



Welcome to the fifteenth issue of the Geological Society's e-Newsletter for Chartered Fellows.

Published five times a year following each election of new Chartered Fellows, this Newsletter is to inform the Chartered Fellowship and also to gain their input into what information they would like to see. Information of general interest to the Chartered Fellows that perhaps might not reach the pages of Geoscientist is welcome.

Bill Gaskarth, Chartership Officer (Chartership@geolsoc.org.uk)

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Newly elected Chartered Geologists

Elections to CGeol



Richard Brown Scott Davidson Simon Dawson Hugh Dennis John Yule Banks <i>(Chartered via the reciprocal route with AAPG)</i>	Stephen Deykin Laura Goodwin John Gordon Martin Griffin David Harris Katherine Jones Thomas Lees	Jason Lumb Jack Lunnon Gerald McArdle Nicholas Shaw Alex Simantirakis Alison Tourish Timothy Wynn
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Elections to CSci



Rosalind Chatham Lisa Horsley	Catherine Latimer Jason Lumb	Robert Serjeant
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Note that 6 applications used the 20+ years' experience route.



The New CPD Scheme

The Society has received good positive feedback on the [newly introduced scheme](#), the general consensus being that it is a much better scheme than the previous one and is easier to use, and this prior to the Society's on-line scheme going live this summer.

The new scheme covers the requirements of professional Fellows (whether Chartered or not) from those just starting on a professional career, through to those in retirement. Special cases such as part-time work, career breaks, prolonged illness etc are all catered for. The activities that may be used in any personal CPD scheme have been largely described so that Fellows may readily see into which categories their activities fit. Retired Fellows who maintain an interest in professional work and who wish to retain their CGeol can readily do so via the reduced hours' requirement.

The [recent Geoscientist article](#) in which it is suggested that the system has been updated as a reaction to copy other professional bodies is wholly inaccurate. The system was updated because, over a number of years, many Chartered Fellows had expressed their dislike of the former system with its points-based requirement. It was clear to the Chartership Committee that the Society could provide a better more professional system in line with current good practice. The author of the Soapbox article in the recent Geoscientist appears not to understand why professional bodies require CPD recording. For professional qualified practitioners CPD is required in order to demonstrate continuing maintenance of competence and this is monitored through auditing. It supports the membership and supports the status of the profession as well as providing assurance to those using their services that the holders of the title are governed by an enforceable professional Code of Conduct. For too long geoscience has been seen as a kind of amateur preserve rather than the important profession that it is.

The suggestion that having attained the title CGeol the holder should be left to maintain competence with unrecorded CPD, and with no requirement to be able to produce records to demonstrate this, simply will not wash in this era of increasing litigation. Either you are a professional who can demonstrate maintenance of competency or you are not fully professional. The new system really requires little time to record activities rather than the many hours alluded to in the Geoscientist article. The requirement on practicing geoscientists to record at least a minimum number of CPD hours is simply good professional practice.

There is no 'closed shop' involved as Chartership is available to all and in the UK the profession is not regulated to require a professional qualification in order to practice. Many countries have tightened up their requirements for geoscientists, largely as a result of some scandal or disaster, and in them a professional qualification is required.

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RoGEP Procedures

We had hoped to be able to assess for both CGeol and RoGEP Professional Grade at the same interview, with applicants sending their applications for both to the Society (though paying the RoGEP application fee online through the ICE). The Scrutineers would have completed a separate form for RoGEP indicating that the professional grade requirements were satisfied.

Unfortunately the RoGEP Panel insist that both Scrutineers are RoGEP listed and trained. We had asked for both to be CGeol Scrutineers with only one to be RoGEP trained because we do not have enough of the former; however this was rejected by the Panel. The plan had been to produce a simpler application process and simplify the administration.

Because of this the application and assessment procedure for RoGEP Professional Grade will have to be as follows:

- a. On acceptance for CGeol those whose competencies are in the area of Ground Engineering can apply to go on RoGEP by downloading an application form from www.ukrogep.org.uk, where payment can also be made.
- b. RoGEP will appoint two assessors to deal with the application.
- c. RoGEP will request from the GSL a copy of; the CGeol application form (AD1); the Professional Report (AD2) ; CPD Record (AD3); Competency overview document (AD4); Scrutineers' Joint Post Interview Report (ASS3); the letter confirming election to CGeol.
- d. This information will be given to the assessors who will report back to RoGEP.
- e. If the assessors agree that the applicant is qualified for the Register then they will be notified and their name entered onto the Register.

Please note that the CGeol interview will be to determine if the CGeol criteria have been fulfilled, and not eligibility for the Register as this will be done by RoGEP assessors.

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Mentoring workshops

Two full-day workshops, run by John and Trudy Arthurs, have been organised. The first will be at Burlington House on 5 May and the second at the Copthorne Hotel, Salford Quays, Manchester on 21 June. There has been a good take-up for both workshops.

