

Professional Development Support for Air Quality Professionals

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the-ies.org



The Institution
of Environmental
Sciences

Contents

3	Introduction to the Institution of Environmental Sciences
4	Introduction to the Institute of Air Quality Management
5	Why be a member of a professional body?
6	What does the IAQM do?
7	IAQM Competency Framework
9	Careers Map
10	Professional registration
11	Registered Environmental Technician (REnvTech)
12	Registered Environmental Practitioner (REnvP)
14	Chartered Scientist (CSci)
16	Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv)
18	Join a Community
19	Volunteering and CPD
21	Professional recognition
22	Image Credits

Introduction to the Institution of Environmental Sciences



The **Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES)** is at the forefront of uniting the interdisciplinary field of environmental science around a shared mission: to work with speed, vision and expertise to solve the world's most pressing environmental challenges.

We are a UK registered charity and professional membership organisation, with members representing the full spectrum of environmental disciplines – from fields as diverse as air quality, land condition, water, and education – wherever you find environmental work underpinned by science. The IES is an influential voice for environmental professionals, which works to promote evidence-informed decision-making.

Our skilled and knowledgeable membership act as a cohesive body of thinkers, problem solvers, educators, and practitioners.

Introduction to the Institute of Air Quality Management

The Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) is a member-led organisation within the IES family supporting excellence and technical competence in the air quality profession.

IAQM members represent those working in all disciplines relating to air quality management – ambient air quality, indoor air quality, emission inventories, technology development, monitoring, research, local and national government, policy, industry and health – both in the UK and overseas.

Through expert-led working groups and broad stakeholder engagement, the Institute develops technical guidance, contributes to policy discussions, responds to government consultations, and supports the effective implementation of air quality legislation and policy. The IAQM also hosts a wide range of webinars and other opportunities for professional development, along with a dedicated Early Careers Network.

IAQM membership is managed by the IES, meaning IES members specialising or with an interest in air quality can signal their expertise by joining the IAQM and accessing their unique services. If you are not already a member of IES, you will need to apply for IES membership at the same time as you apply for IAQM membership.

IAQM membership applications for Associate, Member and Fellow levels are reviewed against the IAQM's Competency Framework, which is explored in more detail on [page 7](#) of this document.

Why be a member of a professional body?

Professional body membership is an important part of your personal and professional development. It provides you with opportunities to access sector-specific resources, build your network, achieve qualifications and recognition, and take a leading role in your sector. It signals your professionalism and expertise to clients and colleagues and provides opportunities for helping shape sector policy and practice. It also confirms to colleagues, clients and fellow professionals that you adhere to a **Code of Conduct** that signals your commitment to ethical working, continued learning and responsibility to the public good.

Membership of the IES and IAQM includes the following benefits:

- 4 **journals** per annum
- Online, regional and national **events**
- Structured pathways to support applications for Chartered Scientist, Chartered Environmentalist, Registered Environmental Practitioner and Registered Environmental Technician
- Recognition of professional status
- Use of post-nominal letters
- Professional development support and CPD recording tool
- Use of our mentoring platform and **careers resources**
- Regular **reports and briefings** on the environmental science sector

- Monthly Essential Environment bulletin, containing deep dive articles and a round-up of the latest environmental policy and regulatory updates
- Opportunity to feed into consultation responses and other policy activities
- Policy training, case studies, and resources to develop skills in policy engagement and understanding
- Opportunity to join the IAQM Committee, Subcommittees, and working groups
- Ability to join the **IAQM's Early Career Network** or other IES communities

What does the IAQM do?

The IAQM provides a range of benefits to its members and the wider sector, including:

- **Member-led governance**

There are many opportunities for members to get involved in shaping the direction of the IAQM and its priorities. The IAQM Committee is elected by members and is comprised of experts working across the sector, in consultancy, industry, public sector and academia. Committee members govern IAQM activities and form Subcommittees and Working Groups to advance the work of specific areas of the organisation, such as membership, guidance development, and policy outputs.

