Chartered Water and Environmental Manager (C.WEM)

Work Based Learning Route Guidance

In addition to holding exemplifying qualifications to demonstrate the knowledge and understanding elements of professional competence, there are other ways an applicant can demonstrate the necessary knowledge and understanding for progression to Chartered Membership of CIWEM (C.WEM).

CIWEM's C.WEM Work Based Learning route provides a means of enabling very experienced applicants who lack the exemplifying academic qualifications to demonstrate the knowledge and understanding which they have acquired through their working experience and to validate this against the QAA qualification descriptor for Honour's level.

Further guidance for completing your application can be found **here**.

Is the Work Based Learning Route appropriate to my circumstances?

The Work Based Learning Route is suitable for experienced applicants whose qualifications fall short of the exemplifying qualification or those who do not hold academic qualifications.

How will I demonstrate the necessary knowledge and understanding?

In addition to the standard submission, applicants are required to provide a reflective statement describing the specific knowledge and understanding they have gained through their work (and any other relevant activity) for each Honour's Level QAA Descriptor. This should be supported by evidence of any assessment or evaluation which has taken place. applicants should demonstrate a breadth of understanding utilising examples beyond those given in their Mandatory Competence Report(s).

Role of the applicant's Sponsor

CIWEM additionally, require a letter of support from the applicant's Sponsor testifying that the individual has indeed undertaken the activities concerned and describe what the applicant learned through them. The applicant's Sponsor must be a Chartered Member of CIWEM or a Chartered Member of an equivalent UK body.

Will I be interviewed as part of the Work Based Learning Route?

There is no additional interview requirement for the Work Based Learning Route however applicants will still need to undertake a Professional Interview.

UK Quality Code for Higher Education and QAA Qualification Descriptors

National qualification frameworks are formal structures which are adopted by countries to define their qualification systems. Generally, they identify a hierarchy of qualification levels in ascending order and state the generic requirements for qualifications to be awarded at each of these levels. The frameworks show what qualifications are at the same level and indicate how one qualification may lead to another either at the same or a higher level. They describe a continuum of learning which allows any new qualifications to be placed within the educational system. Assigning levels to qualifications promotes the accurate and consistent description and marketing of qualifications by those who award them. National qualification frameworks provide a context for the articulation, review and development of qualifications. They are a tool both for securing threshold academic standards nationally and for making valid comparisons of qualifications internationally (thus facilitating student mobility).

Each framework sets out a hierarchy of qualification levels and describes the general achievement expected of holders of the main qualification type at each of the levels. UK degree-awarding bodies are required to use the relevant frameworks in setting and maintaining academic standards.

Holders of a bachelor's degree with honours will have developed an understanding of a complex body of knowledge, some of it at the current boundaries of an academic discipline. Through this, the holder will have developed analytical techniques and problem-solving skills that can be applied in many types of employment. The holder of such a qualification will be able to evaluate evidence, arguments and assumptions, to reach sound judgements and to communicate them effectively.

Holders of a bachelor's degree with honours should have the qualities needed for employment in situations requiring the exercise of personal responsibility, and decision-making in complex and unpredictable circumstances.

Please see here for further information: https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/qualifications-frameworks.pdf

Descriptor 1 | A systematic understanding of key aspects of their field of study, including acquisition of coherent and detailed knowledge, at least some of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of defined aspects of a discipline

Descriptor 2 | An ability to deploy accurately established techniques of analysis and enquiry within a discipline

Descriptor 3 | Conceptual understanding that enables the student: to devise and sustain arguments, and/or to solve problems, using ideas and techniques, some of which are at the forefront of a discipline

Descriptor 4 | Conceptual understanding that enables the student: to describe and comment upon particular aspects of current research, or equivalent advanced scholarship, in the discipline

Descriptor 5 | An appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge

Descriptor 6 | The ability to manage their own learning, and to make use of scholarly reviews and primary sources (for example, refereed research articles and/or original materials appropriate to the discipline).

Descriptor 7 | Apply the methods and techniques that they have learned to review, consolidate, extend and apply their knowledge and understanding, and to initiate and carry out projects

Descriptor 8 | Critically evaluate arguments, assumptions, abstract concepts and data (that may be incomplete), to make judgements, and to frame appropriate questions to achieve a solution - or identify a range of solutions - to a problem

Descriptor 9 | Communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences

Descriptor 10 | The qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring:
- the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility
- decision-making in complex and unpredictable contexts
- the learning ability needed to undertake appropriate further training of a professional or equivalent nature