



# FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions:

## What is the thinking behind this new structure?

Rather than adapting the price of membership to who members are and where they are from, we decided to **centre the value of membership on the level of involvement** individual members want, no matter their background, origin or age. Therefore, the price of membership will evolve with the level of involvement desired by our members, while still offering affordable prices for everyone.

The range of membership prices will be progressive, while remaining accessible to anyone. The first level of membership offers a risk-free option to become a “member” and thereby learn more about IWRA activities.

The objective of this membership structure is to create a framework that **focuses on membership benefits** and opportunities for engagement. Therefore, it is expected that the list of specific benefits for each level of membership will be expanded over time in consultation with our members to identify their needs and expectations from IWRA.

## Why are you no longer using country categories?

The system of country categories (“developing” or “developed”) has proven to be controversial in recent years. Removing these arbitrary categories helps to avoid any controversy. This old system does not necessarily make allowances for people of different economic situations from wealthy and poor countries. It is also very hard to police for online membership (we have never tried to verify where people come from, nor whether they are retired or students). This proposed new system is more honest, while being more focused on the benefits of the membership.

Therefore, the Membership Committee decided to implement a big shift in the vision of IWRA’s membership structure and benefits. Rather than adapting the price of membership to “who members are” and “where they are from”, they decided to centre the value of membership on the level of involvement individual members want, no matter who they are or where they are from. Therefore, the price of membership will evolve with the level of desired involvement by our members, while offering affordable prices for everyone. For members with very constrained budgets, they could apply for a grant to get a Silver Membership.

As an international network of members, we still need to keep an eye on how representative our community is, especially our Board are. Therefore we will still ask our members to select their country of residence or nationality when they register, though this won’t affect the price of their membership anymore. IWRA will use the ISO 3166 list of country names for consistency across all its systems and processes.



I am on a low income and can't afford the membership fees. Is there another way I can become a Silver Member of IWRA?

IWRA will offer opportunities to apply for grants giving Silver Membership to people who cannot afford to pay for this. Candidates, regardless of where they come from in the world, can send an application letter to [office@iwra.org](mailto:office@iwra.org) explaining their interest in IWRA membership and briefly setting out why they cannot afford a paying membership. IWRA would open the call for grant members twice in the year and won't exceed more than 5% of the total membership.

Why don't you have a student membership anymore?

Defining members by who they are for their membership is not in keeping with the new membership structure. Instead of separating students into a different category, we are trying to think more about the benefits we offer and the activities we undertake that target students and young professionals. For instance, IWRA recently launched a Young and Early Career Professionals Task Force which aims at maximising the role of IWRA in providing career development advice and provide a platform for young professionals to share their work and reflection.

I currently have a three-year membership. What will happen to my subscription?

You will soon become a Gold Member, and this membership change will last until **your current expiration date**, even though you have a three-year membership: after this, you could then chose to remain a Gold Member or opt for a Silver or Bronze Membership instead.

Note, however, that with this new structure, **we will no longer offer three-year memberships in the future** but only annual subscriptions. If you don't want to think about renewing your membership every year, remember that you can schedule your payments in advance on the membership space by saving your credit card details!

I currently have or I want a subscription to hard copies of *Water International*. How should I proceed from now?

The option to receive hard copies of *Water International* for a year will still be offered by IWRA. However, it will no longer appear in the registration form, but rather be on the membership space. Members who would like to opt in or renew their hard copy subscription should send an email to [office@iwra.org](mailto:office@iwra.org), and members with an ongoing subscription to *Water International* don't have anything to do, until they want to renew. An individual subscription costs 77 USD/year, and an institutional subscription (for Partner Members) costs 176 USD/year.

What happens when my current membership expires?

Once your Gold or Silver Membership expires, it will downgrade to a free unlimited Bronze membership, with limited benefits. You can upgrade your membership to Silver or Gold at any moment.

If you wish, you may also resign your Bronze membership at any time.



### I'm a Fellow or Honorary Member – what happens to my membership?

IWRA will still award and maintain Honorary and Fellow Memberships. Members awarded with either of these awards will still be listed on the website, like they have always been. The nomination process for both awards will remain unchanged.

Under the new membership structure, Honorary Members will become life-long Gold Members. Furthermore, the current discount for Fellow Members will evolve. Fellows will be given Gold Membership for the price of a Silver Membership. So Fellow members will only be invoiced the Silver Membership price when the time comes for them to renew their membership.

### As IWRA Partner Organisations: how many members can I add to my membership?

As a Silver Partner, you automatically receive 2 Individual Gold Memberships or 5 Silver Memberships, as well as receive a 20% discount on additional individual paid memberships (Silver or Gold), up to 150 members.

As a Gold Partner, you automatically receive 6 Individual Gold Memberships or 15 Silver Memberships, and get a 20% discount on additional individual paid memberships (Silver or Gold), up to 150 members.

### I forgot my password for the membership space – what can I do?

If you forgot your password to access the membership space, you can click on the “Forgot your password” button. An email will be sent to you to create a new password. Don't forget to check your spam folder if you do not see the email in your inbox. If this doesn't work, please contact us at [office@iwra.org](mailto:office@iwra.org) for assistance.