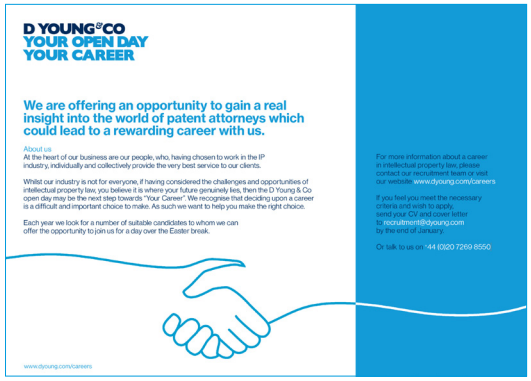
D YOUNG&CO CAREERS INFORMATION PACK 2026

Thank you for downloading D Young & Co's 2026 graduate information pack. In this PDF you will find the following:



D Young & Co graduate brochure

Our graduate brochure introduces patents and what it means to be a patent attorney, the training you would receive, details of what it is like to work for us, as well as detail on how to apply.



D Young & Co patent open day

Our open day offers a practical insight into life as a patent attorney, the opportunity to get to know us better, and will help you find out if this is the right job for you.

D YOUNG & CO GRADUATE BROCHURE



D YOUNG & CO INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

"A career as a patent attorney is intellectually fulfilling; keeping you at the forefront of scientific and technological innovation for the rest of your working life.

We are constantly navigating complex and challenging innovations using knowledge, insight and experience to provide our clients with strong protection of their intellectual property rights.

We do hope that you will find this brochure useful; it contains a lot of information about patents and being a patent attorney, the training you would receive, and details of what it is like to work for us, as well as detail on how to apply.

We look forward to hearing from you."

David Meldrum
Partner,
Patent Attorney
Electronics, Engineering & IT Group



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London – Munich – Southampton
T: +44 (0)20 7269 8550
F: +44 (0)20 7269 8555
www.dyoung.com/careers
recruitment@dyoung.com

YOUR CAREER
YOUR LIFESTYLE

Introduction

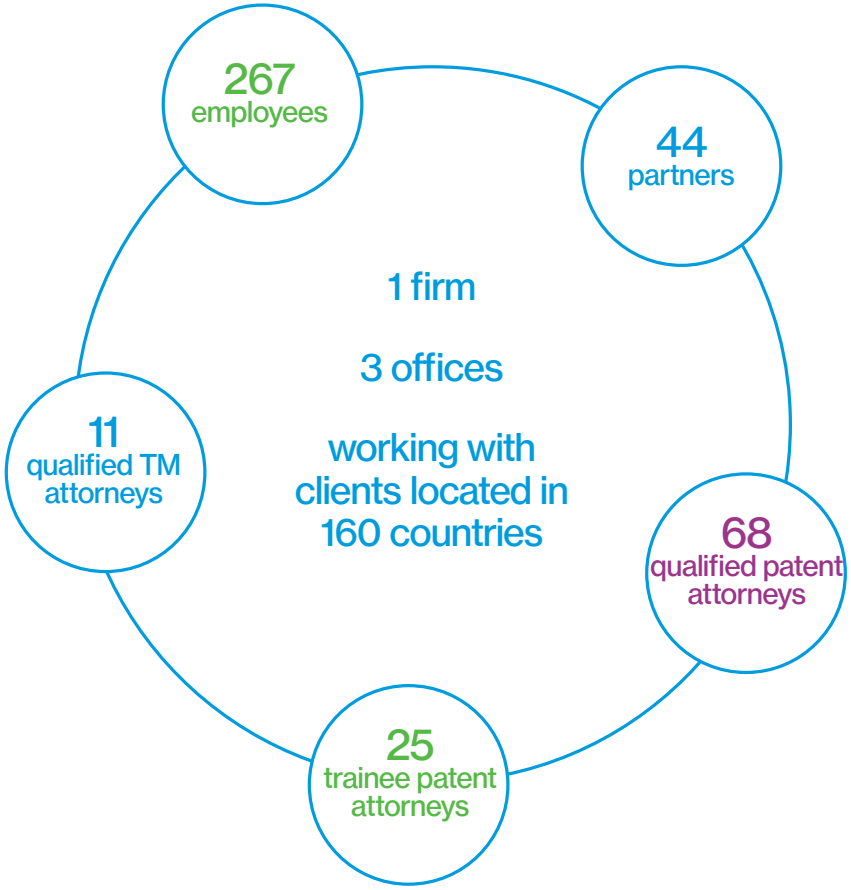
At D Young & Co, each year we look for candidates who want to train to become qualified patent attorneys. The successful candidates join us as technical assistants to begin their training. As a patent attorney, you will need to be able to combine legal expertise, technology skill, and commercial focus to help our clients achieve their goals.

