



Mewburn

The forward-looking
IP firm

Ellis



Inspirational Careers Panel Session

Career Opportunities in IP (Patent Attorney)

Anna Mudge

Part-qualified Patent Attorney

RSB Bioscience Careers Day

27 October 2018

What is intellectual property (IP)?

- People have ideas
- Sometimes other people will pay for them
- IP = anything that might be worth something, but where the valuable bit is more an idea than a physical object
 - Patents
 - Trademarks
 - Copyright
 - Designs
- Our whole society is built on IP
 - Technology, medicines, books, music, branding/logos...

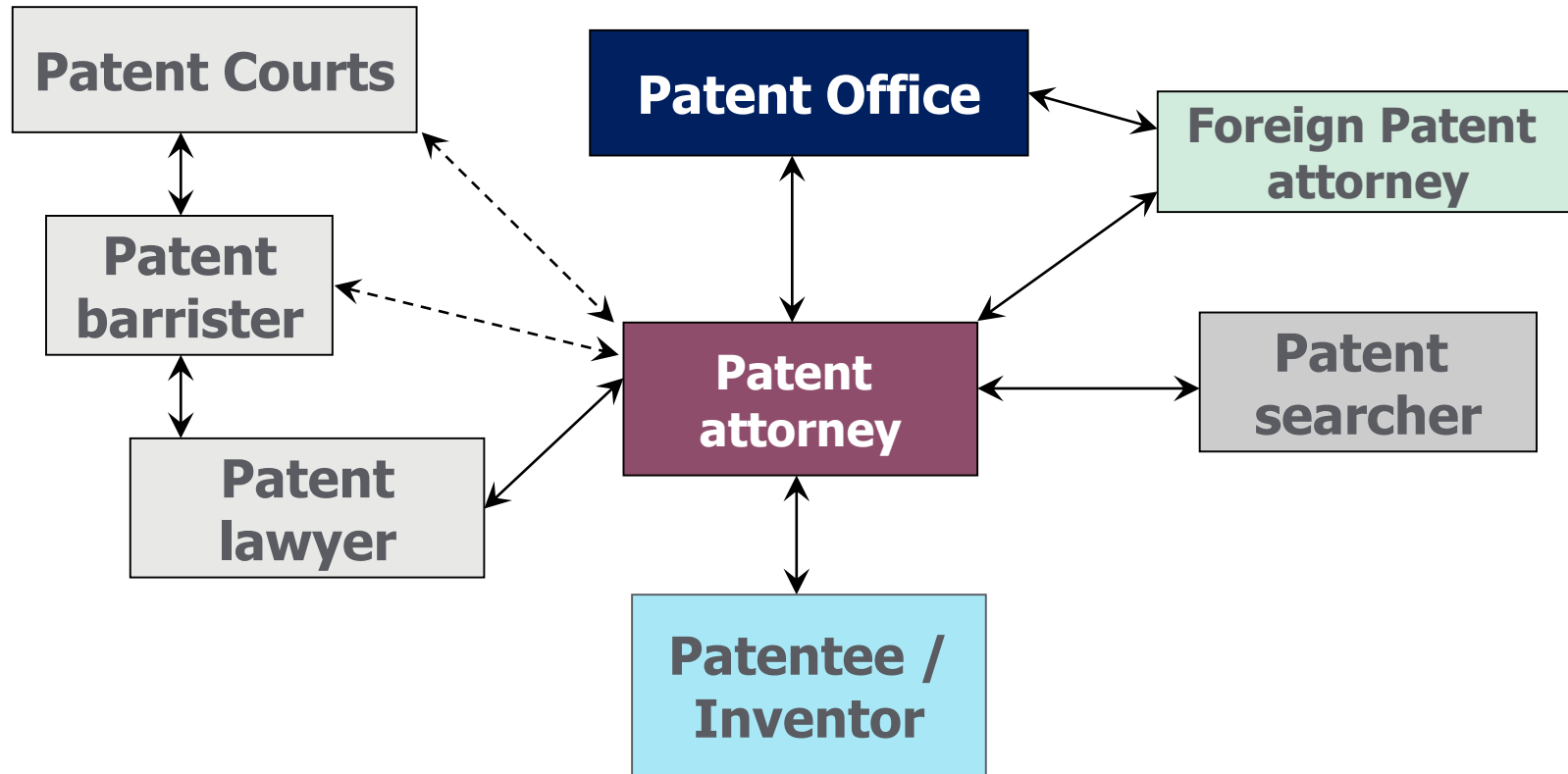
Career Opportunities in Intellectual Property

- Science
 - Patent attorney
 - Patent searcher/analyst
 - Technology transfer officer (e.g. universities)
 - Patent examiner – UK/Europe
 - IP journalist
- Other
 - Technical translator
 - Trade mark examiner
 - Formalities examiner
- Science + law (e.g. law conversion)
 - Trade Mark Attorney
 - IP Barrister
 - IP Solicitor
 - IP Judge
 - Licensing executive

www.careersinideas.org.uk

www.ipcareers.co.uk

What does a patent attorney do?



What does a patent attorney do?

- Client
 - Understand and describe the invention
 - Act before the patent offices/courts on behalf of client
 - Explain the legal issues
 - Advise on commercial strategy
- Patent offices
 - Explain the client's invention
 - Argue and persuade that client's invention deserves a patent
- A lot of reading, thinking, writing
- Life sciences: therapeutics (immunotherapy, gene therapy), diagnostics, biotechnology (medical and agricultural)

What are firms looking for?

- Good all-round technical and scientific ability (good science degree)
- Analytical approach combined with a certain feeling for, and a grasp of, words
- Written and verbal communication skills
- The ability to work to strict deadlines
- General commercial awareness
- Perhaps some skills/interest in management – many firms are partnerships
- MSc/PhD not essential but are common for life sciences
- ‘Old school’ application process: CV, covering letter and interview(s)

- UK and European Patent Attorney
- On the job training supervised by qualified attorney(s)
 - No need to do a law conversion course
- Supplemented by
 - College courses
 - Tutorials
 - Lectures
 - Personal study
- Qualification by (many!) professional exams
 - At least 3.5 years to full qualification, typically more

- Good bits
 - Intellectually stimulating every day
 - Puts your scientific background to good use
 - Front-line involvement with new technology
 - Lots of client interaction
 - Global networks, opportunities to travel
 - Excellent financial rewards
 - Partnership prospects
- Bad bits
 - Length and difficulty of training
 - Many exams
 - Pressure of working to deadlines

Want to know more?

- www.careersinideas.org.uk
- www.ipcareers.co.uk
- www.cipa.org.uk
- University careers service
- Firm open days – get in quick!
- Ask me!

***N.B.** Deadlines are approaching for applying for trainee patent attorney roles starting Autumn 2019 – see IP careers website*

Exam Schedule Example: UK and European (EQE) qualification

