International Professional Geology Licensure

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In August 2025, The Geological Society of America (GSA) Council approved "The Benefits of Professional Geologist Licensure," a Position Statement describing GSA's consensus views in support of licensure for professional geologists (GSA, 2025). This Position Statement encourages federal and state governments to support existing licensure standards and to promote licensure requirements for professional geologists where they are not yet established.

In the U.S., the American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG, www.aipg.org) and the Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG, www.asbog.org) are the primary organizations through which geologists can obtain professional credentials. While both accreditations attest to a geologist's ability to perform high-quality professional work, only the Professional Geologist (PG) license obtained through ASBOG satisfies licensure requirements established by statute in states that mandate licensure. Certifications provided by professional societies (such as AIPG's Certified Professional Geologist [CPG]) and other specialty organizations, such as those focused on the fossil fuel or mineral industries, while stringent, do not confer legal authority to practice in a regulatory capacity (GSA, 2025).

As of July 2025, 31 U.S. states and Puerto Rico require ASBOG PG licensure for geologists working in fields that affect public health, safety, and welfare (ASBOG, 2025a). These requirements pertain primarily to practice in applied fields, and generally exclude individuals engaged in teaching, academic research, or federal government oversight, or work within energy and mineral companies operating in their own domains, which are typically exempt (GSA, 2025). For applied professionals, licensure through entities like ASBOG—and, in some contexts, professional certification through AIPG—provides mechanisms to avoid unnecessary and adverse outcomes and to uphold health, safety, and professional standards.

ASBOG offers two levels of certification: the Fundamentals of Geology (FG) and the Practice of Geology (PG). Candidates typically sit for the FG exam soon after completing the requirements of their major or earning their bachelor's degree, depending on state-specific rules. PG candidates must complete three to seven years of qualifying work under the supervision of a licensed professional geologist before they are eligible to take the exam (ASBOG, 2025b). While ASBOG itself does not mandate continuing education, many states that rely on ASBOG examinations have their own continuing education requirements, which vary from voluntary to mandatory on an annual or biennial basis (AGI, 2025).

AIPG offers Certified Professional Geologist (CPG) membership to geologists who voluntarily undergo a rigorous and thorough peer-review process that carefully evaluates their education, experience, technical competence, and ethical conduct. Applicants must have, at a minimum, a bachelor's degree in the geological sciences, plus a given number of years of professional geological work experience correlated to their level of formal education (AIPG, 2025a). Unlike U.S. state licensure, AIPG's CPG membership is recognized internationally and is open to geoscientists worldwide; AIPG members currently represent more than 50 countries.

AIPG's CPG status is recognized in several international regulatory contexts, such as the preparation of mining reports under Canadian, U.S., and international standards. AIPG has established International Reciprocity Agreements with the European Federation of Geologists (EFG), the Institute of Geologists of Ireland (IGI), the Geological Society of London (GSL), and the Association of Mining Engineers, Metallurgists and Geologists of México (AIMMGM), among others, as well as cooperation agreements with additional organizations (AIPG, 2025b). CPGs may also qualify as "Qualified Persons" in Canada if they have experience in specific types of mineral deposits as dictated by the Committee for Mineral Reserves International Reporting Standards (CRIRSCO); the South African Code for the Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Mineral Reserves (SAMREC) Code, 2016 Edition; or the Australian Joint Ore Reserves Committee (JORC; AIPG, 2025b).

AIPG does not currently require continuing education credits for renewal for maintenance of CPG certification, although professional development is strongly encouraged.

LICENSURE IN SELECT COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD

Within this framework, the professional geology licensure landscape in several countries is examined and compared with U.S. licensure practices. A summary of requirements across the ten countries reviewed is provided in the accompanying comparative table.

Two general categories emerged from this limited survey: countries that require national licensure to practice geology and those that do not. In the countries with professional licensure requirements, several criteria are common, such as a geoscience degree, supervised experience, and completion of a professional exam. Countries without U.S.-style professional licensure exhibit greater variability in professional regulation.

Countries such as the U.S., Canada, Australia, and many European nations maintain stringent requirements in addition to an accredited degree in geoscience, typically including several years of supervised practice, a strict professional examination, and yearly or biennial continuing professional development. In Europe, the European Geologist (EurGeol) professional title is granted by the European Federation of Geologists (EFG) and serves as a widely recognized professional credential.

