



**DELTA PATENTS**



Training for Patent Professionals

**OVERVIEW**  
**EQE TRAINING**  
**PRE-EXAM AND**  
**MAIN EXAM**

EQE 2023 EDITION

# DELTAPATENTS WELCOMES YOU

## Why DeltaPatents?

DeltaPatents is a **patent attorney firm** based in the Netherlands with a passion for quality. We provide the highest quality advice and service to public and private companies at various stages of growth from start-up to Fortune 500. Our patent specialists have a deep technological knowledge and extensive industrial experience. Through our education activities, we stay ahead in terms of law changes, case law and procedural requirements.

We are proud to be a leading training organization for the **European Qualifying Examination (EQE)**. Our renowned courses can be followed throughout Europe, and had its origin in the courses we offer for the Dutch patent attorneys, initiated by **EIPEF** (European Intellectual Property Education Foundation). We offer a complete range of courses and high quality training material for the EQE. The knowledge and experience gained during more than 15 years of EQE training provides a solid basis for our comprehensive range of training courses in different areas. We offer **Continuing Education of Patent Attorneys** (e.g. patent law update course, a Unitary Patent course, and various IP master classes) across Europe as well as outside.

For **R&D** (R&D managers, researchers, developers, inventors, entrepreneurs, IP management, IP coordinators and tech-transfer officers), we provide targeted IP tutorials and several workshops. These can also be organized in-house at your organization, open to other participants or exclusively in-house.

*“It was a pleasure to study with such a skilled and nice instructor”*

Our **blogs** keep you up-to-date on the EQE, EPO Case law, Patent procedures, Unitary Patent and Patent News.



In 2006 we started **training IP support staff**, culminating in a full training program preparing for the official Dutch Formalities Officers exam. The program includes training modules directed to EPC and PCT formalities. These training modules are offered throughout Europe.

Our training focuses on giving insight and understanding, and ensuring that the acquired knowledge can be practically applied. Unique for DeltaPatents is that we thoroughly train and guide our tutors. For our tutors, training is a profession, mastered by teamwork and frequent involvement in courses. We take feedback of attendants seriously and act on it. For us, quality and customer satisfaction are essential.

## DeltaPatents' personal touch

We believe in teaching and treating candidates with a personal touch. You will be trained in small groups, giving ample opportunity to discuss unclear issues in more detail and get personal assistance. Hospitality is important to us. For participants staying in Eindhoven for courses of multiple days, we organize a social event, such as a dinner or a trip to a local place of interest. We welcome contact (e.g. via e-mail, telephone or video chat) with our tutors to ask follow-up questions, to clarify course materials or to report mistakes.

# OVERVIEW

# EQE TRAINING

## PRE-EXAM AND

## MAIN EXAM

### Impact of the Pre-Exam

Candidates intending to take the Main Exam in 2024 must pass this Pre-Exam first (unless they already enrolled to the EQE in 2012 or earlier).

The Pre-Exam is intended to be a barrier to keep unprepared candidates with no chance of passing from needlessly increasing the workload of the EQE Examination Committees.

As the Pre-Exam will only be held once each year at the same time as the Main Exam (usually late Feb or first half of March), candidates for Main-Exam 2024 must already start in 2022 with study and preparation.

The current Main Exam is very similar to the old EQE, except that the current exams are held online in a secure browser with the exam schedule adapted for that and requiring candidates to type their answers rather than handwritten in an exam hall. The level of knowledge, experience and exam technique required to pass the Main Exam is the same as the old EQE.



### The Pre-Exam

The Pre-Exam is a four hour exam comprising legal and claim interpretation/analysis elements. Although the format uses True/False questions rather than open questions, the questions and marking are designed to prevent success by guessing.

It is assumed that candidates for EQE Main Exam spend the preceding 3 years training in both legal and practical aspects, by studying and on-the job supervising. The Pre-Exam is designed to test the knowledge and skills that a trainee patent attorney can be expected to have after 2 years of following comprehensive 3-year preparation for the Main Exam.

