

Chartered Science Teacher

CSciTeach

recognising professional expertise in science teaching and learning

I was surprised how many ordinary teachers held my award in such high esteem. We have been crying out for a professional body in teaching for many years – to raise the status of the profession at all levels, and to convince parents that we do our jobs to the best of our ability – and this is a significant step towards it.

Tony Cuthbert CSciTeach, Primary teacher with responsibility for science

I have been passionate about primary science teaching and learning since I was a child at infant school and involved in the Nuffield Primary Science project. I believe CSciTeach is a wonderful acknowledgement of my efforts to improve primary science and recognition that good teaching is underpinned by research.

Jane Johnston CSciTeach, Reader in Education at Bishop Grosseteste College

I have not had a conventional route through education and career; I'm primary by teaching background, and I don't have an MEd. CSciTeach aims to recognise "M levelness", and my portfolio must have demonstrated that I have been working at the equivalent of M level and demonstrating impact on learning in my work. I'd encourage others like me to apply.

Charlotte Clarke CSciTeach, Advisor/Inspector

Working up my application for CSciTeach status encouraged me to reflect on past successes and hopes for the future. Quite rightly, the process is searching, but it is manageable and it has enabled me to provide evidence of a proactive approach to professional development which has a significant impact on the learners.

Stephen Burrowes CSciTeach, Advanced Skills Teacher

My first response is that it's a tremendous validation of the things I feel I've achieved in my career so far. Completing the application gave me the opportunity to reflect on what I've done and, more importantly, what I've learned from it and the impact it has had on my effectiveness as a teacher. It also set me the challenge of planning where I go next.

Liz Lawrence CSciTeach, Advisory Teacher for Primary Science and Technology

Benefits of CSciTeach

Chartered Science Teacher (CSciTeach) is a chartered designation which has been developed through a close partnership between the Science Council and the Association for Science Education (ASE). As a specialist section of the Science Council's Chartered Scientist (CSci) register, CSciTeach recognises the unique and demanding combination of skills, knowledge, understanding and expertise that is required by individuals involved in the practice and advancement of science teaching and learning. CSciTeach is set at the same high level as CSci.

CSciTeach provides science teachers, working in a wide range of settings, with a professional status recognising and rewarding their high quality expertise which is in turn underpinned by a commitment to CPD.

Chartered Science Teachers are professionals, teachers and educators, who are practising and/or advancing science teaching and learning and for whom knowledge and skills in pedagogy, science education and science are essential elements of their role. Chartered Science Teachers have a critical awareness of current issues which is informed by developments in educational practice, pedagogy and scientific endeavour.

In addition to the use of the designatory letters CSciTeach, the designation of Chartered Science Teacher will benefit all those concerned with science teaching as a profession. CSciTeach raises the profile of science teaching and learning and for individuals it provides recognition of their expertise and commitment. CSciTeach is of value to:

- Society, which will be more confident in the competence of an individual science teacher
- individual teachers by identification as a professional that sets them at the forefront of their profession
- Employers, with confirmation, through the designation, of the quality of a job applicant's application
- Government departments seeking to appoint advisers or consultants would have an assurance about the level of an individual's expertise and competence
- Regulatory Authorities, who could be confident in specifying the designation in Acts of Parliament and regulations
- legal credibility, enabling expert witness participation at a defined standard.

Requirements for Chartered Science Teacher

To be awarded CSciTeach candidates must be active in science education in a capacity that involves individuals in science teaching and learning in the UK or elsewhere. This includes teachers in schools, colleges and universities and those working in other settings (e.g. science centres and museums) as well as advisers, inspectors and consultants.

By providing evidence through a combination of recognised qualifications, acknowledged achievements and other supporting material, each candidate qualifying for CSciTeach should:

- A** Meet the qualifying educational standard of an M-Level qualification or equivalent in pedagogy/education together with an Honours level qualification in which there is a minimum of 50% of course content in science;
- B** Be able to provide evidence of their professional expertise and competence in relation to:
 - professional knowledge and understanding which provides the underpinning base for practice
 - professional practice which relates specifically to the development of effective teaching and learning strategies, including those which contribute to enhancing the quality of the educational experience of students and to the wider professional context of science education, and
 - professional attributes which are the overarching principles that characterise professional autonomy and relate to self-evaluation, collegial activity, personal responsibility and leadership.