Reciprocity agreements exist between the EurGeol designation and professional institutions such as AIPG, the Canadian Council of Professional Geologists, Australian Institute of Geoscientists (AIG), and the Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA). These agreements facilitate mutual recognition of professional standards and support recognition of the EurGeol-accredited geologist's qualifications and competence in these countries. In the United Kingdom, the Geological Society of London serves as the National Vetting Committee (NVC) and manages the process of vetting applications for EurGeol applications from their membership. The EFG International Licensed Body processes applications from France and other countries in Europe without their own NVCs (EFG, 2025).

In the Latin American countries included in this review, geology degrees (Licenciaturas) obtained in accredited academic institutions must be registered with their respective government agencies to obtain legal validity. Argentina issues a national license through the Consejo Superior Profesional de Geología; in addition, some provinces have their own Consejos, which issue licenses for work within their provincial boundaries.

In Australia, professional credentials are obtained through professional organizations—including the Geological Society of Australia, the Australian Institute of Geoscientists, and the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy—which share educational requirements but have different requirements for supervised work and peer recognition. Nigeria and South Africa both have strong registration mandates, with the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) offering three registration categories (Candidate, Certificated, and Professional) based on experience and academic qualifications.

Some countries included in this survey, such as India and Australia, do not mandate universal professional licensure at the national level, although licensure may be required in specific sectors, such as mining (see Table for details). France and the United Kingdom rely on the EurGeol professional title rather than national license. While the U.S. and Canada also lack a national licensure requirement, their case is somewhat different from the other countries included in this survey because of the strong state/provincial role in licensing (ASBOG in the U.S. and professional regulators in the provinces and territories of Canada), coupled with the lack of statutory national licensure boards.

Requirements for supervised experience can range from none required (Argentina), to an expectation that the geologist has several nonmandatory months or years of experience (India), to mandatory minimums of six months to five years in most other countries in this survey.

Continuing professional development similarly varies from country to country. In some cases, it is encouraged but voluntary (e.g., India, Nigeria, México), while in others, it is mandatory and an integral part of preserving a geologist's licensure status (e.g., EurGeol, Australian professional licenses, and the P.Geo. licenses in Canadian provinces and territories). Noncompliance with continuing professional development risks license suspension or revocation.

The recognition of foreign professional qualifications generally requires the evaluation and revalidation of the educational credentials of the candidate. Nigeria's Council of Nigerian Mining Engineers and Geoscientists (COMEG) requires foreign-trained geologists to apply for registration regardless of prior licensure or certification in other countries. South Africa requires validation of local and international qualifications through the South African Qualifications Authority, especially for non–South African degrees. Both México and Argentina require mandatory validation of degrees. Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR for its Spanish initials) members such as Argentina enjoy facilitated professional title recognition (MERCOSUR, 2025). In India, the National Core Committee for Reporting Mineral Resources and Reserves (NACRI), a voluntary and independent group of domain experts of geosciences and mining, has developed the Indian Mineral

Industry Code (IMIC), a CRIRSCO-compliant Reserves Reporting System that has yet to be legalized by the Indian government (Rao and Samal, 2021).

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AI TOOLS

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International Professional Geology Licensure

Argentina

Education	Supervised Work	Professional License/ Main Regulatory Body	National Licensure	State/Provincial Licensure	Continuing Professional Development (CPD)	Special Cases	International Qualifications	Sources
BS in geology (without thesis) or Licenciatura (with thesis) from an Argentinian institution. Professional title awarded by the university on graduation.	No.	The professional title needs to be registered in the Ministry of Education's National Registry of Titles and Certificates with National Validity (ReNaV, abbr. in Spanish). ReNaV is managed by the Argentinian government, specifically under the national mining and geology authorities. The licensing body is the Consejo Superior Profesional de Geología (CSPG).	Yes. CSPG. No exam is required.	Some Argentinian provinces have their own professional councils (Colegios or Consejos Profesionales) or regulatory bodies. These may require additional registration or licensing for work conducted in that province.	Professional associations and societies might offer certifications or membership for geologists, but not legal right to practice.	No.	Validation of academic titles by the Dirección Nacional de Gestión Universitaria is mandatory. Additional coursework if needed. Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) membership facilitates professional title recognition among member countries.	Parellada (1972)

