

Accelerate your career

In a fiercely competitive business environment, achieving individual recognition at work has become increasingly demanding. Standing out from the crowd now requires much more than good academic qualifications and on-the-job performance. Getting on top of your career calls for a concrete demonstration of outstanding experience, professionalism and capability, as well as the desire to move ahead with the times. That's why the chartered qualification means more today than ever before.

Attaining chartered status is your official mark of professional achievement. It differentiates you from other scientific and engineering practitioners by confirming that you've reached the highest standards in your chosen discipline; and by acknowledging your commitment to improving those standards through continuous personal and professional development. It signals your acceptance of ethical principles and shows that you're prepared to take responsibility for the quality of your work. It's an indication of your dedication to building the wider community's confidence in physicists, and science in general.

The Institute of Physics is the only organisation in the world to offer the Chartered Physicist qualification. And, as an additional benefit for members working in multi-disciplinary fields, we also offer the opportunity to achieve Chartered Engineer and Chartered Scientist status. Whichever qualification you choose to work towards, we'll give you all the support and encouragement you need to lift you to a level that demonstrates your technical and professional excellence and commitment to your own continued development.

What is chartered status?

Distinguish yourself



As you'd expect, chartered status is not awarded lightly. Becoming chartered is a challenging process that demands considerable knowledge and expertise as prerequisites. But it's also a stimulating and greatly rewarding experience that benefits you, your employer and those who support you during your undertaking. That's why its appeal is not just for senior personnel, but also for appropriate younger candidates, looking to gain career advantage by distinguishing themselves.

Setting the standard

The benchmarks for attaining and maintaining chartered status are reviewed and adjusted on an ongoing basis, ensuring that the integrity of the qualification is not compromised, and the criteria for qualification remain relevant to industry, academia and research. Upholding the highest standards is key, and the achievement of attaining such a well-regarded, internationally recognised qualification is reflected in the influence the letters CPhys, CEng and CSci carry with both peers and employers.

Rewarding candidates

Chartered status is a formal recognition of your professional achievement and professional attitude. It's a positive affirmation of expertise, ability and competence; and with it comes entry to an exclusive, like-minded community, respected by peers and in demand by employers. The chartered qualification is your ticket to a more fulfilling, more rewarding career.

Benefiting employers and supporters

Employers recognise that with a chartered qualification, there's no better guarantee of an individual's ability to provide sound advice and informed, professional judgement based on current best practice and up-to-date skills. They know that with chartered status comes an assurance of quality, accountability and exceptional value. And those that assist candidates during the process of becoming chartered take their reward from the knowledge they're supporting the development of other members, and physics in general, by helping maintain industry standards.

Is chartered status for me?

Discover your options



Physics is a fundamental part of everyday life and is a thriving discipline that plays an important role in a broad and diverse spectrum of business, education and research. With such wide and varied career opportunities, we offer members a choice of three forms of chartered status, selected to meet every requirement. However, the options are not mutually exclusive, so if you're working in the appropriate sector and have the right qualifications, you may decide to apply for more than one, or even all three.

Chartered Physicist – CPhys

The IOP is the only organisation in the world to offer Chartered Physicist status. It's a qualification that's most suited to members who have a physics degree and have been working in a clearly identifiable physics role for a significant period of time. Alternatively, CPhys could also be appropriate if you have a physics background that you're now applying to other science-based work, like engineering, education, government, law or finance.

For more information, please e-mail us at cphys@iop.org

Chartered Engineer – CEng

Maintained by the Engineering Council, Chartered Engineer status is usually preferred by those who have a physics or engineering-based education and have extensive experience of being employed in a distinct engineering capacity. In certain circumstances, both Chartered Physicist and Chartered Engineer qualifications may be appropriate, and you may wish to apply for both.

