



**DELTA**PATENTS

Training for Patent Professionals

**EQE  
FOUNDATION  
DISTANCE  
LEARNING**

**EQE 2025**

# DELTAPATENTS WELCOMES YOU

## Why DeltaPatents Training?

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. 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.





# EQE FOUNDATION DISTANCE LEARNING

## Introduction Foundation exam at EQE 2025 – Information "New EQE"

As of EQE 2025, the "New EQE" will be introduced. From that year on, a Foundation paper F and four main papers M1-M4 will be gradually introduced parallel to the current A, B, C and D papers, to finally replace the A, B, C and D papers in full as of 2027.

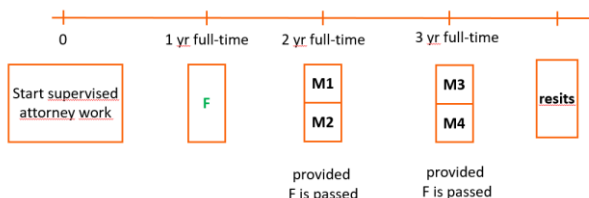
The New EQE is designed to be taken in a staged way and introduced accordingly (see below). Note it is also allowed to take all main exam papers M1-M4 in the same year.

Introduction New EQE, Roll out schedule of New EQE papers and Transitional period still having current ABCD main exam papers:

- EQE 2025: Introduction Foundation (F; 1 yr experience) + current Main Exam Papers A, B, C and D (3 yr experience and requiring an earlier Pre-Exam Pass); no Pre-Exam
- EQE 2026: Foundation F (1 yr experience) + M1 & M2 (2 yr experience; requiring an earlier pass to F) + current Main Exam Papers A, B, C and D (3 yr experience in 2026); no Pre-Exam
- EQE 2027: Foundation F (1 yr) + M1, M2 (2 yr; requiring pass to F), M3 & M4 (3 yr; requiring pass to F); no Pre-Exam and no current Papers A-D

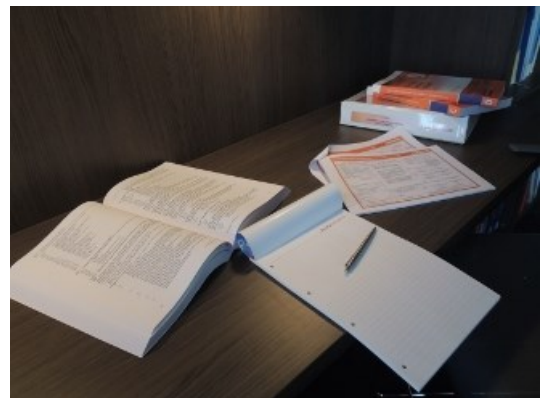
### Staged design:

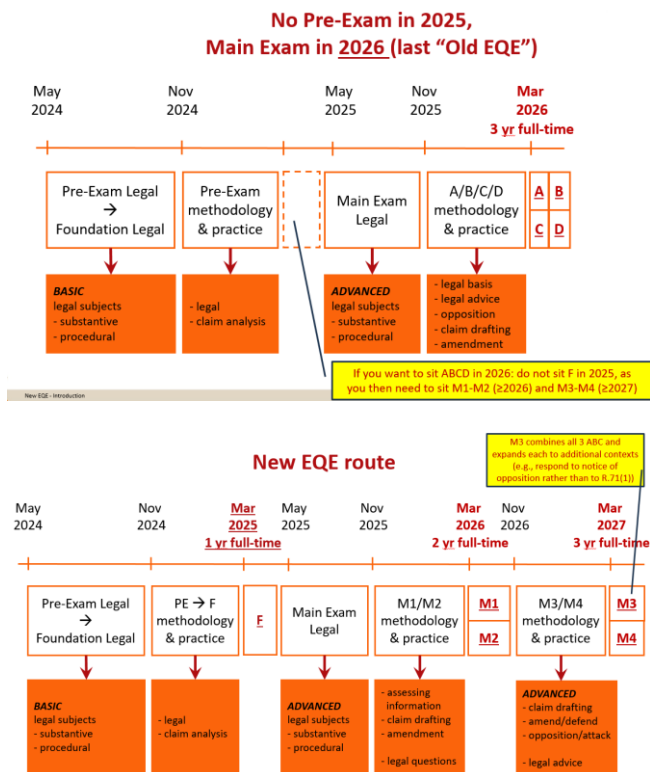
Foundation after 1 year, M1+M2 after 2, M3+M4 after 3



