

All patent applications for which the request for examination or international application is filed on or after April 1, 2019, are eligible.

A new patent fee reduction/exemption program has been launched

Expanded Fee Reduction/Exemption Coverage

Eligible Applicants	Reduced rate	
	Examination fees / Patent fees for year 1 to year 10	Fees for PCT International Application
Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs)*	No Reduction ⇒ Reduced to 1/2	No Reduction ⇒ Reduced to 1/2
Corporation tax exempt SMEs*	Reduced to 1/2	No Reduction
R&D-oriented SMEs*	Reduced to 1/2	No Reduction ⇒ Reduced to 1/2
Micro Enterprises / Small & Medium Venture Enterprises*	Reduced to 1/3	Reduced to 1/3
SMEs approved based on Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima*	Reduced to 1/2 ⇒ Reduced to 1/4	No Reduction ⇒ Reduced to 1/4
University researchers, Universities, Colleges of technology, TLO, Research and Development Incorporated Administrative Agencies, Public research institutes, Local Research and Development Incorporated Administrative Agencies	Reduced to 1/2	No Reduction ⇒ Reduced to 1/2
Recipients of public assistance, Municipal tax exempt individuals	Examination fees/Patent fees for year 1 to 3: Exempt Patent fees for year 4 to 10: Reduced to 1/2	No Reduction
Income tax exempt individuals, Enterprise tax exempt individuals	Reduced to 1/2	No Reduction

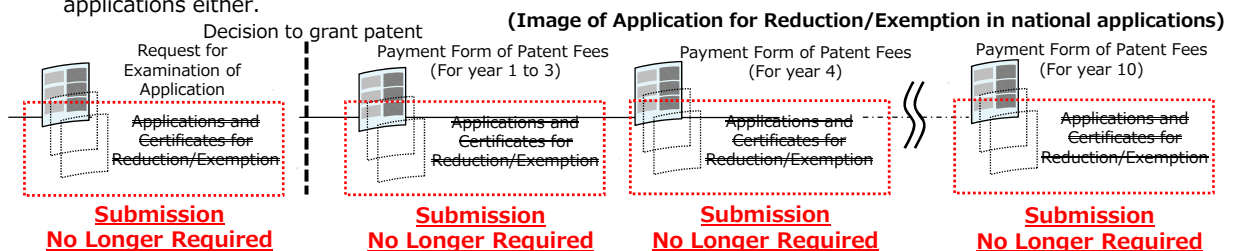
*The requirements for each eligible applicant differ. Please refer to the subsequent pages for details.

... Changed

... No change

Simplified Procedures for Reduction/Exemption Applications

- With regard to all patent applications for which a request for examination is filed on or after April 1, 2019, an application for fee reduction/exemption can be made without filing the application and certificates for reduction/exemption if it is stated on the Request for Examination of Application document or the Patent Fee Payment Form that the application in question is "subject to receiving a reduction/exemption" and that "the submission of a Reduction/Exemption application is omitted".
- Submission of Certificates is no longer required for the reduction application procedures for international applications either.



Please refer to the subsequent pages for more details.

1. Fee Reduction Program for Small & Medium Enterprises (Corporations)

Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

REQ 1 (1) Any company that meets one of the following conditions concerning either "Number of employees" or "Amount of capital or total contribution"

	Industry	Number of employees	Amount of capital or total contribution
(a)	Manufacturing, construction, transportation, other industries (excluding those included in (b) to (g))	Up to 300	Up to 300 million yen
(b)	Wholesale	Up to 100	Up to 100 million yen
(c)	Services (excluding those included in (f) and (g))*	Up to 100	Up to 50 million yen
(d)	Retail	Up to 50	Up to 50 million yen
(e)	Rubber products manufacturing industry (excluding automobile or aircraft tire and tube manufacturing industry and industrial belt manufacturing industry)	Up to 900	Up to 300 million yen
(f)	Software service industry or information processing service industry	Up to 300	Up to 300 million yen
(g)	Hotel business	Up to 200	Up to 50 million yen

OR

(2) Any of the following:

- Joint Enterprise Cooperatives, Cooperative Partnerships, Business Cooperatives, Minor Business Cooperatives, Cooperative Federations, Agricultural Cooperatives, Federations of Agricultural Cooperatives, Fishery Cooperatives, Federations of Fishery Cooperatives, Marine Product Processing Cooperatives, Federations of Marine Product Processing Cooperatives, Forestry Cooperatives, Federations of Forest Owners Cooperative Associations, Commerce and Industry Associations, Federations of Commerce and Industry Associations, Shopping District Promotion Associations, Federations of Shopping District Promotion Associations, Consumer Cooperatives or Federations of Consumer Cooperatives
- Liquor Brewery Associations, Federations of Liquor Brewery Associations, Central Unions of Liquor Brewery Associations, Liquor Merchants Associations, Federations of Liquor Merchants Associations or Central Unions of Liquor Merchants Associations*¹
- Specified Non-profit Organizations*²

