

Why should I apply for Practitioner accreditation?



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When you think about ClfA Practitioner accreditation and its benefits, it's likely the first things you think of are the post-nominals (PCIfA) and career support and professional development. Accreditation demonstrates your level of competence and professional accreditation to others. You can also use it as formal recognition of a professional qualification by the construction sector to apply for a Professionally Qualified Person card with CSCS. Alongside the post-nominals, you gain access to ClfA's regular eBulletin, weekly Jobs Information Service and Training (JIST) bulletin, a range of professional practice papers and *The Archaeologist* magazine. For career support and development, there is the careers toolkit and professional pathways bulletins.

Whilst these are all great benefits, there is much more to becoming accredited with ClfA. As a recent PCIfA applicant says,

'I decided to join ClfA to expand my current knowledge of professional archaeology and it has allowed me, via the application process, to really reflect on my experience working in the industry and what I have achieved.'

Accreditation is also increasingly used by employers in recruitment and grading of staff and in determining rates of pay.

Advocacy is central to the work of ClfA, influencing policy and decision makers and raising the profile of archaeology to strengthen the profession for the future. Becoming accredited gives you the opportunity to take an active role in supporting and developing your profession by responding to consultations or joining committees to have your say.

ClfA is an active community, and there are all sorts of ways to get involved. Once accredited, you can become directly involved with developing your profession, by voting at the AGM on changes to policy and standards, volunteering your time on a committee, or nominating yourself for election to the Advisory Council or ClfA Board of Directors. There are currently 5 Area Groups and 15 Special Interest Groups to get involved with, each running their own events and activities.

Getting involved doesn't only benefit the profession, it can also be highly beneficial on a personal level and for continued professional development (CPD). It opens the door to a world of networking and peer learning to help improve your career prospects.

So, if you have been thinking about applying for Practitioner (PCIfA) you can find all the guidance you need on our website (www.archaeologists.net/join/pcfifa) or get in touch with me, Ellen, at ellen.mcnamara@archaeologists.net and I will be happy to help.

ClfA careers kit – www.archaeologists.net/careers/intro

ClfA professional pathways – <http://www.archaeologists.net/join/pathway>