A Universal Competence Framework for Scientists

Science Council
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Scientific advancements depend more and more on breaking down traditional discipline and sectoral boundaries, while public funding for science brings with it a need to maintain trust and confidence.

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What is professional registration?

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Professional registration proves:

- Application of knowledge and understanding
- Personal responsibility
- Interpersonal skills
- Professional practice
- Professionalism

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The Science Council defines 5 categories of learning activities:

- Work-based learning
- Professional activity
- Formal / Educational
- Self-directed
- Other

Professional development that takes place while the registrant is at work.

Participating in activities that develop the professional skills and knowledge of other professionals.

Participating in structured learning or activities that lead to gaining academic/professional qualifications.

When an individual identifies opportunities to develop their knowledge and skills and does so independently.

Activities that help develop transferrable skills that are valuable in the current role and future roles.

The benefits of professional registration

Mobility
Registration acts as a skills passport, demonstrating that a registrant has the combination of scientific knowledge and cross-cutting skills required of all professional scientists. CSci is recognised under the EU Directive: Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications, helping registrants to move across national borders as well as discipline boundaries.

Currency
Just as a passport needs to be renewed, so too does professional registration. Through their commitment to lifelong learning, and engagement with continuing professional development (CPD), registrants are able to demonstrate that their skills are up to date and they are at the forefront of their scientific discipline.

Progression
Registration acts as a progression framework, providing a supportive structure for early career scientists and technicians to enable them to progress both within academia and beyond.

Confidence
The Science Council’s registers increase confidence of individual registrants, enabling them to recognise the breadth of their skills. Equally important, they provide confidence to employers and increase public trust by supporting registrants’ professional development and holding them to high ethical and professional standards.

5 steps to becoming a registered professional

1. Sign up to the Science Council’s online application system at: sciencecouncil.org/apply
2. Choose which registration award to apply for. There is a quick-check tool available in the system that can help you decide.
3. Complete the application form and competence report. We have lots of information and advice to help you along the way.
4. Either provide your current professional body membership details, or choose one from those licensed to award Science Council registration.
5. Your application is assessed by two independent and experienced professionals. Or you may choose the option of a face to face assessment.

The Medical Research Council (MRC), as a large employer of technicians and technical staff, is recognising their importance to science by providing better career support and guidance for this group of staff.

We are working towards becoming an Employer Champion with the Science Council and are encouraging and supporting our staff to join their professional registration scheme to get recognition for the work they do and support their career development.

Medical Research Council

Having CSci status reinforces a sense of continuity between the research I carried out for my doctorate and communicating science, and makes me feel part of a wider scientific community.

I find the structure of the CPD scheme I follow for CSci incredibly helpful when deciding what training will be most beneficial for me. I also feel a sense of perspective and achievement from the reflection and planning aspect of the CPD.

Dr Sharon Ann Holgate, CSci

The Medical Research Council (MRC) registers medical research scientists. The PDS (Professional Development Scheme) is the scheme for non-scientists, such as technicians and non-specialist audiences.