Applicant guide

Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv)

August 2026



Chartered Environmentalist applicant guide

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1 Introduction

The Society for the Environment (SocEnv) is an independent, not-for-profit organisation incorporated by a Royal Charter. It is responsible for awarding the title Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) to professionals through its licensed member bodies.

Chartered Environmentalists come from no single profession: the qualification embraces a wide range of disciplines. CEnv status denotes sound knowledge, proven experience and a profound commitment to environmental best practice and is an excellent way of recognising virtuosity in environmental management and sustainability.

Benefits of CEnv

The qualification benefits all concerned with the environment, including the following:

- the public, who can be confident in the knowledge and competence of an environmental practitioner
- practitioners, by identification as a professionally qualified environmentalist, this puts them at the forefront of their profession
- employers, with confirmation of the professional ability and competence of employees and applicants
- governments and governmental bodies, seeking to appoint advisers or consultants, who will be assured about an individual's competence
- professional bodies, who will be able to benchmark the qualification for membership processes
- higher education, in setting and monitoring benchmarks for environmental courses and promoting study programmes
- regulatory bodies, who can be confident in specifying the chartered environmentalist qualification in legislation and regulations.

Accreditation sets Chartered Environmentalists apart from those who are not accredited. It allows you to demonstrate:

- proven knowledge, understanding, competence and commitment to professional standards and enhancing competence
- legal credibility, enabling expert witness participation at a defined standard.

The Chartered Environmentalist status establishes professional environmentalists on a par with other professionals. Chartered status is increasingly seen internationally as a desirable demonstration of an individual's high level of competence. Registration as a CEnv demonstrates that an individual has been judged by their peers to be working at the highest standards in the environmental aspects of their work.

Society for the Environment

See the Society for the Environment website for access to their knowledge hub and more on the CEnv qualification. If you subscribe to their mailing list, you will also receive the SocEnv quarterly newsletter and updates.

You can connect with CEnv peers on the dedicated CEnv, REnvP and REnvTech LinkedIn group. You will be part of a global community of professionals who have committed to use their expertise to address environmental challenges and progress opportunities.

SocEnv Society for the Environment

2 Eligibility

RICS is a full member body of the Society for the Environment (SocEnv) licensed to accredit RICS members with the Chartered Environmentalist qualification.

All applicants must:

- be an RICS chartered member
- have a relevant master's degree or equivalent level of knowledge
- have sufficient, relevant and responsible practical experience to be able to demonstrate the relevant competences
- demonstrate underpinning environmental knowledge and an ability to apply it in practice.

If you have unresolved complaints or other conduct issues on your RICS record, your application cannot be considered.

If you would like to discuss your eligibility, please email **UKIassessmentdelivery@rics.org**

The application fee is £207.

Practical experience should be environmental in nature. Applicants should have at least the equivalent of four years' full-time, relevant, work-based practice.

SocEnv's Code of Professional Conduct

All applicants must sign a declaration to comply with the SocEnv's **Code of Professional Conduct**. Chartered Environmentalist's must agree that they will:

- act in accordance with the best principles for the mitigation of environmental harm and the enhancement of environmental quality
- strive to ensure that the uses of natural resources are fair and sustainable, taking account of the needs of a diverse society
- use their skills and experience to serve the needs of the environment and society
- serve as an example to others for responsible environmental behaviour
- not engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation or discrimination
- commit to maintaining their personal professional competence and strive to uphold the integrity and competence of my profession.

3 Process

Overview

Application

Application form includes:

- summary of experience (500 words)
- 11 competency statements (150–200 words each)
- payment of application fee (£207).

Outcome: advised of interview or ineligibility within 20 working days.

Interview

60-minute interview by 2–3 assessors includes:

- ten-minute personal statement
- questions from the panel.

Outcome: advised of result within five working days

Accreditation

Obligations include:

- payment of registration fee (£100)
- commitment to SocEnv Code of Professional Conduct.

Outcome: certificate issued by SocEnv.

Annual obligations

- annual subscription (£100)
- maintain appropriate continuing professional development (CPD).

Application

Purpose

Your application provides the assessment panel with details of your experience to inform the interview.

Outcome

Your interview will be confirmed within 20 working days. If your application is unsuitable, you will be advised to reapply (see page 6).

If you decline more than two interviews, an administration charge of £100 will apply. Cancellations made with less than 24 hours' notice will also be subject to this fee.

Interview

Purpose

The panel interview seeks to confirm your knowledge, experience and understanding of the competences.

Your application alone will not be used to judge your competence and will not determine the result of the interview.

