

# Peter Eeva, Secondary consultant



Peter Eeva is a Secondary National Strategy Foundation Subjects / Teaching and Learning Consultant at Co Durham CYPS Education Development Service. He was awarded Chartered Geographer (Teacher) status in June 2008. Here's what he says about being a Chartered Geographer (Teacher)....

## **Why did you decide to apply to become a Chartered Geographer (Teacher)?**

I heard about it from a colleague and it occurred to me that geography teachers needed some sort of acknowledgement of the contribution they make not only in schools but also in the Geographical Community. Anything which raises the profile of our discipline in schools is worth exploring. Part of me wanted to go through the process to encourage others with perhaps more of their career ahead of them.

## **How did you find the application process?**

The process was actually quite straightforward. I suppose it took about nine months from start to finish. The guidance available with the application information helped to put together the relevant support documents. It was more a case of gathering together relevant information and knowing what was relevant and what wasn't. It was useful to reflect on all the things I have actually done but forgotten about and bring them all together in one place. Time consuming – not really. I tended to do it a bit at a time.

## **What sort of experience and activities did you include in your professional self evaluation report?**

I used the guidance information to base mine on. This was perhaps the hardest part because I wasn't certain about what was relevant and what wasn't and would have welcomed a bit more guidance or perhaps exemplars, although these may be available and I just wasn't aware of them.

## **How have you benefited personally from gaining the accreditation?**

Early days yet but when I mention it to colleagues I've noticed that their perception of what I bring to the team has changed, almost as if I can now be expected to be an authority on all things Geographical and obviously invaluable in any quiz team!

**How has your department benefited from you gaining the accreditation?**

Again, early days yet. However, we have tentative plans to use the accreditation to develop some sort of bespoke professional development for young geographers.

**How have your senior management team responded to you gaining the accreditation?**

Oddly, it's almost as if geography is now seen as a proper subject and one to be taken more seriously and not shunted into some sort of third division Humanities side show which seems to be a threat posed to some departments.

**As the CGeog (Teacher) network grows, what would you like to see happen / be available to you?**

Opportunities to broker mutual support. It would be useful to know who has particular interests and strengths so that I could call on them when I need that bit of expertise.

**Any words of advice for aspiring Chartered Geographer (Teachers)?**

Go for it, persevere and if you get stuck, ask Claire for help.