

PG Certificate in Intellectual Property (patent) Accreditation Assessor Report Recommendations – Brunel University Implementation Plan

Recommendation 1

Credits- all module block outlines have the correct number of hours of study allocated and the School of Law keep in mind that one QAA credit is generally taken to be equivalent to ten hours of learning.

Recommendation 1 will be addressed accordingly between October 2020 and March 2021 as part of our internal university programme audit and through minor programme/module modifications in consultation with the Dean of Education, QAA officer and the Pg Studies Director.

Recommendation 2

Credits- Prospective students receive clear written advice re the amount of self study required especially where they are being advised that they can work full time. Teaching methodology be adopted to promote prereading in order to ensure that the required number of study hours for a certificate is being met (so far as is possible) in order to maintain consistency of standards.

Recommendation 2 will be actioned for each module before the beginning of each term and in September 2020 for the Programme Study Pack so students receive this information upon arrival. A lot of this is already actioned in the Trade Marks and Managing IP study pack but the same action points will be adopted in connection with the remaining modules. The process will be completed by January 2021.

Recommendation 3

Credits and progression- Formal written formative assessments with written feedback, at least one piece) be adopted for each module to endorse the required student study hours and help with student progression.

Recommendation 3 will be actioned at the beginning of each term for each individual module. And will be clearly indicated in the text of the Study Pack. The process will be completed by January 2021.

Recommendation 4

The newly drafted Programme Specifications adopt the correct wording re the patent attorney FLQ and drop the words “gain exemption”. The PgCert IP programme specification makes it clear that there are no “optional blocks”.

Recommendation 4 will be addressed accordingly together with Rec 1 and other recommendations which require minor modifications between October 2020 and March 2021 as part of our internal university programme audit and through minor programme/module modifications in consultation with the Dean of Education, QAA officer and the Pg Studies Director.

Recommendation 5

Schedule A : the IP law subjects and Professional Ethics topics as set out in Schedule A are covered however the programme specifications, modular block outlines and student study packs do not make this clear. Neither does the existing mapping document. These documents be redrafted to ensure that all stakeholders can identify exactly where the Schedule A subjects are being covered and assessed. It is suggested that the mapping document be put into table format clearly indicating exactly where each of the subjects and transferable skills (as required by IPReg Schedule A and B) is taught ie in which teaching session of which module.

Recommendation 5 will be actioned between October 2020 and December 2020.

Recommendation 6

The teaching and assessment of the English Legal System be reviewed to ensure it or any new iteration (see para 6 above) satisfies IPReg requirements.

A new syllabus has been drafted and implemented as Part of the Managing IP module and hours have been increased in terms of lectures, self-study, final, continuous and formative assessments and those have been submitted as part of the accreditation process and our initial responses. The proposed new format has been approved by the external IPREG assessors.

Recommendation 7

Level : The minimum level required by the IPReg is 6. The School of Law reassess the level of the PGCert to ensure that learning outcomes, teaching and assessment is aligned to at least level 6, that this is appropriately reflected in all the documentation (including the study guide and study packs). Please note that the wording of the learning outcomes currently stated in the newly drafted PgCert IP programme specification do not reflect level 6 and are not compatible with those set out in the LLM programme specification, despite LLM and PgCert students being taught together.

We have addressed this query about appropriate level as part of the accreditation discussions and are happy to confirm that Recommendation 7 will be addressed fully and accordingly between October 2020 and March 2021 as part of our internal university programme audit and through minor programme/module modifications in consultation with the Dean of Education, QAA officer and the Pg Studies Director.

Recommendation 8

Schedule B :The School of Law review the documentation and in particular student study guide and study packs to ensure that it is clear what transferable skills are being learnt and assessed, and at what level. That the Schedule B transferable skills be included in the mapping document (see above). That transferable skills requirements are clearly explained to students in study packs.

This will be actioned by September 2020 for the PgCert Study Pack and before the beginning of each term for the individual modules.

Recommendation 9

A specific statement be included in the study guide and study packs as to how and where the content of the University course covers the IPReg core subjects.

This will be actioned by September 2021 for the PgCert study pack and before the beginning of each term for each individual module in consultation with IPREG.

Recommendation 10

Specific detailed clear and transparent assessment criteria based on learning outcomes and the minimum level required of students are published so that students can be clear as to what is expected of them and know what they need to demonstrate and to what level to achieve a pass.

These should be used to create marking schemes and will aid consistency of marking.

This will be actioned during the Exam Scrutiny Panels designed to set and oversee that the exam format is appropriate each term.

Recommendation 11

The process for IP team internal annual review is reviewed to ensure that all IP team members, both academics and practitioners, are included in quality assurance and quality enhancement cycles.

That the examiners are involved in the quality assurance cycle and that their recommendations are considered and acted upon where appropriate.

Formally minuted IP team review meetings and training sessions eg to share best practice, discuss marking strategies and future enhancements to the programmes be adopted.

Student engagement in quality assurance is enhanced eg each cohort of IP students elect a student representative, who has an opportunity to introduce themselves to all IP students and who can either attend the School of Law student experience committee meetings or submit ideas, questions etc to it in writing.

Recommendation 11 will be actioned by the IP Team between September 2020 and March 2021.

Recommendation 12

Admissions - written criteria re exercising discretion where a student does not have a STEM degree 2.2 or above be drafted to ensure consistency.

This will be addressed between now and September 2020 in consultation with the Admissions Office.