

PAN-EUROPEAN SEAL (PES) INTERNSHIP PROGRAM 2025-2026

The internship program, jointly implemented by the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) and the European Patent Office (EPO) in 2025 is now officially launched. Application deadline: 24th of February 2025

Initiated by the ELTE Center of Innovation, ELTE has also joined as strategic partner university in the EUIPO and EPO Pan-European Seal (PES) 1-year, paid internship program. The program looks forward to welcoming talented graduates who want to acquire professional knowledge (online and offline trainings) and relevant work experience under the mentorship of international experts in the multicultural environment of EPO and EUIPO.

The 1 year-long internship program will start in September 2025 at the seat of the chosen organization (EPO or EUIPO) with a monthly scholarship (expected to be gross 1.200-2.200 EUR/month depending on the organization). EUIPO and EPO also provide trainings and lectures for free of charge. The lectures are held by EUIPO and EPO staff, private sector representatives and invited experts. The organizations also encourage scientific research and publications related to their daily operations and functioning.

All recent graduates of ELTE as well as graduating students in June 2025 can apply for the program.

Candidates must:

- in case of EUIPO: be a national of the Member States of the European Union and candidate countries (a limited number of nationals of candidate countries and third countries may be accepted)
- in case of EPO: be a national of one of EPO member states or EPO extension states
- be shortlisted by the sending university, ELTE
- hold a bachelor's/master's degree (or have completed university studies at an equivalent level) in any of the targeted academic areas, /or have obtained the degree / master diploma no more than two years prior to the date of application, /or graduate in June 2025.
- have a very good level of English - knowledge of French, German, Spanish, Italian is an advantage.

Additional factors to be considered:

- experience, interest or motivation in the field of intellectual property protection
- experience in preparation and implementation of social related projects, team works; previous participation in international programs (Erasmus, etc.), participation in a research program related to the chosen topic and/or area of interest
- appropriate communication, organizational and problem-solving skills
- analytical and solution-centric attitude, ability to work independently and also in a team, responsibility and reliability
- when already being employed at a company (not a must), it is important to duly explain the purpose of the traineeship in the motivation letter
- certificate of completion of the given online courses provided by organizations (independently by EPO and EUIPO) is not required for the first round of applying.

EPO looks for talented graduates to take up their mission with them in the following areas:

- Science & Engineering
- Business Administration
- Law (including Patent Law)
- International Relations & Communication
- Economics & Finance

EUIPO accepts an ELTE shortlist up to 10 candidates, within the following traineeship profiles:

- Law
- Intellectual Property (IP) law (including industrial design)
- IP & Knowledge Management (e.g. IP research, online training)
- Political Sciences & International Relations
- Linguistics
- Economics & Business Administration/Entrepreneurship
- Information Technology
 - Data Analysis
 - IT Security
 - Business Analysis
 - Software Engineer
 - Customer Service Solutions
 - Process Automation
 - Artificial Intelligence
- Communication & Visual Design
- Facility Management
 - Architect
 - Civil engineer
 - Logistics management
- Human Resources

Only online applications of the shortlisted candidates will be considered. Kindly note that the same candidates cannot be included in the EUIPO and EPO shortlists.

Based on the first round of applications, the Eötvös Loránd University Innovation Center evaluates the received applications in its own competence, taking into account basic eligibility and professional aspects. The Center, on the basis of the application criteria, selects applicants to EPO and EUIPO shortlists. Students who are on the university shortlist are entitled to apply directly to the EPO and EUIPO as second-stage applicants.

