

Petition of The Geological Society of London

To The King's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

The humble petition of the Geological Society of London

Sheweth as follows:-

The original Geological Society of London (GSL) Charter was granted in 1825 and a Supplemental Charter in 2005. The provisions require considerable updating to ensure they are fit for modern purpose. This includes updates around the power to award the individual Chartered designation 'Chartered Geologist' which the Society has operated since 1990.

The Society has been fulfilling its learned and professional commitments to Geoscience and the public benefit continuously since 1825.

The revised Charter is attached to this Petition and has been unanimously approved by the Society's Fellows at the Special General Meeting held on 8 October 2025 to formally approve the revised Charter. This meeting was called in line with the existing Charter and Byelaw requirements.

The Society has awarded the title of Chartered Geologist (CGeol) since 1990, and its predecessor title Corporate Member (of the Institution of Geologists) since 1980. The GSL is the recognised UK professional body for geoscientists across all areas of expertise.

The Society organises a range of professional and technical meetings ranging from multi-day conferences to half day and evening meetings around the country and abroad. These meetings are open to all, not just Fellows and many meetings are now held in combinations of personal and virtual attendances.

The Society also publishes peer reviewed academic and professional journals, books, and other publications, and provides educational materials for schools.

The current membership of the society is 12,017 and of these 2,836 are holders of the CGeol title.

There are also 660 Student Members who are still studying towards their degree subjects, with a view to gaining Fellowship on qualification.

The main grade of membership is Fellow for which the primary requirement is to hold a degree in Geoscience or a related subject. There are avenues to Fellowship for those with other degrees who can demonstrate active interest, involvement or contributions to Geoscience.



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All Fellows of the Society, including all Chartered Geologists, are required to follow the Society's Codes of Conduct on professional behaviour; for meetings and other events; and on publishing ethics.

Eligibility for the validation of individual Chartered Status (CGeol) by Fellows of the Society is qualification to Master's level or above (or equivalent Master's level experience) combined with sufficient professional experience such that Applicants are able to demonstrate that they meet the requirements of the seven competency criteria. These are:

- i. Understanding of the complexities of geology and of geological processes in space and time in relation to the Applicant's area of work;
- ii. Critical evaluation of geoscience information to generate predictive models;
- iii. Effective communication in writing and orally;
- iv. Competency in the: knowledge and implementation of Health and Safety (H&S); management of environmental and sustainability issues; and knowledge and implementation of other statutory obligations applicable to the discipline or area of work;
- v. Clear understanding of professionalism, including a clear understanding of the Code of Conduct and commitment to its implementation;
- vi. Commitment to Continuing Professional Development (CPD) throughout the Applicants' professional career; and
- vii. Competence in their area of expertise.

CPD is a way for professional geologists to maintain and develop the standards of technical and professional competence required for their work. As well as broadening knowledge CPD gives assurance to employers, and to society in general, that Chartered Geologists are professionally competent. CPD planning and recording is mandatory for all Chartered Fellows

Those successful in demonstrating the sufficiency and quality of their training and experience with respect to the competency criteria are permitted to use the title of Chartered Geologist and to use the post nominal CGeol.

The Society is a going concern and not aware of any events, conditions, or related business risks that may cast significant doubt on its ability to continue as a going concern. Total Society funds and reserves at the end of 2024 were £9,338,000. The Society's operating income and operating costs are stable and predictable, and it works to a breakeven budget.

The provisions of the current Charter require considerable updating to ensure they are fit for modern purpose. This includes updates around the power to award the individual Chartered designation 'Chartered Geologist' which the Society has operated since 1990.

Your petitioners therefore most humbly pray that Your Majesty may be graciously pleased in the exercise of Your Royal Prerogative to grant a Supplemental Charter to Your Petitioners in the terms of the draft herewith submitted or in such other terms as may to Your Majesty seem proper.

And Your Petitioners will ever pray, etc.

The Common Seal of The Geological Society of London was hereunto affixed this day 29 October 2025 in the presence of:



The
Geological
Society

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