

## Registered Scientist (RSci) – Application

Applicants will usually have a combination of qualifications and work experience. As there are many different qualifications at QFC level 5 and above, several combinations are possible.

Example pathways to qualifications and experience:

- Degree in food science/technology, *plus* 1-year experience in a relevant role (work experience gained as part of the qualification can count towards this)
- Degree or higher degree in other science subjects or Foundation degree or Higher National Diploma in food science/technology and closely related subjects, *plus* 2 years' experience in a relevant role. Up to 1-year relevant work experience gained as part of the qualification can count towards this experience.
- RSciTech or Foundation degree or HND in other science subjects, *plus* 2 years' experience in a relevant role.
- QCF Level 3 qualifications (for example A' levels in science subjects) *plus* 2 years post qualification experience in a relevant role.
- Non-scientific and qualifications below level 3 (in Scotland level 5) - 3 years' experience in a relevant role.

If an applicant has other qualifications than those mentioned, their application will be considered on a case by case basis for example:

- A student who undertakes a years' work placement may be able to qualify for RSci if the placement has enabled them to gain all the necessary competences.
- A newly qualified graduate may be able to gain RSci after one year in the work place. A combination of undergraduate work placement and post-graduation experience can also enable an applicant to satisfy the requirements of RSci. Work placements and work experience are variable, and a potential applicant will need to study the competences prior to application to decide when they are ready to apply for RSci. They can also decide to apply for RSciTech and then progress to RSci as their experience increases.

## 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 RSci 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 referee** to support your application



## Appendix 1: RSci Competency Framework

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

#### **A1: Develop, maintain and extend a sound theoretical approach to application of science and technology in practice**

Demonstrate that you have a sound theoretical understanding of the area in which you work. That you are continuously up-to-date with developments in your field; can understand and apply new techniques to your area of work. Examples may include:

- Taking part in a journal/publication review group within the workplace
- Suggesting updates to the way in which designs, methods, processes, programmes, experiments or procedures are approached and carried out based upon new knowledge of technology or underlying theoretical principles
- Undertaking further academic / vocational / self-study or technical training in your current or advancing field of work.

#### **A2: Apply underlying scientific concepts, principles and techniques in the context of new and different areas of work**

Explain the major reasons for undertaking new and different work. Examples may include:

- Working in a new subject, in a different discipline, area or with new material. You should be able to explain and describe in technical terms the main components / elements / reagents / equipment etc. involved and why you are carrying out this new work.
- Involvement in carrying out a new procedure, process, or protocol. You should be able to explain from a technical perspective why you are using this approach and why it is relevant to the new area of work.
- Involvement in using different or new design or experimental model. You should be able to explain why you are using this approach, how you are using it and what the outcomes may be.

#### **A3: Analyse, interpret and evaluate relevant scientific / technology information, concepts and ideas and to propose solutions to problems**

Describe how you observe the results or examples from you work and that of others. Explain their relevance. How are you able to review the work and ideas of others and propose ways in which problems / difficulties may be overcome. Examples may include:

- Enabling others to be able to analyse and interpret their work and advise on how they may overcome issues.
- Reviewing several relevant literature / manuals / designs and present their findings to others.

- Developing new methods / approach based on information or outcomes from previous work by others or yourself.

## **B: Personal Responsibility**

### **B1: Work autonomously while recognising limits of scope of practice**

- Demonstrate how you work with no supervision for certain key tasks, experiments or procedures associated with your role; whilst understanding when you need to seek input from either your supervisor or others.
- You should be able to explain how you carry out certain work with no input from your manager and describe how / what to report back in detail to them on completion.

### **B2: Take responsibility for safe working practices and contribute to their evaluation and improvement**

Describe how you accept responsibility for working safely. How you may be responsible for the generation and communication of some of the following (but not limited to) examples:

- Identification of potential safety issues and recommending solutions.
- Risk assessments associated with your work.
- Relevant Health and Safety regulations, e.g. COSHH, Noise, Manual Handling, DSE
- Relevant Home Office Licences
- Safety training courses you have successfully completed for your laboratory role
- Any monitoring of safety within your work, e.g. for radioactivity, chemical exposure
- Safety equipment and control measures necessary to work safely and protect others.
- Carrying out safety inspections of premises and equipment, producing reports and making recommendations.

You may also be responsible for an aspect of 'safety monitoring or training' and (if relevant) a description of this should be included.

### **B3: Promote and ensure the application of quality standards**

Demonstrate how you are aware of the quality standards necessary for the work being carried out by you and others. Describe examples of how you promote these standards and ensure that they are applied. Examples may include:

- Producing and communicating all or part of a new Standard Operating Procedure (such as good laboratory/workshop/design practice).
- Training others to recognise when something has not been carried out correctly and explain the impact this could have.
- Contributing to the analysis of your own and others' work and explain the impact of good / bad data on outcomes.