The legal knowledge required for the legal questions is defined in the REE/IPREE as covering the same legal topics as for the paper D of the Main Exam. The claim drafting and interpretation knowledge required for the claims analysis part is similar to that required for the A, B and C papers of the Main Exam, including competence in the Problem-Solution Approach. The Pre-Exam thus addresses legal and claims analysis aspects from the whole EQE syllabus.

The True/False format of the Pre-Exam means that candidates do not need to formulate their own answers and generate possible options, but rather need to evaluate the statements presented to them. However, whether the statements are True or False may depend on only one minor aspect or on the legal reasoning presented. It is not possible to explain why an answer is chosen. "Almost right" is awarded zero points. So, a complete understanding of the core EPC and PCT topics, and practice in applying these topics is essential.



## The Main Exam comprises 4 papers:

- **Paper A: Drafting**  
A four hour paper to assess the candidates' ability to draft claims and the introductory part of a European patent application, based upon a letter from a client.
- **Paper B: Reply to an Office Action**  
A three and a half hour paper to assess candidates' ability to reply to an official communication in which prior art has been cited, based upon a copy of the application, a clients' letter containing instructions, and a proposal for claim amendments from the client.
- **Paper C: Opposition**  
A five hour paper to assess candidates' ability to draft a notice of opposition to a European patent, based upon a copy of the patent, at least three prior art documents and a letter from the client.
- **Paper D: Legal**  
A 6 hour paper to assess candidates' ability to answer legal questions, citing legal basis. It will also assess the ability to draft a legal opinion based upon an enquiry from a client.

## Information on the e-EQE

In 2021 the EPO introduced the online EQE (e-EQE) because of the Covid-19 situation. The exam will continue to be an online exam in the future.

The EQE works with the online system Wiseflow. On examination days, candidates are advised to log on to the online examination system's internet platform at least 20 minutes before the start of the relevant paper. For the claims analysis part of Pre-Exam, A, B and C, part of the papers may be printed shortly before the exam starts; the printable parts are selected such that the possibilities to cheat are reduced. For the legal part of the Pre-Exam and for D, no parts can be printed.

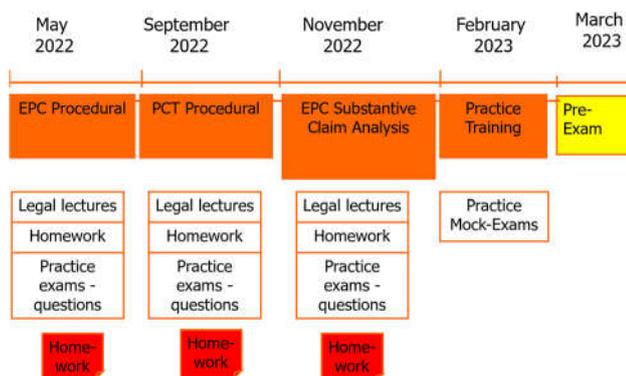
In order to limit the duration behind the screen, the Pre-Exam and both papers C and D have split into parts. Each part must be completed before the start of the next break, with the next part only becoming available after the break. Once the time allowed for a part has lapsed, it is not possible to go back to that part. This means that candidates are not free to allocate their time as they see fit across the different parts of the papers (in contrast to the papers of 2019 and before). To compensate for this restriction, the total duration of the relevant papers has been extended (by 15-20%, depending on the paper). During the exam, candidates can access (only) the legal texts on the EPO website, in particular to the EPC itself, the Guidelines and the OJ EPO (but not to PCT).

