The MIPLC's Experience of Mixed Classes and Intensive Modules – Lessons Learned

European Intellectual Property Teachers' Network Workshop
Newcastle, June 30, 2008

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Program Director MIPLC

Munich Intellectual Property Law Center (MIPLC)

MIPLC Munich Intellectual Property Law Center
Augsburg München Washington DC



LL.M. Program Intellectual Property Law

For Postgraduates

in Law, Economics
Engineering, Natural Sciences,
Media and Literature

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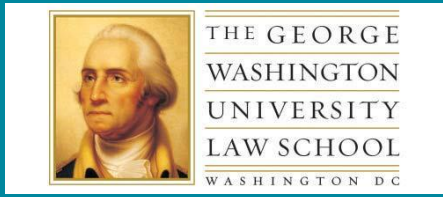
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A Joint Program of



Max Planck Institute for Intellectual Property, Competition and Tax Law

leading institute in international IP research



The George Washington University Law School Washington D.C.

oldest specialized IP law program in the world



Technische Universität München

long standing rich tradition, many Nobel Laureates, new School of Economic Sciences



University of Augsburg

young and dynamic Bavarian university

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Our LL.M. IP Program

- All Areas of:
  - European, U.S. and International IP
  - Competition and Media Law
  - Related Fields of Economics and Business Administration
- Entirely held in English
- Small class setting:
  30 places per academic year
- Two semesters (11 months)

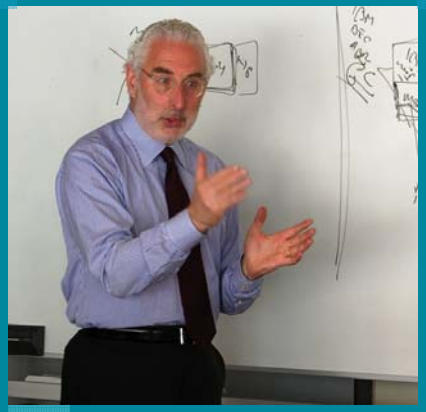


Courses

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Introductory Courses

- Legal Tradition (Civil Law & Common Law)
- Legal Research & Writing
- Introduction to IP
- IP Convention Systems



Prof. Goldstein, Standford University Law School

Basic Courses

- European and International (WTO) Law
- European and US Competition Law
- European Copyright Law
- European Patent Law
- European, US and International Design Law
- European, US and International Trademark Law
- International and Comparative Copyright Law
- International and Comparative Patent Law
- Jurisdiction and Conflict of Laws
- Licensing of IP Rights
- Protection of Geographical Indications
- Unfair Competition I

Specialized Courses

- Arbitration
- Arbitration Simulation
- Computer Crime
- Computer and the Law
- Cross-Border Trade in IP
- Enforcement of Copyright
- Entertainment Law
- Entrepreneurship
- Innovation Policy
- Intangible Assets Valuation
- Internet Law
- IP and Indigenous Heritage
- IP Project Management
- IP Rights Prosecution and Enforcement
- License Contract Drafting
- Managerial Finance
- Pharmaceuticals and IP
- Practical Training in European Patent Law
- Practical Training in Trademakr Law
- Privacy, Publicity and Personality
- Protection of Biotechnological Inventions
- Protection of databases & Other Forms of Investment Protection
- Software Contracts
- Science, Patents & Start-ups
- Taxation of IP
- Technical Protection of Authors Rights
- Theoretical & Economic Foundations of IP
- Unfair Competition II

