Frequently Asked Questions

Applying for Professional Registration

Which register is right for me?

Why not take our [handy quiz?](#)

We typically recommend the below for each register:

RSciTech applicants must have a relevant level 3 qualification or equivalent learning and achievement and would have at least 1 years recent, relevant work experience.

RSci applicants must have a relevant level 5 qualification or equivalent learning and achievement and would have at least 2 years recent, relevant work experience.

CSci applicants must have a relevant level 7 qualification or equivalent learning and achievement and would have at least 4 -5 years recent, relevant work post master's level or equivalent.

What do you mean by recent experience?

Recent experience means within the last 3 years. When completing your competence report you can draw examples from further back in your career, but the majority of your examples must be from the past three years.

What do you mean by relevant experience/qualifications?

Relevant experience refers to science-based experience and qualifications. If you have a qualification that is not science-based, you would be required to complete the equivalency report section of the application. You can find an example of the CSci, RSci & RSciTech equivalency reports [here.](#)

What are the qualification levels?

In England, Wales and Northern Ireland there are 9 [qualification levels](#). Here is a [link](#) to the UK government website which explains different qualifications and their levels for England, Wales and Northern Ireland, there is also information about Scotland as well as countries outside of the UK.

When you submit your application, we will check your qualifications and their UK equivalent, if we are unable to verify your qualifications, we will require a statement of comparability which can be obtained from [ENIC](#).

What's the difference between a Licensed Professional Body and the Science Council?

The Science Council holds the registers for CSci, CSciTeach RSci and RSciTech. We set the standards for professional registration for practicing scientists and science technicians across all scientific disciplines.

Professional registration is awarded by a professional body that has been licensed by the Science Council.

Some Licensed Professional Body choose to process their own professional registration applications in house, some exclusively use the Science Council application portal, and some do both.

The Science Council processes applications for 3 out of the 4 registers CSci, RSci & RSciTech. CSciTeach is not processed through the Science Council application portal, currently three of our Licensed Professional Body accept CSciTeach applications and they are The Royal Society of Biology, The Royal Society of Chemistry and The Association for Science Education, CSciTeach applications are made directly through those organisations.

What if my Professional Body is not listed?

Please check our Licensed Professional Body page, here you will find a list Licensed Professional Bodies, the registers they hold and if they accept direct applications only. If your professional body is not listed, they do not hold a Licence for CSci, CSciTeach, RSci or RSciTech. Only professional bodies that hold a licence will be able to accept professional registration applications.

How much does professional registration cost?

The cost of professional registration will vary depending on your chosen award and the application route that you take.

See a detailed view of our fees and costing structure here.

Many employers are willing to cover the costs of these fees. Check what your employer's policy is. In most cases you can claim tax relief on fees for CSci and Professional Body membership fees.

Please visit the webpage or contact the relevant Licensed Professional Body to check their charges.

Do you have mentors?

The Science Council does not have a central mentoring scheme. Your chosen Licensed Professional Body may have a mentor program so please contact them directly for more information.

Can I become registered if I live outside of the UK?

Professional registration through the Science Council is open to scientific professionals anywhere, as long as they are members of a professional body or learned society that has a licence from the Science Council.

Prior to Brexit, the Science Council registers were accepted for the purposes of the Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications Directive (2005/36/EC, as amended by 2013/55/EU) as a regulated profession with the Science Council appointed as the Competent Authority. Under the directive an individual fully qualified to practice a regulated profession in one member state should be treated, in principle, as qualified to practice that same profession in another Member State. Following Brexit this no longer applies to the UK.

However, professional registration, particularly chartership, is recognised as a standard of excellence around the world. The Science Council registers are open to professionals working in any country, providing parity between professionals in different countries as well as between the different scientific professions. If you are a registrant and you move to a different country, your registration will continue to be valid as long as you renew each year and maintain your CPD record.

The Application Form

How do I start?

To complete your application, you will need:

- An up-to-date CV
- Details of your qualifications including certificates
- A valid credit or debit card
- Details of your supporter

When you are ready, start an application in the application portal. Once you have created an account you can log in again at any time to continue your application. Make sure to save the work you have done when you log out so it will be there for you the next time you log in.

Alternatively, if you are already a member of a Licensed Professional Body you can apply directly with them.

To apply for CSciTeach you will need to choose a Licensed Professional Body that offers CSciTeach and apply via them.

What will I be asked?

There are several stages to filling in your application:

Select which award you are applying for.

Initial questions – these are just a few questions to check you meet the criteria for your chosen register.

Tell us about yourself – submit your personal details such as name, address, email address.

Licensed Professional Body membership – either provide your membership ID (if you are already a member of a Professional Body licensed to award the registration you're applying for) or select which Licensed Professional Body you would like to join.

Payment – this is the section where we will collect your application and registration fees.

Career profile – we will ask for details of your employment history and will need a copy of your CV.

Qualifications – here you can upload your relevant qualification certificates.