- **Pre-Exam:** The pre-examination will have the same syllabus and character as before, but is split into four parts. The pre-examination lasts four hours and forty minutes (4 parts of 70 minutes each). Candidates are allowed to print the prior-art documents for the claim analysis parts before the start of the appropriate part. At EQE 2022, the Pre-Exam starts at 10:00 hrs. and ends at 15:40 hrs. (4 70-min parts with 2 short breaks and 1 lunch break of 80 min.).
- **Main Exam Paper A:** Paper A will have the same syllabus and character as before. Paper A lasts four hours. Candidates are allowed to print the prior-art documents and the drawings of the application, but not the letter of the applicant. The documents allowed for printing will be made available approximately ten minutes before the start of the examination (at the latest).  
At EQE 2022, Paper A starts at 9:30 hrs. and ends at 13:30 hrs.
- **Main Exam Paper B:** Paper B will have the same syllabus and character as before. Candidates are allowed to print the prior-art documents and the drawing(s), but none of the following: the description and claims of the application, the EPO communication, the client's letter and the amended claims. The documents allowed for printing will be made available shortly before the start of the examination.  
At EQE 2022, Paper B starts at 9:30 hrs. and ends at 13:00 hrs.
- **Main Exam Paper C:** Paper C will have the same syllabus and character as before, but it will be split into two parts. Paper C lasts six hours. Candidates will be allowed to print everything except the claims of the patent in suit/opposed. The documents allowed for printing will be made available shortly before the start of each part. After the first part, candidates will be able to download and their answer, so that they can have a printed copy available when answering the second part.  
At EQE 2022, the first part of Paper C starts at 9:30 hrs. and ends at 12:30 hrs. The second part starts at 13:15 hrs. and ends at 16:15 hrs.
- **Main Exam Paper D:** Paper D will have the same syllabus and character as before, but it will be split into three parts. Paper D lasts six hours. No parts of the paper D can be printed.  
At EQE 2022, the first part of DI (26 marks) starts at 9:30 hrs. and ends at 11:00 hrs. The second part of DI (19 marks) starts at 11:30 hrs. and ends at 12:40 hrs. The DII part (55 marks) starts at 13:25 hrs. and ends at 16:45 hrs. As the number of marks of both D1 and D2 may vary in a ratio between 60:40 and 40:60, the exact time schedule may be different in future exams.



## The Pre-Exam Training Program

For the EQE 2023 we offer an integrated training for the Pre-Exam: the comprehensive legal and claim analysis will be combined with full practice of exams, questions and cases:



## The Pre-Exam Integrated training

13 full-day sessions where the legal training will be integrated with the claim analysis training and practicing exams, cases and questions. In this way the candidates experience from the start of the course that the knowledge learned is needed for sitting the Pre-Exam.

The subjects are explained using a comprehensive set of overhead sheets. The students will be provided with handouts of the sheets.

The “legal” sessions cover the main procedures of the EPC and PCT (notably search, examination, opposition, appeal; EP-entry), time limits, fees, remedies, representation, languages, filing date requirements, priority, divisionals, etc. The legal framework encompasses the EPC (including the Guidelines), the PCT, the Paris Convention (PC), and the national law of Contracting States (in as far as is relevant for the EQE). Case Law is limited to clearly established decisions followed by the EPO, in particular the most important G decisions.

The “claims analysis” sessions provide the legal framework required for the claims analysis part, and discuss novelty, inventive step, unity, clarity and amendments in detail to build the candidates’ theoretical knowledge of the patentability and claim drafting requirements. The principles are immediately applied to shorter and longer cases to apply the legal principles to practical situations, and to thereby develop the candidate’s skills of patentability assessment and claim drafting/interpretation as well as being able to assess the scope of protection of the

claims. It will thus include basic claiming and amendment practices, as well as elucidation of the problem-solution approach using practical examples, and assessing if a certain embodiments are within the scope of the claims, and why/why not.

Approximately 600 questions have been prepared to guide the students through the subjects and test their absorption of the legal subject. Approximately one-third of these questions will be in a multiple-choice format similar to the Pre-Exam. The students have to prepare answers to 250 of these questions as homework, and hand in their answers. The answers and any unclear subjects will be discussed during the next session.

