Patent process timeline

To be patentable: product/process needs to meet all following criteria:
- New (not publicly disclosed)
- Inventive
- Has utility
- Not excluded
- Reduced to practice (can’t just be an ideal) See separate Guide.

Invention disclosure

-2 months
Patent drafting (by patent attorney)

0 months
UK patent application filing at UK IPO, PRIORITY DATE assigned (£5-10k, UoB funded)

12 months
DEADLINE: PCT application filing (c.£5k, UoB funded)

18 months
Publication of application

30 months
DEADLINE: National phase entry (£3-5k per country/region, to be funded by commercial partner)

Get in touch as early as possible!

UoB review

National phase

Europe → Grant or rejection, choose EP countries

US → Grant or rejection

Japan → Grant or rejection

Application examined separately in each country or region. Prosecution costs vary, translations required etc. It can take an additional 4-5 years from national phase entry to get to grant in a particular region.

Renewal fees are payable annually, typically starting 3-4 years from the priority date.

NB: There are other deadlines and costs during the process, only the major deadlines are highlighted. The application can lapse for lack of meeting various deadlines or not paying the various fees.