REQ 2 SMEs not under the management of large enterprises (defined as corporations other than SMEs that satisfy **REQ 1**) *³

R&D-oriented SME

REQ 1 **REQ 1** of **SMEs** must be satisfied

REQ 2 (1) Ratio of expenses including experiment and research to the amount of revenue exceeds 3%

OR

(2) Patented invention or invention relating to the outcome of any of the following projects (an application has been filed within 2 years from the date on which the project/business ended)

- Subsidy payment programs for Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)
- R&D projects relating to technology in Approved Management Innovation Plans
- R&D projects relating to technology in Certified Plans for Exploration of New Business Sectors for Cross-sectoral Collaboration
- Specific R&D, etc. relating to approved plans of the Act on Enhancement of Small and Medium Enterprises' Core Manufacturing Technology

OR

(3) Patented invention or invention relating to the patent rights or the rights to receive a patent that is succeeded according to any of the following plans:

- Approved Management Innovation Plans
- Certified Plan for Exploration of New Business Sectors for Cross-sectoral Collaboration
- Approved plan relating to Act on Enhancement of Small and Medium Enterprises' Core Manufacturing Technology

Measures	<National Application>		< International Application >	
	Request for examination fee	: reduced to <u>1/2</u>	Transmittal fee / Search fee	: reduced to <u>1/2</u>
Patent fee (year 1 to 10)	: reduced to <u>1/2</u>	Preliminary examination fee	: reduced to <u>1/2</u>	
		International filing fee	: an amount equivalent to <u>1/2</u> of paid amount is granted	
		Handling fee	: an amount equivalent to <u>1/2</u> of paid amount is granted	

*1 Limited to liquor brewery associations, federations of liquor brewery associations, and central unions of liquor brewery associations where 2/3 or more direct or indirect members are liquor brewery corporations whose capital or total amount of investment is 300 million JPY or less, or those who employ 300 or fewer regular employees. Liquor merchants associations, federations of liquor merchants associations and central unions of liquor merchants associations are limited to those where 2/3 or more direct or indirect members are liquor seller corporations whose capital or total amount of investment is 50 million JPY (100 million JPY for liquor wholesalers) or less, or those who employ 50 or fewer regular employees (100 for liquor wholesalers).

*2 Limited to specified nonprofit corporations as defined in Article 2 (2) of the Act to Promote Specified Nonprofit Activities with 300 or fewer regular employees (50 for those whose principal business belongs to retail business, 100 for those whose principal business belongs to wholesale business or service business).

*3 Not under the management of large enterprises (defined as corporations other than SMEs that satisfy **REQ 1**) refers to falling under the following items A) and B)
 • A) A single large enterprise (a corporation other than SMEs that satisfy **REQ 1**) does not hold shares or capital contributions equivalent to 1/2 or more of the total number of shares or the total amount of contributions.
 • B) Multiple large enterprises (corporations other than SMEs that satisfy **REQ 1**) do not hold shares or capital contributions equivalent to 2/3 or more of the total number of shares or the total amount of contributions.

1. Fee Reduction Program for Small & Medium Enterprises (Corporations)

Corporation Tax Exempt SMEs

- REQ 1** Any corporation whose amount of stated capital or total amount of contributions does not exceed 300 million yen
- REQ 2** Not subject to Corporation tax
- REQ 3** Not under the management of any other corporation*

Measures

<National Application>

- Request for examination fee : reduced to **1/2**
- Patent fee (year 1 to 10) : reduced to **1/2**

- * Not under the management of any other company refers to falling under the following items A) and B).
- A) A single corporation other than the applicant does not hold shares or capital contributions that are equivalent to 1/2 or more of the total number of shares or total amount of capital contributions.
- B) Multiple companies other than the applicant do not hold shares or capital contributions that are equivalent to 2/3 or more of the total number of shares or total amount of capital contributions.

