

Associate – Life Sciences

Intellectual Property - London

The opportunity

We are looking for an Associate to join our established team in London, with a focus on Life Sciences Patent Litigation work, and preferably a degree in Biochemistry, Molecular Biology or similar subject. You will be expected to apply your IP knowledge to assist our clients, across a range of technically complex industries, to reach commercial solutions to the legal issues that they face. The firm advises in a way that supports our clients' strategic objectives and is practical and commercial.

The firm

Bird & Bird opens up a world of possible for lawyers everywhere. Here you can advise major enterprises and high-growth businesses on matters that are often transformative in nature, and alongside people who are truly collegiate in the way they work with everyone at Bird & Bird. We are one international firm, where over 70% of our work involves teams from across our firm. And that is only going to increase. It is this common purpose and shared approach that makes for a more productive, and collaborative place to work.

The team

Our Intellectual Property team is consistently ranked as band 1 in both Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners. We have one of the largest IP teams in London with c.80 lawyers with unparalleled contentious and non-contentious capabilities in relation to all IP rights; trade marks, patents, copyright and database rights, confidential information and data privacy. We advise on IP protection, enforcement, strategic management, valuation and monetisation of IP portfolios. Because of our broad remit our clients are an eclectic mix of the diverse and traditional.

Our promise

Bird & Bird is committed to maintaining an inclusive working environment and we are an equal opportunities employer. We will actively support and supervise your professional development. For those with the necessary energy and ability, we will ensure that the firm is a first-class platform on which you can develop into an industry leader. We support an agile working environment and are happy to discuss flexible working.



What you'll do

As a member of one of the largest departments in the London office, the individual will be expected to:

- advise on the full range of IPRs, with a particular focus on patent litigation in the life sciences sector;
- apply their experience to provide a first-class litigation service to our clients;
- assist the IP partners to develop the practice; and
- support the strategic objectives of the firm.



About you

- Minimum 1 year Post Qualification Experience.
- Excellent academic achievement, preferably with a degree in Biochemistry, Molecular Biology or similar, as well as strong technical knowledge of IP law.
- Proven experience in handling complex life sciences patent litigation (essential) within a comparable environment and at an appropriate level.
- A desire to be working for a truly international firm and to operating in a team-based environment.
- A clear understanding of the operation and structure of a commercial law firm.

In addition, we expect candidates to demonstrate:

- Flexibility, supporting cases across a broad range of IP litigation issues and jurisdictions.
- The ability to manage aspects of complex IP matters at an appropriate level, working efficiently and effectively alongside the partners.
- Demonstrating an appreciation of client needs and priorities.
- Demonstrating knowledge of key areas of the law by providing clear, precise, practical drafting and advice.
- The ability to liaise effectively with other fee earners within the group, and also to liaise and coordinate with fee earners from other relevant disciplines and jurisdictions as required.
- Delegation and supervisory skills where appropriate.
- The willingness and ability to support business development activity, creating and maintaining strong client relationships and identifying new business opportunities.
- The ability to use social media platforms (e.g. LinkedIn, Twitter) to broadcast or amplify messages and to connect with external contacts/networks.





The main responsibilities of this role are outlined above; however, this description is not exhaustive, and the job holder may be required to undertake additional duties from time to time to ensure the smooth running of the department. The role may require some working outside our normal working hours of 9:30am- 5:30pm.

Bird & Bird is committed to creating and sustaining a diverse and inclusive environment. We are delighted to confirm that we have recently achieved Mansfield Certification, following our successful participation in the UK pilot programme. This certification was achieved by considering at least 30% women, lawyers from underrepresented racial/ethnic groups, lawyers with disabilities and LGBTQ+ lawyers for at least 70% of UK fee earner and leadership positions. We are participating in Mansfield Rule UK 2.0 and continue to work towards ensuring a diverse pool of candidates are considered our roles, in line with the Mansfield Rule. You can read more about this [here](#).



In the event that we make an offer to you and you accept, we will conduct pre-engagement background checks, where permitted by local legislation and according to the nature of the role that may include right to work, professional and academic qualifications, criminal records, sanctions, financial stability, media, directorships and references from previous employers.

Please click below to view more detail in our Applicant Privacy Notice.

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