Equivalency (where applicable) – if you do not have the relevant qualification for your chosen register you can complete the equivalency report section.

Competence report – this is where you will demonstrate that you meet the standard for your chosen register.

Tell us about your supporter - you will be asked to provide their name, job title, employer and work email address.

Your interest in professional registration – here you can let us know what motivated you to apply for professional registration.

Declaration - sign up to the CPD standards and registrant code of conduct.

Once this has been completed you can submit your finished application for supporter review.

What standards must I meet?

Find the RSciTech, RSci, CSci and CSciTeach standards here.

To be awarded registration you must:

Be able to demonstrate in writing that you meet these competencies.

Sign up to a Code of Conduct. Each Professional Body has its own code. All of them meet our minimum standard for a Code of Conduct.

Meet the requirements for membership for one of these Licensed Professional Bodies.

Pay your fee.

To remain on the register, you must demonstrate you are maintaining or advancing your skills and knowledge through continuing professional development (CPD) and you must continue to pay your fee.

What are the academic and work experience requirements?

The academic and work experience requirements for professional registration depend on the register which you are applying for.

Read the guidance on academic and work experience requirements here.

Is there a word count for my application?

We recommend around 300-350 words per section.

For example, around 300-350 words for section A1, 300-350 for section A2 and so on.

For tips and tricks on how to fill out your competence report, check out our guidance here. Alternatively, attend one of our free virtual workshops.

How long does an application take?

You are in control of how long you take to complete each section. You can save what you have added as you go along. Most people fill in their application over several sessions, a piece at a time. The most challenging part is completing your competence report. Read our top tips for completing your competence report.

After submitting your completed application, the Science Council will complete some initial checks of your application.

When the checks are complete and no amendments are required, two assessors will be assigned to review your application. It can take from 3 to 12 weeks for the assessors to be assigned and complete the review of your application.

Once we receive the two assessors' reviews, you will be advised of their recommendation.

Is there a deadline?

Applications must be submitted within 3 months of starting, applications are automatically deleted after three months. If you are not ready to start your application but would like to look at an example, this can be found here.

Where can I get help and support?

We provide monthly free online workshops to help you complete your application for professional registration.

Visit our support page to find out more.

For applicants that use the apprenticeship shortened route, further guidance, including self directed support can be found here.

You can also get in touch with the Science Council directly at registration@sciencecouncil.org we will be happy to help.

Inclusive practices

The Science Council is committed to inclusive practice. If you have any difficulty completing your application and would like to discuss accessibility requirements, please contact the Senior Registration Officer, Yasmin Finch - y.finch@sciencecouncil.org. Yasmin will be able to speak with you to understand your needs and how we can help.

Do you have an example application?

Example blank applications and example successful competence reports can be found [here.](#)

Who should my supporter be?

Your application needs to be supported by a someone who can attest to the information you have provided - the sort of person you would ask for a professional reference should you need one. They should be familiar with your work.

This will most likely be your line manager, however a senior colleague or client who knows the quality of your work may also be appropriate.

Your supporter should have enough scientific knowledge and expertise to be justified in supporting your application. If possible your supporter should be a member of a relevant professional body and hold either Registered or Chartered status with the Science Council, this may help you as they will understand what professional standards are required.

Whoever you choose, you must get their permission before providing us with their contact details. If other people in your team are also applying for professional registration, your supporter may be supporting their applications as well. This is fine, but you may need to be sensitive to how busy they are.

Information for your supporter

Please pass the link to the [supporters](#) page on to your supporter once you have agreed with them that they will support your application for registration.

Your supporter will be asked to log in to the application system to make their comments on your application. You will be automatically notified when they have competed their input. Supporters are busy people and may need reminding to complete their part.

If they have any questions or concerns not answered on the page please ask them to [contact us.](#)

The Application Process

What happens after I submit my application?

Your application will be checked by Science Council staff, if any amendments are required your application will be sent back to you for editing. If your application passes the Science Council checks your application will be sent to two of our trained volunteers for assessment.

Will I receive updates?

You will receive emails from the Science Council at each stage of the assessment process. You can also [contact us](#) if you have any questions.

How long does the assessment process take?

The assessment can take up to 12 weeks during busy periods.

What if my application is unsuccessful?

In most cases you will have an opportunity to make changes and resubmit for further assessment. In rare cases the assessors may decide that your application is not at the right level for your chosen register. If this is the case Science Council staff will explain your options.

What if my application is recommended by the assessors?

Your application will be passed to your chosen Licensed Professional Body for further ratification. Once this is complete your Licensed Professional Body will contact you with confirmation of your membership (if you are not already a member) and your registration.

How long will it take for my name to appear on the register?

The Science Council receive registrant data from Licensed Professional Bodies on a quarterly basis. It may take a few weeks for your name to appear on the register.

How do I maintain my registration going forward?

To remain on the Science Council register you must maintain your Professional Body membership, pay your annual renewal fee and submit your annual CPD return to your Professional Body. CPD advice and support can be found here.