

WIPO – Harvard Law School Course on Patent Law and Global Public Health

Course description

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and Harvard Law School (HLS) are offering “PatentX”, a specialized online course on patent law and global public health. The course examines the complex relationships between intellectual property (IP) and public health, and ways in which patent law and other legal frameworks might be interpreted more effectively to address ongoing and future global pandemics. The course content is especially relevant to developing countries, least-developed countries, and countries in transition.



Curriculum

The course is divided into two parts.

Part I introduces patent law through the following seven modules:

- Overview of the patent system and the WIPO Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT);
- Eligibility;
- Utility and disclosure;
- Newness (the novelty and inventive-step requirements);
- Claims;
- Infringement; and
- Remedies.

Part II explores how patent law and other legal systems may be reformed in order to mitigate the current public health crisis and in the future to reduce the burdens of disease throughout the world. It includes the following five modules:

- The global health crisis;
- Improving pharmaceutical markets;
- Improving intellectual property;
- Alternative incentive systems; and
- Looking forward.

Participants will access the course materials through the Harvard Law School online platform. Additional details about the course curriculum are available at this [link](#).

Faculty

The course is taught by faculty members trained by HLS, including instructors from the WIPO Joint Master's Programs and WIPO experts.



Formats

Each year, two 12-week sessions will be offered in January and September. The sessions are designed primarily for the students of the WIPO Joint Master's Programs, post-graduate students, professionals in fields related to health care, and members of the general public. The course is comparable, in pace and workload, to a traditional upper-level university course.

Admission requirements

The WIPO-Harvard PatentX course is offered free-of-charge for a limited number of participants. To be considered for admission, candidates must submit an online application containing the following details:

- Educational qualifications (university degree(s) in any field);
- Descriptions of their relevant professional experiences (if any);
- Recent curriculum vitae; and
- A brief statement of motivation explaining why they wish to take the course.

Applications must be submitted through the WIPO Academy website at this [link](#). WIPO, in consultation with HLS, will evaluate the applications and will notify selected candidates.

Examinations and certification

Participants who satisfy the attendance requirement and successfully pass the final examination will be awarded a certificate of completion jointly signed by WIPO and HLS.

For more information, please contact the course administration at: **HarvardPatX@wipo.int**