



The  
Geological  
Society

## Chartership Guidance Note for Engineering Geologists

The Engineering Group Training Guide (see <http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/gsl/op/edit/society/chartership/cgeol>) is provided for the use of geologists and other related earth scientists who would be classed as Engineering Geologists. It provides guidance on the level of experience that they should attain to support their applications to the Geological Society for Fellowship with Chartered (CGeol) status and is further designed to serve as a whole career record of achievement of skills through continued professional development (CPD). **The Training Guide is intended to provide a framework for prospective CGeol applicants, to their sponsors supporting the application and to scrutinisers considering that application.**

Engineering Geologists use their geological skills in such fields as site investigation, slope stability analysis, mapping of geological and geotechnical hazards, foundation and earthworks design and the identification and remediation of contaminated sites. They may also be involved in the related disciplines of engineering geophysics, hydrogeology and mineral exploration. They are critical to, and should be considered as the principal developer of, the conceptual ground model for a given site. Whatever their speciality, all Engineering Geologists require good training if they are to become competent professionals and it is with this aim in mind that the Geological Society has produced a Training Guide for Engineering Geologists.

The following notes provide some further guidance, explanations and requirements of the CPD process during Phase 1 (from graduation with a first degree to being awarded CGeol):

1. The Trainee should apply for, obtain and maintain Fellowship of the Geological Society.
2. The Society strongly advises that Fellows working towards CGeol status should have a Mentor (Training Supervisor) from within their work organisation. Training Supervisors should be Chartered Geologists. The Society help with finding a Mentor if this proves difficult for candidates to arrange themselves.
3. The Trainee should work towards and attain the training objectives listed below, recognising that they are part of the wider range of CPD activities that a Fellow is encouraged to undertake. The GSL has an on-line system for recording and submitting CPD records.
4. The Trainee should maintain a work diary/log book and submit it, on a quarterly basis, to the Training Supervisor. A print-out of the on-line CPD record should be included in this as supporting information.
5. Periodically the Trainee should review his/her progress in achieving the required training objectives, including an annual review meeting with the Training Supervisor.

6. On completion of the training objectives and attainment of the required experience (minimum of five years) the Trainee will need to formally apply to the Society to be considered for CGeol status.

The objective of the Training Guide is to encourage Engineering Geologists to expand their experience throughout their professional career and also to structure their early training so as to gain sufficient and relevant experience to meet the requirements for Chartered Status as applied to the discipline of Engineering Geology. It is anticipated that the Guide will form the basis for a formal structured training scheme within an organisation.

Regulation R/FP/2 requires that Fellows seeking Chartered status (CGeol) demonstrate that they fulfil the eight Chartership criteria:

- i. Understanding the complexities of geology and of geological processes in space and time in relation to your specialty
- ii. Critical evaluation of geoscience information to generate predictive models
- iii. Effective communication, in writing and orally
- iv. Competence in the management of Health and Safety and environmental issues, and in the observance of all other statutory obligations applicable to their discipline or area of work.
- v. Clear understanding of the Code of Conduct and its implementation
- vi. Clear understanding of the meaning and needs of professionalism
- vii. Commitment to Continuing Professional Development throughout your professional career
- viii. Competence in your area of expertise

The Training Guide lists the topics that are likely to be included in the work experience of an Engineering Geologist. The sphere of employment of Engineering Geologists is very wide and it is not intended that any Trainee should cover all of the topics. The core skills are considered to be essential parts of the training of all Engineering Geologists, while achievement in the topics covered in the subsequent sections will depend on the work experience of the individual Trainee. The key skills in each section are indicated and the Trainee working in these areas should ensure the target level is achieved in these areas. The details may be varied to suite individual Trainees whose experience is in some way out of the ordinary. Employers and Training Supervisors should consider producing their own training scheme based on this document. Where an employer's sphere of activity is particularly specialised or lacking in the area of some key skills, consideration should be given to obtaining an appropriate secondment for the Trainee to obtain the necessary experience.

The training objectives are sub-divided into sections:

- Core skills
- Site Investigation
- Interpretation, analysis and design
- Professional and general
- Business management and commercial
- Legislation and Contracts
- Health and safety

Each section starts with guidance on the applicability of the subjects, followed by a description of the level of training and achievement that is required.

The following levels of attainment have been used:

- A Appreciation; a general understanding of a subject or an appreciation as to how to undertake an activity
- K Knowledge; observation and recall of information or knowing how to undertake an activity
- E Experience; a depth of knowledge of a subject or activity actually undertaken by a Fellow (generally under supervision)
- C Competence; a sound knowledge of a subject or activity actually undertaken by a Fellow without supervision; the Fellow can successfully direct others in the activity
- X **Expert; post Chartership experience (currently being defined)**

**It is expected that all applicants wishing to be considered for Chartership will have reached *Experience* level in a significant number of categories and a minimum of *Competence* level in the Core categories. It is also expected that *Competence* level will be demonstrated in the applicant's own specialist area within Engineering Geology. This level will be equivalent to Chartership Criteria viii (Competence in your area of expertise). A further level of Expert will be usually reached with post - Chartership experience and Continuing Professional Development. Details of Expert level will be released in the next revision of the Training Guide.**

In using the Training Guide and preparing a chartership submission, Trainees should also bear in mind the categories under which CPD is recorded:

1. Acquiring knowledge and skills by deployment (that is during one's day-to-day work):
  - Professional practice
2. Enhancing and maintaining skills and knowledge:
  - Formal learning (tested)
  - Formal learning (untested)
  - Informal learning/training
  - Self-directed study
3. Participating in the geoscience community:
  - Non-work activities
  - Contributing to knowledge

Further advice can be sought from the Engineering Group: ([engineering.group@geolsoc.org.uk](mailto:engineering.group@geolsoc.org.uk))