

# Geography Ambassador Scheme

## Information for All Ambassadors 2011/2012

### What is the Geography Ambassador Scheme?

The aim of the scheme is to enthuse and inform young people about the relevance of geography in practice and in career development and to enlighten them about geography at HE level, thereby increasing the number and breadth of students studying geography beyond the compulsory phases. Ambassadors add value to the teaching and learning of geography, and promote the discipline as an excellent career choice. The project increases the communication between HE, business and schools. We provide ambassadors primarily for maintained secondary schools across the country, but there may be opportunities to work with primary pupils and students at FE colleges. In the past 12 months there have been 1300 geography ambassador visits to schools across England. We now have 1000 geography ambassadors in England.

### What do ambassadors do?

When an ambassador visits a school they may work on their own or in a pair if they prefer. Ambassadors are likely to begin by delivering a talk or presentation with activities to groups on one of the following themes:

- Why I love geography
- Choosing geography at GCSE and A Level
- How to choose a university geography course / Studying geography at university
- Careers with geography

Ambassadors could also participate in other activities such as:

- Homework/Geography clubs - after school or at lunchtime
- Revision sessions
- Supporting teachers in geography lessons or with an event/competition
- Sharing their specialist knowledge to enhance the teaching and learning of geography
- Providing gifted and talented students and those who need extra help with one-to-one tuition

### Am I eligible to join?

Ambassadors will be mainly undergraduate and postgraduate geography students, with some geography graduates from the workplace. To become a geography ambassador you need to have a passion for the subject and want to encourage young people in a lively and fun way to progress with the study of geography.

### Why volunteer?

Volunteering makes a real difference. There are benefits to the young people and the community with whom you work such as:

- The chance to make a positive impact on the lives of others
- The opportunity to enthuse young people about geography
- Contributing to the creation of an inclusive and integrated society of active citizens
- Giving something back to the local community

### How does the scheme benefit me?

It influences your personal career choice and professional development. You are able to meet new people, enjoy experiences and opportunities. The scheme enhances your employability and skills. After each visit we collate feedback from you and the teacher and this is sent to your geography department/employer.



### **What training is provided?**

Ambassadors are required to attend a three hour training session. A variety of dates and regional locations are on offer. See [www.geographyteachingtoday.org.uk/ambassadors/introduction/](http://www.geographyteachingtoday.org.uk/ambassadors/introduction/) for further training details.

Training is lively and hands on ensuring ambassadors are clear and comfortable in their new role and confident to deliver a presentation to a group of secondary pupils. Ambassadors will also be required to complete a CRB form and provide details of their availability.

### **How much time is involved in being an ambassador?**

Some volunteers may only wish to commit to an initial visit with a total time commitment of a just a couple of hours. Others, finding the experience very rewarding, will develop a longer relationship with the pupils or even visit other schools in their region. We are grateful for your enthusiasm and time as we recognise that you also have study and work priorities to balance.

### **How does the scheme work?**

- The school registers for a visit on the booking website [www.findgeographyambassadors.org](http://www.findgeographyambassadors.org)
- Visits are advertised to ambassadors on our newsletter and the booking website
- Through the website the ambassadors and teachers can arrange the visit
- Visit takes place
- School completes and returns an evaluation form
- Ambassador completes and returns an evaluation form and expenses claim form. (All costs incurred including travel to visits and training will be reimbursed as part of this scheme)

**If you are interested in joining this scheme, please register with:**

**Simon Faulkner [s.faulkner@rqs.org](mailto:s.faulkner@rqs.org) / 0207 591 3050**

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