



SOCIETY OF  
**Biology**



**Demonstrate  
your professional  
excellence**

## At the heart of the life sciences

Professional development is essential for today's biologists. Biology is continually advancing, playing a central role in the development of society and impacting on almost every aspect of life. It is therefore essential that life scientists are part of a recognised body and subject to a rigorous code of conduct.

The Society of Biology is the leading professional body for the biological sciences – representing over 15,000 members worldwide.



Under licence from the Science Council our professional awards and continuing professional development programme aim to enhance the recognition, status and employability of our members.

“The registers scheme is excellent as it gives staff a goal to work towards. It also fits in perfectly with the vision statement of the company”

Mark Collins Technical Manager,  
Biosearch





# Which Professional Awards are available and who can apply for them?

The Society of Biology offers four professional recognition and development awards to members under license from the Science Council, in addition to our own Chartered Biologist (CBiol) register.

## **RSciTech** Registered Science Technician

**Registered Science Technician (RSciTech)** for individuals working in a technical role in the laboratory with at least a level 3 qualification such as A level, BTEC, Scottish Higher, or equivalent experience.

## **RSci** Registered Scientist

**Registered Scientist (RSci)** for individuals working in a laboratory where experimental planning, design and interpretation are important aspects of the job. Candidates will have at least a level 5 qualification such as HND, foundation degree or higher level apprenticeship, or equivalent experience.

## **CSci** Chartered Scientist

**Chartered Scientist (CSci)** for individuals working at a more strategic level in the laboratory/group where defining direction and strategy are important aspects of the job. Candidates should possess a Masters Level 7 qualification or higher (or submit an equivalency report).

## **CSciTeach** Chartered Science Teacher

**Chartered Science Teacher (CSciTeach)** for individuals who are active in science education. Candidates should possess a Masters Level 7 qualification in pedagogy/education and an Honours Level qualification with a minimum of 50% of course content in science (or submit an equivalency report).

**Chartered Biologist (CBiol)** is exclusively available to members of the Society of Biology with at least six to eight years of postgraduate experience with one to two years in a senior role or two years CPD completed with the Society of Biology at the MSB level.

## Equivalency report for CSci and CSciTeach

Professional awards offer an employment based route to a scientific career. In the absence of the appropriate qualification, candidates are asked to submit a report of their laboratory work (or teaching in the case of CSciTeach) demonstrating that their written work is equivalent.

# Benefits of professional recognition

## For the employee

These awards signify that:

- You possess a nationally recognised, pan-science award
- Your skills have been externally assessed against nationally recognised standards
- You are committed to continuing professional development (CPD)
- You are able to demonstrate transferable skills
- You have the potential to progress from RSciTech to RSci to CSci or CSciTeach (for science educators).

“The award means that the level of work that I undertake has been externally verified as meeting an established standard. This gives me greater confidence in the value of my work”

Stuart Phillips RSci AMSB (Awarded Professional Recognition by interview) Scientist, LifeScan Scotland Ltd

## For the employer

Used in conjunction with our CPD requirement, professional recognition can help to develop staff as they progress in their role(s).

The awards signify that employees:

- Have been externally assessed against nationally recognised standards
- Are committed to CPD
- Have demonstrated their transferable skills
- Are nationally recognised by a pan-science award with or without having a formal qualification
- Can demonstrate their development via progression from RSciTech to RSci to CSci or CSciTeach (for science educators).

“This scheme is a great way for analysts to get recognition for their development and skills which they cannot get from their job title. The analysts had a real sense of achievement when they got their new recognition.”

Karen Heaton Microbiological Services Manager, Severn Trent Water





## What evidence is required for professional recognition?

To obtain a professional recognition award, applicants must join the Society of Biology at the minimum appropriate grade, as shown below.

- RSciTech (affiliate or associate grade)
- RSci (associate or member grade)
- CSci (member or fellow grade)
- CSciTeach (member or fellow grade)
- CBiol (member or fellow grade)

Obtaining the appropriate recognition requires submission of:

- I. Educational qualifications (or equivalency report for CSci and CSciTeach)
- II. Evidence of achieving the required professional competencies of five areas
- III. Evidence of commitment to CPD
- IV. Adherence to the codes of conduct for the Society of Biology and Science Council
- V. Support of application by a supervisor.

### Competency areas

- Application of knowledge and understanding
- Personal responsibility
- Interpersonal skills
- Professional practice
- Professional standards

## What is the application process?

There are two routes to obtaining a professional award:

**Online** – candidates upload/submit evidence via an online application form on the Society of Biology website (login into the mySociety member's area of the website – [mysociety.societyofbiology.org](https://mysociety.societyofbiology.org)). Evidence is then reviewed by two external assessors from the Society of Biology.

or

**Interview** – assessors from the Society of Biology visit candidates at their place of work and discuss with each candidate how they meet each of the competencies for the level of professional recognition required.





## Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

### Maintaining professional recognition

Annual submission of CPD is a requirement to maintain a professional award.

Each individual can retain complete control over their professional development and almost all activities that advance skills as a life science employee will qualify under the programme.

We provide all the tools needed to record and evaluate professional development activities, and individuals can manage and record their CPD online in the members' area of our website.

As candidates progress through the scheme they will build up a CPD portfolio which can be used to demonstrate professional development to others.

### CPD requirements

Candidates are required to attain at least 50 points from activities in three of five key areas:

1. Work based learning
2. Professional activity
3. Formal/educational
4. Self-directed learning
5. Other (skills obtained outside the workplace)



## Training and development

The Society of Biology now offers bespoke training courses tailored to specific needs. We can host training courses at a place of work or at the Society of Biology's office in London.

Individuals attending can improve their development within their sector and can achieve points towards their CPD.

If you are interested in the Society of Biology hosting a training course which is targeted to the specific training needs of employees then please contact: [training@societyofbiology.org](mailto:training@societyofbiology.org)

### CPD approved events

We set a high standard for our CPD approved events and so they are worth more CPD points. All CPD approved events are advertised on our website.

Please contact us by emailing: [training@societyofbiology.org](mailto:training@societyofbiology.org) to discuss getting your event approved under the Society's CPD scheme.



## Become a member to be on the Registers

The Society of Biology offers a range of membership grades to match your professional experience:

**Fellow:** for those who have made a prominent contribution to the advancement of the biological sciences, and gained no less than five years' experience in a position of senior responsibility

**Member:** for individuals who have gained a life science degree with at least three years' postgraduate experience (in postgraduate study or in work). Those that can demonstrate equivalence can also apply

**Associate:** for anyone who has been awarded a degree containing at least 50% biology in the final two years of study or at least three years' relevant work experience.

**Affiliate:** for anyone with an interest in the life sciences, no formal qualification is required.

Please visit our website for more information about our membership subscription rates. Individual members of our 90+ Member Organisations can take advantage of a 50% reduced rate on our register subscription fees for the first two years of membership. For a list of Member Organisations please visit our website.

For more information and to join visit:  
[www.societyofbiology.org/development](http://www.societyofbiology.org/development)

Or contact:  
[membership@societyofbiology.org](mailto:membership@societyofbiology.org)

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