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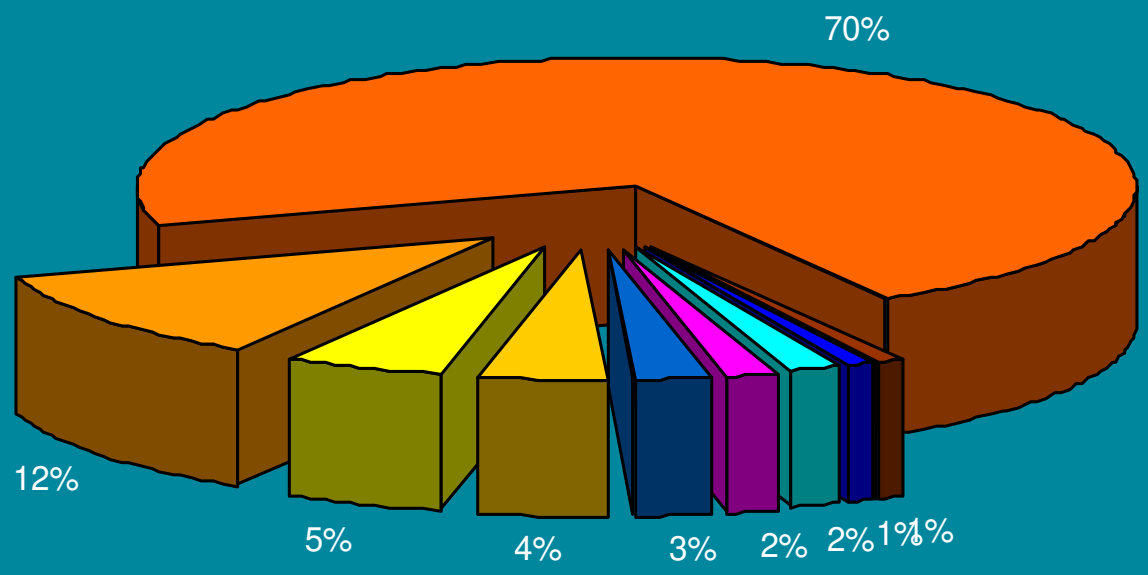
Countries of Origin of MIPLC Class of 2008

Countries of origin of MIPLC students and alumni

Argentina	India (2)	Russia
Australia	Indonesia	Saudi Arabia
Belgium	Israel	Singapore
Brazil (2)	Italy	South Africa
Bulgaria	Japan	Spain
Cambodia	Lithuania	Switzerland
Canada	Malaysia	Taiwan
China (2)	Mexico	Tanzania
Colombia	Norway	Turkey
Egypt	Pakistan	Thailand
Eritrea	Philippines	UK
Ethiopia	Poland	USA (2)
Germany (3)	Portugal	Uzbekistan
Ghana	Republic of Korea	Vietnam
Iceland		



Professional Background of Students



- Medicine
- Literature Sciences
- Pharmaceutical Sciences
- IT
- Chemistry
- Biology und Biotechnology
- Econ./Business Adm.
- Engineering
- Law

Highly Heterogeneous Composition of Student Body

Diversity of national origins – regularly students from more than 15 countries per class

Heterogeneous educational formation - postgraduates in Law (common/civil law), Economics, Engineering, Natural Sciences, Media and Literature

Heterogeneous professional background and professional experience

- Law firm partner with 20 years work experience
- Professor of economics with 20 year of teaching experience
- Patent attorney with 10 years work experience
- Consultant with 5 years work experience
- Patent examiner with 4 years work experience
- Engineering / law school graduate with one year work experience

Different life experience – student age ranging from 23 to 50 years

Challenges

Different level of knowledge of legal concepts / of IP

Organisation of the program has to facilitate the establishment of a level playing field

Faculty has to adjust to teaching students with diverse educational backgrounds

Career office – student pursue diverse career paths after graduation, i.e. no homogenous ‘product’ to market

Establishing a Level Playing Field

- Intensive selection process during admission
- Introductory courses focusing on legal research & writing skills
- One-on-one tutorial system
- Releasing / using the students' different potentials
- 'Layer-on-layer approach' using intensive modules and different teaching methods

Establishing a Level Playing Field

- Intensive selection process on admittance
  - Focus on ability of conceptual and analytical thinking
  - Professional experience of at least one year
  - Diversity of backgrounds
  - Highly qualified students have/create less problems!

Establishing a Level Playing Field

- Introductory courses focusing on legal research & writing skills
- Common law / civil law tradition
- Statutory and case analysis
- Writing skills: argument structure / legal memoranda

Establishing a Level Playing Field

- **Tutorial system**
  - **Tutors: MIPLC alumni / Ph.D. students / IP attorneys**
  - **Tutorials devised to complement individual courses**
  - **One-on-one tutorial, one session per week**
  - **Extra tutorial session if needed**

Establishing a Level Playing Field



- **Releasing the students' different potentials**
  - **Facilitating a sharing of expertises**
    - encouragement of study groups
    - allocation in student offices
    - development of a 'class spirit'

'The MIPLC is equipped so that one can excellently work together. Three to four students share an office. When you are working in the office, there is always someone in the neighboring office, so when you are studying for the exams – and there are many exams – and you have a question, you just walk next door and discuss the problem. I perceive these common working spaces as something special.

Furthermore, the students from MIPLC have the most diverse backgrounds. I had never studied law before, and during the first months, I have often approached the other students with questions as many things were new and alien for me. However, when it came to patent protection for plants, they came to me with questions. There was a continuous exchange and the topics are so diverse and demanding that everyone was challenged – even the lawyers.'