Supported by the Committee, the IAQM Early Careers Network (ECN) Subcommittee is comprised of members in the first 10 years of their air quality careers. This highly active group is responsible for shaping the offering of the IAQM's ECN, which focuses on providing early career professionals with tailored resources, connections and events to support their development in the sector.

- **Sector guidance**

The IAQM is committed to enhancing the understanding and development of the science behind air quality by promoting knowledge and understanding of good working practices. Recent guidance produced and updated by IAQM members has included 'Good practice on air quality monitoring for brownfield projects' and 'Guidance on the assessment of dust from

demolition and construction'. Before publication, guidance is also available for review and comment by the wider IAQM membership and key external stakeholders.

The current status of each guidance document is available on the [IAQM website](#).

- **Conferences and events**

The IAQM's flagship conference, Routes to Clean Air, takes place annually. It is a two-day conference organised by the Committee with input from the ECN Subcommittee. The focus of the conference alternates each year between topics related to air quality measurement, monitoring, and modelling, and topics related to air quality policy, governance, and research developments.

Along with insightful presentations, discussions and breakout sessions, attendees benefit from networking with fellow professionals and leading companies in the air quality sector.

As of 2026, Routes to Clean Air also hosts the IAQM's annual awards programme, which sees air quality professionals and researchers recognised across five categories. More information on the awards can be found on [page 21](#) of this document.

IAQM Competency Framework

The IAQM's membership approval process operates in line with its [Competency Framework \(pdf\)](#). This sets out the application requirements for each level of membership (Affiliate, Associate, Member and Fellow) and the expectations of the evidence to be supplied at each level. Prospective members can apply for IAQM membership alongside IES membership, and are encouraged to review the framework, and the [IAQM Code of Professional Conduct \(pdf\)](#) and [Competency-based Application guide \(pdf\)](#), to ensure their application addresses the relevant requirements. For any questions regarding membership, it is advised that prospective applicants review the [Frequently Asked Questions](#), or get in touch with the Membership Team on info@the-iaqm.co.uk or +44 (0)20 3862 7484.

This framework and supporting guidance were developed by the IAQM Committee to promote excellence in the field, demonstrate the value of IAQM membership, and support the personal development and career progression of air quality professionals of both in our membership and in the wider sector. The outcome is a more structured and consistent approach to membership applications, outlining the different types of competencies expected at different membership levels. This has improved transparency around how membership applications are assessed and provided

