

Professional status for GEES graduates and academics

With an increasing focus for graduates on employability and for academics on meeting targets, one key route to achieving recognition for skills and competencies is by attaining Chartered status from a professional body. Chartered status has the advantage that it shows a commitment to continuing professional development – and brings opportunities through membership activities. Attending GEES Subject Centre events can be one way of demonstrating this. Chartered status also indicates a personal/professional strategy; it is also internationally recognised, allowing mobility in a globalising academia; it is generally the highest category of membership of a professional organisation, indicating a certain level of education and/or training and an adequate period of experience. Although it does not guarantee professional competence, this will likely have been obtained with the qualifying experience.

Chartered Geographer

Chartered Geographer (CGeog) is an internationally recognised professional qualification for those who can demonstrate a high level of competence and professionalism in the practice of Geography and related disciplines, and who are committed to maintaining their professional expertise through an annual continuing professional development programme. The accreditation is available to Fellows of the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG).

Application criteria and process

Applicants for Chartered Geographer status need to

- Hold an honours degree, or an equivalent qualification in Geography, or related discipline awarded by a university
- Demonstrate academic achievement, to the satisfaction of the Vetting Committee and Society's Council;
- Demonstrate at least 6 years' experience in the profession and practice of Geography since graduating;
- Provide evidence of a commitment to Continuing Professional Development;
- Complete the application form, 1000-word professional report, extended CV and supporting references.
- Be a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)

Applicants need to submit a completed application form, a professional report, an extended CV and the application fee (£50)

Continuing Professional Development

CPD for Chartered Geographers is monitored on an annual basis. At the present time, Chartered Geographers are required to submit an ongoing annual report, which demonstrates 35 hours of CPD per year (with 20 hours external and 15 hours internal).

External CPD events (e.g. conferences, presenting papers, charring meetings, training courses) are allocated 'points' based on their hours worth. For example, attendance at the RGS-IBG International Annual Conference for two days or more would count towards 10 hours of external CPD activity.

Internal CPD events (e.g. internal seminars, training, fieldtrips, and publications) would be allocated hours to a maximum of 5 hours per day. Additional CPD hours can be accumulated through activities such as management training, IT, language skills or mentoring. Individuals are responsible for designing their own programme of annual CPD allowing a degree of flexibility.

Higher education academics who are actively teaching and researching, publishing, organising and attending conferences, involved in research groups, consultancy work etc. are already undertaking many of the activities that would contribute towards an annual CPD record.

Further information

Further information is available at www.rgs.org/charteredstatus, including all guidelines to the application process and the application form. For any further enquiries please contact Sarah Jones, Professional Officer at s.jones@rgs.org or on 020 7591 3027.

Chartered Geologist

The Geological Society (GS) offers two routes to Chartership for Fellows – their own designation, Chartered Geologist, and the recently-introduced option to become a Chartered Scientist. The title Chartered Geologist brings the postnominal 'CGeol' and also enables becoming a European Geologist (EurGeol) through the European Federation of Geologists (EFG).

The GS is one of the bodies licensed by the Science Council to award the new title of Chartered Scientist. It brings the postnominal 'CSci' and will be of most interest to Fellows who do not feel that Chartered Geologist is the most appropriate title for them.

Application criteria and process

You have to show that:

- you understand geology as a science
- you can collect, assimilate and interpret geological information
- you can communicate
- you have clear understanding of the meaning of professionalism and professional ethics.

If a degree course contained more than 50% geology, then 5 years' professional experience will be needed. Up to 2 years' postgraduate study can count towards experience. Those with more than 20 years' experience may be able to apply through a simplified procedure.

The Society recommends that applicants find a senior member of the profession, preferably a Chartered Geologist, to guide and monitor their career development, submission and preparation for interview. Applicants need to submit a report summarising training and experience.

Some companies provide incentives for staff to obtain Chartered status (CEng. or CGeol.) because such status enhances the reputation of the company. This is likely to become more common and will make achievement of CGeol. grade an important objective for geoscientists.

Continuing Professional Development

CPD opportunities are provided through membership of the Geological Society.

Further information

Please email enquiries@geolsoc.org.uk to request a Chartership application pack. If you are not already a Fellow of the Society you must apply for this at the same time.

Chartered Environmentalist

To become a Chartered Environmentalist an individual must maintain Full membership of a Constituent Body* of the Society of the Environment (Soc Env) and demonstrate (through qualifications and experience) competence, knowledge and engagement in sustainable environmental management and development. Such demonstration will include a rigorous Professional Review.

Individuals need to demonstrate professionalism in a way that will be obvious and transparent. The Chartered Environmentalist qualification, which spans a wide range of disciplines, is a key way of doing this.

Application criteria and process

The candidate must:

- Be a full voting member of a Constituent Body at a grade approved by the Constituent Body and the Society.
- Have at least twelve units of learning. One year of successful study counts as two units and one year of relevant work experience as one unit.
- Have at least four years of relevant work experience that included the acquisition of knowledge, skills and competencies needed to practise in an area of interest of a Constituent Body; there must be a clear record of progress, certified by a supervisor or mentor.
- Give a commitment to continuing professional development and review.

Continuing professional development

Requirements and opportunities for CPD are offered by each of the Constituent Bodies of the Society for the Environment.

Further information

Visit ies-uk.org.uk for details on how to apply via the Institution of Environmental Science, and the SocEnv (Society for the Environment) website at www.socenv.org.uk.

*The Constituent Bodies of SocEnv are:

Chartered Institute of Building
 Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM)
 Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM)
 Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM)
 Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)
 Institute of Fisheries Management (IFM)
 Institution of Agricultural Engineers (IAgrE)
 Institution of Chemical Engineers (ICHEM)
 Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE)
 Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES)
 Institution of Water Officers (IWO)
 Royal Meteorological Society (RMS)
 Associate Member Body: Institute of Professional Soil Scientists

20 Key Points for Chartered Environmentalists

A. Knowledge and understanding

1. Fundamental sustainable development principles, in particular the environmental management and development component.
2. See beyond strict legislative compliance and anticipate environmental trends
3. Explain the critical importance of maintaining and enhancing natural cycles and biodiversity in achieving sustainability.
4. Identify and analyse short, medium and longer-term environmental threats and opportunities in terms of the goal of sustainability.

B. Competence

5. Develop and communicate the environmental case in a competent manner.
6. Willingness and persistence in addressing difficult environmental issues.
7. Evaluate problems from an environmental perspective and develop and communicate practical sustainable solutions.
8. Leadership and motivational skills.
9. Identify, engage with and respond to an appropriate range of stakeholders.
10. Develop effective means with which to liaise with and advise others.
11. Promote a positive environmental culture and move towards sustainability.

C. Engagement

12. Understand why the environmental global threats are of importance at the local level.
13. Identify opportunities for environmental improvement or mitigation and recognise their dynamic nature.
14. Recognise the inter-disciplinary nature of environmental issues.
15. Put environmental issues into a workplace context
16. Approach work in a competent manner; work towards and secure change and improvements for a sustainable future.
17. Apply and contribute to sustainable development through the application of knowledge and understanding.
18. Liaise with; positively advise and influence others with respect to environmental issues, effects and sustainable development.
19. Ensure individuals and organisations are accountable, and understand their responsibility for environmental damage and improvement.
20. Influence others to improve their understanding of environmental and sustainability issues and improve performance.