

Chartered Geographer (Teacher)

General information

About Chartered Geographer (Teacher)

The RGS-IBG aims to enhance the development of individual teachers by recognising subject focused professional advancement and standards via the professional accreditation for geography teachers, Chartered Geographer (Teacher).

What is a Chartered Geographer (Teacher)?

The Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) offers the only ongoing professional accreditation linked to CPD in Geography. The Chartered Geographer (Teacher) accreditation has been formally approved by the Privy Council and is on a par with Chartered Awards offered by other professional bodies. For teachers, Chartered status recognises their subject knowledge in geography; professional practice and expertise; and their commitment to CPD and sharing their expertise beyond their specific teaching responsibilities.

Chartered Geographer (Teacher) status indicates that you are:

- Committed to promoting learning and to raising geography standards in schools through your own teaching practice
- Aware of recent developments in the subject, its delivery in schools and the importance of good practice.
- Personally committed to self-evaluation and development and embedding CPD in your practice and reflecting on your performance.
- Maintaining an ongoing programme of CPD.
- Able to identify future CPD requirements and embed them to improve your schools and pupil performance
- Involved in influencing the advancement of geographical teaching and learning in the wider teaching community.

What are the benefits of becoming a Chartered Geographer (Teacher)?

- Professional Development: Chartered Geographer (Teacher) is relevant to the TDA framework of professional and occupational standards for teachers. CGeog (Teacher) will provide an accredited award relevant to your professional and career development.
- Career Progression: It can support your application for a leadership or Advanced Teacher role.
- Demonstrates that you wish to maintain your professional standards through continually developing your geographical skills and knowledge.
- Shows that you are committed to geography beyond your specific teaching responsibilities, by recognising your ongoing contribution to teaching and learning and the wider discipline.
- Prove your commitment to the professionalism of the discipline by using CGeog (Teacher) post nominal.
- As a Chartered Geographer (Teacher) you will be selecting and undertaking your own annual programme of CPD and demonstrating how this has been embedded and reflected on in your work.
- Uses a wide range of CPD activities as evidence, including those that you currently undertake such as working with examination boards
- You can, if you wish, become a mentor for teachers thinking of becoming a Chartered Geographer (Teacher) in the future

“Continued professional development is essential to practising geography teachers to keep up-to-date with changes to the curriculum and teaching and learning methodology. Therefore the regular delivery to and attendance of conferences and meetings, as is required for the annual continuation of the Chartered Geography (Teacher) status, has greatly benefited myself, members of the department and my students” Garry Atterton, The Castle School, South Gloucestershire

What are the criteria for teachers applying for Chartered Geographer (Teacher)?

You must be a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) to gain Chartered Geographer (Teacher) status. If you are not currently a Fellow you can apply for Fellowship at the same time as Chartered Geographer (Teacher).

You must demonstrate:

- First degree in Geography (honours 2nd class minimum) from a recognised EU educational establishment **or**
- First degree (honours 2nd class minimum) with 60% Geography **or**
- BEd degree or equivalent (honours 2nd class minimum) with core subject Geography **or**
- Other comparable degree
- If first degree was not in Geography but a Masters or PhD has been completed in Geography (or related subject) this could be acceptable

Practical experience required:

- If an honours degree or BEd is held a minimum of 6 years experience is required (not including PGCE year)
- If no degree is held a minimum of 15 years experience is required and applicants must submit a portfolio of their work
- You should be able to clearly demonstrate that you are making a significant contribution to the development of geography in your school as well as to your own personal development, and that this contribution is of acknowledged value to the wider development of geography teaching.

You can use existing documentation to support your application:

- Your Professional Development Record can be used as evidence for the CPD portfolio required for award of CGeog (Teacher).
- Evidence you have collected for performance management can support an application

“Knowing Chartered Geographer is on my CV gives me professional status,”
Tessa Willy, CGeog (Teacher)

How do I apply?

You can download an application form as a word document or pdf on the Chartered Geographer (Teacher) web page: www.rgs.org/cgeogteacher. The website also provides a list of requirements for validation as a Chartered Geographer (Teacher) and other information pertaining to the award. You can email cgeogteacher@rgs.org with any questions.

