



CHARTERED  
SOCIETY OF  
DESIGNERS

MEMBERSHIP UPGRADE GUIDANCE TO:

**FELLOW - FCSD**

- **Who can apply for Full membership**

As with any of the Chartered Society of Designers' membership categories, fellowship is offered globally and is available to those who can demonstrate significant achievements and contributions in three key areas:

- their own practice or field of design
- the profession of design
- the Chartered Society of Designers

Only those who are currently and have been full members of the Society (MCSD) for five consecutive years or more are eligible to apply to become a Fellow of the Society (FCSD). You may apply directly to the Society if you wish to be considered for fellowship.

- **What are the benefits of Full membership**

Becoming a Fellow of the Society offers a great deal:

#### **Recognition**

Use the authorised title 'Fellow of the Chartered Society of Designers' and the post nominal letters FCSD to evidence that not only have you attained a level of practice competence recognised by the professional body for design which demonstrates your commitment to professional practice but that also your significant achievement in respect of your own development, the profession and the Society has been acknowledged..

#### **Specialism**

Use of as unique descriptor awarded to you identifying your design specialism.

#### **Certificate**

Receive a signed personal certificate bearing the Minerva seal and set in a black aluminium frame.

#### **Members' Marque**

Use of a unique Minerva Members' Marque on your personal promotional material. The Marque is FREE to members and may be adopted for companies with more than one CSD member subject to certain criteria and a licence fee.

#### **Chartered Designer**

Exemption from many elements of the Pathway to Chartered Designer and a significant discount on the application fee.

#### **Networking**

Take full advantage of the CSD's networks with invitations and access to a variety of events as well as opportunities to reach out to fellow designers through our social media channels and focus groups.

#### **Governance**

Vote at the Society's AGM, participate in committee work, become a membership assessor and CEP accreditation panel member.

## Resources

Gain access to CSD's digital content including magazines, reports, advice columns, book reviews, portfolio galleries and much more.

## Professional Development

Continue your professional development with guidance specifically tailored to your needs. Receive exclusive offers on selected workshops, events and other learning opportunities to help your continuing development as a professional design practitioner.

## Online Portfolio

Your own personal FCSD Level online portfolio which you can populate with contact details, links to your website and social media, professional practice details, CPD record and case studies together with images of your work.

## Find-a-Designer

Your portfolio displayed on the Fellows section of 'Find-a-Designer', a directory of CSD members which can be searched by clients.

## Advice

Receive a confidential one-to-one advice service across a range of issues. The Society has developed a network of partnerships and collaborations in order to ensure members receive professional and affordable support in many specialist areas.

## Professional Protection and Security

Receive preferential rates and expert advice on Professional Indemnity insurance and other forms of insurance plus discounts on initiatives for Intellectual Property protection.

## Business Opportunities

Receive advance notifications of design tenders and design opportunities through the CSD Client Referral Service.

## Recruitment

Fellows can advertise job vacancies in the CSD Recruitment Space classified section FREE of charge and receive significant discounts on feature recruitment advertising and campaigns.

## News

Stay informed of developments within the industry and the profession on a regular basis through TheDesigner via our digital channels and receive targeted direct email broadcasts.

## Events

Find out about design exhibitions, conferences, shows, talks, debates, workshops, lectures and receive exclusive invitations and discounted rates.

## Discounts

Receive exclusive special offers from CSD and our partners on resources such as books, magazines, software and other materials.

## Influence

Add your voice to the work undertaken by the professional body in influencing government, academia, clients and the design sector.

## Promotion

Have the case studies in your online portfolio featured on our revolving members' promotional banner on the CSD website.

- **What does the upgrade process entail**

In keeping with the Society's acknowledged framework for professional practice, the CSD Genetic Matrix™ full members will have already demonstrated CPSK competences (Creativity, Professionalism, Skills and Knowledge). Fellowship requires the demonstration of significant 'Achievement' or contribution over and above professional practice and is referred to as CPSK+A.

As such the application to upgrade is a simple process of making a written submission to the Society setting out your achievements in the three determined criteria:

### Your own practice or field of design

You should set out the achievements and contributions you have made to your own design practice whether as a sole trader or consultancy or as an employee of a design business or in-house design department, including details such as: business successes, client recognition, any awards, the scale of your practice or business, etc.

### The profession of design

Achievements or contributions may include: awards, honours, presentations, teaching or lecturing, research, mentoring, contributing to or participating in design led initiatives, etc.

### The Chartered Society of Designers

Clearly due to the eligibility criteria you will have made some contribution to the Society by your membership for five years or more but you should also set out any other activities or contributions such as engagement with committees, initiatives, assessing, accrediting, speaking, promoting, etc.

In addition to the above you will need to provide a current CV against which your written submission can be read.

Once this has been received it will be submitted to a Fellowship Panel and you may be invited to an informal interview with two Fellows of the Society, either face-to-face or by web conference.

- **What is the cost of Fellowship**

There is no application, upgrade or joining fee and the annual fellowship subscription is £325.

Members upgrading during their subscription year will be credited with a pro-rata amount of their Membership fee and a new subscription year will commence on the first day of the month following a successful upgrade.

- **How long does my subscription last**

Fellowship lasts for as long as you maintain your annual membership subscription.

Should you retire from work the Society offers a concessionary rate subject to signing a declaration this effect.

Should you wish to resign your membership at any time you may do so in accordance with the Bye-Laws and Terms and Conditions of Membership which require three months written notice.

- **What happens should I wish to become a Chartered Designer**

The Society hopes that all Fellows will seek to register on Pathway to Chartered Designer.

Your online portfolio provides you with the tools to develop your submission to become a Chartered Designer easily and simply and being a Fellow offers certain exemptions during the pathway, not least a significant reduction on the application fee.

Fellows who are awarded Chartered Designer status only pay an additional £50 on their annual subscription to remain on the Register of Chartered Designers.