

# Get chartered

In recent years, the Society has seen a flourishing community of professionals formally recognised for using geographical skills in the workplace. Chartered Geographer (CGeog) accreditation has developed and grown since it was first introduced by the Society in 2002, with close to 500 geographers across a wide range of businesses and sectors gaining the qualification. These range from teachers, scientists, conservationists and environmental consultants to civil servants and military personnel, a demonstration of the strong employment prospects for geography graduates.

CGeog is the only internationally recognised professional accreditation for those with competence, experience and professionalism in the use of geographical knowledge, understanding and skills in the workplace. As such, it recognises the specific expertise that geography instils as a discipline, and the value of a geographical training. The accreditation provides recognition and a framework to support professional development, similar in concept and scope to that in other professions, such as Chartered Surveyor or Chartered Engineer.

For Clare Hadley, UK location and INSPIRE manager at the Ordnance Survey, becoming a CGeog in 2005 was a way of not only re-engaging with geography, but also developing professionally. Now an initial assessor for other applicants and a mentor, she believes that accreditation is becoming increasingly beneficial for candidates.

'I applied to become a CGeog not long after it was first launched,' she says. 'I had a geography degree, and always felt I was a "geographer", but my career path had taken me down a slightly different, although related, path of land surveying and geo-information. Becoming a CGeog has certainly given me a greater understanding of some geographical issues that Ordnance Survey is seeking to solve by better use of geographical information.'

CGeog accreditation brings benefits for employers, too, as employees have an incentive to keep up their professional development and training. It also provides independent evidence of a highly skilled and qualified workforce. 'It opens doors for you - professionally, when you're looking for other jobs, but also with your own development,' says Zoe Briggs, GIS team leader at the Canal and River Trust. 'It gives your employer a reason to invest in your development and it gives you a professional standing, especially if you're in my field, where everyone around you is chartered in something.'

In addition to the general CGeog, the Society also offers a number of professional specialisms, including CGeog (GIS) for geographic information systems and CGeog (Geomorph) for geomorphologists - in collaboration with the Association for Geographic Information and the British Society of



Geomorphology, respectively. For geography teachers, CGeog (Teacher) is relevant to the Training and Development Agency for Schools framework of professional and occupational standards for teachers, and can help to support applications for a leadership or Advanced Teacher role.

All CGeogs are Fellows of the Society and are required either to hold a degree in geography (or closely related field) and six years of work-based professional experience, or 15 years of professional experience without a degree. Applications are reviewed by Society-appointed initial and final assessors, with final approval by the Society's council. The Society holds networking events for CGeogs and encourages them to meet and share their knowledge.

CGeog Angela Baker, communities programme manager at Esri UK, says that the programme offers a 'definite investment in your career and personal development. It brings with it so many intangible benefits, from being exposed to issues and challenges in other areas of the discipline to being involved at a closer level with the staff at the Society. It's a worthwhile programme and a great way to network with others, not just within your industry, but within the general discipline.'

■ For more information about the criteria and advice and guidance on applying, visit [www.rgs.org/charteredstatus](http://www.rgs.org/charteredstatus)

The Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) promotes enjoyment and understanding of our world. Membership is open to all. You may use geography in your profession, have a thirst for geographical knowledge or a passion for travel. Geographical is the Society's magazine and is available as part of membership. To find out more, call the Membership Office on 020 7591 3080



## ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY (WITH IBG)

### SELECTION OF EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY

#### 7 and 21 February

##### **Walking the Hexagon: an escape around France on foot** (Lecture, Winchester, Norwich)

Terry Cudbird recently completed a lifelong dream of walking the 6,500-kilometre circumference of France. His illustrated talk will provide an insider's view of French life, highlighting the people he met and the varied landscapes of France's frontier regions.

📍 Tickets: free to RGS-IBG members. For further details of each event, visit [www.rgs.org/south](http://www.rgs.org/south) and [www.rgs.org/eastanglia](http://www.rgs.org/eastanglia)

#### 18 February, 2.30pm

##### **Alexander Wilson and the American Ornithology** (Be Inspired, London)

To mark the bicentenary year of Alexander Wilson (1766-1813), Alexander Maitland's tribute to the expatriate Scottish poet, reformer and pack-man highlights his pioneering seven-volume *The American Ornithology*, which pre-dated Audubon's work by two decades.

