

Becoming a Registered Scientist

Competence report – advice to applicants and mentors

Applicants for RSci will need to demonstrate competence across five areas. Guidance on what the assessors will be looking for under each competence is provided below but the examples are just indicative – there will be many other valid examples you can choose. Here are some tips you should bear in mind when compiling your application:

- For each competence statement, you will need to give clear examples of the role that you play or the contribution that you make to a particular task or activity.
- To provide your examples with sufficient depth, it might be useful to explain what you did, how you went about it and why you did it.
- You may use the same task or activity more than once but you should ensure you are clear on how it applies to the specific competence you are addressing.
- Most of the examples you provide should be fairly recent (in the last three years) but you can also draw on relevant experience further back in your career

A: Application of knowledge and understanding

Identify and use relevant scientific understanding, methods and skills to complete tasks and address well defined problems.

A1: Apply extended knowledge of underlying concepts and principles associated with area of work.

We are looking for an example of how you have used your extended knowledge within the area in which you work. This will include developments within your field and the ability to understand and apply new developments to your area of work.

A2: Review, evaluate and apply underlying scientific concepts, principles and techniques in the context of new and different areas of work.

What we are looking for here is how you have taken techniques/principles and reviewed, evaluated and applied them in a new area of work.

A3: Analyse, interpret and evaluate data, concepts and ideas to propose solutions to problems.

We are looking for an example of how you observe and interpret the results from your data to draw conclusions and inform your next steps.

B: Personal Responsibility

Exercise personal responsibility in planning and implementing tasks according to prescribed protocols

B1: Work autonomously while knowing when to escalate appropriately and recognising limits of scope of practice.

We are looking for an example of how you work with no supervision for certain key tasks, experiments or procedures associated with your role within required timeframes. You will also be able to demonstrate your understanding of when you need to seek input from either your supervisor or others and when to escalate.

B2: Take responsibility for safe and sustainable working practices and contribute to their evaluation and improvement.

We are looking for an example of how you have taken responsibility for working safely and sustainably.

B3: Take responsibility for the quality of your work and also enable others to work to high standards.

This means that you can show how you are aware of the quality standards necessary for the work being carried out by you and others. You should be able to describe an example of how you enable these standards and ensure that they are applied.

C: Interpersonal Skills

Demonstrate effective communication and interpersonal skills.

C1: Demonstrate effective and appropriate communication skills.

What we are looking for here is an example that you are an effective communicator. The example can be through appropriate oral, written or electronic means.

C2: Demonstrate effective interpersonal and behavioural skills.

This means that you can give an example that demonstrates the skills that you use to interact with colleagues in a constructive way within the work setting. In these situations it

may be appropriate to discuss these with your supervisor, as an external perspective is often very useful in this regard.

C3: Demonstrate productive working relationships and an ability to resolve problems.

This means that you should be able to describe how, when working with others, you are able to demonstrate that you developed positive working relationships and resolved the problem. Your example should demonstrate how those working relationships were effective in resolving problems.

D: Professional Practice

Apply appropriate theoretical and practical methods.

D1: Identify, review and select scientific techniques, procedures and methods to undertake tasks.

This means you can give an example of work that you have undertaken showing where and why the method/procedure used was chosen as the best (or most relevant) to use.

D2: Contribute to the organisation of tasks and resources.

This means that you can give examples of how you have contributed to the running of the laboratory/workshop/section or other types of working environment.

D3: Participate in the design, development and implementation of solutions.

This means that you can give an example of 'problem solving' that describes your specific role in helping to overcome a specific problem. For instance it might mean that a process, programme, design, assay, or method suddenly stops working and you are involved in finding out the reason why. Your example should show what your role was in understanding the problem and what your contribution achieved.

D4: Contribute to continuous process improvement.

This means that you can give an example which shows how you are aware of progress in your area and seek ways of improving the efficiency of your work. It should describe how you seek to discuss with your supervisor the strategy for achieving this. For instance this could include new and improved methods, new ways to increase throughput, or ways to increase cost-effectiveness.

E: Professional Standards

Demonstrate a personal commitment to professional standards.

E1: Comply with and promote relevant codes of conduct and practice.

This means that you can give an example of how you comply with a code of conduct (e.g. of your professional Body) or how you work within and promote all relevant legislative, regulatory and local requirements.

E2: Maintain and enhance competence in own area of practice through professional development activity.

This means that you undertake activities to enhance your competence in your own area of practice i.e. Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and reflect on its impact on you and others. We are not looking for a list of courses here but evidence of how your CPD benefits your practice and benefits others. Your CPD may include work-based learning, professional activity, formal/educational, self-directed learning.

(Note registrants will need to comply with the Science Council CPD Standards)

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