

# A Good Time to Think About Becoming Chartered

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You are an ambassador for the profession and a champion of the natural environment. Does this sound like you? If it does then it might be time to think about becoming chartered.

The benefits are many and varied. It can increase public confidence in your knowledge as a practitioner, lead to recognition by your employer and others that you are a highly competent professional, and, with chartered status, you become a much-needed role model, able to mentor the less experienced, help maintain standards and support the drive to a green recovery.

CIEEM offers two routes to chartership: Chartered Ecologist (CEcol) and Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv). Both chartership processes at CIEEM have undergone some significant changes this past year to become more streamlined and reduce the workload for applicants and assessors. We have removed the application submission deadlines so that you are not struggling to make a deadline in the middle of your busy season. Previously, CEcol applications were open only to Full or Fellow CIEEM members but now we are accepting applications from Associate grade members who feel they have the required skills and experience, as well as from professional ecologists who are not currently members of CIEEM. CEnv applications remain, as before, only open to Full or Fellow members of CIEEM. There are other changes to both chartership processes which are outlined fully in the guidance and if you have any queries, the Membership team is happy to help.

So what are you waiting for? It is time to think about becoming chartered. Here are the steps:

- Register your interest with us by completing the request form on the relevant chartership page of our website (<https://cieem.net/chartered-status/>) or by contacting the Membership team ([membership@cieem.net](mailto:membership@cieem.net)). We will then be able to send you the form and guidance and inform you of any competencies you could carry forward without having to provide written evidence at Stage One. (Currently, this will be relevant for CEcol applicants who were previously competence assessed in their Full application or those who have a previous unsuccessful CEcol application.)
- CIEEM's Competency Framework is a useful tool to help you plan your next steps to raise your level of expertise and enhance your career. Make use of the Competency self-assessment tool (<https://cieem.net/competency-framework-self-assessment-tool/>) to investigate which competencies you think you might like to evidence. There are 40 competencies and you can use the tool to evaluate as many or as few as you wish and as often as you wish, tracking your progress against them over time. Start collating your evidence for your chosen competencies and make good use of the guidance.
- When writing your evidence, remember to use the STARE method (Situation, Task, Action, Result, Evaluation) and do not be tempted to skip the evaluation stage as this is where assessors are looking to see if you are an ecologist or environmental manager who adapts, learning from mistakes as well as successes.
- Make your role in the examples you are evidencing very clear. As ecologists and environmental managers, you are often working as part of a team but, when thinking about chartership, it is important that you are clear about your individual input. You are often leading that team and so do not be afraid to let yourself shine.
- Find two sponsors who know your work well and who can validate your claimed competencies.
- Get your CPD records up to date on our CPD Tool (<https://mycareerpath.cieem.net/Login.aspx>) as we check the previous three years of CPD to make sure that it meets CIEEM's requirements. These CPD records are also used by the assessors to gain an insight into you as an applicant.
- Once you have everything in place, complete the form and submit it to CIEEM's Membership team.

Now is the time to think about becoming chartered and set your own application deadline so that you are not still thinking about it at the end of next year! The Membership team is here to support you so if you have any queries do not hesitate to contact us. Our fees are available on the website. Chartership may be the next logical step in your career that will lead to that promotion and at the very least it will be a worthwhile accomplishment that establishes you as a highly competent professional in your area of expertise.

## About the Author

Laura Wilson joined the Membership and Marketing Team early in 2020 and she is primarily responsible for the processing of applications for the Chartered Ecologist and Chartered Environmentalist routes to chartership. Laura contributes to the Registration Authority, liaises with volunteer assessors, organising the assessments and interviews, and supports applicants throughout their chartership journey.

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