The legal and claim analysis preparation will be concluded with a special exam training day, where the tutor will lead them step-by-step through a Pre-Exam paper to improve the efficiency. All documents will be read together and students will give their solutions to parts of the exams.

The sessions are held every 2 weeks up to the end of September 2022 and every 3 weeks from October 2022 to February 2023. This provides ample opportunity for further individual study and for answering the questions.

### Summarized program for Pre-Exam 2023:

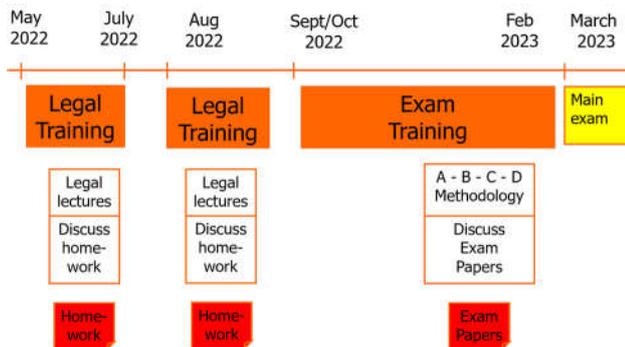
- 13-day (full-day) Pre-Examination Integrated Training
- Legal lectures will be alternated with practice of:
  - questions
  - cases
  - exams





## The Main Exam Training Program

For those successful in the Pre-Exam, the next step will be the Main Exam training program. The training is divided into two main modules – legal training, and exam-oriented (or methodology) training.



## The Main Exam D Legal training

8 full-day sessions to augment and deepen the knowledge acquired during the Pre-Exam Legal Training to a level required for the C & D parts of the EQE Main Exam.

Legal lectures combined with practice will be cover legal changes in the EPC & PCT since the Pre-Exam, as well as more advanced legal subjects such as entitlement, enforcement and petition for review. The OJ EPO will be covered, as well as a specially selected subset of case law.

Candidates are asked to hand-in their solution to a DI paper before the introductory session. This paper will be corrected and marked by the tutor and discussed during the introductory days.

To gain confidence and experience in applying the law, students will have to rehearse the full range of legal subjects guided by a wide selection exam-oriented questions. The answers have to be prepared at home and have to be handed in. A selection will be marked individually, and returned with comments and suggestions for improvement. The answers and any unclear subjects will be discussed during the next session.

The sessions are held every 2 weeks.

## The Main Exam Practice Training

The Main Exam Practice Training consists of a comprehensive package of three modules. For each of the exam papers A-B, C and D, a module with exam-oriented training and exercises is available.

## Paper A/B Exam Practice

At the EQE 2017 brand new Exam papers A and B were introduced. Electricity-Mechanics and Chemistry topics are now combined into a single A paper and a single B paper.

Introduction days for Paper A and Paper B will be split into two: 1,5 day for Paper A and 1,5 day for Paper B. During the 1,5 day methodology session the requirements for Paper A will be detailed and tactics for handling the papers will be given. The tactics will be practiced using cases with topics that will be part of the exam papers.

The paper A sessions will be followed by a 1,5 day Paper B methodology session where the requirements for Paper B will be detailed and tactics for handling the papers will be given. The tactics will be practiced using cases with topics that will be part of the exam papers.

Following the methodology session, the students have to prepare one adapted EQE A and one adapted B paper at home and hand-in their answers. They also have to prepare and hand-in their answers to EQE exam paper from previous years. The answers will be checked and marked by the tutor. During four half-day sessions the papers will be discussed with the group and feedback on the individual work will be given.

## Paper C Exam Practice

During three full-day methodology sessions, the requirements for Paper C will be detailed and tactics for handling the papers will be given. The tactics will be practiced using one EQE C paper and several short cases.