The interview is conducted by at least two (maximum three) Chartered Environmentalists who have been trained as assessors. One will act as chairperson and will be responsible for managing the interview.

An observer may ask to be present at your interview. They will not engage in the interview process and you have the right to object to their presence.

Outcome

You will receive your result within five working days of your interview. The result will be issued to you via email so please ensure RICS has your up-to-date contact details.

Accreditation

If you are successful at interview, you will be asked to pay an initial registration fee of £100.

On receipt of your registration fee, your name and registration details will be added to the Society for the Environment's **Registrant Directory**, and you will be issued a certificate.

As a Chartered Environmentalist you are subject to the following obligations:

- ongoing monitoring by RICS Regulation
- completion and recording of appropriate continuing professional development (CPD)
- payment of an annual subscription fee of £100, which will apply from January to December each year.

View the **RICS Rules of Registration** for more information.

4 Your application

Professional details

You must provide the following:

- personal details
- evidence of relevant academic and professional qualifications
- your CV
- a summary of experience (see below)
- two referees (see below)
- a signed declaration
- payment of the application fee.

Summary of experience

Word limit: 500 words

Your summary should set out your position on environmental practice. You should focus the summary on your current job role and include leadership and management experience if it applies.

Applications that exceed the word limit will be returned for resubmission.

Referees

Referees are expected to be mentors, sponsors or supervisors. You must state your relationship to the referees and the number of years known. Ideally, they should be Chartered Environmentalists.

Following your application, you may be required to submit a full CPD record in accordance with RICS Regulation rules. RICS members should maintain up-to-date records on the online CPD management tool.

Visit the CPD web page of the RICS website for more details.

Competency statements

You must provide individual statements against all 11 competences.

Criteria

- word limit: 150–200 words per statement
- each case study should show your substantial involvement in the work
- use the competency guidance on page 8 to focus your statements on significant elements
- include examples of how you have demonstrated the competences
- write in the first person to ensure you demonstrate your experience
- the statements should be professional and reflect a high standard of communication.

Applications that exceed the word limit will be returned for resubmission.

If your application is unsuitable

Your application will be checked against the criteria and guidance stated previously. Your application may be returned if it does not meet the criteria, ignores the guidance or does not provide the necessary information. You will need to resubmit your application, which may delay your interview.

Examples of unsuitable applications include:

- incomplete or missing information
- unprofessional or poorly written communication
- exceeding the word limits
- failure to demonstrate suitable experience to inform interview process
- any other concerns or issues.

5 Your interview

Requirements

Time: 60 minutes

You must prepare a ten-minute statement to support your application. Examples of issues that may be covered in the statement include the following:

- review of past development and learning and overview of future professional development
- short description of a project
- analysis of a topical issue with reference to your experience in the area
- a review of recent learning and an explanation of its benefits to your job role
- example(s) of your role in assisting with the CPD of others and a description of the business benefits obtained.

A simple oral presentation only is required. Visual aids and handouts will not be accepted.

Prepare for the interview by reading:

- your application
- your competency statements
- the Chartered Environmentalist competences
- about current issues.

Structure

Welcome by chairperson	5 minutes
Your personal introduction	10 minutes
Discussion on your overall experience	40 minutes
Chairperson to close	5 minutes

Before the end of the interview, you will be given the opportunity to review any previous answers and clarify any areas of uncertainty. You will also be able to ask the panel any questions.

Following the interview the panel will review your experience and reach a conclusion.

If you are unsuccessful

If you are referred at interview you will be offered the opportunity to come forward for assessment again. You will receive a referral report detailing the following information:

- an explanation of why you have not met the required standard
- advice on any areas for improvement
- details on submitting for reassessment
- details of the appeal procedure.

RICS' appeals procedure is the first level of appeal. Referred applicants will have the option to make a second and third appeal to the SocEnv registration authority and SocEnv board respectively.

Access arrangements

RICS makes every effort to protect applicants from discrimination in accordance with the UK *Equality Act* 2010 (the Act) and is committed to equality of opportunity.

Reasonable adjustments: When applying for an assessment, RICS must consider requests for a reasonable adjustment where a candidate, who is disabled as defined by the Act, would be at a substantial disadvantage in comparison to someone who is not disabled.

A reasonable adjustment must be based on the individual needs of the applicant and their ability to access an assessment. To apply for a reasonable adjustment, you should first refer to the *Access Arrangements: Reasonable Adjustments* policy. If this is relevant to your circumstances, please email **adjustments@rics.org** to apply for reasonable adjustments.

