

Choosing your Supporters

We have written this document for our members as we realise that sometimes it is not easy to initially locate suitable people to support your application. As well as general advice, the requirements for the relevant membership grades are below and by clicking on the title you will jump to that section. If you are a teacher there is an additional section for you. These should be read as well as the section relating to your desired membership grade.

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Guidance for Everyone

The first choice for anyone locating a supporter is in their immediate surroundings. If you are working for a scientific or engineering company or department it is likely that others in your company will already be members of a professional body or hold chartered status.

Many members do not use their designatory letters (such as “MInstP CPhys”) after their names, so it helps if you actively tell people you are looking for someone with the appropriate membership.

Human Resource departments sometimes keep records of who among the staff in your organisation holds chartered status, so they may also be able to advise you.


Your supporters do not have to work for the same company as you – they could be clients, customers or collaborators. If you keep business cards have a look through them and see who has relevant letters after their name. This person will need to have known you for 1-2 years and be able to comment on your work.

If you have not been successful so far there are several options open to you.

Current members of the Institute, wherever in the world you are based, who are looking to upgrade their membership or apply for chartered status will have access to the Internet Register of Members, IROM. This can be found at <http://members.iop.org>, where you should log in. An image of the screen this will take you to is shown on the following page.

Member Services [Home](#) [Contact Us](#) [Log Off](#)

Institute of Physics



Welcome, Miss Alexandra Byrne , to the Members' Area
If you are not the above person, kindly [log-out](#)

The following services are available to you:

- **Your Record** review and change your address and contact information
- **Register of Members** search the membership database
- **Your Groups** add or remove Subject and Professional Groups.

Click on the link indicated by the arrow. You will be taken to the following screen where you can scroll down and access the names of members in your country or postcode area who are suitably qualified to support you.

Name Search

Help for the name search is available at [the bottom of the page](#)

First Name

Last Name

Supporter Search

To search for a supporter in UK enter the initial letters of postcode. Alternatively choose a country.

For UK

For Non-UK

Option to filter the list of supporters based on:

- Chartered Physicists
- Chartered Engineers
- Chartered Scientist
- FInstP (Fellow)

If you not currently in membership you will not be able to access this information.

If after trying the suggestions listed you still can not find a suitable supporter you will now need to choose someone who is not suitably qualified but who is familiar with your work. We aim to understand all our applicant's different circumstances so to help us understand your choice you will need to explain it in a short covering letter, which should accompany your application.

Suitable people without the necessary qualifications could be people such as:

- Your head of department or director
- A person who is a chartered member of another professional body (such as the IEE)

If you are still having trouble locating a supporter please contact the Membership Department for advice.

Different grades have different requirements – in some cases you will not have the option of substituting supporters without suitable qualifications. Read the relevant section below to see if this applies to you.

Member

For this application you require only one supporter. This is a person you choose who can verify the information you have submitted to us. When choosing your supporter it will help to consider the following

- Your supporter should be a Member or Fellow of the Institute of Physics.
- They must not be related to you.
- They must have known you for at least one year.

If you can not locate a suitable supporter you can substitute an alternative person, but you must explain your choice in a covering letter.

Fellow

Applications for Fellow need two supporters who you can choose for yourself. Please consider the following when choosing your supporters

- Both supporters should be Fellows of the Institute of Physics
- Occasionally the Panel will accept applications from people who have only one IOP Fellow supporting them. IN this case the second supporter should be a Fellow of a suitable professional body and the reason for your choice should be explained in a covering letter.
- One supporter should be outside your work place. The Panel request this to ensure independence of opinion.
- Both supporters should have known you (or known of you) for at least two years.

Occasionally the Panel will accept only one supporter who is a Fellow of this Institute and one who is a Fellow of a similar Institute. This is generally only done with applicants from outside the UK and Ireland who are likely to have fewer members in their immediate circle. Again your choice must be explained in a covering letter.

Chartered Physicist

Applications for CPhys need two supporters who you can choose for yourself. Please consider the following when choosing your supporters

- Both supporters should be Members or Fellows of the Institute of Physics and be Chartered Physicists.
- One supporter should be outside your work place. The Panel request this to ensure independence of opinion.
- Both supporters should have known you (or known of you) for at least one year.
- Remember that you must not be related to either of your supporters!

Occasionally the Panel will accept applications from people who have only one IOP Member supporting them. In this case the second supporter should be chartered through a suitable professional body and the reason for your choice should be explained in a covering letter.

Chartered Engineer

Applications for CEng need two supporters who you can choose for yourself. Please consider the following when choosing your supporters

- Both supporters must be Chartered Engineers although they do not have to be chartered through or members of the Institute of Physics.
- One supporter should be outside your work place. The Panel request this to ensure independence of opinion.
- Both supporters should have known you (or known of you) for at least one year.
- Remember that you must not be related to either of your supporters!

Chartered Scientist

Applications for CSci need two supporters who you can choose for yourself. Please consider the following when choosing your supporters

- Both supporters should be Members or Fellows of the Institute of Physics and be Chartered.
- One supporter should be outside your work place. The Panel request this to ensure independence of opinion.
- Both supporters should have known you (or known of you) for at least one year.
- Remember that you must not be related to either of your supporters!

Occasionally the Panel will accept applications from people who have only one chartered IOP Member supporting them. In this case the second supporter should be chartered through a suitable professional body and the reason for your choice needs to be explained in a covering letter.

Teachers

We welcome teachers into our membership and understand that often you might be the only physicist working in your location. For this reason we will readily accept your head teacher or head of science as a supporter for your application, whether they are a member of a professional body or not.

Contact Details

Please send your questions to: **Membership Department**
Institute of Physics
76 Portland Place
London
W1B 1NT
United Kingdom

Or

- either telephone +44 (0) 20 7470 4800
- or email membership@iop.org