



Becky Lander

is a **Patent Policy Advisor**
at the **UK Intellectual Property Office (UKIPO)**

Likes: Walking and running with my dog (especially fell running)/ Generally being outdoors.

Dislikes: Driving/ Flat places!

Previously worked:

2019 - Present	Patent policy advisor at the UKIPO
2014 - 2019	Patent examiner at the UKIPO
2012 - 2014	Various secondary schools as a Physics teacher

Previously studied:

- Diploma in Law and Intellectual Property from the University of South Wales (completed at the IPO)
- PGCE in teaching secondary school physics
- Masters in Astrophysics from the University of Bristol

How they found out about the profession:

One of my friends from university got a job as a patent examiner at the IPO (which he found when looking into the patent attorney career) – I discovered the job through him. The flexible working conditions greatly appealed to me (very different to teaching) so I applied!

What does an average day look like?

When examining:

- Check my case list to find the highest priority case (you will usually have a subject matter area to focus on out this can change over time – I have worked on patents for kids toys to gym equipment to business methods)
- Work on the case (searching for prior art/ writing up reports/ responding to agent letters) – referring to case law and setting out legal arguments as necessary.

In my policy role:

- Check emails and my task list (priorities can quickly change!)
- Work on the most urgent task – could be writing briefings, drafting letters for ministers, researching bits of patent law (for the UK or other countries), analyzing text for trade agreements, sending legal queries to government lawyers.
- Attend meetings – with other IPO teams or other government departments (such as the Department for International Trade).

Top tips for job applications and interviews?

Where possible go and talk to people who currently do the role you are applying for. Also do some practice interviews if you can – if not then at least practice answering interview questions out loud.

“You would be surprised how many people (at all levels) experience imposter syndrome - don't feel like you are the only one or let it put you off going for something!”



YOUR NOTES:

- Please use this space to write questions in advance of the session, or notes during the session.

[your notes]



Carol Nyahasha

is a Senior Trade Mark Attorney
at Baron Warren Redfern

LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/carol-nyahasha-314a5225/>

Likes: Anything to do with branding, Star Trek
and handbags

Dislikes: Cancel culture and mean girls

Previously worked:

2000-2003	PepsiCo (Dallas) – Trade Mark Paralegal
2003-2006	Baker & McKenzie – Trade Mark Assistant
2006-2013	Taylor Wessing – Trade Mark Attorney
2013-2015	Eversheds Sunderland – Trade Mark Attorney
2015-2018	Self-employed - Lily & Lavender Events – Event Planner/Designer
2018-2020	Rational IP – Trade Mark Attorney
2020-current	Baron Warren Redfern – Trade Mark Attorney

Previously studied:

BA, Economics & Finance

How they found out about the profession:

I started off as a filing clerk in the PepsiCo legal department (part time job to pay for university) and was asked to cover for a paralegal in the trade marks department going on maternity leave and the rest is history!

What does an average day look like?

- My day always starts off with coffee and checking my diary to see what deadlines and deliverables I have for the day
- Answer emails - I try to get back to clients within 24 hours - I make calls if necessary as sometimes that's easier than an email
- Start tackling the to-do list
- More coffee!
- Check in with my supervising partner - very important nowadays as we are mostly working remotely
- Dedicate 30mins to an hour to Business development (writing/reading articles, following up on potential business etc)
- Do any admin (invoicing, time recording, e-filing of emails etc) - organisation and staying on top of paperwork is key!

Top tips for job applications and interviews?

Prepare, prepare, prepare and remember it is as much an interview of the employer as it is yours so be sure to ask questions to make sure they are good fit for you as well!

“Always look for the opportunity in everything life presents to you, good or bad!”



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Kathryn Rose

is a Senior Patent Attorney
at Venner Shipley LLP

LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/kathryn-rose-40802914b/>

Likes: Travel, running penguins and anything polar

Dislikes: Marmite

Previously worked:

Present	Venner Shipley LLP – Senior Patent Attorney
2014-2021	Venner Shipley LLP – Trainee/Associate Patent Attorney
2008-2014	Various Institutes/Universities – Post-Doctoral Research Associate

Previously studied:

PhD in Glaciology from University of Southampton

How they found out about the profession:

A family friend was a patent attorney so I was aware of the profession, but I discovered the job in more detail when I reconnected with a school friend who offered me work experience in her firm. I liked the idea that I could still use my science background everyday but in a profession that provides more structured career progression.

