

# Chartered Environmental Health Practitioner Programme Programme Specification



Chartered Status is internationally recognised and is the status most acknowledged by employers and the public as the ‘gold standard’. It is a natural career aspiration for members and enables CIEH, through its Royal Charter, to recognise a standard of knowledge, skills and professionalism and award Chartered Status. CIEH holds a Register of Chartered Practitioners; those individuals who can demonstrate an ongoing standard of professional practice.

---

## Definition of a Chartered Environmental Health Practitioner

---

A Chartered Environmental Health Practitioner:

- has completed a rigorous programme to develop professionalism and technical skills
- practises environmental health at the highest level with qualifications, experience and competency independently validated by CIEH
- appreciates the holistic nature of environmental health and has knowledge of all five core areas of practice at a minimum of level 6
- demonstrates self-awareness
- understands how organisations operate
- demonstrates effective leadership skills
- communicates effectively with others
- works collaboratively
- makes well-formed judgements in complex and novel situations
- as a reflective practitioner, critically evaluates interventions
- demonstrates ongoing research and evaluation skills within the workplace
- is committed to maintaining and enhancing their knowledge, skills and competence through Continuing Professional Development and periodic revalidation

## Overview of the programme

---

The Chartered Practitioner Programme is a two-year, practice-based route to Chartered Status built on the foundation of the CIEH Professional Standards Framework.



## Programme aims

---

The Chartered Practitioner Programme aims to develop highly competent and professional practitioners equipped to protect the health and well-being of people and communities. The structure and characteristics of the programme have been developed in direct response to the needs of environmental health professionals, employers and CIEH members.

It emphasises:

**Depth and breadth of knowledge** – the body of knowledge acquired by environmental health practitioners at the ‘expert’ mastery level is broad; spanning five distinct technical areas, all as significant as each other. This is important in given Chartered Practitioners the authority and breadth of knowledge deemed essential to practice at the highest level.

**Highly-personalised** – everyone is different, seeks different outcomes or has different career aspirations. That is why the programme has been developed to put practitioners in control of their professional development.

**Purposeful assessment** – assessment is important to any developmental programme, especially when there is a standard to meet. The programme only assesses for a specific rationale and has been designed to be meaningful for those involved.

**Employer engagement and involvement** – practitioners will complete the programme alongside their day to day role in an environmental health setting, applying their learning in the workplace through directed activities. Practitioners will work with their employer to identify a work-based mentor who will support their progression on the programme.

**Meaningful application of knowledge** – emphasis has been placed on work-based application and, while it is essential that a range of environmental health knowledge is applied, it is not effective to create unnatural or simulated activities. Where practice is meaningful to the practitioner is when greater depth of learning and development occurs.

**Development of professionalism** – the programme has a strong focus on the development of professional behaviours which may be difficult to obtain solely in a university or a work-based setting. CIEH courses and workshops delivered in the Professionalism block focus on areas such as self-awareness, organisational awareness, communication, collaborative working, ethical practice and leadership.

