



Competition Policy for Economists

A CCP Training Course

September/October 2020

Do you have a good background in microeconomics but want to learn more about practical competition policy?

This highly successful course has been adapted this year for delivery in an online environment, the sessions have been spread across a number of weeks and the content amended to offer a more interactive experience. It is aimed at those who are relatively new to competition policy. Delivered by experienced practitioners from both the private and public sector, you will be given an in-depth introduction to the economic analysis involved in competition law and how it fits into the legal framework.

The focus will be on the core elements of standard antitrust, including the assessment of anti-competitive agreements, mergers and abuse of dominance in an EU/UK context. Each of the eight sessions will involve a mix of presentation and interactive work to provide you with practical analytical tools for use back in the workplace.

Speakers will include representatives from the Centre for Competition Policy, Charles River Associates, Competition and Markets Authority, Oxera, RBB Economics, Frontier Economics and Compass Lexecon.

Session topics*:

- Price-based Exclusionary Abuse: Predation, Conditional Rebates and Margin Squeeze
- Mergers: Unilateral Effects
- Market Definition & Market Power
- Legal Framework & Key Economic Concepts
- Horizontal Agreements & Coordinated Effects
- Article 102 in the Tech Sector: Non-price Abuses, the Google Wars, and Latest Developments
- Vertical Restraints & Non-Horizontal Mergers
- Exploitative Abuse

*Session topics are subject to change

Session Dates & Times (BST):

- 24 & 25 September, 15:00 - 16:30
- 1 & 2 October, 15:00 - 16:30
- 8 & 9 October, 15:00 - 16:30
- 15 & 16 October, 15:00 - 16:30

Registration:

£500 + VAT

Early Bird*:

£400 + VAT

Limited Spaces



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Thursday 24 September

Session 1 15:00 - 16:30

Legal Framework & Key Economic Concepts

Sean Ennis (CCP)

- Key principles, institutions and procedures: UK/EU
- Why care about competition?
- Optimal competition policy design
- Demand and consumer behaviour: elasticities and welfare
- Supply and supplier behaviour: Different types of competitive process and implications

Friday 25 September

Session 2 15:00 - 16:30

Market Definition & Market Power

Amelia Fletcher (CCP)

- What is market power and why do we care about it?
- Market definition: Theory and Practice
- Market definition: Pros, cons and difficult issues
- The role of market shares and concentration
- Barriers to entry and expansion and buyer power

Thursday 1 October

Session 3 15:00 - 16:30

Mergers: Unilateral Effects

Julie Bon (CMA)

- The substantive merger test in EU/UK law
- The counterfactual
- Differentiated vs non-differentiated markets and evidence on closeness of competition
- Methodologies for estimating likely merger effects: price-concentration analysis, UPP, merger simulation
- Digital mergers and dynamic effects



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Friday 2 October

Session 4 15:00 - 16:30

Horizontal Agreements & Coordinated Effects

Avantika Chowdhury (Oxera)

- Tacit and explicit collusion: theory and practice
- Implications of information exchange and algorithms
- Empirical assessment of competitive effects and trading off potential efficiencies
- Quantifying the harm from anticompetitive agreements

Thursday 8 October

Session 5 15:00 - 16:30

Price-based Exclusionary Abuse

Adrian Majumdar (RBB Economics)

- What is exclusionary abuse of dominance?
- Principles for assessing exclusionary abuse
- Assessing predation – the role of cost-based tests
- Assessing loyalty rebates – Intel and Post Danmark II

Friday 9 October

Session 6 15:00 - 16:30

Article 102 in the Tech Sector: Non-price Abuses and Latest Developments

Oliver Latham (Charles River Associates)

- Types of non-price based abuse
- Assessing exclusive dealing and refusal to supply
- Assessing tying and bundling
- The EU Google cases



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Thursday 15 October

Session 7 **15:00 - 16:30**

Exploitative Abuse

Urs Haegler (Compass Lexecon)

- What is exploitative abuse of dominance?
- Testing for excessive prices
- Excessive pricing case law
- Special cases: aftermarkets, standards
- Risks of intervention and alternative approaches

Friday 16 October

Session 8 **15:00 - 16:30**

Vertical Restraints & Non-Horizontal Mergers

James Baker (Frontier Economics)

- Types of vertical restraints and their pros and cons
- EU Guidelines and block exemption
- Assessing non-horizontal mergers
- Lessons from recent vertical merger cases