

Innovation and Intellectual Property Protection: Current Issues I

ECTS: 3

KSL Root Number: 446688

The goal of this intense and inter-active course is to familiarize students with the main forms and functions of intellectual property rights in the world trading system. It will explore the general rules of the TRIPS Agreement and discuss the economic foundations of intellectual property rights and their role in the process of innovation, specialization and competition in the global economy. Particular attention is paid to patent protection, patent registration system and patent search methods, as well as to the delicate and often hotly discussed relationship between public health, innovation and IP. The course entails a visit to the Swiss Federal Intellectual Property Institute in Berne. It concludes with a case study on WTO dispute settlement case (DS 441) on plain packaging requirements applicable to tobacco products.