

This first page was received through a FOI request to CSIRO regarding the ORI application for ARI status. The claim that an FRGS is equivalent to a degree in Geography is categorically false, as the additional documents indicate. Mr. de Blonville made the same false claim in his application for adjunct faculty position at Southern Cross University.

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Document 16

To Whom It May Concern

As a key part of developing sustainable oceanic and climate research objectives, the Oceanic Research Institute (ORI) has had a distinguished Research Committee in operation for almost two years.

Those members are committed to the long-term success of the ORI and have now written to confirm that they are happy to continue to serve on ORI's Research Committee and work alongside each other.

This letter confirms that I am happy to continue to serve as a member of the Research Committee and to continue to work alongside other Committee members under the Chairmanship of Prof Patrick Nunn.

My Fellowship of the Royal Geographical Society (nominated in 1984 by Dr Phillip Law, AO, Antarctic explorer and founding director of Australia's Antarctic Division) confers on me the equivalence of an Honours degree in Geography. As an explorer, I am an active Geographer.

My crucial contribution to the success of ORI will be expedition leadership and extensive experience of maritime field operations, including scientific, in remote and harsh wilderness regions. These skills give ORI a unique breadth of practical operational experience, from planning to successful conclusion, that field research scientists rarely have. Normally such operations are provided by outside organisations, such as charter operators, which risk the problem of duality of leadership which can derail research plans. ORI will not have those problems.

Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

s47F

Earle de Blonville, FRGS.
Chief Executive Officer
Oceanic Research Institute
Ballina Historic Seaport
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RE: RGS-IBG Fellowship Criteria

From: Tom McEnroe (t.mcenroe@rgs.org)

To: rett139@yahoo.com

Date: Friday, June 14, 2019 at 09:50 AM MDT

Dear Kent,

Thank you for the confirmation. From your previous writing, and the election date in the enquiry, I had assumed this was the Fellow in question.

I can confirm that neither Davenport nor neither of the O'Reilly's are current Fellows.

Best regards,

Tom

Tom McEnroe
Membership Manager

From: Kent Madin [mailto:rett139@yahoo.com]

Sent: 12 June 2019 16:58

To: Tom McEnroe

Subject: Re: RGS-IBG Fellowship Criteria

Dear Tom,

Thanks for your prompt response.

Yes, that is a direct quote, cut and pasted from Earl de Blonville's CV. It is but one of numerous falsehoods and embellishments that underpin Mr. de Blonville's efforts to promote himself. [Here's his latest project](#) (the quote is from the CV he prepared to apply for adjunct faculty position at Southern Cross University in NSW). I am researching a story about what I call "faux" explorers. Roughly that means modern, private self-described "explorers" who use the internet and internet presence to push a less than truthful narrative about themselves and their accomplishments, all in support of their commercial efforts. Mr. de Blonville is one of three main subjects. The other two also claim to be FRGS; Ripley Davenport and Cuchullaine O'Reilly. I collaborated with the Danish newspaper Politken in 2013 to publish an article about Davenport. [Here it is in Danish.](#) [Here is the translation.](#)

I'd be curious whether Davenport and O'Reilly are still on your membership list. At one point back in 2012 they both claimed to be renouncing their RGS memberships because the Society had become "ossified" and other complaints. [LRG Editorial: Exploration Clubs - What Future for a Tradition in Decline](#)



LRG Editorial: Exploration Clubs - What Future for a Tradition in Decline

However, in spite of that claim of renunciation, both Davenport and O'Reilly now seem to continue to claim FRGS status.

<http://www.lrgaf.org/voa/oreilly.htm>

<https://ripley-davenport.com/index.html>

Cheers,

Kent Madin

On Tuesday, June 11, 2019, 9:47:28 AM MDT, Tom McEnroe <T.McEnroe@RGS.org> wrote:
Dear Mr Madin,

Further to your email to our Press Officer, I can confirm that no, Fellowship of the Society is not equal to a Master's degree in geography.

Fellowship has never had an educational qualification equivalence and for, for the avoidance of doubt, the Society has never claimed it has had.

I would also point out that, if that is the exact wording from his CV, I take a very dim view of a Fellow who can't get the name of the Society correct after 25 years of Fellowship; it has been the Geographical Society in one form or another since 1830.

Yours sincerely,

Tom McEnroe
Membership Manager

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Please note that I am not in the office on alternate Fridays, there may be a delay in responding to any emails.

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