professionals interested in patent litigation with the best tools to understand the legal framework and procedural rules necessary to litigate before the UPC.



Terms & Conditions

Participation

According to Article 48 UPCA, to be able to represent a party before the Court, the patent attorney should first of all be entitled to act as a professional representative before the European Patent Office in accordance with Article 134 EPC. Proof of this entitlement is therefore requested from participants wishing to obtain the EPLC.

Legal practitioners with knowledge and experience in patent law and litigation may be accepted on the basis of a proven track record.

Travel & Accommodation

Participants organise their own travel and accommodation.

Language

Participants should have a working knowledge of English.

Costs

Participation fee: € 4200

This does not include travel or accommodation. Beverages, meals during the course, and bus transfer to Luxembourg are provided.

Contact



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Apply now

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Your benefits

Qualification for Representation before the Unified Patent Court

The course qualifies European patent attorneys, in accordance with Article 48 of the Agreement on a Unified Patent Court (AUPC), to represent parties before the Unified Patent Court (UPC).

Specialised Training for Patent Attorneys

The EPLC is specifically designed for European patent attorneys, providing in-depth knowledge of the legal framework and procedural rules of the UPC.

Recognised Accreditation

This EPLC programme is officially accredited by the Administrative Committee of the UPC.

Interactive Case Studies & Moot Courts

Practical case analyses and simulated court hearings create a realistic training experience organised in small groups.

Flexible Learning Structure

Approximately half of the course is conducted online, allowing participants to learn conveniently from home or the office. Monthly two-hour online tutorials are organised after working hours. This is complemented by three on site sessions in Trier, featuring intensive, interactive exercises.

Renowned Instructors

The course is taught by leading experts, including distinguished academics, experienced patent litigation lawyers, patent attorneys, judges, and representatives of the Court of Justice of the European Union.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

As with all of ERA's courses, you can request a certificate of attendance for CPD purposes.

On-Demand Access to Course Materials

Recordings and learning materials are available online during the course.

Court Visits

Part of the course is a visit to the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) and the Unified Patent Court (UPC) in Luxembourg with the opportunity to meet staff and engage in discussions to address your questions. If a hearing is scheduled at the CJEU on the day of your visit, you will also have the chance to attend and observe the proceedings firsthand.

Adapted for European Patent Litigators

As this course is centred on litigation practice before the UPC, on request and subject to verification, participation is also open to lawyers in private practice wishing to litigate before the UPC.

Social Programme

This course offers a varied social programme including networking dinners with fellow participants, wine-tasting in the Mosel vineyards, and a guided walking tour in the historic city centre of Trier, the oldest city in Germany, known for its well-preserved Roman and medieval architecture.

Flexible Payment Plans

There is an option for payment instalments

Calendar of face-to-face activities

Date	Modules	Content	Training activities
Trier, Luxembourg, 30 September - 1 October 2026 (1.5 days)	Module 1: Basics of EU Law Part 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roles of the CJEU in the context of the UPC / national courts 	<p>Training on the role of the CJEU</p> <p>Transport to CJEU in Luxembourg, briefing and hearing, guided tour of the CJEU</p> <p>Visit to the Court of Appeal of the UPC and meeting with a judge</p>
Trier, 15-19 February 2027	Module 4: The Unitary Patent: Regulations 1257/2012 and 1260/2012 Module 6: Introduction to the Unified Patent Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced cooperation • Translation regime • Unitary character • Coexistence with national systems • Rights conferred and limitations • Licences • Exhaustion • Role of EPO • Legal status of the UPC • Sources of law applicable to the UPC • Structure of the Court and the divisions • Jurisdiction and competences • Transitional period • The link between the UPC and the unitary patent 	Interactive sessions/ mock trials (as part of the written examination)
Trier, 10-14 May 2027	Module 7: Introduction to the UPC rules of procedure Module 8: Practice and case management before the UPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General rules before the Court of First Instance and the Court of Appeal, including official codes of conduct: formal requirements, parties, and representation as well as intervention, calculation of time periods, fees and legal aids, stay of proceedings • The language regime • Procedure before the Court of First instance • Procedure before the Court of Appeal • Enforcement of decisions • Court costs • Preparing for written procedure: infringement actions, revocation actions, actions for declaration of non-infringement, actions for compensation for licences • Advice on settlement • Preparing for Interim procedure • Preparing for oral procedure • Producing evidence: witnesses and experts, means of evidence • Asking provisional measures (injunctions, preservation of evidence) and filing a protective letter • Raising language issues • Application for leave to appeal and procedure before the Court of Appeal • Damages actions 	Interactive sessions/ mock trials (as part of the written examination)
Trier, 14 May 2027	Examination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral examination 	



Calendar of online activities

Modules	Content	Training activities
Module 1: Basics of EU Law Part 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evolution and constitutional foundations of the EU • Scope of the EU's competences • Legal acts of the EU, the hierarchy among them and their legal value • Other sources of EU law (general principles, jurisprudence) and their role in the legal system • Roles of the various institutions in the EU decision-making process and the decision-making itself • Application of EU law • Fundamental rights in the EU legal order and in the ECHR • Relevant substantive law of the EU (internal market and the four freedoms) 	E-presentations and tutorials
Module 2: Private law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International jurisdiction: Brussels I and Brussels Ibis • Cross-border enforcement of judgments • Alternative Dispute Resolution with a special focus on Online Dispute Resolution • Applicable law to contracts and torts: Rome I and Rome II • Private law, especially contract law and tort law, including aspects of European, continental and common law • Private International law on transfer of IP rights and accessory rights (priority rights) 	E-presentations and tutorials
Module 3: Patent law in the EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biotechnological inventions and plant variety rights: law and case law from the CJEU • Supplementary protection certificates: law and case law from the CJEU • Competition law and patent law (focus on high technologies and pharmaceutical sectors): patent settlements and patent abuse under Article 102 TFEU, compulsory licences, FRANDS, agreements contrary to Article 101 TFEU, unfair competition • Relationship between patent law and other IP rights: copyright, design, utility models, trade secrets • European harmonisation of patent law and other IP Rights as a result of TRIPS under the jurisdiction of the CJEU 	E-presentations and tutorials
Module 5: Enforcement of rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross border patent infringement • Patent infringement and patent nullity proceedings in several contracting Member States • Litigation patent strategies in Europe 	E-presentations and tutorials
Examination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written examination: Multiple choice questions, as well as drafting of procedural acts, submissions, drafting decisions based on case materials 	Online examination: quiz and document submission (e.g. mock trial briefs and written assignments)



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