Search process
The current President’s three-year term of office comes to an end in June 2021. Consistent with historical practice, the Council has established a Search Committee of senior trustees who are leading the search for the next President.

The Search Committee invite all Fellows and members to suggest names of any Fellows whom they feel would be worth considering to succeed Baroness Chalker. Following their search, the Committee will recommend potential candidates to Council. Council will then decide who they wish to nominate for the election at the AGM in June.

While it is strongly encouraged that all suggestions are put through the Search Committee process, it is possible for other Fellows to be nominated independently to stand for election as President. The President Search Criteria below set out the skills and experiences that Council feels will be needed in the next President.

Deadline
All names for consideration by the Search Committee should be sent to director@rgs.org by 5.00pm on Friday 15 January 2021.

Search Committee
The Search Committee will consist of the Executive Committee (VP Education, VP Research and Higher Education, VP Expeditions and Fieldwork, and Honorary Treasurer) less the President and the Director, chaired by David Atkinson (VP Education), and supported by Emily Taylor.

Contextual background
The Society faces a range of challenges during the period of this Presidency which will require a particular skill set, and an unwavering positivity about the role of geography and the Society as a whole. As we all adapt to life in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic the Society has a chance to position itself effectively across the various sectors it serves, as indicated in the strategy. The new President will play a key role leading that positioning. Senior Leadership and business and organisational acumen will also be important as the Society adjusts to the prevailing economic conditions over the next three years.
Given that the Society, like all organisations, faces a period of substantial uncertainty, and therefore change, the Society as a whole needs to be able to build confidence in all those who relate to it. A confidence in the public eye; adaptable and supportive to the Society’s needs; and an appreciation of the breadth the Society’s constituencies with no particularly strong sectoral agenda will be important Presidential qualities in this period of national and international change.

Given this context, the following criteria guidelines are to be considered (in no particular order):

**STRATEGY AND PUBLIC POLICY**

- A commitment to the discipline and the breadth of the Society’s work within and beyond it, especially in meeting its charitable objective ‘to advance geographical science’.
- Engagement with the Society’s strategic plan (currently being finalised) and the ability to communicate its four key pillars, Enable, Amplify, Engage and Sustain, to the full range of the Society’s constituents and beyond.
- Willingness to instigate, pursue and nurture partnerships to further the Society’s strategic objectives.
- The skills and willingness to represent the Society successfully in public and policy engagement.
- Alignment with the charitable mission and core values of the Society: working for a more equal, diverse and inclusive society.

**PEOPLE**

- Approachability and willingness to engage constructively and openly with the Society’s staff, especially the Director and Senior Team.
- Ensure appropriate performance management and support processes for the Director.
- Willingness and ability to chair Council Meetings of RGS-IBG and the AGM.
- Willingness to chair Monday night lectures more than occasionally (“acceptable visibility” being perhaps 40-50%).
- Broad appeal to a wide cross section of the Society’s constituencies and the ability, confidence and desire to engage effectively with them in different ways.
- The enthusiasm and ability to ‘sell’ the value of the Society to all possible sectors of the membership, including potential new members and Fellows.

**LEADERSHIP**

- A high degree of respect based on professionalism within a geographical or closely allied field.
- Leadership skills and attitudes which can inspire and engage all elements of the Society, particularly in relation to the leadership of the trustees, innovation and business sustainability.
- Acumen and connections across the range of professional and policy communities that will be important in the future development of the Society.
- Ability to grasp the politics of a complex organisation.
- Stature in the public eye and the ability to be an influential figurehead.