



BENEFITS OF PROFESSIONAL BODY MEMBERSHIP FOR APPRENTICES

EXPANDING PATHWAYS FOR SUCCESS

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WHAT IS A PROFESSIONAL BODY AND ITS' ROLE?

A professional body is an organisation that represents a specific profession, industry or occupation.

Its' role includes supporting the professional development of its members and serving as a voice for the profession.

Professional bodies play an important role in ensuring the continuous learning within a particular field, offering networking opportunities, resources and support for continuous professional development. They may also act as a lobbying force to influence policy and regulation related to the profession.

Each professional body has different membership categories depending on a members' achievements gained through education and/or experience.

Why should an apprentice consider joining a professional body?

By assisting apprentices in exploring the opportunities of joining a Professional Body, it enables them to access wider professional development activities and resources. This can support their progress both during the apprenticeship and beyond. As members, apprentices can:

- ✓ Better connect and develop their awareness of industry developments.
- ✓ Engage with a wider network of employers and industry experts.
- ✓ Gain access to research, resources and information that can enhance the apprenticeship delivery.
- ✓ Support their destination beyond the apprenticeship.
- ✓ Develop their awareness of industry related values, ethics, and standards.





FEATURES OF PROFESSIONAL BODY MEMBERSHIP

As a member of a professional body, apprentices may have access to:

- ✓ In-person conferences and networking events.
- ✓ Webinars and workshops.
- ✓ Forums and special interest groups.
- ✓ Articles, publications, journals, newsletters, and membership magazines.
- ✓ Guidance in continuous professional development.
- ✓ Training courses in both technical & soft skills.
- ✓ Mentoring.
- ✓ Support for professional registration applications.

WHAT BENEFITS CAN THESE FEATURES OFFER AN APPRENTICE?

Become a part of a professional community

- ✓ Network and interact with other professionals to exchange ideas and build connections - local, regional and national.
- ✓ Provide a professional platform for future collaboration and partnership opportunities.
- ✓ Inspire and motivate to think differently, challenge current practices, and strive for improvements.
- ✓ Opportunities to contribute through presentations and poster submissions (events and conferences)
- ✓ Gain valuable introductions and recommendations to support career growth.
- ✓ Be part of a community with common interests.
- ✓ Contribute to Professional Body activities such as committee membership, outreach and ambassador work.

Develop deeper knowledge

- ✓ Build knowledge about the latest research, and advancements in the industry.
- ✓ Explore global trends and practices.
- ✓ Future-proof employability by understanding and exploring tomorrow's workforce skill needs.
- ✓ Opportunities to contribute to authoring articles and/or joining editorial boards.
- ✓ Support enhanced critical thinking and analysis
- ✓ Develop independent learning skills such as research and reflection.

Progress in their career

- ✓ Explore activities that promote personal, professional and soft skills development.
- ✓ Support in establishing and progressing career.
- ✓ Opportunity to be involved with volunteering and outreach activity.
- ✓ Assistance in applying for professional registration.

Gain access to experts

- ✓ Learn from industry experts and leaders in the field, highlighting innovative ideas, and cutting-edge technologies.
- ✓ Gain advice and guidance from experienced professionals that can support career planning.

PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

Alongside guidance on membership, we also provide support for apprentices wishing to apply for professional registration as a Registered Scientist RSci and Registered Science Technician RSciTech.

Registration is a means of demonstrating professionalism, providing independent recognition of an individuals' achievements and maintaining the standards required to join the global community of professional scientists.

We recognise that apprenticeships deliver experience and learning that link well to the registers' requirements. We have identified those apprenticeships that align extensively to the registers, offering apprentices an eligibility to apply using a shortened route, with the apprenticeship certificate acting as the base of the application.

More information on eligible apprenticeships and the support available can be found at:

<https://technicaleducation.sciencecouncil.org/apprentices/>

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HOW CAN WE SUPPORT?

To find out more about the range of professional body memberships available please scan the QR code below.



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