Amelie Aust, Class of 2007

(http://www.e-fellows.net/show/detail.php/8182)

Challenges of Intensive Module Teaching

- **Short time frame for absorbing information and its recapitulation / application**
- **Ensuring the permanent / long-term acquisition of knowlege**
- **Avoiding a mentality of 'ticking off and moving on' / forgetting**

Intensive Modules and the 'Layer on Layer Approach'

Experiences at MIPLC

- Intensive modules allow student to concentrate on one topic / legal concept at a time
- Extension and intensivation of the learning period through the tutorial system
- 'Layer on layer approach' helps students to develop a profound and comprehensive understanding of intellectual property over time

The 'Layer on Layer Approach'

Basic curriculum – general knowledge of subject, focus on teaching the legal concepts, structure

Specialised curriculum with

- **Cross-sectional courses** focusing on specific legal concepts in different IP protective systems
- **Industry-specific courses** focusing on different legal concepts/ issues relevant for a certain industry or technical field
- **'Pratice' courses** focusing specifically on practical application of acquired knowledge

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Intensive Modules and the 'Layer on Layer Approach' - Patent Law

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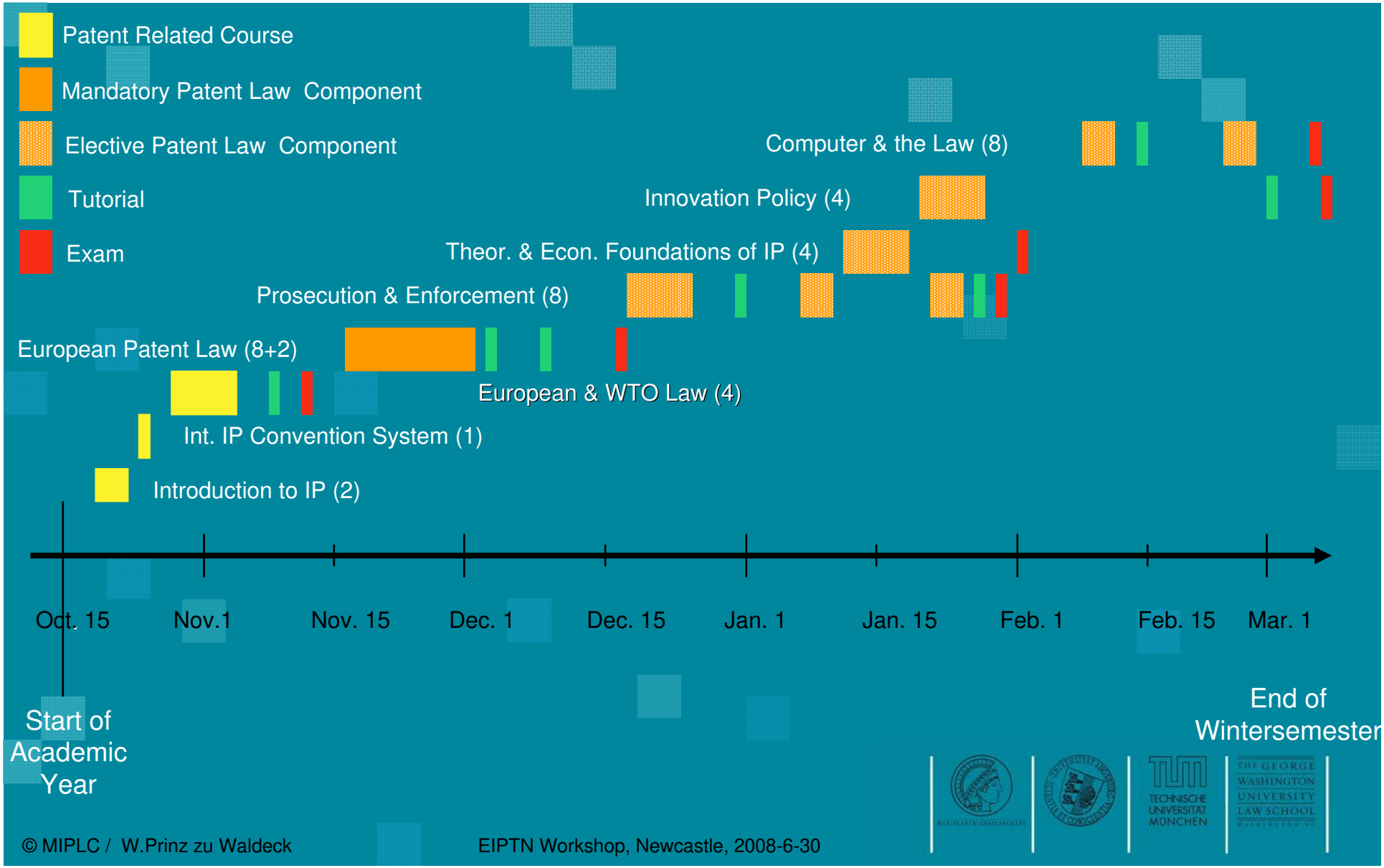
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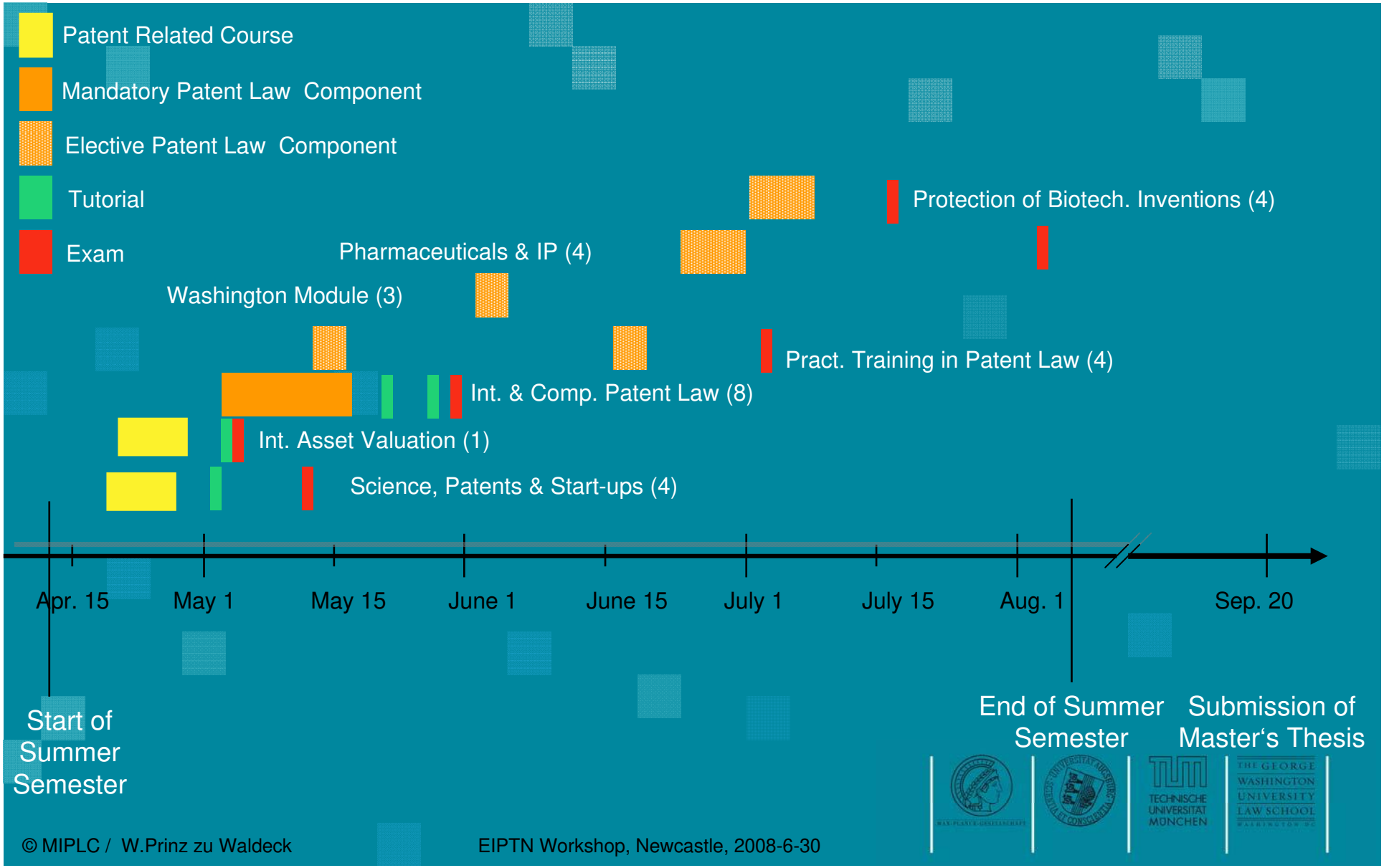
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'Layer on Layer Approach' - Patent Law – Winter Term