Following the introductory sessions, the students have to prepare four EQE papers C at home and hand in their answers. The answers will be checked and marked by the tutor. During four half-day sessions the papers will be discussed with the group and feedback on the individual work will be given.

After having discussed two exam papers, the students will follow a special exam training, where the tutor will lead them step-by-step through an exam to improve the efficiency. All documents will be read together and students will give their solutions to parts of the exam.

The discussion of the C and D exam papers will be combined on one day.

## Paper D Exam Practice

Having acquired sufficient knowledge in the Pre-Exam and Main Exam Legal Training, this module focuses on using the knowledge in an efficient way in order to pass the exam, dealing with both the legal reasoning (the DI questions) and the legal opinion (the DII part) sections. Particular emphasis is given to the legal opinion part of the exam.

During two full-day introductory sessions, a methodology for both the legal reasoning and the legal opinion will be detailed. The tactics will be practiced using two exam papers.

Following the introductory sessions, the students have to prepare four full EQE D papers (adapted and updated for the status of the legal texts applicable at the upcoming EQE), each consisting of the legal questions and the legal opinion, at home and hand in their answers. The answers will be checked and marked by the tutor. During four half-day sessions the papers will be discussed with the group and feedback on the individual work will be given.

After having discussed two exam papers, the students will follow a special exam training, where the tutor will lead them step-by-step through a legal opinion exam to improve the efficiency. All documents will be read together and students will give their solutions to parts of the exam.

The discussion of the D and C exam papers will be combined on one day.

## Summarized program for Main Exam EQE 2023:

- 8-day D-Legal
- 5-day Main Exam Paper A and B training
  - 1,5 day Methodology session for Paper A
  - 1,5 day Methodology session for Paper B
  - 4 half-day Discussion of homework
- 6-day Main Exam Paper C training:
  - 3 full-day Methodology sessions
  - 4 half-day Discussion of homework
  - 1 full-day Guided Exam session
- 5-day Main Exam Paper D training:
  - 2 full-day Methodology sessions
  - 4 half-day Discussion of homework
  - 1 full-day Guided Exam session



## Timing and location

Normally full-day means: 9.00 – 17.00 hours and half-day means 9.00 – 12.30/13.00 or 13.00 – 17.00 hours.

The courses will be given either **online** (WebEx) or at **Aristo Utrecht** (Lunetten), depending on the Covid-19 situation in 2022 and 2023.

## Registration and invoicing

The invoice will be send immediately after registration. Please note:

- Up to 2 months before the start of the training course an early-bird-discount will be given.
- From 2 months up to the start of the course, the full price without discount will be charged.



## Overview fees full EQE training

Here below you find the course fees for online and on-site training, depending on the Covid-19 situation. Initially the invoice will be send based on online training. If the situation improves and we can give the courses on-site, an additional invoice (for meeting venue/catering) will be send.

### If given online:

#### 1<sup>st</sup> year preparation Pre-Exam:

- Pre-Exam Integrated (13-day), price € 5.765
- Early bird discount: € 175

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> year preparation Main Exam:

- D-Legal (8-day), price € 4.845
- Exam Training Paper AB (5-day), price € 4.225
- Exam Training Paper C (6-day), price € 4.305
- Exam Training Paper D (5-day), price € 4.225
- Early bird discount: € 490

### If given on-site:

#### 1<sup>st</sup> year preparation Pre-Exam:

- Pre-Exam Integrated (13-day), price € 6.220
- Early bird discount: € 175

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> year preparation Main Exam:

- D-Legal (8-day), price € 5.125
- Exam Training Paper AB (5-day), price € 4.400
- Exam Training Paper C (6-day), price € 4.515
- Exam Training Paper D (5-day), price € 4.400
- Early bird discount: € 490

### Registration fee

A registration fee of € 125 is charged for each booking. For a company booking of several candidates at the same time, only one registration fee of € 125 will be charged.

