

 The Geological Society	The Geological Society of London REGULATIONS	Number : R/FP/8 Issue : 6 Date : 25/09/24 Page : 1 of 4
	ACCREDITATION OF DEGREES	Approval Authority COUNCIL

OBJECTIVE

NEW - To ensure that degree programmes and equivalent qualifications in Earth Sciences meet the minimum standard of training, knowledge, and skills provision, agreed by the Geological Society's Accreditation Committee and the 2022 [QAA Subject Benchmark Statement](#), for election of Fellows and as an initial step on a career path to professional chartership.

SCOPE

NEW – This Regulation covers the action of the Academic Accreditation Committee, a committee of the Professional and Chartership Committee.

Requirements for Accreditation

NEW – Departments applying for Accreditation must demonstrate that the programme fulfils minimum knowledge and skills criteria as outlined in the linked documents. The Department must also demonstrate that it provides an appropriate learning environment with due cognisance to staff and student support, equality, and diversity.

The requirements and application forms for Accreditation are available via the following links:

- [Undergraduate Bachelors and Integrated Masters Programmes](#)
- [Taught Masters Degree Programmes and Doctoral Training Programmes](#)

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The Accreditation of a programme is valid for:

- 6 years if the programme content does not change significantly; or

- For such time (less than 6 years) as the programme content does not change significantly.

After the period of six years or whenever the programme content is significantly changed, the university or institution must submit a new application for re-accreditation of the programme.

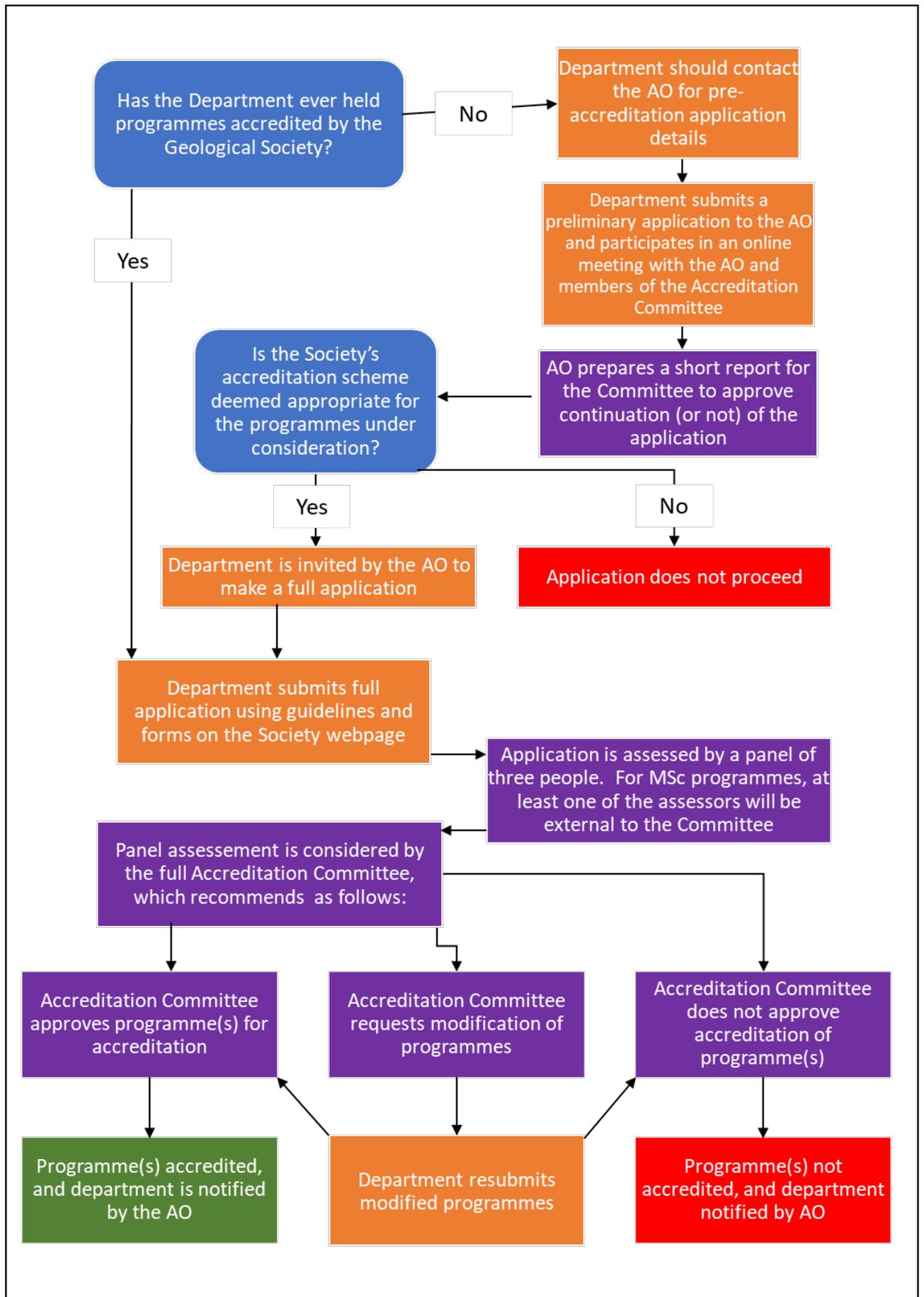
PROCEDURE

The procedure for the accreditation of degree programme is outlined in the flow chart, below. Accreditation of Earth Science degree programmes is approved by the Academic Accreditation Committee of the Geological Society. The Committee requires details about the host institution and the academic content of a degree programme before the case for accreditation can be evaluated. Once this is submitted, the Academic Accreditation Officer's role is to assemble the information prior to it being presented to the Committee for consideration.

For those Departments that have not been previously accredited by the Society, a small group of 2 Committee Members and the Academic Accreditation Officer will liaise directly with members of the Department via either a visit or a remote meeting.

All Departments are requested to complete the requisite forms and matrices, and supply full documentation, as described in the linked documentation. Once awarded, accreditation lasts for 6 years from the date of approval.

The application pack is available directly on request from the Academic Accreditation Officer, or it can be downloaded from the Geological Society website.



RECORDS

The Society's Academic Accreditation Officer is responsible for maintaining the following records:

- List of programmes that have been accredited by the Committee. This list will be published on the Society's website.
- The edited versions of submissions received from the universities and/or institutions, including correspondence, records of visits and supplementary information that is submitted in support of the application.

The Academic Administrative Secretary to the Academic Accreditation Committee is responsible for maintaining the following records:

- The submissions received from the universities and/or institutions.
- Accurate actions of the activities of the Academic Accreditation Committee

The Head of Finance is responsible for maintaining the following records:

- Invoicing and receipt of annual maintenance fees.