

# Membership: categories, applications and benefits

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## Membership categories

The Society has three categories of membership, with sub-categories, as outlined below.

1. Fellow
  - a. Fellow
  - b. Associate Fellow
    - i. Associate Fellow (Postgraduate)
    - ii. Associate Fellow (Early career)
  - c. Honorary Fellow
  - d. Long Serving Fellow

(Life Fellows and Reciprocal Fellows are subscription levels, rather than membership sub-categories.)
2. Member
  - a. Member
  - b. Student Member
  - c. Honorary Member
3. Organisation
  - a. Organisation Member
  - b. School Member

## Eligibility

As described in the Society's Bye Laws, the eligibility for the different membership categories are:

### Fellow

- a. Fellow  
Open to anyone who can demonstrate: (a) a sufficient involvement in geography or an allied subject through study, training, profession, research, publications or other work of a similar nature, or (b) not less than five years continuous commitment to the Society as a Member, at the discretion of Council.
- b. Associate Fellow
  - i. Associate Fellow (Postgraduate): open to registered postgraduate students
  - ii. Associate Fellow (Early career): open to geography graduates up to five years post-graduation, including ITT, ECT and equivalent geography teachers.
- c. Honorary Fellow  
Appointed by Council to individuals who have rendered conspicuous service to the cause of geography or the work of the Society.
- d. Long Serving Fellow  
Open to Fellows who have been Fellows for 40 years continuously.

### Member

- a. Member  
Open to anyone who declares a genuine interest in geography in a broad sense, such as through travel.
- b. Student Member  
Open to anyone studying geography at GCSE, A Level or university level (or their national/international equivalents) or completing a recognised training programme, eg an apprenticeship.
- c. Honorary Member

Appointed by Council to individuals to mark outstanding services to public life and international affairs that merit recognition by the Society.

**Organisational Member**

- a. Organisation Member  
Open to any of the following who in the opinion of the Council are interested directly or indirectly in the science of geography, namely any government department or government institution or any educational, expeditionary, fieldwork, commercial, industrial or professional organisation or body. A reduced subscription rate will be offered to charities, not for profits and organisations with a turnover of less than £1m per annum.
- b. School Member  
Open to any school in the UK or overseas.



## Process for applying to join the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)

### **General**

Applications can be sent by post, email or, for School Membership, Student Membership and Membership, online via [www.rgs.org](http://www.rgs.org).

Payments can be made by debit/credit card, Direct Debit, bank transfer or cheque but payment details must be included with the application and the application will not be confirmed until payment has been received.

Applications for all membership categories and however received, will be acknowledged with an estimate of how long we expect to take to process the application and confirm membership.

Successful applications will be initially notified by email, and then a welcome letter and membership card will be sent through the post.

### **Fellow**

Applicants for Fellowship should complete the relevant application form.

Applications for Fellow must include a CV or URL for an institutional biography.

With the exception of the categories listed below, every applicant to become a Fellow of the Society must be proposed by an existing Fellow, who has personal knowledge of the applicant.

The following applicants will qualify for Fellowship without the need for proposal by an existing Fellow:

- Applicants who hold teaching or research positions, or are currently enrolled as postgraduate students, in departments of geography or equivalent in higher education institutions or in secondary schools
- Applicants who are members of organisations with whom a reciprocal membership scheme has been approved by Council

If the applicant does not know another Fellow who can act as proposer, a member of Society staff who is a Fellow can act as their proposer when the application is accompanied by a covering statement, which highlights how their qualifications and/or experience meets the criteria for Fellowship, in addition to a CV.

A one-off joining fee, with a lower rate for those initially paying by Direct Debit, will be applied to all applications, except applicants who hold teaching or research positions in departments of geography or equivalent in higher education institutions, and those applying for Life Fellowship.

### **Associate Fellow**

Applicants for Associate Fellowship should complete the relevant application form.

Applications for Associate Fellow must include a CV or a link to a current LinkedIn profile, and the date of graduation from first degree (where applicable).

With the exception of the category listed below, every applicant to become an Associate Fellow of the Society must be proposed by an existing Fellow, who has personal knowledge of the applicant.

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The following applicants can apply for Associate Fellowship without the need for proposal by an existing Fellow:

- Applicants who hold teaching or research positions, or are currently enrolled as postgraduate students, in departments of geography or equivalent in higher education institutions or in secondary schools.

If the applicant does not know another Fellow who can act as proposer, a member of Society staff who is a Fellow can act as their proposer when the application is accompanied by a covering statement, which highlights how their qualifications and/or experience meets the criteria for Fellowship, in addition to a CV.

