

Geography Ambassador scheme

The Geography Ambassador scheme recruits, trains and supports undergraduate, postgraduate and graduate geographers from universities and businesses to act as ambassadors for geography in the classroom and beyond.



Geography Ambassadors ©RGS-IBG

The Geography Ambassador scheme

The scheme is a great way to introduce pupils to the many tangible benefits of studying geography, widening their perceptions of the subject and encouraging them to pursue it beyond the compulsory stages to GCSE, A Level, and at university.

Ambassadors are positive role models for pupils and illustrate – via a range of informative, interactive and fun sessions – the transferable skills they have developed as geographers. The scheme works closely with schools, universities and businesses, strengthening the links between them on a local, regional and national scale.

Visits are arranged by Ambassadors directly with schools, through our closed Geography Ambassador Facebook group and by the Project Coordinator.

Training

In order to become a Geography Ambassador, you will need to attend a four and a half hour training session which will take place either at your university or at the Society in London. The training aims to provide you with everything you need in order to feel confident in your new role and it is a lively, fun and hands-on way of getting acquainted with the scheme.

Role description

- To be an enthusiastic, positive role model to students
- To organise and facilitate visits by liaising with teachers, other Ambassadors and the Project Coordinator
- To be pro-active in engaging with schools that are not familiar with the scheme in your local and university area
- To create sessions, activities and workshops for school visits and events (you will receive ongoing help and support with this)
- To volunteer at Society events and other events associated with the scheme
- To have a positive attitude, be pro-active and show willingness and enthusiasm in undertaking the variety of tasks the scheme offers
- To adhere to the scheme's Code of Conduct

Sessions

We are grateful for your commitment, enthusiasm and time as we recognise you have study and/or work priorities to balance. However, we do ask that you undertake at least five sessions during your first year as an Ambassador. The first of these must take place within six months of your training.

Sessions may include the following subjects, themes and ideas:

- The breadth of the subject, with the aim of dispelling students' preconceptions and broadening their knowledge of what studying geography can offer
- Specific areas of GCSE and A Level syllabi, as requested by the teacher
- Geographical careers
- Geographical techniques
- Why you love geography, what you're studying, your specific interests and your experience of the subject at university
- Getting students to think about big questions
- University life, the application process and hints and tips for successful studying

You may also be invited to:

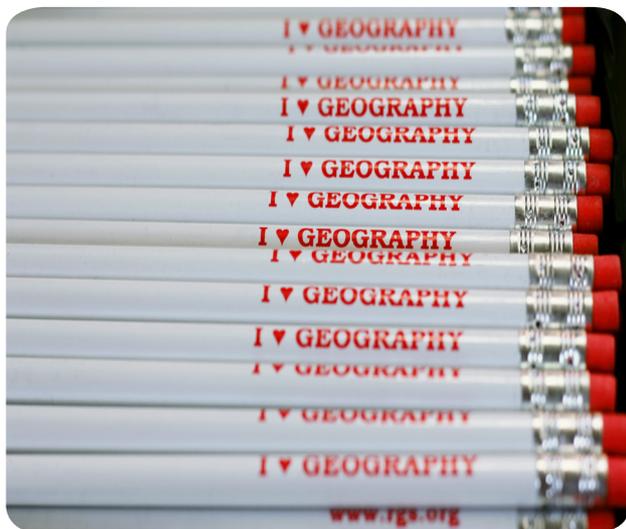
- Support fieldwork and fieldtrips – locally, nationally and internationally
- Help out at special events at schools, universities and other organisations – including careers evenings, geography clubs and workshops
- Volunteer at events at the Society – including Going Places with Geography, Bridging the Gap, GIS Day and the Children’s Lecture – alongside other events associated with the scheme

“As a keen geographer I was very excited to go and spread the geography love and it was very rewarding to do so.”

Isabel Emerson, University of Sheffield

Key Skills and Experience

- Passion and enthusiasm for geography and promoting it to others
- A ‘can-do’ attitude
- The desire to become actively involved in a largely autonomous volunteer scheme, being pro-active setting up school visits and helping at events
- A desire to share experience and knowledge with other Ambassadors, pool resources, share ideas and be a part of the Ambassador community
- Experience of working with young people and/or a willingness to work with them
- Strong communication skills alongside a willingness to develop and improve them
- The ability to use your initiative, think quickly and imaginatively, especially in delivering sessions to students



Geography Ambassador pencils ©RGS-IBG

“The Ambassadors were excellent in engaging students and inspiring them. They ensured that the students understood the importance of geography in a fun, interesting and motivational way.”
Millie Harris, King Edward VI Community College

What do you get in return?

- The opportunity to make a direct, positive impact on students’ understanding and enthusiasm about geography
- The opportunity to be part of a scheme with over 2,000 active volunteers and a vibrant community at a renowned geographical institution
- Improved presenting, interpersonal and organisational skills
- Experience of developing your own resources, sessions and presentations
- Excellent work experience, especially if you are considering becoming a teacher
- The chance to develop your geographical and professional networks with undergraduates, graduates in the workplace, teachers and businesses
- The opportunity to join the Society as a Fellow or member
- Full travel expenses and resource costs will be paid by the Society

If you are interested in becoming part of the scheme or have any questions, please contact Simon Faulkner, Project Coordinator
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