

Imperial Membership and Accredited Recognition Scheme (MARS)

General Guidance for Mentors

Introduction to MARS

The Imperial Membership and Accredited Recognition Scheme (MARS) enables mentees registered on the scheme to have their training recognised by their Professions body.

By participation in the MARS scheme Mentees can progress from Associate Member to full Member, attain Registered Scientist status (RSci) and start their development towards Chartered status – depending on their professional body, degree programme and their experience.

MARS is optional and currently a small number sign up each year. Once registered Mentees are appointed a mentor and supported by the senior mentor who oversees the programme and applications. The MARS Scheme has been accredited by the RSB, RSC and IOP.

The Graduate School professional skills courses have been mapped to the competencies required to achieve Chartered or Registered status, with a few courses being mapped as mandatory to achieve the competencies required. Other evidence of competencies may also be used.

NB. Specific guidance notes are available for the three MARS Programmes available with the RSB, RSC and IOP.

The role:

MARS Mentor role is voluntarily. To become a mentor you need membership of the professional body and willingness to help others to achieve professional designations.

Guidance for Mentors

1. Mentors should register with the scheme on SharePoint. Please click MARS home from Membership section on MARS webpage: <http://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/graduate-school/impact-influence/mars-membership/>. This will take you to the SharePoint where you should click on Mentor Registration tab and fill in brief form. All mentors have the support of a Senior Mentor based within the Department and Faculty.
2. It is recommended that a mentor has a minimum of quarterly meetings with their mentees which need to be recorded and uploaded for assessment onto the Mentees record portfolio or kept as a hard copy within the portfolio folder.
3. Mentors should review and approve the mentees portfolio records within 4 weeks of receiving them. This can be done electronically or by signing a printed copy of the evidence with mentor's signature and a date.
4. Mentors are required to review their mentee's application forms and provide comments on mentee's performance as required for their submission to their Professional Body within MARS.

Benefits for Mentees:

Benefits of Professional body membership and registration on the programme allows recognition of Mentees training with the external professional body and potentially allows Mentees to apply for Chartered status earlier in their career. Other Professional body membership benefits include: access to professional registers, invitations to events and regional activities, funding, CPD and career support (See Professional body website for further details).

Frequently Asked Questions: Mentors

Q. What is expected and time involvement?

A. MARS co-directors, senior mentors and mentors meet as a panel once a term to review applications for accreditation and practices. MARS mentors are expected to meet with their mentees a minimum of quarterly and to approve submitted evidence.

Q. What level of involvement should a senior mentor have with a professional body to be involved with the scheme?

A. The senior mentor should hold Professional Body Fellowship or Chartered status.

Q. What level can a mentor support?

A. Mentors can support progression to their current level of attainment e.g. A member can support those aiming for this award while a Chartered member can support those in seeking to attain Chartered status.

Q. What numbers of potential applicants would we expect?

A. The scheme is optional and requires additional commitment to evidence competencies. Currently 2018/19 about 8 individuals from each discipline have expressed an interest and have registered. However this may increase in subsequent years.

Q. How many at imperial could apply?

This will vary depending upon the subject area.

This year (2018-2019) there were 40 new doctoral researchers in the NHLI, 225 in Chemistry and 265 in Physics. <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/student-records-and-data/for-staff/student-statistics/>

Q. What feedback have we had from those involved in MARS in terms of motivations to join scheme?

A. The majority of motivations stem from wanting evidence of achievement on a CV, to be distinguished above other applicants when moving on from Imperial. For those moving away from academia this is especially important.