

# Frequently Asked Questions about Chartered Chemist

## About this document

We have put together this document featuring some of our most frequently asked questions about the award of Chartered Chemist (CChem). If you have a question that is not here, please send us an email to [CChem@rsc.org](mailto:CChem@rsc.org).

## General questions

### I do not work in the laboratory anymore, can I be a CChem?

Yes you can, as long as you are a member of the Royal Society of Chemistry (MRSC). You will need to be in a role that uses a high level of chemical science knowledge, making decisions using that knowledge which impacts on your employer, the community or on those 'doing' chemistry (such as others who do work in a laboratory). This includes being a consultant, Patent Attorney, teacher, manager, regulatory affairs or in a senior leadership position.

### I don't have a Masters' degree in chemical science, can I still be CChem?

Yes you can. We have an equivalence section of the application where you can describe how you have developed a breadth and depth of chemical science knowledge along with developing essential skills to support you in your role.

### What is the difference between CChem and Chartered Scientist (CSci)?

Both awards reflect the high level of professional skills you use in your professional role.

- **Chartered Chemist** reflects the subject specialist knowledge you have developed over your career and most members like to be CChem to because of this. This applies if your qualifications are in the chemical sciences, and / or if your current career trajectory is within the chemical sciences.
- **Chartered Scientist** is for members who are MRSC but would like recognising for their contribution and impact across science more generally. It does not ask for chemistry specific evidence. Please note there is no early career mentored route to achieving this award, you must have 5 years' or more experience at or above the Masters' level to apply. This award is suitable for those who do not have a Masters' level of knowledge in chemical science (although you could have a Masters' or PhD in a non-chemical science subject) and / or your career trajectory has moved away from chemical science.

### I am AMRSC, am I eligible to start CChem?

You need to become MRSC before applying for CChem and you can upgrade [here](#). As an AMRSC, you could consider applying for Registered Scientist, details [here](#).

### I have a biosciences degree, am I eligible to apply?

You could be. This will depend on if you have developed your chemistry knowledge since completing your biosciences degree and are in a role that is related to the chemical sciences.

### How is the 6 years' experience counted for the Direct route?

You must have 6 years or more experience in total at or above the Masters' level in chemical sciences to be eligible for the Direct route. The 6 years do not have to be consecutive. It can include time spent working towards your PhD.

### **Can my mentor be someone who is a CSci or a Chartered Engineer (CEng)?**

Yes, your mentor can be anyone who is chartered with a scientific or engineering professional body.

### **My mentor is not chartered, is that ok?**

Yes it is. We ask that you try to find a mentor who is chartered to help you get the most out of the process. However, we have guidance and support for all mentors.

### **What is the word limit per attribute?**

You should aim for between 300-500 words per attribute. If you need to provide more information, you can include this in your portfolio. However, we find most members use less than 500 words.

### **What is the cost of applying for CChem?**

Please see our website [here](#).

### **What are the timeframes for submission of the final document once you have registered?**

- If you are on the Direct route you will have up to 12 months in which to submit your final application and portfolio.
- If you are on the 2 year Professional Development Programme (PDP), you will have 2 years to submit your final application and portfolio. You will also submit a plan of action and progress report during those 2 years.

### **I have registered for CChem, but I will not be able to submit by the required deadline, what happens?**

Don't worry! You should always let us know as early as you can if you won't be able to meet the original deadline. That way, we can ensure you have the right support to help you. If you need to pause your CChem (due to a career break for example) then you can request an extension. Usually, we can support our CChem applicants if the unexpected happens.

## **If you are in academia**

### **I am a PhD student, can I apply for CChem?**

Yes, but only if you are a full Member (MRSC). You may need to apply via the 2 year PDP route if you don't have 6 years' experience or more at or above the Masters' level.

### **As a PhD student, which route should I apply for; the Direct route or the 2 year PDP route?**

You will be eligible for the 2 year route if you do not have any other experience at or above the Masters' level prior to starting your PhD. If you have previous experience (i.e. post-graduate industrial experience) then you may be eligible for the Direct route.