Registered Sensory Scientist (RSensSci) – Application

Registered Sensory Scientist (RSensSci) status is aimed at those practising sensory science at the full professional level and for whom knowledge or practice of food sensory science at that level forms an essential element in the fulfilment of their role.

RSensSci provides valuable professional recognition among fellow sensory scientists and across all disciplines and the wider community. It demonstrates high levels of experience and competence to employers, other professionals, and, ultimately, providing reassurance to the consumer that high standards are being met within the industry. Successful recognition as a Registered Sensory Scientist automatically entitles you to Chartered Scientist (CSci) status.

If you need any help completing the competence report form, please get in touch: JoinUs@ifst.org

To apply for RSensSci, you must meet one of the following criteria:

- No formal science or technological qualifications plus 10 years’ experience
- Foundation degrees/HND/HNC/NVQ IV in all scientific and technological disciplines plus 8 year’s experience1, 2
- BSc and higher degrees in other scientific or technological disciplines plus 7 years’ experience
- BSc in Food Science & Technology or closely related discipline1 plus 6 years’ experience
- MSc in Food Science & Technology or closely related discipline1 plus 4 years’ experience
- PhD in Food Science & Technology or closely related discipline1 plus 2 years’ experience

Examples of suitable subjects include:
1. Food science and technology degrees of which a major element is food plus another subject, e.g. nutrition, product development, chemistry, microbiology, marketing, management, consumer studies, biotechnology.
2. Science, technology and engineering subjects: e.g. nutrition, chemistry, biochemistry, physics, mathematics, biology, engineering, statistics, agriculture, environmental sciences, plus modular degrees which combine these subjects.

Relevant experience
You can demonstrate the continuing development of your knowledge and skills through a wide range of employment within the food chain and associated organisations, education, training or personal study related to the field of food science and technology.

Examples of suitable employment include: food processing, food manufacturing, distribution, technical sales, food law enforcement, food retailing, food service, trade bodies, legal work, consultancy, central and local government departments and agencies, research, academia, teaching, media, etc.

Application Process
You will be able to complete the application for RSensSci directly online.

To submit your application, the following is required:
- Completed Competence Report: answers will be assessed against the competence framework in place for this recognition.
- Certificate of highest qualification
- Up-to-date CV including details of roles and responsibilities held
- Details of 2 x referees to support your application
- You will also need to pay the registration fee where applicable.
The application process consists of submitting a competence 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. Professional Standards

The form will ask you to describe how you meet the 5 competence areas, using examples drawn from your recent personal experiences, particularly in the area of sensory science. Here are some tips you should bear in mind when formulating your answers.

- When you are thinking about how to structure your answers, you will need to think of examples of your experiences in terms of what you did, how you went about it and why you did it. You may find the STAR method helpful for structuring your answers – this stands for Situation, Task, Action, Result.
- Provide clear examples of the role that you played or the contribution that you made to a particular task or activity, rather than that of the team as a whole.
- You should think about using examples that are fairly recent i.e. from the last three years, although you can also draw on relevant experience from further back in your career.
- You can use and refer to a particular example more than once, but do ensure you make it clear how and why it applies to a competence.
- You can use examples from broad professional experiences, but you must be able to show how you have applied the skills developed in your job role.

Reference information
Your application should be supported by well-informed comments from two suitable referees. A suitable referee would be a senior professional in your field of work who is able to base their views on direct knowledge of your work experience and who can confirm the validity of your stated achievements. Your referees should not be related to you or subordinate to you. Please communicate with your referees to let them know that we will be in contact before submitting their details to us. Please note that the competence report may be shared with your referees if requested.

Maintaining Registration
If your application is successful, you will be required to maintain a CPD portfolio, and achieve 35 hours of CPD each year. The CPD year runs from 1 April to 31 March, and registrants are audited every few years to ensure that their CPD meets the standards set by the Science Council. More information on this is available on the IFST website or by contacting us JoinUs@ifst.org.