

Overview of the Candidate Support Programme (CSP)

1. Introduction

1.1 The CSP is part of the EPO co-operation plan with the member states. With the CSP the EPO actively supports the member states in further developing their national Industrial Property (IP) infrastructure, such as to provide to their national industry improved access to patent attorneys offering qualified services to reach appropriate patent protection.

1.2 The CSP aims at preparing the Student for all examination papers of the EQE, i.e. pre-examination and main examination papers A, B, C and D. It follows the EQE schedule and therefore is provided in different stages spanning usually over three CSP years.

In the first year the Students will prepare for the EQE pre-examination. After having passed the pre-examination, the Students will prepare for papers A, B and D in the second year and for paper C in the third year. However, on request and on a case-by-case basis, a different schedule may be allowed.

1.3 Throughout the programme progress of the CSP Students will be carefully monitored allowing individual advice and support to be given as soon as possible. The examination results will be assessed and monitored during the whole programme. Individual adjustments of the training plan and other reasonable measures may be implemented by the EPO to further support the Student.

If a candidate fails any examination paper his/her situation will be assessed in order to decide how the programme may be continued at best.

All aspects of the participation in the CSP will be governed by the principles of good will, good faith and fair dealing. This will apply in particular when assessing and monitoring the CSP Student's results all along the time.

1.4 The programme will start with a written communication from the EPO informing the Student that he/she has been accepted into the programme.

For Students preparing for the EQE pre-examination the CSP year **2019/2020** will start with a kick-off meeting on **27-28 June 2019**; for all other Students the start will be in September 2019.

Any CSP year will end on the first day after the last EQE examination day for which the student has enrolled, that is, for the CSP year 2019/2020, at the latest on 20 March 2020.

2. Support provided by the EPO

The CSP Students will be assigned a contact person at the EPO to whom they may address any administrative CSP-related questions or problems during the whole period of their participation in the CSP.

Students who are sitting the pre-examination or any main examination paper for the first time will receive the following support.

- (a) Access to the on-line training courses organised by the EPO Patent Academy (presently available only for the EQE pre-examination), comprising knowledge exchange amongst the students, virtual classroom training, assignments and homework with feedback.
- (b) Classroom training courses, cramming courses and mock examinations on the EPO site (mainly in Munich, Germany), provided by qualified tutors from renowned international companies. The courses schedule is specified in **Annex 1** attached herein; it may be amended by the EPO in consultation with the Student.
- (c) An EQE qualified patent representative as personal coach to answer substantive questions, help with assignments, give advice and monitor the learning progress of the Student. Students and coaches will meet at several instances at the EPO site and have regular consultations via suitable electronic communication means on a weekly basis.

- (d) Textbooks and other learning material as deemed necessary for the preparation for the EQE.
- (e) Travel expenses (economy class) and hotel accommodation costs.
- (f) Visa support for Students requiring a travel visa for attending the CSP training courses.
- (g) A small bursary to cover some of the additional expenses.
- (h) In some cases a language course in the language in which the Student intends to take the EQE.

3. What is expected of a CSP Student?

The CSP Student is expected to commit to the following.

- (a) To behave according to and to uphold the principles of good will and good faith.
- (b) To prepare to the best and do his/her utmost to pass the relevant EQE examination in accordance with the best practices commensurate to his/her ability.
- (c) To follow the training programme and carry out the related exercises, tasks or assignments diligently.
- (d) To plan his/her private time and professional activities such as to be able to follow the pace of the group training, participate to the planned CSP events set out in Annex 1, and complete the assignments within the time delay given by the trainers and/or coaches.
- (e) To participate in remote study forums/groups and blogs via adequate electronic means.
- (f) To regularly and actively report to his/her coach on the progress of his/her studies, training sessions or EQE preparation work.
- (g) To give to the EPO feedback on any aspect of the CSP when requested.

4. What is expected once the student has become a Professional Representative?

The EPO would appreciate if the Student could work for at least three years as a professional representative in his/her country of origin and participate in further activities which could be beneficial for the development of the European patent system and the patent attorney profession in the member states.

TRAINING PLAN

Course schedule for the CSP year 2019/20

- **Pre-examination courses**

- 27-28 June 2019 in Munich – kick-off meeting, Introductory session and coaching day;
- 16-20 September 20189 in Munich – training course;
- 4-5 February 2020 in Munich – cramming course / mock examination common.

- **Main examination courses**

- Courses for preparing papers A and B:
 - o 16-20 September 2019 in Munich – training course;
 - o 3-5 February 2020 in Munich – cramming course / mock examinations.
- Courses for preparing paper C:
 - o 14-16 October 2019 in Munich – training course;
 - o 17-18 February 2020 in Munich – cramming course / mock examination.
- Courses for preparing paper D:
 - o 2-6 September 2019 in Munich – training course;
 - o 6-7 February 2020 in Munich – cramming course / mock examination.

Moreover, an additional coaching day may be organised before or after any of the above training courses (except the kick-off meeting).