

MEMBERSHIP

HOW TO JOIN THE SOCIETY

Applications to join the Society must be made on a Form available from the General Secretary or a Division Secretary. Application forms must be signed by the applicant and endorsed by two proposers having a detailed knowledge of the applicant. When admission to Associate or Member grade is requested proposers should have good personal knowledge of the applicant's competence and experience in the science and practice of acoustics.

At least one of the two proposers must hold the grade of Fellow or Member of the Society. The final decision as to grade of membership offered to an applicant is made by the Federal Council of the Society. As this process often takes some time, the names of applicants for Member, Graduate, Associate or Student grade are included on the Society mailing list to enable them to receive the benefits of Society membership as soon as possible.

Intending applicants should appreciate that an existing member is expected to show prudence when proposing a new member to the Society. The proposer is in fact endorsing the candidate's suitability for a certain grade of membership and must be satisfied that the candidate's qualifications and experience are in accordance with the requirements outlined above. Similar prudence will be expected of the applicant after becoming a member of the Society. Only by such care can the Society continue to enhance the prestige of acoustics in Australia and contribute to the standing of the Society in the international acoustics community.

Application forms to join the Society may be obtained from the General Secretary (GeneralSecretary@acoustics.asn.au) or go to the download area [Download](#)

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Entrance Fee

Applicants for membership must pay a non-refundable entrance fee before their applications will be considered by the Society. The Application Fee is a non-refundable fee. If accepted, normal membership fees will apply. See [Annual Subscription Rates](#) below for the current fee grades.

NB: Students Members will be granted one year free membership if accepted.

[Download the Membership Forms and Guidelines](#)

MEMBERSHIP GRADES

Admission to the Society is open to all people interested in acoustics and companies and other organisations who may wish to support the Society. Members come from a wide range of occupations working in all fields of acoustics, such as bioacoustics, electro-acoustics, auditorium acoustics, physical acoustics, musical acoustics, speech communication, ultrasonics, noise control, vibration, etc.

Note that 'member' with the lower case 'm' means all members of the Society in all grades; and Member with the upper case 'M' means those members of the Society in the grade Member.

Only members of grades MAAS and FAAS are normally deemed to be a 'Member' of the AAS by meeting minimum levels of educational qualifications and professional experience. Consider individuals with a high degree of experience and training in acoustics for sign off on critical work appraisals.

There are seven grades of membership that cater for people and organisations; Fellow, Member, Graduate, Associate, Student, Subscriber and Sustaining members.

- The grade of [Fellow](#) is conferred by Council in recognition of exemplary achievements by Members of the Society, and may use the postnominal 'FAAS' with full voting rights. The grade of Fellow is not

open to individual application as it is conferred by Council.

- The grade **Member** is awarded to qualified and experienced acousticians and may use the postnominal 'MAAS' with full voting rights.
- **Graduate** members are qualified but lack practical experience working in acoustics and have the postnominal 'AAS(Grad)'. Graduates can stand on a Divisional Committee however cannot become Chairman or Vice Chairman of a Divisional Committee and cannot stand for Federal Council.
- **Associate** members work as technicians in the field of acoustics.
- Students studying tertiary courses related to acoustics may be awarded the grade of **Student**

- The grade of **Subscriber** is open to people without appropriate qualifications or experience but who are interested in acoustics.
- Companies and organisations who make a contribution to assist the Society may become **Sustaining Members**

Further to the above, an individual person may be awarded the distinction of **Honorary** member in recognition of outstanding contributions made to acoustics or to the Society. There is also a **Retired** status available for those no longer working professionally.

Of the seven grades of membership of the Society, Fellows, Members and Graduates have corporate membership with full voting rights. Associates, Subscribers and Students have limited membership privileges and have the right to elect up to two representatives to their relevant Division Committee. Sustaining Members and Honorary Members have no voting rights.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Membership subscriptions become due on 1 April each year and are as follows:

Rates (including GST)

Fellow	\$160
Member	\$160
Associate and Subscriber	\$122
Graduate - First Year	\$122
Graduate - Second Year	\$135
Graduate - Third Year	\$150
Graduate - Fourth Year	\$160

Student (Note¹) : \$0
Retired Member: \$48
Application Fee (Note²): \$25
Sustaining Members \$675

Notes:

1. From January 1, 2012 Student members receive the Acoustics Australia journal electronically. A student declaration form is required to be submitted annually before the electronic version of the journal will be sent.

2. The Application Fee is a non-refundable fee. If accepted, normal membership fees will apply.

Fellow

Although Council has elevated several Members to the grade of Fellow in recent years it is believed there are many more, particularly those who have supported the Society for many years, who may qualify. Members are therefore encouraged to forward more proposals.

