



The  
Geological  
Society

## **Chartership Guidance Note for Geologists/Geoscientists employed in Education**

Geoscientists working in Universities and Schools are a very important group with regard to Chartership. Academics sometimes do not consider Chartered Geologist status to be of great professional importance, however for those whom undertake consultancy work (no matter how little) it should be imperative.

Geologists in this group have an enormous influence on the students that they teach and hence are important for the future of the profession (and the science). They thus have a responsibility to support the development of the profession for the future of their students and becoming chartered shows a commitment to this.

Of the listed Chartership Criteria there are 4 (numbers iii, iv, v, and vi and) that are straightforward and need answers common to all geologists. The University academic can readily demonstrate his/her understanding of geological complexities (criterion i) and critical evaluation skills (criterion ii) through their research and scholarship. Some may add to this by demonstration of professional commercial practice (consultancy) outside the University. It will be necessary for the University academic to indicate exactly what their application covers in terms of specialisms (academic or academic and applied) in order to be clear in demonstrating competence (criterion viii). The academic who occasionally undertakes consulting work (e.g. in fields such as Engineering Geology, Oil or Minerals Exploration, Hydrogeology, Geophysics and others) has to be very careful how he/she presents him/herself and in particular how they deal with criteria v in the world outside the University.

A geologist working in academe is a professional geologist and would readily be able to meet all the chartership criteria via his/her academic work (teaching and /or research). Geologists here, with mainly academic specialisms, such as Palaeontology, Volcanology (among others), may well choose to demonstrate their competence for criterion viii by way of academic research/scholarship. Other academics, who specialise in the 'applied' areas such as Engineering Geology, Hydrogeology, Economic Geology, may decide to demonstrate competence through their outside work(consultancy) as well as, or instead of, their research activities. It is important that, whichever route is chosen, the type and depth of experience is demonstrated clearly in the applications and it is this that will be explored in the interviews by scrutineers.

Geologists working in Schools generally will have a much more clear cut situation. Here it is expected that the large majority will be presenting themselves as Professional Geologists with a teaching specialism. They will demonstrate their abilities (for criteria i and ii) via their course teaching and course development. Their competence will come through assessments from School Heads, LEA Inspectors and OFSTED and their teaching results.