

An Overview of Your Professional Progression

The Qualifications Milestones

As you progress within Faculty, your achievements are marked by two main milestones - the award of the Certificate of Operational Competence and the award of the Diploma of Professional Competence.

www.bohs.org/education/examinations/certificate-operational-competence/

www.bohs.org/education/examinations/diploma-operational-competence/

Membership

Your achievements are also recognised by different grades of membership and your entitlement to use post-nominal letters. Typically, entry is at Associate (AFOH) grade, progressing through Licentiate (LFOH) and Chartered Member (CMFOH) grades when you obtain the Certificate and Diploma qualifications, respectively. You could then achieve the highly respected Chartered Fellow (CFFOH) grade. www.bohs.org/membership/grades-fees/

Routes to Chartered Membership

Pathway1: via Occupational Hygiene modules

Pathway 1 is likely to be your best option if you have just started out on a career in occupational hygiene, or if you wish to advance your career by gaining a professional qualification. This pathway enables you to combine workplace experience with structured study that leads to formal recognition of educational achievement.

Key elements of this pathway are:

- Possession of an appropriate science, engineering or similar first degree
- Successful completion of six W500 series occupational hygiene modules
- Gaining experience of occupational hygiene practice over a 3-year period and completion of a Personal Learning Portfolio
- Passing the Certificate oral examination and gaining the BOHS Certificate of Operational Competence
- Gaining at least 5 years* comprehensive occupational hygiene experience at professional level
- Passing the Diploma Core examination
- Passing the Diploma oral examination and gaining the BOHS Diploma of Professional Competence

* This may run concurrently with, or overlap the experience period before your Certificate oral exam

Pathway 2: via Certificate and Diploma Core examinations

Some candidates may choose to have their knowledge of occupational hygiene theory and practice tested by sitting the Certificate core examination rather than taking the modular route. These candidates will have to demonstrate through their PLP submission that they have worked in occupational hygiene practice for at least the minimum qualification period (see below). Candidates taking this Pathway have the option of supplementing their practical experience by taking one or more occupational hygiene modules during the qualification period.

Key elements of this pathway are:

- Possession of an appropriate science, engineering or similar first degree
- Gaining experience of occupational hygiene practice over a 3-year period and completion of a Personal Learning Portfolio
- Passing the Certificate Core examination
- Passing the Certificate oral examination and gaining the BOHS Certificate of Operational Competence
- Gaining at least 5 years* comprehensive occupational hygiene experience at professional level
- Passing the Diploma Core examination
- Passing the Diploma oral examination and gaining the BOHS Diploma of Professional Competence

* This may run concurrently with, or overlap the experience period before your Certificate oral exam

Pathway 3: via a BOHS Accredited first degree

BOHS accredits a small number of degrees as a starting point for Pathway 3. These degree courses have learning outcomes that are at least equivalent to those of the W500 series occupational hygiene modules, and thereby exempt degree holders from the requirement to take W500 series courses or sit the Certificate Core Examination. A list of accredited degrees can be found at: www.bohs.org/education/university-college-course/
Note that you must start on this pathway within 10 years of attaining your BOHS accredited degree.

Key elements of this pathway are:

- Gaining experience of occupational hygiene practice over a 3-year period and completion of a Personal Learning Portfolio
- Passing the Certificate oral examination and gaining the BOHS Certificate of Operational Competence
- Having at least 5 years* comprehensive occupational hygiene experience at professional level
- Passing the Diploma Core examination
- Passing the Diploma oral examination and gaining the BOHS Diploma of Professional Competence

* This may run concurrently with, or overlap the experience period before your Certificate oral exam

Pathway 4: via a BOHS Accredited MSc Degree

BOHS accredits a small number of postgraduate degrees and diplomas. These academic qualifications provide knowledge and training at a level deemed to be equivalent to the Certificate and Diploma Core examination syllabi and thereby exempt holders from the requirement to take these examinations. Holders of BOHS -accredited MSc degrees have the opportunity to progress within the Faculty via two routes: a) by submitting a PLP and passing the Certificate oral examination to obtain Licentiate grade; and b) by submitting a PLP and passing the Diploma oral examination to obtain Member grade. For an individual, the choice of route will be dictated by his or her level of experience in occupational hygiene.

A list of accredited qualifications can be found at: www.bohs.org/education/university-college-course/

Note that you must start on this pathway within ten years of attaining a BOHS accredited postgraduate qualification.

Key elements of this pathway are:

- Completion of a Personal Learning Portfolio at Certificate level
- Passing the Certificate oral examination and gaining the BOHS Certificate of Operational Competence and/or
- Gaining at least 5 years comprehensive occupational hygiene experience at professional level
- Completion of a Personal Learning Portfolio at Diploma level
- Passing the Diploma oral examination and gaining the BOHS Diploma of Professional Competence

Notes on the Pathways:

Occupational Hygiene Modules

W50x is one of the international occupational hygiene modules, numbered W501 to W507. You need to complete four core and two optional modules as part of your studies.

<http://www.bohs.org/education/examinations/international-occupational-modules/>

L202 UK Legislation

L202 is the BOHS online course 'UK Occupational Health and Safety Legislation'. The dashed boxes in Pathways 3 and 4 indicate that you can apply for exemption from L202 if you took your degree in the UK. www.bohscourses.org/

Level of experience:

To progress within Faculty, you need to gain workplace experience alongside your formal educational achievement. The minimum requirements are 3 years' technical experience ahead of your Certificate oral examination and 5 years' professional experience to progress to your Diploma oral exam. However, this does not necessarily mean that you need a total of 8 years' experience before you are eligible for the Diploma award. Your job role and experience may mean that you are developing your practical and professional experience concurrently, enabling some candidates to be ready for the Diploma in little more than 5 years, whereas for others it may take longer. Evidence of your technical experience must be collated into a structured Personal Learning Portfolio which is assessed by BOHS.