By-Laws of the Society State:

"13. Persons who hold the grade of Member of the Society and who:-

(a) Have held the grade of Member for not less than five (5) consecutive years, and

(b) Have in the opinion of the Council made notable contributions to the science or practice of acoustics or performed conspicuous service to or on behalf of the Society

may have the distinction and grade of Fellow of the Society conferred upon them by the Council."

Sponsorship of Fellows

As Members cannot apply for elevation to Fellowship the administrative processes are different from other membership grades:

(a) Each Division's Membership Grading Committee will examine the Members in its Division every two years to see if any Member's work, ability, or service to the Society, warrants elevation of that Member to Fellowship, and shall seek a sponsor for such Member.

Alternatively, any Member or Fellow may sponsor a Member for elevation except that a serving Member of Council cannot sponsor other serving members of Council.

(b) The sponsor shall prepare a recommendation for elevation to Fellowship of the Member he or she is sponsoring.

(c) The recommendation should be prepared without the candidate's knowledge; and shall be a comprehensive history of the applicant. As a guide the supporting information should include the following:-

(i) Education, including all degrees and awarding institutions

(ii) Positions held

(iii) Major professional achievements and awards

(iv) Contributions to acoustics, including inventions and patents

(v) *Publications including the initial and final page numbers for each publication. Please indicate also whether the publication is an article, letter, abstract, chapter in a book etc.*

(vi) *Service to the Society.*

(d) The sponsor should prepare and submit with the supporting information a brief citation for the nominee. If the nominee is advanced to Fellowship, the citation will be published in the journal "Acoustics Australia".

(e) At least two supporting letters for the nominee are required. These letters should come from Fellows or Members of the Society and must be requested by the sponsor. Those writing supporting letters should be asked for suggestions regarding the proposed citation, and should include support for the citation in their letters.

(f) Of the three letters required (one from the sponsor and two from other fellow members) not more than one should be from a Fellow or Member employed by the organisation which employs the candidate.

(g) The original sponsoring letter and accompanying material and the letters of support should be sent to the General Secretary who will forward the Recommendation For Fellowship to the Council.

(h) The Council shall determine whether the nomination is acceptable.

Criteria for elevation to the Grade Fellow

The awarding of Fellowship should be considered exclusively a recognition of achievement such as might be attained from 10% to 20% of the Society membership. This should be measured in terms of contribution to the advancement of acoustics in the broadest sense including conspicuous service to the Society. The recognition of achievement should be based solely on high standards of quality and merit: it should not be subjected to arbitrary formula as to quantity of activity or the percentage of persons warranting election to Fellowship.

The following criteria are but a guide:-

(a) That the nominee has been a Member of the Society for not less than five years, and has been interested in the objects and activities of the Society for the same period.

(b) That the nominee has for at least ten years been actively engaged in the science, practice, teaching, research or development of acoustics.

(c) That the nominee has made a sustained and outstanding contribution to acoustics and/or the Society, for example the nominee has advanced the understanding, or appreciation of acoustics in the community, or has advanced the science or practice of acoustics, or has advanced the use of acoustics in industry or the community, or has given outstanding service to the Society, or similar.

(d) The position or standing of the nominee and work relative to others in the same field. For example, if the nominee works in engineering acoustics, the position or standing relative to others in the same field; if the nominee is a designer of architectural acoustical products the position or standing of designs relative to others in the same field.

Requirements for the Grade Member

The By-Laws of the Society provide for a variety of gates for admission to Membership. The fundamental requirement is an understanding and working experience in some branch of acoustics as assessed by the Society independent of any recognition or non-recognition by the applicant's employer or other bodies.

The applicant's application form with attachments and any written testimony of the applicant's proposers should be aimed at conveying to the Membership Sub-Committee the information necessary for it to assess the applicant's understanding and working experience in acoustics.

Regardless through which gate Members are admitted, the admission requirement is the same, the successful applicants should all be assessed as having the understanding and ability to work in, and follow developments in their field of acoustics at an adequate level of competence.

In the details below the following interpretations should be made:-

(i) Actively engaged in the science or practice of acoustics means working in acoustics at what can be assessed by the Membership Sub-Committee as at an adequate professional level.

One criterion which could be used is to judge whether the employer of the applicant would need to advertise for the services of a person eligible for admission to the grade of Member if the applicant left.

Applicants should show that they are keeping abreast of their field of acoustics by:-

(a) attendance at technical meetings of the Society; and/or

(b) subscribing to and reading acoustical journals and periodicals; and/or

(c) doing research or development in their chosen field; and/or

(d) attending symposia and conferences on acoustics; and/or

(e) working in a field where the work itself provides a source of information feed back.

(ii) The length of time engaged in acoustics means the length of work experience directly involved in acoustics. In assessing this time, work of a non-acoustical nature should be discounted. For example, applicants who have spent 50% of their time on acoustics over a period of 4 years would be assessed as being engaged in acoustics for 2 years.

Time spent in postgraduate studies in acoustics may be assessed for the equivalent time in the same way as other work experience.