Micro Enterprises

- REQ 1** Any corporation with 20 employees or less (5 or less for commerce or service industry)
- REQ 2** Not under the management of large enterprises (corporations other than SMEs that satisfy **REQ 1** of **SMEs**)*¹

Small & Medium Venture Enterprises

- REQ 1** Any corporation that was established not more than 10 years ago, and whose amount of stated capital or total amount of contributions does not exceed 300 million yen
- REQ 2** Not under the management of large enterprises (corporations other than those whose amount of stated capital or total amount of contributions does not exceed 300 million yen)*²

Measures

<National Application>

- Request for examination fee : reduced to **1/3**
- Patent fee (year 1 to 10) : reduced to **1/3**

<International Application>

- Transmittal fee / Search fee : reduced to **1/3**
- Preliminary examination fee : reduced to **1/3**
- International filing fee : an amount equivalent to **2/3** of paid amount is granted
- Handling fee : an amount equivalent to **2/3** of paid amount is granted

- *¹ Not under the management of large enterprises (corporations other than SMEs that satisfy **REQ 1** of **SMEs**) refers to falling under the following items A) and B).
- A) A single large enterprise (a corporation other than an SME that satisfies **REQ 1** of **SMEs**) does not hold shares or capital contributions that are equivalent to 1/2 or more of the total number of shares or total amount of capital contributions.
- B) Multiple large enterprises (corporations other than SMEs that satisfy **REQ 1** of **SMEs**) do not hold shares or capital contributions that are equivalent to 2/3 or more of the total number of shares or total amount of capital contributions.
- *² Not under the management of large enterprises (corporations other than those whose amount of stated capital or total amount of contributions is 300 million yen or less) refers to falling under the following items A) and B).
- A) A single large enterprise (a corporation other than one whose amount of stated capital or total amount of contributions is 300 million yen or less) does not hold shares or capital contributions that are equivalent to 1/2 or more of the total number of shares or total amount of contributions.
- B) Multiple large enterprises (corporations other than those whose amount of stated capital or total amount of contributions is 300 million yen or less) do not hold shares or capital contributions that are equivalent to 2/3 or more of the total number of shares or total amount of contributions.

SME that engage in business based on Approved Intensive Promotion Plans of the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima

- REQ 1** **REQ 1** of **SMEs** must be satisfied
- REQ 2** The patented invention or invention is relating to the outcome of business carried out in the Fukushima International Research and Industry Development zones (15 Cities, towns and villages including Hamadori district) specified in Article 81(2)(iv) of the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima based on the Approved Intensive Promotion Plans prescribed in Article 83 of the same act.
- REQ 3** The application is filed within two years from the end date of the Approved Intensive Promotion Plan period (31 March 2021)

Measures

<National Application>

- Request for examination fee : reduced to **1/4**
- Patent fee (year 1 to 10) : reduced to **1/4**

<International Application>

- Transmittal fee / Search fee : reduced to **1/4**
- Preliminary examination fee : reduced to **1/4**
- International filing fee : an amount equivalent to **3/4** of paid amount is granted
- Handling fee : an amount equivalent to **3/4** of paid amount is granted

2. Fee Reduction Program for Small & Medium Enterprises (Sole Proprietorship)

Small & Medium Sole Proprietorship

REQ Any sole proprietorship that satisfies the following conditions concerning the "Number of employees"

	Industry	Number of employees
(a)	Manufacturing, construction, transportation, other industries (excluding those included in (b) to (g))	Up to 300
(b)	Wholesale	Up to 100
(c)	Services (excluding those included in (f) and (g))*	Up to 100
(d)	Retail	Up to 50
(e)	Rubber products manufacturing industry (excluding automobile or aircraft tire and tube manufacturing industry and industrial belt manufacturing industry)	Up to 900
(f)	Software service industry or information processing service industry	Up to 300
(g)	Hotel business	Up to 200

R&D-oriented Sole Proprietorship

REQ 1 **REQ** of **SM Sole Proprietorship** must be satisfied

REQ 2 (1) Ratio of expenses including experiment and research to the amount of revenue exceeds 3%

OR

(2) Patented invention or invention relating to the outcome of any of the following projects (an application has been filed within 2 years from the date on which the project ended)

- Subsidy payment programs for Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)
- R&D projects related to technology in approved management innovation plans
- R&D projects related to technology in certified plans for exploration of new business sectors for cross-sectoral collaboration
- Specific R&D, etc. related to approved plans of the Act on Enhancement of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises' Core Manufacturing Technology

OR

(3) Patented invention or invention relating to the patent rights or the rights to receive a patent that is succeeded according to any of the following plans:

- Approved management innovation plans
- Certified plan for exploration of new business sectors for cross-sectoral collaboration
- Approved plan relating to Act on Enhancement of Small and Medium Enterprises' Core Manufacturing Technology

Measures

<National Application>

Request for examination fee : reduced to 1/2

Patent fee (year 1 to 10) : reduced to 1/2

<International Application>

Transmittal fee / Search fee : reduced to 1/2

Preliminary examination fee : reduced to 1/2

International filing fee : An amount equivalent to 1/2 of paid amount is granted

Handling fee : An amount equivalent to 1/2 of paid amount is granted

Enterprise Tax Exempt Sole Proprietorships

REQ Not subject to enterprise tax

Measures

<National Application>

Request for examination fee : reduced to 1/2

Patent fee (year 1 to 10) : reduced to 1/2

Q&A

Q At what point of time should we determine the requirements of the applicant?

A This should be determined at the time of application for reduction/exemption. (i.e. when the request for examination is filed or the payment of patent fees is made)

Q Is it possible to apply for reduction/exemption after the submission of the request for examination of application and the patent fee payment form to the Patent Office?

A The application for reduction/exemption must be submitted at the same time as the submission of the request for examination of application or the patent fee payment form, and cannot be submitted afterward.

2. Fee Reduction Program for Small & Medium Enterprises (Sole proprietorship)

Micro Sole Proprietorship

REQ Any entity with 20 employees or less (5 or less for commerce or service industry)

Venture Sole Proprietorship

REQ Any entity that was established no more than 10 years ago

Measures

<National Application>

Request for examination fee : reduced to 1/3

Patent fee (year 1 to 10) : reduced to 1/3

<International Application>

Transmittal fee / Search fee : reduced to 1/3

Preliminary examination fee : reduced to 1/3

International filing fee : an amount equivalent to 2/3 of paid amount is granted

Handling fee : an amount equivalent to 2/3 of paid amount is granted

Sole proprietorships that engage in business based on Approved Intensive Promotion Plans of the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima

REQ 1 **REQ** of **SM Sole Proprietorship** must be satisfied

REQ 2 The patented invention or invention is related to the outcome of business carried out in the Fukushima International Research and Industry Development zones (15 Cities, towns and villages including Hamadori district) specified in Article 81 (2) (iv) of the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima based on the Approved Intensive Promotion Plans prescribed in Article 83 of the same act.

REQ 3 The application is filed within 2 years from the end date of the Approved Intensive Promotion Plan period (March 31, 2021)

Measures

<National Application>

Request for examination fee : reduced to 1/4

Patent fee (year 1 to 10) : reduced to 1/4

<International Application>

Transmittal fee / Search fee : reduced to 1/4

Preliminary examination fee : reduced to 1/4

International filing fee : an amount equivalent to 3/4 of paid amount is granted

Handling fee : an amount equivalent to 3/4 of paid amount is granted

3. Fee Reduction/Exemption Program for Individuals

Public Assistance Recipients

REQ Any individual on public assistance

Municipal Tax Exempt Individuals

REQ Not subject to municipal tax

Measures

<National Application>

Request for examination fee : **exemption**

Patent fee (year 1 to 3) : **exemption**

Patent fee (year 4 to 10) : reduced to 1/2

Income Tax Exempt Individuals

REQ Not subject to income tax

Measures

<National Application>

Request for examination fee : reduced to 1/2

Patent fee (year 1 to 10) : reduced to 1/2

4. Fee Reduction Program for Universities / Research & Development Institutes

University Researchers Employee invention requirement is no longer enforced.

- REQ** (1) University Presidents, Vice presidents, Deans, Professors, Associate professors, Assistant professors, Lecturers, Assistants or other staff members exclusively engaged in research at universities
- OR**
- (2) College Presidents, Professors, Associate professors, Assistant professors, Lecturers, Assistants or other staff members exclusively engaged in research at colleges of technology
- OR**
- (3) Directors or staff members exclusively engaged in research at Inter-University Research Institute Corporations

Universities Employee invention requirement is no longer enforced.

- REQ** (1) Entities that have established a University or College of Technology
- OR**
- (2) Inter-University Research Institute Corporations

Approved TLOs

- REQ** Entities that implement a Specified University Technology Transfer Project as defined in Article 2 (1) of the Act on the Promotion of Technology Transfer from Universities to Private Business Operators (TLO Act) relating to an Implementation Plan approved under Article 4 (1) of the same act

Incorporated Administrative Agencies Employee invention requirement is no longer enforced.

