



FICPI ABC Meeting Edinburgh, June 2024

FICPI-UK is delighted to announce the programme for the FICPI ABC Meeting 2024 from Saturday 15th – Wednesday 19th June.

FICPI ABC Conferences are meetings of the U.S. (“A”), U.K. (“B”), and Canadian (“C”) National Groups of FICPI. The joint ABC conference is not limited to FICPI members from the U.S., U.K., and Canada, but is open to all FICPI members, non-members and, of course, accompanying persons.

The conference consists of a professional program in three morning sessions for delegates, with morning outings for accompanying persons running alongside. There are then group outings for all delegates and accompanying persons in the afternoons, and group meals each evening.

The schedule is designed to educate and inform in the morning and build connection between attendees while taking in the sights, sounds, and tastes of Edinburgh in the afternoon and evenings.

REGISTRATION

FICPI Members are entitled to discounted meeting registration fees, however, registration does not require FICPI membership. Attendees from all countries and regions are welcome. Spectacular social events will provide numerous networking opportunities. Attendees must register in advance online:

[REGISTER HERE](#)

The registration fee includes the welcome reception (June 15), three meals per day (June 16, 17 & 18), drinks and social activities. Please note that Hotel room charges and incidentals are not included.

Registration fees (in Pound Sterling £, excluding UK VAT of 20%):

	Early Bird (up to an inc. 29 Feb)	Standard
FICPI Member	£2,050.00	£2,250.00
FICPI Non-Member	£2,350.00	£2,550.00
Accompanying Person	£1,450.00	£1,650.00
Delegates 40 years and under	10% discount on the above rates	N/A
Speakers (not including lightening round participants)	10% discount on the above rates	N/A





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FICPI ABC Meeting Venue

Venue : [Radisson Blu Hotel, Edinburgh City Centre](#)
80 High Street,
The Royal Mile,
Edinburgh EH1 1TH

The Radisson Blu Hotel, Edinburgh City Centre is located in the heart of the historic Royal Mile in Edinburgh's old town, just a short walk to major city centre attractions. Walk to the iconic Edinburgh Castle, National Museum of Scotland, the Scottish Parliament, and Edinburgh's famous shopping thoroughfare, Princes Street. The hotel is also within easy reach of Holyrood Palace and Holyrood Park. Arthur's Seat, the park's highest point, has stunning views of the Scottish capital.

The hotel has on-site leisure facilities complete with indoor heated swimming pool, sauna, steam room, and gym equipment. Health Club access is included during your hotel stay. The hotel is in the heart of Edinburgh, and just 13 kilometres from Edinburgh Airport (EDI).

Hotel Reservations

We have FICPI agreed rates from Friday until Wednesday.

All bedrooms need to be booked via the hotel website via the following link:

<https://www.radissonhotels.com/en-us/hotels/radisson-blu-edinburgh>

Hotel Reservation Instructions

Please select your check-in and check-out dates, and then click the "Selected Rate" box, followed by 'Promotional Code'. Where it asks you to enter your code, please enter: **EESOL10**

Credit card details are required at the time of the booking as guarantee. Please reserve your bedrooms as soon as possible. The cut-off date for bookings is 4th May 2024. After this date any remaining rooms will be released for general sale.

Hotel Cancellation Policy

Rooms booked and guaranteed by credit card when booking can be cancelled up to 7 days prior to arrival, within 7 days full pre-payment of the individual reservation will be taken.

Getting to the venue

Full details of how to get to the venue can be found [HERE](#)





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FICPI ABC Meeting Sessions

The professional program for the conference comprises 3 morning sessions, from 9am-12.30pm on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. One each presented by the U.K., U.S., and Canadian groups.

Sunday 16 June

Session 1 : The Psychology of Examination (It Ain't What You Do, It's the Way That You Do It)
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As much as statutes and case law may direct examination, its sharp end is (for the moment at least!) embodied by an Examiner: human, fallible, subject to a range of emotional states and reactions. In a world where marginal gains can be paramount, the difference between helping an Examiner to reach a favourable conclusion and incurring their wrath can mean everything. Against this backdrop, and from UK, Canadian and U.S. perspectives, the panel will investigate different approaches that can be employed (or avoided!) when seeking to get optimal examination results. We shall also seek insight from an Examiner's perspective.
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Moderator: Nick Noble (Kilburn & Strode, United Kingdom)

Speakers:

Sharon Crane (Haynes Boone, U.S.A.)