## Programme outcomes

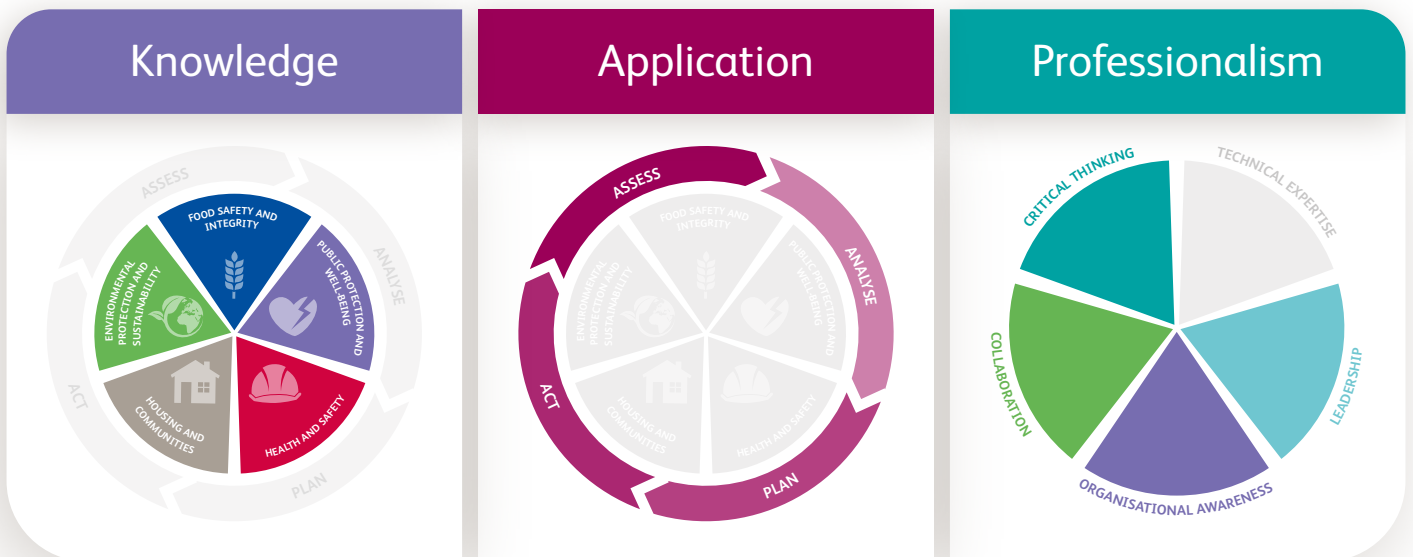
---

On completion of the Programme practitioners will be able to:

1. demonstrate acute **self-awareness**, their strengths, weaknesses and how to interact effectively with others
2. demonstrate a **critical understanding** of how a range of organisations operate, their functions, cultures, key relationships and the context they are working within
3. **communicate effectively** with a range of people and organisations using verbal, non-verbal and written communication skills, in order to influence, persuade, negotiate and disseminate information
4. work effectively in **collaboration** with others, demonstrating multidisciplinary awareness, engaging with multiple stakeholders and building and maintaining relationships
5. make well-formed **judgements** in complex and novel situations, objectively analysing information, assessing risk, identifying and implementing appropriate solutions
6. **critically evaluate and reflect** upon interventions, outcomes and conclusions associated with environmental health practice
7. demonstrate **research and evaluation skills**, critically engaging and evaluating with environmental health research and evidence
8. demonstrate effective **leadership** skills, taking responsibility for complex pieces of work, influencing and inspiring others, as well as project and people management
9. practise environmental health at the highest level, demonstrating and maintaining **expert level functional and technical competencies** in a core area of practice
10. **practise ethically**, demonstrating an understating of professional ethics and taking into account the wider consequences of own actions

## Programme structure

The programme has three main blocks:



## Programme structure

---

### Knowledge

The majority of practitioners will have completed the Knowledge block when they enrol on the programme, upon completion of their CIEH-accredited BSc, MSc or Apprenticeship. Practitioners who hold a related but non-accredited qualification in environmental health, or an area of similar practice, will go through existing Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL) procedures at accredited universities, completing specific top up modules to cover the Knowledge block.

The technical competencies, in the five core areas of practice from the Competency Framework will form the basis of the content in the Knowledge block: Food Safety and Integrity, Housing and Communities, Health and Safety, Environmental Protection and Sustainability, Public Protection and Well-being.

Practitioners may also enrol on the Chartered Programme if they are within one year of completing the Knowledge block, which is the taught element of an accredited university course. They will need to complete the taught element before being given access to the Application block on the Chartered Programme and must be awarded their degree before undertaking the Professionalism in Practice Assessment and being granted Chartered Status.

### Application

The Application block enables practitioners to apply their underpinning environmental health knowledge in the workplace and develop their technical and functional skills. It consists of two components. The first is a range of workplace activities that are aligned to competencies from the Professional Standards Framework and the second is a workplace project. The activities and project focus can be personalised to practitioner and employer specialism.

In the Application block practitioners can choose (with the agreement of their employer) to demonstrate their work exclusively in two areas of practice, selecting from: Food Safety and Integrity, Housing and Communities, Health and Safety, Environmental Protection and Sustainability, and Public Protection and Well-being.

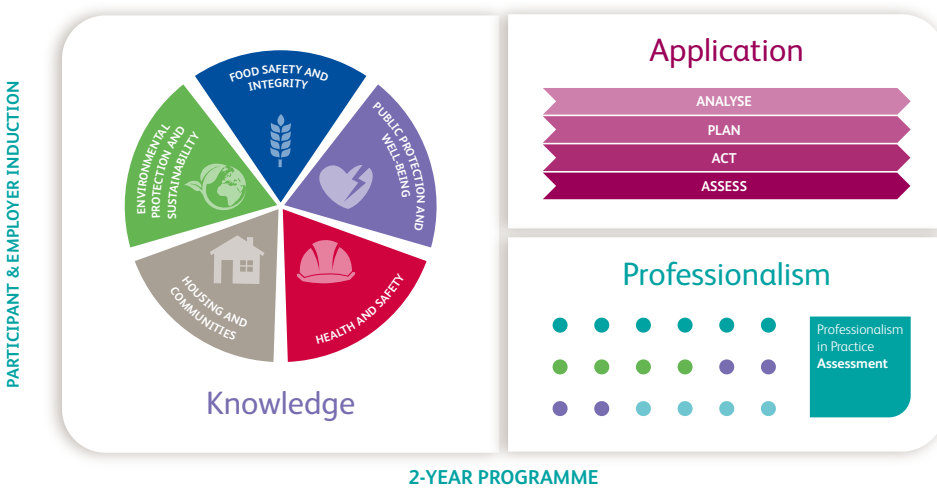
### Professionalism

The Professionalism block consists of access to an online learning hub containing a collection of CIEH accredited content. This is primarily online learning that CIEH has allocated professional credit based on depth of knowledge, expected impact, and significance aligned to the Professional Standards Framework.