What does an average day look like?

- Always start by checking deadlines and reminders.
- Start on the to-do list. This could involve responding to GB/EP/International office actions, liaising with foreign associates, drafting new patent applications, performing freedom-to-operate searches. The subject matter of each case can be varied depending on the client and the tasks involved can also vary according to client needs.
- More generally work also involves: checking in with my supervising partner, attending meetings with team members, participating in business development and networking activities, and contributing to the training of new trainees.

Top tips for job applications and interviews?

- Try and get some work experience if possible to see the kinds of procedures that are involved and what's required to respond to all the paperwork. This should also help to indicate if the role is something that will interest you.
- For patents, also start trying to think about how simple items in your house work (e.g. a can opener or a paper clip) and how you might describe those items to someone else in an interview.

“Try and get some work experience if possible to see the kinds of procedures that are involved and what's required to respond to all the paperwork”



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[your notes]



Katie Atkinson

is an Associate IP Solicitor
at Kirkland & Ellis

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/katie-atkinson-52805524

Likes: Theatre, learning languages, walking

Dislikes: Tomato ketchup

Previously worked:

2014	University of Cambridge (Post Doc Research Associate - biomaterials)
2017-2019	Jaguar Land Rover (Materials Engineer - metallurgy)
2019-2021	Allen & Overy LLP (Trainee Solicitor)
2021-Present	Kirkland & Ellis (Associate Solicitor)

Previously studied:

I completed an MSci in Experimental and Theoretical Physics at the University of Cambridge. I spent my third year at MIT in Boston as part of the Cambridge-MIT exchange programme. I stayed at the University of Cambridge for a PhD on flexoelectricity in liquid crystal materials for display devices.

How they found out about the profession:

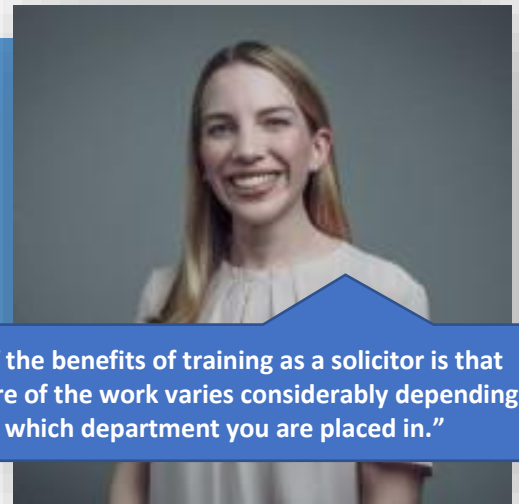
During my PhD, I decided that I did not want to pursue a career in academic research because the prospect of completing multiple postdoctoral research contracts was unappealing. I sat on the committee for the Cambridge University Technology and Enterprise Club. A number of our events were sponsored by IP law firms and I decided to further investigate careers in IP. The prospect of combining knowledge of technology and the law appealed to me. I completed work experience at the World Intellectual Property Office in Geneva, vacation schemes in law firms and some work experience with a firm of patent and trade mark attorneys. Having considered several different roles within the IP professions, I decided that training as a solicitor appealed to me most.

What does an average day look like?

One of the benefits of training as a solicitor is that the nature of the work varies considerably depending on which department you are placed in. Depending on the firm you train with, you are likely to complete 4-6 placements (known as seats) during your training contract. Typical trainee tasks include legal research, drafting sections of transaction documents and assisting in the coordination of transactions, as well as more administrative tasks such as proof-reading or compiling documents.

Top tips for job applications and interviews?

Vacation schemes in law firms and at firms of patent and trade mark attorneys are very competitive. If you are unable to secure a formal work experience placement, consider applying speculatively for legal work experience in-house or in other areas of law. Legal work experience of any nature will strengthen your application and help boost your confidence in interviews.



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Other notes from the session

- *Please fill this out with any miscellaneous notes you think of...*