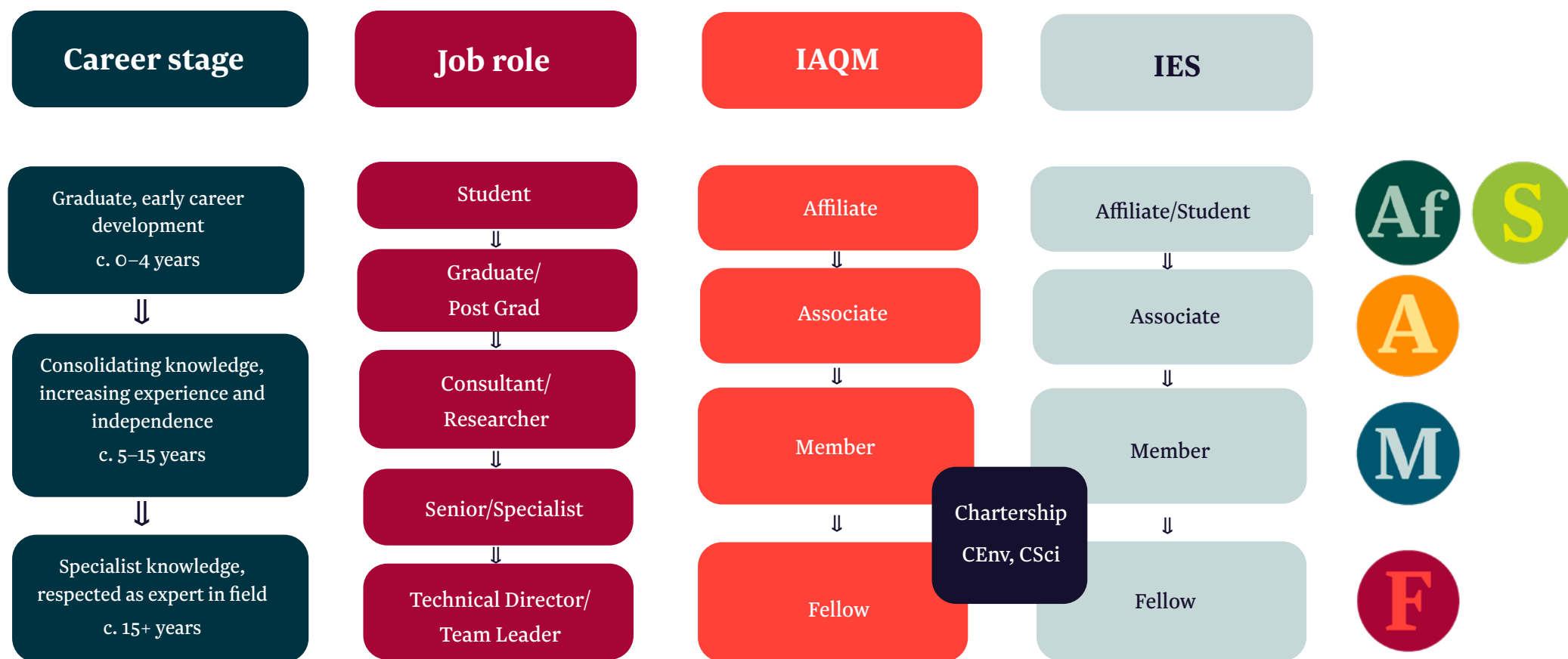
additional guidance and support on the application process for members.

This approach also means we can be confident when awarding full membership that we align with requirements of the Town and Country Planning Act requirement for competent professionals, underpinning the recognition of expertise that IAQM membership confers. This is important for those reviewing the work of IAQM members, such as reports or papers.

See the following table for more on the membership levels.

Membership Level	Description
Affiliate	Aimed at students, those just starting their air quality career, or anyone who wants to learn more from the air quality profession. You do not need to work in the air quality profession to achieve Affiliate membership.
Associate (AMIAQM)	Aimed at candidates with a relevant degree who have been working in the field of air quality for at least a year full-time, or equivalent experience. Professional membership of the IES is required at an appropriate level, i.e. Associate or higher.
Full Member (MIAQM)	Experienced professionals with at least five years of work experience or equivalent who wish to demonstrate their competency in the field. It is not a pre-requisite to have been an Associate Member of IAQM first, but professional membership of the IES is required at an appropriate level, i.e. Member or higher. It is expected that a Full Member will – wherever possible – contribute to the work of the IAQM (this may be presenting at an IAQM event, participating in a working group, reviewing consultation documents).
Fellow (FIAQM)	Existing Full Members of IAQM with at least 15 years of experience in the air quality field, who have a distinguished career having made a sustained and significant contribution for a minimum of 10 years. It is not a pre-requisite to be a Chartered professional although this will be considered in the evaluation.

Career Map



Professional registration

What is professional registration?

Professional registrations are a type of qualification awarded by licensed professional bodies, which signals a professional's knowledge, experience and competence. A professional must first hold a professional membership with a licensed body in order to apply for a registration. The standards for different registrations are set by the licensing bodies and are competency-based. Relevant licensing bodies for the IES are the **Society for the Environment (SocEnv)** and the **Science Council**.

