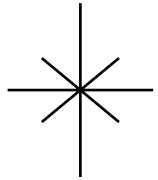


International Astronomical Union

✦ Become a Member



2023



Become a part of the largest international union of professional astronomers actively fostering scientific progress worldwide through international cooperation.

TYPES OF MEMBERS

NATIONAL MEMBERS

Organizations representing national professional astronomical communities, desiring to promote their participation in international astronomy and supporting the objectives of the Union, developing professional astronomy in the community they represent.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Professional scientists whose research is directly relevant to some branch of astronomy are eligible for admission as Individual Members. Individual Members are, normally, admitted by the Executive Committee on the proposal of a National Member.

JUNIOR MEMBERS

Younger scientists who have completed their PhD studies between 2018 and 2023 in some branch of astronomy and are in the initial phase of their careers as professional researchers in astronomy or a related field may be admitted to the Union by the Executive Committee as Junior Member, for a period not exceeding 6 years.

HONORARY MEMBERS

Individuals that have substantially contributed to the development of astronomical research in their country, who are not professional astronomers and do not qualify as Individual Member.



NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS

The IAU welcomes applications for National Membership from any country.

National Membership resides with an organisation that represents the professional astronomical community of that country.

SELECTION PROCESS

The organisation must submit an application for membership to the IAU General Secretary, at least eight months before the next IAU General Assembly.

The General Secretary forwards the application to the Executive Committee for its recommendation to the next IAU General Assembly, which votes on its approval.

The IAU Executive Committee bases its decision on information that is provided by the national organisation in its application.

Deadline for proposals to be considered at the IAU XXXII General Assembly to be held in South Africa in 2024, is **December 1st, 2023**.

REQUIRED INFORMATION

- Description of the organisation including its role in the astronomical activity of the country;
- Basic organisational structure, key personnel and funding sources of the organisation;
- an overview of the recent and planned professional astronomical activities in the country, including a listing of astronomical institutes and the number of professional astronomers.
- The class of IAU National Membership the country is seeking, and the Category of Adherence to which it wishes to adhere ([Bye-Laws §VII.25](#)).

The IAU Executive Committee would appreciate knowing of specific benefits to local astronomical activity and development that a prospective National Member hopes to gain from its membership in the Union.

A template document with an overview of the required information for the application can be found online, [here](#).



NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP RIGHTS & STATUS

The Category of Adherence is an essential decision for any applying organisation. As a National Member representing their countries and territories the Category of Adherence will reflect the weight the member has in the future of the Union through voting.

The type of membership you can apply are:

- Permanent, full National Member, with full voting rights, with an equivalent of votes one greater than the number of its Category;
- Interim Status, partial National Member, without voting rights;
- Observer Status, Observer Member, without voting rights.

National Members are paramount in deciding the future of the Union by voting to:

- Determine the overall policies,
- Approve any changes in the Statutes and, including any changes in Bye-Laws,
- Elect the Executive Committee to implement its decisions,
- Appoint the Special Nominating Committee to propose the slate of the Executive Committee;

- Appoint the Financial Committee to review the Executive Committee budget;
- Appoint the Membership Committee to review and approve Individual Member and Junior Member applications;
- Approve new National Members;
- Approve the financial reports, and triennium proposed budgets.

Additionally, National Members can:

- Nominate Honorary, Individual and Junior Members;
- Propose to host General Assemblies

The weight of National Members' voting privileges is directly linked to their Adherence Category.

National Members have the right to vote with an equivalent of votes one greater than the number of its Category for budget issues, and 1 vote per NM for non-budget issues. Categories can range from I to XII ([Bye-Laws§VII](#)). Interim and Observer status have no votes.

Applicants can request a meeting with the President and the Secretariat for guidance on how to select the membership category if uncertain of the appropriate category.





INDIVIDUAL AND JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS

Nomination of a candidate residing in a National Member country

Individual Membership in the IAU is open to scientists with a PhD or equivalent in a branch of astrophysics.

Junior Membership is open to individuals who have completed the PhD studies and who are in the initial phase of the professional researcher career in some branch of astronomy. The admission of new Junior Members will be evaluated annually by the Membership Committee and approved by the Executive Committee. Junior Membership is temporary and cannot be extended for more than six years.