No joining fee will be charged.

### ***Life Fellow***

All applicants for Life Fellowship should contact the Membership office for confirmation of the applicable one-off, age-based fee.

### ***Long Serving Fellow***

Long Serving Fellowship is open to Fellows who have been Fellows for 40 years or more.

Fellows should contact the Membership office directly to confirm their eligibility to transfer to this category.

### ***Honorary Fellow***

Any Fellow can propose someone for Honorary Fellowship as part of the annual Medals and Awards process. The deadline for nominations is in February each year. Honorary Fellows are confirmed and awarded by Council.

### ***Reciprocal Fellow***

The Society has agreements with the American Association of Geographers (AAG) and the Canadian Association of Geographers (CAG) to provide Reciprocal Fellowships. Fellows of the Society can choose to become a Reciprocal Fellow of either of these organisations during the usual joining process or at any point while they are a Fellow of the Society.

Details of new Reciprocal Fellows are provided by the participating organisations when such Fellows join.

Payments between the organisations are settled annually.

### ***Member to become a Fellow***

Members may apply for Fellowship in the normal way at any time during their membership if they meet the criteria.

Members are also automatically considered for Fellowship of the Society after five years' continuous commitment as a Member and will be notified at the next renewal and can choose to upgrade if they so wish.

### ***Member***

Anyone with an interest in geography and the work of the Society can join as a Member by completing an application form, either online or a paper copy, and paying the applicable subscription.

### ***Honorary Member***

Honorary Membership is awarded by Council to individuals who have provided outstanding services to public life and to international affairs that merit recognition by the Society.

### ***Student Member***

Anyone with an interest in geography in a broad sense and studying geography at school, college, further education institution or university, OR completing an equivalent recognised training programme (e.g. apprenticeship) can join as a Student Member by completing an application form, either online or a paper copy, and paying the applicable subscription.

Student Membership is available as either a one-, two-, or three-year membership.

### ***Rejoining Fellows and Members***

No joining fee will be charged to rejoin the Society.

All rejoining Fellow applications should include an up to date CV.

An application form will be requested if the Fellow or Member is rejoining after a gap of more than six months to ensure contact details and subscription options are up to date.

### ***Gift Membership***

Membership, Student Membership and School Membership are available to purchase on behalf of an applicant as a gift.

The purchaser has an option of where the initial information is sent and whether they would like the renewal information sent to them.

Gift memberships can be bought online via the website or by submitting a paper form.

No other grade is available to purchase on behalf of someone else.

### ***School Member***

Any school in the UK or overseas can join as a School Member by completing an application form, either online or a paper copy, and paying the applicable subscription.

### ***Organisation Member***

Any organisation that meets the criteria can join as an Organisation Member by completing an application form and paying the applicable subscription.

## Summary of membership benefits by category

### ***Fellow***

On payment of the applicable annual subscription, all Fellows can:

- Attend and vote at AGMs and SGMs
- Stand for election to Council
- Use the postnominals FRGS
- Attend all Ordinary Meetings of the Society and bring one guest if indicated in the programme of meetings.
- Access paywalled content on the Society's website including live streams and recordings of Monday night lectures and other events
- Receive discounts on Society-organised public events
- Receive discounts on Society-organised training and CPD events
- Receive discounts on hiring rooms at the Society for personal use
- Access the Members' Room
- Apply for professional recognition as a Chartered Geographer
- Access the digital editions of all Society scholarly journals via the Wiley Online Library
- Join Society Research, Working and Professional Practice Groups
- Receive the Annual Review
- Receive email newsletters containing news about the Society's work
- Obtain a discount at Stanford's and Cotswold Outdoors

For an additional fee, Fellows can opt to:

- Subscribe to *Geographical* magazine print and digital editions
- Join AAG and CAG as a Reciprocal Fellow.

### ***Honorary Fellow***

Individuals who are awarded Honorary Fellowship pay no annual subscription fee.

All Honorary Fellows can:

- Attend and vote at AGMs and SGMs
- Stand for election to Council
- Use the postnominals FRGS
- Attend all Ordinary Meetings of the Society and bring one guest if indicated in the programme of meetings.
- Access paywalled content on the Society's website including live streams and recordings of Monday night lectures and other events
- Receive discounts on Society-organised public events
- Receive discounts on Society-organised training and CPD events
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- Obtain a discount at Stanford's and Cotswold Outdoors

On payment of the applicable fee, Honorary Fellows can:

- Subscribe to *Geographical* magazine print and digital editions
- Join AAG and CAG as a Reciprocal Fellow.