Australia

Education	Supervised Work	Professional License/ Main Regulatory Body	National Licensure	State/Provincial Licensure	Continuing Professional Development (CPD)	Special Cases	International Qualifications	Sources
BS or MS in geoscience or equivalent.	Yes. Years of supervised or relevant work experience needed vary by professional organization.	Yes. Through professional organizations: Geological Society of Australia (GSA), Australian Institute of Geoscientists (AIG), and the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM). GSA: Ac.Geo.5 (5–10 yr experience) and Ac.Geo.10 (10+ yr experience) plus peer review, sponsorship, code of ethics. AIG: Registered Professional Geoscientist (RPGeo; minimum amt of experience and support from proposers and referees). AusIMM: Chartered Professional (CP; 5+ yr experience plus peer recognition).	No. Professional recognition through GSA (voluntary), AIG (voluntary, rigorous), AusIMM (recognition for CP) membership plus relevant work experience.	No.	Yes. GSA accredited: 30–50 h/yr; AIG RPGeo: >50 h/yr (most rigorous CPD program); AusIMM Chartered Professional: 30–50 h/yr. Academics exempted.	RPGeo or CP increasingly expected, esp. for Competent Person (legal signing) under the Joint Ore Reserves Committee (JORC) Code.	VETASSESS assesses supervised work (work experience) and education for geologist visa applicants mapped to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) 234411 duties.	EFG (2025b) IAH (2025) VETASSESS (2025)

Canada

Education	Supervised Work	Professional License/ Main Regulatory Body	National Licensure	State/Provincial Licensure	Continuing Professional Development (CPD)	Special Cases	International Qualifications	Sources
BS in an area of geoscience from a recognized institution. Note: the degree needs to include specific courses.	Minimum of 48 mo supervised geoscience work experience.	Yes. Geoscience is a regulated profession in Canada. By law, need to register as a Professional Geoscientist (P.Geo.) and obtain P.Geo. license from the professional regulator in a Canadian province or territory. In addition, good character, proficiency in the language of business where practicing, and passing the National Professional Practice Exam (NPPE). The NPPE assesses knowledge of professional law, ethics, and the responsibilities related to practicing geoscience in Canada.	No. Provincial exams are required to obtain P.Geo. licenses.	Yes, from the professional regulator in a Canadian province or territory. Many provinces offer Geoscientist-in-Training (GIT) programs to recent graduates or employees working towards licensure: not mandatory. NPPE required.	Most regulatory bodies have specified annual CPD activity requirements for P.Geos.	Mining requires "Qualified Person" status with additional requirements. Geoscience Knowledge and Experience (GKE) requirements for professional registration in Canada vary whether it is outside of Québec (based on common course syllabus) or within Québec (approved university programs or a different course syllabus).	Provincial and territorial regulatory bodies are the direct licensors and assessors of international geology credentials in Canada, supported by federal and national information and facilitation services.	EFG (2025b) IAH (2025) VETASSESS (2025)

France

Education	Supervised Work	Professional License/ Main Regulatory Body	National Licensure	State/Provincial Licensure	Continuing Professional Development (CPD)	Special Cases	International Qualifications	Sources
BS, MS, or engineering diploma from an accredited French university or engineering school.	Yes. Several years.	Recommended: European Geologist (EurGeol) title granted by European Federation of Geologists (EFG). Application and requirements administered by the French Geological Society (SGF). Payment of SGF dues and adherence to EFG's code of ethics. CNISF (Le Conseil National des Ingénieurs et des Scientifiques de France) maintains the French Directory of Engineers. Total number of years required is a minimum of 9 (4 yr of study plus 5 yr of practice or 3 yr of study plus 6 yr of practice).	No. EurGeol is a professional title. Geologists must be registered with relevant professional bodies. EurGeol vetting is done by the EFG International Licensed Body (ILB). There is a specific process to apply for the EurGeol title under the ILB.	No.	Yes. Reported in the EurGeol Portal, ensuring compliance with category and total point requirements. Completion of EurGeol Survey annually.	Specific highly regulated fields such as mining geology, environmental geology involving site decontamination, and geoengineering require extra certification or formal professional recognition. May require authorization under the Mining Code.	Reciprocity recognition agreements being set with American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG) and the Canadian Council of Professional Geologists (CCPG). European geologists with additional knowledge recognized by the mineral reporting authorities in Australia, Canada, South Africa, and the UK.	EFG (2025b) Gallin and Demiris (2019)

