



## FAQ's

### SKE Approval

#### 1. How far in advance of the visit do I need to send materials to the RSC?

14 days in advance of the scheduled visit.

#### 2. Can I speak with assessors before they come on the approval visit?

Queries can be directed to the accreditation and policy teams at the RSC. The SKE committee are available to support, however contact with the assessors will commence from the site visit.

#### 3. What happens during an approval site visit?

The aim of the site visit is to find out more about the facilities and resources used to deliver the course, and to speak to the course tutors in more detail. On average the duration will be 4 – 5 hours and may include:

- Introduction meeting with trainees and programme leaders
- Tour of the facilities
- Access to student work

#### 4. What happens if we are not successful after the approval visit?

If you are not successful you will receive a report outlining how to remedy this. Once you feel changes have been made you can inform us and we will present the new information to the assessors. The reassessment may not involve another site visit.

#### 5. How much practical work do we need to do?

We recommend that at least 15% of the course is spent undertaking supervised laboratory work. A minimum of 10% of the SKE course will be considered at the discretion of the assessors. There should be some practical activities that allow the students to identify a question, plan practical work and carry it out, followed by analysis and evaluation of results.

#### 6. What evidence do we need to provide for each of the criteria?

A full description of the evidence required can be found [here](#), however we require the following information:

- Course aims
- Length of course
- Assessment and quality assurance
- Course delivery
- Feedback and evaluation
- Health and Safety
- Accessibility
- Handbook

**7. Do we need to send you all the evidence or can we just show it on the day?**

All evidence should be submitted in advance of the site visit. The purpose of the site visit is to address queries raised during the initial review of this paperwork.

**8. We run online courses; do you need to access these ahead of the visit?**

Yes please. Please be aware a core criteria of the Royal Society of Chemistry approval of SKE courses is the need to have a practical element. The Royal Society of Chemistry feels chemistry is a practical science and a hands on experience of chemistry is essential for anyone wishing practice or teach chemistry.

**9. Do you promote my course if it has been approved by the RSC?**

Yes, the name of all approved institutions are listed on the RSC website and can be found [here](#).

**10. How much does it cost to go through the process?**

There are no costs associated with the approval process. Pre-ITT SKE providers may apply for approval of their courses. This highlights high quality training to students, schools and Initial Teacher Training (ITT) providers, and supports students in their subject knowledge development.

**11. How long does the approval last for?**

The assessors will review all the evidence collected from the application form and the site visit, and make one of the below decisions:

- i. The course should be approved for a period of five years.
- ii. The course should be approved for a period of five years, with annual review required.
- iii. The course should be approved subject to specific recommendations being implemented. Further assessment of the course following implementation of recommendations will be necessary before approval can be finalised.
- iv. The course should not be approved. Reapplication at a later date is permitted.

**12. Who has been approved already?**

Approved universities can be found on our website, [here](#).