### New EQE papers:

- Foundation F: two parts (F1 legal – F2 claim analysis); both basic level
- M1: assessing information - level in between exam between claims part of former Pre-Exam and Paper ABC (claim drafting, defend/amend, challenge)
- M2: legal questions - further development of former DI. Partially free text.
- M3: further development of former Papers ABC, three parts: claim drafting aspects (like A), defending claims/amendments (like B) and challenging claims (like C). All free text.
- M4: legal opinion - further development of former DI. Free text.





### Key features of the New EQE:

- Candidates can sit Foundation F after 1 year fulltime supervised attorney work.
- Candidates can sit M1 and M2 after 2 years fulltime supervised attorney work.
- Candidates can sit M3 and M4 after 3 years fulltime supervised attorney work.
- Candidates must pass Foundation F first before sitting any of the M1-M4 papers.
- However, also a so-called "Freischutz" option allows candidates to sit all M1-M4 papers without having sat and passed F, provided that they pass at least M1+M2 or M2+M3; if not successful, they need take and pass F before they can continue.
- For papers that consist of multiple parts, notably the F and the M3 papers, all parts must be individually passed within one sitting. Candidates who fail one part or more parts of a paper which comprises multiple parts, must re-sit the complete paper, i.e. all parts.

### Effect of no Pre-Exam in 2025:

- Candidates with 2 years fulltime supervised attorney work on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2025 have three choices. A first option, in view of the lack of a Pre-Exam in 2025, is to not take any paper in 2025 and sit all 4 ABCD Main Exam papers in 2026 (provided they after 3 years fulltime supervised experience in March 2026); in view of the large scope of the syllabus for the main exam, it is recommended to start studying early and prepare in a two-staged way as before, i.e., as if there would be a

Pre-Exam in 2025 (one year of basic preparation; followed by one year of main exam level preparation). This first option allows a candidate to pass the EQE in 2026 (if all main exam papers ABCD are passed in 2026).

Alternatively, they choose for the New EQE system and sit the Foundation exam at the EQE 2025 and proceed with M1-M2 in 2026 and M3-M4 in 2027; note that if a candidate sat a New EQE paper (F, M1, M2), the candidate needs to continue their further exams in the New EQE system and can not go back to ABCD. This will spread the studying over three years rather than two, and allows a candidate to pass the EQE in 2027.

Please note that the first and second option may not be available for a candidates that is not working full-time during the complete period, which would require the candidate to delay some papers to a later year.

### Transitional provisions

- Candidates who sit the current Main Exams at the EQE 2026 and do not pass all papers, need to re-sit in the New EQE system at the EQE 2027. Exemptions may apply when candidates passed the Pre-Exam or one or more of ABCD, for some or part of the papers F, M1, M2, the parts of M3 and/or M4. A compensable fail does not provide an exemption.

Please note that this information is not complete. Check the EPO website for further details.

## Foundation paper (F)

The Foundation paper F assesses whether a candidate can apply legal concepts and provisions of the EPC and the PCT. It consist of two parts of two hours each, which need to be passed individually, in the same sitting.

Part 1 (legal) assesses whether candidates can understand the procedural requirements and steps in EPC proceedings and PCT proceedings.

Part 2 (claims analysis) assesses whether candidates can interpret the claims and assess the compliance of the claims, the invention to which they pertain and proposed amendments with the provisions of the EPC.