(iii) Recognised educational qualifications means a degree or diploma (comprising the equivalent of at least 3 years full time study) appropriate to the field of work of the applicant.

Applicants must submit evidence of all degrees or diplomas claimed.

Gate MA

Requirements for Admission to the grade Member:

(i) Applicants must show they are interested in the objects and activities of the Society.

(ii) Applicants must show that they have recognised educational qualifications.

(iii) Applicants must show that they have been actively engaged in the science or practice of acoustics at a professional level for not less than 2 years full time equivalent.

Gate MB

Requirements for Admission to the grade Member:

(i) Applicants must show they are interested in the objects and activities of the Society.

(ii) Applicants shall submit for examination a thesis on a topic agreed to by the Divisional Committee. The thesis should be of a final year undergraduate standard.

(iii) Applicants must show that they have been actively engaged in the science or practice of acoustics at a professional level for not less than 4 years full time equivalent.

Gate MC

Requirements for Admission to the grade Member:

(i) Applicants must show they are interested in the objects and activities of the Society.

(ii) Applicants must show that, notwithstanding their lack of recognised educational qualifications, they are suitable for election as a Member by reason of their verified practical or theoretical experience in the field of acoustics.

(iii) Applicants must show that they have been actively engaged in the science or practice of acoustics at a professional level for not less than 10 years full time equivalent.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE GRADE GRADUATE

Gate GA

(i) Applicants must show they are interested in the objects and activities of the Society.

(ii) Applicants must show that they have recognised educational qualifications.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE GRADE ASSOCIATE

This grade is awarded in recognition of the proficiency of technicians working in acoustics. It is open to all people who make routine acoustical measurements, calibration and testing of equipment, etc. For example, technicians working in the field of audiometry.

Gate AA

Requirement for Admission as an Associate:

(i) Applicants must show that they are interested in the objects and activities of the Society.

(ii) Applicants must show evidence of satisfactory completion of an appropriate certificate course or other appropriate post secondary qualification.

(iii) Applicants must show they are engaged in the science or practice of acoustics at technician level and have been for not less than 2 years full time equivalent.

Gate AB

Requirement for Admission as an Associate:

(i) Applicants must show that they are interested in the objects and activities of the Society.

(ii) Applicants must show they are engaged in the science or practice of acoustics at technician level and have been for not less than 5 years full time equivalent.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE GRADE SUBSCRIBER

Gate SU

There are no educational or experience requirements.

Applicants must show that they are interested in the objects and activities of the Society.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE GRADE STUDENT

Gate ST

This grade is allocated to students in post-secondary educational establishments. Student members are annually expected to show they meet admission requirements.

Requirements for admission as a Student:

i) Applicants must show that they are interested in the objects and activities of the Society.

ii) Applicants must show they are enrolled in a full-time course at a post-secondary educational institution and are receiving instruction or training in some course pertaining to acoustics.

(iii) Applicants must show they are not employed for more than 20 hours per week.

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Sustaining membership is conferred in recognition of the contribution made to the Society or towards its objects or activities.

The essentials are:

(i) The contribution precedes the conferring of Sustaining Membership.

(ii) The contribution may be financial or otherwise.

(iii) The contribution may be to the Society, or towards its objects or activities.

(iv) Sustaining Membership is conferred for a time determined by the Council which may typically be for a year.

(v) Sustaining members may be companies, partnerships, organisations, societies, corporations or persons. If a person they shall not otherwise be a member of the Society.

Companies or organisations who would like to apply for Sustaining membership should contact the General Secretary (GeneralSecretary@acoustics.asn.au) for more information.

RETIRED MEMBERS

The member must not be engaged in more than an average of 20 hours per month of paid work to claim retired status. Paid work includes all work done for monetary compensation and does not only include employment in the acoustics industry. Actively seeking work, such as

advertising your services in the Yellow Pages, should also preclude a claim for retired status.

DESIGNATION OF GRADES

A Fellow, Member, Graduate Member or Associate may indicate their grade of membership of the Society by using the following letters after their name:-

Fellow: F.A.A.S.
Member: M.A.A.S.
Graduate Member (Grad.): A.M.S. (Grad.)
Associate: A.A.S.

CHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP GRADE

A member who wishes to change his grade of membership in the Society should complete a new application on an Application Form, stating the additional qualifications and/or experience he/she has acquired. The application must be supported by two proposers in the usual way. An entrance fee is not required for members applying to change their grade of membership.

Submission of Application

Please check that the Application Form has been correctly completed and certified copies of qualifications, etc have been attached (*see Guidelines for Completing Membership Application Form*).

On completion, the Application Form (with the check list) and Entrance Fee should be sent to the General Secretary.

MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES

Membership certificates are issued to Fellows, Graduates, Members and Associates, and on an annual basis to Sustaining Members.