By moving through the membership grades, and working towards Chartered status or applying to be on specialist registers, you can tailor your membership to reflect your skills and experience. Both Chartered Scientist (CSci) and Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) can be achieved as an IAQM member.

Why get a professional registration?

Professional registrations are valuable for professionals, employers, the wider profession and the public. They support best practice in the sector, by providing a globally recognised high standard of

competence, ensuring the continuous professional development of environmental professionals and helping build trust with the public. Professionals with a registration must sign up to the licensing bodies' Code of Conduct.

Benefits for you:

- External verification as a dedicated, highly skilled and experienced professional;
- Improved employability, supporting career progression and earning potential;
- Signals commitment to professional development; and
- Legal credibility, enabling expert witness participation at a defined standard.

Benefits to employers:

- Confirmation of the professional ability and competence of their employees and candidates
- Ensuring their staff are completing and undertaking relevant CPD. Benefits to the sector and wider society:
- Supports best practice in the sector
- Provides a globally recognised standard of competence

Registered Environmental Technician (REnvTech)

The Registered Environmental Technician denotes professional attainment and expertise for technicians working within the environmental sector. Technicians come from a diverse range of professions underpinned by the application of technical knowledge and skills, spanning the breadth of academia, government, industry, consultancy, and other public and private sectors.

This qualification is licensed by the **Society for the Environment**.

Who can apply?

To be eligible for the REnvTech designation, you will need to have a minimum of:

- Two years' full-time relevant work-based experience; and
- Equivalent of a Level 3 in the Qualifications and Credit Framework of England, Wales and Northern Ireland (or equivalent knowledge through professional practice).
- Candidates must also be an Affiliate, Associate or Full Member of the IES to apply.

How to apply?

Candidates demonstrate their competence through completing a competency report, covering 4 key competencies (11 subsets). The report must include details of relevant

projects or activities demonstrating competence relating to professional work for which you have been personally responsible. Examples should be taken from more than one project/activity.

The four key competencies are:

- Application of knowledge and understanding of the environment to further the aims of sustainability
- Actively support sustainable management of the environment
- Effective communication and interpersonal skills
- Personal commitment to professional standards, recognising obligations to society, the profession and the environment.

How much does it cost?

- £80 application fee
- £31 annual fee

Find out more.

Registered Environmental Practitioner (REnvP)

The Registered Environmental Practitioner (REnvP) designation is a title which recognises the level of professional practice of people operating within the environmental sciences. It signifies a standard of environmental expertise, practice, and skills held by professionals spanning the breadth of academia, government, industry, consultancy, contractors, and other public and private sectors.

This qualification is licensed by the **Society for the Environment**.

Who can apply?

To be eligible for the REnvP designation, you will need to have a minimum of:

- At least one year's full-time relevant work-based experience;
- Associate Membership of the IES: and
- Equivalent of a Level 5 in the Qualifications and Credit Framework of England, Wales and Northern Ireland (or equivalent knowledge through professional practice).

How to apply?

Candidates can demonstrate their competence either through completing a

competency report or undertaking a Professional Review Interview, depending on the preference of the applicant. Both routes will explore how well the candidate meets the 4 key competencies (11 subsets).

The four key competencies are:

- Application of knowledge and understanding of the environment to further the aims of sustainability
- Leading sustainable management of the environment
- Effective communication and interpersonal skills
- Personal commitment to professional standards, recognising obligations to society, the profession and the environment.

How much does it cost?

- £99 application fee
- £41 annual fee

Find out more.

Chartership

Chartership status denotes a high level of competence within a particular profession, signifying that an individual has been judged by their peers to be working at a high standard within their profession. It is a globally recognised mark of achievement that enhances career prospects through establishing proven expertise and experience.

There are a number of different Charterships that can be achieved, and professionals can hold multiple Charterships.

The IES offers two Chartership qualifications, the Chartered Environmentalist and the Chartered Scientist.

