



Presented by
Management Forum

Advanced Drafting Techniques for Successful EPO Patent Applications

23 September 2025

Many patent applications and patents are lost before the EPO, either before Opposition Divisions or before Appeal due to incorrect original drafting, and added subject matter is a recurrent problem. Learn advanced drafting techniques for successful EPO patent applications.

INCLUDES: Interactive workshop sessions and details of the latest case law and its implications



Format:
Live online



CPD:
6 hours for your records



Certificate of
completion

Course overview

Many patent applications and patents are lost before the European Patent Office (EPO), either during opposition proceedings or appeals. This course will help you avoid common pitfalls such as incorrect initial drafting and issues with added subject matter, which are frequent challenges in this area.

Amendments made during the grant procedure to incorporate new prior art amount to added subject matter, which is often fatal in opposition procedures before the EPO, and in nullity proceedings before national courts. Sufficiency of disclosure can also be a problem and if initial disclosure is insufficient, amending it can amount to adding subject matter.

The purpose of this seminar is to identify the problems of added subject matter and sufficiency of disclosure and show how they can be easily avoided by careful drafting.

The expert trainer will take you through how to deal effectively with these challenges and ensure you understand how to avoid potential problems with amendments so your patent applications are successful.

The key topics covered include:

- Article 123(2) – identify and deal effectively with added subject matter
- How to avoid problems with amendments
- Article 83 – the importance of sufficiency of disclosure

Benefits of attending

By attending this course you will:

- **Understand** how to identify and deal effectively with added subject matter
- **Learn** about the latest decisions of the Enlarged Board of Appeal
- **Get to grips** with amendments that are allowable and not allowable under Art 123(2)
- **Consider** how to deal with disclosed and undisclosed disclaimers
- **Clarify** the interplay between Art 83, Art 84 and Art 56
- **Expand** your knowledge of how to avoid problems with amendments
- **Examine** Article 83 – the importance of sufficiency of disclosure
- **Discuss** sufficiency vs added subject matter

Who should attend?

This course has been specifically designed for:

- European patent attorneys
- Patent attorneys in private practice
- Corporate patent attorneys and lawyers
- People working or training in intellectual property
- US attorneys working in Europe
- Trainee patent attorneys
- EQE candidates

Those already familiar with the field will find this course valuable for updating their knowledge on the latest case law and its implications.

Programme

How to identify and deal effectively with added subject matter at the EPO – Article 123(2)

- Documents of reference for the application of Art 123(2)
- Decisions of the Enlarged Board of Appeal
- Tools available in order to assess added subject matter
- Main criterion directly and unambiguously derivable
- Examples of amendments not allowable under Art 123(2)
- Examples of amendments allowable under Art 123(2)
- Necessity to indicate amendments and their basis
- Added subject matter and clarity
- Other not-allowable cases of adding subject matter
- Broadening of features or intermediate generalisation
- Revision of the stated technical problem
- Prior art disclosed in the application/patent
- Divisional applications
- Correction of errors
- Added subject matter and extension of protection
- Disclosed and undisclosed disclaimers

PRACTICAL WORKSHOP: Exercises to exemplify the concepts learnt

The importance of sufficiency of disclosure – Article 83

- Enabling disclosure
- Objections concerning essential features
- The interplay between Art 83, Art 84 and Art 56
- Sufficiency when overcoming a prejudice
- Fundamental and partial insufficiency
- Sufficiency and Rule 56
- Consequences of a lack of sufficiency at search stage
- Sufficiency vs clarity
- Plausibility, especially in the medicine sector
- Substantiation of lack of sufficiency in opposition
- Sufficiency vs added subject matter
- Disclaimers and sufficiency
- 'Reach-through' claims

PRACTICAL WORKSHOP: Exercises to exemplify the concepts learnt

Latest case law and its implications for your EPO patent applications

- General case law on sufficiency
- Case law on sufficiency in biotechnology

Presenter



Daniel X Thomas

Daniel X. Thomas is an electronics engineer by training. He started his career in the patent field as search examiner at the former Institut International des Brevets in The Hague in 1971. After incorporation of the IIB into the EPO in 1978, he was search examiner in the EPO's DG1. He joined the EPO's DG2 in 1979 as substantive examiner in the field of computers and memories. He became a Director in DG2 in 1989, and subsequently headed directorates in various fields of electronics, physics and mechanics.

Although he retired from active service at the EPO on 1 January 2013, Daniel continues to be active in the field of training patent specialists. He still regularly gives lectures at different universities over Europe, including CEIPI in Strasbourg, and also leads workshops/seminars relating to various aspects of the European granting procedure for the EPO and the Academy of the EPO, including preparation of candidates for the European Qualification Examination, and also 'grandfathers' for new Contracting States.

Course date

23 September 2025

Live online

09:00-17:30 **UK (London)** (UTC+01)

Course code 14943

GBP **599** ~~699~~

EUR **839** ~~979~~

USD **963** ~~1,119~~

Until 19 Aug

How to book



Online:

ipi.academy/2202

Alternatively contact us to book, or if you have any queries:



Email:

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Discounts

- Booking more than one delegate on any one date qualifies for a **15% discount** on the second and subsequent places.
- Most events qualify for an **early booking discount** prior to 6 weeks before the course date. Be sure to check on our website, where the latest discounts will be shown.

Further information

Fee

The fee includes all meals and refreshments for the duration of the course (for venue-based courses) and a complete set of course materials (provided electronically). If you have any particular requirements, please advise customer services when booking.

Please note

IPI Academy (and our training partners) reserve the right to change the content and timing of the programme, the speakers, the date and venue due to reasons beyond their control. In the unlikely event that the course is cancelled, we will refund the registration fee and disclaim any further liability.

Terms and conditions

The rest of our terms, the event cancellation policy and the terms and conditions are on our website, please visit ipi.academy/content/terms-and-conditions

Reviews



It was excellent and more than I expected.

 **Taemin Kang**
patent attorney trainee
NLO
Jun 16 2021



Really good, learnt a lot!!

 **Diptanil Debbarma**
Trainee Patent Attorney
NLO
Nov 9 2021



Very good and practical course.

 **Rafi Bronstein**
Patent Attorney
Daltan Consulting Ltd
Jun 12 2019



I really appreciate Mr Thomas – not only for his huge knowledge and experience about the rules and their application but also his ability to teach and explain in a very clear way.

 **Sara Miani**
Paralegal
GLP SRL
Jun 12 2019

Run this programme in-house for your whole team

Coming to IPI Academy for your in-house training provides an all-inclusive service which gives you access to a wide variety of content, learning platforms and delivery mechanisms as well as your own personal training adviser who will work with you from the initial enquiry through to feedback and follow-up after the programme.

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IPI Academy is a training initiative of Falconbury and Management Forum; leading providers of industry training for over 30 years, based in the UK.

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