As a leading European intellectual property firm, D Young & Co can offer you the highest quality of training, excellent benefits, a rewarding career and the opportunity to work with some of the world's biggest brands as well as universities, research centres and start-ups.

We have a reputation for excellence and are recognised as one of only two top-tier firms by all of the UK legal directories. Over 200 members of staff work across three offices (London, Munich and Southampton) and you would be joining a firm that is collegiate, supportive and sociable.

Working with partners, attorneys, paralegals and members of our business support team from across all three offices is expected and encouraged, to help us provide a fantastic working environment and provide our clients with the best quality advice possible.

Our organisation is structured into the following six teams:
- Patents Biotechnology, Chemistry & Pharmaceuticals
- Patents Electronics, Engineering & IT
- Trade Marks
- IP Support Services
- Business Support Services



IP SPECIALISTS THROUGH AND THROUGH

"I have found that a career as a patent attorney offers the unique opportunity to put your scientific and technical knowledge into practice in a legal and highly commercial context."

Sophie Slater
Partner,
Patent Attorney
Biotechnology, Chemistry & Pharmaceuticals Group



What is intellectual property?

Intellectual property (IP) is a legal concept referring to "creations of the mind" such as musical, literary, and artistic works, inventions, words, phrases, symbols, and designs. IP law grants owners certain exclusive rights to these intangible assets.

There are several types of intellectual property rights:

- Patents protect technical inventions.
- Trade marks protect the brand and brand name and can include colours, symbols and logos.
- Copyright protects literary, musical, dramatic and artistic works.
- Designs protect the visual appearance of products.

What is a patent?

A patent is an agreement between the patent holder and the state that can prevent others from exploiting an invention for up to 20 years (subject to annual renewal).

It is both a technical and legal document that must accurately convey to an expert in the relevant technical field how the invention works.

In exchange for telling the world how the invention works, a patent gives the inventor a time-limited legal monopoly over the invention.

To gain a patent the idea must not previously have been publicly disclosed, used or sold before a patent application has been filed as this will almost certainly invalidate any patent eventually granted.

An invention will also need to be new, inventive (not obvious) and have practical (industrial) application.

A patent attorney's role is to assist clients in protecting their inventions by both preparing new patent applications and defending patent applications before the world's patent offices.