### Invoicing details

The invoice will be issued by:

**EIPEF**

Schweitzerlaan 6 - 5644 DL Eindhoven

KvK nr. 17139163

VAT nr. NL 8102.28.579.B01

## Registration deadline

You may register by using the form in the brochure or online on our website.

Deadline for registration:

- Pre-Exam Training: **15 April 2022**
- Main Exam Training: **15 April 2022**

**Note:** please be reminded that the deadlines for registration and enrolment the EQE itself are strict and missing those deadlines cannot be remedied.

Thus, note the deadline for the compulsory **registration** for EQE candidates to register **at the beginning of their professional activities and training** (Role 28 IPREE). Enrolment to the pre-examination will only be open for candidates who have registered at the latest by 15 January of the year in which they intend to enrol for the pre-examination (see <https://www.epo.org/learning/eqe/enrolment.html>), so **for Pre-Exam 2023, you must have registered by 15 January 2022.**

The **deadlines for enrolling to the Pre-Exam and to the Main Exam papers** are also strict. The enrolment deadline for the Pre-Exam usually expires somewhere in June or July. The enrolment deadline for the Main Exam papers usually expires early September. Check the EQE website for the EQE 2023 dates: <https://www.epo.org/learning/eqe/enrolment.html> (the dates were not yet available at the time of print of this document).

