

Have you considered becoming a Chartered Geographer (Teacher)?

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Chartered Geographer (Teacher) (CGeog (Teacher)) is the only ongoing professional accreditation linked to CPD (continuing professional development) in geography. Becoming a CGeog (Teacher) indicates that you are:

- involved in influencing the advancement of geographic teaching and learning in the wider teaching community;
- committed to promoting learning and to raising geography standards in schools; and
- aware of recent developments in geography, its delivery in schools and the importance of good practice.

The benefits of becoming a CGeog (Teacher) cover a number of areas including:

- Professional Development: CGeog (Teacher) is relevant to the developing TDA framework of professional and occupational standards for teachers. CGeog (Teacher) will provide an accredited award relevant to your professional and career development.
- Career progression: It can support your application for a leadership or advanced teacher role.
- A wider contribution to geography: It shows that you are committed to geography beyond your specific teaching responsibilities by recognising your ongoing contribution to teaching and learning and the wider discipline, and demonstrates your maintenance of professional standards through continually developing your geographic skills and knowledge.

Mary Sandell, an advanced skills teacher (AST) at The Windsor Boys' School, was awarded CGeog status in 2006. Here's what she has to say about CGeog (Teacher)...

Why did you decide to apply to become a Chartered Geographer?

I've worked as a geography teacher for 23 years and it was about time I got some professional recognition for it! I was keen to make the right moves towards having a greater influence on the teaching of geography in this country through whatever means.

How did you find the application process?

The application process was both as painful and painless as a job application. Luckily, I was able to use a lot of the work I have carried out as a geography AST to meet the set criteria. It was a useful experience and made me feel quite exhausted as I recalled all I've done over the last few years!

What sort of experience and activities did you include in your professional self-evaluation report?

I have worked closely – in a variety of ways – with the secondary, middle and primary schools in my local area, essentially to promote geography. I have been rewriting the schemes of work with the geography department of a local middle school, with a view to bringing geography alive and making it vital and fun. I have also worked with colleagues in the area on learning styles, multiple intelligences, thinking skills and literacy, both generically and with particular reference to geography.

How have you benefited personally from gaining the accreditation?

I have received congratulations and recognition from colleagues and friends, and that has been good; and people in the local area are calling on me to help out in a number of different fields.

How have your headteacher and senior management team responded to you gaining the accreditation?

At The Windsor Boys' School we are always looking for ways to move ourselves and other schools forward, so accreditation such as CGeog has been both encouraged and welcomed by the SLT [school leadership team]. My headmaster, Jeff Dawkins, has made it very easy for me to take time for the application and to attend events at the RGS-IBG as and when necessary.

Any words of advice for aspiring Chartered Geographer (Teachers)?

Just believe you are good enough and go for it! If you are working hard for young people and for geography, with passion and commitment, then you are a potential Chartered Geographer (Teacher). Good luck!

To become a CGeog (Teacher) you will need:

- an honours degree or B Ed in geography or relevant subject (or equivalent);
- at least six (6) years' teaching experience (or fifteen (15) years' experience for teachers without a relevant degree); and
- a demonstrable commitment to CPD by embedding it in your own practice and supporting others.

For further information about Chartered Geographer (Teacher) please contact

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