

Guidelines for New Membership of the International Human Frontier Science Program Organization

The aim of the International Human Frontier Science Program Organization (HFSP) is to promote and fund basic research focused on the elucidation of the sophisticated and complex mechanisms of living organisms for the benefit of all humankind, through international cooperation. HFSP attaches the highest importance to scientific merit, internationality (especially intercontinentality) and interdisciplinarity.

HFSP's Statutes state that *"New membership of HFSP is open to all interested countries, subject to the prior approval of the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees decides as to the acceptance of new Members after deliberation on such factors as the country's scientific capacity in basic research in the areas of the Program, and after agreement on the level of financial support for HFSP"*.

New membership is welcomed to encourage a broader participation of scientists from countries with research programs in areas relevant to the objectives of the HFSP.

There are two paths to membership:

Pathway 1. A country applies to HFSP for membership

A governmental entity of a country (e.g. a Ministry for Science and Technology, research funding body) may apply for membership.

The information required is given below.

Pathway 2. HFSP invites membership

HFSP monitors national achievements in high quality in basic science. After careful Board consideration, it may invite a country to join HFSP. That country will be accepted to membership upon receipt of a signed acceptance letter from an authorised entity (see draft letter of agreement below).

A candidate country may be proposed by any HFSP Member. The Secretary-General and staff would then compile a dossier for the Board to consider and to make a judgment against the criteria for membership below.

Membership criteria (both Pathways)

The following may be taken into account when considering HFSP Membership:

- the level of governmental and non-governmental support of research
- the level of basic science activity of universities and institutes
- the level of education such as the number of PhDs awarded and of scientists involved in research
- international recognition of the country's scientists

- national peer reviewed scientific programs
- national output bibliometrics
- other criteria relevant to the mission of HFSP.

Practical Information for Applicants via Pathway 1 (see below for definitions):

1. Initial contact should be made with the Secretary-General.
2. The interested party should indicate the governmental or intergovernmental organisation that will be the point of contact for the HFSP and responsible for future financial commitments following acceptance of membership (the Management Supporting Party).
3. The applicant should develop a portfolio for submission that demonstrates the country's high quality in basic research. The criteria for membership are given above.
4. The interested party should submit this material to the Board of HFSP for consideration and decision.
5. The interested party will be informed of the outcome by the President of HFSP.
6. An agreement will be concluded between HFSP and the identified governmental or intergovernmental entity (usually the Management Supporting Party) and signed by both parties.
7. The new HFSP Member then nominates Trustees to the Board and a scientist to the Council of Scientists, through the Management Supporting Party.

Terminology

- "Interested party" = the person or entity who approaches HFSP to apply to join.
- "HFSP Members" are countries and/or the European Commission.
- "Management Supporting Parties" are the entities that formally represent their HFSP Members. Such entities may include national governments (e.g. Ministries, Departments or their equivalent), bodies mandated by the government of a country to represent that country and to participate in the activities of HFSP, government funded bodies that are authorized to participate in the activities of HFSP in their own right, and internal departments of the European Commission.

APPROVAL FOR MEMBERSHIP OF HFSP (both Pathways)

Approval of membership, or for the forwarding an invitation for membership, requires a unanimous vote by the Board of Trustees.

A letter of agreement/MOU will then be signed between HFSP President and authorised person of the New Member.

"We, the undersigned agree to the following:

1. Participation in the governance and management of HFSP is according to the provisions of the Statutes of HFSP, and the bylaws as approved by the Board of Trustees.
2. As an HFSP Member, the scientists (of the HFSP Member) will be eligible to participate fully in the Human Frontier Science Program, serve on HFSP Review Committees, and be appointed to the Council of Scientists, at the earliest opportunity after exchange of the MOU".
3. The financial contribution of the HFSP Member will be calculated in accord with the GDP based formula as agreed at Triennial Conferences of HFSP Members in Tokyo, July 2019. An invoice for the amount will be issued six months before the beginning of the fiscal year for payment in full before the commencement of fiscal year (HFSP fiscal year runs from 1 April to 31 March).

4. The HFSP0 Member's contribution will be integrated into the overall funding strategy. The first payment will be made for fiscal year (*insert*).
5. Representatives of the HFSP0 Member will be entitled to participate in Triennial Conferences of HFSP0 Members.
6. The Membership shall begin upon the date of signature of this letter of agreement.
7. The Statutes of HFSP0 will be amended to include this new membership."

Date:

President HFSP0

Representative of New Member

Approved by the Board of Trustees: 15 May 2020

Signed: Shigekazu Nagata, President of HFSP0

Place and date: Osaka, 18 June 2020

Record of changes to Guidelines for membership

Version	Board Approved
Original	24/25-04-1990
Version 1	17/18-03-1992
Version 2	18-11-1997
Version 3	09-04-2003
Version 4	15-05-2020