

## Introduction of a Pre-requisite for Enrolling in the Singapore Patent Agents Qualifying Examinations (QE) wef QE2022

The Singapore Patent Agents Qualifying Examinations (QE) began in 2002 and have since seen more than 1,200 enrolments. The increasing emphasis on innovation and the burgeoning intellectual property industry has fuelled the demand for IP professionals. Many are now part of a highly specialised pool of IP professionals advising innovation-driven companies and individual inventors in Singapore and overseas. The number of candidates for QE has also grown over the years.

To support the learning needs of patent agent trainees, the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) and the Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS) launched the Graduate Diploma in IP and Innovation Management (GDIPIM) and the Master of IP and Innovation Management (MIPIM) in 2017, with a specialised track designed for patent agency training. There are 5 modules in this track to help candidates prepare for QE. Patent agent trainees or prospective QE candidates also have the option to enrol only for the module relevant to the QE paper they intend to attempt.

With effect from enrolment for QE2022, IPOS will introduce a pre-requisite for QE enrolment to provide patent agent trainees with a more systematic pathway to qualification. Patent agent trainees/prospective QE candidates will be required to pass the corresponding modules in the Graduate Diploma in IP and Innovation Management (GDIPIM) or the Master of IP and Innovation Management (MIPIM) conducted by the Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS) prior to enrolling in the QE. The papers and the corresponding modules are set out in the table below.

<b>GDIPIM/MIPIM Patent Agency modules</b>	<b>Prepares candidates for QE</b>
IPM527 - Patent Claims	Paper A
IPM529 - Patent Applications	Paper A
IPM525 - Patent Office Action	Paper B
IPM531 - Patent Infringement and Validity	Paper C
IPM523 - Patent Practice in Singapore	Paper D

To illustrate, a possible learning pathway may look like this –



As GDIPIM or MIPIIM is already a pre-requisite for patent agent registration, this change is intended to equip patent agent trainees/prospective QE candidates with the knowledge to better prepare for the QE.

The pre-requisite is not applicable to candidates who have already passed Graduate Certificate in Intellectual Property Law, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore (GCIP).

For information on GDIPIM and MIPIIM course details, schedule, fees, and enrolment, please visit ([SUSS](#)).

For information on taking the modules individually as modular courses (including schedule and fees), please visit ([SUSS-CET](#)).

For further queries, including on how the pre-requisite may affect your pathway towards registration as a patent agent, please contact the Examination Secretariat ([IPOS\\_PAU@ipos.gov.sg](mailto:IPOS_PAU@ipos.gov.sg)).