

# GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONS SCHEME - 2025

---

### PURPOSE

To improve relationships with geoscience students, staff and faculty at GSL accredited universities in the UK. With the aims of:

- Promoting GSL activities, events and information relevant to the community.
- Establishing a network of champions throughout the community to help coordinate and support their efforts.
- Driving recruitment and member retention, especially at the student level.

### ROLE DESCRIPTION

University Champions will be Fellows of the Society, typically a member of staff within an academic department. They will act as a point of contact for the Society, engaging with students to inform them of events and opportunities available to them via the Society as well as other membership benefits that can support their professional development. University Champions are expected to be active and engage with students at least once per semester and should remain in regular informal contact throughout the academic year.

Champions will focus their efforts on:

- Engaging students and promoting the benefits of GSL membership (and the potential career opportunities pursuing CGeol can offer)
- Highlighting upcoming events, training courses and opportunities for research grants, scholarships etc.
- Encouraging students to engage with GSL awards, especially the Early Career Funds.
- Establishing links with relevant Regional Groups ensuring students are aware of activities in their area as well as the potential networking opportunities available to them.
- Encouraging students to join relevant Specialist Groups and benefit from the potential networking opportunities on offer.

### SOCIETY SUPPORT

Champions will receive dedicated email newsletters from the Society that will provide them with regular updates about upcoming events, activities, training courses, calls for research grant applications, award nominations, and other relevant opportunities as they arise throughout the year.

The Society will organise online drop-in sessions, allowing Champions to interact with one another, discuss potential issues, suggest solutions, as well as give feedback on the scheme to help make improvements over time. In addition, a University Champions Teams channel will be

created to allow for more informal communications throughout the year between the network of University Champions and Society staff.

The Society will provide an annual update to University Champions, including a PowerPoint presentation summarising, in detail, all the membership benefits available to students, which can be shared with student communities throughout the year.

All University Champions will be encouraged to serve for three-year periods, subject to satisfying the requirements of the role (reviewed annually).

### **UNIVERSITY CHAMPION BENEFITS (EXCLUSIVE)**

- Discount on GSL fellowship rates for duration of post - 25%.
- Free (virtual) registration for a GSL conference of their choice, annually.

### **STUDENT BENEFITS**

- Free access to all virtual GSL conferences throughout the year
- Free quarterly Geoscientist magazine
- Connect with a larger network of your peers
- Enjoy a more varied events calendar with your discounted rates!
- Access to Burlington House for research and study purposes
- Dedicated student events & opportunities throughout the year
- Heavily discounted rates to GSL Training Courses, supplementing your degree in topics not yet in your curriculum
- Learn about all GSL funding opportunities and how to apply
- Learn about academic publishing and how to get published from the GSL Publishing House Team
- Get involved in our policy work with an introduction from our Policy Team
- Learn about the career benefits of pursuing Chartership from the GSL Chartership Team

### **DISCLAIMER STATEMENT**

The role of a University Champion is voluntary, and it will only require a couple of hours per semester of your time as a minimum. However, where possible we encourage our University Champions to engage regularly with their student community, and the Society, according to what works best for you. We want to ensure that being a GSL University Champion is an enjoyable and rewarding role, and we also recognise that life changes, sometimes unexpectedly, so you are welcome at any point to step away from the role should you need to do so.