

European Physicist (Eur Phys)

A new professional qualification for the physicist

The designation *European Physicist* (abbreviated as *Eur Phys*) is a new qualification for physicists. It may therefore need a brief introduction. Formal professional qualifications exist in many occupations. Generally, a person receives such a qualification on the basis of a combination of academic attainments and experience in a profession. Where they exist, however, there are for some professions wide differences between formal systems of recognition, in the body awarding the qualification, in the criteria applied, and in the code of conduct an applicant is expected to abide by.

Such differences may restrict the opportunities for citizens of a given country to exercise their profession elsewhere. In the case of the European Union, the European Commission, which has been active for some time in promoting the mutual recognition of academic degrees, is now also taking initiatives regarding professional qualifications. Partly in response to this, national societies or institutes covering various fields of science and technology have collaborated in establishing several European Registers for qualified professionals.

In physics, the situation is somewhat different from that found in most other disciplines as there exists the European Physical Society (EPS) which one can join directly or through a national physical society. Moreover, the EPS is not confined geographically to the European Union.

Given its unique position, EPS has set up the European Register of Physicists and the necessary procedures for handling applications for entry on the Register.

Some may question whether there is a need for this, arguing that physicists are often employed not so much on the basis of what they have done in the past, but rather on their promise for the future.

However, working conditions are changing: longterm positions have become the exception rather than the rule, and self-employment as a consultant is becoming more common. In this environment, the professional qualification *European Physicist* could be a valuable asset.

Requirements for admission to the Register

The academic qualification must be in physics or in a physics-related area which is acceptable to the Register Commission. It may have involved at least the equivalent of three years' full-time university-level education.

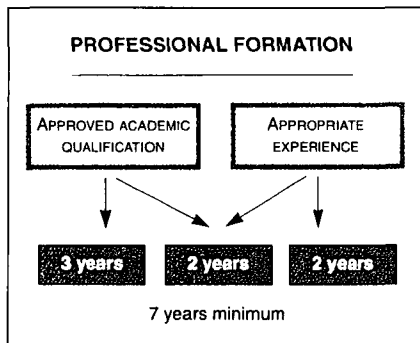
Evidence of at least two years' appropriate experience gained in a professional capacity after graduating is also required. This experience could include research and development, project management, supervision and the training of others, and safety management.

The remaining period, which must have lasted for at least two years, may consist of either education leading to an academic qualification or appropriate experience involving responsibilities and deemed satisfactory by the Register Commission. It must also include a period of training during which the applicant has acquired aptitudes or skills needed to exercise in the chosen profession and in a responsible capacity.

If you are included on the European Register of Physicists you will be...

...able to use the designation *European Physicist* and its abbreviation *Eur Phys*;

...kept informed of developments in the way physicists are being recognized professionally.



How you apply for registration as a *European Physicist*

An application form may be obtained either from the Geneva secretariat of the European Physical Society or from many of the national physical societies that are listed overleaf.

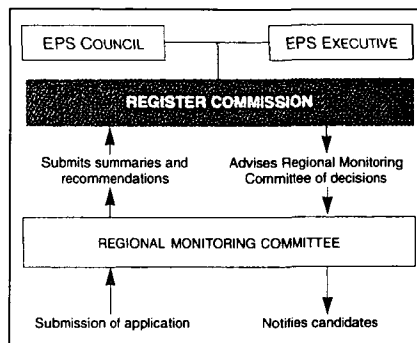
Upon completion the form should be sent, together with the non-refundable application fee, to the appropriate address indicated in the guidance notes accompanying the form.

A Regional Monitoring Committee evaluates the application. It is assisted by independent experts familiar with the regions in which you have trained and worked. The Committee then makes a short summary and a recommendation to the Register Commission.

The Commission reviews the summary and recommendation to ensure uniform, high standards. If it is satisfied, you will be invited to pay the registration fee for admission to the European Register of Physicists for an initial period lasting five years.

Thereafter, registration will be renewable without the need to submit a new application (although you might be asked to update your first application).

You will be provided with a formal certificate of registration. From then on you will be able to use the designation *European Physicist*.



Request for Application Form

EUROPEAN REGISTER OF PHYSICISTS
European Physicist — Eur Phys

To be listed on the European Register of Physicists you will need to supply evidence that you have successfully completed appropriate education and experience over a period of at least seven years which includes:

- at least three years' acceptable education in physics, or in a physics-related discipline, at the university level;
- at least two years' post-graduation experience in a responsible position involving physics or a related discipline (this experience may include a training period).

To obtain an application form, please complete this form and send it to the EUROPEAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY. Application forms are also available from the Portuguese Physical Society.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EPS, Geneva, April 1995



Please return to:

EUROPEAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY

Geneva Secretariat

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Further information:

on WWW over EurophysNet at <http://epswww.epfl.ch>