



Geographical Association

Furthering the learning and teaching of geography

Geographical Association Consultants

The GA holds a register of Consultants. This is partly to provide new opportunities for GA Members for to contribute to the GA's mission - 'to further the learning and teaching of geography' - according to their particular strengths and personal circumstances. GA Consultants enable the GA to respond in an agile and professional manner to requests from TV companies, publishers, government departments and such like for specialist advice and/or material on geography teaching. Consultants may also contribute to the assessment and evaluation of Quality Mark applications which the GA will provide training and instruction.

Working for the GA: some background

The GA has a permanently staffed office, led by the Chief Executive and supporting a membership of around 5,500 teachers and lecturers. The office is based in Sheffield and covers three major areas of activity: membership services and administration; business organisation and development; and publications and communications. From 2006 the GA is also, jointly and equally with the RGS-IBG, leading the DCSF funded Action Plan for Geography. The GA also leads funded curriculum development projects with partners such as DFID, The Wellcome Foundation, TDA, The Academy for Sustainable Communities and The Woodland Trust.

The professional staff of the GA includes teachers and trainers who lead funded project work. The GA has for some years now paid royalties to its book authors and honoraria to journal editors.

Volunteering for the GA: a vital contribution

Since its beginnings in 1893, the GA has developed and grown due to the dedication and enthusiasm of its volunteers.

The work of The Governing Body and the various groups that serve the Education Committee (the educational think tank of the GA) is essential. It provides an outlet for commitment and enthusiasm. Volunteers simply receive expenses to attend meetings in order to take various initiatives forward. Many active members choose to do 'stints' of such work from time to time - including, in a past life, the current Chief Executive. It is rewarding work and extremely important.

Most such volunteers have demanding 'day jobs'. It is possible to serve on a working group or committee, but almost impossible to do much else besides. We have been working hard to ensure that those who do volunteer in this way are set to work on the most significant tasks, and never stop thinking that they are serving on a committee merely for the benefit of that committee!

Getting involved in new ways: GA Consultants

Increasingly, the GA needs to be able to produce a report (often at short notice) on a proposed publication, some advice for a TV producer, some material for a government website... the list is growing.

In some cases, the GA can focus on producing a response using staff resources, particularly the Executive. But its efforts in this regard are finite. Volunteers can rarely give the GA their undivided attention, especially at short notice.

However, when a commercial 'client' can offer a fee, the opportunity exists to extend our services. Whilst volunteer groups may find it hard to react swiftly to a request for substantial work, individual consultants who are in a position to undertake paid assignments (in their spare time or because they work part-time) are in a different position.

What is a GA Consultant?

A GA Consultant is a person who is approved and registered with the GA. Many are teachers, some are advisors and inspectors, some are trainers. But all have recent and relevant experience in schools, classrooms and in geography. Registration needs to be confirmed annually and the register is reviewed every three years. The person is, all things being equal, 'available' to undertake curriculum development or advisory work, both small and large scale.

There are possibly many GA members who can contribute their experience in this way – and not necessarily during a career break. There is nothing to stop a member of a Working Group or Planning Committee from also engaging in this work (though as Trustees, members of the Governing Body are in a more delicate position). Thus, GA members who work part-time or who are recently retired or on a career break – or who just want something different to do on Sunday morning! - now have a potentially a useful way to maintain/extend earnings, engage in leading edge professional development work or simply to keep their 'eye in'.

To be registered as a GA Consultant is definitely a good thing for your CV.

How do I become a GA Consultant?

- You or your organisation/employer need to be a full member of the GA
- You need to be confident that you can fulfil these criteria:
 - you are a qualified teacher with a proven track record of success
 - you can communicate effectively, succinctly and accurately
 - you enjoy being inventive, finding and using resources creatively
 - you share a clear vision of the educational potential of geography for your phase of education
 - you support the GA's aims and its ethical and environmental policies

Of course, being accepted as GA Consultant unfortunately ~~does not~~ ^{guarantees} you work. So long as you renew/refresh your name on the list annually you stand a good chance, and you are free to use the term, or accolade, on your CV.

To Apply

Complete and return the attached application form via jbeattie@geography.org.uk post to: Julie Beattie at the Geographical Association, 160 Solly Street, Sheffield, S1 4BF.

Application For Geographical Association Consultant



**Geographical
Association**

160 Solly Street, Sheffield S1 4BF

Tel: 0114 296 0088

Fax: 0114 296 7176

Charity No: 1135148

Company No: 07139068

Chief Executive: Professor David Lambert

GA Membership Number:

Name:

Postal address:

Postcode:

Telephone Work:

Home:

E-mail address:

Current employment/circumstances:

Name and contact details of a referee (someone who knows your work):

Record of previous employment/experience in education:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Education and qualifications:

	Dates	Course	Institution
1			
2			
3			
4			

Main interest areas in geographical education:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Personal statement (no more than 250 words):

I would like to apply to become a GA Consultant because:

Signed.....