

Academic requirements for each register

Academic requirements

The following academic criteria is required for each register:

1. RSciTech applicants **must** have a level 3 qualification or equivalent* learning and achievement.
2. RSci applicants **must** have a level 5 qualification or equivalent* learning and achievement.
3. CSci and CSciTech applicants **must** have a level 7 qualification or equivalent* learning and achievement.

*Equivalent refers to the QAA (Quality Assurance Agency for Education) descriptors.

(Note: All round professional competence will be the deciding factor, and there are several other ways in which the required knowledge, understanding and skills can be demonstrated for applicants without the relevant qualifications.)

International qualifications

International qualifications and institutions will need to be recognised by UK NARIC. If a Licensed Body has any concerns over the academic qualification of international applicants, then they are advised to check the applicant's qualifications on the list of recognised HEIs on the UK NARIC web site. If they cannot find the applicants' University listed then they are advised to ask the applicant to provide a Statement of Comparability, which they can obtain from NARIC.

Work experience

The Registration Authority provide this as guidance as this is not mandated. The applicant needs to evidence how each of the competencies have been achieved **within professional practice**.

As a guidance, the following can be used – this is guidance only and is not mandated and therefore it is up to the Licensed Body to decide whether the applicant meets the competencies. Experience must include current and relevant experience and only that within the last 5-years. The Science Council recommends that typically:

1. RSciTech would have at least 1 years relevant work experience.
2. RSci applicants would have at least 2 years relevant work experience.
3. CSci and CSciTech applicants would have at least 4 -5 years relevant work.

A consistent view is that it is not appropriate to consider the work involved in academic studies, up to and including a PhD, alone in an applicants application for the professional registers. Applicants should base their application on their vocational experience i.e. that gained in employment. It is not appropriate for an applicant to base their application solely on their academic studies, up to and including a PhD. However, if an Applicant is studying for an academic qualification part-time, then, as long as they base their application largely on their employment, they can use some of their academic development in knowledge gained from their studies to support their application. Work out in a relevant industry as part of a year-out placement, or "sandwich" qualification, can also be considered if appropriate.