

## Chartered Scientist (CSci) – Application

The professional recognition of Chartered Scientist (CSci) is intended to ensure high and improving standards across all scientific disciplines. It reflects best practice in science and is set at a benchmark level throughout science-based professions.

Chartered scientists demonstrate effective leadership, using their specialist knowledge and broader scientific understanding to develop and improve the application of science and technology by scoping, planning and managing multifaceted projects.

Example pathways to qualifications and experience:

- PhD in food science and technology or closely related subjects – plus 2 years
- Master's degree in food science and technology or closely related subjects, plus 4 years post master experience at M level relevant to your role of which 2 should be at postgraduation level
- BSc in food science and technology and closely related subjects, plus 6 years' experience at M level relevant to your role
- Other science and technology degrees, plus 7 years' experience at M level relevant to your role
- No degree, plus 10 years' experience at M level relevant to your role

## Application Process

If you are currently a member of IFST (Association, Member or Fellow), please contact [mem@ifst.org](mailto:mem@ifst.org) to submit your application.

If you are new to IFST, you will be able to complete the application for CSci directly online.

The application process consists of submitting a competency report in which you draw upon your career and experience in the food industry. To be awarded this registration, you need to meet the following 5 standards:

- A. Application of knowledge & understanding
- B. Personal responsibility
- C. Interpersonal skills
- D. Professional practice
- E. Professionalism

To submit your application, the following is required:

- **Completed Competency Report:** answers will be assessed against the competency framework in place for this recognition. Refer to Appendix 1
- **Highest Qualifications** certificate copies
- **Up-to-date CV** including details of roles and responsibilities held
- Details of **1 x referees** to support your application

## Appendix 1: CSci Competency Framework

### **A: Application of knowledge & understanding**

#### **A1: Use specialist experiential knowledge and broader scientific understanding to optimise the application of existing and emerging science and technology**

You should provide enough detail here to show your specialist experiential knowledge and how you have applied it. Further to this, you should include any examples of where your broader scientific understanding is applied to your area of practice. Examples may include:

- Writing and presenting internal papers, reports or standards.
- Conducting appropriate research to facilitate design and development of scientific processes.

#### **A2: Exercise sound judgement in the absence of complete information and in complex or unpredictable situations.**

This competence is asking you to identify and be aware of the limit of your own knowledge and professional competence. You demonstrate an ability to manage your own strengths and weaknesses and to recognise the level of risk attached to your actions. Examples may include:

- Considering when you have approached a piece of work or project flexibly and in a novel or different way or reacted to an unexpected outcome.

Remember to include outputs as well as inputs which resulted from these experiences.

#### **A3: Demonstrate critical evaluation of relevant scientific information and concepts to propose solutions to problems**

Think of this competence in terms of selecting the best methodology, the subsequent data analysis and conclusions drawn, and you have overcome any barriers or issues. Examples may include:

- Engaging in experimental design and testing.
- Reviewing relevant literature, manuals or designs.
- Sharing findings with others.

### **B: Personal responsibility**

#### **B1: Work autonomously and take responsibility for the work of self and others**

It is important for this competence to ensure you describe your contribution, responsibility and impact on a certain task and make it clear what you personally have achieved i.e. "I" not "we". Examples may include:

- You are expected to undertake much of your work without day-to-day supervision and so you should demonstrate that you are able to achieve this.

- Demonstrate an understanding of when you may need to seek guidance from others and how you would obtain this guidance.
- If you are responsible for managing the work of others, clearly describe how you discharge this responsibility.

### **B2: Promote and implement robust policies and protocols relating to health, safety and security**

Demonstrate that you understand the policies and protocols related to health, safety and security that apply to the work you are undertaking and describing any responsibilities that you have related to this. Security can include issues related to data, Intellectual Property, confidentiality, prevention of contamination, traceability of documents and information. In formulating your answers, you may consider the following:

- Demonstrating knowledge of relevant policies and protocols and understanding how these must be carried out relation to the relevant aspects of your work.
- Knowing where these policies and protocols are documented, and that you can apply them in your practice.
- What risks you are aware of related to the security aspects of the work you carry out, and how you seek to mitigate these risks.
- How you “promote” the awareness and application of these policies and protocols with others, especially peers and more junior colleagues.

### **B3: Promote and ensure compliance with all relevant regulatory requirements and quality standards**

Demonstrate that you understand which regulatory requirements and quality standards apply to your area of work. Consider the following:

- Describing what you do to ensure that these requirements and standards are being followed for those activities for which you are responsible.

