

# IOP Institute of Physics

## Becoming Chartered by the Institute – Frequently Asked Questions

### What does Chartered Status mean to employers?

- Provides evidence of employers' commitment to society and high standards.
- Indicates that the employee values and abides by the IOP code of conduct.
- Facilitates both staff benchmarking and competencies.
- Assists with promotion and salary benchmarking.
- Supports the recruitment process.
- Is valued by clients and external stakeholders.

### Which physicists graduate to Chartered Status?

Those who:

- Believe in professionalism and the importance of belonging to a professional body.
- Seek to distinguish themselves from other scientific and engineering practitioners through continuing education, personal development and acceptance of ethical standards.
- See that Chartered Status and the effective marketing of it by the Institute of Physics provides the professional standing and recognition they seek.
- Wish to practice within physics and its application and accept full responsibility for their work standards.
- Wish to gain opportunities to practice in their field for the benefit of the wider community. Wish to increase community confidence in physicists.

### Why does the Institute offer three types of Chartered Status?

The Institute of Physics has over 36 000 members who work in every sector imaginable. We therefore have a lot of professionals to cater for, all with subtly or obviously different requirements. We want to offer as many options for professional recognition as is feasible and we feel Chartered Physicist, Engineer and Scientist are the most useful to our members.

### Which one is best?

None of the standards are better or worse than any other. They are just suitable for different people.

### How much will applying cost me?

There is currently no application fee for CPhys or CSci. The application fee for CEng is £150 and is non-refundable. There is an annual subscription fee for each Chartered Status:

- Chartered Physicist      £15
- Chartered Scientist      £30
- Chartered Engineer      £29

### I have one Chartered Status. Why would I want another one?

There are several reasons why, for example, a Chartered Physicist might want to apply for Chartered Engineer or Scientist.

- They may deal with colleagues in more than one sector who might not recognise the relevance of say, a Physics 'badge; in a biomedical organisation.

- They may wish to expand their business in to a new sector where indicating a multi-disciplinary outlook will add to their appeal.
- They may have been working exclusively in, say, an engineering field, and wish to re-establish their identity as a scientist or physicist.

Ultimately, it is up to you. If you see a benefit in having more than one, then apply!

### **How long is the application process?**

Receipt of your application will be acknowledged within 2 weeks. Your supporters will be written to within another 2 weeks and asked to respond within a month. Once full support has been received the peer review process can begin. This stage can take up to 6 weeks. You will then be notified of the Institute's decision.

For some applicants an interview is necessary. Interviews are held at least 3 times a year. As soon as your supporter forms are received we will endeavour to interview you as soon as possible.

### **Why are graduates and experienced staff graduating to Chartered Status?**

Academic qualifications are only the beginning of a career in physics and its applications. The need for continuing professional development is widely recognised to be the mechanism by which professionals maintain their knowledge after the formal education process has been completed. Chartered Status demonstrates a commitment to maintaining competence and continuing your professional development.

### **Is my degree accredited?**

Have a look at our register of accredited courses ([www.iop.org/activity/policy/Degree\\_Accreditation](http://www.iop.org/activity/policy/Degree_Accreditation)), and for CEng look at the ECUK register ([www.engc.org.uk/registration/ACAD](http://www.engc.org.uk/registration/ACAD)) of accredited courses to find out whether your degree is accredited or not. The degree must have been accredited when it was awarded to you.

All physics degrees awarded after 1 January 1998 need to be accredited.

### **I have a degree from outside the UK. Will it be accepted?**

If you have a degree from outside the UK or Ireland you can ask the Institute to compare it to UK degrees using an international database, found at [www.naric.org.uk](http://www.naric.org.uk). The Institute subscribes to this well-respected database and uses it to judge the level of your qualification.

### **My work experience is outside the UK. Does this matter?**

No. As long as your work experience is at the required standard it will be accepted. We have many applicants from every continent and are quite used to sending supporter forms overseas. All we ask is that your application is written in English.

### **I don't have a degree, do I still qualify?**

The Institute welcomes applications from those without degrees. You will need to progress down the non-standard (general route for CPhys) routes to CPhys, CEng or CSci but as long as you have suitable work experience this shouldn't be a problem for you. Go to the relevant section of the IOP website to find out more ([www.iop.org/Membership/Becoming\\_Chartered\\_by\\_the\\_Institute/Chartered\\_Titles](http://www.iop.org/Membership/Becoming_Chartered_by_the_Institute/Chartered_Titles)).

### **My work is too confidential to submit in my application, will this weaken my case for Chartership?**

You will need to submit sufficient information to convince the assessors that you are working at the required level. If you can not release any information about your work we will not be able to consider you for registration. You are advised to discuss this issue with your mentor and other chartered staff at your work

place to see how they have handled it. If there is no suitable person to discuss this with you can contact the Professional Development team at the Institute, e-mail [cpd@iop.org](mailto:cpd@iop.org) or call +44 (0)20 7470 4800.

**I need a mentor to support me in the duration of me working up to Chartered Status. Can the Institute help me to get one?**

The Institute offers a mentor/mentee matching scheme. Please visit the website for more information:  
[www.iop.org/activity/careers/Mentoring](http://www.iop.org/activity/careers/Mentoring).