Which Chartership is right for me?

Both CEnv and CSci are relevant to those who work in the land condition sector and the decision around which one a candidate applies for, or whether they get both, will depend on their professional goals and interests.

The table below provides an opportunity to compare between the two Charterships:

Factors	CEnv	CSci
Emphasis	Sustainability	Science
Skills and knowledge covered	Sustainability, problem analysis, methodology application, horizon scanning, influencing, leadership and management, communication, stakeholder management, ethics and CPD	Methodology application, communication, project, influencing, CPD and ethics
Number registered	8,000	9,000
CPD	Annual submission	Annual submission
Application cost	£343 / £499 for workshop	£143 / £399 for workshop
Annual cost	£67	£80
Mandatory interview	Yes	No
Workshop	CEnv in a Day	CSci Accelerated
Code of ethics	Yes	Yes
Competencies	12	15
Registration authority	SocEnv	Science Council
Established	2004	2004
Required grade	Member or Fellow	Member or Fellow

Chartered Scientist (CSci)

The CSci designation demonstrates a high level of competence and professionalism in science. At present there are over around 9,000 Chartered Scientists working across all sectors of science. Candidates need to demonstrate their competence in five main areas; application of scientific knowledge and understanding, personal responsibility, interpersonal skills, professional practice, and professionalism.

The designation aims to give an assurance of current competence through mandatory revalidation of CPD, and encapsulates the interdisciplinary nature of science in the 21st century. The licensing body for CSci is the [Science Council](#).

Who can apply?

To be eligible for the CSci designation, you will need to have a minimum of:

- At least four year's full-time relevant work-based experience; and
- Full IES Membership or be a Fellow of the IES
- a relevant masters-level degree or ability to demonstrate equivalent level of knowledge through experience.

How to apply?

There are three routes that a candidate can take to achieve CSci.

CSci Accelerated workshop

Our highly regarded CSci Accelerated workshop supports candidates in achieving their CSci through a dedicated online workshop, with no more than 5 people in each. This supports candidates in completing the process quicker, provides tailored guidance on their application from experienced trainers and helps build confidence for the professional interview. Most members applying for CSci chose the workshop route, which condenses the assessment process and provides additional support which generally leads to higher success rates.

Self-guided route

You can complete the CSci application at your own pace by completing the self-guided application route.

CEnv-CSci dual registration pilot scheme

The Science Council are exploring the possibility of mapping Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) to Chartered Scientist (CSci), allowing those holding CEnv registration to apply for CSci registration through a shortened route.

The IES are engaged in this project as a **pilot partner**, allowing existing CEnvS to apply for CSci using a modified application process.

We are asking applicants to demonstrate competencies A1, A2, A3 and B2 of the CSci application alongside an already awarded CEnv registration.

Both routes involve preparing a competency report, followed by professional interview if required. The interview is not required for all candidates, but approximately half of candidates are interviewed.

You are required to identify one supporter who can confirm that the projects listed in your CV and detailed in the report represent your own work. The supporter must be familiar with your work and will be a senior colleague, usually a line manager or supervisor. Wherever possible, supporters should hold membership of a professional body and professional registration. They do not need to be an IES member.

You can find out more about the process **on our website**.

Competencies for CSci

Applicants for CSci will need to demonstrate competence across 5 key competency areas:

- Application of knowledge and understanding
- Personal responsibility
- Interpersonal skills
- Professional practice
- Professional standards

Find out more in the CSci Information Pack.

How much does it cost?

- Self-guided route: £143 (plus £90 extra if interview required)
- Workshop route: £399
- Annual fee: £80

Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv)

CEnvs come from no single profession but operate across all professional sectors. There are over 7,500 registered Chartered environmental professionals. The CEnv qualification denotes sound knowledge, proven experience and a profound commitment to sustainable best practice within their particular profession and field of expertise. The licensing body for CEnv is the Society for the Environment.

