

Information Sheet

Course of Study

Patent Engineering

General Information

This interdisciplinary programme is designed to combine the core competences in mechanical and electrical engineering with the profound knowledge of legal and economic aspects which are the basis for the complex field of patent law. The objective of this course of study is to prepare engineers for patent work by combining application-oriented teaching with the fundamentals of science.

The Scope of Duties of a Patent Engineer

A patent engineer's role is to coordinate with the inventors, developers, special departments and management within a company, as well as with patent agents, patent offices, and other companies. Patent engineers may also work in law offices, where they support the patent agents. Patent engineers seek out patentable inventions, carry out patent research, interpret new technical developments with regard to their patentability, and work out and submit patent applications to the governing body for patents. In addition, they supervise the use of internal and external patents, analyse competitors, and support innovation management.

Excellent Employment Prospects

The Patent Engineering Program at the OTH is the only one of its kind in Germany, providing the University with a unique selling proposition. Graduates have excellent employment prospects in a highly interesting subject area, which combines engineering, law and business economics.

Programme Structure

The programme takes **seven semesters to complete** and comprises six semesters with a combination of lectures, practical tutorials and laboratory sessions at the University, and a **work placement** in a company or a patent agent's office. In addition, students are required to take part in a twelve-week pre-study work placement, either prior to the beginning of their studies or by the end of semester three at the latest.

In the **first part** of the programme students will be acquainted with the **fundamentals of science and engineering** as well as the legal aspects of **patent law**. This includes courses in mathematics and physics as well as fundamentals of electrical engineering, computer science, engineering design, private and public law and German patent law:

- Mathematics
- Physics
- Basics in Electrical Engineering
- Technical Mechanics
- Computer Sciences
- Construction and CAD-Application
- Private and Public Law
- German Patent Law

The **second part** of the programme will provide advanced practice-oriented knowledge of engineering subjects and the legal and economic aspects of patent law. This includes the following courses:

- Technical Product Development
- Automation Technology
- Technical Thermodynamics
- Research Techniques
- European and International Patent Law
- Applied Legal Protection
- Patent Management
- Basics of Innovation Management
- R & D Management

The programme leads to a **Bachelor of Engineering degree (B.Eng.)** in Patent Engineering.

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