America's innovation agency: Virtually no place better to work

A patent examiner is a federal employee who examines patent applications to determine whether or not a patent can be granted for new, cutting edge inventions. Your expertise can help to bring innovation to life. As an examiner, you will focus on analyzing advanced, complex concepts that ultimately protect American intellectual property (IP) and breakthrough inventions. Join us, and find out for yourself why the USPTO remains one of the best places to work in the federal government year after year.

Put your hard work to work
You worked hard to earn a specialized STEM degree. Now use it for a mission-focused career that protects American innovation.

A mission-focused mindset
As you pursue your STEM degree, get involved as an extern at the USPTO, attend a recruitment event, follow us on social media, and check out our USPTO Jobs page. Also, consider boosting your writing/communications skills.

Grow your professional skills
Your STEM background will help you investigate inventions and determine if they should receive patents. Through challenging work, your technical skills can grow.

Impact lives and the economy
Many patents, like those in the health sector, can positively impact lives. You'll end your work day knowing that the patents you grant positively impact the U.S. economy.

Compensation
Most patent examiners start with the USPTO as a GS-7 or GS-9.

Basic qualifications
To apply, you must be a U.S. citizen and also possess a minimum of a bachelor’s degree in engineering or science.

Promotion potential—your career, your way
You will have a well-defined career path that gives you specific milestones to reach for while advancing throughout your career. Patent examiners, based on their achievements, are noncompetitively promotable up to the GS-13 level!

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