

# Graduates' guide

Your pathway to professionalism





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This guide has been designed to help our graduate members in their steps towards becoming a Chartered Chemical Engineer.

You'll find information about the application process, guidance on your next steps and answers to some of the most frequently asked questions.

We hope you find this guide useful. If you any have further queries visit [www.icheme.org/chartered](http://www.icheme.org/chartered) or contact [members@icheme.org](mailto:members@icheme.org)

This document is produced in digital format only because it is regularly updated. Please ensure that you are referring to the latest version found at [www.icheme.org/young-members](http://www.icheme.org/young-members)

# Your IChemE membership doesn't stop here...

As a graduate you'll benefit from IChemE membership whether you're going into postgraduate study, looking for a job or starting your career.

Finishing your degree is a great achievement, but when you start work you'll be expected to stay up to date with the latest knowledge in your field, learn new skills and make useful contacts – all of which will help your career. This is called 'Continuing Professional Development' (CPD) and is the next stage of your education.

After a few years' work experience you'll want recognition of your achievements, which is why hundreds of chemical, biochemical and process engineers across the globe get Chartered every year. Becoming a Chartered Member demonstrates your professional competence and commitment to employers, policy makers, regulators and society.

Those elected to Chartered Member (MIChemE) are also awarded the title Chartered Chemical Engineer – the gold standard in chemical, biochemical and process engineering – which can only be gained through IChemE.

Chartered Members get access to all membership resources plus:

- peer-reviewed proof of their expertise
- external validation of their expertise via professional registrations such as Chartered Engineer (CEng), Chartered Scientist (CSci) and Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv)
- MIChemE post-nominals and Chartered Chemical Engineer title
- career development opportunities – independently-assessed Chartered Chemical Engineers are often given more responsibility
- digital Chartered Member logo to use on business cards, email signatures etc.





# What's next?

## Job-hunting

If you've finished your undergraduate degree and have started looking for a job, here are a few things that may help:

- visit [www.icheme.org/job-hunters](http://www.icheme.org/job-hunters) and download our *Job-hunters' Survival Kit* for information and advice on looking for jobs, writing a CV or attending interviews;
- if there's a regional member group in your area, get involved with the committee and get to know local engineers at all levels. This will help demonstrate your enthusiasm and organisational skills. Visit [www.icheme.org/membergroups](http://www.icheme.org/membergroups) for details;
- join the lively IChemE social media community on LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter, or ask questions on Interface - the members-only forum;
- become an Associate Member\* and use the designatory letters AMIChemE on your CV and digital signature, to prove your commitment to your career development, and to the industry;
- join a special interest group (SIG) that appeals to you. From particle technology to project management, learn from senior engineers who work in a wide variety of industries and roles. You can join SIGs for free as part of your membership subscription. See [www.icheme.org/sigs](http://www.icheme.org/sigs) for the full list.

\*Student Members can upgrade to Associate Member for free after graduation providing they meet the qualification requirements (first degree in chemical engineering, or an IChemE accredited degree of another title, at bachelor's level with honours or above). Affiliate Members and non-members can find out more at [www.icheme.org/associate](http://www.icheme.org/associate).

## Postgraduate study

If you're continuing your studies at university, perhaps to complete a master's or doctorate, you may find these useful:

- for the latest knowledge relating to your research area, join the relevant special interest group at [www.icheme.org/sigs](http://www.icheme.org/sigs);
- members get free online access to IChemE journals. Simply log in to MyIChemE at [www.icheme.org](http://www.icheme.org) to get access to the latest research;
- conferences are a great place to network with other people in your field of research, and submitting papers looks great on your academic record. Conferences such as the annual ChemEngDayUK conference, or the Chemeca conference in Australasia are of particular relevance to research students. Visit [www.icheme.org/events](http://www.icheme.org/events);
- for quick queries don't forget *Knovel*, the online searchable database for science and engineering textbooks, formulas and interactive tools accessible at [www.icheme.org/knovel](http://www.icheme.org/knovel).

# Chartered Chemical Engineer MIChemE

## What is a Chartered Chemical Engineer?

Becoming a Chartered Chemical Engineer demonstrates your professional competence as a chemical, biochemical or process engineer. Applying to become Chartered means that your education and work experience are peer-reviewed by an election panel made up of IChemE Members and Fellows. Those elected to Chartered Member (MIChemE) are also awarded the title *Chartered Chemical Engineer* which can only be gained through IChemE.

## Why is it important?

Chartered Chemical Engineer status is globally recognised and reassures employers and clients that you're a highly competent engineer. This can help your employability and career progression, giving you increased responsibility and better pay. Take a look at our salary calculator at [www.icheme.org/salariesurvey](http://www.icheme.org/salariesurvey) to compare salaries between Chartered Chemical Engineers and their non-Chartered counterparts.

