

CSci

**Chartered Scientist (CSci)**  
A mark of scientific excellence

# CSSci

For further information visit:

[www.sciencecouncil.org](http://www.sciencecouncil.org)

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*the*  
**SCIENCE**  
*council*

CSci

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With increasing focus on research in interdisciplinary areas it is vital for scientists to have professional recognition that is applicable across a range of scientific disciplines. The purpose of the Science Council is to provide a collective voice for science and to maintain standards across all the scientific disciplines.

**The Science Council** an independent body uniting all the key Professional Institutions and Learned Societies across science in the UK, received its Royal Charter on 14 October 2003. In October 2003 the designation Chartered Scientist was added to the now familiar list of chartered professions. This is a significant achievement for the field of science and those that practice in the many and varied disciplines that science encompasses.

**Chartered** is a mark of excellence and competence and it will do much to improve the profile of science and scientists in the community.

The **Chartered Scientist** designation ensures high and improving standards across all scientific disciplines; it reflects best practice in science and is set at a benchmark level throughout the science professions. **CSci** will encompass all high calibre scientists in the practice, application and teaching of science, recognising the increasing focus on interdisciplinarity for the future of science, engineering and technology and it will provide employers with additional assurance of the quality of their science workforce.

## Benefits of CSci

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In addition to the use of the designatory letters CSci, the designation of Chartered Scientist will benefit all those concerned with science as a profession, and in its application. It will be of value to:

- **Society**, which will be more confident in the competence of an individual scientist and need no longer be confused by a platform of letters and descriptions.
- **Individual practitioners** by identification as a professional scientist that sets them at the forefront of their profession and offers a passport to mobility.
- **Employers**, with confirmation, through the designation, of the quality of a job applicant's application.
- **Government departments** seeking to appoint advisers or consultants will have an assurance about the level of an individual's expertise and competence.
- **Professional bodies**, with provision through the new designation of additional opportunities to benchmark their qualifications.
- **Higher education**, which will be better able to set and monitor benchmarks for their science courses, and to promote programmes of study to meet the high standards required of a Chartered Scientist.
- **Regulatory Authorities**, who could be confident in specifying the designation in Acts of Parliament and regulations.
- **Legal credibility**, enabling expert witness participation at a defined standard.
- **Professional standing**, recognising equality of excellence across the science professions.

## Requirements for Chartered Scientist

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- A** Applicants are required to demonstrate a systematic understanding of knowledge, and critical awareness of current problems or new insights, much of which is informed by the forefront of their field of study or area of professional practice.

The benchmark route is a programme of study leading to a Masters degree **or** a relevant programme of study that is judged as being at an equivalent level. Other means of achieving the required standard can be through a combination of academic awards, vocational qualifications and experiential learning through work.

- B** Applicants need to demonstrate the following abilities:
- deal with complex issues, both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non specialist audiences;
  - exercise self-direction and originality in solving problems, and exercise substantial personal autonomy in planning and implementing tasks at a professional level;
  - continue to advance their knowledge, understanding and competence to a high level.

All candidates need to have at least four years post graduation-level experience in the practice, application or teaching of science, of which two should be at an appropriate level of responsibility and, for a minimum of two years immediately prior to the application, have carried out appropriate professional development commensurate with the level of attainment required for A.

## How do I show M-Level (eg MSci, MSc) equivalence?

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Whilst an M-Level degree is the exemplifying educational standard for the award of CSci, there are a number of different routes that can demonstrate the educational equivalence of a Masters degree. For example a Bachelors degree followed by a structured training scheme and relevant experience at a responsible level. Typically, the time required to achieve the relevant competencies will be longer for those candidates applying with a Bachelors degree.

Exceptionally, CSci may be awarded to applicants who can demonstrate that they have achieved the required professional competence without typical educational qualifications.

## How to obtain the Chartered Scientist Designation

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The Science Council does not confer Chartered Scientist on individuals directly but only through member professional bodies that have been awarded a licence. The Licensed Bodies can confer the designation on individual members who meet the criteria.

Chartered Scientist designation is for those practising science at the full professional level and at those for whom scientific knowledge or practice at that level form an essential element of their role. The designation is available only to those scientists who can demonstrate the advancement or application of science and who stay up to date in their scientific field. Candidates must be able to demonstrate the benefit of their work to the wider community.

Chartered Scientists will have met the benchmark standard of at least a Masters level or equivalent degree qualification and a minimum period of 4 years postgraduation experience in the practice, application or teaching of science; two of which should be at an appropriate level of responsibility; and for a minimum of two years immediately prior to the application have carried out appropriate professional development commensurate with the level of attainment required.

## How to Apply

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You must be in full membership of a learned and professional society, which in turn must be a Member Body of the Science Council and has achieved Licensed Body status.

Chartered Scientists who wish to renew their registration will be required to demonstrate:

- participation in appropriate professional development, and
- continuing practice such that scientific knowledge and competence at an appropriate level have formed the basis for the fulfilment of their role.

Re-validation of both licensing bodies and of the chartered scientists themselves, will take place every five years – ensuring that standards are maintained in the long term.

## What is a Licensed Body of the Science Council?

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The Science Council has more than 20 learned and professional society Member Bodies. In order to qualify individual members for the award of Chartered Scientist, Member Bodies must have been granted Licensed Body status by the Science Council. In order to qualify as a Licensed Body the Member Body will have provided substantial evidence demonstrating that its qualifying regulations and procedures meet the high standards set by the Science Council.

For an up to date list of Licensed Bodies of the Science Council visit [www.sciencecouncil.org](http://www.sciencecouncil.org)

## Registration Fees

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An annual fee of £15 (currently) is payable to the Science Council, through your Licensed Body, which may add an additional administration charge to the registration fee.