Paper F may comprise different types of questions, such as multiple-choice questions, multiselect questions, true or false questions, drag and drop questions, questions requiring a fill-in answer and/or questions requiring highlighting of relevant text passages. These formats of the questions in the Foundation paper F 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.

For the complete EQE, it is required that candidates spend 3 years training in both legal and practical aspects, by studying and on-the job supervising. The Foundation exam is designed to test the knowledge and skills that a trainee patent attorney can be expected to have after 1 year fulltime supervised attorney work.

The legal knowledge required for the legal questions is defined in the REE/IPREE as covering largely 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 Foundation exam thus addresses legal and claims analysis aspects from the whole EQE syllabus, albeit at a basic level. As the former Pre-Exam, the Foundation exam is meant to provide the candidates with an early test, requiring them to study early at a basic level, and allowing them to study at a more advanced level after having passed the Pre-Exam/Foundation exam by repeating topics and deepening the knowledge.

For candidates without access to thorough and competent training, this unique course provides study materials and individual feedback in a flexible form, allowing the preparation to be done at a convenient time and place.

### Course Concept

This course is based on the 13-day Foundation Integrated Training course, the first training course of its kind in Europe, which reduces the legal syllabus of the EQE to focus solely on the Foundation Paper. It offers the benefits of DeltaPatents training and materials without attending the sessions in the Netherlands. Instead of face-to-face contact, access to a knowledgeable tutor is in the form of video conference sessions and the possibility to ask questions by phone and e-mail. Using our experiences from many past candidates, the homework is

concentrated on the subjects which tend to require the most help.

Both procedural and substantive aspects are covered, and we integrated also the claim analysis part of the Foundation Paper from the start in this training. Candidates will experience from the start how the gained knowledge can be used in an efficient way in order to pass the Foundation Paper as well as the further modules of the full EQE.

The Foundation syllabus has been divided into EPC and PCT modules. The course is based around a study planner, which indicates the modules to be studied, and a hand-in schedule for the homework.

### Video conference sessions

Every two or three weeks a video conference group session will be scheduled to discuss the most important topics of the subjects studied. Candidates are expected to study the subjects in advance and make homework questions. The video conference will include an interactive and open discussion between tutor and candidates on topics studied and problems encountered answering the questions. Please note that participating in these sessions depends on the availability of appropriate technical facilities of the candidates.



### Who should participate?

One and/or two year(s) of experience in the relevant field of patent creation and prosecution are recommended. The course is ideal for first-time sitters wishing to prepare for the Foundation Paper in a structured and in-depth way. Candidates without any basic legal training, preparing for the EQE Main Exam, can also participate. Although a complete course in itself, it may also be used to supplement other forms of training.



## Schedule - Contents

### Part 1

#### EPC Procedural

- Foundation Paper details
- How to answer legal questions
- Introduction to EPC
- Time periods, remedies, payment of fees
- Right to file, filing, filing date, filing formalities
- Search opinion, publication
- Examination, amendments
- Opposition, appeal
- Rights conferred by patent, revocation
- Representation and other common provisions

#### Exercises

- Questions on EPC subjects

### Part 2

#### PCT Procedural

- Introduction to PCT
- Time periods, remedies
- Right to file, filing, filing date, filing formalities
- International search, Supplementary international search
- International publication, International preliminary examination
- National phase, Euro-PCT

#### Exercises

- Questions on PCT subjects

### Part 3

#### EPC Substantive – claim analysis

- Claim interpretation,
- Patentability, industrial application
- State of the art, novelty, inventive step
- Unity, disclosure
- Amendments

#### Exercises

- Questions on EPC subjects

## Parts 1, 2 & 3

Participants are provided with handouts of the overhead sheets used in the lessons. These provide an overview of each module, and illustrate the legal structure and procedural deadlines. Additional handouts relevant to the module may also be provided, giving extra explanations or providing examples.

