

## Intellectual Property Officer

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My PhD was in atomic physics at the University of Southampton undertaking atom interferometry experiments, specifically, the use of composite pulses for error correction in laser intensity and phase. I wanted to do experiments and I liked studying atomic physics. It was a good choice as I had experience of plenty of different areas which has proved useful in my subsequent jobs.

My first job was as a trainee patent attorney at a UK-based intellectual property law firm. I enjoyed the challenge of learning the law and applying my analytical skills to new technical areas often far removed from the subject of my PhD. I currently work as an Intellectual Property Officer at KU Leuven in Belgium, where I work with researchers to identify and protect their ideas. I chose to move back to a university-based role because I wanted to have more contact with academic research.

My advice would be not to write off career paths because you think they might not involve enough physics – many patent attorneys work in law firms but a science degree is a prerequisite and you use your scientific knowledge every day.

***"Think outside the box – your analytical skills have applicability in areas you may not have previously encountered."***