For more information, please e-mail us at ceng@iop.org

Chartered Scientist – CSci

The Chartered Scientist qualification is designed to address the needs of the multi-disciplinary scientist with an educational background in physics or general science. CSci status is maintained by the Science Council and appeals to those with experience of operating in non-specific, broadly based scientific environments in public services, education or industry.

For more information, please e-mail us csci@iop.org

Which one should I choose?

Chartered Engineer – CEng

The Chartered Engineer qualification is known and respected internationally. It enhances credibility in presentation of myself and of my company. Fielding chartered engineers is also a key element of our competitive differentiation vis-a-vis competing consultancies. I would unhesitatingly recommend that physicists working as engineers secure registration.

**Enda P. Hardiman CEng CPhys FInstP,
Managing Partner of Hardiman Telecommunications Ltd**

Chartered Scientist – CSci

Chartered Scientist status recognises a wide range of my skills, including knowledge of my area of expertise as well as my ability to manage people I am responsible for. In addition, CSci requires me to maintain and develop those skills at a high level: something that is essential for any professional educator because science and education are continually changing fields of work.

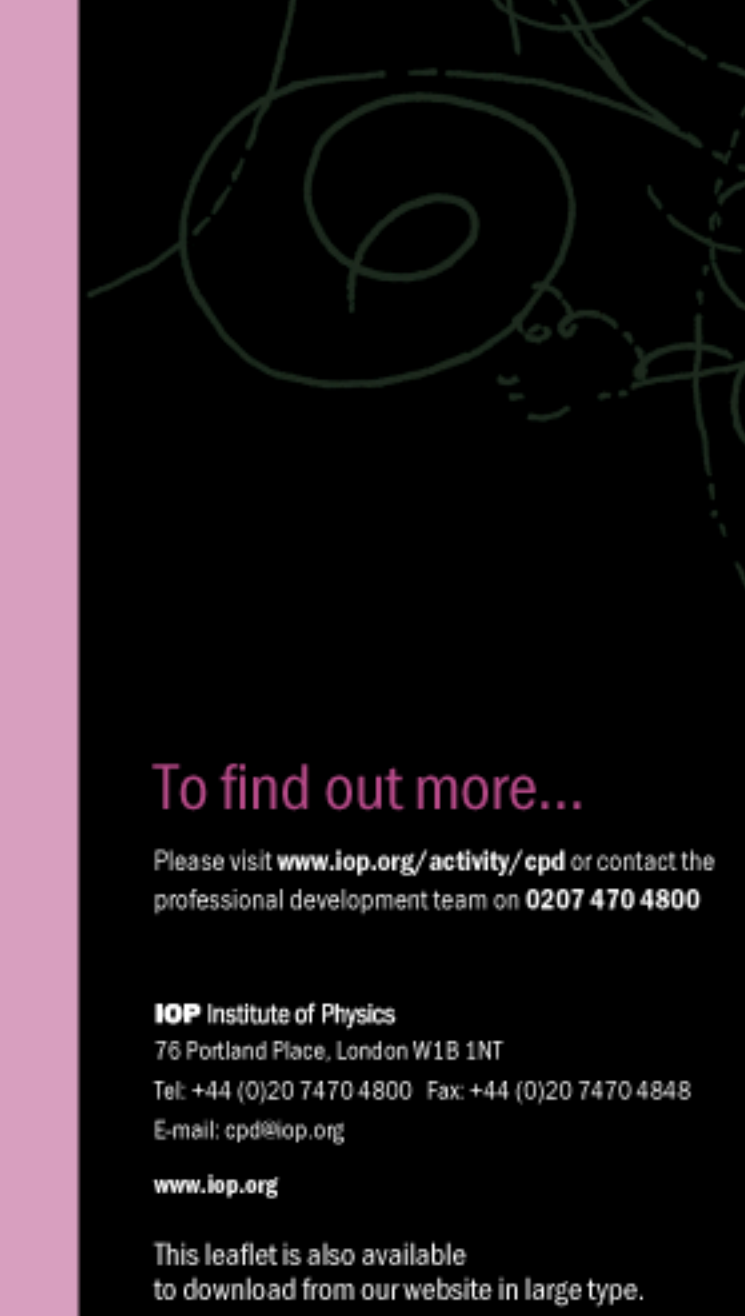
**David Bowdley CSci CPhys FInstP, Education Director,
Faulkes Telescope Project, Las Cumbres Observatory**

