



The
Geological
Society

Information for applicants with 20+ years' professional experience

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The Society recognises that many Fellows with more than 20 years' professional experience wishing to become Chartered may find some difficulty in producing some of the documentary evidence of their early professional work. It also wishes to encourage these senior geoscientists/scientists to take up the professional titles, to act as role models for less experienced colleagues within their sector of work and to promote the take up of professional titles.

The validation process for them requires attendance at a validation interview which includes a ~30 minute presentation, to have one professionally qualified Supporter, and to produce a report of their career in which they describe how they fulfil the requirements of the seven CGeol or five CSci Chartership competency criteria. Details of the process are given in regulations [R/FP/02](#) (CGeol) and [R/FP/11](#) (CSci).

[Abstract from Regulations R/FP/2 and R/FP/11: Section 5.11 - Applications by Fellows with more than 20 years' professional experience.](#)

An application comprises the following:

- *a completed online application including an overview of the competency criteria;*
- *a summary report of their career and experience (maximum 2,000 words) with an indication as to how they satisfy the seven (five) competencies for validation as a Chartered Geologist (Chartered Scientist);*
- *at least three years' CPD records;*
- *a Supporter's statement;*
- *an accompanying application fee;*
- *copies of all tertiary academic qualifications and professional membership certificates;*
and
- *a minimum of one Supporting Document selected to demonstrate the claims of competency and experience made in the Career Account (Section 5.10).*

To gain Chartership status, they will attend a validation interview, which will commence with a presentation by the Applicant to describe how they fulfil the requirements of the Chartership competency criteria. The remainder of the interview will be taken up discussing:

- *how they will help promote Chartership within their organisation and the promotion of professional standards across Earth sciences; and*
- *their commitment to CPD, and the training and career development for early career geoscientists.*

It should be noted that the Chartership regulations were updated in July 2024 to reflect changes in the application requirements for these candidates. These changes are required by all candidates submitting from August 2024 onwards (for the Jan 1st 2025 deadline). These changes are set out in more detail below.

A requirement for inclusion of a Supporting Documents is to facilitate the provision of evidence for competency in the more technical geoscience-related criteria e.g. (i), (ii) and (vii) of CGeol, or criteria A for CSci. It is noted that the careers of candidates in this category have often evolved

beyond technical geoscience roles to include a greater focus on more commercial and managerial aspects. Nonetheless, the Applicant is expected to be able to demonstrate their underlying Earth sciences or scientific knowledge base that has supported their career progression to the time of applying.

Where candidates are no longer preparing technical client report content, supporting evidence could include examples of their involvement as a reviewer (e.g. track changes and comments made when completing reviews of the work of colleagues). Nonetheless, candidates should also refer to the guidance note on Supporting Documents for further information on the web page.

In addition, the application form will require the Applicant to complete responses to each of the Chartership criteria and which allows the Applicant to expand on points made in their Career Account.

These changes are being proposed in order that the application pack submitted by the candidate be sufficient in itself to demonstrate competency for Chartership. The interview purpose remains to validate the application. In their commitment to career development for early career geoscientists, Applicants via the 20+ route will be better placed to appreciate the requirements to achieve Chartership via the normal route and therefore be able to deliver this role in future.

These additional documents are not intended to make this application route more onerous, but to give the candidate greater scope to support their application, rather than being constrained by the limitations of a 2,000 word Career Account to demonstrate their competencies.

The proposed updated 20+ application route retains the following remaining differences from the normal application route:

- No requirement to obtain signatures against their career history in the Career Account document; and
- No requirement to provide a Master's level equivalence report, if this qualification (UK Level 7) is not held.

Where a candidate has had a non-linear career path, or whose eligibility for the 20+ route is borderline, they are encouraged to contact the Chartership Office for clarification before applying.