Special consideration: defined as a consideration given to an applicant who has temporarily experienced a significant personal difficulty **at the point of taking an assessment**. To apply for a special consideration, you should first refer to the *Access Arrangements: Special Considerations* policy before sending your request to RICS Assessment Delivery team at **adjustments@rics.org**

For further information, see: **Access Arrangements**.

6 CEnv competences

The **CEnv competences** are a generic standard that you will be assessed against. You must demonstrate how you meet each of the following 11 competences.

You must be able to demonstrate an awareness of the special considerations, philosophies, techniques and principles associated with being an environmentalist. However, it is recognised that your competence is likely to be sector specific and you will have a unique engagement with the environment dependent on your job role, experience and qualifications.

A Application of knowledge and understanding of the environment to further the aims of sustainability

A1 Understand the sustainability principles applicable to the management of the environment.

1. Critically analyse complex environmental information, concepts and theories to determine sustainable courses of action.
2. Understand the environmental impact of the area of study or work.
3. Understand the importance of natural cycles and biodiversity in sustainability and identify strategies for their maintenance and enhancement.

A2 Apply environmental knowledge and principles in pursuit of sustainable environmental management.

1. Develop strategies to address complex situation that involve many interacting environmental factors.
2. Determine measures to deliver continuous improvement in sustainable environmental management.
3. Negotiate contracts and arrangements with relevant stakeholders.

A3 Identify, analyse, and anticipate the impact of problems and environmental trends to develop practical sustainable solutions.

1. Identify and assess the impact of complex problems working sometimes with incomplete data.
2. Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and addressing problems.
3. Demonstrate a critical awareness of current environmental matters and trends and trends reflecting relevant heritage where appropriate and anticipate and assess future impacts.
4. Critically analyse and embrace new environmental information and advance knowledge, skills and competence in the environmental field to develop practical sustainable solutions.

B Leading sustainable management of the environment

B1 Promote behavioural and cultural change by influencing others to secure environmental improvements that go beyond statutory requirements.

1. Develop good practices that go beyond statutory requirements by learning from results.
2. Lead, advise and support others to improve their understanding of the wider environmental context.
3. Advocate sustainable management of the environment by identifying issues, potential risks, benefits and opportunities and influence others, in particular from other disciplines, to contribute to environmental protection and improvement.

B2 Develop and maintain a strategic environmental approach

1. Develop innovative strategies for sustainable development and environmental improvement.
2. Promote inclusion and diversity and engage and collaborate with others to promote inter-disciplinary approaches to environmental challenges.
3. Evaluate constraints and exploit opportunities for the development and transfer of environmentally appropriate techniques, skills, methods, processes, and behaviours.

4. Identify and manage risks to the environment encompassing health and safety, technologies, business, and reputation.

B3 Demonstrate leadership and management skills

1. Demonstrate autonomy and judgement in managing complex environmental and sustainability issues.
2. Lead, motitvate and convice others to agree and deliver environmental and sustainability objectives.
3. Specify the objectives of a task, implement it and critically evaluate the outcome.
4. Plan and manage the continuous environmental improvement.

C Effective communication and interpersonal skills

C1 Communicate the environmental case, confidently, clearly, autonomously and competently.

1. Deliver presentations to a diverse range of audiences.
2. Chair, lead and contribute to debates, meetings, and discussions.
3. Lead and promote stakeholder engagement.

C2 Ability to liase with, negotiate with, handle conflict and advise others, in individual and/or group environments (either as a leader or member).

1. Build relationships to capture and incorporate the opinions and contributions of others.
2. Understand the motives and attitudes of the others to reach agreement.
3. Lead decision-making and champion group decisions.
4. Resolve conflict to achieve common goals within groups, and tasks.

D Personal commitment to professional standards, recognising obligations to society, the profession and the environment

D1 Plan, undertake and evaluate CPD activates to maintain and enhance competence in area of practice

1. Plan, undertake, reflect on, and evaluate CPD activities.

D2 Assess and resolve environmental ethical issues.

1. Identify, assess, and resolve, and encourage others to resolve, environmental ethical issues.
2. Improve environmental practice by addressing complex ethical issues.

D3 Understand demonstrate and advocate compliance with relevant codes of conduct and practice.

1. Understand, comply, and advocate compliance with relevant codes of conduct and practice.

Delivering confidence

We are RICS. As a member-led chartered professional body working in the public interest, we uphold the highest technical and ethical standards.

We inspire professionalism, advance knowledge and support our members across global markets to make an effective contribution for the benefit of society. We independently regulate our members in the management of land, real estate, construction and infrastructure. Our work with others supports their professional practice and pioneers a natural and built environment that is sustainable, resilient and inclusive for all.

Enquiries
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