Chartered Physicist – CPhys

I have found that being a Chartered Physicist helps in opening doors, particularly when applying for job vacancies in new fields of research. It shows that you have a dedication and interest in the general field of physics and that you are continually keeping up to date having completed your degree. Industry particularly tends to have great respect for anyone who has been through the process. I have also found that it helps you personally in that it focuses you on your continual development within a physics-based environment.

**Dr Michael Cooke CSci CPhys, Electronic Device Process Technologist,
Plastic Electronics Technology Centre (PETeC)**

How did it help us?



To find out more...

Please visit www.iop.org/activity/cpd or contact the professional development team on **0207 470 4800**

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This leaflet is also available to download from our website in large type.

Apply yourself

The standards set for achieving chartered status are high and in keeping with the expectations of today's employers. But for whichever qualification you choose to apply, you'll find that there's also flexibility built into the process – so it's not always necessary to have a masters degree in physics. What counts is that you can demonstrate your experience, abilities and professional competence effectively.

Making the grade

To apply for any of our types of chartered status, you'll need to qualify to be an IOP member first (you can apply for both at the same time). You'll also have to show evidence of an accredited masters degree in physics or a relevant associated subject. Alternatively, you should be able to demonstrate that you have knowledge equivalent to this level through completion of a Masters Equivalence Report. In addition, you're required to nominate appropriate supporters who know you well and can verify that you have the necessary skills and experience to become chartered.

The process

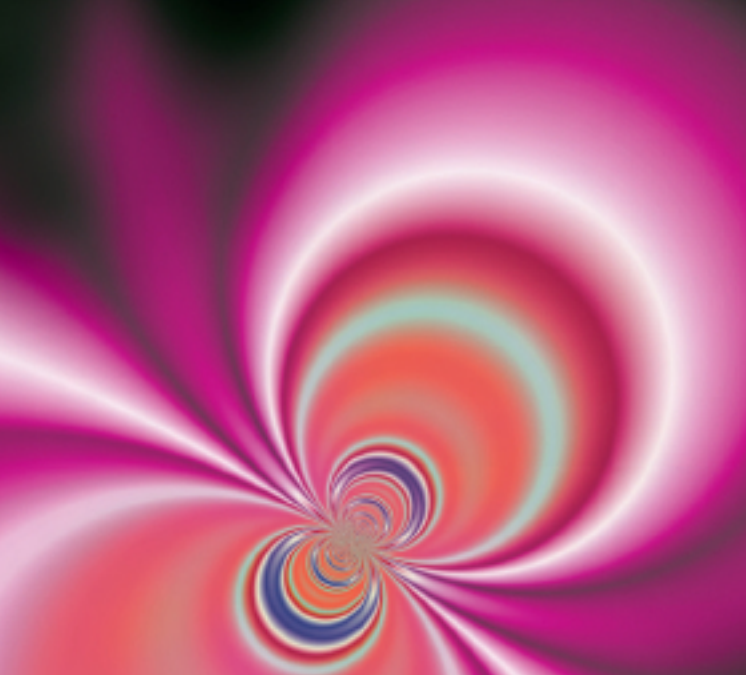
Application forms for all chartered qualifications can be downloaded from www.iop.org, along with comprehensive details of what's involved for each status, and templates of the documents you'll need to complete. To start the process of becoming chartered, simply send us:

- your application form
- your Curriculum Vitae
- copies of degree certificates
- your Masters Equivalence Report (where necessary)
- an organisational chart of your department and company
- a report reviewing your professional career

Your application will be assessed by a panel of five of our members who are also chartered in the status for which you've applied. They'll review your submission and compare it to the chartered status requirements to see whether you meet the standard. The process normally takes around three to four months from application after which, on election by the panel, you'll receive your chartered status certificate.

