**Chartered Archaeologist FAQs**

These are some of the questions we’ve been asked following release of the latest consultation on Chartered Archaeologist and will be added to as more people engage in this process. If you have a question that is not covered below please get in touch with Anna ([anna.welch@archaeologists.net](mailto:anna.welch@archaeologists.net)) and Kate (kate.geary@archaeologists.net).

1. What will a Chartered Archaeologist will actually be?

*A Chartered Archaeologist will be a competent professional who has demonstrated their technical competence at Member (MCIfA) level, plus their understanding of the relevant legislation and policy, professional ethics and behaviour and commitment to CPD and the development of the profession. Their technical competence will be tested via the current validation committee system, their professional/ethical competence will be tested via a professional review which will include a face-to-face interview with peers.*

1. What exactly is the difference to the current Member (MCIfA) grade?

*Currently, MCIfAs are required to demonstrate their technical competence against the four categories of the competency matrix (knowledge, autonomy, coping with complexity and perception of context) and are required to state their commitment to upholding the Code of conduct and undertaking CPD. Their ethical competence is measured through the character reference we receive as part of their application, but there is no detailed test of their understanding of professional standards, ethics or behaviour in the way that is being proposal for a Chartered Archaeologist grade. Chartered Archaeologist status will also include a revalidation process to ensure that technical and ethical knowledge and skills are being kept up to date. Revalidation is not something MCIfAs are required to do.*

1. What is it for?

*Chartered Archaeologist will be an externally benchmarked, and externally recognised, kitemark which demonstrates the high-level skills, knowledge and professionalism of archaeologists*

1. Who will need it?

*It will be for the commissioners of archaeological services, and those who advise on the requirements for archaeological work, to determine whether work needs to be undertaken by a Chartered Archaeologist. We will be discussing that with ALGAO and the national heritage agencies and with our colleagues in the client sector professional and trade bodies*

1. Why do we need it?

*In order to become a chartered profession, promote professionalism and standards, to recognise the high-level of skills, knowledge and professionalism of archaeologists, to promote parity of esteem with the professionals working alongside archaeologists, to improve career pathways and attract new people into the sector. We all recognise Chartered professionals from other sectors – architects, accountants, engineers – so we should aspire to the same.*

1. Why isn't MCIfA already doing the extra stuff?

*In an ideal world, maybe it should be! But our current requirements for MCIfA would not be sufficient to be considered for chartered status. We have considered redesigning the grade to incorporate the additional requirements as described above but the time and cost to undertake the additional assessment for all MCIfAs would be prohibitive, particularly as not all MCIfAs will need or want to become Chartered.*

1. Will MCIfA still exist as a meaningful level?

*Yes. At the moment, we envisage that there will be a significant number of MCIfAs who, because of their role or their circumstances, won’t need or want to be Chartered. It may be that, in time, we find there is less of a demand for the MCIfA grade but that is by no means certain and the proposal gives us the flexibility to allow for members’ differing requirements and experiences*

1. Will I be able to call myself an archaeologist if I'm not chartered?

*Yes. Only Chartered Archaeologist will become a protected title*

1. Will heads of Registered Organisations have to be chartered?

*I imagine that will depend on their circumstances and will need further discussion with the Registrations committee. Without pre-empting that discussion, I think we would expect to see Chartered Archaeologists in positions with direct accountability for archaeological decisions and to be confident that they have been regularly assessed for their understanding of professional standards, ethics or behaviour.*

1. Project managers....?

*Ditto*

1. I'm a sole trader, will I need to be chartered if I want to do work in commercial sector?

*That will be for your clients to decide, see answer to Q.4*

1. Will there be an exam?

*Not in the sense of a traditional paper-based exam; understanding of professional standards and ethics will be tested via a professional review at which the applicant will be expected to talk through a piece (or pieces) of work they have responsibility for and will be questioned on their understanding of applicable standards, the Code of conduct etc.*

1. How much will it cost?

*We don’t know at this stage. If the outline framework is agreed at the AGM, we can move on to the detailed drafting, and costing. Advice from the Advisory Council was that an increased application fee would not necessarily be a major disincentive to applicants but substantially increased annual subscriptions would be and we will take that advice on board. At the same time though, we will have to design a system that is capable of supporting itself financially*

1. How will the initial flood of applications be processed in a short timespan?

*At this stage, we don’t know what the likely demand will be although it wouldn’t seem unreasonable to assume that we might be dealing with several hundred applications in the first few years as existing MCIfAs seek to upgrade. We will undertake more work to assess this as part of the detailed drafting and costing, and talk to other Professional Institutes about how have they dealt with demand following the introduction of a Chartered grade*

1. Who will assess the assessors?

*The assessors will be drawn from an expanded Validation Committee, bringing in specific technical expertise where necessary. We will also seek to draw on the expertise of our NVQ assessors who are qualified and experienced in assessing competence against National Occupational Standards and the experience of those of our members who hold Chartered status with other professional bodies.*

1. What's the timescale for CA?

*See below. A lot depends on the decision CIfA members make on the outline proposal in October. There is scope for a revised proposal to be brought to an EGM, possibly at the CIfA Conference in April 2018, or to a future AGM. Consultation to date hasn’t provided a clear view on either the positioning or the assessment of a Chartered Archaeologist grade (although it has demonstrated general support for the concept of Chartered Archaeologist) so we have to accept that the final proposal may not have the support of some members*

**Chartered Archaeologist development timeline**

**2015-2016**

Research, initial workshops, member survey

**Apr-Jul 2017**

Development of outline proposal for a Chartered Archaeologist grade

**Aug-Sep 2017**

Informal consultation on outline with members and stakeholders

Informal consultation with Privy Council Office

**Oct 2017**

CIfA members asked to approve outline proposal at AGM

Approved Not approved

**Nov 17-Apr 18**

Detailed drafting of regulations and supporting procedures

Costing

**May-Aug 18**

Formal consultation with members, stakeholders and the wider sector

Publicity campaign

**Oct 2018**

CIfA members asked to approve wording of a formal petition to amend Royal Charter

**Nov 17-Mar18**

Further discussion and consultation leading to a revised proposal

**Apr 18**

CIfA members asked to approve revised outline at Conference EGM

**May – Aug 18**

Detailed drafting of regulations and supporting procedures

Formal consultation with members, stakeholders and the wider sector

**Oct 2018**

CIfA members asked to approve wording of a formal petition to amend Royal Charter

**Nov-Dec 18**

Formal submission of petition to Privy Council Office