

Attention all professional patent information searchers and analysts residing in Europe or the United States!!

Do you have 10 years or more experience searching and analysing patent information, mentoring patent searchers or outsourcing and overseeing patent information related work with at least 60% of your time spent on these activities?

If so, you right now have the opportunity to be registered as a **Qualified Patent Information Professional (QPIP)** based on prior experience recognition (**PER**) (aka grand-parenting). Applications from US and European residents will be accepted until the **11th of March 2019**. A call for applications from residents of other countries will be announced in due course.

Why should I apply for PER?

All professions have a set of credentials and some form of professional registration that communicates to the public that what they do is important and requires experience, a high degree of skill and up-to-date knowledge. Professional patent searchers and analysts currently don't have such a registration system. When a new employer or a new client is confronted with the choice of who to engage, registration can be an important determinant. It instantly tells the person that you have met the registration requirements and that you are part of a profession that has a set of standards. Do you really want to be the one, who in hindsight, wishes you had applied while the opportunity existed? ***After the 11th of March 2019, applications for PER will no longer be accepted from European and US residents. The time to act is now!!***

What are some of the requirements?

In exchange for not having to sit the examinations to become a QPIP, you ***may*** be called upon to serve on a committee or become involved in developing and teaching accredited courses or you ***may*** choose to attend and evaluate existing courses that are being considered for accreditation. Your expertise will be greatly valued and at the same time you will be earning Continued Professional Development points. You will also be lending a hand as this is a not-for-profit and entirely volunteer driven initiative created for patent information professionals by patent information professionals. It is estimated that you will spend between 3-10 hours or possibly more per month depending on the level of activity required. If you find that you are unable to answer the call for whatever reason, you will be excused from participating, but you can only decline two calls before losing your registration. For more details about the PER requirements, please see Rules 18 and 19 available at <https://qpip.org/ArticlesRulesSchedules>.

For a copy of the application form and other details concerning your application, please visit <https://qpip.org/PER> and the FAQs at: <https://qpip.org/PERFAQ>

Apply now and join many of your peers who are working in industry, academia, government and professional search service firms and who have already applied!