<i>More speakers to be announced</i>

Session 2 : Navigating the Complexities and Challenges of Overlapping IP Rights
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Can the configuration of a fold-up bicycle or rowing machine be the subject of enforceable copyright? Does disclosing a product in a published utility patent automatically prevent it from protected in a later design? Can a trade mark be opposed based on a geographical indication? As practitioners we tend to think of IP rights in silos, but some of the most interesting and intractable issues arise where different forms of IP overlap. In this session, we shall look at several scenarios where different kinds of IP rights collide from a UK, U.S. and Canadian perspective, and shed light on the fascinating dilemmas that arise.
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Moderator: Michael Conway (HLK, United Kingdom)
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Speakers:

Rob Katz (Banner Witcoff, U.S.A.)

<i>Additional speakers to be announced</i>
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Monday 17 June

Session 3 : What do you want from your career in IP? And how do you get there?

The average age of newly qualified IP attorneys is now 30. Many new-joiners have postgraduate degrees or have spent time in industry; some move across from administrative roles. How can we ensure they all have an equal chance to thrive?

Is success in the profession defined by making partner? There is evidence that some young professionals are less focussed on equity partnership. Many firms now offer Director or “Of Counsel” roles. Is this the best way to retain talent and attract lateral hires?

In this session, we shall hear from attorneys whose own career paths were unpredictable, learn about the benefits of a diverse workforce, and discuss how different firms strive to incentivise attorneys over the course of their careers.

Moderator: Kate O’Rourke (Mewburn Ellis)

Speakers:

Flora Halchemi (HLK, United Kingdom)

Salvatore Anastasi (Barley Snyder, U.S.A.)

Keri Johnston (Johnston IP Law, Canada)

Session 4 : Innovative Sparks: Charting the IP Horizon with Lightning Talks

Embark on a “yomp” across the IP landscape with a series of quick-fire presentations that will illuminate the rich history of Scottish innovation, probe the exciting interface of AI and Pharma, and demystify the accounting of self-generated patents. The panel will delve into advancements of AI in IP drafting, and with more topics to come, the session promises a stimulating discussion. Be ready for a surprise that will add an extra spark to our lightning round of exploration and discovery in the dynamic world of IP.

Moderator: Julian Crump (Abel+Imray, United Kingdom)

Speakers:

William Clarke (Wilson Gunn, United Kingdom)

Peter Finnie (Potter Clarkson, United Kingdom)

Robert McDougall (Slingsby Partners, United Kingdom)

Louis-Pierre Gravelle (Bereskin & Parr, Canada)

Anna King (Banner Witcoff, U.S.A.)

Ken Sonnenfeld (Ballard Spahr, U.S.A.)

Additional speakers to be announced





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Tuesday 18 June

Session 5 : Global Perspectives on Inventive Step

Dive into the world of patent examination as we dissect the inventive step assessment methodologies employed by the European Patent Office (EPO), United Kingdom Intellectual Property Office (UKIPO), United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), and the Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO). Our experts will highlight key distinctions, considerations, and trends shaping inventive step/non-obviousness determinations in these diverse jurisdictions. Gain practical insights that will empower you to navigate the intricacies of international patent prosecution with precision and strategic acumen.

Moderator: Robert Watson (Mewburn Ellis, United Kingdom)

Speakers:

Serge Shahinian (Lavery, Canada)

MaryAnne Armstrong (BSKB, U.S.A.)

Ravi Srinivasan (JA Kemp, United Kingdom)

Session 6 : The Art of Persuasion: Mastering Oral Arguments in IP Proceedings

Explore effective advocacy strategies in this session focusing on IP hearings in the UK, U.S., Canada, the European Patent Office, and the EUIPO. Expert speakers will discuss presenting persuasive arguments to Examiners, Hearing Officers, Opposition Divisions, and Appeal Boards, whether in-person or via videoconference. The panel will address structuring arguments, delivering them persuasively, and adapting your approach for different settings. Enhance your skills to navigate confidently pre- and post-grant IP hearings, including inter partes disputes. Join us to refine your oratory skills for impactful arguments.