How do I apply?

Acknowledge your abilities



The specific prerequisites for chartered status application vary according to the chartered option you choose, and full details of these and information on the process of becoming chartered can be found in downloadable documents at www.iop.org

Basic requirements for Chartered Physicist

- an accredited integrated masters degree in physics or a related subject, or completion of a Masters Equivalence Report
- at least two years' initial professional development, and a further two years at a responsible level in a physics or engineering environment
- two nominated supporters, ideally Chartered Physicists, who have known you for at least one year and can verify your application. One supporter should be from your workplace, the other from outside
- you may also need to attend a personal interview

Basic requirements for Chartered Engineer

- an accredited masters degree in engineering or an accredited physics degree plus an MEng Equivalence Report
- at least five years' experience of working in an engineering environment, including two years at a responsible level
- two nominated supporters who are Chartered Engineers, have known you for at least one year and can verify your application. One supporter should be from your workplace, the other from outside
- attendance at a professional review interview

Basic requirements for Chartered Scientist

- an accredited masters degree in physics or a related subject, or completion of a Masters Equivalence Report
- four to five years' experience of working in a science based environment, depending on your degree, including two years at a responsible level
- two nominated supporters who are IOP members and are chartered, have known you for at least one year and can verify your application. One supporter should be from your workplace, the other from outside
- you may also need to attend an interview
- continuous professional development is required to maintain CSci with returns required every five years

What do I need to be eligible?

Start your journey



If you're interested in applying for chartered status, the IOP is the perfect place to start. With all the information you need to get going, you'll have all the support and guidance required to reach your goal.

Help from the IOP

Our chartership officer coordinates the application process and is able to advise you on your own application, while our Professional Development team is always on hand to provide you with the necessary practical assistance.

MyCPD

Continuous Professional Development (CPD) is a life-long learning approach to planning and managing your own development, benefiting every stage of your career. It's vital to demonstrate your commitment to CPD when applying for chartered status. MyCPD, a free service to members, is a sophisticated online tool that lets you record and plan your development needs, giving you direction on how best to achieve them.

