The Geological Society of London’s Education and Outreach Network (GSL EON) is a new, free online forum for sharing information relating to earth science education and outreach in the UK.

Launching in 2021, GSL EON will act as a central hub, bringing together individuals across formal and informal education and outreach settings, covering academia, industry and ‘not-for-profits’.

Members will collaborate on best practice, resources and research, covering all stages of education, from Primary to PHD and beyond. There will also be an opportunity to recruit and apply for voluntary positions.

GSL EON is expected to transform the landscape of earth science education in the UK. The long-term impact will be an increased future workforce, with the geoscience expertise necessary to address the global challenges facing humanity.
WHY IS GSL EON NEEDED?

Skills Shortage

Since 2014 there has been a 47% decline in schools offering geology at GCSE level and a 54% decline at A level (UCAS). This has contributed to a shortfall of around 40,000 STEM skilled workers each year in the UK. As a result, there is a lack of new candidates coming forward for positions in geoscience-related industries. To ensure continued, sustainable economic and societal growth we need to attract a greater number of suitably skilled young people.

Diversity

In 2018, the Campaign for Science and Engineering produced a policy review on Diversity in STEM subjects in the UK. The report found that women, disabled people and those from ethnic-minorities or socially-disadvantaged groups are consistently under-represented.

The lack of diversity in geoscience is a problem that urgently needs addressing. However, specific data on diversity indicators relating to earth science subjects - including gender, ethnicity, disability and socio-economic classification - is not freely available and, to our knowledge, has never been comprehensively analysed. We want to better understand how to ensure equality, diversity and full representation in the geosciences.

Global Issues

Expert knowledge connected to the physical world is vital. Issues relating to sustainable energy, climate change, water supply and natural hazards are of increasing importance. A lack of future expertise in these areas would constitute a national and global crisis.
COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

The forum will be a vital means of addressing the challenges we face and will be pivotal to developing the future expertise required. It will offer a means of sharing data and resources and will improve practical delivery across formal and informal education and outreach settings.

GLS EON will be led by the Geological Society, which has 12,000 members and 247 school affiliate partners. It will be supported by the Earth Science Teachers’ Association, which has around 180 teacher and student-teacher members and University Geoscience UK, an organisation which promotes collaboration between geoscience departments in more than 30 UK universities.

All three organisations will actively encourage their members to participate in the forum, as well as working collaboratively with their existing corporate and wider contacts to promote extensive use.

Forum members will work together in an unprecedented way to holistically shape geoscience policy and delivery across the UK. This collaboration will have a transformative impact on the landscape of the geosciences.

We anticipate 500 members joining GSL EON in year one, with a 15% increase in membership each year for the first five years.
A FUTURE FOR GEOSCIENCE

If your business is involved in formal or informal education opportunities, please get in touch. You can register your interest to participate in the GSL EON forum here: EON@geolsoc.org.uk

SPONSORSHIP

Sponsorship of GSL EON will demonstrate your commitment to the education and training of a suitably skilled future workforce:

Founding Partner - £5,000 + VAT

As a Founding Partner, you will receive:

- Permanent logo and acknowledgment as a Founding Partner on the forum ‘Home’ website page
- Recognition via GSL e-newsletter (dist. 12,000), as well as Twitter (47,800 followers) and LinkedIn (26,200 followers)
- Impact report, sharable with stakeholders to demonstrate your commitment to the future of geoscience

Supporting Organisation - £900 + VAT

As a Supporting Organisation, you will receive:

- Logo and acknowledgment as a Supporting Organisation on the forum website ‘Partners’ page for 12 months
- Impact report, sharable with stakeholders to demonstrate your commitment to the future of geoscience
About Us

Founded in 1807, the Geological Society of London is the oldest national geological society in the world. We exist to support the work of geoscientists, inspire interest in the physical world, and connect science, profession and society.

The Society provides impartial information and evidence to inform policy-making and debate about the challenges facing humanity.

We have over 12,000 members, as well as 247 school partners and 45 corporate patrons. The Geological Society is the only body in the world to accredit university geoscience programmes - accrediting over 140 in the UK and overseas. We also award the professional titles of Chartered Geologist (CGeol) and Chartered Scientist (CSci).

The Society represents the UK in the International Union of Geological Sciences and is the leading contributor to the European Federation of Geologists. We are a signatory to the Science Council’s Declaration on Diversity, Equality & Inclusion and part of the Diversity & Inclusion Progression Framework Steering Group.

The Society is proud to be a supporting organisation of Women in Science and Engineering (WISE), Diversity in Geoscience (DiG) and Athena SWAN (Scientific Women’s Academic Network) Award.

Images: top left – outreach project participant, top right – delegates at one of our teacher training events, bottom – Holwell Tor, copyright Wayne Brittle
THANK YOU

Contact

For further information about this proposal and other corporate partnership opportunities, please contact:

Jenny Boland
Head of Development

+ 44 (0)20 7434 9944
jenny.boland@geolsoc.org.uk