

## **ORS Accreditation – Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Considering an application?**

**I'm keen to keep gaining OR experience and demonstrating techniques to be able to work towards AFORS/FORS accreditation, the challenge I have is that I don't know any other OR practitioners or OR Society members.**

As a member of the ORS there are a range of events and other activities you can engage in which will enhance an accreditation application. Attend regional network or SIG meetings (either online or in person) - introduce yourself and speak to people there – build your network. Pro Bono volunteering may also help if you have worked on a project. The best way Pro Bono would help would be in gaining the OR experience. You could also volunteer through our Education scheme.

Our website also includes details on research and publications, events and training as well as special interest groups and networking opportunities, all of which could be accessed to gain the experience needed to support an accreditation application.

**I already have Registered Scientist (RSci) or Chartered Scientist (CSci) accreditation, I thought that was the same as OR accreditation. Should I apply for both?**

CSci and RSci are qualifications established by the [Science Council](#) and made available to our members through being licensed to The OR Society. They are ideal for anyone who wants a widely recognised accreditation, demonstrating their scientific competence. The track record and experience are required for application and CSci **is roughly equivalent to our AFORS grade.**

OR accreditation is more specific to the field of OR. Our accreditation schemes are not mutually exclusive and many members have more than one accreditation. The decision on this is a personal one, depending on how a member sees their career progressing and what will benefit them the most.

**I'm looking to get some form of accreditation from the ORS. But I'm not sure if I should go for CandORS or AORS? Do you have to be a CandORS before you can go for AORS?**

Members of the ORS are free to apply for accreditation at any grade, but should consider the standard carefully and select one that best meets their current career position. It is not necessary to start at CandORS and progress through all of the grades.

**I'm an apprentice, can I apply for accreditation?**

L7 Operational Research Specialist apprentices are eligible for subsidised student membership and CandORS accreditation. Your university or training provider may have established a direct claims route where they can apply for accreditation on your behalf, so we encourage that you check with them first. On successful completion of this apprenticeship standard, members are able to apply for AORS and can also follow a shortened application route to Registered Scientists with the Science Council.

If you are studying another apprenticeship standard in a related discipline and are interested in ORS accreditation, please contact us [accreditation@theorsociety.com](mailto:accreditation@theorsociety.com) and we can advise on appropriate accreditation routes if we have any available for you.

**How many referees do I need for my application?**

An application for ORS accreditation at all grades above CandORS requires a minimum of two references. Applicants may include a third referee if they feel this will support their application. No references are required for CandORS, but you will be asked on application to explain where you are

studying and/or working, to verify your OR engagement. When an application is submitted, the Qualifications & Accreditation team will contact your referees and share the completed references with our Accreditation panel, to support their decision on the application. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure the referees are aware that contact will be made and to contact them in the event they do not provide references.

### **Is there an accreditation application fee?**

Details of our fees are available on our website. An administration fee may apply when you submit your application. On successful accreditation, an annual accreditation fee will apply, taken alongside your membership fee. Our fees are reviewed annually. There are no fees for CandORS accreditation.

### **Making an application?**

#### **I have tried to save my application but it disappeared. What should I do?**

Our website does not currently support saving an application midway through the process. We encourage you to complete your answers separately, then copying and pasting them into the application once you have accessed your member account. Alternatively, an application document is available here which can be downloaded, completed and submitted to [EPAO@theorsociety.com](mailto:EPAO@theorsociety.com).

#### **I can't give answers to all the questions, should I still apply?**

We recognise that the OR field is incredibly broad and our accreditation schemes welcome academics, practitioners, students, those who are employed and self-employed as well as retired members, where the standard for accreditation can be met. However, this approach means that some questions (particularly at lower grades) are simply not relevant for some applicants. Applicants should complete all of the answers they can in as much detail as possible. An inability to answer some of the questions is common and doesn't prevent a successful application. Thinking laterally can also help – the answers to some questions might not be the immediately obvious ones.

### **How long will it take?**

Once we have received your application the Qualifications & Accreditation team will reach out to your referees. Once your references are received, your application and references will be shared with members of our Accreditation panel, who will review it as soon as possible and reach a decision. In some circumstances, where agreement cannot be reached, an application has to be shared with more panel members before a decision is reached. Once we have all of the information we need, the process normally takes around a month, but can take longer with more contentious applications.

### **The outcome of my accreditation application?**

#### **How will I know if I've been successful?**

Once the Accreditation panel have reached a decision that an application has been successful, the applicant will receive email confirmation from the Qualifications & Accreditation team. This email will include an e-certificate, followed digital credentials. For AORS and above accreditees will also receive a certificate in the post.

**How will I know if I've been unsuccessful and what else can I do?**

Again, in the case of an unsuccessful application, email confirmation will be received including brief feedback. Sometimes the Accreditation panel may award at a lower level than the one applied for rather than rejecting the application. If this applies, details will be within the email confirmation and relevant certificate and digital credentials shared.

**I've been unsuccessful in my accreditation application, what are my options?**

You may seek further feedback on your application by contacting [accreditation@theorsociety.com](mailto:accreditation@theorsociety.com). Alternatively, you may choose to appeal the decision, details of this process are available on our website.

**I currently have AORS and want to apply for AFORS, how long do I have to wait?**

Applicants can apply as many times as they like and there are no set time frames between applications, but you should make sure you meet the relevant standard before applying for a higher grade of accreditation.

**How will you share my accreditation achievement on social media (Linkedin)**

We regularly share posts on LinkedIn congratulating newly accredited members on their successful accreditation and welcoming them to the accredited community. We will seek your permission to be included in this and to have your profile tagged in the post, you will be asked this in the email you receive confirming your application has been successful.

**Can I share my accreditation achievement on social media?**

On confirmation of a successful accreditation application, you will receive digital credentials which can be added to social media profiles and email signatures. These can be used as long as you maintain your accreditation and you must only share accreditation at the appropriate grade.