

The New Membership Structure

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

On 16 November 2000, the RSC held an Extraordinary General Meeting to consider proposals to broaden the Society's membership base and to separate the award of Chartered Chemist from admission to the categories of Member and Fellow. The resolution was passed at the EGM and the Society is now implementing the necessary changes. Below are the answers to common questions that have been asked by members.

THE OUTCOME OF THE EGM

1 What was the result of the Extraordinary General Meeting?

The members of the RSC voted in favour of the changes. Over 10,000 members returned their ballot papers, of which 94% voted FOR the motion.

2 What happens now?

The RSC will petition formally the Privy Council for changes to the Society's Charter and for the adoption of a new set of By-laws. The Privy Council will consult and then let the Society know of its decision. Informal discussions between the Privy Council and the Society took place before the EGM. The Society hopes to receive approval for the changes by 1 June 2001.

3 When will all the changes come into force?

Providing the Society receives approval from the Privy Council by June 2001, the changes will be introduced on 1 August 2001. If approval is not received by June, the Society may have to delay the introduction of the changes.

4 How will I know if the changes are going ahead?

The Society will announce the date for implementing the new arrangements and keep members fully informed via news items in *Chemistry in Britain* and on our web site at www.rsc.org

HOW THE CHANGES WILL AFFECT YOU

5 Do I need to contact the Society to find out how the changes will affect me?

You do not need to contact the Society directly. We will be writing to all members individually to explain how the changes will affect them.

Please turn over

What was the result of the EGM?

When will the changes take place?

How will they affect me?

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HOW THE CHANGES WILL AFFECT YOU

6 How will my membership be affected by the changes?

If you are currently a Member (CChem MRSC) or Fellow (CChem FRSC), you will be unaffected by the changes. For as long as you remain in membership as a Member or Fellow, you will be entitled to use the designatory letters and be recognised as a Chartered Chemist.

If you are currently a Licentiate (LRSC), Graduate (GRSC) or Associate Member and have been in that category for three years or more, you will move into the category of Member and be entitled to use the designatory letters MRSC.

If you are currently a Licentiate (LRSC), Graduate (GRSC) or Associate Member and have been in that category for less than three years, you will move into the new category of Associate Member and will be entitled to use the designatory letters AMRSC.

If you are currently a Student Member, you will move into the new category of Affiliate. You will still be identified as a student and continue to pay subscriptions at the reduced student rate. There are no designatory letters for this category of membership.

7 Will I get a new membership certificate?

Those who move into a new category of membership, except for Affiliates, will be eligible for a new certificate.

8 Will my membership subscription change?

For most members, no. Current Associate Members who move to the new AMRSC or MRSC categories will have their subscription rates adjusted over four years to the full subscription rate. We will write to the members concerned outlining the details.

9 What if I am currently a GRSC/LRSC but paying at the student member rate?

You will continue to be eligible to pay at the student rate until you cease to be a student, irrespective of which category of membership you are in.

10 Will I get a new membership card?

Even if you move into a new category of membership as a result of the changes, your membership number will not change. Your existing membership card will continue to be valid until you receive a new card (carrying your new designatory letters if applicable) with the subscription renewal invoice in November.

11 I am currently studying on an accredited degree course. How will the changes affect me?

The course you are on will be accepted as satisfying the academic requirements for admission to AMRSC. If your course is currently accredited for GRSC, it will satisfy the future academic requirements for the award of Chartered Chemist (CChem) under the revised criteria.

12 How long will I spend in the new Associate Member (AMRSC) category?

This is intended as a transitional category and the majority of members will progress to Member (MRSC) after three years of post-graduation experience in education, training or work. The progression is dependent on members being able to demonstrate that they have applied and developed their professional skills. The maximum length of time in the category will be five years unless exceptional circumstances apply.

13 I am currently registered for Structured Assessment. How will the changes affect me?

You will be unaffected by the changes. You will be assessed under the current regulations. On satisfactory completion of Structured Assessment you will become CChem MRSC.

14 I am thinking about registering for Structured Assessment to get CChem. What should I do?

If you register before the changes are introduced you will be assessed under the current regulations. If you wait until the changes are implemented then you will be assessed under the revised arrangements and have to pay a £50 fee.

15 If I apply to become a CChem when the changes are introduced will my membership subscription increase?

No. There will not be any additional annual fee to be paid by holders of CChem.

16 What courses will satisfy the academic requirements for CChem once the changes have been introduced?

The Society will accredit courses, normally at the enhanced degree level, and certify that they meet the academic requirements for CChem.

17 What qualifications will people need to have to be admitted into qualified membership once the changes have been implemented?

Admission to membership will be based upon recognition of a UK Bachelors degree or equivalent. Graduates with degrees in chemistry, 'chemistry with' and 'chemistry and' courses should gain admission. It is expected that holders of degrees based upon the chemical sciences will also be admitted. The judgement on whether a course satisfies the admission criteria will be by evaluation of the applicant's transcript from their course. Holders of graduate-equivalent qualifications such as vocational qualifications will be treated equitably.