

Requirements for validation as a Chartered Geographer (Teacher)

Chartered Geographer is the professional qualification for those Fellows of the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) who can demonstrate a high level of competence and professionalism in the practice of geography and related disciplines, and who are committed to maintaining their expertise through Continuing Professional Development (CPD). Chartered Geographer (Teacher) has been introduced to establish Chartered status for those teaching geography and its application in the classroom and in the field. A successful applicant shall be entitled to be called a Chartered Geographer and to adopt the style “CGeog (Teacher)” or “CGeog” as preferred.

Requirements for Chartered Geographer (Teacher):

1. An **honours degree**, or a qualification/academic achievement which is equivalent to an honours degree, in geography awarded by a university or other educational establishment in the European Union, recognised by the Council as having an appropriate standard of education; **OR** a minimum of fifteen years of successful geography teaching experience.
2. If graduating from a first degree (honours Geography or a BEd with a minimum of 60% geography), at least **six years experience** in the profession and practice of the teaching of geography. The amount of experience required depends on the nature of the first degree or equivalent qualification.
3. Evidence of a commitment to **continuing professional development** (CPD), embedding it in teaching practice, and reflective evaluation of its impact; and active support of others across the geographical teaching community.
4. **Support from two professional colleagues** (referees) with personal knowledge of the quality of teaching by the applicant.
5. A completed **application form**, including a professional self-evaluation report, which makes the case explicitly why the applicant should become a Chartered Geographer (Teacher).
6. If not one already, to become a **Fellow** of the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)
7. **Payment** of the required application fee, the annual renewal fee, and Fellow membership fees, as appropriate.
8. Have a knowledge and understanding of the **Code of Conduct** of the RGS-IBG

Notes on each of these requirements are provided below

1. Hold an honours degree

- a. A first degree (honours, 2nd class minimum) in geography from a university or other educational establishment recognised by the Council as having appropriate standard of education; **or**
- b. A first degree (honours, 2nd class minimum) obtained where geography forms 60% or more of the syllabus from an educational establishment; **or**
- c. A BEd degree (honours, 2nd class minimum) obtained where the core academic subject is geography from an educational establishment recognised as above; **or**
- d. Any other comparable academic experience acceptable to the Society's Council e.g. an appropriate degree from an international institution. Applicants who wish to be considered for validation by this route are required to first submit an extended curriculum vitae to the Society, and will be advised whether an application for validation could be accepted. Any application subsequently submitted will be considered in the same manner as all other applications; **or**

- e. Demonstrate 15 years teaching geography or other relevant practical experience, to the satisfaction of the Council, demonstrating an ability in geography equivalent to the attainment of an honours degree.

2. Have not less than six years (with a degree) or fifteen years (without a degree) successful experience in the profession and practice of teaching geography since graduating (not including the PGCE year)

- a. Applicants applying for Chartered Geographer (Teacher) status are required to demonstrate that their practical experience supports and contributes to the advancement of geography through geographical teaching and learning and the application of geographical knowledge and skills in schools. Experience should be geared towards the attainment of any relevant national subject teaching standards at a level appropriate to the applicant's career stage. Specific areas of interest to teachers might include curriculum assessment, education policy, pedagogic knowledge, education research, numeracy and literacy, creativity, citizenship initiatives, development of teaching resources on the web, evidence of raising achievement of pupils, classroom based research, fieldwork, application of technology, work with exam boards, etc.
- b. If an applicant has a BEd with a minimum of 60% geography, at least 6 years relevant practical experience is required (see 2a for definition of experience); If the BEd degree has less than 60% geography: at least 12 years relevant practical experience is required.
- c. There are no formal post-graduate education requirements for the acquisition of Chartered Geographer (Teacher) status. Up to 2 years spent on a taught post-graduate course or up to 2 years on relevant research for a PhD can count as years of practical experience.
- d. The NQT year will count towards the length of time necessary for validation.
- e. The applicant does not have to be a teacher of geography alone - they may teach a mix of geography and humanities.
- f. Part-time work will count as pro-rata towards the length of time necessary for validation

3. Have evidence of a commitment to CPD

Professional development is normally required by employers and is a necessary element of career progression. Teachers are increasingly required to maintain up to date practice and knowledge, and to embed this with a demonstrable impact on teaching and learning (for example, TDA requirements). The CPD requirement for CGeog (Teacher) is 35 hours per year - 20 hours external and 15 hours internal training.

