

# Imperial Membership and Accredited Recognition Scheme (MARS)

## General Guidance for Mentors

### Introduction to MARS

The Imperial Membership and Accredited Recognition Scheme (MARS) enables doctoral researchers registered on the scheme to have their training recognised by their Professions body.

By participation in the MARS scheme Mentees can progress from Associate Member to full Member, attain Registered Scientist status (RSci) and start their development towards Chartered status – depending on their professional body, degree programme and their experience.

MARS is optional and currently a small number sign up each year. Once registered Mentees are appointed a mentor and supported by the senior mentor who oversees the programme and applications. The MARS Scheme has been accredited by the RSB, RSC and IOP.

The Graduate School professional skills courses have been mapped to the competencies required to achieve Chartered or Registered status, with a few courses being mapped as mandatory to achieve the competencies required. Other evidence of competencies may also be used.

NB. Specific guidance notes are available for the three MARS Programmes available with the RSB, RSC and IOP.

### The role:

MARS Mentor role is voluntarily. To become a mentor you need membership of the professional body and willingness to help others to achieve professional designations.

### Guidance for Mentors

1. Mentors should register with the MARS scheme from the MARS Web page or click on the Mentor Registrations link

<https://imperiallondon.sharepoint.com/sites/fonse/other/mars/SitePages/Register-as-a-Mentor.aspx?web=1> , then click on the App link, select Mentor Registration and fill in a brief form.

All mentors have the support of a Senior Mentor based within the Department and Faculty, and the MARS Director.

2. It is recommended that a mentor has a minimum of quarterly meetings with their mentees which need to be recorded and uploaded for assessment onto the Mentees record portfolio.

3. Mentors should review and approve the mentees portfolio records within 4 weeks of receiving them.

4. Mentors are required to review their mentee's application forms and provide comments on mentee's performance as required for their submission to the RSB within MARS.

### Benefits for Mentees:

Benefits of Professional body membership and registration on the programme allows recognition of Mentees training with the external professional body and potentially allows Mentees to apply for Chartered status earlier in their career. Other Professional body membership benefits include; access to professional registers, invitations to events and regional activities, funding, CPD and career support (See Professional body website for further details)

## Frequently Asked Questions: Mentors

Q. What is expected and time involvement?

A. MARS directors, senior mentors and mentors meet as a panel twice per year to review applications for accreditation and review practice. MARS mentors are expected to meet with their mentees a minimum of quarterly and to approve submitted evidence.

Q. What level of involvement should a senior mentor have with RSB to be involved with the scheme?

A. The senior mentor should hold Professional Body Fellowship or Chartered status.

Q. What level can a mentor support?

A. Mentors can support progression to their current level of attainment e.g. A MRSB can support those aiming for this award while a Chartered Biologist can support those in biology seeking to attain Chartered status.

Q. What level of engagement with MARS do you see?

A. The scheme is optional and requires additional commitment to evidence competencies. Currently 2023-24 about 40 individuals from the 3 areas have registered. However this may increase in subsequent years.

Q. What feedback have we had from those involved in MARS in terms of motivations to join scheme?

A. The majority of motivations stem from wanting evidence of achievement on a CV, to be distinguished above other applicants when moving on from Imperial. For those moving away from academia this is especially important.