### **B4: Oversee the implementation of solutions with due regard to the wider environment and broader context**

Demonstrate an understanding of the potential and actual impacts of your work on the organisation, on the profession, on the general public and on the physical environment. Examples could include but are not limited to:

- Indicating that you are aware of the sensitivity of your work and showing how this understanding translates into your practice.
- Showing an awareness of how your profession is portrayed and viewed by the public at large, and how you take responsibility for recognising this in the work you do.
- Describing how you seek to avoid reputational damage related to the work you carry out.
- Explain how you set a good example to others in the way you discharge the responsibilities related to the work you undertake.

## **C: Interpersonal skills**

### **C1: Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively with specialist and non- specialist audiences**

A non-specialist audience is anyone working outside of your area of expertise, so it would not necessarily be a non-scientist. Example(s) should indicate how you have communicated in a way that is effective to each type of audience. In formulating your answers, consider the following:

- Not just the content of the message but also the mode or style of delivery that is adapted according to the audience.
- The feedback loop to gauge the understanding and improve future communications

### **C2: Demonstrate effective leadership through the ability to guide, influence, inspire and empathise with others**

This competence is about understanding your leadership skills and is not reserved for those in management roles; it is applicable to all. Examples could include, but are not limited to:

- Experiences of mentoring or coaching given; consider how effective this was and the overall impact
- Consider when you have managed change within your organisation or overseen the implementation of any new processes

### **C3: Demonstrate the ability to mediate, develop and maintain positive working relationships**

Describe or define the “working relationship” and provide at least one example which focuses on your handling of a challenging interpersonal situation, demonstrating your ability to mediate and achieve a positive outcome. Consider how through your approach you have changed, or modified, the behaviour or attitudes of others to a positive effect. Examples could include but are not limited to:

- How you have managed the merger or integration of different teams.
- Managing working relationships across different departments or organisations.
- Interactions with committees, working groups or other professional body activities.
- How you have managed and resolved a difficult relationship situation between members of a team for which you are responsible.

Remember to include outputs as well as inputs which resulted from these experiences.

## **D: Professional practice**

### **D1: Scope, plan and manage multifaceted projects**

Describing a project that you have managed, making it clear the level of autonomy you had throughout, especially if you were in a team.

Show how you contributed to the resulting courses of action. Examples could include but are not limited to:

- An operational project utilising resources across several disciplines.
- A change management project aligning processes across sites.
- An industry-wide project establishing guidance on technical standards and requirements.

### **D2: Demonstrate the achievement of desired outcomes with the effective management of resources and risks**

Using the project discussed under D1, or another project in which you been involved, describe your roles and responsibilities in managing the activities to achieve the desired outcomes. Examples could include but are not limited to:

- Identifying the resources (people and / or money) needed to undertake the activities.
- Monitoring and surveillance of the progress of the activities.
- Identification, evaluation and implementation of changes that may be needed to ensure the activities are successfully completed.
- Identification and management of risks that could impact on the successful completion of the activities.

Remember to include outputs as well as inputs which resulted from these experiences.

### **D3: Take responsibility for continuous performance improvement at both a personal level and in a wider organisational context**

Examples should indicate what actions you have taken to make improvements to your personal performance and to your organisation. This could be through encouraging the continuous development of junior staff or through improvements to processes within the organisation. Examples could include but are not limited to:

- Identification of lessons learned from activities undertaken by you or by others for whom you are responsible: such as what went well, went badly or was lacking.
- Evaluation of the performance of specialists' methods and tools used.
- Development of recommendations for future enhancements or modifications to procedures or working practices in order to achieve performance improvements.
- Description of examples where your actions have led to performance improvements, your or other team members.

## **E: Professionalism**

### **E1: Demonstrate understanding and compliance with relevant codes of conduct**

Describe how the codes of conduct, under which you practice, relate to the work you carry out, and how they govern your professional practice. In this answer include any ethical considerations, both in terms of scientific and business practices. Examples you may wish to use may relate to:

- Standards of professional practice in respect of your profession, employer, clients.
- Standards of professional behaviour in respect of attitudes, respect and confidentiality.
- Standards of professional competence in respect of personal development and the development of others.

Remember to include outputs as well as inputs which resulted from these experiences.

**E2: Demonstrate a commitment to professional development through continuing advancement of own knowledge, understanding and competence**

Provide specific examples of what you have done in terms of continuing professional development (CPD) and your plans for the coming months. Describe how engagement in CPD has benefited your practice and the users of your work.

