

Royal Society Biology-Plant Health Professional Register

Quick guide for applicants

The register was created in 2016 and now has around a hundred registered Plant Health Professionals and includes individuals from a diverse range of backgrounds. The register allows you to demonstrate your competency in plant health and biosecurity and communicate your expertise. The register is suitable for anyone working with plants and the natural environment, whether for the national plant protection organisation, academia, industry, or NGOs. There are three levels of competency within the register: associate, registered and senior plant health professional; successful applicants may use the post nominal letters APHP, RPHP or SPHP, respective of their level, to demonstrate their expertise.

The application for inclusion on the Plant Health Professional Register is based on a competency framework. This draws upon the skills and expertise detailed in the GB Plant health strategy. It looks for competency in four clusters and each cluster is broken down into several elements:

- Plant health regulations
- Roles and responsibilities in reporting plant health concerns
- Risk based decision-making
- Contingency planning and outbreak management

The assessors will be looking for examples of how your knowledge and expertise is applied to each of the required areas. Applications should be written in the first person. If you are applying for registered level, you should address competencies listed for associate and registered levels, similarly senior level applicants should address competencies listed for all levels.

Application process

First you must apply for membership of the Royal Society Biology (at least Affiliate grade); then you can apply to join the register. Applications are made via the [mySociety](#) page of the [Royal Society of Biology website](#) (www.rsb.org.uk). You will submit a written response to each of the competencies on the online application form, and you will be asked to supply at least one referee to support your application.

Applications are reviewed on a quarterly basis by two independent assessors selected by the RSB from the plant health professional register. Successful applicants will be formally added to the register at the next quarterly election, unsuccessful applicants will be given individual feedback on what changes they need to make to their application in order to be accepted, whether it be providing more information or reapplying at a different level.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Once on the register, individuals may record CPD on their Royal Society of Biology mySociety account, accruing a minimum 50 CPD points per year. The RSB has provided guidance on recording CPD [here](#). The Plant Health Professional Register is intended to complement and not duplicate any work-based CPD programme.

Additional benefits

As a member of the Royal Society of Biology you will benefit from access to a wide-range of resources and activities including free subscription to 'the Biologist' magazine and informative newsletters, invitations to events, discounted training courses, volunteering opportunities and the opportunity to apply for exclusive member grants and awards. You also become part of the growing plant health professionals' community and gain the opportunity to network with a wide-ranging of professionals.

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Further information

<https://www.rsb.org.uk/careers-and-cpd/registers/plant-health-register>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/plant-biosecurity-strategy-for-great-britain>

For more information please contact php@rsb.org.uk.