SCIENCE, LAW, TECHNOLOGY AND BUSINESS

An academic and intellectually rigorous career based on science and technology

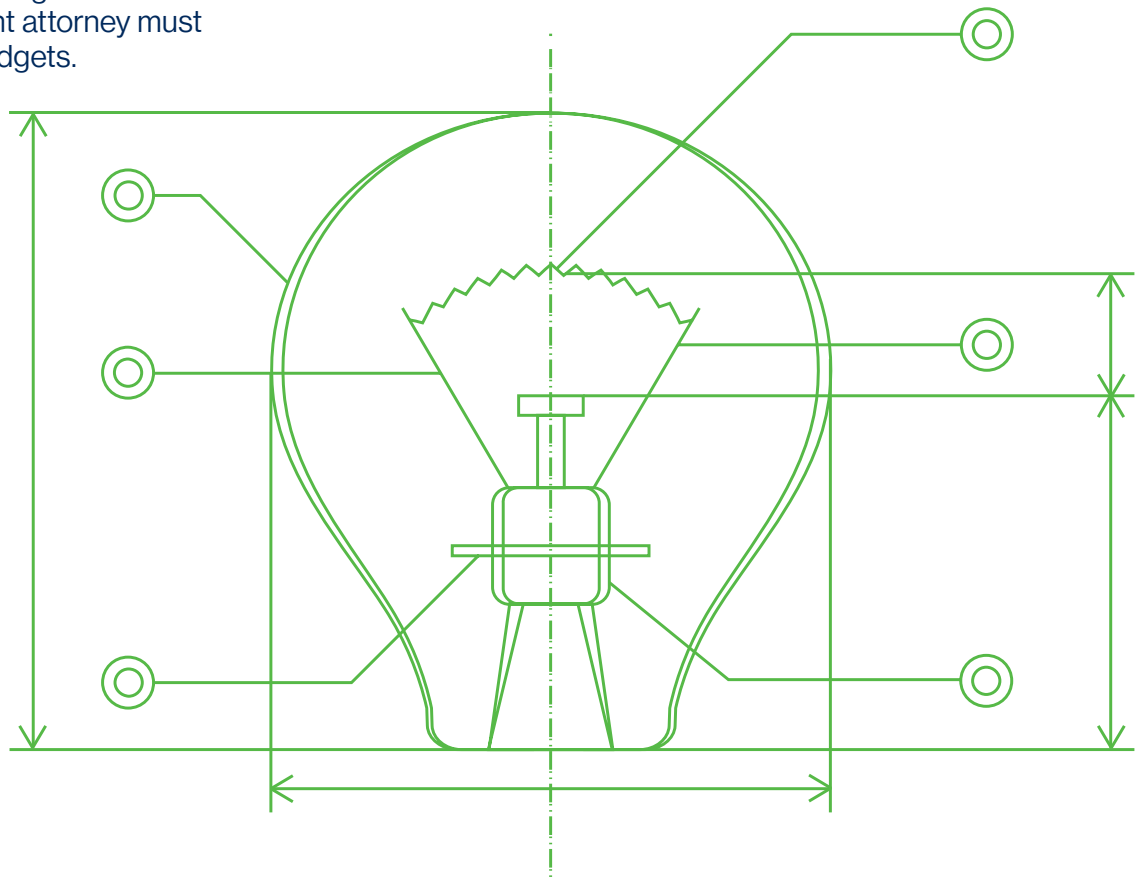
IP is worth billions to the world economy and as such is of significant commercial value to a company. Robust protection of IP rights, whether through the use of patents, designs or trade marks, is vital to the success of a company. The role of a patent attorney is to help companies achieve key strategic goals by helping them obtain and maintain protection of their innovations.

A patent attorney works with clients and inventors to balance the law and complex methodological and/or scientific issues. At the same time, a patent attorney must be able to understand and address the strategic aims of a company and what it wants to achieve through the protection of its intellectual property. In addition to achieving all of this, a patent attorney must also work within the client's commercial constraints, such as timelines and budgets.

We work with clients to write specifications, which detail the invention and a description of the practical form(s) of the invention, usually with the aid of drawings. A patent attorney needs to be able to describe accurately the elements of the invention. In order to do this a deep understanding of the technology behind the patent is needed.

We often work directly with the inventor(s) to work out which elements of the invention might be patentable. However, we also need to be able to work with those in a business charged with creating commercial value from the invention.

A patent attorney may also work on oppositions – either defending or opposing the validity of a patent on behalf of our clients. The ability to form and articulate coherent arguments based on law is therefore imperative. A patent attorney will need to be comfortable handling contentious situations and have the ability to think quickly under pressure.



TRAINING AND SUPPORT

"My biggest challenges have been exam related – when trainees say these are hard, they are right! However, the support here for training is brilliant, both in terms of in-house tutorials and advice, and generosity in paying and allowing time for trainees to attend external courses."

