

UK Register of Toxicologists

Policy for members taking career breaks

Any member intending to take a career break (e.g. maternity leave, paternity leave, or secondment away from professional engagement in toxicology) should notify the UKRT Secretariat before the start of the interruption (preferably) or as soon as possible thereafter, detailing the length of break planned.

Subject to Panel approval where required (see below), the member may remain on the Register during an interruption of up to 36 months and his/her period of registration may be extended for a period equivalent to the length of the interruption. Any member taking a planned break of more than 36 months will be removed from the Register.

Regardless of the length of the interruption, the member should notify the Secretariat when s/he recommences professional engagement in toxicology.

The policy on retention, re-registration and readmission to The Register depends on the length of the career interruption:

- For interruptions of **12 months or less**, the member will be permitted to remain on the Register. The Panel must be notified of the intention to take a break, but its approval is not required. No CPD need be undertaken during the interruption. Re-registration will be delayed by a period equivalent to the length of the break without the need for Panel approval. An application for re-registration will be considered according to the usual criteria i.e. evidence of five years' professional engagement in toxicology since the previous successful application must be submitted, together with a five year record of CPD.
- For interruptions of **12-36 months**, the Panel's agreement to retention on the Register must be sought in advance, or as soon as possible after the start of the interruption. The reason for the break must be explained¹ and accompanied by a request to remain on the Register, with suitable justification. The Panel will review this information and decide whether the member is to remain on the Register during the break. If such approval is granted, no CPD need be undertaken during the interruption. Re-registration will be delayed by a period equivalent to the length of the break. An application for re-registration will be considered according to the usual criteria i.e. evidence of five years' professional engagement in toxicology since the previous successful application must be submitted, together with a five year record of CPD.
- Any member whose career is interrupted for **more than 36 months** will be removed from the Register. Anyone wishing to reapply for registration following such an interruption will be required to apply as a new registrant and meet all the initial registration criteria, including evidence of five years' professional engagement in toxicology since completing the career break and identification of two referees able to comment on his/her engagement in toxicology during that period.

In the event of an unanticipated career interruption, the member should contact the Secretariat as soon as reasonably possible, providing as much information about the circumstances of the interruption as s/he can. Such interruptions will be considered by the Panel on a case-by-case basis.

¹ In reasonable detail; confidential information need not be disclosed.