



The Science Council Statement from the Presidents' Roundtable on the Visibility and Perceptions of Careers in Science

August 2026

The Science Council, representing [over 30 professional bodies and learned societies](#) that reach more than 340,000 scientists, is highlighting that current policies and practices risk undermining the visibility, accessibility, and sustainability of science careers in the UK.

The most senior representatives of the scientific community from our Member Bodies and Learned Societies met to discuss how to overcome significant challenges affecting the visibility and accessibility of careers in science and their progression.

Evidence shows that while young people value science, structural barriers and workplace practices are limiting participation and progression – posing a risk to the future science workforce at a time of growing national and global demand.

We call on the Government, education providers and employers to act collectively to remove barriers, modernise pathways and ensure that science careers are open, visible and accessible to all. To address the challenges, we must:

- **Ensure multiple accessible routes into science**, including apprenticeships and other technical qualifications to expand opportunity and complement academic pathways such as university and postdoctoral fellowships. All routes must be supported by financially viable pathways for people from all backgrounds. Diversity of people, backgrounds and thought leads to better science outcomes and solutions.
- **Broaden perceptions of science careers** by highlighting varied roles, pathways and definitions of success and emphasising the transferable value of scientific skills and the diverse ways in which careers in science can evolve over a working lifespan.
- **Improve visibility of real career opportunities** so individuals can clearly understand the outcomes and possibilities associated with studying science, and that new possibilities are emerging all the time.
- **Strengthen interdisciplinary approaches** within science to respond effectively to the complex challenges of a modern world.

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- **Embed work-readiness and interdisciplinary skills** across science education to align with industry's evolving needs.
 - **Create inclusive and supportive educational settings and workplaces** that foster belonging, inclusivity, retention and progression across the science workforce.
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Organisations at the Presidents' Roundtable meeting:

Association for Laboratory Medicine

Association for Science Education

British Society of Soil Science

Chartered Association of Sport and Exercise Sciences

Geological Society of London

Institute of Biomedical Science

Institution of Chemical Engineers

Institute of Corrosion

Institution of Environmental Sciences

Institute of Food Science & Technology

Institute of Marine Engineering, Science & Technology

Institute of Materials, Minerals & Mining

Institute of Mathematics and its Applications

Institute of Physics

Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine

Institute of Science and Technology

Nuclear Institute

Operational Research Society

Royal Astronomical Society

Royal Meteorological Society

Royal Society of Biology

Royal Society of Chemistry

Science Council

Society for Dyers and Colourists

Society for Natural Sciences