

POLICY ON ESTABLISHMENT OF PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS BETWEEN WIPO AND UNIVERSITIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION

Introduction

The purpose of the present policy is to establish the conditions under which the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) may, through its Academy, enter into partnership agreements with interested universities from developing countries, least developed countries and countries with economies in transition in relation to post-graduate programs on intellectual property (IP) leading to the award of an LL.M. or similar post graduate degree.

The extent of such partnerships may vary. Such partnerships may consist of the utilization of the WIPO logo and/or, subject to available resources, joint offering of a new program.

The present policy is guided by the need to ensure academic quality, geographical and linguistic balance, sustainability and relevance of teaching curricula to the needs and interests of developing countries, least developed countries and countries with economies in transition.

General Principles and Requirements

As a matter of policy, because of budget limitations, WIPO shall not partner with more than one university per Member State.

WIPO shall give priorities to universities with a vocation for attracting students from the respective sub region or region.

The post-graduate program proposed to be run in partnership with WIPO must be in one of the six official languages of the United Nations (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian or Spanish).

WIPO will enter partnership agreements only with State universities. Private universities may be exceptionally considered subject to having the official support of the respective Government.

In order to be considered, interested universities must have a record of excellence in academic teaching and research in the area of IP, adequate infrastructure (including premises, classrooms, library, a campus), ability to deal with a multicultural community of students and a core of IP experts of whom at least four shall hold a Master's Degree and one shall hold a Ph.D. in the field of IP. WIPO will assess whether the interested university meets these pre-requirements.

Also, to be considered, interested universities should be able to attract at least 15 students in the program in each academic year.

WIPO is engaged to promote access to higher education on IP in a growing number of countries. To facilitate this objective, in order to be considered, interested universities must be in a position to offer at least four scholarships per year to qualified candidates from other countries of the relevant sub-region or region. Scholarships are intended to cover travel, accommodation, registration and tuition costs.

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Partnership Agreements

Subject to the above principles and pre-requirements, a partnership agreement may be signed between WIPO and the University. The agreement shall bear the signature of the Director General of WIPO and the Vice-Chancellor or Rector of the University. In case of agreements with private universities, the agreement shall also bear the signature of the representative of the supporting Government.

These partnership agreements shall be entered for a maximum period of three years. Within three years from the signing of the Agreement, WIPO shall evaluate the program taking into account its sustainability, quality of content, quality of teaching, tutoring and research, ability to attract students from abroad, and the percentage of graduates who could obtain employment in the field of IP.

Following the signing of the agreement, the partner university shall submit to WIPO the detailed curriculum and syllabus of the program. The program shall cover at least 250 hours of classroom teaching, practical exercises under the guidance of experienced teachers/tutors and the preparation of a final paper.

At the end of each academic year, WIPO shall administer an evaluation questionnaire where students will be requested to assess the program under a predetermined set of parameters.

Entry into Force of the Present Policy

The present policy shall enter into force on March 1, 2014. It shall not apply to agreements established before such date in respect of Joint Master Programs.