The first round of the application process is organized by the ELTE Innovation Center, as follows:

Applicants interested in the program are requested to send the following documents in English to the **ELTE Innovation Center, via emailing your application package to innovacio@innovacio.elte.hu and erdei.balazs@innovacio.elte.hu and vagenhoffer.bence@innovacio.elte.hu by 24 February 2025. Documents to be attached:**

- an updated curriculum vitae (preferably Europass word format with photo, telephone number and e-mail address)
- motivation letter, clearly indicating the choice of traineeship location (EUIPO or EPO, both can not be chosen within one application) expressing your reasons for applying for traineeship and indication of preferences among the traineeship profiles

- evidence of formal qualifications (diploma) (indicating the final grade) or, where studies are still in progress, a certificate/provisional declaration
- information on language skills, certificate -- if available.

The organizer will notify every applicant of the receipt of the application by e-mail, after which the application materials (applications) will be evaluated according to the basic eligibility and professional evaluation criteria. In the framework of the pre-selection, the Innovation Center decides on the shortlisted candidates only on the basis of the uniformly prescribed documents (application) received via e-mail, before the given deadline. Additional information provided to the Center by other means (e.g. personal inquiries, by phone, etc.) will not be taken into consideration during the evaluation.

Please note, that the same student cannot be nominated both on the EPO and EUIPO shortlists. Applicants can submit their application for organizations, but the Eötvös Loránd University Innovation Center can only nominate a candidate on one of the shortlists. **Shortlisted candidates will be entitled to submit a direct, second round application to the selected organizations**, through the following websites:

- **EPO** [PES Website](#)
- **EUIPO** [PES Website](#)

Courses to be completed by shortlisted students:

EUIPO requires the completion of at least one of the following courses as part of the 2nd round application:

- “EUTM in a Nutshell” and/or “RCD in a Nutshell” (4h approximately each)

After the candidate has applied and has been selected in the 2nd round by **EPO**, she/he has to complete the following e-learning courses for EPO application, before the start of the traineeship in September 2025:

- Introduction to the European patent system (mandatory for all)
- Using CPC (mandatory for science and engineering candidates)
- The EPO as PCT authority (mandatory for all)

EPO and EUIPO may offer the applicant the opportunity to participate in the program in a field other than the one indicated by the applicant.

Timeline of the selection process 2025/2026:

- Applications is due until **24 February 2025** in the first round to ELTE Center of Innovation
- The Center will evaluate all applications between 24-28 February. Shortlist will be finalised and applicants will be contacted (e-mail) by 28 February.
- Direct (2nd round) application to EPO by 15 March, and to EUIPO by the end of March
- Closure of 2nd round application is 31 March
- Selection process at EPO between April-May. If pre-selected by the tutor, the candidate will be invited to a virtual interview during April-May
- Selection process at EUIPO is in April. If pre-selected by the tutor, the candidate will be invited to a virtual interview during during May-July with the communication of results
- Communication of results to candidates by the end of June by EPO
- The traineeship programme (both EPO and EUIPO) will start in September
- Non-selected candidates remain on the shortlist until 31 December.

EPO and EUIPO reserves the right to select candidates from the university shortlists according to their profile and the Offices's actual business needs. **Shortlisted candidates must bear in mind that withdrawals have a serious impact on the selection procedure as well as on the smooth running of the Programme itself. Furthermore, having been selected implies that other candidates have not been able to participate in the Programme due to the limited number of vacancies. It is therefore expected that all candidates give considerate thought to their application and the necessary commitment until the final selection has taken place.** More information related to applications, supporting materials are available as follows – **all to be read carefully:**

EPO:

- A presentation on the PES Traineeship programme and the EPO
- A General Instructions Guide (GIG) outlining the timeline of the programme at the EPO, the application and shortlisting process as well as the vacancies available this year

EUIPO:

- A presentation on the PES Traineeship programme and the EUIPO
- A General Instructions Guide (GIG) outlining the timeline of the programme at the EUIPO, the application and shortlisting process this year.

General information on the PES Programme:

- A link to the EPO and EUIPO PES Programme videos: <https://www.elte.hu/en/innovation/strategic-partners>
- EPO official website: https://jobs.epo.org/content/PanEuropeanSeal/?locale=en_GB
- EUIPO official website: <https://euipo.europa.eu/knowledge/course/view.php?id=1851>

For any further queries, please contact: innovacio@innovacio.elte.hu or Erdei.balazs@innovacio.elte.hu or vagenhoffer.bence@innovacio.elte.hu.

