Pan-European Seal Professional Traineeship Programme

EPO 2021-2022

The start of the PES Programme for 2021-2022 will take place on 16 September 2021 in Munich, Germany. It lasts for 12 months and is fully financed by the EPO.

1. Criteria for eligible candidates

Eligible candidates must, by the start of the traineeship, possess:

- nationality of an EPO Member State;
- a completed undergraduate degree or equivalent;
- knowledge of one of the EPO's working languages (English, French or German) at a minimum level of B1.

2. University shortlist

To be considered for the traineeship, candidates must be shortlisted by their university. Applications from non-shortlisted candidates will not be considered. Please note that the same candidate cannot be shortlisted for both the EPO and EUIPO, and that the university's own selection criteria may differ from the EPO's minimum.

3. Online application

Shortlisted candidates must submit an online application, containing:

- A letter of motivation, including the preferred business area;
- An updated curriculum vitae;
- Degree/Master's diploma (provisional certifications accepted)

4. EPO selection procedure

The EPO will consider the applications of all shortlisted candidates. Preselected candidates will be then be invited to a phone/Skype interview with their prospective tutor. Candidates suitable for multiple business areas may be interviewed more than once.

5. Post-selection

Selected candidates will be informed in May and, by the start of the traineeship, are required to complete the following e-learning courses:

a) Introduction to the European patent system (all graduates)
b) Using CPC (science and engineering only)
c) The EPO as PCT authority (all non-science and engineering)

Timeline

1 February	Programme Launch University selection process begins
15 February	Vacancies open online
8 March	Deadline for university shortlist
31 March	Deadline for students to submit application
By mid-May	Communication of results to candidates
By end of June	Communication of results to the university
16 September	Start of traineeship programme at EPO, Munich

Vacancies

The EPO reserves the right to select candidates according to the Office's business needs. For the 2021 - 2022 traineeship, there are 120 vacancies offered in the following areas:

1. Science & Engineering - 48%
2. Business Administration - 18%
3. Law (including Patent Law) - 18%
4. Economics & Finance - 8%
5. International Relations & Communication - 8%

In particular, the EPO is looking for bright scientists and engineers with a strong academic background in a wide range of technical areas. Further details on the EPO's specific areas of interest can be found on the following page.

Financial Support

Trainees are supported by a grant of 2000 EUR per month. This amount is subject to local taxes and social security contributions (deduction approx. 20%).

Further information

More information on the PES Programme at the EPO is available on our website.

For any further queries, please contact:
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Technical areas of interest for the 2021-2022 PES Traineeship

The EPO is looking for candidates with an academic background in the following technical areas, as well as in all aspects of chemical engineering, organic chemistry, pharmacy, biotechnology, mechanical, electrical and electronic engineering, telecommunications and computer science.

Science and Engineering - Patent Granting

Mobility and Mechatronics

- Machine tools with electronic circuitry
- Thermo-technical systems
- Construction components, fluids, thermodynamics
- Sensors (electrical, magnetic, optical)
- Measuring & testing instruments
- Machine design & assembly (household appliances)
- Metal works (processing wire, forging and pressing)

Healthcare, Biotechnology and Chemistry

- Polymer chemistry, inkjet compositions for 3D-printing
- Ceramic & glass materials, chemical processing
- Food technology
- Organic chemistry, pharmaceutical compositions (cosmetics & galenics)
- Biopharma, medical use of compounds
- Protein diagnostics, protein therapy
- Immunotherapy (CAR-T cells)
- Microbiology, Plant biology, Synthetic biology
- Gene therapy, cell therapy
- Medical mechanical engineering, electronic engineering for medical devices – Healthcare informatics

Information and Communication Technology

- Data carriers (bank and credit cards magnetic stripe, chip, NFC), RFID tags, digital labels
- Network & Communication security, Computer security, Cryptography
- Software engineering, error detection and correction in computing
- Hardware and software testing and debugging

Corporate Areas

- Data Science
- Business Intelligence and Analytics processes
- Planning and Construction projects
- Electric/ electronic circuit modelling
- Digital solutions evolution within our Technical services
- Identity and Access management
- Internet of Things in Office environment