


UK Patent Application Timeline

The following timeline charts the events throughout the life of a patent application until the patent is granted.

Patent applications in the UK are administered by the Intellectual Property Office (IPO), formerly known as the Patent Office.

The process can take a number of years, although it is possible to accelerate the application's progress.

Time (months)		
0	File UK patent application	
6	File a search request before 6 months to get a search report before 12 months	
12	Add claims & abstract, final deadline for requesting search	File any overseas and / or international applications
18	The application is published	
24	Request examination and pay fee	
36 (approx.)	The application enters substantive examination, First examination report issued, Response filed within (typically) 4 month period	
		
	Patent granted	Second examination report issued. Examination continues until refusal or grant.
	OR	
48	First renewal fee due (only if a patent has been granted)	
54	Earliest deadline for putting the application in order for grant	

This timeline is for guidance only, and the actual deadlines will vary from case to case.