**Background**

Knowledge and understanding are important components of professional competence. Formal education is the usual, although not the only, way of demonstrating the necessary knowledge and understanding, and the following Master’s-level qualifications exemplify the required knowledge and understanding for Chartered Geologists.

**The Geological Society** now requires candidates for CGeol to hold a recognised degree at M-level; or to have post-graduation experience to demonstrate M-level attainment.

M-level degrees include not only the 1-year vocational MSc degrees but also the Integrated Masters degrees (MGeol, MSci, MESci, etc).

Applicants who have a Bachelor's level degree only, are required to demonstrate that they have accumulated the same level of academic knowledge and understanding as that for Applicants who hold exemplifying qualifications. This requirement may be satisfied either by:

1. Further learning, or
2. Experiential learning.

Further learning means gaining further qualifications, either in whole or in part, and could be an MSc programme or other selected modules or units that may be sufficient to top up their qualifications to the required standard.

Experiential learning is learning that has been acquired through a range of unstructured experience as well as structured learning that has been gained in the workplace rather than formal educational programmes. Any additional academic qualifications that have been achieved are also relevant in demonstrating geoscientific knowledge and understanding.

Experiential learning may be shown by the submission of a report of approximately 2 000 words demonstrating how their learning meets M-level equivalence. Note that any longer reports will be returned for editing. The report must show that the Applicant has undertaken technical geoscience work at a level equivalent to, or higher than, that of an MSc dissertation. An appropriate Supporting Document may be nominated to demonstrate Master’s level equivalence.

The Applicant must attest that the report represents their own work, and the Society reserves the right to make enquiries as to authenticity. Where the work reported has been carried out with the Applicant working as part of a team, it is imperative that the Applicant's contributions to the work are clearly delineated and due acknowledgement given to the contributions of the other team members.

Types of work that may form the basis of the Master’s Equivalence Report correspond in level to project reports produced in the final year of a four-year integrated Master’s degree, or a one-year MSc programme, but need not be a thesis. They may include, *inter alia*:

* Investigation and reporting of a project/problem in any area of Geoscience
* A piece of academic research published in a peer reviewed journal
* An internal technical report
* Design and analysis of a survey of, eg, contaminated land with recommendations and conclusions
* An assessment of a landfill site and its possible impact on adjacent groundwater systems or gas generation
* Environmental impact assessment that contains a significant geoscience component
* A geophysical survey, including interpretation
* A modelling-based investigation of a geological, geophysical or geochemical phenomenon

NB -This list is not exhaustive or prescriptive.

The report submitted of any project should include information that might be presented with the following parts:

* A clear description of the aims of the project;
* A description of how the project was carried out;
* An outline of the results achieved and their interpretation;
* An evaluation of the project in terms of the skills and knowledge developed in order to complete the project.

The report will be assessed for Masters Equivalence by Scrutineers who will be appointed by the Chartership Officer and who will also assess the overall application for CGeol. These Scrutineers will be selected for their knowledge of the subject area of expertise/competence claimed by the Applicant.

Assessment of Equivalence will be made solely on the Report submitted.

If an application for CGeol is unsuccessful then a new submission may be made at any time, without prejudice.