

Patent Attorney

Patent attorneys advise clients on how to apply for patents for new inventions, designs or processes.

Average salary (a year)	Typical hours (a week)	You could work
 £27,000 Starter	 37 to 39 a week	 evenings occasionally

Skills and knowledge

- legal knowledge including court procedures and government regulations
- excellent verbal communication skills
- excellent written communication skills
- analytical thinking skills
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- maths skills
- knowledge of English language
- the ability to think clearly using logic and reasoning
- to be able to use a computer and the main software packages confidently

Different routes to get this job

(check the website for entry requirements)

- a university course
- working towards this role
- applying directly

Day-to-day task

- meet with inventors or manufacturers
- research existing patents to check the invention or design is original
- advise clients about the chances of being granted a patent
- write detailed legal descriptions of the invention or design - known as a patent draft
- apply for patents to the UK Intellectual Property Office or European Patent Office
- answer questions from patent examiners
- advise clients whose patent rights may have been broken
- represent clients at court during patent disputes
- advise on issues like design rights and copyright
- keep up to date with intellectual property law
- mentor new trainees