

The 3rd Commonwealth Chemistry Congress (CCC) will bring chemists from academia, industry, and government from across the Commonwealth to South Africa in 2025. The Congress will be followed by the 5th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Commonwealth Chemistry on Wednesday 14 May.

The third in-person meeting of [Commonwealth Chemistry](https://commonwealthchemistry.org), the Federation of Commonwealth Chemical Societies, will create partnerships for the goals, strengthen scientific capacity, inspire and elevate the role of the chemical sciences, and celebrate achievements in our discipline.

This document provides information about the Congress programme and outlines the selection criteria for delegates. Key information about the event can be found here:

<https://commonwealthchemistry.org/event/ccc2025/>.

1. What is the Commonwealth Chemistry Congress?

A key aspect that differentiates the Commonwealth Chemistry Congress from other scientific meetings is the underlying principle of **equal representation for all Commonwealth countries** and a unique focus on creating an **enabling environment for Early Career Chemists**.

To ensure equal representation, inclusivity, and participation among all Commonwealth nations, we ask each country (either through a Society Member or national representative of Commonwealth Chemistry) to nominate Early Career Chemists and AGM representatives to attend.

The Congress continues to have a strong focus on Early Career Chemists across the Commonwealth, with the aim of furthering their career development, enabling joint research and education activities, and providing networking opportunities to share research outputs. This will include a tailored session specifically for Early Career Chemists developed by the Commonwealth Chemistry Early Career Network.

2. Why Partnerships for the Goals?

While the economic, social, and environmental challenges we face vary between Commonwealth countries, they affect us all. The [UN Sustainable Development Goals](https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/) represent global challenges that unite us – the Commonwealth Chemistry community – to find solutions. As such the scientific programme will feature eminent researchers in the following themes:

- **Zero Hunger (SDG 2), Good Health and Well-being (SDG 3)**
Topics include biodiversity, natural products, food chemistry and security, agriculture, medicinal chemistry, drug discovery, and good health and well-being
- **Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7), Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12)**
Topics include sustainable energy solutions, new materials, biofuels, green chemistry, and catalysis
- **Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6), Climate Action (SDG 13)**
Topics include water treatment and supply, tackling pollution and contamination, and environmental chemistry

The programme will also bring together high-profile researchers, policymakers, and industrialists who can demonstrate the value and role of Commonwealth chemists in three discussion sessions:

- Transformation of the Commonwealth Chemical Industry (SDG 9)
- Gender Equality (SDG 5) and Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10)
- Machine Learning and AI in the Chemical Sciences

3. Who can attend the Commonwealth Chemistry Congress?

The attendance per country or Chemical Society is as follows:

- **Up to three Early Career Chemists** who will each present a flash oral presentation and poster related to one of the three scientific themes.
- **One delegate to attend the Congress and participate in the Commonwealth Chemistry AGM** on 14 May 2025. This can be the President or another office holder of a Commonwealth Chemical Society or, where a Chemical Society does not exist, a senior representative from a designated university or organisation.

4. Funding

The travel costs for up to three Early Career Chemist delegates and the one Chemical Society/senior representative should be funded by their society, university or organisation. Exceptions will be considered where a Society Member or country can demonstrate to Commonwealth Chemistry that such funding is not available; in which case the Federation will contribute towards the travel costs to ensure their participation. 3 night's hotel accommodation (11-14th May) and all meals (from lunch on 11th May until lunch on 14th May) will be funded by Commonwealth Chemistry. Additional nights may be required for individuals attending the AGM or to accommodate individuals' travel itineraries.

For wider participation, an **additional two delegates per country** may attend; however, these will not be funded by Commonwealth Chemistry. The cost for the accommodation and conference attendance at the Protea Hotel Stellenbosch is expected to be in the region of £650 per delegate. These additional delegates can be either Early Career Chemists or AGM delegates. Additional Early Career Chemists will be full participants of the Congress and invited to present a poster.

5. Selection Criteria

An Early Career Chemist should be:

- a chemical scientist in the early stages of their career (i.e., up to 10 years after completion of most recent qualification, excluding any career breaks)
- a member of their national chemical society, where one exists
- working in academia, industry, or a science institution
- living and working or studying in a Commonwealth country

In selecting the successful candidates, diversity and inclusion must be considered. The Congress is targeting a minimum of 40% female participants – please ensure that at least one of your delegates is a woman. We also ask that you consider diversity across the scientific themes to ensure a balanced programme.

6. Application Procedure

Each Commonwealth country is responsible for managing the application and evaluation process leading to the selection of their Early Career Chemist delegates, either through a Chemical Society or designated university/organisation where a Chemical Society does not exist.

We recommend that each Chemical Society or university/organisation assemble a diverse panel of reviewers to assess the applications, with consideration for the benefits to the candidate's individual career development and the impact of their research and its relevance to the respective scientific theme.

Once the Early Career Chemists have been chosen, each Chemical Society or university/organisation should submit the following documentation to the Secretariat on behalf of each Early Career Chemist delegate:

- A short CV
- An abstract (<500 words) outlining the research that will form the basis for the poster presentation and relevant theme in the programme
- A one-minute video in English (can be taken on a mobile phone or other device) where you describe the work you will present during the Congress

We have drafted a [template application form](#) that you may wish to use to evaluate your Early Career Chemists. Each applicant should provide a letter supporting their attendance and the required information and documents needed by the Scientific Organising Committee.

The names and supporting documentation of all delegates must be shared with the Commonwealth Chemistry Secretariat at secretariat@commonwealthchemistry.org by **Friday 1 November 2024**.