- REQ** Independent Administrative Institutions that conduct business pertaining to research and development, and are included in the below list:

Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development	Marine-Earth Science and Technology	Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Science
National Institute of Information and Communications Technology	Japan Atomic Energy Agency	Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute
National Research Institute of Brewing	Japan Organization for Employment of the Elderly, Persons with Disabilities and Job Seekers	Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency
Japan Mint	Japan Organization of Occupational Health and Safety	National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology
National Printing Bureau	National Hospital Organization	National Institute of Technology and Evaluation
National Museum of Nature and Science	National Institutes of Biomedical Innovation, Health and Nutrition	Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation
National Institute for Materials Science	National Cancer Center	New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization
National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention	National Cerebral and Cardiovascular Center	Public Works Research Institute
National Institutes for Quantum and Radiological Science and Technology	National Center of Neurology and Psychiatry	Building Research Institute
National Museum of Art	National Center for Global Health and Medicine	National Institute of Maritime, Port and Aviation Technology
National Institutes for Cultural Heritage	National Center for Child Health and Development	Maritime Education and Training for Seafarers
Japan Science and Technology Agency	National Center for Geriatrics and Gerontology	Automobile and Land Transport Technology
RIKEN	Food and Agricultural Materials Inspection Center	Japan Railway Construction, Transport and Technology Agency
Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency	National Livestock Breeding Center	National Institute for Environmental Studies
Japan Sport Council	National Agriculture and Food Research Organization	

TLOs related to Research and Development Incorporated Administrative Agency

- REQ** Entities that engage the transfer of patent rights etc. pertaining to research results of the Incorporated Administrative Agencies listed above

Public Research Institutes Employee invention requirement is no longer enforced.

- REQ** Entities that have established a public research institute (local governments)

Local Research and Development Incorporated Administrative Agencies Employee invention requirement is no longer enforced.

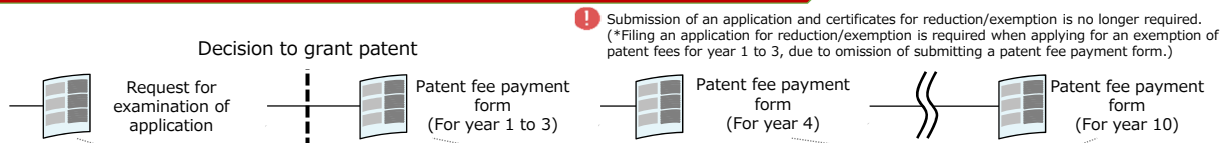
- REQ** Local Incorporated Administrative Agencies that conduct business pertaining to research and development

Measures

<National Application>		<International Application>	
Request for examination fee	: reduced to <u>1/2</u>	Transmittal fee / Search fee	: reduced to <u>1/2</u>
Patent fee (year 1 to 10)	: reduced to <u>1/2</u>	Preliminary examination fee	: reduced to <u>1/2</u>
		International filing fee	: an amount equivalent to <u>1/2</u> of paid amount is granted
		Handling fee	: an amount equivalent to <u>1/2</u> of paid amount is granted

5. Application Process for Fee Reduction/Exemption

Application for Reduction/Exemption of Examination Fee / Patent Fee



! Submission of an application and certificates for reduction/exemption is no longer required.
(*Filing an application for reduction/exemption is required when applying for an exemption of patent fees for year 1 to 3, due to omission of submitting a patent fee payment form.)

sample

【書類名】 出願審査請求書
【提出日】 年 月 日
【あて先】 特許庁長官殿
【出願の表示】
【出願番号】 特願20XX-XXXXXX
【請求項の数】 X
【請求人】
【識別番号】 XXXXXXXXX
【氏名又は名称】 ○▼株式会社
【代表者】 特許 太郎 印
【手数料の表示】
【予納台帳番号】 XXXXXX
【納付金額】 XXXXXX
【手数料に関する特記事項】
特許法施行令第10条第1号に掲げる者に該当する請求人である。減免申請書の提出を省略する。

sample

【書類名】 特許料納付書
【提出日】 年 月 日
【あて先】 特許庁長官殿
【出願番号】 特願20XX-XXXXXX
【請求項の数】 X
【特許出願人】
【識別番号】 XXXXXXXXX
【氏名又は名称】 ○▼株式会社
【納付者】
【識別番号】 XXXXXXXXX
【氏名又は名称】 ○▼株式会社
【代表者】 特許 太郎
【納付年分】 第1年分から第3年分
【特許料等に関する特記事項】
特許法施行令第10条第1号に掲げる者に該当する特許出願人である。減免申請書の提出を省略する。
【特許料の表示】
【予納台帳番号】 XXXXXX
【納付金額】 XXXXXX