An **Individual or Junior Member** may be admitted to the IAU by the Executive Committee on the basis of nominations approved by the National Committee for Astronomy (NCA) in their country of employment (when no NCA exists, through the Adhering Organization in that country).

Individuals applying for nomination for IAU **Individual or Junior Membership** should contact their NCA or Adhering Organization (whichever applies) in their country of work in order to receive the link to the application form.

This should be done before **December 15th, 2023**, so that these applications can be processed for approval in time for their submission to the IAU.

The call for membership applications to be submitted is open as of **October 7th, 2023**. Individual and Junior Membership applications are submitted annually.

The procedure is electronic, via forms made available by the IAU to the NCAs, or to the Adhering Organizations. For reference, the forms include the full name, date and place of birth, and nationality of the candidate; postal and electronic addresses; the University, year, and subject of the Ph.D. or equivalent degree; the current affiliation and occupation, and the IAU Division(s) which the candidate wishes to join, a CV, a list of past publications plus any additional information required by the NCA or Adhering Organization.

IAU Individual Members and Junior Members do not pay dues to the Union.

Nomination of a candidate residing in a non-Member country

Nomination for IAU **Individual or Junior Membership** by a qualified astrophysicist residing in a country which is not National Member of the IAU can be applied for by contacting the NCA or Adhering Organization in a neighboring IAU National Member country. The individual may request to receive the appropriate application link, following all instructions and deadlines given above, or by contacting one of the IAU Division Presidents.

ADDED VALUE OF BECOMING A MEMBER

Access to Travel Grants to the IAU General Assemblies, Regional Meetings and Symposia

The program of IAU scientific meetings is one of the most important means by which the IAU pursues its mission by bringing together astronomers from all over the world, providing unique forums to present and discuss the latest research and allowing room to build relationships through networking. IAU members, and especially junior members, have primary access to travel grants and fee waivers.

Eligibility to hold a leadership position on the Executive Committee or Divisions, Commissions, and Working Groups

The scientific activities of the IAU are organised by its 9 Scientific Divisions and, through them, 38 specialised Commissions and 47 Working Groups, covering the full spectrum of astronomy. Our members play a leading role in the Union's future by participating in these groups and proposing scientific symposia.

Nomination for IAU Awards

Each year, the IAU recognizes excellence in astronomical research and in service to the scientific community through its PhD prizes in each division, its Outreach, Diversity, and Equity prizes, and its Gruber postdoctoral fellowships, decided by IAU committees.

Active role in astronomy resolutions and decision making

IAU members propose and vote on scientific resolutions. Among the other tasks of the IAU are the definitions of fundamental astronomical and physical constants, astronomical nomenclature (including assigning names to celestial bodies and their surface features), discussions on the possibilities for future international large-scale facilities and collaborations, improving equity, diversity, and inclusion in astronomy, and training early career astronomers.

Eligibility to become Outreach and Education representatives of your country and apply for Outreach and Development funding and training

IAU individual members through their National Members and National Committees for Astronomy are eligible to apply for IAU outreach and development grants, which fund projects designed to engage with the public. IAU members can also join dedicated training events in education, development, and outreach.

Access to regular email newsletters from the Divisions, Commissions and Working Groups





HONORARY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS

At the XXX General Assembly held in August 2018 in Vienna, the International Astronomical Union (IAU) introduced a new category of membership — Honorary Members. The induction of this category aims to give official recognition to those individuals who have significantly contributed to the progress of astronomical research and culture in their country, but who do not qualify as Individual Members.

By **September 15th** of the year preceding a General Assembly, National Members will be invited to submit candidatures for Honorary Members. No more than one Honorary Member candidate per National Member can be presented every triennium to the General Secretary one candidate per triennium by **March 15th** of year of the General Assembly.

The application should be accompanied by a Curriculum Vitae of the candidate together with a documented motivation that justify the candidature.

International Astronomical Union, 2023.

This is a publication by the International Astronomical Union Secretariat.

About the International Astronomical Union: The IAU is the international astronomical organisation that brings together more than 12 000 active professional astronomers from more than 100 countries worldwide. Its mission is to promote and safeguard astronomy in all its aspects, including research, communication, education and development, through international cooperation. The IAU also serves as the internationally recognised authority for assigning designations to celestial bodies and the surface features on them. Founded in 1919, the IAU is the world's largest professional body for astronomers.

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