

CIEH – widening access to membership 2010 Q&As

Why are we widening access to membership?

Over the past couple of years several factors have combined to make expanding the membership a necessary strategic development for the CIEH.

Firstly, there are a growing number of people who work in the public and environmental health fields both here in the UK and overseas, that have expressed an interest in having a professional association with the CIEH. While certain grades of membership are open to these people, voting membership is primarily designed and structured for UK-based EHPs who have graduated from a CIEH-accredited university.

Demand from overseas colleagues

We now have a growing presence and profile overseas. The CIEH is increasingly seen as a global environmental health body: we accredit environmental health degree courses in a number of countries; our training qualifications are valued by governments and businesses across the globe and more and more of our members are moving and working overseas in countries such as Canada, Malaysia and Australia. Many colleagues overseas ranging from professors to scientists and food inspectors would like to access voting membership and to be able to participate and influence the CIEH.

The UK environmental and public health arena

In the UK, the CIEH is regarded as one of the foremost public health organisations with a direct line of influence across all levels of government, in the media and with the public. With this recognition has come a groundswell of interest in CIEH membership among public health professionals who are not EHPs.

As an inclusive organisation that embraces diversity and promotes public health, it makes sense for us to attract these professionals into the CIEH.

A growing and diverse CIEH, with members across the UK and the globe, will open up a wide range of opportunities and benefits. It will help to spread our expertise, increase our influence and raise our profile.

Above all, increased demand for CIEH membership is a reflection of the excellent reputation and of the high standing of this organisation and its members. We have firmly positioned ourselves on the national public health agenda and we are now developing our global presence.

Will this change *my* membership grade?

No, all of our existing members will remain in their current grades. In some cases it may be easier to upgrade your membership.

What will be the benefits be to me?

- Increased influence and lobbying potential for the CIEH – the more members we have will mean we have a bigger voice at the ‘top table’ and will be better positioned to represent the views of our members
- Increased presence and profile on the international public health stage – with members across the globe - means the CIEH will be better placed to expand its influence and to promote the preventative public health message
- Increased networking, professional development opportunities and the ability to share and exchange knowledge and experiences

What are the changes?

- 1) Accredited Associate Membership (ACIEH) will now be available to people who have passed a CIEH L4 qualification or EHRB qualification in an environmental health subject. It will also be available to people who have gained similar qualifications that are able to pass the CIEH Membership Assessment to the required level
- 2) Voting Membership (MCIEH) will now be available to people who have passed an EHRB qualification which is deemed to be at academic “level 5” (i.e. 2nd year BSc or HND level). It will also be available to people who have gained similar qualifications that are able to pass the CIEH Membership Assessment to the required level
- 3) Graduate Membership (GradCIEH) will now be available to people who have passed a CIEH-accredited BSc or MSc, but who have not yet qualified as EHPs

What does this mean for EHPs?

Access to voting membership has been available to non-EHPs for some time. We have stressed for some years now that the EHRB Certificate of Registration (and the old Diplomas) entitles someone to work as an EHO or EHP. This will not change and we remain committed to being the voice of the profession.

Chartered status will remain the exclusive preserve of environmental health practitioners with an EHRB qualification.

What is the Membership Assessment?

It is a new ‘gateway’ assessment aimed at determining the academic and professional qualities of prospective members who have not undertaken a CIEH-controlled assessment. As a chartered body, the CIEH must directly assess prospective members, especially those being given voting status.

The new Membership Assessment replaces several of our existing ‘gateways’: The Accredited Associate Assessment, the Graduate to Voting Assessment and the “14.4” Voting Membership Assessment.

Does this mean I will get less service from the CIEH?

No. Indeed we are working on a suite of new membership benefits to be launched throughout 2010.

When are the changes to membership being introduced?

The new arrangements technically came into force after being agreed by the Council meeting in December. We are aiming for the promotional material and new Membership Assessment to be available in early 2010.

What should I do if my colleagues are interested in becoming members?

We are always interested in hearing from people who are interested in joining the CIEH (and of course from former members who wish to rejoin us!). Anyone who wishes to become a member is invited to email us at membership@cieh.org or call us on 020 7928 6006.

Where can I get further information?

More information will be available on our website: <http://www.cieh.org/members>

You may also contact us on 020 7928 6006 or membership@cieh.org