Chartered Ecologist

Recognising professionals at the forefront of work to protect and enhance the natural environment and to safeguard, manage and restore it for the benefit of nature and society.

www.cieem.net/chartered-ecologist
Foreword

The introduction of the Chartered Ecologist Award has been a significant step for ecological practitioners. It raises the profile of ecology as an applied science and a worthwhile career choice and promotes the highest standards of professional practice for the benefit of society and for biodiversity.

The first Chartered Ecologists are already finding that their Chartered status has increased recognition and respect for their knowledge and skills amongst other professionals, employers, colleagues and clients. The use of the CEcol post-nominal signifies not only a consistently high level of competence but also the promotion and assurance of high standards of integrity and professional conduct.

So, if you are thinking of applying for the Chartered Ecologist award – congratulations. You will be gaining something practical that will be useful to you in your continuing career as well as demonstrating a strong commitment to the ethos and values which characterise our profession. We expect to see evidence of this commitment in your application and it is important that all Chartered Ecologists recognise and accept this wider responsibility.

Applying for the Chartered Ecologist award takes time. It requires you to provide clear evidence to justify your claimed competency of your chosen subject areas as well as the three mandatory ones. You must have a good track record of achievement in your career. The prize is worth the effort though. Admission to the Register of Chartered Ecologists is a privileged and prestigious achievement and the process and application reflects the importance and seriousness with which we view it.

Penny Anderson CEcol CEnv FCIEEM (rtd)
Chair of the Registration Authority

What is a Chartered Ecologist?

Chartered Ecologists are active professionals who use their knowledge, experience and influence to promote and advance ecology as an applied discipline. They may work or have worked in or for 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.
- They can communicate complex ecological concepts and ideas confidently and effectively to a wide range of audiences.

Chartered Ecologists, in the many different guises that they may be found, are at the forefront of work to protect and enhance the natural environment and to safeguard, manage and restore it for the benefit of nature and society.

Before being admitted to the Register, applicant Chartered Ecologists 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’.
Why become a Chartered Ecologist?

Like other professional registrations the award of Chartered Ecologist is in the public interest as well as in the personal interest of the registrant. Chartered Ecologists are committed to advancing their chosen profession and promoting high standards of practice.

The public interest benefits of the award can be summarised as:

- Increasing public confidence in the knowledge and competence of ecological practitioners.
- Higher standards of practice as ecologists aspire to meet the standard required, leading to better outcomes for biodiversity and the natural environment.
- Better environmental regulation as regulatory bodies use the standard to benchmark biodiversity-related activities and legislation.
- Promotion of applied ecology as a worthwhile career by establishing the profession on a par with other recognised professional registrations.

On a personal level Chartered Ecologists can enjoy the following:

- Professional recognition within the sector and by employers as a highly competent ecological practitioner.
- Credibility and professional standing when working with other disciplines or as an expert witness.
- Opportunities to influence the training, practice and standards of the profession.
- Potential career advancement prospects.

Who can apply?

Admission to the Register of Chartered Ecologists is open to the following practitioners:

- Fellows or Full members of CIEEM.
- Members of other professional bodies licensed by CIEEM such that their members can apply to join the Register. A list of professional bodies licensed by CIEEM is available on the CIEEM website.

All applicants are required to meet defined eligibility criteria in order to be assessed for registration. These are:

- Evidence of being an active practitioner.
- Evidence of compliance with CIEEM’s Code of Professional Conduct (for CIEEM members) or a code of conduct operated by the professional body or society, licensed by CIEEM, of which you are a member.
- Evidence of having undertaken a minimum level of Continuing Professional Development in the three years prior to registration.
- Evidence of competence at the required level and across sufficient areas of CIEEM’s Competency Framework. Chartered Ecologists typically have at least ten years relevant professional experience in order to have developed their competences sufficiently to meet the assessment requirements. However, in exceptional circumstances, an applicant may feel confident in being able to demonstrate competence at the required level with less than ten years relevant professional experience (please see pages 10-11).

All applications will need to be supported by two sponsors who are willing to confirm the accuracy of the information that you have provided, particularly in relation to the competences.
Meet today’s Chartered Ecologists

Ms Ann Skinner CEcol CEnv FCIEEM
Environment Agency
For many years I have worked very closely with Chartered Engineers, surveyors, town planners and landscape architects, so it was hugely satisfying to be able to gain the equivalent recognition and to thereby raise the profile of our professional standing amongst those we work with and those we work for. I would encourage all professional ecologists with sufficient experience and expertise to seek this award.

Ms Stephanie Peay CEcol CEnv MCIEEM
URS Corporation
I am delighted to be a Chartered Ecologist at last. It is the achievement of an ambition that dates from 1990, even before I applied for IEEM membership in 1991. Back then, ecologists had low professional standing and often had lower pay than other practitioners. We were sometimes dismissed by landscape architects, planners or civil engineers as just a well-meaning bunch of tree-huggers! It’s good to know how things have improved since then.

Dr Alan Feest CEcol MCIEEM
Ecosulis Ltd and University of Bristol
I was a founder member of IEEM and the creation of a Chartered Institute status for IEEM has been my wish from those early days. All sorts of people seem to feel entitled to call themselves ecologists and now we can show that this is a serious title respecting substantial professional achievement. As a member of an Engineering Department it will be good to show a professional status similar to my Chartered Civil Engineer colleagues. Despite my being a “non-conforming” ecologist in that I am both an academic and a practising professional ecologist (and theoretically retired!) I found the interview process both friendly and challenging as I expected it to be.