TOPIC	EPO	EUIPO
The most important info	The application to the programme has 2 steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University nomination through MS Forms until 28.02. • Students/graduates/alumni to apply through the online tool of the respective institution (you will receive email with links once the vacancies are published – EPO 14.02. and EUIPO on 01.03.) 	
Most important contact	paneuropeanseal@epo.org	Pan_European_Seal@euipo.europa.eu
Nationality requirement	EPO member states	EU countries + 10 % outside EU (from all around the world)
Degree requirement	At least bachelor's degree latest upon the programme start Alumni may be shortlisted as well (independently of when they graduated)	At least bachelor's degree latest upon the programme start. Alumni may also be shortlisted, but only those who have graduated in the last 2 calendar years.

Language requirement	<p>Excellent level of one of the EPO official languages (English, German, French)</p> <p>Candidates can self-assess their language level in the application, if the candidates have a language certificate, they shall attach it to their application for completeness but if they are not having one, no need to obtain it. The language will be tested latest in the interview.</p>	<p>- At least B2 in English. - Proficiency in another EU language (depending on the profile).</p>
How maximum old can the degree be to be eligible to apply for the programme?	<p>No time constraint. Requirement is to have obtained the degree before the programme start (15.09.2025) regardless of when the degree was obtained before.</p>	<p>Candidates should have obtained their degree by the start of the programme (mid-September 2025) but not before January 2023.</p>
Sites	<p>Munich, The Hague, Berlin, Vienna, Brussels</p>	<p>Alicante Brussels and Luxembourg (2 posts)</p>
Duration	<p>1 + 2 years extension upon selection</p>	<p>1 year</p>
Compensation	<p>Ca 2200 EUR net in year 1 Ca 3300 EUR net in year 2 and year 3 Severance grant upon the programme end</p>	<p>1 200 EUR net</p>
Status & Insurance	<p>Status of internal employee, private international insurance</p>	<p>Status of trainee, insurance needs to be covered by each trainee (public or private, with EU health insurance card)</p>
Accommodation support	<p>Mainly through the mentoring group of current young professionals at the EPO (200+) – the newcoming young professionals are put in touch with the current ones (they share info when they leave their flat/share they pass to the newcoming ones etc.)</p> <p>Two info sessions on admin matter in summer with tips and tricks on accommodation search.</p>	<p>Mainly through social media groups created by former PES trainees where practical information about accommodation and other relevant aspects of moving to Alicante are shared.</p>

Can candidates that were shortlisted in the past be nominated in the current session?	Yes, this is possible as long as the candidate still fulfils all the criteria (nominated by the university, degree, language). The candidate will participate to new selection competition in the current edition.	Yes, this is possible as long as the candidate still fulfils all the criteria (nominated by the university, degree, language). The candidate will participate to new selection competition in the current edition.
How many students/graduates/alumni can be shortlisted per university ?	No ceiling. We are happy to receive all talented potentials on the shortlist.	No ceiling. We are happy to receive all talented potentials on the shortlist.
How to use MS Forms for shortlisting students	<p>Click on the link above in the email (separate one for EPO and EUIPO, thank you for shortlisting the same student only for one institution)</p> <p>For each candidate you submit one MS Forms, you can submit as many MS Forms as you like.</p> <p>You can submit the nominated students in several batches. The tool is open as of now until 28 February</p>	<p>Click on the link above in the email (separate one for EPO and EUIPO, thank you for shortlisting the same student only for one institution)</p> <p>For each candidate you submit one MS Forms, you can submit as many MS Forms as you like.</p> <p>You can submit nominated students in several batches. The tool will be open from 1 to 28 February.</p>
Participants hired as employees after the programme (as of July 2022)	14	n/a