## UK Chartered vs. non-Chartered salaries compared by age

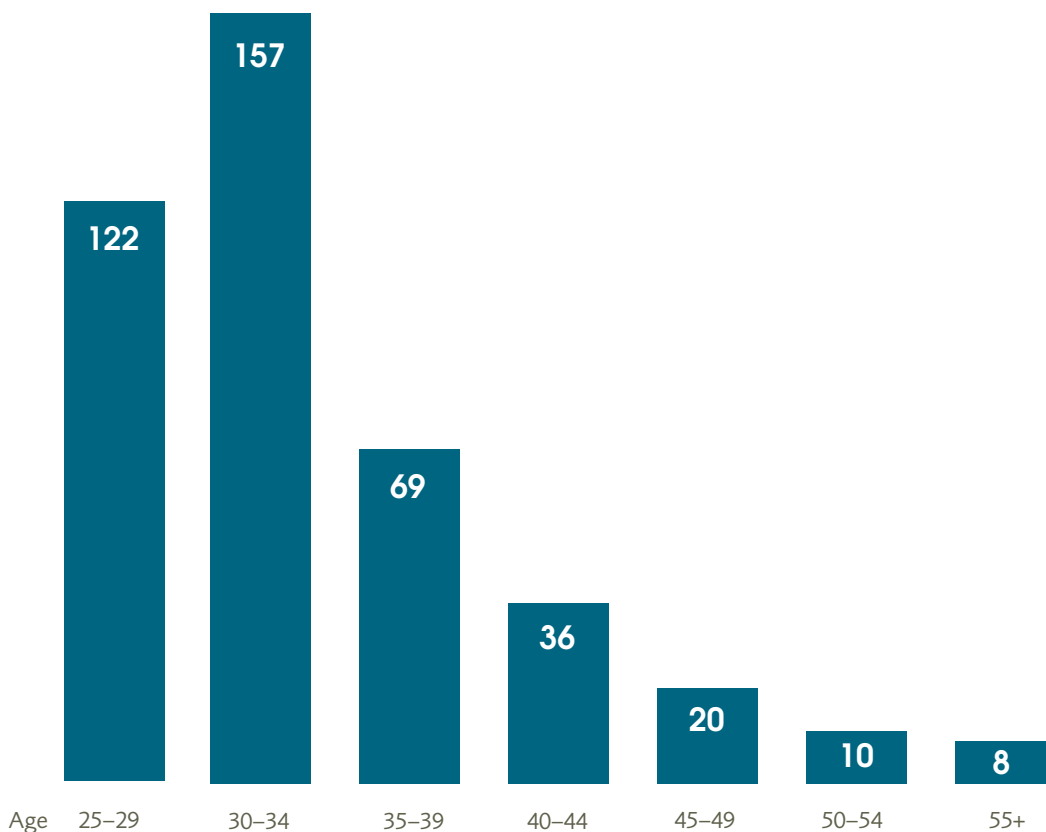


source: [www.icheme.org/salariesurvey](http://www.icheme.org/salariesurvey)

## Why do I need to start thinking about it now?

It's a good idea to start thinking about tracking your work experience against the competencies for Chartered Chemical Engineer now, it will make it easier to spot gaps in your professional experience as you progress. Use a CPD tool such as *mycareerpath* to record your CPD which will make it easier to put your application together in a few years time. Most of our members see the benefit of starting their Chartered applications early in their career.

Most IChemE members get Chartered between the ages of 25-39.  
Start planning and recording your CPD today.



The total number of IChemE members getting Chartered in 2019 was 422

Companies are impressed with employees who take charge of their own professional development – it may even be compulsory. Don't forget – if you have questions or need help at any stage of your application visit [www.icheme.org/chartered](http://www.icheme.org/chartered) or contact [members@icheme.org](mailto:members@icheme.org)

## How do I make a start?

Start by using the professional checklist on the next page. Make sure that you can tick off all the easy items, such as applying for/upgrading your membership, updating your contact details etc, then start going through the *Professional development and becoming Chartered* section, ticking things off as you go.

If you are currently on an IChemE Accredited Company Training Scheme (ACTS) you might be asked to record your progress towards Chartered Chemical Engineer in a different way, but however you choose to approach it – make a start now!

## Where can I get more information?

Visit [www.icheme.org/chartered](http://www.icheme.org/chartered) for information and guidance, attend a Get Chartered event/webinar or chat to your ACTS co-ordinator or mentor. If you are working in a small company and don't know any Chartered Members, attend a local member group event and chat with members there.

# Professional checklist

Use this checklist to keep your progress on track and apply for Chartered Chemical Engineer as soon as you're ready.\*

\*These are suggested activities to help you towards professional status, and may not guarantee that your application for Chartered status is successful. Make sure you stay in touch with IChemE for advice along the way.