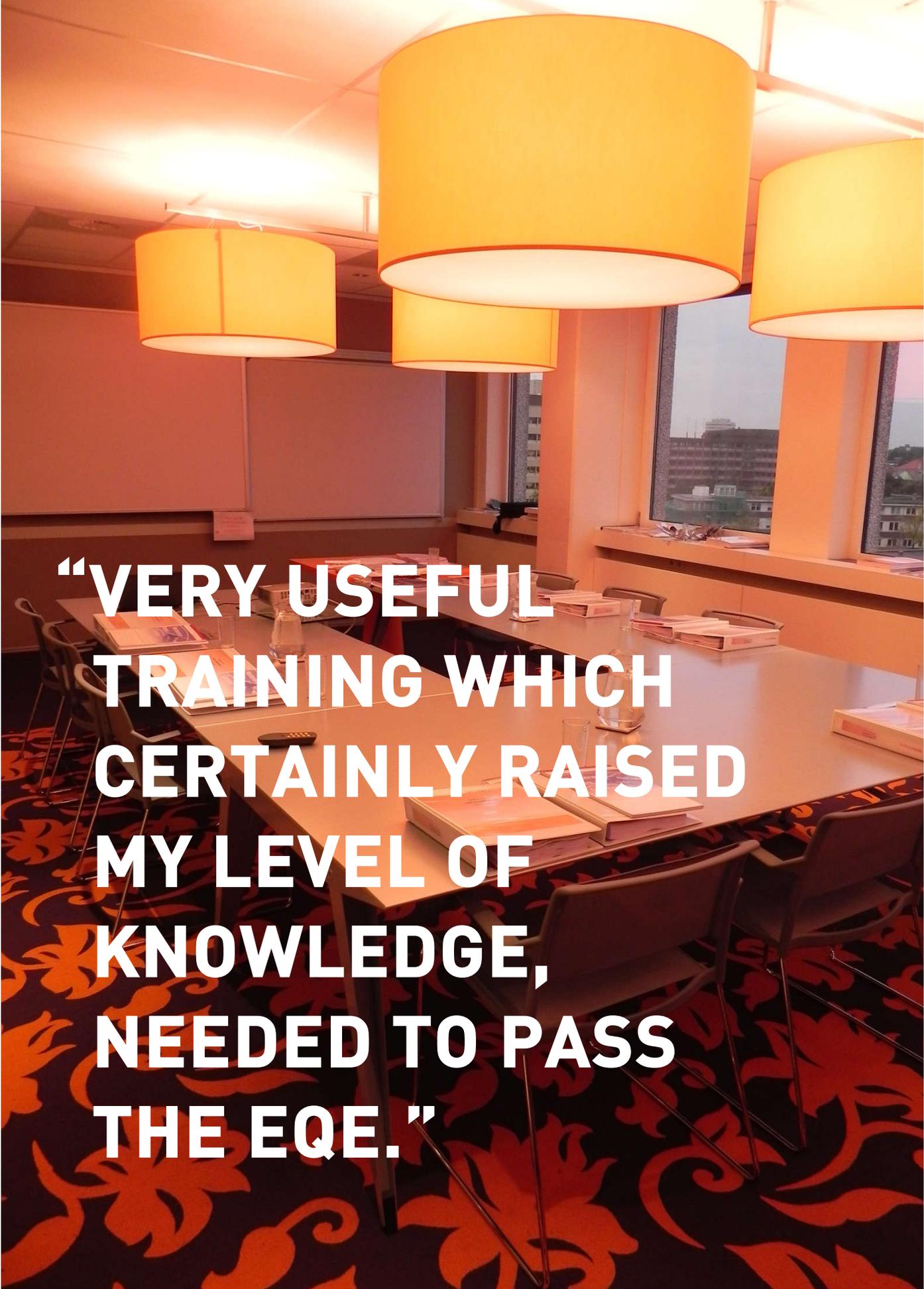
## Cancellation policy

Please check our website ([www.deltapatents.com](http://www.deltapatents.com)) for our cancellation policy.

If you have sat the Pre-Exam and enrol to the Main Exam, there is no need to postpone your registration for the Main Exam Training until after you have received your Pre-Exam results: if it would turn out that you did not pass your Pre-Exam, we will move your registration for the Main Exam Training forward to the following year.

## Training institute

The course is offered by EIPEF (European Intellectual Property Education Foundation). The Foundation decides on the program and price-setting of the courses. DeltaPatents provides the contents of the course, the course material and the organization. Looking at the passing-rates over the last few years shows that the results of the EQE from the Foundation and/or DeltaPatents were among the highest in Europe.



**“VERY USEFUL  
TRAINING WHICH  
CERTAINLY RAISED  
MY LEVEL OF  
KNOWLEDGE,  
NEEDED TO PASS  
THE EQE.”**



## Meet the Tutors



Jelle Hoekstra



Roel van Woudenberg



Diane Tweedlie



Sander van Rijnsouw



Nico Cordes



Meilof Veeningen



Tanja la Cour



Stefanie Lewis



Jessica Kroeze



Miranda Vossen

## Contact

For more information please visit the DeltaPatents website ([www.deltapatents.com](http://www.deltapatents.com)) or contact Mieke Zonjee at DeltaPatents ([training@deltapatents.com](mailto:training@deltapatents.com)).



# REGISTRATION FORM

You may register by **fax** + 31 40 2366708 **mail** DeltaPatents B.V., Fellenoord 370, 5611 ZL Eindhoven, the Netherlands  
**website** www.deltapatents.com **e-mail** training@deltapatents.com

---

name

---

company

---

address

---

billing address

---

tel. no.

---

billing tel.no.

---

e-mail address

---

billing e-mail address

---

purchase order

---

VAT number

A registration fee of € 125 is charged for each booking. If more than one course is booked at the same time, or with a company booking, only one registration fee will be charged. All prices are exclusive of 21% VAT.

---

Pre-Exam  13-day Pre-Exam Integrated Exam year:  
Training  NO

---

Main Exam  Exam Training Paper A and B Exam year:  
Training  NO  
Paper A and B

---

Main Exam  Exam Training Paper C Exam year:  
Training  NO  
Paper C

---

Main Exam  D-Legal Exam year:  
Training  Exam Training Paper D  
Paper D  NO

Cancellation policy: please check our [website](#) of our cancellation policy.