

8 July 2024

Enrolment process and fees for the EQE 2025

1. General

The foundation paper F will be held in accordance with the Regulation on the European qualifying examination which will enter into force on 1 January 2025 (REE 2025, Supplementary Publication 3 – OJ EPO 2024). Papers A, B, C and D will be held in accordance with the Regulation on the European qualifying examination as published in Supplementary Publication 2 - OJ EPO 2019 (REE 2009).

Candidates are advised that matters relating to the EQE are of a personal nature and that enrolment and payment of fees should not be entrusted to third parties. It is their individual responsibility to ensure that their application and payment are received in due time.

Candidates must undertake to inform the Examination Secretariat without delay of any changes to the information they have provided, notably with regard to their email address and professional activity.

Candidates are advised to regularly consult the EQE website. Before contacting the Examination Secretariat, candidates should refer to the frequently asked questions (www.epo.org/learning-events/eqe/faq.html).

The EQE will be held online and can be taken at any suitable location chosen by the candidate. The examination system WISEflow will be used (<https://europe.wiseflow.net/>).

2. Online access for enrolment

Applications for enrolment must be filed online via the EQC portal: https://eqe-cert.epo.org/csp?id=eqc_index

Candidates who already have a user account for "myEQE" must first create a profile in the EQC portal, by using the identical email address.

After submission of data, candidates will receive an acknowledgement of receipt at the email address specified and an overview of their enrolment in the form of a PDF document as proof of their application.

Once the application has been processed, candidates will be informed that their admission letter is available.

3. Fees - Rules 7 and 8 IPREE

The basic fee is EUR 200.

- (a) If the prescribed fees are not validly paid, the application for enrolment will be deemed not to have been filed.
- (b) The fee for an application for enrolment is equal to the basic fee. This fee is not refundable, even if the application is rejected.
- (c) The fee for sitting paper F and each of the main examination papers is equal to the basic fee.
- (d) Fees cannot be transferred or reassigned to a future examination.
- (e) Pursuant to Rule 8(2) IPREE 2009, fee increments apply as of the examination year 2010 (only for papers A, B, C, and D). Their calculation is based on the examination papers sat in 2010 or thereafter. The fee increase will also apply to candidates who did not withdraw from a specific paper and were deemed to have sat that paper.

4. Payment method

Fees relating to the EQE may only be paid by credit card or bank transfer. Candidates are strongly recommended to pay by credit card as this will ensure swift payment.

Payments by bank transfer are considered to have been made on the date on which the amount of the transfer is actually entered in the bank account held by the EPO (see Article 7 of the Rules relating to Fees). Candidates are reminded that a bank transfer may take time and it is therefore not recommended as a payment method shortly before the relevant deadline ends. Late receipt of payment will lead to the application being rejected.

It is entirely the candidates' responsibility to ensure that the fees are paid in due time. Candidates are strongly advised not to entrust the payment of fees to third parties and to proceed with the payment of the fees in due time to ensure that they are received by the EPO by the relevant closing date.

The application will not be processed until the payment has been received.

5. Confirmation of payment

The EPO does not issue invoices relating to EQE fees. A confirmation of payment will be made available on the EQC portal once the application has been processed. The confirmation will be made out to the candidate's contact address.

6. Withdrawal

At any time up to the official start of an individual paper, candidates may withdraw from that paper or any subsequent papers via the EQC portal.

Candidates may also withdraw from an examination paper by not taking it on the day. If an examination paper consists of several parts, only not taking all those parts will be considered a withdrawal from that examination paper. If, however, candidates log in to one or more parts of the examination paper and thereby gain access to all or parts of it (to view online or for printing), they will be considered to have taken the whole of that examination paper.

7. Reimbursement

If the Examination Secretariat is informed of the withdrawal no later than 31 December 2024, the examination fees paid for taking the paper(s) concerned will be refunded. However, the enrolment fee is not refundable. No fees will be refunded in the case of a later withdrawal or a withdrawal due to not taking the examination paper on the day.

8. Professional activity

8.1 Required periods of professional activity

Candidates wishing to enrol for paper F must at the date of paper F have completed a total period as defined in Article 11(2)(a) REE 2025 of at least one year.

Candidates who have passed the pre-examination in accordance with the REE 2009 and wish to enrol for the main examination for the first time must at the date of the examination have completed a total period as defined in Article 11(2)(a) REE 2009 of at least three years.

With their application, candidates declare that the information they have provided is true and accurate and, in particular, that they will have completed the required period of professional activity by the date of the examination. In this context candidates and their trainers are reminded of their duty to inform the Examination Secretariat of any changes in professional activity.

8.2 Remission of the period of professional activity – Article 11(5) REE and Rule 16 IPREE 2009

The following courses are recognised for the purposes of Rule 16(1) IPREE:

- "Diplôme d'études internationales de la propriété industrielle ("cycle long")" from CEIPI in Strasbourg (academic years 2008/2009, 2011/2012 and subsequent years until 2023/2024)
- "Advanced Master in Intellectual Property Law and Knowledge Management" from Maastricht University (academic years 2010/2011 and subsequent years until 2024/2025)

The eight-month training period with the German patent authorities does not constitute a period of professional activity as defined in Article 11(2)(a) REE 2009. It constitutes an interruption of the training period according to Article 11(2)(a) REE 2009 which must be communicated in a timely manner to the Examination Secretariat. In this case a request for remission (Rule 16(3) IPREE 2009) is possible, which can be filed with the application for enrolment for the main examination.

8.3 EPO examiners

Candidates who at the date of paper F will have performed the duties of a patent examiner at the EPO for at least one year full-time may enrol for paper F.

Candidates who have passed the pre-examination in accordance with the REE 2009 and wish to enrol for the main examination for the first time, will at the date of the examination have to have performed the duties of a patent examiner at the EPO for at least four years full-time.

9. Communications

All correspondence will be conducted in electronic form only, via the EQC portal. Personal communications relating to the EQE are available on the candidate portal and can be accessed there at any time. Candidates will be informed when new documents become available.