For year 1 to 3

sample

【書類名】 特許料納付書
【提出日】 年 月 日
【あて先】 特許庁長官殿
【特許番号】 特許第 XXXXXXXX 号
【請求項の数】 X
【特許権者】
【識別番号】 XXXXXXXXX
【氏名又は名称】 ○▼株式会社
【納付者】
【識別番号】 XXXXXXXXX
【氏名又は名称】 ○▼株式会社
【代表者】 特許 太郎
【納付年分】 第X年分
【特許料等に関する特記事項】
特許法施行令第10条第1号に掲げる者に該当する特許権者である。減免申請書の提出を省略する。
【特許料の表示】
【予納台帳番号】 XXXXXX
【納付金額】 XXXXXX

For year 4 to 10

▶ When being exempted from the request for examination fee, include statements that your application is "subject to receiving a reduction/exemption and that submission of a reduction/exemption application is omitted" under

【手数料に関する特記事項】.

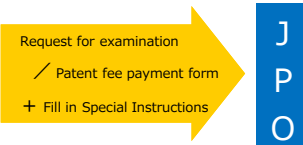
▶ For joint applications, the exemption or reduction amount is based on the share of the entity eligible for reduction/exemption.

! Submission of a document certifying the share is no longer necessary.

▶ Application for reduction/exemption should be sent to JPO.

! The destination for reduction/exemption applications from R&D-oriented SMEs, Public Research Institutes, and Local Research and Development Incorporated Administrative Agencies has changed FROM the Regional Bureaus of Economy, Trade and Industry TO the JPO.

Applicant



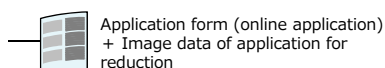
For more information on the application process for fee reduction/exemption, including how to state that your application is **subject to receiving a reduction/exemption**, and how to fill out the payment form for joint applications ...

特許 減免

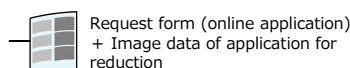


Click !

Application for Reduction of Fees for PCT International Application



International Application
(Transmittal fee / Search fee)



Request for Preliminary Examination (optional)
(Preliminary examination fee)

! Submission of certificates is no longer necessary.

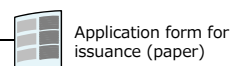
! For online applications, submission of the original document (paper) of the application for reduction is no longer necessary.

▶ When being granted a reduction of international application fees (**Transmittal fee**, **Search fee**, and **Preliminary examination fee**), submit image data of the application for reduction together with submission of the application forms.
(*For online applications)

Application for Subsidies for Promoting International Applications



(International filing fee)



(Handling fee (optional))

! Submission of certificates is no longer necessary.

For instructions on how to prepare an application for reduction and information about the application process for fee reduction by a paper application ...

国際出願 軽減



Click !

▶ Subsidies for promoting international applications refers to the payment of an amount equivalent to part of the paid amount for **international filing fee** and **handling fee** in accordance with the "Payment Guidelines for Subsidies for Promoting International Applications"

▶ The application process for subsidies for promoting international applications involves submitting a paper application form for the subsidy payment within a predetermined period.

For instructions on how to prepare an application and information about the application process for subsidies for promoting international applications ...