Candidates need to demonstrate their competence in four main areas: knowledge and understanding of the environment and sustainability, leading sustainable management of the environment, effective communication and interpersonal skills, and personal commitment to professional standards and obligations to society and the environment.

Who can apply?

To be eligible for the CEnv designation, you will need to have a minimum of:

- At least four year's full-time relevant work-based experience; and
- Full IES Membership or be Fellow of the IES
- a relevant masters-level degree or ability to demonstrate equivalent level of knowledge through experience.

How to apply?

There are two routes that a candidate can take to achieve CEnv.

CEnv in a Day workshop

Our highly regarded CEnv in a Day workshop support candidates in achieving their CEnv through a dedicated online workshop, with no more than 5 people in each. This supports candidates in completing the process quicker, provides tailored guidance on their application from experienced trainers, and helps build confidence for the professional interview. Most members applying for CEnv choose the workshop stream, which sees candidates completing the bulk of their Chartership in one comprehensive day, with the interview taking place shortly after.

Self-guided route

You can complete the CEnv application at your own pace by completing the self-guided application route.

Both routes involve preparing a competency report, followed by a professional interview. If the report or interview do not meet the standards, it will be returned to you with guidance about what additional information needs to be submitted, or what needs to be covered at a future interview.

For workshop applicants, unsatisfactory reports and/or interviews will require resubmission at a subsequent date.

If a candidate does not pass the assessment the first time, they can resubmit their report without additional charge. There is no time limit for resubmission, however candidates are encouraged to resubmit as soon as possible.

You are required to identify two supporters who can confirm that the projects listed in your CV and detailed in the report represent your own work. The supporters must be familiar with your work and will be a senior colleague, usually a line manager or supervisor. Wherever possible, supporters should hold membership of a professional body and professional registration where it exists but they do not need to be a member of the IES.

More details can be found [on our website](#). Two workshops are usually held per month, but they often sell out very quickly and are heavily oversubscribed. If you [contact the IES Membership Team](#), you can be added to a mailing list so that you are the first to hear when new workshop dates become available.

Competencies for CEnv

Applicants for CEnv will need to demonstrate competence across 3 key competency areas:

- Application of knowledge and understanding of the environment to further the aims of sustainability
- Leading Sustainable Management of the Environment
- Effective communication and interpersonal skills

Find out more about the different competencies in the [CEnv Information Pack](#).

The IES Land Condition Community have developed a dedicated resource for land condition professionals looking to achieve CEnv that provides tailored guidance on the competencies for CEnv. You will be sent this on request.

How much does it cost?

- Self-guided route: £343
- Workshop route: £499
- Annual fee: £67

[Find out more.](#)

Join a Community, help shape your sector and build your professional network

A key element of the IES's work is through its member-led Communities. Communities are groups of members brought together around a shared professional interest, goal, or challenge. They are an integral part of the IES ecosystem, providing thought leadership for their area of focus, and a forum for members to network, collaborate and shape their sector.

At the IES we know that our members are the experts. Communities are a key tool for directly engaging with our members, channelling their expertise into a unified voice, and informing the development of tailored resources. Being member-led, they provide members with the agency to set their own priorities and develop associated work plans aligned with their needs and interests.

The IAQM

The IAQM acts as a dedicated community for air quality professionals. It has a dedicated Early Careers Network, which is led by a Subcommittee of early career professionals and provides valuable opportunities for professional development and peer-to-peer learning for those in the first ten years of their career in air quality.