- a. External hours – These may be accumulated, for example, by chairing or attending conferences and external workshops, writing articles or producing resources for wider dissemination, consultancy for Learned Societies or professional bodies, leading/facilitating discussions, working with exam boards and attending training courses relevant to geography teaching. The Society will provide guidance on hours. For example, attendance at a full day professional event will attract up to 5 CPD hours, depending on relevance and level; attendance for two days or more at the Geographical Association Annual Conference is worth 10 external hours. Allowances for article/magazine or journal publication are difficult to define and the Society will consider these in the light of the work required and evidence for their wider professional impact.
- b. Internal hours may be accumulated by leading and taking part in subject focused internal seminars or workshops during INSET days, leading field trips, developing a departmental website, mentoring PGCE students, resources development etc. Subject to the approval of the Society, hours for internal activities would be those actually spent subject to a limit of 5 hours per day. Training for other responsibilities such as pastoral posts, head of year, head of department, deputy head of school, financial and classroom management issues would be allocated a small number of CPD hours.
- c. Relevant study areas also include wider professional subjects and skills such as management training, information technology, language skill, teaching/communication/ presentation skills. Also included is managerial or organisational work such as with a Learned Society or professional body; involvement in consultations or acting as an expert witness; and professional activities supporting learning and teaching or mentoring.

- d. Applicants who are working part-time, or job sharing, applicants from overseas and applicants who are unemployed will be expected to provide adequate evidence of CPD after accreditation to retain their status. Guidance will be given to non-UK applicants to assist them in complying with CPD requirements.
- e. A manual and recording sheet for CPD, with examples, will be provided once CGeog (Teacher) status has been awarded. Applicants will be required to complete a yearly report demonstrating embedding and the impact of ongoing CPD.

4. Be supported by two referees with personal knowledge of the quality of teaching by the applicant.

Referees nominated should have a knowledge of geography and one should be (if possible) a Chartered Geographer (Teacher) or be of equivalent professional standing such as the applicant's Head of Department, Head Teacher or a school governor. Referees will be asked to comment on the extent to which the candidate has mastered the various requirements specified above (particularly the application of geographical skills and knowledge in their teaching) and to indicate whether or not they support the application for Chartered Geographer (Teacher), taking due account of the criteria (see information sheet and frequently asked questions documents for further details).

5. Have completed an application form

- a. Applicants must include a typed professional self-evaluation of no more than 1000 words. This should describe, with dates, the periods of relevant experience in the practice of geography as detailed in section 2, and describe the tasks undertaken during each period, including the level of responsibility of the applicant. The Professional Self-Evaluation should address the applicant's role in the following areas:

i) Professional knowledge and understanding of geography and the teaching of geography, including:

- How the applicant has kept up to date with geography as a subject discipline and its development.
- How the applicant has kept up to date with the pedagogy of the teaching of geography and the geography curriculum as appropriate to their teaching

ii) Professional practice: The successful application of this subject knowledge and pedagogy to the applicant's skills as a teacher in their work with young people – both in the classroom and in out-of-classroom settings, for example:

- Planning coherent progression and/or curriculum development in teaching and learning
- Engaging students in geographical enquiry
- Engaging students in fieldwork
- Developing students' confidence to apply their own geographical knowledge, understanding and skills
- Their recognition of the wider relevance of well applied geography lessons to young people in school and beyond
- Demonstrable impact on standards of teaching and learning

iii) Professional attributes: The applicant's professional contribution to the wider community of geography teaching. This may take a number of different forms, for example:

- The applicant's provision of CPD and training, writing publications, involvement in working groups and other activities in which they take a leadership, management or mentoring role in the development of geographical teaching within their or other schools.
- The applicant's role as a teacher of geography and how they seek to build and share their subject knowledge and teaching expertise across the geographical community to improve students' geographical learning.
- The applicant may be working at different levels in the provision of the above, for example within their school, locally or nationally