### ***Reciprocal Fellow***

On payment of the applicable annual subscription, all Reciprocal Fellows can:

- Attend and vote at AGMs and SGMs
- Stand for election to Council
- Use the postnominals FRGS
- Attend all Ordinary Meetings of the Society and bring one guest if indicated in the programme of meetings.
- Access paywalled content on the Society's website including live streams and recordings of Monday night lectures and other events
- Receive discounts on Society-organised public events
- Receive discounts on Society-organised training and CPD events
- Receive discounts on hiring rooms at the Society for personal use
- Access the Members' Room
- Apply for professional recognition as a Chartered Geographer
- Access the digital editions of all Society scholarly journals via the Wiley Online Library
- Join Society Research, Working and Professional Practice Groups
- Receive the Annual Review
- Receive email newsletters containing news about the Society's work

### ***Life Fellow***

Individuals who are Life Fellows pay no annual subscription fee.

All Life Fellows can:

- Attend and vote at AGMs and SGMs
- Stand for election to Council
- Use the postnominals FRGS
- Attend all Ordinary Meetings of the Society and bring one guest if indicated in the programme of meetings.
- Access paywalled content on the Society's website including live streams and recordings of Monday night lectures and other events
- Receive discounts on Society-organised public events
- Receive discounts on Society-organised training and CPD events
- Receive discounts on hiring rooms at the Society for personal use
- Access the Members' Room
- Apply for professional recognition as a Chartered Geographer
- Access the digital editions of all Society scholarly journals via the Wiley Online Library
- Join Society Research, Working and Professional Practice Groups
- Receive the Annual Review
- Receive email newsletters containing news about the Society's work
- Obtain a discount at Stanford's and Cotswold Outdoors

On payment of the applicable annual fee, Life Fellows can opt to:

- Subscribe to *Geographical* magazine print and digital editions
- Join AAG and CAG as a Reciprocal Fellow.





## **Member**

On payment of the applicable annual subscription, all Members can:

- Attend AGMs and SGMs
- Receive *Geographical* magazine print and digital editions
- Attend all Ordinary Meetings of the Society and bring one guest if indicated in the programme of meetings
- Access paywalled content on the Society's website including live streams and recordings of Monday night lectures and other events
- Receive discounts on Society-organised public events
- Receive discounts on Society-organised training and CPD events
- Receive discounts on hiring rooms at the Society for personal use
- Access the Members' Room
- Obtain a discount at Stanford's and Cotswold Outdoors
- Receive the Annual Review
- Receive email newsletters containing news about the Society's work

## **Student Member**

On payment of the applicable annual subscription, all Student Members can:

- Attend AGMs and SGMs
- Receive *Geographical* magazine digital editions
- Access online educational resources
- Access paywalled content on the Society's website including live streams and recordings of Monday night lectures and other events
- Receive discounts on Society-organised public events
- Access the Members' Room
- Access the digital editions of all Society scholarly journals via the Wiley Online Library
- Attend all Ordinary Meetings of the Society and bring one guest if indicated in the programme of meetings.
- Receive the Annual Review digitally
- Receive email newsletters containing news about the Society's work

## **Honorary Member**

Individuals who are awarded Honorary Membership pay no annual subscription fee.

All Honorary Members can:

- Access the Members' Room
- Access the digital editions of all Society scholarly journals via the Wiley Online Library
- Attend all Ordinary Meetings of the Society and bring one guest if indicated in the programme of meetings.
- Receive the Annual Review digitally
- Receive email newsletters containing news about the Society's work

## **School Member**

On payment of the applicable annual subscription, all School Members can:

- Attend AGMs and SGMs (named teachers only)
- Access the full set of teaching and learning resources on the Society's website
- Attend, with groups of students, or watch online, School Member lectures



- Receive discounts on Society-organised training and CPD courses
- Receive discounts on Philip's Atlases
- Receive a discount on subscriptions to *Geographical* magazine
- Receive discounts at Stanford's and Cotswolds Outdoors
- Access the Members' Room (advance bookings only)
- Receive the Annual Review
- Receive email newsletters containing news about the Society's work

***Organisation Member***

On payment of the applicable annual subscription, all Organisation Members can:

- Attend AGMs and SGMs
- Three members of the organisation's staff can attend all Ordinary Meetings of the Society and bring three guests if indicated in the programme of meetings
- Receive *Geographical* magazine print edition
- Access the Members' Room
- Receive the Annual Review