Anyone who has booked a place for London and has not registered at www.geolsoc.org.uk/Mentoringworkshop17 to confirm attendance should now contact Georgina.worrall@geolsoc.org.uk in the conference office as the course is now full. For Manchester registration is at www.geolsoc.org.uk/GSL-Manchester-Mentoring-Workshop and there are still places available.

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Operations Geologists' Register

The Society is working with the organising group for the [UK Operations Geology Competency Initiative](#) to determine if a Register for Operations Geologists is needed, along the lines of RoGEP for Ground Engineering Geologists.

The Register would list applicants at one of three grades depending on their experience, skills and competency. These grades are in ascending order; professional; senior (or specialist); adviser. Entry to the Register at Professional Grade would start with CGeol plus a demonstration of particular skills and experience in the Operations sector of the Oil and Gas industry. It is suggested that graduates new to the industry who are working towards being eligible for the Register and CGeol might be listed here also.

The objective is to produce a professional competency qualification for Operations Geologists which in the fullness of time might be recognised and taken up industry wide.

We would like to hear from any interested Operations Geologists and employers so that information on the concept can be provided to them. In turn they might provide advice on the usefulness of such a Register and how it might be designed for maximum value to both Registrants and those employing them



Accreditation

Gammon Construction (HK) has had its Training Scheme re-accredited.

LAM Geotechnics (HK) has applied for accreditation of their Training Scheme and this is presently being reviewed.

The NERC Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) at Heriot Watt University is in process of applying to have their courses accredited. These courses, provided by specialists from both the industry and academia, are specifically aimed at PhD students in the Oil and Gas sector to give them industry standard training.

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Lost CGeols

Each year we lose a number of CGeols because their contact details go out of date due to moves between countries or companies. This is noticed when the requests for renewal of Fellowship are sent out and also when requests for affirmation of an appropriate programme of CPD is being carried out and recorded.

In future Newsletters I will publish names here of CGeols that we have lost touch within the hope that someone will be able to let us have up to date contact information or will contact them to get back in touch with the Society.

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Scrutineers

We are very fortunate in having a good number of Scrutineers, spread across the differing sectors of the Geosciences, who provide help with the assessment of Chartership Applications. Interviews are run in several places each year and these include; London; Birmingham; Manchester; Glasgow; Bristol; Cardiff; Hong Kong. We can, and do, arrange interviews in Australia, New Zealand, and Canada.

To be able to maintain this service to the Fellowship I am always looking for additional volunteers to add to the Scrutineering Panel. Because of the spread of applications, both geographically and in expertise offered, it may be that some Scrutineers are rarely invited to act. In fact some may not be contacted at all because there are no applications requiring their expertise in their location. In other situations we may have a heavy load of interviews to be arranged and here Scrutineers may be asked to help more than once a year. Ideally I would want not to ask anyone more than once a year as I am acutely aware of the amount of work necessary to do the interview and the fact that the Scrutineer's employer is giving us a day of their employee's time. Those Scrutineers who are self-employed also give valuable time to the Society and I am exceedingly grateful for this help.

If you are a CGeol or CSci living within approximately 1.5 hours travel of one of our interview venues, and have been chartered for a few years, I would be very keen to hear from you with a view to your becoming a Scrutineer. CSci Scrutineers are particularly thin on the ground and we need at least one for each CSci interview as required by the Science Council.

Finally, we get requests from time to time from people wanting to apply for Chartership but who have no mentor to advise them with the application. This is particularly acute for those working for small companies where they may be the sole geologist. The Fellowship Office maintains a list of CGeol/CScis who have volunteered to help and advise such persons and we are very keen to add to this list. Being on the list would involve being contacted from time to time by someone looking for help in preparing their application. This may be face to face or by phone or email. Such work would of course be good CPD.

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Chartered Engineer (CEng)

The Society is looking to become a licensed member of the Engineering Council so that suitably experienced and qualified Fellows might be able to attain CEng through the Society. We will need to produce a Regulation giving the validation Procedure and to determine eligibility to apply (degrees accredited by the Engineering Council and also an experience route). The criteria to be demonstrated will also have to be defined to ensure that the procedure is rigorous so that it will be accepted both nationally and internationally.

When all of this is complete we will need to establish a panel of experienced Fellows who are both CGeol and CEng to be Sponsors and to be trained as Scrutineers for the first group of applicants. Fellows with a number of years' experience wishing to attain CEng will be invited to apply to form the first elected group. From within this group we would then look to increase the CEng Scrutineering Panel.

In order to help us with this development I would be grateful to hear from any Fellow with 10+ years' experience who might be interested in applying for CEng in the first group of applicants. Similarly those fellows holding both CGeol and CEng are asked to let us know if they might help as Sponsors and Scrutineers.

Further updates on the progress of this initiative will be reported in future Newsletters.

J W Gaskarth, Chartership Officer
April 2017

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