Application checklist:

- Completed and signed CGeog (Teacher) application form
- Curriculum Vitae
- Professional Self Evaluation Report
- Contact details for two referees
- Supporting documents – optional
- Record of Continuing Professional Development – optional
- Application for Fellowship of the RGS-IBG (if applicable)
- CGeog (Teacher) application (£50) and Fellowship fees (if applicable)

Notes on the application process:

- **Application Form**

Please complete in full all the correspondence fields and ensure that the declaration has been signed and dated.

It is necessary to provide us with the name and contact details of two supporting referees; we will automatically take up all references. References are compulsory and sometimes determine the final outcome of an application.

The declaration by your counter-signatory must contain all requested information and this person should also then act as your verification signatory on the Professional Report.

We would be grateful if you would list all professional documents you have included with the application form.

We can only accept electronic applications if all the information is provided, including scanned signatures. Otherwise please send in 2 hard copies of your application and 3 copies of your supporting documents.

- **Detailed Curriculum Vitae**

A thorough and geography-related curriculum vitae must be enclosed with the application form.

This should contain all relevant education and employment history (including dates and locations) and other evidence to demonstrate your previous experience. The CV should contain as much detail as is necessary to demonstrate your suitability for CGeog status. Detailed information about your current employment should be provided, including a description of any work that is being carried out outside your school e.g. examining or curriculum development

- **Professional Self Evaluation Report**

You should emphasise the work that you carry out beyond routine classroom activities. Clear evidence should be provided of your involvement with geographical education, its delivery within schools, dissemination of good practice and how you are applying geographical techniques. The report must clearly demonstrate your professional experience and how these experiences have been developed into your work. Evidence of a passion for geography and proof of advancing geography outside of the normal work requirements are a basic requisite for Chartered Geographer (Teacher) status.

The professional self-evaluation report should be a typed document **of around 1000 words in length** which should describe clearly all the relevant tasks you have undertaken and show how they constitute a case for Chartered Geographer (Teacher). All statements should include a justification of why you wish to become a Chartered Geographer and how you will use the post-nominal in the future.

Examples include contributions you have made to extra-curricular or out-of-hours learning, curriculum development, mentoring newly qualified teachers, contributions via publications on the subject of teaching and learning in geography or contributions to CPD activities.

- **Supporting referees**

Contact details for two referees should be included on the application form. This ideally would include your most recent employer and someone who has known you for a considerable number of years, preferably a geographer and FRGS. We will automatically take up all references. It is the applicant's responsibility to make sure their referees have seen their application documents.

- **Continuing Professional Development**

It is currently not compulsory to submit a record of your continuing professional development with the application but it is strongly recommended that you do. It is a compulsory requirement to submit an annual CPD record once CGeog status has been obtained using the pro-forma provided or a similar version. Examples of CPD include home-based learning, training courses, research, conference presentations or workshops and courses leading to a qualification.

- **Application deadlines**

You can submit your application for Chartered Geographer (Teacher) at any time during the year. Final approval is given at one of 4 Council meetings throughout the year (April, June, September, December), so we will provide dates by which you can submit your application to have it seen at the next Council meeting. Please email cgeogteacher@rgs.org for more information.

- **Assessors**

Once judged as a suitable application, your documents will be sent to 2 initial assessors. Once these have agreed you should be awarded Chartered Geographer (Teacher) status, your documents will be sent to 2 final assessors, and then finally on to Council. At any point throughout this process your application may be put on hold or rejected. You will be provided with feedback, and may be asked to produce further evidence before your application is reassessed. If your application is put on hold until further evidence has been provided you will not need to reapply.

What happens once I become a Chartered Geographer (Teacher)?

- Once your application has been assessed and formally approved by the Society's Council you will be notified that you can use the distinction CGeog (Teacher) after your name.
- You will be eligible use your Chartered Geographer (Teacher) status as evidence for your professional development against the TDA standards.
- As a Chartered Geographer (Teacher) you are required to submit an annual report of Continuing Professional Development (CPD). This must show at least 35 hours of evidence (20 internal, 15 external).
- An annual registration fee of £20 will be added to your Fellowship payment (2nd year onwards)
- You will be eligible to mentor teachers who are working towards Chartered Geographer (Teacher) status. This will count towards your annual CPD requirement.

For further information about Chartered Geographer (Teacher)

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