David Al-Khalili
Partner,
Patent Attorney
Electronics, Engineering & IT Group



Top-quality training

As a trainee patent attorney at D Young & Co you will receive training and take exams to become both a UK Chartered Patent Attorney and a European Patent Attorney.

There are a number of qualifications needed to become a patent attorney and the process can take approximately four to six years in total. Although the exams are notoriously difficult and the training can be challenging, the result will be worth it. The training you receive from us will be second to none and you will be given responsibility and introduced to clients early on in your career.

To help you pass the exams, we offer additional support outside of your on-the-job training. As well as attending formal external courses you will enjoy one to one mentoring by a dedicated partner whilst being able to receive a broad church of work from a variety of our qualified attorneys, as well as having access to study resources, internal tutorials and external revision courses to support you through exams. This is alongside your own preparation and revision for the examinations.

We look to recruit six to seven technical assistants each year so you will progress through the qualifications with the support of other trainees around you, those at your level and those in the years above. Study leave is provided for courses, exams and revision time. Travel, accommodation and expenses are also paid for.

Tailored and adaptive training

We have a flexible approach to professional development and can tailor training to meet your needs to allow you to develop in the most appropriate way for you. We recognise that success in professional qualifications is important and requires time and hard work. However we also believe that in working at D Young & Co everyone should be able to live their life to the fullest outside the working environment, including the ability to strike an appropriate balance between working in the office and remotely. After all it's your career and you should also be able to enjoy your own lifestyle. We will work with you to ensure that the training route and time frame that you choose are right for you.

YOUR ROUTE TO QUALIFICATION

DEGREE, MASTERS OR PHD

Trainee joins D Young & Co
Degree, Masters or PhD

A strong background in a biotechnology, chemistry, pharmaceutical, electronics, engineering or IT related field.

— One familiarisation session run by previous trainees and HR in August.

POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN IP LAW (QM)

Queen Mary University London
— Start September
— Exams January
— Results March

Must have six months' work experience before the course starts.

— External revision courses
— In-house tutorials looking at past papers Jan-Feb.

PRE-EUROPEAN QUALIFYING EXAM (paper F)

European Patent Office (EPO)
— Exams Feb/Mar
— Results Mar/Apr

Must have two years' work experience before you sit the exams.

Multiple choice paper to assess your ability to answer legal questions and questions relating to the drafting of claims.

— External revision courses Jul/Aug
— In-house tutorials looking at past papers Aug-Sep.

UK EXAMS (FINAL DIPLOMAS)

Patent Examination Board (PEB)
— Exams October
— Results March

FD1: Advanced IP Law & Practice
FD2: Drafting of specifications
FD3: Amendment of specifications
FD4: Infringement & validity

— External revision courses
— In-house tutorials looking at past papers Dec-Feb.

EUROPEAN QUALIFYING EXAM (EQE)

European Patent Office (EPO)
— Exams Feb/Mar
— Results Jun/Jul

Must have three years' work experience.

Must have completed paper F.

Papers M1, M2, M3 & M4.

POINT OF QUALIFICATION

EUROPEAN PATENT ATTORNEY

When you have passed EQEs.

CHARTERED PATENT ATTORNEY

Once fellow application is approved by CIPA. Prior to that you are a **PATENT ATTORNEY**

BASIC LITIGATION SKILLS

Must be completed within three years of qualification.

ESSENTIAL SKILLS FOR A TRAINEE

Essential skills for a trainee patent attorney
As a trainee you will rely on a number of core skills to successfully navigate your training and progress in your career as a patent attorney, these include:

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills that enable you to summarise and communicate complex legal situations to non-experts.
- Reading and quickly assimilating relevant information from several, often lengthy and detailed, technical and legal documents.
- Strong analytical skills, identifying the key differences between the technologies described in a set of documents.
- Meticulous attention to detail.
- Preparing accurate and appropriate amendments to a patent application specification to enable the patent to be differentiated from other cited references.
- Preparing succinct, accurate and persuasive arguments for why the patent application specification is different from the cited references in a legally and technically sound manner.
- Working well in a team as well as autonomously.
- Working under time pressure to tight deadlines using impeccable time management skills.

