



**Part : Membership
Qualification and Admission
Standards**

Document 1: Specification for Membership Qualification and Admission Standards

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Preamble

As a global community for private higher education institutions, the International Association of Private Universities and Colleges (IAPUC) is committed to building a platform for exchange, cooperation and common development for various private education institutions and relevant practitioners. Members constitute the foundation for the existence and development of the Association, and member quality directly determines the professional standards and industry influence of IAPUC. Establishing a scientific, clear and standardized system for membership qualification and admission standards is the primary institutional arrangement to guarantee the professionalism and credibility of the Association.

Formulated in accordance with the relevant membership provisions stipulated in the *Charter of the International Association of Private Universities and Colleges*, this specification clarifies the application qualifications, admission criteria and approval procedures for all types of institutional members and individual members. Fully accommodating the diversity of the private higher education ecosystem, this specification covers traditional universities and colleges, emerging online education service providers, higher vocational education institutions, and edtech start-ups. Each type of institution plays a unique role in the private higher education ecosystem and shall be provided with a matching membership admission channel.

IAPUC adheres to the core principle that **full membership serves as the foundation for accreditation**. Any institution applying for IQA accreditation must first obtain full IAPUC membership. This institutional arrangement ensures that applicant institutions for accreditation fundamentally recognize the mission and core values of the Association, and provides an institutional channel for pre-accreditation preparation and counseling. Together with the *IAPUC-IQA Accreditation Handbook* and *Measures for the Administration of Quality Representatives of Accredited Institutions*, this specification forms a complete institutional closed loop covering IAPUC membership admission to accreditation granting.

Chapter I General Provisions

Article 1 Purposes and Basis

This specification is formulated for the following purposes:

- (1) To clarify the application qualifications, admission conditions and approval procedures for all types of IAPUC institutional members and individual members;
- (2) To establish a fair, transparent and standardized membership review system;
- (3) To ensure the professionalism, diversity and industry representativeness of the Association's membership;
- (4) To provide membership admission channels matching the positioning of private education institutions of different types and scales.

Basis for formulation:

- Chapter II Membership Provisions of the *Charter of the International Association of Private Universities and Colleges*;
- Membership classification and qualification requirements specified in the *IAPUC Membership Standards and Dues Regulations*;
- Prevailing membership management practices of international non-profit organizations.

Article 2 Scope of Application

This specification applies to:

- (1) All private education institutions and relevant organizations applying for IAPUC institutional membership (including Full Members, Accredited Members and Associate Members);
- (2) All natural persons applying for IAPUC individual membership;
- (3) The review work of the Membership Qualification Review Committee in processing membership applications.

Article 3 Basic Principles

The administration of membership qualification and admission adheres to the following basic principles:

Principle	Core Connotation
Voluntary Admission	All membership applications are voluntary except for automatic membership upgrade linked to accreditation.
Authentic Qualification	Applicants shall truthfully submit legal qualifications and relevant information of institutions or individuals

	without false declaration.
Hierarchical Progression	Accreditation application is premised on full membership; full members will be automatically upgraded to accredited members upon obtaining accreditation; associate members must upgrade to full members prior to applying for accreditation.
Non-Discrimination	Membership applications shall not be discriminated against on the basis of region, scale, education level, religious or political stance, with consistent review standards applied under equal conditions.
Right-Obligation Equivalence	The rights enjoyed by members are commensurate with their due dues obligations.

Article 4 Membership Classification

In accordance with the *IAPUC Membership Standards and Dues Regulations*, IAPUC members are classified as follows:

General Membership Category	Specific Membership Type	Applicable Objects	Eligible for IQA Accreditation Application
Institutional Member	Full Member	Legally established and formal private universities and colleges	Yes — the only eligible subject for accreditation applications
Institutional Member	Accredited Member	Private universities and colleges that have obtained IQA accreditation	Accreditation obtained, only qualification maintenance required
Institutional Member	Associate Member	Vocational education institutions, training institutions, education-related enterprises and	No — ineligible for accreditation application

		associations	
Individual Member	—	Faculty and staff employed by formal and legitimate universities and colleges	No

Article 5 Membership Hierarchy and Progression Logic

Associate Member —————> Full Member —————> Accredited Member

(Ineligible for accreditation) (Eligible for IQA accreditation) (IQA accreditation obtained)

Individual members may come from any of the above institutional types, and their individual membership rights shall not be affected by the membership hierarchy of their affiliated institutions.

(1) Full membership is the foundation of accredited membership. No institution may apply for IQA accreditation without first obtaining full IAPUC membership. Direct application for IQA accreditation without full membership qualification is prohibited.

(2) Automatic upgrade upon accreditation acquisition. Full members who obtain any form of IQA accreditation (provisional, formal and comprehensive accreditation) shall be automatically upgraded to accredited members without separate application.

(3) Associate members are ineligible for accreditation application. To apply for IQA accreditation, associate members must first apply for and complete the upgrade to full membership, meet all qualification requirements for full membership, and then submit an accreditation application. The upgrade to full membership must comply with the qualification requirements specified in this specification, and core prerequisites such as degree-granting qualifications shall not be waived.

(4) Membership downgrade upon accreditation invalidation. If the accreditation status of an accredited member becomes invalid, expired or revoked, its membership will be automatically downgraded to full membership, provided that the institution still meets all full membership qualification criteria. If the institution no longer satisfies full membership requirements, it shall separately apply for downgrade to associate membership or withdraw from IAPUC membership.

Chapter II General Admission Procedures

Article 6 General Admission Application Procedures

All membership applications of all types shall follow the unified basic procedures below:

(1) **Application Submission:** Applicant institutions or individuals shall submit a membership application letter and relevant qualification certification documents to the IAPUC Membership Qualification Review Committee.

(2) **Qualification Review:** Upon receipt of complete application materials, the Membership Qualification Review Committee shall conduct a review in accordance with the membership qualification standards specified in this specification, and may request supplementary materials when necessary.

(3) **Approval Decision:** Applications that pass the review shall be formally approved for membership by the IAPUC Council; rejected applications will be notified in writing with detailed reasons.

(4) **Dues Payment:** The first-year membership dues shall be paid within 30 days after approval. Membership shall take effect upon confirmation of dues payment.

(5) **Certificate Issuance:** IAPUC shall issue a membership certificate corresponding to the approved membership type.

Article 7 Basic Requirements for Application Materials

(1) The membership application letter shall clearly state the applied membership type, basic institutional or personal information, application reasons, and a declaration of recognition of the Association Charter.

(2) All qualification certification materials shall be authentic, complete and valid. Institutional applicants shall submit legal registration or school operation license documents; individual applicants shall submit employment certificates and professional qualification proofs.

(3) All application materials shall be submitted in English or bilingual Chinese-English version. Non-English materials must be attached with certified English translations.

Article 8 Review Time Limits

(1) The Membership Qualification Review Committee shall complete the review within 45 days upon receipt of complete application materials.

(2) If the application materials are incomplete, the Committee shall notify the applicant to supplement and correct the materials within 15 days after receiving the application. The supplementary correction period shall generally not exceed 30 days.

(3) Applications that pass the review shall be submitted to the Council for approval. Membership admission notices shall be issued within 15 days after Council approval.