Institute of Physics mentoring

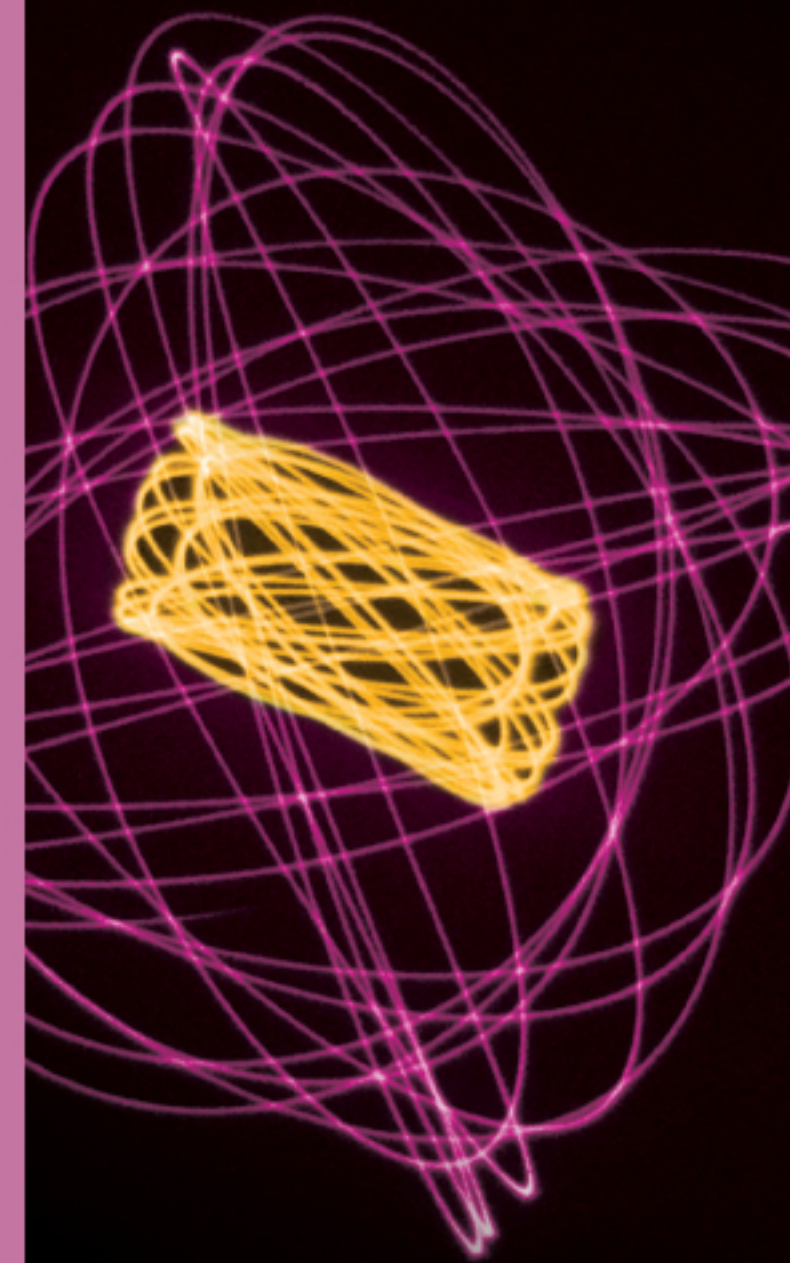
IOP members benefit from professional advice and individual mentoring on career progression and personal development with a free online mentor/mentee matching service. Whether you have the skills and experience to help a fellow member improve, or you're just beginning your career and want to better yourself, mentoring helps everyone to realise their full potential. Many mentors are chartered and are able to coach mentees towards achieving chartered status.

Training services

We provide a range of online and face-to-face courses that contribute to CPD and address many of the key competences required for chartered status, including project management, people management, financial awareness and leadership skills. There's 'Get Chartered', mentoring workshops and onsite presentations for organisations employing potential chartered candidates. We also accredit graduate training programmes against initial professional development for CEng and CPhys, providing a recognised external benchmark.

What should I do now?

Answering your questions



Is my degree accredited?

You can find out by looking at our own register of courses, or at the EC UK register of accredited courses for CEng. Your degree must have been accredited when it was awarded to you, and all physics degrees beyond 1997 must be accredited.

How much does it cost to apply?

There's currently no application fee for CPhys or CSci, and for CEng there's a non-refundable charge of £150. Annual registration fees are £15 for CPhys and CSci, and £27 for CEng. The IOP transfers registration fees for Chartered Engineer and Chartered Scientist directly to the maintaining authorities.

What should I do if I can't find a chartered supporter?

The downloadable guidance document found at our website can help you with this. It's best to search amongst your network of contacts or through IOP group and branch meetings to find suitable and willing supporters. If you genuinely can't find a Chartered Physicist in your network, our Professional Development Department can nominate a supporter for you, but this may be scrutinised and queried by the assessing panel.

Do I still qualify if I don't have a degree?

What's important is that you can demonstrate suitable work experience and relevant expertise. Not having a masters degree shouldn't be a barrier to chartered status if you complete a Masters Equivalence Report that shows you meet the required standards.

What should I do if my work is too confidential to submit an application?

You need to provide enough information to convince the assessment panel that you've reached the required level, so if you can't release any details of your work, we won't be able to consider your application. It is worth discussing this with your mentor or other chartered colleagues at work to see how they have approached this issue, or alternatively contact our Professional Development Department for advice.

Questions and Answers

Recognise your achievements

Attaining your chartered status