In addition, a study guide is provided, with the essential reading for each module – the key topics, the relevant articles and rules, Guidelines and Applicants Guide sections, and OJEPD notices/decisions.

After studying the overhead handouts and the references in the study guide, participants are asked to answer questions designed to test the absorption and understanding of the study.

The answers to the homework are to be handed in either by e-mail, about every 2-3 weeks. These dates are fixed. Homework will be discussed during the video conference sessions with the tutor.

The homework questions comprise the question formats of the Foundation paper, and includes practicing with examples. We discuss part of the questions in the video sessions. For the rest of the questions, we provide our own detailed model solutions immediately after the homework is handed in, so that participants can evaluate their own answers before the video session so that the answers can be clarified in the video session.

Every two or three weeks a video conference group session will be scheduled.

## Time schedule video sessions

Please find below our provisional time schedule for the 2- or 3-weekly video conference sessions (9.00 – 10.30 hrs.):

- Friday 14 June 2024 – Intro EPC Proc - Modules D, F, B5
- Friday 28 June 2024 – Modules H12, H13, B4, H3a, H3b
- Friday 6 September 2024 – Modules H3c, H3d, C7, H4, H5
- Friday 20 September 2024 – Modules H14, H6, H8, E, IJ
- Friday 11 October 2024 – Modules H9, H10, B3, G, H11
- Friday 25 October 2024 – Legal Meth Mock Exam
- Friday 15 November 2024 – Intro PCT – Modules L1, L2
- Friday 29 November 2024 – Modules L3, L4
- Friday 20 December 2024 – Intro CA – Module C1, C4, C6
- Friday 10 January 2025 – Modules C2, C3
- Friday 24 January 2025 – Modules C6, C7, H7
- Friday 7 February 2025 – Claim Analysis Mock Exam
- Friday 28 February 2025 – Mock Exam full paper

## Course Highlights

A comprehensive set of high quality, up-to-date study materials.

Use of online training systems Eduframe and Canvas, where part of the course materials will be provided.

A study planner and study guide, indicating when the modules need to be studied and when the homework should be handed-in (also available in Canvas).

More than 180 updated legal questions to test comprehension and absorption of the legal topics.

Video conference group sessions every two or three weeks.

For all questions, model solutions will be provided; candidates may evaluate their own answers.



Candidates submit their homework on Canvas and receive the model answers immediately.

Access to an experienced tutor by e-mail all the way up to the Foundation Paper.

Participants have the flexibility to concentrate their study time where they think it is necessary.

For participants with little legal knowledge, the study load can be up to about 10 hours a week, from June 2024 to February 2025.

For those who have already followed a legal course and/or have a number of years practical experience, the hours required for studying the sheets and references in the Study Guide and doing the homework questions may be considerably less.

### EPC Reference book included

The book "References to the EPC" by Jelle Hoekstra is included in the course fee and will be used extensively.

The book consists of a single volume A4 book of over 1300 pages. Its main part, of over 1000 pages in A4 format, includes the full text of the EPC (Articles, Implementing Regulations, and Protocols), RFees, ADA/AAD, and an annotated version of the Euro-PCT Guide. The Articles are listed in sequence, with the Implementing Regulations (Rules) inserted at the appropriate places. Most chapters of the November 2019 version of the Guidelines are fully covered. A large set of Ancillary Regulations / OJ EPO references are also fully integrated. Many short tables are included summarizing procedural acts and fee payments, as well as any flow-charts and tables illustrating the procedure, and legal overviews were included to enable fast identification of the most appropriate legal provision.

### Training Material

A comprehensive set of high quality, up-to-date materials will be provided, including:



A complete set of flow-charts, covering all legal topics needed for the Foundation Paper.



A binder with overhead sheets giving tactics for the legal parts of the Foundation Paper.

