



New Zealand Geographical Society Inc.
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New Zealand Geographical Society

GUIDELINES FOR FELLOW'S NOMINATION / APPLICATION

Why be a Fellow?

Acquiring the status of Fellow or Life Fellow means that the New Zealand Geographical Society (NZGS) recognises and acknowledges individuals who have made a significant contribution to any of the fields of geographic education, practice or research in New Zealand.

While joining the NZGS provides members with collegial and vibrant networking opportunities, access to the latest research (including the *New Zealand Geographer*), webinars and discussion groups, sounding boards for new ideas, and opportunities to share understanding of 'our place', it's the Fellows who have led these activities. Having the status of a Fellow recognises this and proves that your record of achievement in the discipline has been scrutinised and endorsed by your peers.

Fellows may use the acronym *FNZGS* on business cards, labels etc. They are eligible to attend NZGS Fellows' dinners and other prestigious occasions, are involved in nominating other members as Fellows and identifying potential 'Life Fellows'.

How to become a Fellow

To be appointed as a Fellow, a geographer must be a member of the NZGS, and either a leader in teaching, practicing or researching geography in New Zealand, or have made a significant contribution to the field of geography (that is, have a sufficient and demonstrated involvement in geography or allied subject through training, professional work, research, publications or other work of a similar nature), and/or had not less than five years continuous commitment and service to the NZGS or the New Zealand Board of Geography Teachers (NZBoGT), or similar international organisation. Retired geographers are also encouraged to apply.

Fellows' Approvals Committee

The status of Fellow is awarded by the NZGS Council on the recommendation of a Sub-Committee of Council (the Fellows' Approvals Committee). The Fellows' Approvals Committee is made up of the President, Past-President, and Vice-President. The Committee will also co-opt two Fellows from among the Society's members.

The Committee will meet (either in person or via electronic media) up to three times a year, and will forward its recommendations to the Council for ratification.

Applications and Nominations

Members may apply at any time to become a Fellow. Members of the NZGS (in good financial standing) may:

- self nominate
- be nominated by an existing Fellow
- be invited to apply to become a Fellow/Life Fellow by the Fellows' Approvals Committee.

Eligibility

Existing Life Members of the Society automatically become 'Life Fellows'. They are not liable for the annual fee (but are welcome to make donations to the Society).

Holders of the Distinguished NZ Geographer Medal are automatically eligible to become Fellows. Recipients of this award become Fellows by paying the annual Fellow's membership fee.

With the exception of the above two categories, Fellows must meet the following criteria:

- be a financial member of the NZGS (retention of the title Fellow requires payment of the annual Fellow's membership fee).
- provide a short **curriculum vitae** – this may include for example:
 - academic qualifications
 - professional positions held
 - present and/or past professional speciality/research specialities
 - years of experience as a geographer
 - professional distinctions and memberships (honours, prizes, or governance roles eg HoD, etc)
 - list of publications such as reports, conference proceedings, articles, books, book chapters, books edited, etc (noting those that have been peer reviewed)
 - research work (title, principal outcome, impact of the work, main end-users)
- provide a **nomination citation** (maximum one page) setting out the reasons why the member should be nominated as a Fellow (or Life Fellow). Note: this may be written by the nominee or the nominator. These contributions and service to geography may take various forms and include such activities as:
 - scholarship of importance to geography in schools or universities or other tertiary organisations;
 - scholarship of high international and/or national standing or significance;
 - community-oriented service that has promoted the use of geographical knowledge and skills;
 - policy contributions in local, national or international spheres that add to the scientific or practical application of geographical skills and expertise;
 - sustained contributions to the NZGS or the NZBoGT and/or the International Geographical Union and its activities;
 - business contributions that promote the work of geography and geographers (e.g. web or textbook resources for schools in New Zealand or elsewhere, consultancy work or relating to services or products relevant to geography);
 - professional activities that show the contribution of geography and geographers (e.g. primary, intermediate or high school teaching, work as planners in territorial local authorities or as policy analysts in central government);
 - any other activity that demonstrates, adds to or creates value from engagement in geographic endeavours in or about Aotearoa / New Zealand.

Fellows do not necessarily require formal academic qualifications in geography, but must have standing in the geography community as a person who has contributed to the body of geographic knowledge, or has fostered understanding of the discipline, or has made a significant contribution to geographic education, practice and/or research in New Zealand (*see below*).

Where to send applications

Applications may be emailed to the NZGS at the email address admin@nzgs.co.nz with "Fellowship Application" in the subject line; or **five copies** of the application may be posted to

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Significant Contribution

To be nominated as a Fellow, members must demonstrate a significant contribution to the discipline of geography and/or the NZGS in one or more of the following areas:

Research: Evidence of verified high quality and sustained research activity in geography or related subject that results in peer-reviewed publications (books or journals). Such output should be at a sufficient level (of national and/or international standing). The Approvals Committee would have discretion to consider research outputs outside these guidelines.

Teaching: Evidence of high quality and sustained teaching of geography or related subjects in tertiary or secondary education institutions. Such evidence should include one or more of the following: student and/or peer assessment, curriculum development, innovation in teaching practice, and recognition of teaching excellence by other bodies. The Approvals Committee would have discretion to consider teaching achievements outside these guidelines.

Professional activity: Evidence of high quality and sustained contributions to public policy and service, or private enterprise, which uses geographical training, skills, concepts or insights. These may include policy documents, professional training courses run, consultancy reports and the like. Evidence of professional standing, in terms of peer recognition, is desirable.

Service: Evidence of sustained and substantial service to the wider geographical community. This would particularly involve service to the Society, NZBoGT and their branches but may include service to other geographical associations and institutions.