All candidates need to have at least four years experience of teaching science of which two should be at an appropriate level

of responsibility and, for a minimum of two years immediately prior to the application, have carried out appropriate professional development commensurate with the level of attainment required for A & B. For most candidates this will be after achieving qualified teacher status.

In addition, Chartered Science Teachers will:

- be expected to work with colleagues and others in developing science education beyond the classroom or laboratory
- work within the professional code of conduct for Chartered Science Teachers; and
- be able to demonstrate their commitment to continually maintaining and updating their professional expertise and competence.

How might the evidence for CSciTeach be presented?

Whilst an M-Level degree in education/pedagogy is the exemplifying educational standard for the pedagogical element of CSciTeach, there are a number of different routes that can demonstrate the educational equivalence of a Masters degree - for example, a combination of formal qualifications and appropriate demonstrable experience at the required level. Typically, the time required to achieve the relevant competencies will be longer for those candidates applying without an M-Level qualification in pedagogy.

There is no set way of presenting the evidence for CSciTeach. The application form requires candidates to provide a written summary

as part of a professional review on each of the three elements: professional knowledge and understanding, professional practice and professional attributes and be able to substantiate these with appropriate material. It might be anticipated, therefore, that candidates maintain a portfolio of evidence that could contain a CPD diary, examples of articles or papers, leadership and development of others, examples of analysis of particular aspects of practice. The assessors are looking for evidence that those applying for CSciTeach have engaged with reflection/scholarship/research that translates into an impact on learning and teaching.

Who awards CSciTeach?

The Science Council does not confer CSciTeach on individuals directly, the Association for Science Education (ASE) awards CSciTeach under licence of the Science Council.

Under the terms of its Royal Charter, ASE, as a licensed body of the Science Council, is empowered to award CSciTeach to individuals who meet the requirements. The register of CSciTeach is a special section of the register of Chartered Scientists (CSci) which underpins the quality and equivalence of the awards.

What is a Licensed Body of the Science Council?

The Science Council has more than 30 learned and professional society Member Bodies. In order to qualify individual members for the award of Chartered Scientist and Chartered Science Teacher, Member Bodies must have been granted Licensed Body status by the Science Council. In order to qualify as a Licensed Body the Member Body will have provided substantial evidence demonstrating that its qualifying regulations and

procedures meet the high standards set by the Science Council. For an up to date list of Licensed Bodies of the Science Council visit www.sciencecouncil.org.

How do I apply for CSciTeach?

You must be in full membership of the Association for Science Education. An application pack with detailed notes for guidance is available from ASE Headquarters. The application form with supporting evidence should be completed and returned to the CSciTeach Registrar, The Association for Science Education, College Lane, Hatfield, Herts AL10 9AA.

Registration Fees*

There are administration and registration costs attached to making the awards and fees will be chargeable for the initial application (a single payment of £50) and for maintaining the registration (£20/year).

Will I have to renew CSciTeach?

Chartered Science Teachers are required to continually maintain and update their professional expertise and competence and are required to revalidate their award every 5 years. Chartered Science Teachers who wish to renew their registration will be required to demonstrate:

- participation in appropriate professional development, and
- continuing practice such that knowledge and competence of science teaching at an appropriate level have formed the basis for the fulfilment of their role.

* These fees correct as at 1st January 2007. See ASE website for current fees.



The Science Council, an umbrella organisation uniting all the key Professional Institutions and Learned Societies across science in the UK, received its Royal Charter on 14 October 2003. In October 2003 the designation Chartered Scientist was added to the now familiar list of chartered professions. This is a significant achievement for the field of science and those that practice in the many and varied disciplines that science encompasses. CSci and CSciTeach are marks of excellence and competence, and do much to improve the profile of science, scientists and science teachers in the community.



The Association for Science Education (ASE) is the professional body for those involved in science education at all levels from pre-school to higher education, including a growing number of technician members. ASE was granted a Royal Charter on 13 October 2004. It has a national network of teachers, lecturers and advisers as well as a team of permanent staff. They work together providing a unique service, to promote high quality science education and foster the professional development of its members.

Contact Details

Further details and an application pack can be obtained by post from the CSciTeach Registrar, The Association for Science Education, College Lane, Hatfield, Herts AL10 9AA, or by telephone on 01707 283000, or by email on CSciTeach@ase.org.uk or you can visit the ASE website at www.ase.org.uk and download the application form.

For further details about the Science Council and CSci, see www.sciencecouncil.org.