

Presented by  
Management Forum

# Effective Defence of EPO Patent Applications

18 July 2025  
+ 22 September 2025

Clarity in drafting patent applications has always been a serious issue. The purpose of the seminar is to teach delegates the essentials of clarity and the most effective use of the problem-solution approach, giving delegates an edge over other parties.

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



**Format:**  
Classroom, Live online



**CPD:**  
6 hours for your records



Certificate of  
completion

# Course overview

**Drafting clear patent claims has long been a critical challenge.** Clarity is essential to differentiate the claimed subject matter from prior art, as ambiguity can lead to interpretations that disadvantage the applicant or proprietor. This is not merely a formal requirement but a fundamental and substantial issue of primary importance.

Although the 'problem-solution' approach is not officially part of the EPC, it is a criterion which has been developed by case law. It is now hard to find a decision of the Boards of Appeal which does not rely on the problem-solution approach to decide upon inventive step. It looks easy, but when applied, it should be carefully considered and applied correctly.

The expert trainer will teach delegates the essentials of clarity and the most effective use of the problem-solution approach, giving them an edge over other parties. The use of practical exercises will help embed the learning.

There is also time allowed during the event for you to ask your specific questions to the trainer and get solutions to the challenges you are facing.

**Key topics covered include:**

- Article 84 – the implications of clarity of claims
- Effective use of the problem-solution approach
- Article 56 – understanding inventive step

## Benefits of attending

By attending this course you will:

- **Learn** about Article 84 and the implications of clarity of claims
- **Expand** your knowledge of clarity versus novelty
- **Consider** the interplay between Art 83, 84 and 56
- **Get to grips** with Article 56 and understand the intricacies of inventive step
- **Understand** how to effectively use the problem-solution approach

## Who should attend?

This course has been specially 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 also find this course valuable for updating their knowledge on the latest case law and its implications.*

# Programme

## **Understanding the implications of clarity of claims – Article 84**

- Definition of clarity – Art 84
- Categories and types of claims
- Practical definition of clarity – clear means
- Conciseness and support by description
- Form and content of claims
- Clarity vs novelty
- Structural vs functional features
- Comprising vs consisting
- The interplay between Art 83, 84 and 56
- Relative terms
- Inventions defined by parameters
- Definition by result to be achieved
- Sources of difficulties with Article 84 – illustrating case law
- Clarity of claims in opposition procedure
- Application of G 3/14 to amended claims
- Adaptation of the description

## **Inventive step and how to master the problem-solution approach – Article 56**

- Legal definition
- State of the art
- Obvious
- Problem-solution approach – identifying the nearest/closest prior art
- Formulating the objective technical problem
- Does the claimed subject matter solve the objective problem?
- Partial problems
- Aggregation/juxtaposition
- Mix of technical and non-technical features
- Deciding on inventive step and positive pointers

## **Latest case law and its implications for defending your EPO patent applications**

- Notable decisions on inventive step

# 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 dates

18 July 2025

**Classroom**

London

Course code 15295

GBP ~~699 799~~

EUR ~~979 1,119~~

USD ~~1,123 1,279~~

Until 13 Jun

22 September 2025

**Live online**

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

Course code 14939

GBP ~~599 699~~

EUR ~~839 979~~

USD ~~963 1,119~~

Until 18 Aug

## How to book



**Online:**

[ipi.academy/2203](https://ipi.academy/2203)

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



**Email:**

[info@ipiacademy.com](mailto:info@ipiacademy.com)



**Phone:**

[+44 \(0\)20 7749 4749](tel:+442077494749)

## 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](https://ipi.academy/content/terms-and-conditions)

# Reviews



**A very good and practical course.**

 **Rafi Bronstein**  
Patent Attorney  
Daltan Consulting Ltd  
Jun 13 2019




**The speaker was perfect.**

 **Agnieszka Zebrowska-Kucharzyk**  
European and Polish Patent Attorney  
PATPOL  
Nov 15 2017



**It was a great course!**

 **Geovana Rosales**  
Patent Manager  
DuPont Nutrition Biosciences ApS  
Nov 24 2016



**A lively discussion and I particularly liked the case law exercises.**

 **Huaizhou SHI**  
NLO  
Nov 24 2016

## 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.

With over 600 trainers, all practitioners and experts across a huge range of fields, we can provide the training you need, where you need it, when you need it, and at a price which suits your budget. Our approach to tailored learning and development consists of designing and delivering the appropriate solution for each client.

For your FREE consultation and to find out more about how we can work with you to solve your training needs, please contact our training advisers:



**ALEKSANDRA BEER**  
**Tel:** +44 (0)20 7749 4749  
**Email:** [inhouse@ipiacademy.com](mailto:inhouse@ipiacademy.com)



**YESIM NURKO**  
**Tel:** +44 (0)20 7749 4749  
**Email:** [inhouse@ipiacademy.com](mailto:inhouse@ipiacademy.com)



**IPI**  
Academy

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

10-12 Rivington Street  
London EC2A 3DU

[ipi.academy](http://ipi.academy)  
**Tel:** +44 (0)20 7749 4749  
**Email:** [info@ipiacademy.com](mailto:info@ipiacademy.com)