The Royal Statistical Society provides many opportunities to enhance your Continuous Professional Development (CPD). This leaflet gives you an idea about how your involvement in Society activities can help you with your CPD.

What is CPD?
CPD is the means by which you maintain and improve your professional knowledge and skills so that you continue to develop throughout your career.

Who is it for?
An active interest in CPD is now common practice for all professionals and the RSS believes CPD activities in statistics are for the entire RSS membership to engage with. Professionally qualified fellows (holders of Chartered Statistician status (CStat) or equivalent) are formally obliged to do so, under the terms of the code of conduct. Members who hold the Chartered Scientist status (CSci) award are required to comply with an annual revalidation based on evidence of engagement in CPD. The Society has decided to also introduce revalidation of the CStat award, based on CPD evidence, on a five-yearly basis.

As part of our CPD policy, we offer our professionally qualified fellows the opportunity to apply periodically for a Maintained Professional Certificate which gives formal recognition of engagement in CPD activities.

What counts as CPD?
CPD can involve any relevant work based or professional learning activity, whether formal and structured or informal and self-directed. Training courses such as those run by The Society’s Professional Development Centre fall into the formal educational category.

Annual Conference
The RSS annual conference is an excellent way not only to learn about new research in statistics but also provides an ideal opportunity to meet like-minded individuals at one of the conference social events. There are events at the conference for the younger members, for example, sessions dedicated specifically to young speakers.

Sections
The many sections of the RSS provide excellent opportunities for members to explore more widely their areas of statistical interest. Their events help members to update their knowledge of statistical practice, learn about emerging problems that require statistical attention, and make useful professional contacts. Sections also influence debate outside the Society, for example questions concerning the communication of uncertainty about future climate change, by promoting the role of statistics in relevant fields and helping the Society to respond to public consultations.
Young Statistician’s Section
The YSS is intended to support statisticians in the first 10 years of their career. Through organising events and other networking opportunities, the YSS brings career-young statisticians into contact with individuals and organisations they might not otherwise have been aware of, as well as provide the opportunity to develop events for future statisticians. For example, the Statistical Showcase event includes talks from up to 20 speakers in different areas of statistics and highlights the different areas a statistician can work in.

PDC Courses
The RSS provides a range of statistical courses to support your professional development. These events, led by experts in the field, provide invaluable opportunities to work with and learn from experienced statisticians, and also forge vital research links. Through attending these courses you will be able to extend your knowledge and receive personalised feedback. Small group sizes allow for interaction with course members from a

RSS Committees
Until you join an RSS committee you may not fully appreciated the amount of work the Society does developing and promoting the interests of its members, and more generally the field of statistics. For example, recent initiatives such as the CPD database that enables all members to create and update a record of their continuing development as statisticians.

Local Groups
Being involved with a local group and attending meetings keeps you in touch with other statisticians without the expense of travelling to London. It exposes you to a wide variety of applications of statistical thinking and shows you how statistics are used in different fields. The speakers cover a range of issues and developments, so aiding professional development. More importantly, local groups are a great way to make professional contacts close to home.
Journals
The Society’s Journals provide a unique exposure to statistical research in a broad range of domains. Being a reviewer is an instructive professional experience, being an associate editor goes one step beyond that since finding appropriate reviewers and reconciling reviewer recommendations are challenging, but rewarding, tasks.

RSS Examinations
The Ordinary Certificate, Higher Certificate and Graduate Diploma provide a route to a statistical qualification separate to those offered by schools and universities. The examinations are taken by candidates in the UK, and retain their status in many countries throughout the world as being almost the only route into the profession. Many of the overseas candidates are training to be government statisticians in their countries. There are also many candidates from the Government Statistical Service in the UK.

RSS Ordinary Meetings
A highlight of the meetings calendar is the series of read papers – meetings at the RSS at which an author presents their paper, followed by an open discussion, and then the paper plus discussion is published in full in one of the Society’s journals. Many of the statistical methods we now take for granted can be traced back to ideas originally presented and debated at such meetings.

Acknowledgements
We are grateful to the RSS members who have contributed their own experiences of CPD in the society to produce this leaflet. In particular, Kim Kavanagh (Conference), Chris Ferro (Environment Section), Kerry Dwan (Young Statisticians Section), Paul Marchant (Leeds/Bradford Local Group), Arunesh Sil (Examinations), Kathryn Hesketh (PDC Courses), Jenny Freeman (Committees), Ron Kenett (Journals) and John Copas (Ordinary meetings).