Mr Luke Gorman CEcol MCIEEM
Atkins Ltd
I have worked as an ecological consultant for over ten years, leading the ecological input into a number of complex and nationally important schemes. I work to high standards, using innovation and new industry technologies to advance the ecology discipline further. I am extremely pleased to have been granted Chartered status and believe that the Register of Chartered Ecologists will raise the standards of practice in the ecology sector.

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How to apply

The five steps to registration as a Chartered Ecologist are as follows:

1. Check you are eligible to apply – you must be an active ecologist, have evidence of meeting CPD requirements, evidence of continuing compliance with your own body’s code of conduct together with evidence of meeting the minimum competence requirements as defined by CIEEM’s Competency Framework.

2. Assess yourself against the Chartered Ecologist Competences – you only need to demonstrate evidence of the required number of competences in order to be assessed, but we strongly recommend that you initially complete a total self-assessment of your competence level against all of the sub-themes so that you get a feel for your strongest skills. There is a downloadable self-assessment form, within the Competency Matrix on the CIEEM website.

3. Prepare and submit your written application – Stage One assessment – this is your chance to demonstrate to the assessors that you meet the eligibility criteria and should be invited for a Professional Review Interview.

4. Prepare for your interview – Stage Two assessment – this is your opportunity to show that you are practising at or above the required standard by drawing on your relevant experience as an ecologist. Should you be invited to attend a Professional Review Interview you will be sent guidance on how to prepare for it.

5. Await your results and feedback.

For full details regarding the application process, please refer to the Chartered Ecologist Detailed Guidance and application form found on the Chartered Ecologist pages on the CIEEM website or contact the Registration Officer, enquiries@cieem.net.

FAQs

Here are some frequently asked questions but for full clarification, please refer to the Chartered Ecologist Detailed Guidance or call the Registration Officer.

I am an academic, is Chartered Ecologist status for me?
Yes. The current Register comprises of practitioners from many and varied backgrounds, including academia, local or national government, consultancy, statutory agencies and industry. They are all united by their work to protect the natural environment.

How do I complete the sub-theme competence evidence?
We do advise you to use the STARE method of providing your evidence. That is:
- Explain the Situations and/or Tasks you were involved in;
- Identify the Actions you took as an individual, and why;
- Explain what the Results were;
- Evaluate the outcomes in relation to your competence level.

Additionally, you can find sub-theme competence examples on the CIEEM website.

Who should I ask to sponsor me?
Fundamentally, the best person to sponsor you is someone who can bear witness to your claimed competences as a practising ecologist. They should be CIEEM Fellows or Full members (or the equivalent grades of other bodies licensed by CIEEM to put forward candidates for registration). Should you have problems identifying suitable sponsors, please contact the CIEEM office.

How long does the process take?
The timescale we advise is between four to nine months and can be affected by factors such as:
- Your application being complete.
- The availability of assessors, who are volunteers.
- Your availability to attend a scheduled Professional Review Interview.
- The CIEEM Governing Board cycle.

Do I have enough experience to apply for Chartered Ecologist?
A Chartered Ecologist will typically have at least ten years relevant professional experience in order to have been able to develop their competences sufficiently to meet the assessment requirements. However, in exceptional circumstances, an applicant may feel confident in being able to demonstrate competence at the required level with less than ten years relevant professional experience.

How much does it cost?
Please see the CIEEM website for the most up-to-date information regarding costs.
The Chartered Ecologist award is based on the CIEEM Competency Framework. Applicants need to demonstrate either nine or twelve of the 46 sub-theme competences at the Accomplished or Authoritative levels as defined below. For full details regarding eligibility and the Competency Framework, please see the CIEEM website: www.cieem.net/competency-framework.

### Accomplished Level
Has the knowledge and experience of this activity to carry out complex, specialist or non-standard activities confidently and consistently. Is aware of alternative options and approaches and can provide guidance, instruction and advice to others on this activity.

### Authoritative Level
Is widely recognised as an authority, both by others within the organisation and/or by external peers, for the knowledge and experience they demonstrate on the activity.

### Transferable Theme
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<td>Professional conduct</td>
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### Ecological/Environmental Theme

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<td>Environmental assessment</td>
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<td>Environmental governance, legislation and policy</td>
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<td>Scientific method</td>
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<td>Formal facilitation, consultation, engagement and partnering</td>
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<td>Public awareness and education</td>
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#### Accomplished Level
- Habitat/species survey design
- Survey planning and fieldwork skills
- Species identification and evaluation
- Species handling
- Habitat identification and evaluation
- Physical environment survey
- Habitat management
- Habitat creation/enhancement
- Species management
- Sustainable environmental design
- Environmental regulation compliance
- Biosecurity
- Strategic Environmental Assessment
- Environmental Impact Assessment
- Ecological Impact Assessment
- Habitat Regulations Assessment. Appropriate Assessment/Natura Impact Statement
- Regulatory aspects of environmental assessment
- Formulation
- Understanding and application
- Compliance and enforcement
- Design
- Implementation
- Analysis
- Interpretation and evidence-based reporting
- Formal facilitation, consultation, engagement and partnering
- Formal ecological teaching and training
- Raising environmental awareness