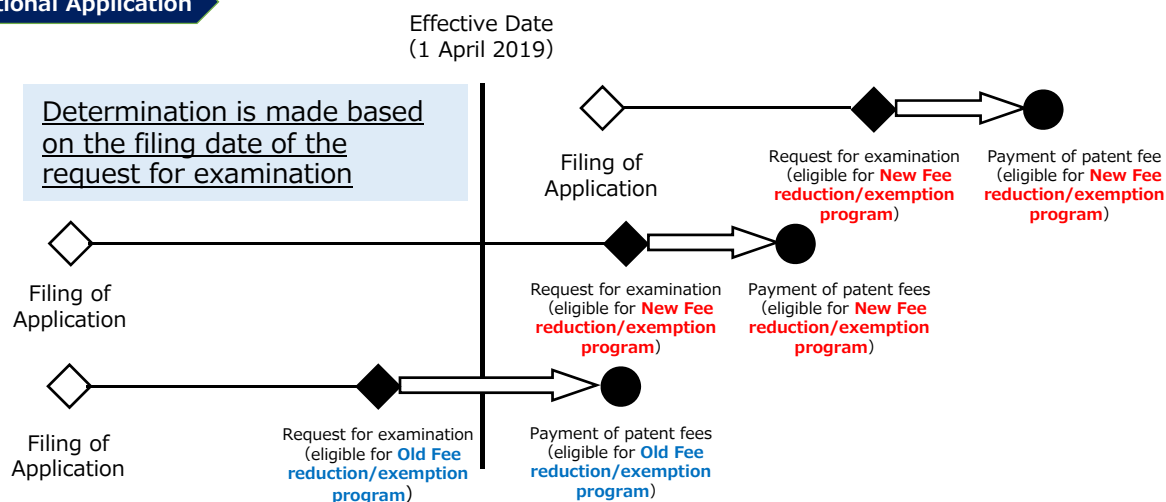
国際出願 交付金



Click !

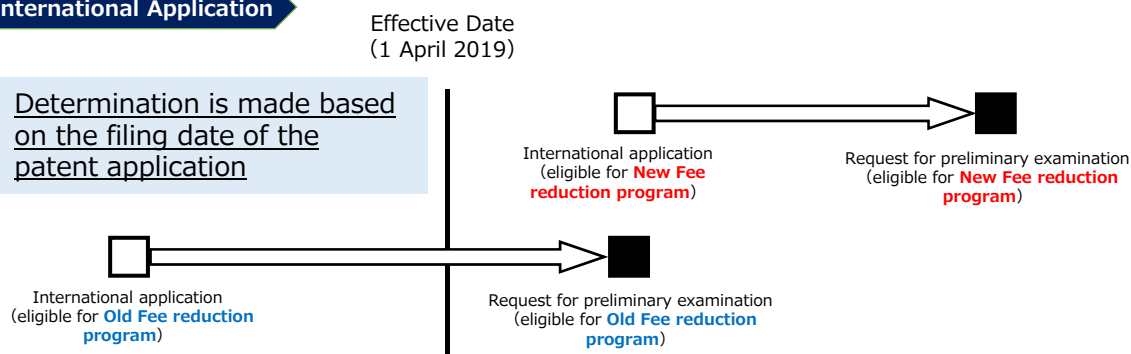
6. New Eligible Entities / New Application Procedures for reduction/exemption

National Application



- ▶ When a request for examination is filed on or after the effective date, the applicability of a reduction/exemption of examination fees / patent fees will be determined in accordance with the program (**New fee reduction/exemption program**) described in this leaflet. Procedures for applying for a reduction/exemption shall be carried out in accordance with the application procedures for the program (**New fee reduction/exemption program**) described in this leaflet.
 - ▶ When the request for examination was filed prior to the effective date, the applicability of a reduction/exemption of examination fees / patent fees will be determined in accordance with the program (**Old fee reduction/exemption program**) that was used before the effective date. Procedures for applying for a reduction/exemption shall be carried out in accordance with the application procedures for the program (**Old fee reduction/exemption program**) that was used before the effective date.
- For example, the following procedures differ from those of the **New fee reduction/exemption program**.
- Reduction applications from R&D-oriented SMEs, Public Research Institutes, and Local Research and Development Incorporated Administrative Agencies should be sent to Regional Bureaus of Economy, Trade and Industry.
 - Submission of application and certificates for reduction/exemption of the initial payment of patent fees is necessary.

International Application



- ▶ When filing an International Application on or after the effective date, the applicability of a reduction of the international filing fees (transmittal fee / search fee) and the fee for the request for preliminary examination (preliminary examination fee) will be determined in accordance with the program (**New fee reduction program**) described in this leaflet. Procedures for applying for a reduction shall be carried out in accordance with the application procedures for the program (**New fee reduction program**) described in this leaflet.
 - ▶ When the International Application was filed prior to the effective date, the applicability of a reduction of the international filing fees (transmittal fee / search fee) and the fee for the request for preliminary examination (preliminary examination fee) will be determined in accordance with the program (**Old fee reduction program**) that was used before the effective date. Consequently, in case the International Application was filed prior to the effective date, the procedures for applying for a reduction concerning a request for preliminary examination which is conducted after the effective date shall still be conducted in accordance with the Application Procedures for the program (**Old fee reduction program**) that was used before the effective date.
- For example, the following procedures differ from those of the **New fee reduction program**.
- When applying for reduction by online application, submission of a paper version of the application for reduction and the certificates is necessary, in addition to the submission of image data of the application for reduction.
 - When applying for reduction by written application, the submission of certificates is necessary.
- ▶ Please visit the JPO website to learn about the application of "Payment Guidelines for Subsidies for Promoting International Applications". (Please search using the keywords "国際出願 交付金".)

