

Geography Ambassadors

RSGS Pilot Scheme – Introduction for Teachers

The Geography Ambassadors scheme recruits, trains and supports undergraduate, postgraduate and graduate geographers from universities and businesses to act as ambassadors for Geography in schools and colleges. The RSGS is now running a one-year pilot scheme in Scotland, supporting geographers who want to share their passion for their subject with Edinburgh and Glasgow schools and colleges, and inviting schools to register their interest in a session.

The scheme is a great way to introduce school pupils to the many benefits of studying Geography, broadening their perspective of the subject and encouraging them to choose Geography at National, Higher and Advanced Higher levels, as well as at university.

Ambassadors are trained to deliver informative, interactive and fun sessions, which highlight the broad range of topics that are covered at university and the array of transferable skills they have developed as geographers. Visits are arranged through the RSGS's volunteer project co-ordinators, Rachel Hay and Addy Pope, who will support Ambassadors and teachers to find suitable dates and times for visits, and decide on session content.

Training

In October 2015, selected undergraduate and postgraduate students will be trained by staff from the Royal Geographical Society, which has run this scheme very successfully in England and Wales for over ten years. The training session aims to provide Geography Ambassadors with everything they will need to feel confident in their new role.

Role Description

Geography Ambassadors are expected to:

- be enthusiastic, positive role models for pupils;
- adhere to the scheme's Code of Conduct (please see separate document);
- communicate effectively with the project co-ordinators when organising sessions;
- plan and deliver sessions, activities and workshops for school visits and events (with ongoing support from the project co-ordinators);
- be proactive in engaging with schools in their local area that are not yet familiar with the scheme, encourage them to get involved, and promote the work of the RSGS;
- have the desire to become actively involved in a largely autonomous volunteer scheme, and be pro-active to make sessions as effective as possible;
- agree to share experience, ideas and resources with other Ambassadors and the project co-ordinators;
- be reliable and punctual.

Sessions

Sessions may include the following subjects, themes and ideas:

- why the Ambassador loves Geography, what they are studying, their specific interests and future aspirations;
- the breadth of the subject, with the aim of dispelling pupils' preconceptions and broadening their knowledge of what studying Geography can offer;
- specific areas of National, Higher and Advanced Higher courses, as requested by the teacher;
- geographical methods and techniques;
- geographical careers;
- getting pupils to explore big questions and contemporary issues such as news events;
- university applications, university life and hints and tips for effective studying.

Ambassadors may also be asked to:

- support fieldwork and fieldtrips – locally, nationally and internationally (costs to be met by the school);
- help out at special events in schools, universities and other organisations, including careers evenings, Geography clubs and workshops;
- volunteer at RSGS events, for example *Inspiring People* public talks, Geography Day, *Scotland Rocks* Earth Science Conference.

If you would like more information, or would like to arrange a workshop for your pupils, please contact ambassadors@rsgs.org or 01738 455050.