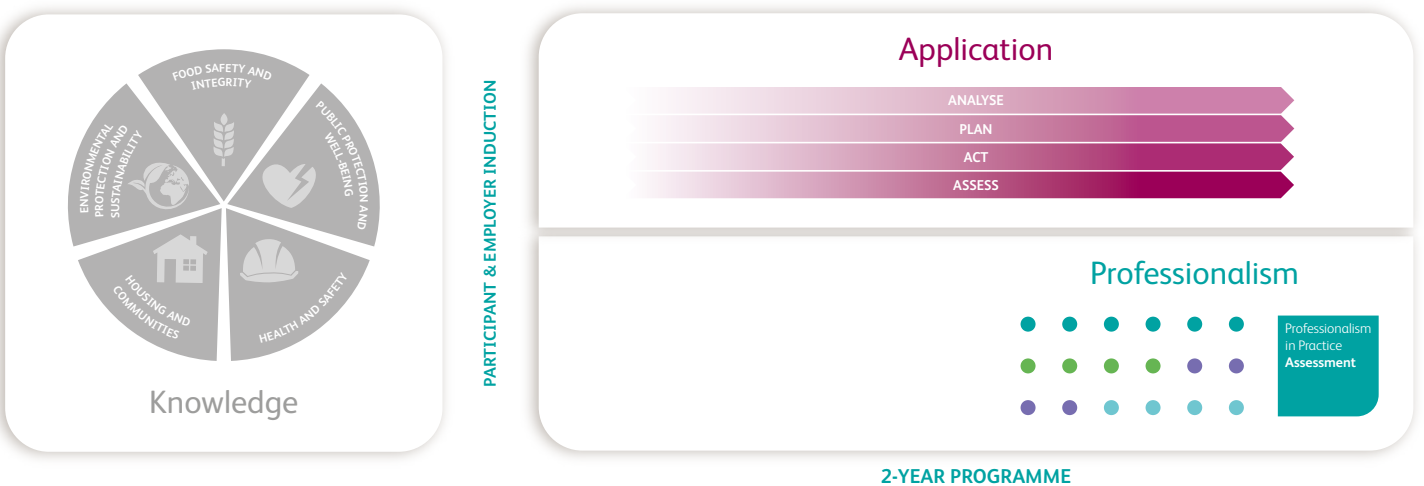
Practitioners will plan their own development within the Professionalism block, acquiring 60 professional credits aligned to each of the Professional Standards.

## Programme structure

Programme structure for those completing the Knowledge block in the first year of the programme:



Programme structure for those who have completed the Knowledge block prior to enrolling on the programme:





## End of programme assessment

---

Assessment will be carried out throughout the programme culminating in a CIEH delivered summative assessment; Professionalism in Practice Assessment (PPA). Practitioners will not be able to progress to the PPA unless all on-programme assessments are completed and submitted.

**The Knowledge block** is assessed by accredited Higher Education Institutions.

**The Application block** is in two parts, one part is assessed by employers who will confirm that practitioners have undertaken work-based activities and are competent in environmental health practice at the level expected by CIEH. The second part directs practitioners and employers to develop and deliver a work-based project. This is submitted to CIEH prior to the PPA.

**The Professionalism block** is assessed by CIEH, with evidence of completion automatically recorded on the online learning portal.

## Summative assessment: Professionalism in Practice Assessment (PPA)

---

The **PPA** is a face to face professional interview carried out by CIEH, alongside trained assessors from the environmental health profession. The assessment measures two types of achievement; competency-based with reference to the employer-led project (Application block) and scenario-based drawing on the experiences acquired during the Professionalism block.

## Admission

---

Applicants must:

- Hold a CIEH accredited qualification in environmental health at a minimum of level 6 \*
- Hold the Member grade (MCIEH) or Fellowship
- Be working in an environmental health setting
- Have a statement of employer support for programme completion

\* If you have a level 6 non-accredited degree you must provide evidence that you will be completing the taught element of an accredited degree within one year of enrolling on the 2-year Chartered Programme