"One of the best aspects of my role is definitely the variety of my day-to-day work! I have been exposed to a wide range of technologies and clients and I was fortunate to have experience of drafting patent applications and opposition work (attacking/defending a granted patent) at an early stage in my training."

Rebecca Price
Senior Associate,
Patent Attorney
Biotechnology, Chemistry & Pharmaceuticals Group

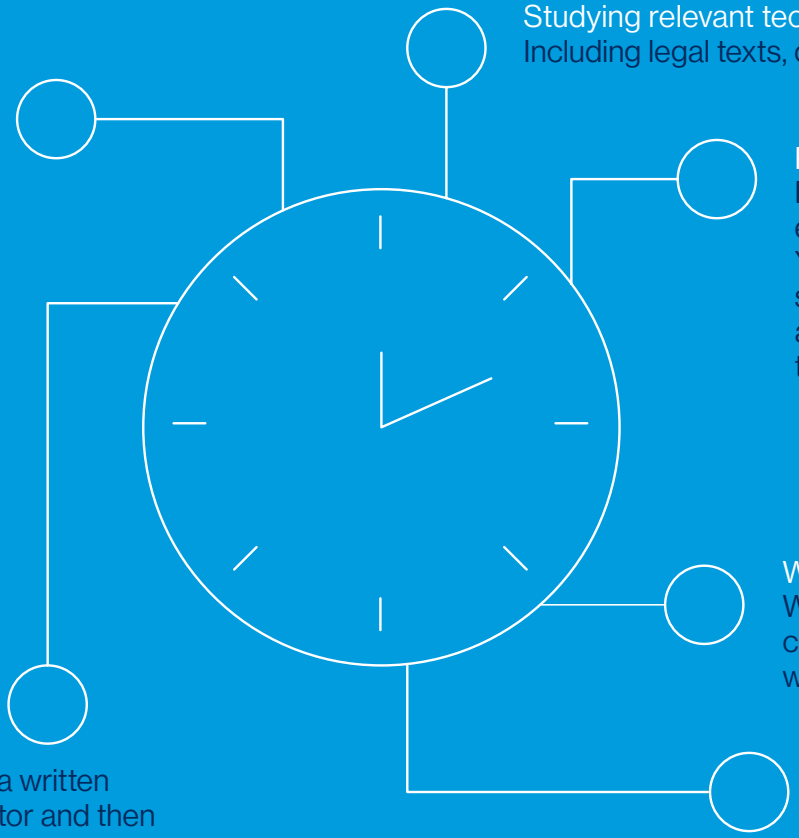


A TYPICAL DAY AS A TRAINEE

Meetings with your supervisor to discuss work
Talking through the legal and technical feedback provided in order to make amendments to the work before it can be signed off.

Studying relevant technologies and legal documentation
Including legal texts, case law and guides on the law.

Reading documents associated with cases
For example a patent application, patent office examination report and reference documents. You need to understand the patent application, see how it differs from the reference documents and decide what options are available to respond to the objections in the examination report.



Working with colleagues across our offices or remotely
We provide video conference facilities for excellent inter-office collaboration and all of our files are held electronically to permit working on any matter in any office or indeed remotely.

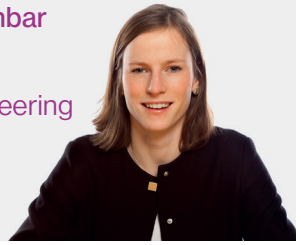
Working on the preparation of new patent applications
This typically involves reviewing a written disclosure provided by the inventor and then meeting with the inventor in order to gain a full understanding of their invention. You will aim to have a technical understanding as well as an appreciation of what the client's commercial goals are. Your job is to pick out the critical points in terms of patent protection and quickly understand what matters more and what matters less.

Working on patent applications which have already been prepared and filed
The patent office will issue an examination report which will set out objections – these objections may be raised on the basis of a comparison which the patent examiner has made to technologies already known and / or to the manner in which the claimed invention is described. Your job is to respond to these objections by either making amendments, or by arguing that the examiner is legally or technically incorrect.