✓	<h2>Membership</h2>
	<h3>Update your contact details</h3> <p>To ensure a smooth transition between member grades, check which member groups and special interest groups you're registered with, and update your contact details and data protection preferences. Log in to MyIChemE at <a href="http://www.icheme.org">www.icheme.org</a>.</p>
	<h3>Check your eligibility to upgrade</h3> <p>If you haven't yet upgraded to Associate Member AMIChemE you can check your eligibility and upgrade online at <a href="http://www.icheme.org/associate">www.icheme.org/associate</a></p>
✓	<h2>Professional development and becoming Chartered</h2>
	<h3>Visit our website</h3> <p>Read our in-depth guidance document, find answers to frequently asked questions, and view example reports at <a href="http://www.icheme.org/chartered">www.icheme.org/chartered</a></p>
	<h3>Record any projects you've undertaken in the last six months</h3> <p>This progress relates directly to sections A, B and C of the Competence and Commitment (C&amp;C) report which is the main form you'll need to complete for your Chartered Member application: <a href="http://www.icheme.org/mycareerpath">www.icheme.org/mycareerpath</a></p>
	<h3>Record the extra work you're undertaking</h3> <p>This correlates with parts D and E of the C&amp;C report. These sections cover your commitment to gaining Chartered status and to the profession in general. Although asking for 'evidence' of your commitment to the profession might sound a bit scary, there are plenty of ways you can do it – none of the below are compulsory but they're easy to get involved in:</p>
	Join your regional member group committee and help organise events in your area. Visit <a href="http://www.icheme.org/memborgroups">www.icheme.org/memborgroups</a> or contact <a href="mailto:memborgroups@icheme.org">memborgroups@icheme.org</a>
	View our safety journal <i>Process Safety and Environment Protection</i> and get the latest safety research. IChemE members can access journals for free via MyIChemE at <a href="http://www.icheme.org">www.icheme.org</a> .
	Organise an internal newsletter/LinkedIn group/e-bulletin at work – showing that you're communicating updates and facilitating networking opportunities.
	Train others – whether you're given responsibility over a work placement student or tasked with training a group of colleagues on a particular process, you're passing on your knowledge and experience for the benefit of others.
	Attend a member group event and network with chemical engineers in all grades of membership. To find out what's going on in your area visit <a href="http://www.icheme.org/memborgroups">www.icheme.org/memborgroups</a>
	Take part in school outreach activities. Organisations such as STEM Learning in the UK, and Engineers without Borders in Australia, look for enthusiastic volunteers to inspire younger generations.



### Complete a CPD assessment

You need to prove that you have been monitoring, recording and improving your skills in your Chartered application, but it's not difficult to make a start:

	Record all the things you do at work – from HAZOP analysis to writing to clients.
	Write down all the things that you would like to do, or feel you should be able to do, either to make you better at your job right now or make you more employable in the future.
	Go through each thing on your list and decide whether you are good at it, or if you need to improve.
	Skills that you can improve on are opportunities to develop yourself. Choose a few at a time to work on – there are plenty of ways you can develop those areas such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ attend a relevant course or a local workshop/event</li> <li>■ join a special interest group, read their newsletter, attend a webinar</li> <li>■ read a book, journal, or <i>The Chemical Engineer</i> magazine/website</li> <li>■ work-shadow a colleague</li> <li>■ ask someone!</li> </ul>
	Once you've completed your first CPD assessment use a CPD tool such as <i>mycareerpath</i> to identify your main action points.

### Reassess your CPD

Target date:.....

Try to record your new experiences and review your CPD every six months – it means you can determine exactly how much more you'll need to do before you're eligible to apply for Chartered Chemical Engineer, and it'll give you something to refer to when completing your C&C report.

- have you improved on any of the items from your last CPD review?
- are there new things you do/would like to do that you want to develop?
- have you been involved in any local IChemE activities?
- If you've got a mentor this a great opportunity to discuss with them how you're doing.

	Review your CPD	Target date:.....
	Review your CPD	Target date:.....
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	Review your CPD	Target date:.....

# How I became Chartered

## Chloe Hui Xian Lian

CEng MIChemE  
**Process Engineer**  
Air Products plc



I learnt about Chartered Chemical Engineer status when looking for my first job during my final year at university, and it became my personal milestone to achieve this within five years of graduation.

I believe that my university degree has provided me with a strong theoretical background on chemical engineering. However, I aspire to be a professional engineer who can apply this knowledge in the real world. Chartered Chemical Engineer status is the acknowledgement of my professionalism within the process industries.

I joined Air Product's graduate scheme after completing my degree. My company supports and encourages staff towards Chartered status and paired me with an IChemE mentor who has guided me through the application process. I found that the IChemE Competence and Commitment (C&C) report is a good tool for setting up career objectives as it helped identify the gaps in my skillset and enabled me to proactively seek new challenges.

