

## Geography Quality Mark – Frequently Asked Questions

### **Can I use the GQM framework in our school without applying for the award?**

As a non-profit organisation the GA needs to recoup the costs of managing the QM frameworks including intellectual development work, professional moderation and administration, therefore we can only share the full framework with schools who have registered.

### **How do I apply?**

Apply online on the GA website or email [info@geography.org.uk](mailto:info@geography.org.uk) to register your interest.

### **How much does it cost, how and when do I pay?**

The cost is worked out by your number on role (NOR) and you can find full costs on the Geography Quality Mark pages. Payment is expected at the point of registration. Schools can be invoiced when a Purchase Order number is provided.

### **How long does the process take?**

The GQM process is designed to run within an academic year; however evidence from the previous year can be included. Registration is in the Autumn Term and the data dashboard and self-evaluation are submitted in the Spring Term. You can add to your workbook throughout the year and your portfolio will be auto-submitted by PebblePad in the Summer Term.

### **My school is in Wales, can I submit my application in Welsh?**

Yes. The examples of children's work can be submitted in Welsh and will be assessed by a member of our Welsh speaking moderation team. However, we ask that the framework is completed in English to allow other moderators to assess the overall application. Please do contact the GA at [info@geography.org.uk](mailto:info@geography.org.uk) for more information.

### **Can an overseas school apply for the award?**

Yes. The frameworks are based around UK national quality benchmarks but they can be successfully applied to any curriculum, therefore any school can apply.

### **Can an independent school apply for the award?**

Yes, any school can achieve a Geography Quality Mark

### **I have an application form from a previous round, can I use it?**

No, you must complete the workbook on your workspace and this will only allow you access to the current framework.

### **How many schools have achieved the award?**

In the last decade over 1500 schools have been awarded a Geography Quality Mark. Maps of current award holders are available on the Geography Quality Mark webpages.

### **How much evidence will I need to prepare?**

You will need to submit evidence/commentary for each of the indicators in the workbook. There are 21 indicators for the PGQM and 22 for the SGQM.

### **Can I submit evidence from previous academic years?**

We prefer to see work that you have done in this academic year, however we will accept some earlier evidence up to a maximum of two years previous.

**What type of evidence do I need to submit?**

We expect you to include examples of teaching ideas, planning, policy and development planning, assessment and pupils' work. All evidence should include a statement of context and a brief commentary as to why it has been included.

**Do you visit schools?**

No, we do not routinely visit Quality Mark schools and therefore it is important that the evidence and commentary you provide clearly tell us the story of geography in your school.

**What if my application is going to be late?**

It is very important that you meet both the data dashboard and final submission deadline. The administration of the Geography Quality Mark is a significant piece of work and failure to meet this deadline may incur additional cost. However, if there are extenuating circumstances which mean that your submission is likely to be late then please ask your Headteacher to contact us immediately.

**Can I defer my entry if I am not able to complete it within the registration year?**

In extenuating circumstances, it is possible to defer your submission until the following year. There is a £50 administration fee applicable.

**What happens after I have submitted my application?**

Your application will be auto-submitted on the deadline date. Following the assessment and moderation process all successful schools will receive a certificate and the use of the Geography Quality Mark logo.

**How is my application assessed?**

The awards will be assessed on the basis of your evidence and reflective commentary. All applications are assessed by experienced geography educators and then moderated by the team. This rigorous quality assurance process ensures that the award is standardized.

**What if we apply for the GQM but after moderation we do not achieve the level desired?**

Our judgements are based on the application you make and the evidence you provide. The evidence we receive should tell a clear story about the geography in your school and its impact on pupils. Your submission will be awarded according to how you have fulfilled the required criteria. If your submission does not reach the required level you will be given feedback and advice on resubmitting (fees may apply).

**How long does the award last for?**

Three years. You will be notified when you need to re-register and submit again for continuous GQM status.

**What advice and support are available to me?**

Detailed support, guidance and exemplification is available via your workbook. There will also be two webinars offering guidance and you can join our online community for further support. Professional advice is available from the GA Primary Curriculum Leader or Head of Professional Development. If you would like a consultant to the GA to visit, at an additional fee, or if you have any other administrative enquiries, please contact [info@geography.org.uk](mailto:info@geography.org.uk).

**Can the GA use our materials after submission?**

Please note that all material will become copyright of the GA. Your evidence may be shared with a wider audience (conferences, GA website etc.) to exemplify good practice. By submitting evidence, you are giving your agreement to this possibility so please consider child protection and copyright issues carefully.

**Does the school need to be a member of the GA?**

Yes, only GA members can apply for the Geography Quality Marks. For more information and to join the GA go to <https://www.geography.org.uk/Reasons-to-Join>.