

# Associate and Life Membership Policy

## A. Background

1. The Constitution of Imperial College Union establishes the existence of an Associate Membership, for which the eligibility, rights and obligations of this membership are at the discretion of the Board of Trustees.
2. The Constitution distinguishes Associate Members from Full Members, in that Associate Members are not granted rights of democratic participation (such as voting).
3. The Bye-Laws establish that Associate Members must have the right to attend meetings of Union Council, and the responsibility of abiding by the Union's Financial Procedures. The Bye-Laws also stipulate that Associate Members may be disciplined under the procedures therein defined.
4. There are three types of Associate Membership, which are identical in the rights and responsibilities they confer, but for which the eligibility and method of conferral differ. These are:
  - a. Ordinary Associate Membership (hereafter referred to simply as *Associate Membership*), which may be subscribed to on a monthly or yearly basis for as long as an individual meets the criteria for eligibility.
  - b. Life Membership, which is purchased with a one-off payment and which then persists for the full lifetime of the Member (though which may be revoked as described hereafter).
  - c. Honorary Life Membership, which is identical to Life Membership but which is bestowed upon an individual free of charge.

## B. Eligibility for Associate Membership

1. Individuals eligible for Associate Membership shall ordinarily need to apply to obtain this status, and may be required to pay a defined membership fee. In limited cases authorised by the Union's Management Committee this status may be conferred to a group of individuals automatically.
2. Those in the following categories shall be eligible for Associate Membership, free of charge:
  - a. Students of Imperial College who are undertaking an Interruption of Studies.
  - b. Students admitted to Imperial College who have deferred the commencement of their studies.
3. Those in the following categories shall be eligible for Associate Membership subject to a small charge (paid monthly or annually).

The Union should not seek to profit from the sale of Memberships to these individuals, but the Management Committee may set a fee to cover the costs of administration.

- a. Staff employed by Imperial College London
  - b. Students of the following Higher Education Institutions:
    - i. Royal College of Music
    - ii. Royal College of Art
    - iii. Medical School of the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
4. Those in the following categories shall be eligible for Associate Membership subject to payment of a monthly or annual subscription fee, set by the Union's Management Committee:
- a. Students of any Further or Higher Education Establishment over the age of eighteen.

### **C. Eligibility for Life Membership**

1. Any individual eligible for Life Membership shall need to apply to obtain this status, and will need to pay a one-time membership fee defined by the Union's Management Committee. A defined portion of this membership fee may be allocated directly to a Club, Society or Project of the applicant's choice.
2. Those in the following categories shall be eligible for Life Membership:
  - a. Any previous Full Member of the Union who held Full Membership for at least one (1) year.
  - b. Any previous Associate Member of the Union who held Associate Membership for at least two (2) years.

### **D. Eligibility for Honorary Life Membership**

1. Honorary Life Membership may be bestowed upon any individual, regardless of that individual's membership status, and is given free of charge for the lifetime of the member.
2. Honorary Life Membership may be bestowed upon an individual by a simple majority vote of Union Council.
3. Honorary Life Membership is automatically conferred upon individuals in receipt of certain Union Awards, including the Union Fellowship and President's Award.

### **E. Rights**

1. Associate and Life Members are conferred with the right to:
  - a. Join Clubs, Societies and Projects (subject to payment of a CSP's membership fee) and participate in the CSP's activities. In sport, there may be limitations placed on Life

and Associate Members competing on behalf of Imperial College.

- b. Access the Union's bars, spaces and events.
2. Associate and Life Members do not have the right to participate in the governance of the Union, except as an External or Alumni Trustee.

#### **F. Revocation of Rights and Membership**

1. Associate and Life Memberships may be removed from an individual by a simple majority vote of Union Council or the Trustee Board.
2. Through the disciplinary process set out in the Union Bye Laws, an Associate or Life Member may have their membership removed or may lose specific rights.
3. If an Associate or Life Member is under disciplinary investigation, the Union President may temporarily suspend their membership.
4. Associate Membership is automatically revoked if a Member no longer meets the criteria for eligibility (eg they cease to be employed by Imperial College, or cease to be students of a Higher Education Institution).