India

Education	Supervised Work	Professional License/ Main Regulatory Body	National Licensure	State/Provincial Licensure	Continuing Professional Development (CPD)	Special Cases	International Qualifications	Sources
BS or higher in geology or related earth sciences from a recognized institution.	No mandatory supervised training period before practicing independently. Many employers expect candidates to have practical experience.	There is no separate licensing board or mandatory certification body. To work in government, candidate must pass the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Combined Geoscientist/Geologist Exam or state public service commission exams. Professional recognition largely depends on university credentials and qualifying government exams for certain positions. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) does not issue professional licenses but is a major employer and certifier for geological expertise through training and employment.	No statutory national licensing board mandates specific educational curricula beyond holding a recognized degree.	No. The regulation and professional recognition of geologists in India are not governed by any statutory state-level boards.	Professional development and ongoing education for geologists in India is typically voluntary and encouraged by professional societies such as GSI, but these do not impose mandatory CPD requirements.	The only exception is in the mining sector. Professionals who want to submit mine plans need to register with the Indian Government's Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM; Ministry of Mines) and are designated as Registered Qualified Persons (RQP).	For international geology degrees, the recognizing authority is the University Grants Commission (UGC) through the new Recognition and Grant of Equivalence Regulations (2025). The eligibility criteria include the recognition of foreign institution, curriculum, and credit alignment.	Tandon (2025) *India Today* (2025)

México

Education	Supervised Work	Professional License/ Main Regulatory Body	National Licensure	State/Provincial Licensure	Continuing Professional Development (CPD)	Special Cases	International Qualifications	Sources
BS or higher in geology or related earth sciences from a recognized institution.	Yes. Servicio social. Typically 480 hours within a 6-mo to 2-yr period.	For international geology degrees, the recognizing authority is the University Grants Commission (UGC) through the new Recognition and Grant of Equivalence Regulations (2025). The eligibility criteria include the recognition of foreign institution, curriculum, and credit alignment.	Yes, Cédula Profesional. No specialized examination needed.	No.	Yes. Encouraged to take courses, seminars, workshops, or other professional development activities approved by relevant regulatory or professional bodies.The number of hours or the types of acceptable continuing education may vary depending on local or national regulations and professional organizations.	Mining, environmental, and construction industries require additional certifications or membership in certain professional associations, such as the Colegio de Ingenieros de Minas, Metalurgistas y Geólogos de México. To be a member of the Colegio, an individual must already hold a professional degree and a Cédula Profesional issued by the Mexican authorities.	Degree and credential validation process mandatory.	Gobierno de México, 2025

Nigeria

Education	Supervised Work	Professional License/ Main Regulatory Body	National Licensure	State/Provincial Licensure	Continuing Professional Development (CPD)	Special Cases	International Qualifications	Sources
BS in geology or related field from recognized institution.	Three years of supervised work experience.	Council of Nigerian Mining Engineers and Geoscientists (COMEG). Registration with COMEG is mandatory.	Yes. Mandatory statutory registration with SACNASP, but no professional examination.	No.	CPD not always required, but highly recommended for career advancement. Membership in the Nigerian Mining and Geosciences Society (NMGS) or its Specialist Groups and in the Association of Professional Geoscientists is encouraged. All must be registered NMGS members first.		COMEG requires foreign-trained geologists to apply for registration regardless of prior licensure or certification in other countries. Provide proof of academic qualifications, relevant work experience, and undergo additional assessments or examinations as determined by COMEG.	COMEG (2025)

