



Module code	IPL	NQF level	7
Credit value	20	Study duration	12 weeks

Intellectual Property Law

Module description

This is a 20 credit level 7 module which forms part of the core of the LLM in International Business Law. Intellectual Property Law is varied and demanding, containing elements of a number of legal areas already studied by students, e.g., contract, equity, torts, EU law, and crime. This module will consider the law relating to copyright, patents, trademarks, passing-off, and character merchandising, and an overview of design law.

This module aims to:

- Enable students to acquire knowledge and understanding of
 - intellectual property law
 - the variety of forms of legal protection for intellectual property rights
 - transferable intellectual and key skills
- Create an environment in which student develop the ability to
 - think deeply about the law and its practical and ethical context
 - demonstrate an awareness of various ethical and social issues raised by the operation of intellectual property law, and
 - solve legal problems

Learning outcomes

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

- Develop an overview of the ideas and themes underlying intellectual property law and of the international context in which intellectual property law operates
- Reflect critically on policies underlying intellectual property law
- Employ your knowledge of intellectual property law to solve legal problems and to construct and present alternative, logical arguments and creative solutions to legal problems
- Demonstrate an awareness of various ethical and social issues raised by the operation of intellectual property law

Syllabus

- Introduction to intellectual property, and copyright
- Copyright 1: 'original' works; 'secondary' works, and authorship
- Copyright 2: ownership and dealings; infringement
- Copyright 3: infringement (cont.); defences/remedies
- Design: awareness of unregistered and registered designs
- Patent law 1: inventive step and employee patent;
- Patent law 2: infringement, and defences
- Patent law 3: biotechnology, computer patents, and the 'EU Patent Court'
- Trade marks 1: registrability: absolute and relative grounds
- Trade marks 2: infringement
- Trade marks and passing-off
- Passing off (cont.)

Learning and teaching methods

The module will be delivered through the provision of specified reading materials which shall be provided on the module/ programme learning platform, which shall be supported by specified discussion forums and weekly online lectures. Weekly online lectures are normally of 30 minutes duration.

Students will be provided with indicative guidance on, and encouraged to look at, relevant websites which are appropriate to the module, and to identify and share appropriate web-based resources as learning support references with their fellow students and as indicators of their individual learning contexts with their tutors. The live lectures will include referenced use of selected case studies which will be drawn from the reading materials/web based module learning resources and the practice-based and professional/educational contexts and experience of the tutors. At pre-arranged and regularly agreed points, on specified days and times in advance of each lecture (typically two to three days prior to the lecture) there will be a 'drop in' telephone/or on line preparatory learning liaison session conducted between the student(s) and tutor, typically lasting for 20 to 30 minutes. These sessions are designed to provide students with an introductory preview of the week's work and give them an opportunity to ask specific and general questions related to that week's learning opportunities and to enable them to contextualise their learning experience. Self-managed learning will supplement lectures and students are given weekly direction on required and indicative reading.

Description of unit of assessment	Length/Duration	Submission date	Weighting
Discussion activity	2 weeks	n/a	20%
Mid module assignment	2,500 words	Mid term	30%
End of module project	4,500 words	End term	50%