

Guidance Notes for Member (MRSC) Applicants

Member is the Royal Society of Chemistry's main category of professional membership. Members (MRSC) demonstrate that they have degree level knowledge in the chemical sciences and have gained a minimum of three years professional experience at, graduate level, through further study or employment.

What you will need to apply

To apply for Member you will need to provide the following:

- A completed application form.
- A degree level qualification or equivalent in the chemical sciences
- Evidence of 3 years professional experience
- An up to date CV
- Two referees, one of whom is a qualified member of a professional body

Qualifications

Our aim is to ensure that professional standards in the chemical sciences are maintained and enhanced. For this reason, all applicants are required to provide an up to date record of their academic and professional experience.

RSC Accredited Qualifications

If you are an applicant with a Royal Society of Chemistry Accredited qualification, we only require a copy of your degree certificate and the nomination of two referees. You can find out if your qualification is accredited by the RSC at rsc.li/accreditation if your degree does not appear on the list you can find out further information below.

Non-RSC accredited Qualifications

If you hold a qualification that is not accredited by the RSC we may require you to provide a course transcript giving details of all the subjects studied. The transcript will be assessed to determine the level of chemistry and chemical science within the course. To meet the necessary criteria for admission to Member a Bachelor (Honours) or equivalent qualification should have academic content with a minimum of 33% Chemistry or 50% Chemical Sciences. Qualifications that do not meet these criteria can be assessed based on a combination of qualification and professional experience.

Post-graduate Qualifications

In our assessment, we will also take into consideration further study, e.g MSc or PhD qualifications within the chemical sciences and these can contribute to your eligibility for Member. When providing evidence of MSc or PhD qualifications, we encourage you to provide project titles or abstracts of any research completed as part of your qualification.

Professional Experience

Some applicants will have taken a vocational route to their learning and understanding of the chemical sciences. If you have developed your chemical science knowledge while working in a professional environment with significant experience, then you can still be eligible for Member. When assessing these types of application the assessor will look for indications of progression and evidence of your impacts in the chemical sciences throughout your experience.

Supporting Documentation

We ask for an up to date CV to provide a clear picture of your experience. It is not necessary that this experience is in a chemical science environment and should include any post-graduate research. We would expect this to include;

- Progression within roles since the beginning of employment.
- Current role is of a level requiring responsibility, knowledge and skills in the chemical sciences that are comparable with that of an experienced graduate.
- Indications that peers/customers regard the applicant as a competent chemical scientist.
- In some instances, the evidence of the development of knowledge and expertise in a specialised area of the chemical sciences

Referees

We collect professional references to help us confirm and support the information that you have provided in your application, for this reason, it is always best to suggest referees who know you well and is able to write confidently about your experience (e.g line manager). Where possible we do ask that they be a member of a professional body, but far more important is their ability to provide current information in a timely manner

FQA

Q: Does my PhD count towards 3 years' experience?

A: Yes, and postgraduate studies will count towards the experience required to apply for Member, as will any work experience at a graduate level.

Q: Does my professional experience need to be in the chemical sciences?

A: MRSC requires applicants to have three years postgraduate experience. This experience can be within any area as long as it is at a graduate level.

Q: Does my degree certificate / transcript need to be in English?

A: Where possible we would prefer to have certificates in English but you may wish to contact us before submitting the documents to inquiry if we can assess in its original language.

Q: Do both my referees need to be members with the RSC?

A: Ideally, your referees would be in membership with us, however we do appreciate that this is not always possible and will accept the nomination of non-members.

Q: What happens if my application does not fulfil the requirements for Member?

A: Where the requirements for the category have not been met, we would offer an alternative category of membership to you. If we believe the requirements could be fulfilled in the future, we will advise you on the time scale of when to re-apply.

Q: I don't have a degree in the chemical sciences, can I still apply?

A: If your degree is not within the chemical sciences, we can still assess your transcript to identify any chemical science content. If your degree has no chemical science content, but you work in a chemical science environment then we will assess your application based on your experience.