📍 Tickets: RGS-IBG members free, non-members £5. Pre-booking required. To book, please call 020 7591 3044 or email [showcase@rgs.org](mailto:showcase@rgs.org)

#### 19 February, 7pm

##### **The Bristol dinosaur: discovery and science in 1830s Bristol** (Lecture, Bristol)

The world's fourth dinosaur discovery was in Clifton in 1834, eight years before Owen coined the word 'dinosaur'. Professor Mike Benton of the University of Bristol will uncover some key personalities involved in the story, their science and their squabbles. Venue: Wills Memorial Building, University of Bristol.

📍 For further information, visit [www.rgs.org/westandsouthwales](http://www.rgs.org/westandsouthwales)

#### 20 February, 6pm

##### **The tsunami threat to coasts of the United Kingdom** (Lecture, Portsmouth)

Professor David Smith of the University of Oxford will look at the history of tsunamis that have struck UK coasts during the past 12,000 years, examine their causes, and discuss the likelihood of future ones in this University of Portsmouth Public Lecture event. Venue: Portland Building, University of Portsmouth, Portland Street, Portsmouth, PO1 3AH.

📍 Tickets: free, but please register online at [davidsmith.eventbrite.co.uk](http://davidsmith.eventbrite.co.uk)

#### 20-27 February

##### **Living Africa** (Lecture, Brecon, Taunton, Keswick)

A visual exploration of this extraordinary continent by acclaimed photographer Steve Bloom. Venues: 20 February, 7.45pm, Theatr Brycheiniog, Brecon; 21 February, 7.45pm, The Brewhouse Theatre, Taunton; 27 February, 7.30pm, Theatre by the Lake, Keswick.

📍 For further details, visit [www.rgs.org/rtp](http://www.rgs.org/rtp)



#### 21 February, 7pm

##### **1745: Clifton Moor and the geography of rebellion** (Lecture, Windermere)

This talk will examine the cultural and geographical reasons why the 1745-46 Jacobite rebellion lost heart only 200 kilometres north of London, precipitating the Highland clearances and the depopulated landscape with which we're now familiar. Venue: Windermere School, Patterdale Road, Windermere, LA23 1NW.

📍 Tickets: free; to book, please call 01539 446 164

The Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) is a leading world centre for geographers and geographical learning. One of our aims is to stimulate the awareness and enjoyment of the subject to a diverse range of people.

Geography is about the understanding of the people, places and environments of our world, the processes by which they are changing, and the interconnections between them - both locally and globally.

The Society carries out a wide range of activities to support its aims. We support research groups; promote geography within the national curriculum; produce scholarly publications; provide training in scientific field techniques and expeditions; offer information through our large map collection, library and picture library; and engage the wider public through our popular national lecture series.

**Patron** Her Majesty The Queen

**Honorary President** HRH The Duke of Kent

**Council President** Professor Judith Rees CBE

**Vice Presidents** Professor Mike Bradshaw, Paul Rose, Peter Smith

**Honorary Treasurer** Stephen Henwood

**Chair of Conference** Professor Jonathan Rigg

**Honorary Secretaries** Michael Ashby, Dr Georgina Enfield, Dr Mark Mulligan

**Members of the Council** Benedict Allen, Robin Ashcroft, Paul Baker, Professor Alison Blunt, Jamie-Buchanan-Dunlop, Barbara Hamnett, Dr Vanessa Lawrence, Justin Marozzi, Professor Tony Parsons, Rebecca Stephens, Professor David Thomas, Sophie Yarker

To find out about joining the Society, please contact us on +44 (0)20 7591 3080 or visit our website at [www.rgs.org/joinus](http://www.rgs.org/joinus)

**Royal Geographical Society with IBG**  
Advancing geography and geographical learning



RGS-IBG corporate supporters: ESRI (UK), Land Rover, Ordnance Survey, Rolex, Shell and Trailfinders