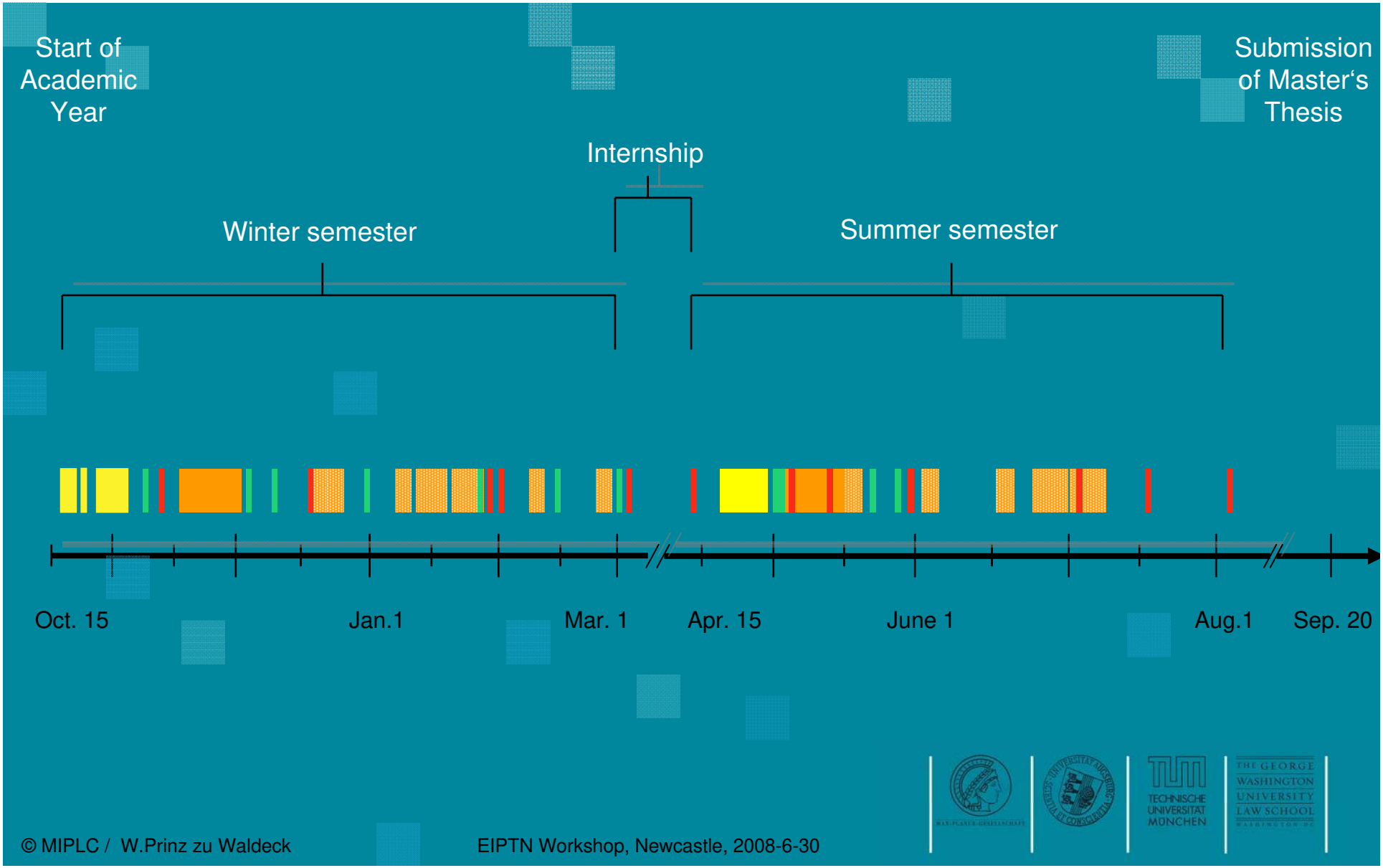


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‘Layer on Layer Approach’ - Patent Law – Summer Term



'Layer on Layer Approach' - Patent Law



Teaching Methods

Combination of different teaching methods:

- **Socratic** & predominantly **case-based** -
  requiring constant and intensive preparation and participation
- **Doctrinal method** / **Lecture** – to relay concepts, structures
- **Problem solving method** – verification of students' understanding,
  employed especially in tutorials and practise-focused courses
- **Simulation method** – e.g. license negotiation, arbitration simulation
- **Clinical method** – internship

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Further Information

THANK YOU !

QUESTIONS WELCOME



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