THE QUALIFIED PATENT ATTORNEY

"I started work at D Young & Co in 2015 and can honestly say I've never regretted choosing this career path. My work sees me cover a broad range of technologies from sewing machines to driverless cars! This means I am always learning something new and no two days are the same. If you are looking for an interesting, varied and intellectually stimulating job in a supportive and friendly firm, I couldn't recommend a career as a patent attorney at D Young & Co more."

Alice Stuart-Grumbar
Senior Associate,
Patent Attorney
Electronics, Engineering & IT Group



The role of a qualified patent attorney

When you have passed all of your examinations and become a qualified patent attorney, you will begin to manage your own cases and clients. You may have a busy caseload with hundreds of patent applications concurrently pending, each with its own timescales and strict deadlines. You are a representative of the client and will need to represent your client's best interests before the patent office as well as convey the feedback from the patent examination process to your client. You will build strong relationships with your clients and have autonomy over your own charging, balancing the needs of your clients with the firm's.

Excellent career prospects with a leading firm

A career as a patent attorney opens up a number of options. Most of our attorneys choose to stay with us and progress through ranks to partner level. The firm has a structured career progression, seeing candidates go from trainee level through to qualified attorney, associate, senior associate and ultimately partner. The career allows you to continue to work in science and technology but to broaden skills to encompass legal expertise.

We take our responsibilities as an employer seriously and as such you can expect to receive the benefits associated with working for a leading firm.

- Competitive salary and bi-annual discretionary bonus.
- Flexible working including opportunities to work remotely.
- 25 days annual leave increasing to a maximum of 35 days with length of service.
- Pension with a generous firm contribution.
- Medical insurance, healthcare cash plan, dental insurance and health assessments.
- Group life assurance.
- Season ticket loan scheme.
- Gym membership.
- Cycle to work scheme.
- Discounted shopping portal and dining card.

We aim to make the work environment friendly and professional and do our best to provide opportunities to work and socialise across all levels and departments of the firm. Work-life balance is important to us and across the firm various social / activity groups exist – there is a netball team (with legendary match reports available), a band, and a choir, Friday drinks and the Christmas party.

TOP EUROPEAN IP FIRM WITH A GLOBAL CLIENT BASE

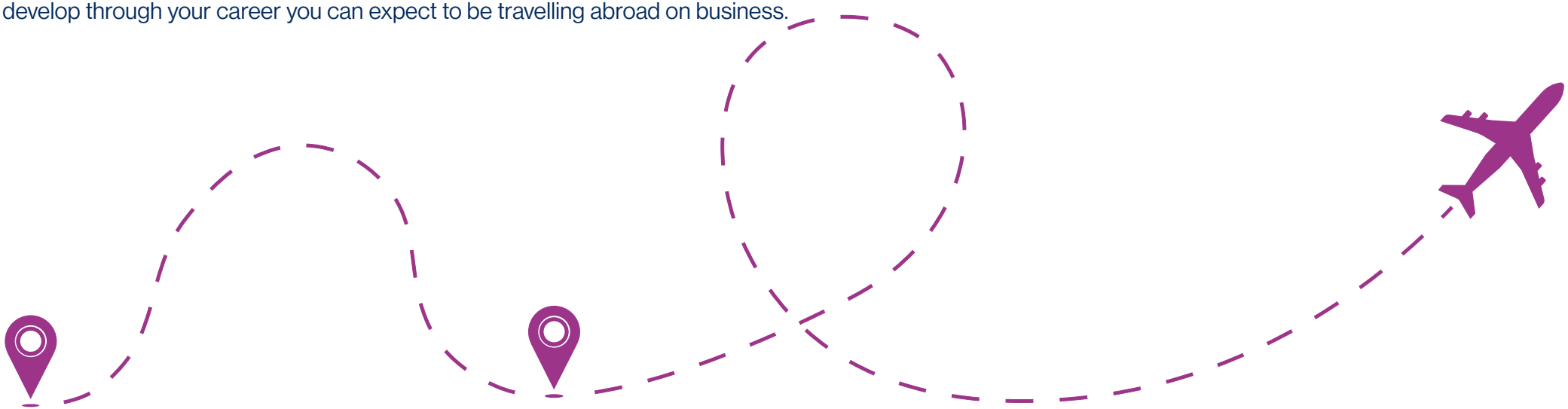
Daily contact with inventors and patent attorneys based all over the world

