



Information on how to become an IFCS member

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1 Who can be IFCS member?

Normally IFCS members are scientific societies or subgroups (referred to as “special interest groups”) of such societies devoted to the scientific field of interest of the IFCS (supervised and unsupervised classification in particular, and related areas such as multivariate data analysis, data science and their applications). Individuals are normally affiliated with the IFCS as members of member societies (but see Section II.5 in the IFCS Constitution below).

In order to become IFCS members, such societies or special interest groups need to submit an application to the IFCS President or Secretary. The application should consist of

- a letter introducing the society or group,
- a filled in application form (available here in the “Member Societies” area on <https://ifcs.boku.ac.at/>),
- a constitution and/or by-laws of the group or society,
- a list of at least 30 members with email addresses, who have declared their interest in the scientific areas covered by the IFCS.

2 Procedure

Representatives of societies or special interest groups that would like to become IFCS members are advised to contact the IFCS president or secretary before submitting a formal application.

It is also advisable to send a draft application to the president or the secretary. This will be discussed in the IFCS Executive Committee, which may raise issues that could lead to amendments before a formal application.

When a formal application is received, this will be forwarded to the IFCS Council. After a minimum period of two months, there will then be a Council ballot regarding the new membership. If at least two thirds of the IFCS Council members agree, the membership application is approved.

3 Relevant parts of IFCS Constitution

Here are the most relevant parts of the IFCS Constitution that govern the membership:

II.1 The International Federation of Classification Societies is a single Federation whose members are Scientific Societies or well-defined subgroups (hereafter called Groups) of such Societies.

II.4 The Council may accept the nomination of an existing Scientific Society or an organized Group as a new Member subject to the condition that the society have at least 30 members who declare themselves to be interested in the IFCS. Acceptance is possible only if the problems of representation on the Council, the internal structure, and the affiliation and number of individuals of the new Member have been resolved formally in accordance with the rules of the Federation.

To accept a new Member, a majority of two-thirds of the members of the Council must be in favour. The application for membership must be distributed to the Council members at least two months before the voting procedure takes place.

IV.1 Each Member Society or Group shall be governed by its own By-Laws and shall select its officers in accordance with its own rules. These By-Laws and rules are to be communicated to the Federation. The officers of a Member Society shall include a President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer (possibly combining the latter ones); a Member Group must provide a Chairman (who has the same function as a Society's President with regard to the Federation), the Chairman's representative and a person responsible for financial matters.

IV.3 Each Member of the Federation shall decide the procedure to elect, appoint or otherwise select its Member Representatives for the Council. This procedure shall be communicated to the Federation.

VIII.2 The dues of IFCS Members to be paid to the Federation shall be fixed by the Council from time to time, and may be varied according to principles laid down by the Council and considering, among other criteria, the feasibility of currency transfers and exchange rates. The dues are based on the number of individual members of that Society or Group, allowing, if necessary, for the special nature of their internal structure.

If a Member Society or Member Group of IFCS is a part of a larger established national society (such as a Statistical Society of a country) only the members of the corresponding Classification Group are concerned. The dues to be paid by individuals belonging to the Group-at-Large shall also be determined by the Council.

All Members of the Federation must provide the Federation with a list of their individual members and their postal and e-mail addresses, for direct IFCS information. They must update that list every two years.

No Federation dues will be charged for student members of the Members of the IFCS.