7. Application of New Fee Reduction/Exemption Program for Foreign Applicants

Foreign residents can apply for fee reduction/exemption

- Foreign applicants qualify for new fee reduction/exemption program if they satisfy the right conditions.
- The Application Procedures are carried out in the same way as those for Japanese applicants.
- The conditions for foreign applicants for each entity eligible for reduction/exemption are as follows:

Eligible Applicants for Fee Reduction/Exemption	Conditions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Companies and Sole proprietorships among SMEs • Small & medium venture enterprises • Micro enterprises • Companies and Sole proprietorships among R&D-oriented SMEs • Public Research Institutes • TLOs related to Research and Development Incorporated Administrative Agencies 	Same as for Japanese applicants.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperatives among SMEs • Cooperatives among R&D-oriented SMEs 	<p>Both of the following conditions a and b must be met as an entity equivalent to a Cooperative, in addition to satisfying the same conditions as Japanese applicants.</p> <p>a. The Governing Act for Establishment and the Articles of Incorporation of said foreign corporation contain the stated objective to enhance mutual benefits for members as well as a statement of having an objective equivalent to the objectives*1 for Cooperatives prescribed under items (h) to (q) in Article 10, No. 1, of the Order for Enforcement of the Patent Act*2.</p> <p>b. Having legal personality</p> <p>*1 The objective of a cooperative is defined in Article 1 (Purpose) of the Governing Act for Establishment of each cooperative.</p> <p>*2 Items (h) to (q) in of Article 10, No. 1, of the Order for Enforcement of the Patent Act refers to cooperatives corresponding to the items (h) to (q) in the table of "1. (1) Cooperative" for SMEs (Cooperatives / NPOs).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs) among SMEs • NPOs among R&D-oriented SMEs 	<p>Both of the following conditions a and b must be met as an entity equivalent to an NPO, in addition to satisfying the same conditions as Japanese applicants.</p> <p>a. The Governing Act for Establishment and the Articles of Incorporation of said corporation state that the purpose is not to make profit and also contain a provisions on conducting activities falling under any of those prescribed in the items in the Appended Table of Article 2 of the Act on Promotion of Specified Non-profit Activities, for the purpose of contributing to enhancing the interests of many and unspecified persons.</p> <p>b. Having legal personality</p>
Corporation tax exempt SMEs	Any company that falls under all of the following (a), (b), and (c) (a) Companies whose amount of stated capital or total amount of contributions does not exceed 300 million yen (*same as for Japanese applicants) (b) Those having no income (whose amount obtained by subtracting the total operating expenses from the total operating revenue does not exceed 0 yen) (c) Not under the management of another company (*same as for Japanese applicants)
Individuals (Municipal tax exempt individuals)	Any entity, whose total amount of each type of income calculated under Articles 23 to 35, and 69 of the Income Tax Act (interest income, dividend income, real estate income, business income, employment income, retirement income, timber income, capital gains, occasional income, and miscellaneous income) is less than 1.5 million yen
Individuals (Income tax exempt)	Any entity, whose total amount of each type of income as above is less than 2.5 million yen
Individuals (Enterprise tax exempt sole proprietorships)	Any entity, whose total amount of real estate income and business income calculated under Articles 26 and 27 of the Income Tax Act is less than 2.9 million yen
Academic Discount	Any of those listed below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University Presidents, Vice presidents, Deans, Professors, Associate professors, Assistant professors, Lecturers, Assistants or other staff members exclusively engaged in research at universities, where the University is equivalent to Universities as defined under Article 1 of the School Education Act (hereinafter referred to as "Universities") • College Presidents, Professors, Associate professors, Assistant professors, Lecturers, Assistants or other staff members exclusively engaged in research at colleges of technology, where the College is equivalent to the Colleges of Technology as defined under Article 1 of the School Education Act (hereinafter referred to as "Colleges of Technology") • Entity that has established a school equivalent to Universities • Entity that has established a school equivalent to College of Technology
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals (individual on public assistance) • Independent Administrative Institutions • Local Incorporated Administrative Agencies • Approved TLOs • SMEs that engage in business based on Approved Intensive Promotion Plans of the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima 	Foreign applicants are not eligible to apply.

Please direct any questions or comments regarding this leaflet to:

Adjustment Team, General Coordination Division, Policy Planning and Coordination Department,
 Japan Patent Office (JPO) Tel: 03-3581-1101 ext. 2105