

# Becoming a Registered Scientist

## Competence report – advice to applicants

Applicants for RSci will need to demonstrate competence across five areas. Guidance on what the assessors will be looking for is provided below each competency but the examples are just indicative – there will be many other valid examples you could choose

Here are some tips you should bear in mind when compiling your application:

- For each competence statement, you will need to give clear examples of the role that **you** play or the contribution that **you** make to a particular task or activity.
- The examples must have sufficient depth that the assessor should be able to visualise what you did from your description. To achieve this, it might be useful to explain what you did, how you went about it and why you did it. Or consider using the STAR format to draft each competency, focusing on describing the **Situation, Task, Action and Result**.
- You may use the same task or activity more than once but you should ensure you are clear on how it applies to the specific competency you are addressing.
- Some of your competency answers may seem fuller or easier to complete than others – this is normal and is illustrative of the wide spectrum of scientists who wish to become professionally registered.
- Most of the examples you provide should be fairly recent (within the last three years) but you can also draw on relevant experience further back in your career.

### Word Limit

Please aim to write around **300 words per competence** - too few words may not give the assessors enough detail to fully understand your strengths, while too many could make your key points less focused and harder for the assessors to follow.

Aim to be concise yet comprehensive, providing clear examples of how you meet the standard without unnecessary detail.

The guidance below is not specific to any Science Council Licensed Body. Each Licensed Body will have their own guidance to which applicants can refer. This document is intended to advise applicants using the Common Application Process or those exploring Science

Council registration. It can be used by Licensed Bodies as a basis for their own guidance if required.

## A: Application of knowledge and understanding

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This competency grouping is looking at how you: Identify and use relevant scientific understanding, methods and skills to complete tasks and address well defined problems.

The A competencies are your opportunity to demonstrate your scientific knowledge and understanding and how you apply them in the workplace; what knowledge you have gained and how you translate it. There are 3 competencies within the A group which each have a different focus, try and think of ways you can evidence these competencies. They could include:

- Investigating new techniques
- Scientific reports
- Data analysis
- Devising, reviewing, selecting, adapting or improving a method
- Optimising a process or equipment using prior knowledge

**In this document the text in purple is the competence statement itself. This will be documented in the application form and must be evidenced in your answer. The black text is guidance about what you might want to consider in your evidence but is not intended to be an exhaustive list.**

### A1: Apply extended knowledge of underlying concepts and principles associated with area of work.

We are looking for an example of how you have used your extended knowledge within the area in which you work. This will include developments within your field and the ability to understand and apply new developments to your area of work.

This competency can be used to describe your routine scientific and technical duties and responsibilities.

For instance, you may describe how you:

- take part in a journal/publication review group within the workplace

- suggest updates to the way in which designs, prototypes, processes, programmes, experiments, or procedures are approached and carried out based upon new knowledge of technology or underlying theoretical principles
- undertake further academic / vocational / self-study or technical training in your current or advancing field of work

## **A2: Review, evaluate and apply underlying scientific concepts, principles and techniques in the context of new and different areas of work.**

What we are looking for here is how you have taken techniques/principles and reviewed, evaluated and applied them in a new area of work.

Your example may for instance describe how you:

- work in a new subject, in a different discipline, area or with new material. You should be able to explain and describe in technical terms the main components/elements/tools/material etc. involved and why you are carrying out the new work.
- are involved in carrying out a new procedure, process, or design; you should be able to explain from a technical perspective why you are using this and why it is relevant to the new area of work.
- are involved in using different or new design or experimental model; you should be able to explain why you are using that model, how you are using it and what the results might mean

Your answer to this competency could be expanded on in the next competency – this competency is looking at the stated problem, A3 and how you solve it.

## **A3: Analyse, interpret and evaluate data, concepts and ideas to propose solutions to problems.**

We are looking for an example of how you observe and interpret the results from your data to draw conclusions and inform your next steps.

### **Think about how you use the skills to critically evaluate the information scientifically that is delivered by the technologies that you utilise.**

Your example could show how you:

- enable others to be able to analyse and interpret your work and advise on how you may overcome problems.

# RSci

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- review a number of relevant literature/manuals/designs and present your findings to others.
- develop new methods/approach based on information or outcomes from previous work by others or themselves.

**You may find that your answer to A3 is an extension of A2 - demonstrating how you solved the problem described in A2, especially if you don't work in a laboratory setting.**

