iST
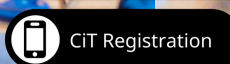
Creative UK

Registered Practitioner

RPCiT

Creative Industries & Technologies

CiT Registration

The Professional Register For Creative Technologists

Background

Creative technical professionals play a vital role in our society, and it has become increasingly clear that there is a need to provide this cohort of the technical workforce with a framework via which their skills and expertise can be recognised and validated. There were already in existence professional registers for the science, engineering and IT communities and they provide ways in which the technical personnel employed in those sectors can get their expertise recognised widely. These registers have been in place for many years. Examples of such registers are Chartered Scientist (CSci), Registered Scientist (RSci) and Registered Science Technician (RSciTech), these registers being held by the Science Council). In addition, there are also engineering and IT registers held by the Engineering Council: Chartered Engineer (CEng), Engineering Technician (EngTech) and Information and Communication Technology Technician (ICTTech). Until recently there was no framework available that could provide similar recognition for the creative industries technical / specialist workforce, but this changed in April 2023.

Professional registration provides a benchmark through which the public, employers and their clients can have confidence and trust that registered personnel have met internationally recognised professional standards. The Institute of Science & Technology (IST) is The Professional Body for the Technical Workforce, and it has long since recognised the benefits to both employers and employees of professional registration and worked hard in collaboration with Creative UK to develop and introduce a bespoke framework which is suitable for the creative industries and technologies.

Background continued

It was the IST's aim to give professionals within the creative technologies and industries the same opportunity to have their much valued expertise recognised, both nationally and internationally.

A project to establish a registration framework for creative technical specialists started some time ago and following a series of meetings between the IST, The Arts Council, Creative UK and Creative & Cultural Skills, it was agreed that the best way forward would be to explore this further by piloting a registration scheme with a single sector, which currently employs a sizeable cohort of creative professionals, that sector being Higher Education.

The reasons for the choice of that sector included:
- the volume of technical personnel in the sector
- their broad range of skills, knowledge & expertise
- their familiarity with professional accreditation in other disciplines

The project is being driven forward by Creative UK and the IST, in collaboration with experts from other related organisations acting in an advisory capacity, through a Steering Group, which meets periodically to discuss and monitor standards and progress.

The Framework

The Framework developed provides a vehicle via which creative technical professionals can demonstrate that they can:

- Apply their knowledge in a professional setting
- Work with others and take personal responsibility for themselves and those impacted by their work
- Demonstrate that they are committed to professional development and personal integrity

Creative UK and the IST with advise from the Steering Group have set the professional standards by which creative technical professionals will are assessed and also have defined the mechanism used to assess individuals against those standards. Registration based on these standards should enable better recognition of the value of technical roles to the industry, to the sector and to the country. Registrants will be recognised for their commitment to creativity and should inspire the next generation of creative technology professionals.

The basis of the standards is similar to that used for the existing registration frameworks in science, engineering and IT, so that there is consistency across the workforce, irrespective of sector and discipline. This should ensure that creative technical professionals are acknowledged as being of a similar professional standing to those that are currently registered within other disciplines, and that they play as key a role as their science, engineering and IT counterparts.

The Framework Standards

The Register developed and rolled out, the Registered Creative Industries & Technologies Practitioner (RPCIT), is the one available to the largest cohort of HE personnel ie. the mid-career professionals [equivalent to the Science Council's Registered Scientist (RSci) status]. Subsequently the range of registers will be extended to provide for early career personnel, Registered Creative Industries & Technologies Technician (RTCiT) and more senior personnel, Advanced Creative Industries & Technologies Practitioner (APCiT).

The basis for the framework is a set of 5 standard competency areas against which individuals are assessed, these competency areas being applied at all award levels, but with the detailed requirements varying according to the level being assessed.

The 5 standard areas are:
- Subject knowledge and associated skills
- Competency and responsibility
- Communications and teamwork
- Professional skills / standards application
- Personal and practical development

These standards can be modified to better suit the creative technologies community, if required. It is thought that when other workforce groups are reviewed for suitability for application of registers the requirements against the above standards may have to vary. This will be the subject for further discussion.

The Framework Standards

The following provides an example of the standards that form the basis of the creative professionals register at the RPCiT level. These requirements are for example only and a more detailed list of competencies is available in a separate document.

The detail of the standards agreed was part of the discussions within the Steering Group, which eventually ratified and agreed prior release for use within the HE sector.

	Registered Creative Industries & Technologies Practitioner RPCiT
A SUBJECT KNOWLEDGE & SKILL	• Demonstrates competency in working in multiple media and/or applying multiple techniques within a project. • Has an appreciation of the history and development of the creative techniques used in their facilities.
B COMPETENCY & RESPONSIBILITY	• Works with minimal supervision. • Follows and instructs on safe working practices, such as risk assessments and approved techniques.
C COMMUNICATION & TEAMWORK	• Demonstrates effective communication, interpersonal and behavioural skills. • Has a proven track record of working successfully with colleagues in a wide variety of roles (such as students, apprentices, technicians, designers and academics).
D PROFESSIONAL SKILLS	• Advises on appropriate practices and proposes innovative solutions to problems and issues. • Makes suggestions for improvements to practice and policy.
E PERSONAL & PRACTICAL DEVELOPMENT	• Attends mandatory training courses required to fulfil and enhance role. • Identifies, with support, areas of development to focus on which will enhance self and department.

The Pilot Process

The Pilot Process is managed by a Steering Group of experts which considers the following:
- The timescale for the project work
- Resource implications
- Establishment and management of the initial register
- The framework and standards requirements
- Assessment processes (including assessor requirements)
- Awards and certification (including award titles)
- Routes to registration
- Monitoring and QA issues
- Promotion and marketing

The Steering Group comprises personnel from both the IST and Creative UK and specialist personnel from the creative sector, HE, other professional organisations associated with the technical community and / or professional standards and accreditation. The Steering Group decides on the composition of any working groups needed to focus on each of the key tasks. These working groups report back to the steering group on a periodic basis.

The establishment of the creative technologies professional registers should be of great benefit to both individuals, their employers and the wider creative community. It provides a mechanism which validates the expertise of a highly skilled and knowledgable workforce, and provide them with the recognition and status they deserve.

Institute of Science & Technology (IST)/Creative UK

The Professional Status that the Creative Industries and Technologies Deserve

iST

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