Moderator: Howard Read (Appleyard Lees, United Kingdom)

Speakers:

Danny Huntington (Rothwell Figg, U.S.A.)

Additional speakers to be announced





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FICPI ABC Social Programme

Saturday 15th June

Evening

Delegates arrival and evening welcome at [Bonnie & Wild](#). Based in the heart of Edinburgh, Bonnie & Wild is home to some of Scotland's best independent food and drink operators.

We will have an informal evening in the private space and bar to explore the various choices from the Food Hall. Key to this is Bonnie & Wild's unshakable commitment to local and sustainable sourcing, to quality ingredients, and our transparent approach to food provenance.

Sunday 16th June

Afternoon

[Edinburgh GPS Adventure](#)

Using your smartphones and our interactive mobile adventures app, you'll explore your Edinburgh whilst being guided to unlock GPS hotspots with a wide range of problem-solving tasks, creative challenges and general knowledge trivia.

As you complete the activities at each location, you will be encouraged to collect virtual scavenger hunt items to score bonus points at the end of the activity.

You will compete in small teams with a live scoreboard and "photo wall" within the app, allowing everyone to inspire and entertain each other throughout the adventure! Bonus points are also up for grabs as teams are encouraged to collect virtual scavenger hunt items!

Evening

[Amber Restaurant](#)

The group will dine in a private event space where Amber's chefs create delicious dishes served with innovative flair and have been garnering awards and stellar reviews for 20 years. Sampling their seasonally inspired signature dishes; Scottish Tapas or our Taste of Scotland tasting menu. Choose from over 450 drams in Amber's whisky bar, from well-known favourites to hidden gems ready to discover.





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Monday 17th June

Afternoon

[Edinburgh Castle Tour](#)

Edinburgh Castle is alive with exciting tales of its time as a military fortress, royal residence and prison of war. When you climb Castle Hill, you will walk in the footsteps of soldiers, kings and queens – and even the odd pirate or two.

Evening

[Contini George Street](#)

Described as one of the most beautiful rooms in Edinburgh, our former 19th century banking hall creates a stunning setting to dine. 26ft high ceilings and corinthian columns surround the dining room but the warm grey tones and iconic wall coverings make the restaurant cosy and fun.

Tuesday 18 June

Afternoon

[Doomed, Dead and Buried Ghost Tour](#)

Explore the dim closes and wynds of Old Town Edinburgh, and learn of the unsavoury characters who used to occupy these streets. Experience the eerie and frightening atmosphere of the haunted Blair Street Underground Vaults. From here, it's on to the spooky Canongate graveyard, where the spirits of the dead await.

It might be something to do with the change in temperature. Or the ever smaller rooms, stretching beyond the weak beam of a torch or flicker of candlelight. Whatever the reason, there's something unsettling about the Blair Street Underground Vaults – and your expert storyteller will reveal the troubling tales on this underground Edinburgh ghost tour.

Evening

[Edinburgh Castle](#)

Situated in a stunning location on the Castle Rock with unrivalled views over the City of Edinburgh, Edinburgh Castle is Scotland's most famous landmark. We will dine in The Jacobite Room which offers a contemporary setting within a historic 18th-century building with magnificent views over Princes Street.





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Optional Excursions

Saturday 15 June

[Hike up Arthur's Seat](#) at 1.30pm (no charge)

A chance to stretch your legs with a hike up Arthur's Seat ahead of the official start to the Conference. The walk will take around 2 hours. The top of Arthur's Seat is rocky and usually windy so good footwear and an outdoor jacket are advisable! Edinburgh local and FICPI-UK member Alistair Hindle has kindly volunteered to show us the way up the hill in this informal hike, which will of course be weather dependent!

Wednesday 19 June

For delegates wishing to extend their stay in Edinburgh, we will be offering excursions and golfing opportunities once the meeting has finished.