- Recognising when your own and others' work needs to be repeated, or the methodology updated, and be able to communicate the reasons for this in terms of reproducibility or quality standards.

#### **B4: Take responsibility for planning and developing courses of action as well as exercising autonomy and judgement within broad parameters**

Describe why and how you accept responsibility for planning and developing relevant courses of action within the required time frame. Give an example that demonstrates that you are able to do such a task with no supervision using your own judgement within the parameters of your broader role. Examples may include:

- Devising contingency plans in the case of a safety breach (e.g. a chemical spillage).
- Assessing the risks of equipment failure on a sample result, and procedures on how to deal with such situations.
- Developing and planning training of colleagues to cover essential tasks in the event of staff absence.
- Determining which equipment / machine / tool needs regular maintenance and servicing; planning the timetable and personnel involved.
- Understanding what must be undertaken in terms housekeeping in the laboratory / section; planning and developing appropriate methods and timetables to meet the requirements.

#### **C: Interpersonal Skills**

##### **C1: Demonstrate effective and appropriate communication skills**

Give examples of how you demonstrate effective and appropriate communication using oral, written and electronic means. Examples may include:

- Discussing and agreeing objectives with your supervisor.
- Discussing and agreeing objectives in team meetings.
- Giving presentations of your work or other aspects of lab work (e.g. safety updates, method updates) to your supervisor and team.
- Preparing written reports on your work.
- Training, demonstrating or teaching others in procedures or protocols.
- Playing a part in staff development (e.g. carry out appraisals or staff reviews).
- Carry out induction training.

##### **C2: Demonstrate interpersonal and behavioural skills**

Demonstrate the skills that enhance your ability to interact with colleagues in the work setting. Examples may include:

- Interacting with students or trainees face to face

- Interacting with other professionals such as researchers, technicians, administrators, and other members of staff
- Interacting with external colleagues (such as manufacturers, suppliers, couriers, designers etc.)

### **C3: Demonstrate productive working relationships and an ability to resolve problems**

Describe how, when working with others, you are able to demonstrate that you have developed positive working relationships and resolved conflict. Demonstrate how those working relationships were effective in resolving problems:

- Being a member of a committee/group that is tasked with a particular safety aspect of the job; be able to demonstrate that together it made a difference that was useful and effective in the workplace.
- Liaising with other groups within your organisation to effectively deal with problems (e.g. lack of or demand for training in a specific area)
- Being a part of working group tasked with addressing specific problems or the need for change.

### **D: Professional Practice**

#### **D1: Identify, review and select scientific techniques, procedures and methods to undertake tasks**

Give an example of work that you have undertaken showing where and why the method / procedure chosen was the right choice. Examples may include:

- Reviewing of methods – why is the method chosen, the best compared to others that are available
  - Cost effectiveness.
  - Time taken.
  - IT considerations.

#### **D2: Contribute to the organisation of tasks and resources**

Give examples of how you have contributed to the running of the laboratory / workshop / section and related areas. Examples may include:

- Organisation of safety checks and inspections
- Ordering equipment, software, and materials
- Organisation of a rota for cleaning, maintenance, or machine time
- Organisation of human and physical resources when an issue arises
- Organisation of statutory inspections, external / internal servicing, and maintenance of equipment or infrastructure.

### **D3: Participate in the design, development and implementation of solutions**

Give an example of 'problem solving' that describes your specific role in helping to overcome a specific problem. For instance, it might mean that a process, programme, design, assay, or method suddenly stops working and you are involved in finding the reason why.

The example should show what your role was in understanding the problem and what your contribution achieved.

### **D4: Contribute to continuous performance improvement**

Give an example which shows how you are aware of progress in your area and how you seek ways of improving the efficiency of your work. You should describe how you seek to discuss with your supervisor the strategy for achieving this. For instance, this could include new and improved methods, new ways to increase throughput, or ways to increase cost-effectiveness. Examples may include:

- Taking part in staff reviews.
- Working within time frames and using SMART objectives.
- Contributing to operational plans.
- Looking for cheaper resources.
- Working within a budget.
- Playing a role in procurement management.

## **E: Professional Standards**

### **E1: Comply with relevant codes of conduct and practice**

Give examples of how you:

- Comply with your professional body's code of conduct.
- Manage your work within all relevant legislative, regulatory and local requirements, frameworks such as Health and Safety Legislation, Home Office Regulations, Good Laboratory Practice (GLP), local Codes of Practice, etc.

### **E2: Maintain and enhance competence in own area of practice through professional development activity**

Describe how you undertake activities to enhance your competence in your area of practice i.e. Continuing Professional Development (CPD).