The course will provide the basic knowledge of intellectual property with a strong focus on patents, helping PhD students to take the step from scientific/technical ideas to innovations. Main topics will be:
- The role of innovations in industrialised countries and high-technology sectors
- Protecting inventions and securing commercial success: The role and importance of intellectual property
- Protecting inventions in the life science domains: Options and restrictions
- Patents as a pool of technical and business information:
  - similarities to scientific/technical literature and peculiarities
  - how to get the information needed
  - taking advantage of patents for developing a business
- What practical aspects of intellectual property need to be considered in research (including grant proposals), when creating a start-up company and working in an enterprise:
  - intellectual property as a key asset in high-tech sectors
  - preconditions for investments and cooperations
  - collaboration, service, sponsoring, non-disclosure, material transfer, licensing agreements.

The course includes practical exercises in reading and understanding the information in patents. In addition, tutorials are included which enable the participants to use common interfaces to patent databases, and to search for patent information needed.

The course is also open to students of other faculties.