



Individual Membership of URSI

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This document describes the background, criteria and benefits for individual membership in URSI.

1 Value of Membership

The primary value for an individual becoming an URSI Individual Member is the recognition it bestows, which could be a significant benefit to the careers of many professional scientists. There are also tangible benefits that may be offered, as discussed below.

The value of Individual Membership for URSI is that it establishes a strong and direct connection to the large number of radio scientists who do not hold an official position with URSI. Membership will serve as the basis for maintaining ongoing communication between URSI and the community of radio scientists, outside of URSI conferences. Individual Membership should also be an opportunity for radio scientists to better connect with and relate to Member Committees in their countries and territories.

National Committees may also gain an advantage by increasing contact with their constituent members, and in countries where there is no established National Committee, URSI will start to build up contact with interested individuals.

2 Membership Criteria

Any scientist whose research is directly relevant to a branch of radio science is eligible to be nominated or apply for URSI Individual Membership. There are three categories of URSI Individual Membership: Fellows, Regular Members, and Associate Members. The qualifications for membership are both demonstrable technical competence and an interest in the activities of URSI.

2.1 Regular Members

A successful candidate for Individual Regular Member (to be referred to as Member and abbreviated to MURSI) will typically meet the following criteria:

1. A PhD (or equivalent degree) or an MSc (or equivalent degree) with significant research experience or equivalent professional experience in radio science. Allowances can be made in cases where useful contributions to radio science (e.g., through education or research) have been made outside of professional experience.
2. A sufficient number of publications in any radio science area to demonstrate technical or scientific competence (typically, this would be a minimum of five to six publications). Allowances will be made for fewer articles of special significance, or in cases where a candidate's employment may restrict open publication.
3. Evidence of involvement with URSI, typically in the form of presentations at URSI GASS or conferences organized by URSI Member Committees or other contributions to URSI (Working Group contributions, articles for the *Radio Science Bulletin*, etc).
4. Evidence of scientific maturity and leadership in the candidate's work.



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5. All current and former members of the following groups shall be deemed to have met the criteria and will automatically be eligible for election as URSI Individual Members: the URSI Council, Member Committee representatives to Commissions, officers of Working Groups.

2.2 Associate Members

A candidate can be nominated or can apply for URSI Individual Associate Membership (to be referred to as Associate Member and abbreviated to AMURSI) if he or she does not meet all of the above Individual Regular Member criteria. Selection as an URSI Individual Associate Member shall normally be with the expectation that the candidate will qualify and apply or be nominated for URSI Individual Membership within two to three years.

2.3 Fellows

An Individual Fellow (to be referred to as Fellow and abbreviated FURSI) is chosen by invitation. Everyone who has served or is serving as either a Commission Chair or as a member of the Board, or as an Assistant Secretary General, or as an Honorary President, or as an URSI Senior Prize winner is automatically eligible for the Fellow grade.

3 Application and Selection Process

Those who automatically qualify for Individual Fellow or Member should be automatically contacted by the Secretariat. However, especially those who have served URSI in the distant past may be missed. Such candidates are therefore invited to apply through the online application form, drawing attention to their previous URSI role.

Those nominating candidates or self-nominating candidates seeking to become URSI Fellows, Individual Members, or Individual Associate Members shall supply the information necessary to be considered through the online application form. The information provided shall include the following: full name; date of birth; nationality; postal and electronic addresses; current affiliation; a short CV (maximum three pages plus publications) listing educational and professional history, including all degrees; and the URSI Commission(s) with which the candidate wishes to be associated. The relevant publications and evidence of involvement with URSI should be clearly identified in the CV. In cases where allowances are to be made as mentioned in Section 2, letters of endorsement from people directly familiar with the candidate's qualifications should be provided and may be sought.

The Secretariat will forward this information to the Member Committee of the candidate's place of residence for endorsement. Where there is no relevant or active Member Committee, endorsement will be sought from the Chair(s) of the Commission(s) identified by the candidate. Where there is an active Member Committee, a particular effort will be made to connect the applicant with the Member Committee.

Unsuccessful Individual Member candidates may be invited to re-apply as Individual Associate Members.

A list of qualified and endorsed candidates will be presented to the Board or a committee thereof for approval and election twice per year. In years where two Board meetings are held,



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this will be concurrent with the Board meetings. In years where only one Board meeting is held, this can be done once at the Board meeting and once by electronic means about six months after the Board meeting.

4 Recognition

A certificate attesting to the Individual Member's status, signed by the Secretary General and the President, shall be sent to all new Individual Members.

5 Individual Member Management

URSI Individual Members (and Individual Associate Members) will not pay dues to the Union, and will have no voting privileges in the Union. Note that there are several reasons for this. One is that there is a wide disparity in the ability to pay across the Members of URSI. Another is that by not charging fees, the recognition associated with being elected an Individual Member is somewhat increased: it is an honor bestowed, not bought.

The Secretariat will maintain the records of Individual Members. As noted above, a list of Individual Members will be made available on the URSI Web site, with the names and associated data properly protected against unintended or inappropriate use.

All Individual Members will be invited to maintain a current profile in the URSI Individual Members' database, and the opportunity for making portions of this profile available on the URSI Web site may be offered.

Upon request from a Member Committee, contact information for those Individual Members residing in the geographical area represented by the Member Committee will be made available to the Member Committee. The purpose of this is to facilitate Member Committees establishing and maintaining contact with radio scientists in their areas.

An Individual Member can resign from the Union by informing the Secretary General in writing. Council Members shall promptly inform the Secretary General in writing of the death of any Individual Member. Council Members are also urged to propose the deletion of Individual Members who are no longer active in radio science by including written agreement of the member concerned. Such proposals should be submitted to the Secretary General for approval by the Board.

6 Benefits

In addition to the very significant benefit of recognition by URSI as a radio scientist, there are several other benefits that are associated with Individual Membership.

1. E-mail notification of the availability of the electronic edition of the URSI *Radio Science Bulletin*. Note that the same notification will still be provided to attendees of the most-recent GASS.
2. The certificate of membership identified under Section 4.
3. Reduced registration fees for URSI Fellows, Individual Members, and Individual Associate Members at the GASS, AT-RASC, and AP-RASC (starting in 2018).



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4. Reduced registration fees for URSI Fellows, Individual Members, and Individual Associate Members at some meetings organised by IEEE AP-S and EuCAP.