The IAQM collaborates with other environmental specialisms as part of the wider IES family, fostering interdisciplinary solutions to air quality challenges. The other IES Communities are:

- **Climate Action**

- **Education & Training (CEDHE)**
- **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**
- **Land Condition**
- **Marine & Coastal Science**
- **Policy Implementation (EPIC)**
- **Water (FWR)**

The IAQM has been involved with a range of collaborative workstreams with these Communities, including:

- Sector guidance on '**Good practice in air quality monitoring for brownfield projects**', developed in collaboration with the Land Condition Community;
- An insights article on '**PFAS in air: extending brownfield air quality practice into a new phase**', developed in collaboration with the Land Condition Community;
- A subsequent panel discussion on Taking a holistic approach to PFAS in land, air and water, which the Water Community (FWR) also supported;
- Contribution to a **cross-Community panel discussion on what 'good environmental reporting' looks like across disciplines**, and production of **an article on the topic**; and
- Supporting the organisation of the IES' flagship interdisciplinary conference, Dialogue Between Disciplines, alongside all the other IES Communities.

Volunteering and CPD

CPD is fundamental to an environmental professional's career, and is an essential part of maintaining professional competence and striving for excellence. It offers individuals the opportunity to augment their abilities within the workplace by furthering knowledge of their discipline, demonstrating professional achievements, enhancing career prospects and increasing job satisfaction.

All professional members of the IES and IAQM agree to undertake a minimum of 30 hours' CPD each year, and meeting this requirement is essential for attaining and sustaining Chartered Environmentalist, Chartered Scientist, Registered Environmental Practitioner, and Registered Environmental Technician designations. Each year, a proportion of our members' CPD is audited to ensure that our members are maintaining a continuous and reflective record of their ongoing learning. Members can record their CPD activities using the dedicated CPD tool in the Members Area of the IES website.

CPD should be appropriate for the level of expertise of the individual and should provide a good combination of the different CPD types: formal learning, work-based learning, professional activity, self-directed learning and others. The IES has guidance available on [CPD](#) and the [relevant categories \(pdf\)](#).

Volunteering and CPD

Volunteering with the IES/IAQM is a great way to build on your CPD. Actively engaging with the IAQM and Early Careers Network through their Committee, Subcommittees or Working Groups, including those drafting technical guidance or organising events and conferences, is an excellent way to grow your network, develop new skills, help shape the sector, and build on your CPD.

Other volunteering opportunities include:

- Speaking at an event or webinar
- Contributing to a [journal](#) or [blog post](#)
- Once you've achieved [Chartership](#), becoming a Chartership Assessor
- Registering as a mentor on our [mentoring platform](#) to support the next generation of environmental scientists

Get in touch with the IES if you are interested in any of these opportunities. Find out more about [CPD on the IES website](#).

To support our members in staying up to date with emerging topics in environmental science and support their CPD journeys we provide a busy events calendar and publications, including the following highlights:

- Lunchtime webinars on topical issues and case studies. You can catch up on past IAQM and IES webinars on our YouTube channel.

- Conferences, including the IAQM's flagship conference Routes to Clean Air, along with interdisciplinary conferences such as the IES's Dialogue Between Disciplines.
- Dedicated air quality policy reports and ability to feed into relevant consultations
- Training, such as on ethics guidance and policy
- Dedicated Early Careers Network events, covering both technical and enabling skills.
- Quarterly journal, including issues focused on air quality topics.
- Community meetings and events

Professional recognition

The IAQM also offers a comprehensive awards programme to recognise the outstanding people, projects and organisations driving improvements in air quality across the UK and beyond.

These awards celebrate the skill, innovation and commitment of our community – from early career practitioners to lifetime champions of cleaner air, and from research breakthroughs to practical projects that deliver measurable improvements. They are designed to shine a spotlight on the brilliant work being done across the profession and to create opportunities for winners to share their achievements with the wider IAQM community.

The awards on offer each year are:

- The Ian McCrae Award (ECN only)
- The Helen ApSimon Award (ECN only)
- The Mary Catterall Award
- The IAQM President's Award
- The Robert Angus Smith Award

Full details of all awards are available on the [IAQM website](https://www.the-ies.org).

Join the IAQM and accelerate your career now!

Image Credits

Front Cover - Measuring air quality, South Africa

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