We are a top tier firm – one of only two in the UK that is ranked as top tier by all of the legal directories for both patents and trade marks. We work hard to build relationships with our clients to help them achieve their goals more efficiently.

Many of our clients are based outside UK and Europe and we have a large number of clients based in Japan and the US. These clients are looking to gain intellectual property protection in the UK and Europe and we help them do this. We also work for European companies needing coverage in overseas territories where a patent will be needed for each country. This means working with other patent attorneys based around the world so that they ensure the patent is protected according to local laws.

Some of the world's biggest brands trust us with their intellectual property including household names in the automotive, gaming and pharmaceutical sectors. Other clients range from world-renowned research facilities and universities and spin-out companies.

We regularly visit both our overseas clients and other patent attorney firms so as you develop through your career you can expect to be travelling abroad on business.



CORE VALUES, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Our core values are to:

- create and operate a working environment which treats and rewards staff fairly and recognises excellence.
- encourage respect, openness and communication between all members of the firm and foster team work.
- be recognised for integrity and professionalism in our dealings with our clients.
- develop long term relationships and trust amongst clients and suppliers.

We are committed to encouraging equality, diversity and inclusion in the workplace and the creation of a safe, secure, good and harmonious working environment free of bullying, harassment, victimisation and unlawful discrimination, promoting dignity and respect for all, and where individual differences and the contributions of all staff are recognised and valued.

Our recruitment activity aims to encourage applications from all individuals who have appropriate qualifications, skills and /or experience.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications and current vacancies

Every year we advertise our trainee patent attorney opportunities within our electronics, engineering & IT and biotechnology, chemistry & pharmaceuticals patent teams. If successful, you will be invited to complete a telephone interview with a member of the HR team and following this, successful candidates will be invited to an assessment.

As an equal opportunities employer and an original charter signatory for the "IP Inclusive" initiative we support, promote and celebrate equality, diversity, and inclusion within our firm and in the wider IP profession. We seek to cast our recruitment net as wide as possible and recognise that fostering a professional working environment that is rich in diversity and free from discrimination is the key to creativity and productivity.

You can find information on all of our opportunities and how to apply on our careers page:
www.dyoung.com/careers.

You are welcome to contact us with any queries by email to:
recruitment@dyoung.com.

"The recruitment process to become a patent attorney was rigorous, but I came away from my interview at D Young & Co with a sense that I could feel at home there. The people were friendly but professional, the atmosphere is business-focussed but down-to-earth."

Antony Latham
Partner,
Patent Attorney
Biotechnology, Chemistry & Pharmaceuticals Group



D YOUNG & CO
YOUR OPEN DAY
YOUR CAREER

We are offering an opportunity to gain a real insight into the world of patent attorneys which could lead to a rewarding career with us.

About us

At the heart of our business are our people, who, having chosen to work in the IP industry, individually and collectively provide the very best service to our clients.

Whilst our industry is not for everyone, if having considered the challenges and opportunities of intellectual property law, you believe it is where your future genuinely lies, then the D Young & Co open day may be the next step towards "Your Career". We recognise that deciding upon a career is a difficult and important choice to make. As such we want to help you make the right choice.

Each year we look for a number of suitable candidates to whom we can offer the opportunity to join us for a day over the Easter break.



For more information about a career in intellectual property law, please contact our recruitment team or visit our website www.dyoung.com/careers

If you feel you meet the necessary criteria and wish to apply, send your CV and cover letter to recruitment@dyoung.com by the end of January.

Or talk to us on +44 (0)20 7269 8550