Option 1 – Golf at St Andrews (£300pp+VAT)

Enjoy a round of golf at one of the oldest golf clubs in the world; St Andrews. You will tee off on the Castle Course and enjoy a round in the historic surroundings of this celebrated golf club. Transport will be arranged to the golf club, and the round will be followed by food and refreshments at the Castle Course Clubhouse. The journey from Edinburgh to St Andrews takes approximately 1½ hours. If you need to rent clubs please contact rob@eesolutions.co.uk

Please note – Due to the demand for tee off times at St Andrews, you will need to book your reservation for this optional event by 29 February.

Option 2 - West Highlands, Lochs & Castles Tour (£200pp+VAT)

This a full day excursion leaving Edinburgh, you travel west, past Stirling castle to your first stop at Doune Castle. You then continue through Callander and cross the Highland Boundary Fault Line leaving behind the rolling farmland for the wild mountains and forests of the Highlands. Before lunch, you have a photo stop to admire Kilchurn Castle, a magnificent ruin situated on the edge of Loch Awe and former home of the Campbells of Breadalbane.

You will continue along the banks of Loch Awe through Campbell country to the picturesque town of Inveraray on the shores of Loch Fyne. You then skirt around Loch Long and down to the "Bonnie, Bonnie Banks" of Loch Lomond. You make a short stop at the conservation village of





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Luss, where you can wander around taking in its quaint houses and stunning views across the loch. From here, you make your way back to Edinburgh and arrive in the capital in the early evening.

Optional Excursion Booking Notes

Separate registration and payment is required for all optional excursions. Excursions that are marked as Optional are not included in the registration fees of either Delegates or Accompanying Persons; these optional excursions must be booked and paid for at time of registration. For all optional tours, a minimum number of participants is required. The final itineraries of the tours may vary slightly for logistical reasons.

FICPI ABC Accompanying Persons' Morning Programme

A full programme for accompanying persons will be available throughout the meeting.

Sunday morning

[National Museum of Scotland tour](#)

Symbols of Scotland

Delegates will have a private tour of Scotland's incredible history, and view the most striking objects in the National Museum of Scotland. A world of Jacobite plots, royal feuds and ancient loyalties. The saltire of the national flag and the Scottish thistle are just two of the most famous symbols associated with Scotland. What are they, and what do they signify? Come along to find what makes the country's identity.

Monday morning

[Edinburgh New Town Cookery School](#)

Delegates will attend the course at the award winning Edinburgh New Town Cookery School. Situated in the heart of Edinburgh's city centre, the school offers courses that will put every delegate on the right path to becoming a successful cook. Join us for an Asian Street Food cooking class and embark on a journey of taste and culture. Delegates will prepare and dine at the school for lunch.

Tuesday morning

Edinburgh City Centre Shopping

Edinburgh is a capital for shopping, and with a combination of designer brands, high street names as well as more individual and independent shops, there's something for everyone.





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FICPI ABC Meeting Useful Information

Cancellation, Refund & Substitution Conditions

Cancellations or substitutions should be requested in writing to rob@eesolutions.co.uk

Registration fee refunds will be made as follows:

- Cancellations received up to April 30, 2024 - 100% of registration fees will be refunded.
- Between April 30, 2023 and May 25, 2024 - 50% of registration fees will be refunded.
- After May 25, 2024 – no refunds; substitutions permitted.

Please note that FICPI-UK is not responsible for cancellation of attendance for any personal or work reasons, and no exceptions to the refund policies set forth herein will be made. You are therefore recommended to check your personal travel insurance in case you need to cancel your attendance at the meeting for any unforeseen reason.

Climate

Edinburgh has a maritime climate, characterised by mild weather and like the rest of the United Kingdom it is unpredictable. The average temperatures in June range between 15-17°C (or 59-63 °F). Rain is possible at any time of year, but summer is generally dryer.

Currency

British Pound Sterling (GBP)

Power Connection

230V 50Hz AC. Plug sockets use a 3 pin plug. Those travelling from overseas will need to have an appropriate adaptor.

Dietary

Please ensure any requirements are stated at the time of registration.

VAT: refunds for non-EU businesses visiting the UK

For non-UK attendees (in firms without EU offices) you should be able to recoup the VAT that has been paid on your delegate fee and accommodation.

Please refer to the following guide to find out whether you are eligible to receive the VAT refund.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/vat-refunds-for-non-eu-businesses-visiting-the-uk#overview>





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