

Malcolm Wright, Geography Consultant

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Malcolm Wright is a Geography Consultant from Kent. He was awarded Chartered Geographer (Teacher) status in 2007. Here's what he says about being a Chartered Geographer (Teacher)...

Why did you decide to apply to become a Chartered Geographer (Teacher)?

Having taught the subject for some 20+ years, with many as a Head of department or Faculty I thought that I needed a break in order to take a fresh look at where the subject and myself were going. I thought that by having the Chartered Geographer award some new avenues such as advisory or consultancy work might become available.

How did you find the application process?

The forms and application process is quite lengthy and detailed and so it should be in respect of an award of this importance. Co-ordinating referees replies can be a lengthy process especially at key or busy times in the school year. I found that the discipline required in respect of the self review and compiling the CPD log to be quite testing in order to present a concise yet supportive application.

What sort of experience and activities did you include in your professional self evaluation report?

The main focus on my self evaluation report was to show how the CPD that I had followed and then provided for other colleagues had shown my own developments and interests over the time span of about 15 years. The majority of my own CPD delivery was in connection of organising first as Hon Secretary and then as Chairman of the Kent Teachers` Branch of the Geographical Association a range of CPD opportunities and conferences to the geography teachers around the county and to support the work of the Kent County Advisers.

How have you benefited personally from gaining the accreditation?

I have gained respect from those who know about or who have asked about this qualification but there is still a lot of educating about the CGeog status to be done as few outside of the RGS/GA know anything about it at all! And I still have to utilise it into further advisory or consultancy work.

As the CGeog (Teacher) network grows, what would you like to see happen / be available to you?

As the network grows I would like to fully utilise my areas of interest and expertise (SE England, Thames Gateway and SE Coastal Morphology) in both work and possible publications/resources.

Any words of advice for aspiring Chartered Geographer (Teachers)?

Join in the various RGS and GA Networks that can be found on the web-sites. Through solidarity of approach we will cement the rightful place of geography on every child's` curriculum.