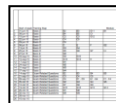


Our "Basic Legal Questions book" (L-book). The book includes a Study Guide with references to the essential reading for each module –key topics, relevant articles and rules, Guidelines and Applicants' Guide sections, and OJEPD notices/decisions.

An extensive set of Questions to practice what you have learned is included, and their Answers. EPO EQE calendars are included.



A set of Additional Handouts with further reading.



Study Planner indicating groups of modules to be studied, and when the homework is to be handed in.



References to the EPC book (Jelle Hoekstra)

The copyrighted course material is provided for the personal use of the participants.

### Use of WISEflow

Learn how to work with WISEflow, the system that is used at the EQE.





## Additional training

Following this Foundation Distance Learning, DeltaPatents offers for candidates preparing for the EQE Main Exam the following courses:

- Methodology courses for all four Papers
- Guided Exam courses for Paper C and D as well as material for further study and practice (not included in this course):
- “Main Exam Questions for Paper D”
- Model solutions for all four Papers

For EQE 2026, DeltaPatents Training will also offer courses for new EQE modules M1 and M2.

## Language

All material will be in English. Correspondence with the tutors and all homework should also be in English. Participants may supply their homework either hand-written or typed.

## A minimum of 8 participants, and a maximum of 30 per group

These limitations will provide the most efficient use of our tutor’s time during the video sessions. If we have more than 30 registrations, we will open another group and schedule extra video sessions.

## Certificate

A certificate will be given to each candidate who hands-in the mandatory homework.

## Course materials

Participants will receive the first set of material a couple of weeks before the start of the course. The first homework is to be handed in 2 weeks after receipt of the set of course material.

During the year, the other parts of course materials will be sent to the participants.

E-mail support by the tutors is available from June up to the Foundation Paper itself.

## Registration

The price for the Foundation Distance Learning course is € 1.890 (excluding VAT and a registration fee of € 125). Prices include course materials, homework correction, and answering by e-mail of any questions. An administrative fee of € 125 is charged for every booking.

If more than one course is booked at the same time, only one administrative fee of € 125 will be charged. The invoice will be issued by DeltaPatents Training.

Enrolment is possible by using the online form on our website. Please register before 15 May 2024.

## Cancellation policy

Please check our website (<https://www.deltapatents.com/registration-and-cancellation/>) for our cancellation policy.

## Training locations

We do not only provide training in our base in Eindhoven, the Netherlands, but many of our training modules are available at several locations in Europe to minimize your travel costs.

## In-house training

All courses can also be given in-house. If required, a module can be tailored to your local organizational needs. Please contact us if you are interested in inviting us to your office.





**“VERY HELPFUL AND  
MOTIVATED  
PEOPLE, WHICH  
GIVES A VERY  
INTERESTING AND  
WARM FEELING  
DURING THE  
COURSE”**



**Roel van Woudenberg**  
DeltaPatents

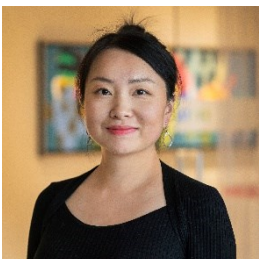
**Diane Tweedlie**  
DeltaPatents

**Nico Cordes**  
DeltaPatents

## Meet the Tutors

Feedback and correction will be given by Roel van Woudenberg and/or Diane Tweedlie and/or Nico Cordes.

- Roel van Woudenberg is tutor for the Foundation Paper and Paper D Main Exam courses. He is a European Patent Attorney at DeltaPatents. Roel is author/compiler of the DeltaPatents' books "Basic Legal Questions" and "Main Exam Questions for Paper D".
- Diane Tweedlie is tutor for the Foundation Paper, Paper D Main Exam courses and the IP Administrators' courses. She is a European Patent Attorney at DeltaPatents.
- Nico Cordes is tutor for the Foundation Paper and Paper A, B and C Main Exam courses. He is a European Patent Attorney.



**Evelyn Zhang**

## Contact

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