The course is organised by the Centre for International Intellectual Property Studies (CEIPI) at the University of Strasbourg and has been held successfully and attracted many participants over the last seven years.

The lecturers are chosen from those of the CEIPI and IP specialists including Academics, Patent and Trademark attorneys, Attorneys-at-law, as well as a member of the EPO management. The summer course will be held over 8 working days, from Thursday July 2 to Friday July 10, 2015. The course aims to provide an academic and practical overview of the IP-related aspects of the legal system in the European Union, as well as giving concrete ideas about IP litigation in Europe. The course is directed mainly at students and practitioners who want to acquire the basics of the European IP system.

Focus will be given on proceedings before the EPO and before the OHIM, as well on national laws of the three key countries involved in IP in Europe.

Thursday 2 July 2015
9.00-12.00 / EU basics
General introduction to the European legal system: European Union law, national laws
12.00-13.30 / Lunch break
13.30-17.00 / EPO’s proceedings 1/3
Role of the EPO - grant proceedings - post-grant proceedings: oppositions, limitations and revocations - appeal proceedings

Friday 3 July 2015
9.00-12.00 / EPO’s proceedings 2/3
EPC regulations and EPO’s approach on patentability: exclusions of patentability - approach for software and pharmaceutical products - assessment of novelty (disclaimer) and of inventive step (problem-solution approach)
12.00-13.30 / Lunch break
13.30-17.30 / EPO’s proceedings 3/3
Grant proceedings before the European Patent Office (various steps of examination - key office actions - computation of terms for responding - status of prior art - differences between the direct European route and the Euro-PCT route - unity of invention)
19.00 / Welcome dinner (TBC)

Saturday 4 July 2015
9.00-11.00 / Enforcement of IP rights in Europe: Enforcement at the border
Rules applicable to customs intervention - New EU Regulation concerning customs enforcement - specific additional rules applicable locally
EU Directive on the enforcement of IP rights: aim - main provisions - actual impact on enforcement of IP rights
11.00-13.00 / Enforcement of IP rights in Europe: Litigating IP rights
General rules applicable in the EU - Main procedural aspects of IP litigation in France, Germany and the UK - evidence - actions on the merits - provisional actions - timing - cost - damages
13.00-14.00 / Lunch

Sunday 5 July 2015
13.00-19.00 / Guided tour in the heart of the Wine Routes with castles and traditional villages
Stop in a picturesque village - visit of castle Haut-Koenigsbourg - a wine tasting in a wine cellar

Monday 6 July 2015
9.00-12.30 / Copyrights and neighbouring rights in Europe
Basic notions of copyright protection - Introduction to the different existing traditions of copyright in Europe - “Acquis communautaire” in the field of copyrights
12.30-13.30 / Lunch break
13.30-17.00 / Community Trademarks and designs
Proceedings before the OHIM; community trademarks and designs

Tuesday 7 July 2015
9.00-12.00 / Operating IP rights in Europe – EP limitations to agreements
IP rights and the EC treaty – exhaustion of rights – competition rules – penalties for non-compliance
12.00-13.30 / Lunch break
13.15-15.15 / IP Strategy in Europe
Choosing the right option to protect a given innovation - considering the kind of innovation - considering the market - how to speed up patent prosecution - how to limit the costs

Wednesday 8 July 2015
9.00-12.00 / Overview of national proceedings in DE, FR and GB
Highlights of patent prosecution in Germany, France and the United-Kingdom - comparison with EPO prosecution
12.00-13.30 / Lunch break
13.30-16.30 / Claim drafting in mechanics
Presentation of the structure of claims in Mechanics - drafting of main claims in Mechanics - presentation of sub-claims - consequences on patent prosecution
17.00-18.45 / Contracts involving IP rights
Kinds of contracts - main provisions - focus on licenses - traps to avoid - sub-contracting - cross-licensing

Thursday 9 July 2015
9.00-12.00 / Claim drafting in chemistry
Presentation of the structure and type of claims in Chemistry - comparison of chemistry and mechanics - presentation of sub-claims - specificities of Chemistry: claiming compositions, ranges, and difficulties in satisfying both amendment rules and inventive step requirements in EPO prosecution
12.00-13.30 / Lunch break
13.30-17.30 / Basic differences between EPO’s approach and USPTO’s approach

Friday 10 July 2015
9.00-12.00 / The unitary patent system
The EU patent package: European unitary patent and Unified European patent Court - outline of the package, pending issues, concrete application, possible strategies
12.00-13.30 / Lunch break
13.30-17.30 / Workshop Oral proceedings- sample case
A concrete view of examination proceedings before the EPO – oral proceedings before the EPO (mock trial)
17.30-18.30 / Farewell