



MEDIA ADVISORY

TO: All Media

ATTENTION: News Editors / All Reporters

For immediate release

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Students and young professionals urged to take advantage of the Summer School on intellectual property and technology transfer

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Academy, the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (through the National Intellectual Property Management Office), the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) and the University of Cape Town (UCT) will host the 2026 Annual Summer School.

Eligible candidates are invited to apply for the 10-day programme on intellectual property (IP) and technology transfer (TT), to be held from 23 November to 4 December 2026 in a hybrid format. Allowing participants to attend either physically at UCT or online. Participation in the programme is free, with all tuition fees fully waived. In-person participants will be responsible only for their own travel, accommodation, and related expenses.

Summer School provides participants with an opportunity to deepen their understanding of the domains of IP and TT, as well as the role and functions of WIPO in the global innovation ecosystem.

It is open to undergraduate and postgraduate students and young professionals from any discipline or field of study, officers from public and private research and development (R&D) institutions, founders and employees of small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) and professionals from public and private organisations involved in innovation and technology development.

The programme includes lectures by experts in IP and TT and exposes participants to various aspects of IP, including its international nature and the interface between IP and other disciplines. The programme is based on a problem-oriented approach, incorporating lectures, simulation exercises, group discussions on selected IP topics, panel discussions, and case studies.

As a prerequisite for selection, applicants must successfully complete the WIPO Distance Learning Course on Intellectual Property Management (DL-450). Applicants who have not yet completed the course will have an opportunity to do so after 3 September 2026. Those who successfully pass the course will remain eligible for consideration for the Summer School. A certificate of participation is awarded to participants who successfully complete the programme requirements.

Applicants should visit the link below to submit their applications online:

https://welc.wipo.int/acc/index.jsf?page=wssCatalog.xhtml&lang=en&cc=WSSZA_2026#plus_WSSZA_2026

The registration closing date is 30 June 2026. Applicants should submit their ID, résumé, and a letter of motivation (setting out their reasons for applying and what they hope to gain from the Summer School). For more information, contact the summer school administrator at summerschool.southafrica@wipo.int.

For media enquiries, please contact Ms Julian Leshilo-Sebake at Julian.Leshilo@dsti.gov.za or 060 961 2194 or Mr Thabang Setlhare at TSetlhare@cipc.co.za or 078 153 8765.

Issued by the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation and the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission