

# The TDA Professional Standards For Teachers: How Can They Support Improved Learning & Your CGeog Application?

## What Are The TDA Standards?

The TDA introduced professional standards for all teachers in September 2007. They set out the characteristics of teachers at each stage of our careers. As such, they can help plan for career progression & be used to identify professional development needs.

The standards are for:

- Qualified Teacher Status (ie NQTs);
- Teachers on the main scale (called the Core standards);
- Teachers on the upper pay scale (ie Post Threshold);
- Advanced Skills Teachers;
- Excellent Teachers.

## What Are The Aims Of This Session?

- To Know what the TDA standards are and how they can link to the CGeog (Teacher) requirements;
- To Provide a framework for recording & planning your professional development;
- To be able to use the TDA standards as a tool to improve teaching & learning in your curriculum area.

## Resources To Support This Session:

- An introduction to the professional standards (ie this document).
- Two examples of the documentation from the TDA – the standards & a framework which relates the standards to stages in a teacher's career.
- RGS Professional Development Career Portfolio – a framework to record and plan your professional development.
- RGS career profile (TDA standards) – a professional development planning tool which also related to the requirements of the CGeog (Teacher).
- TDA help cards – resource cards for the training session.
- TDA standards to improve teaching & learning – a presentation for the training session.

## The Training Session:

1. Slides 1-7 provide the context of a 'good teacher'. At this stage do not introduce the TDA standards as they will emerge from the card sort & discussion activity in slide 8.
2. Encourage discussion of the knowledge, skills and attributes a teacher needs in order to deliver outstanding lessons. Use the 'TDA help cards' as a resource (these are taken directly from the TDA standards) and encourage a plenary which focuses on teacher attributes & the need to plan for their development.
3. Building capacity (slide 9): work in pairs/small groups to work on a given theme (slides 16-18) to agree the characteristics of teachers if they are to be fully effective. Again the themes arise from the TDA standards & are:
  - Professional attributes;
  - Professional knowledge & understanding;
  - Professional skills.
4. Plenary session for each group to share their discussion – this can then be used to introduce the TDA standards (slides 10-12).
5. Provide time for colleagues to look at the TDA standards document & RGS career profile (ie the tabular version of the TDA standards with CGeog requirements highlighted)
5. Session plenary (slide 13) – pair/small groups to discuss priorities for professional development in your curriculum area.

## Planning Your Professional Development:

- Complete the RGS career portfolio – use this as an ongoing record of your career. The CPD record will directly support your CGeog application or maintenance of the standard.
- Use the RGS career profile to help plan your CPD needs and prepare for your CGeog application. This can be used in discussions as part of your annual performance management in school.

When preparing your CGeog application refer to <http://www.geographyteachingtoday.org.uk/chartered-geographer/what-are-the-criteria/>

The TDA professional standards can be found at <http://www.tda.gov.uk/teachers/professionalstandards.aspx>

The link below provides further details of the links between the TDA standards and your CGeog application: <http://www.geographyteachingtoday.org.uk/chartered-geographer/cgeog-teacher-links-with-tda-professional-standards-for-teachers/>