- b. All applicants are strongly encouraged to include supporting documents with their application. If applicants do not hold a geography-related degree, as defined in 1). above, supporting

documents are compulsory. These should take the form of a professional portfolio with evidence of a sustained period of structured self-directed education in geography and geographical skills, and the application of geographical knowledge and skills in the classroom. The aim of these supporting documents is to show that the candidate has been actively engaged in the successful teaching of geography over the 15 years. Applicants are encouraged to be selective in the documentation that they submit in support of their application. Documents may comprise of the following:

- Evidence of work with exam boards
 - Books and textbooks
 - Conference or workshop presentations
 - Advice, consultancy work and resources produced with Learned Societies and other professional bodies
 - Web-authored material such as independent and departmental websites
 - Contributions to the development of teaching syllabuses and examination papers
 - Planning schemes of work and coursework or fieldwork design
 - PGCE mentoring feedback
 - Published papers or articles in journals and professional magazines
 - Planning departmental curriculum
- c. Applicants must sign their application form to indicate that the information provided therein is, to the best of their knowledge, complete and accurate.
- d. All applications should be submitted in English unless prior consent of the Council has been obtained for submission in another language and (or) if any other accommodations are to be made.
- e. Applicants are expected to have an awareness of the Health and Safety issues and other statutory obligations applicable to her/his discipline or area of work

6. If not one already, to become a Fellow of the RGS-IBG

- a. Applicants may apply for both Fellowship and Chartered Geographer (Teacher) at the same time, but the latter will not be awarded until the applicant is a Fellow. If the applicant is already a Fellow of the RGS-IBG, no additional action is required
- b. Applicants for Fellowship will need a Fellow of the RGS-IBG to propose them. This is not necessarily the same person who serves as the referee for Chartered Geographer (Teacher) application. However, if a Chartered Geographer (Teacher) is a referee then there is no need to duplicate the reference for the Fellowship application. If the applicant does not know a Fellow of the Society, they are encouraged to contact the Education Office of the RGS-IBG for advice.

7. Have paid the required application fee

For validation as a Chartered Geographer (Teacher) the fees to be paid (to be reviewed on an annual basis) are:

- a. Initial non-refundable payment that covers administration costs (currently £50)
- b. Once status has been achieved, the applicant will need to pay an annual administration fee to maintain the accreditation in the second and subsequent years (currently £20)
- c. Annual Fellowship fee; this will be automatically added to the applicant's annual Fellowship subscription invoice (currently £93 – 2012 price).

The cost of Chartered Geographer (Teacher) is tax deductible as a professional expense.

8. Have a knowledge and understanding of the Code of Conduct of the RGS-IBG

All CGeog (Teachers) should adhere to the Fellows Code of Conduct

Additional Notes

Professional Interview

An interview may be required for a Chartered Geographer (Teacher) applicant who is not able to submit an adequate portfolio of supporting documentation. The interviewers will be appointed by the Final Assessors Committee.

At the absolute discretion of the Final Assessors Committee, the interview will be held as close as possible to the applicant's normal place of work. If the applicant is resident overseas, every effort will be made to appoint interviewers in that country. The interview may be delayed until a suitable date can be arranged for the applicant to be interviewed in the UK or at a major international event.

Records

The Education and Outdoor Learning Department is responsible for maintaining the following records:

- a. A list of those applicants who have applied for validation as Chartered Geographer (Teacher);
- b. A list of those applicants whose application for Chartered Geographer (Teacher) has been successful;
- c. A list of those who are willing to act as assessors for Chartered Geographer (Teacher)
- d. A copy of each application form and professional self-evaluation shall be placed in the Society's archives.

The RGS-IBG is registered under the Data Protection Act of 1998 and adheres to its data protection principles.

Personal information provided by applicants will be used for monitoring and statistical purposes only and will not form part of the assessment process.

If applicants are still unclear about any section of the application, they are encouraged to seek further information before submitting their application.