



CRITERIA FOR IFLA MEMBERSHIP

Preamble

This policy supports the IFLA Constitution Article 11 Membership, specifically for Category 'A' National and Multinational Associations, and Category 'C' Individual Members; as well as the IFLA Bylaws Article 11.

The purpose of the following policy is to clarify the criteria for membership for prospective Category 'A' and 'C' applicants to IFLA; as well as for the World Council, the approving body. The process for approval of this policy is for the Secretary General to draft criteria, circulate for comment to the task group, to the Excom, and to any additional interested members, for the Excom to approve the draft (amended if required) at the March Excom meeting, and to circulate to IFLA delegates with the Agenda and other documents for approval at the WC meeting in 2002.

1 Criteria for assessment of applications from national and multinational professional associations.

Normally there will be only one such professional organization in a country. When it is known that there is more than one such organization, the preferred member is to be the oldest professional association. Where there is doubt about this association's professional standing, the preferred member is to be that association with the largest number of full members as defined in c. below. When such an organization does not apply for membership, or resigns, and another association from that country applies for membership, then the process is to be that the main or older association is to be advised of the application and invited to join or rejoin. If no positive response is received from that association in two (2) months, then the application from the smaller or other association is to be considered on its merits, using, as with other applicants, the following criteria.

- a. Standing of the association.** The applicant association is to be recognised as a professional association in the relevant country or countries, and one that upholds the standards of the landscape architecture profession. In cases where a country may not recognise such associations, or where the association is recently formed, the applicant will be assessed on the basis of status of members as professional practising landscape architects, and the constitution and bylaws, specifically the objects and membership criteria, of the association.



- b. Objects of the association.** The applicant association shall have a set of objects (or aims) for their association which among other things, states that the purpose of the association is to uphold the standards of the landscape architecture profession. The objects must align and not conflict with those of IFLA.
- c. Criteria for membership of the applicant association.** The association must, in its constitution, bylaws or rules, clearly identify that academic attainment, specifically an undergraduate or post graduate qualification in landscape architecture (which may be in landscape planning, and landscape design) is a prerequisite for membership. Only these members may be identified as full members of the association. It may be that the original membership of the association was formed and composed of those with at least ten (10) years of practice but no or minimal academic qualifications. This is accepted by IFLA. Subsequent enrolment of membership must follow the standard currently applied, that is: a four-year degree as a minimum entry qualification to the association. It may be that the association may also have an allied membership status for supporters, retired members and those partially qualified, such as corporate members, affiliates and students. However these association members will not be regarded as members of IFLA.
- d. Practice of the association.** In addition to holding clear professional academic standards, the practice required by IFLA of an applicant association is that these standards are upheld. In a case where it is verified that an applicant association does not uphold such entry standards, then the association will not be admitted, until that is the case.

It may be that the association provides additional professional qualifications, a system of continuing professional education, an academic accreditation system for universities to ensure they meet professional standards, and promotes such academic and practice standards as well as professional ethics. This IFLA encourages.

- e. Number of members.** The minimum number of members of an applicant association is to be five.

2 Criteria for applications by individual landscape architects.

This section applies to applications by individual landscape architects, from countries where no national or multi-national association of landscape architects exists; or the national or multi-national association has not yet received; or has lost the approval of IFLA. An academic standard shall be the



main criterion for individual applicants. Such applicants will be required to provide documents that enable verification that the applicant has passed an academic course in landscape architecture. Normally this would be a 4-year undergraduate programme. In addition it is expected that such applicants are, or have recently been, in full time practice in the profession of landscape architecture. Individual membership shall be granted by the World Council for a period not exceeding five years. During that period, individual members shall be expected to achieve the formation of a national or multi-national association of landscape architects, with a minimum of five (5) members within their respective countries, and to report annually on the progress of such formation to the World Council.

3 Partly fulfilled criteria.

Where there is doubt about eligibility of either the association or individual member, the matter is to be referred back to the applicant, normally through the appropriate Regional Secretary, so that constructive discussion on resolving matters can be conducted. Where either an association or individual is clearly not eligible the applicant shall be so advised by the Secretary General.

4 Process for assessment and recommendation for approval.

When an application is received, the Secretary General will acknowledge the application, and advise the applicant that it has been referred to the Regional Committee for assessment of eligibility. (The IFLA Bylaws require the recommendation of three voting members). The Regional Committee, in liaison as appropriate, with associations in their region, will submit their recommendation based on the above criteria within ninety (90) days to the Executive Committee to table it at the next World Council meeting for ratification, together with any comments.

Approved as IFLA policy by IFLA World Council meeting, October 7, 2002.