

# Application for Chartered Ecologist: Guidance for Sponsors

## About the Register of Chartered Ecologists

The Register of Chartered Ecologists recognises the effective application of knowledge and understanding of the science of ecology by professionals committed to the highest standards of practice. Chartered Ecologists are active professionals who use their knowledge, experience and influence to promote and advance ecology as an applied discipline. They may work in local or national government, consultancy, the voluntary sector, statutory agencies, industry or academia but they are united by three common characteristics:

- their advice and practice is based on a fundamental understanding of ecology and the critical evaluation of scientific evidence;
- they work in accordance with high standards of professional conduct; and
- they can communicate complex ecological concepts and ideas confidently and effectively to a wide range of audiences.

The eligibility and competence criteria for the award of Chartered Ecologist are integral to establishing it as a recognised standard. They set the benchmark for admission to the Register.

Before joining the Register, applicants are rigorously assessed to ensure that they are fully competent and confident practitioners. Registrants will be periodically re-assessed to ensure that they have maintained the high level of competence required.

Chartered Ecologists are identified by the post-nominal letters 'CEcol'.

## Your role as a Sponsor

As a sponsor of an applicant applying to join the Register you play a critical role in upholding the integrity of the award as a recognised standard. You must be a Fellow or Full member of CIEEM or the equivalent membership grades of a body licensed by CIEEM to put forward applicants for admission to the Register or the equivalent membership grades a similar Professional Body.

By sponsoring an applicant, you are confirming that the information contained in their application form is correct. You can **only** do this if you have sufficient knowledge of the applicant and the quality of their practice as an ecologist. Sponsoring an applicant of whom you have insufficient knowledge and thereby misleading the assessors could be deemed a breach of your own professional body's code of conduct. If you feel that you are in this situation please explain to the applicant the limitations of your knowledge of them and, if necessary, ask them to find a more suitable sponsor. Sponsors should not be related to the applicant.

## What you are required to do

Once you have agreed to sponsor an applicant they should provide you with a fully completed application form, a copy of the Chartered Ecologist regulations, Code of Conduct and the CIEEM Competency Framework (these documents are also available to download from the Chartered Ecologist pages of the CIEEM website). All of these documents contain information about the conditions required for registration as a Chartered Ecologist which is relevant to your role as a sponsor.

The Competency Framework forms the basis for assessing whether an applicant meets the competence requirements for registration as a Chartered Ecologist. It is composed of 14 themes, further divided into competencies (40 in total). These are either technical competencies (related to their ecological knowledge and understanding) or transferable competencies commonly found in members of chartered professions.

CIEEM recognises 4 levels of competence: Basic, Capable, Accomplished and Authoritative. Chartered Ecologist applicants must be able to demonstrate that they have reached Accomplished or Authoritative-level competence in a required number of competencies. As a sponsor you are being asked to confirm that this is the case. The table below describes what is meant by being Accomplished or Authoritative.

Competence level	What this means
Accomplished	The applicant has the knowledge and experience of this area to carry out complex, specialist or non-standard activities confidently and consistently. The applicant is aware of alternative options and approaches and can provide guidance, instruction and advice to others on this area of activity.
Authoritative	The applicant is <b>widely</b> recognised as an authority, by others within the organisation and/or by external peers, for the knowledge and experience they demonstrate on this area of activity.

Once you have reviewed the application form you must decide whether you are confidently able to sign the form confirming the information that it contains. You are being asked to confirm that:

- a. you have read the Chartered Ecologist Regulations, Chartered Ecologist Code of Conduct and CIEEM Competency Framework;
- b. you consider the applicant to be a person of integrity and that he/she is suitable for registration as a Chartered Ecologist;
- c. to the best of your knowledge the applicant has practised, currently practises and is likely to continue to practise in a manner which accords with the principles and objectives of the Chartered Ecologist Code of Conduct;
- d. you endorse the statements of competence outlined in the Summary of Competences section; and
- e. to the best of your knowledge all the information contained in the application is accurate.

Please note that you are not being asked to supply any additional information or make a further statement about the applicant's capabilities. However, CIEEM reserves the right to contact you to ask for further information should further confirmation or clarification be required.

**Whilst we prefer a signed hard copy of the sponsor form, we understand this is not always possible. Scanned or electronic signatures will be accepted; however, to enable the application to be processed, we will confirm your sponsorship of the applicant for Chartered Ecologist via your personal email account.**

Sponsoring an applicant for registration as a Chartered Ecologist is an important role. We would like to thank you for taking the time to understand the responsibilities and requirements of a sponsor and helping us to uphold the standard of registrants. If you need further advice about being a sponsor, please feel free to contact the membership team at [membership@cieem.net](mailto:membership@cieem.net) or 01962 868626.