Since achieving Chartered status I'm more confident with my skills as a professional engineer. It's also opened up a lot of career opportunities as many global employers actively seek Chartered engineers.

## Tom Ashworth

CEng MIChemE  
**Process Engineer**  
Kufpec Australia



I first learnt about Chartered Chemical Engineer status when I joined Origin Energy's graduate programme. A large proportion of Origin's assets are based in Queensland, Australia, where Registered Professional Engineer Queensland registration is a requirement for professional engineers engaged in a professional engineering service.

Origin actively encouraged their graduates to pursue Chartered status. After developing my experience for a number of years at Origin and then with Oceaneering/Upstream Production Solutions, I realised that after only three-five years I had the experience and know-how to be a valuable asset to any engineering or operating company.

I wanted a way to prove to future employers that my experience as a chemical engineer is valid and of some worth. By becoming an IChemE member and achieving Chartered Chemical Engineer status, I have had my competency as an engineer not only validated by IChemE, but also by Engineering Council in the UK, and the Board of Professional Engineers Queensland in Australia.

# Frequently asked questions

## Education

### Is my degree accredited and what does this mean?

IChemE is licensed by the Engineering Council UK to accredit courses all over the world. University departments invite IChemE representatives to assess the learning outcomes on each of their chemical engineering programmes. Courses can be accredited at different levels to satisfy (or partially satisfy) the educational requirement for Incorporated Engineer (IEng) and Chartered Engineer (CEng) registration. Visit [www.icheme.org/chartered-faqs](http://www.icheme.org/chartered-faqs) for more detail.

Use Engineering Council's accredited course search tool at [www.engc.org.uk/acad](http://www.engc.org.uk/acad) to check the accreditation status of your degree.

### What happens if my degree isn't accredited?

Your education base and/or practical experience will be assessed to determine whether you have the technical skills, knowledge and learning at the appropriate level. See [www.icheme.org/chartered](http://www.icheme.org/chartered) for more details.

## Work experience

### What is ACTS?

IChemE accredits graduate training schemes in the same way that we accredit degree courses across the world. Check out [www.icheme.org/acts](http://www.icheme.org/acts) for a list of registered companies and more information.

### What if I'm in a small company with no formal graduate scheme?

Plenty of people become Chartered without the aid of a graduate scheme, but if you need to chat to someone who's already been through it why not attend a Get Chartered event, either online or in person.

### Are there specific areas I need to get experience in?

It's useful to track your experience against the competences required for Chartered Chemical Engineer status. You can view the application guidance, the Competence and Commitment (C&C) report template, and example reports at [www.icheme.org/chartered-guidance](http://www.icheme.org/chartered-guidance).

### How do I know if I'm a chemical engineer?

Chemical, biochemical and process engineers can be found in many fields and industry sectors. You don't necessarily need to be working in process plant design or operation – if your job involves the implementation of chemical engineering principles then you should be able to gain the relevant experience needed for Chartered Chemical Engineer status.

You can be a chemical engineer working in project management, technical sales, academia, marketing and contract negotiation. You also don't need to have equal amounts of experience in all technical areas – view the guidance at [www.icheme.org/chartered-guidance](http://www.icheme.org/chartered-guidance)



## Membership

### What's my membership number?

Your membership number should appear at the top of every email and letter you receive from IChemE. You can also find your details by logging in to the MyIChemE area at [www.icheme.org/myicheme](http://www.icheme.org/myicheme). You'll be prompted to set up a password when visiting the website for the first time.

### Which grade of membership am I in?

Undergraduate students join IChemE as Student Members. Postgraduate students and recent graduates will be either Affiliate or Associate Members.

You can check your membership details – grade of membership, contact details and communication preferences, via MyIChemE

### How much does IChemE membership cost?

Your annual membership subscription is due in January of each year\* and depends on which country you live in, which grade of membership you're in and where you are in your career. Log in to MyIChemE to view your subscription.

## Job hunting

### Can IChemE help me find a job?

There are various membership resources available to help you find a job:

- search for companies with an IChemE Accredited Company Training Scheme (ACTS): [www.icheme.org/acts](http://www.icheme.org/acts)
- find available positions in *The Chemical Engineer* magazine or the jobs board: [jobs.thechemicalengineer.com](http://jobs.thechemicalengineer.com)
- network with your regional member group
- attend special interest group events and webinars
- join our lively social media communities on LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Interface
- read the *Job-Hunters' Survival Kit* at [www.icheme.org/job-hunters](http://www.icheme.org/job-hunters)

\*Student Members do not pay annual fees. Undergraduate students pay a one-off application fee which covers their membership subscription for the duration of their degree.

# Led by members, supporting members, serving society

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