

Centre for Business Law  
University of South Africa

WIPO Worldwide Academy  
World Intellectual Property Organization

# WIPO-UNISA Intellectual Property Specialization Program

## Objectives and Targets

The Specialization Program in Intellectual Property is a Certificate Program, designed for academics and professionals who already have knowledge about IP or possess a practical experience in IP and wish to strengthen and expand their future role in this field.

The focus of the curriculum is on the special circumstances prevailing in developing countries. The modules approach the subject-matter against the background of international conventions and the obligations they impose on developing countries. It is then demonstrated, using South African law as an example, how these obligations can be discharged. Students will be expected to examine the law of their own countries to determine how these obligations have been discharged, or how they should be discharged.

Each academic year the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), through its Worldwide Academy, avails a limited number of scholarships for students who otherwise would not be able to afford the fees.

## About the Institutions

The **University of South Africa**, also known as Unisa, is one of 11 mega universities in the world. Over fifty years ago, in 1946, Unisa pioneered tertiary distance education in the western world. Currently, Unisa has about 150 000 students from all over the world.

The Centre for Business Law is housed in Unisa's Department of Mercantile Law. With 44 academic members of staff, the Department is the largest in South Africa specializing in all aspects of commercial law. Four members of staff specialize in Intellectual Property Law. In 1998, on the basis of a survey among some 300 human resources specialists in private and listed companies and parastatals, the *Professional Management Review* awarded Unisa its Silver Award as the best university in South Africa for Commercial Law.

The **WIPO Worldwide Academy** is a division of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). It is entirely devoted to providing teaching, training, and research services in intellectual property. Its services, designed to meet the individual needs of diverse groups of users, are organized under three main programs: Distance Learning, Professional Training, and Policy Development.

The Academy was founded in March 1998 to help Member States of WIPO attain specialized knowledge and skills that will enable them to derive benefits from the intellectual property system. Through its various programs, the Academy constantly strives to expand its tailor-made teaching and training services to an ever-growing audience of users and beneficiaries, including those at grass-roots level.

## Admission Requirements

Admission to the program is subject to Unisa's requirements for admission to degree studies. Basically, applicants should qualify for admission to a university or a degree program in the country of which they are a citizen, or where they reside permanently. These qualifications include, for example, full matriculation exemption, high school diploma, A-levels, HIGCSE or IGCSE plus a minimum age requirement.

## **The Curriculum**

The modules of the program are taught using traditional correspondence-based distance teaching methods, as well as using the Internet.

To qualify for the Certificate, students must take 8 modules out of the 9 that are listed below:

- \* Collective Rights Administration; Performers' Rights
- \* Essential Copyright Law
- \* Essential Competition Law
- \* Essential Industrial Design Law
- \* Essential Patent Law
- \* Essential Trademark Law
- \* Internet Aspects of Copyright & Trademarks
- \* Legal Aspects of Electronic Commerce
- \* Traditional Knowledge & Biodiversity

Once admitted, students will receive a complete study package, consisting of tutorial matter in the form of work books, and tutorial letters, and extracts from cases and any other relevant materials.

## **Examination Procedures**

For each module, students have to submit a midterm written assignment for evaluation.

Final Examination papers will be sent to students at their place of residence via fax or email. Students will then answer in writing and submit their paper within 24 hours.

The duration of each module is 14 weeks. We recommend that students register for no more than two modules per semester.

## **Registration dates:**

- First semester: Before 2 February
- Second semester: Before 12 July

## **Tuition fees:**

ZAR1000.00 per module

Fees are payable in full on registration, unless an application for WIPO financial assistance has been submitted.

## **WIPO Financial Assistance**

In addition to satisfying the requirements listed above by UNISA, applicants for WIPO financial assistance must complete the Registration and Financial Assistance Form and submit it to the WIPO Worldwide Academy with the following documentation:

- \* Copies of diplomas or degrees and additional academic qualifications;
- \* Curriculum vitae;
- \* An essay stating the applicant's motivation and reasons for wanting to enroll in this Program as well as the need for financial assistance;
- \* A letter of recommendation from someone fully acquainted with the applicant's academic and professional career (please note that an endorsement letter from the applicant's employer may be requested in special circumstances.)

**For registration forms and more information, please contact —**

Mrs MA Roux  
Centre for Business Law  
University of South Africa  
PO Box 392  
Unisa 0003  
South Africa

e-mail: rouxma@unisa.ac.za  
tel: (+27 12) 429-8432 (+27 12) 429 8432)  
fax: (+27 12) 429-8206  
Docex: DX 163, Pretoria

**For information about financial assistance, please contact —**

Ms Altaye Tedla  
WIPO Worldwide Academy  
34, chemin des Colombettes  
1211 Geneva 20  
Switzerland

e-mail: dlunisa@wipo.int  
tel: (+41 22) 338-9395  
fax: (+41 22) 740-1417

**Deadline for submission of applications for financial assistance:**

Applications must be received by November 31, for enrollment in the following academic year.