

Ian McGuinness

Ian McGuinness CGeog (GIS) was accredited in 2012. He is Partner and Head of Geospatial at Knight Frank, and until 2018 was Troop Commander with 135 Geographic Squadron, Royal Engineers. Ian is a member of the Society's Professional Advisory Group.

“ My name is Ian McGuinness and I’m an army reservist. My role is Troop Commander with 135 Geographic Squadron, Royal Engineers. For my day job I’m a Geospatial Team Leader with Knight Frank. Geography is a broad discipline but it’s fascinating to see its application in the sense of property and planning in my role with Knight Frank, but also in defence and humanitarian support within my role in the Army Reserve.

Knight Frank as an organisation has really embraced GIS as a tool for communicating and profiling data, particularly with developers and public sector clients who are very keen to understand landholdings against demographic characteristics, market forces – we use GIS to better understand how different spatial factors exert an influence on each other.

Professional accreditation demonstrates to your employers that you are engaged with a wider network of specialists. It shows you are open to new ideas, that you are committed to further development, and in the case of the CGeog accreditation, that you are really passionate about geography in the world around you. I think CGeog gives you a very good framework for looking at the skills that you’ve developed holistically as well as what you’ve developed technically.

It would be one of the most worthwhile things that you could do as a geographer to submit yourself for a peer review. Cgeog has helped me in a number of ways: it has provided excellent networking opportunities; it has better connected me to the Society and its purpose; it has provided a discussion point at interviews; and has provided a very valuable framework as a manager to develop the skills of those who are starting out in the industry.