South Africa

Education	Supervised Work	Professional License/ Main Regulatory Body	National Licensure	State/Provincial Licensure	Continuing Professional Development (CPD)	Special Cases	International Qualifications	Sources
Honors degree in geology meeting South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) standards.	3 yr work experience in a responsible position for a 4-yr BS with honors; 2 yr for an MS; and 1 yr for a PhD. For Chartered Status with the Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA), > 5 yr relevant experience (2 of which must be in a position of responsibility).	SACNASP registration categories: Candidate, Certificated, and Professional. Statutory registration with SACNASP and professional membership in GSSA is recognized by international organizations such as CRIRSCO as acceptable registration for purposes of competency regarding resource and reserve reporting. For GSSA, only Chartered Status geologists can sign off as a Competent Person or Competent Valuator. Engineers' statutory body is the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) and the professional body is the Southern African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (SAIMM). Surveyors' statutory body is the South African Geomatics Council (SAGC) and the professional body is the Institute Mine Surveyors of South Africa (IMSSA). Professional norms and behavior are measured against a Code of Ethics by GSSA, SAIMM, IMMSA, and by a Code of Conduct by SACNASP, ECSA, SAGC, respectively.	Yes. Mandatory statutory registration with SACNASP, but no professional examination.	No.	To maintain SACNASP registration, CPD is required, activities to be completed in a 5-yr cycle, self-reported in three categories. GSSA organizes activities in four categories: Formal Learning, Knowledge Contribution, Self-Directed Study/ Informal Learning, and Professional Practice. CPD mandatory for Chartered Status. CPD obtained through GSSA and SACNASP is considered mutually compliant.	For Mineral Resource/Mineral Reserve reporting, the GSSA requires that the Competent Person reach Chartered Status.	The South African Qualifications Authority validates local and international qualifications, especially for non-South African degrees.	SAMCODES (2025)

South Korea

Education	Supervised Work	Professional License/ Main Regulatory Body	National Licensure	State/Provincial Licensure	Continuing Professional Development (CPD)	Special Cases	International Qualifications	Sources
BS or higher in geological sciences or related fields.		Korea Institute of Geoscience and Mineral Resources (KIGAM) is the leading governmental research and regulatory body, but does not issue licenses. KIGAM is primarily focused on research, development, and policy support rather than formal licensure. No mandatory national exam.	The Human Resources Development Service of Korea (HRD Korea) issues two national professional licenses: Applied Geology Engineer (certifies technical competence in applied geology, written and practical exams, and relevant professional experience) and Professional Engineer for Geology and Geotechnics (highest-level national engineering license, several years of relevant professional experience plus Applied Geology Engineer certification and professional engineer exam).	No. There is no decentralized provincial professional licensure systems for geologists.	Practical work experience, including supervised training or internships, is highly valued.	Licensure-like requirements including exams or certifications exist for specific technical roles within mining, environmental assessment, or construction sectors, often overseen by specialized ministries or professional associations. The Korea Mine Rehabilitation and Mineral Resources Corporation (KOMIR) issues two national licenses: Engineer for Mine Reclamation (certifies technical competence; must pass national written and practical exams plus professional experience) and Professional Engineer for Mine Reclamation (highest-level national engineering license, requires several years of experience plus prior engineer-level certification before the Professional Engineer exam).	The Ministry of Education and the National Research Foundation oversee the International Education Quality Assurance System (IEQAS), the central framework for evaluating foreign academic credentials. Interviews or supplementary documentation may be needed.	KIGAM (2019) HRDK (2024) KOMIR (2022)

United Kingdom

Education	Supervised Work	Professional License/ Main Regulatory Body	National Licensure	State/Provincial Licensure	Continuing Professional Development (CPD)	Special Cases	International Qualifications	Sources
BS or MS in geology or geoscience, ideally from UK or international university.	Five or more years.	National professional bodies and the EFG. Chartered Geologist (CGeol) or Chartered Scientist (CSci) primarily through the Geological Society of London (GSL). Applicants must become GSL Fellows and submit competence in seven distinct core areas, secure a chartered supporter, and pass a validation interview.	No. EurGeol is a professional title. The EFG National Vetting Committee (NVC) in the United Kingdom is the GSL. No written exam required.	No. Professional licensure for geologists is not mandated by law on a county-by-county basis.	Yes. CPD includes any activity that develops one's work-related knowledge, experience, and skills. Qualifying activities are grouped in six main categories. Complete 90 h annually. Also could include periodic review.	Further qualifications after CGeol: SiLC (Specialist in Land Condition), RoGEP (Register of Ground Engineering Professionals), and CSCS (Construction Skills Certification Scheme). CGeol is a prerequisite to be a Competent Person under the Pan European Reporting Code (PERC) and other international reserves and resources reporting codes in the CRIRSCO family.	EurGeol title is nationally and internationally recognized, facilitating free movement of professionals across Europe. (Also see under "France.") Geologists with international degrees may qualify if their academic background meets UK standards. There is reciprocal recognition with the Institute of Geologists of Ireland, AIPG, and the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.	The Geological Society (2025)