

Becoming a Registered Science Technician

Competence report – advice to applicants and mentors

Applicants for RSciTech 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 knowledge of underlying concepts and principles associated with area of work.

What we are looking for here is an example of how you apply your knowledge in your day to day work.

A2: Review and select appropriate scientific techniques, procedures and methods to undertake tasks.

This means that you can explain the underlying reasons for undertaking tasks and why a particular procedure, technique, or process is appropriate.

A3: Interpret and evaluate data and make sound judgements in relation to scientific concepts.

This means you can explain how you recognise when your activity appears to have been successfully carried out, or not, and what data, observations, or measurements you are

evaluating mean, relating it to the underlying principles. You should also be able describe how you present information in an appropriate manner in order to explain your judgement.

B: Personal Responsibility

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

B1: Work consistently and effectively with minimal supervision to appropriate standards and protocols and know when to escalate appropriately.

We are looking for an example of how you carry out work with minimal input from your supervisor for certain key tasks, experiments or procedures associated with your role and completing them to the appropriate standards and time frame. We are also looking for evidence that you know when to escalate appropriately and that you are able to make a judgement on when to escalate.

B2: Demonstrate how you apply safe working practices.

This means that you can explain the safe working practices applicable to your area of work and describe how you follow them.

B3: Take responsibility for the quality of your work and the impact on others.

This means that you can describe how you take responsibility for the quality of the work that you undertake and its impact on others within defined parameters and timelines– including if an activity does not work in the way that you expect.

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 demonstrate 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 an ability to work effectively with others.

This means 'team work', which can be in a large team or on a 1:1 basis. Your example should illustrate how you worked collectively with others, what your specific role was within the team, and what the outcome was.

D: Professional Practice

Apply appropriate theoretical and practical methods according to protocol

D1: Recognise problems and apply appropriate scientific methods to identify causes and achieve solutions.

What we are looking for here is an example of where you have problem solved or attempted to problem solve.

D2: Demonstrate how you use resources effectively.

This means that you can give examples of work that you have undertaken where the method, procedure, programme, equipment, or materials used was chosen as the best (or most relevant) to use. Your example should describe how you planned and organised these to complete the task, and also how you reviewed choices – why the one you selected was the best compared to others that are available.

D3: Participate in continuous process improvement.

What we are looking for is an example of how you have improved the efficiency of a way of working, for example this could include maintenance of stock levels, improved methods, new ways to increase throughput, health and safety or ways to increase cost-effectiveness.

E: Professional Standards

Demonstrate a personal commitment to professional standards.

E1: Comply with relevant codes of conduct and practice.

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

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

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This means that you can give an example of an activity you have undertaken 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)

(Approved by Science Council Board, Sept 2020)

